

The Washington Report - Budget Proposal For 1983 Statewide Summer Reading Program

Washington Report
by Congressman
Walter B. Jones

By the time this column is being written, Friday, May 21, the entire Congress is embattled over adopting the First Concurrent Budget Resolution for fiscal 1983. Never have I seen such divisions, especially in the House side, and there are at least seven different budget proposals, including the President's, the Democratic Majority's, as well as that of three other individual Caucuses and two independents. Ironically, when the hue and cry for a balanced budget is almost nationwide, the underlying objectives of all the budgets is for deficit spending not to exceed \$100,000. This large deficit sum was unheard of even as recently as two years ago. I have concluded that I shall intend to support whatever budget plan will create the smallest budget deficit for I am convinced it is the interest paid on this huge deficit that is the leading cause of the high interest rates and our in-

flation rate. The one thing that I shall repeat over and over is that I do not intend to support any budget proposal which will further cripple and penalize the benefits to the elderly and the handicapped.

Also during the week, the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, of which I am privileged to be Chairman, passed out of Committee for future Floor action, a revenue sharing bill which will provide funds to the various coastal states. The legislation provides the coastal states some revenues that the federal government obtains because of increased offshore oil and gas leasing. Right now States, by law, share in revenues obtained from mining on federal lands, timber cut in national forests, etc., but they do not receive any money for oil and gas production off their shores even though this production causes substantial, and sometimes, adverse, impacts on land. Not only will the money help states preserve the natural features of their coastal

areas, but it may make the states co-operate with speeded up offshore oil and gas leasing, thereby helping our energy problems. This is only Committee action and must later be approved by the full House as well as the Senate.

One of the most pleasant duties of serving as a Congressman is going into different locations within the District for the purpose of dedicating community projects. Last Friday it was my pleasure to be in Martin County in the morning to dedicate a new Recreational Park consisting of a baseball field, two Little League fields, basketball court, tennis court, etc. This Park is a co-operative effort between the federal and local governments, but more important, the Town of Williamston officials during the week named it the Gaylor Perry Park. I am sure by this time practically everyone in the First District is aware of the notable achievement of Gaylor Perry in achieving 300 pitching victories, which

is a feat which has been accomplished by only 15 pitchers in the 107 year old history of baseball. In fact, he is only one of three pitchers who have reached this 300 level in the last forty years. In remarks delivered on the House Floor on Tuesday, May 17, among other things I said was as follows: "Mr. Speaker, Gaylor and I have been friends for many years. In fact, I have one photograph of which I am most proud that is of President Carter, Gaylor Perry and myself shaking hands. With all the fame and glory which has come his way, which of course, is well deserved, his first devotion is to his charming family, and he has never lost his affection for the fields and the natural beauty of eastern North Carolina. This is indicated by the great amount of civic work that he does during the off-season." All of us in the First District as well as all of North Carolina, are extremely proud of Gaylor and wish for him and his family many years of health

and happiness in the years to come.

The other dedication in Williamston was a housing project which consists of 50 units of conventional public housing. This was basically constructed with funds from the private sector with a Farmers Home Administration guarantee. Sometimes people feel this is a useless waste of federal funds, but among other things, this new unit will add \$28,000 to the tax base of Williamston. Both events were very enjoyable, and gave me an opportunity to see many friends. I consider this one of the most pleasant parts of all my Congressional duties.



The world's greatest migrators are birds called the Arctic terns. They travel each year to the Antarctic. The round trip totals about 25,000 miles.

North Carolina Gov. James B. Hunt and top educator Dr. A. Craig Phillips join JOAB Frog in encouraging children to read in the 1982 statewide summer reading program.

The frog's name "JOAB" is short for this year's theme, JUST OPEN A BOOK. JOAB Frog will lead the parade of characters created for the statewide reading program. Local public libraries hope to involve more than 80,000 youngsters in the summer program sponsored by the State Library.

Governor Hunt and State School Superintendent Phillips have endorsed the State Library sponsored program which begins at participating libraries all over the state in June.

Dr. Phillips in an open letter to parents in May recommended the program. Phillips said, "There is not a better way to prepare our children for the coming school year and for life than to encourage them to practice their reading skills. The summer reading program stimulates the

children to read through the use of films, puppet shows, music, crafts, contests and other media."

Ron Jones, children's coordinator at the Wake County Public Library, designed the bright green and yellow program materials which feature JOAB Frog. A committee of 10 librarians from across the state helped to provide guidelines and ideas for using the state-provided materials in local settings. Children participating in the JUST OPEN A BOOK summer reading program will receive reading records on which they will keep a written account of the books they read during the summer. Each child completing local requirements will receive a certificate with Governor Hunt's signature.

A Storytelling Festival will kick off the statewide program for local libraries. The storytelling festival will be held on Sat., June 19, at the N.C. Zoo in Asheboro. Children under 15 will be admitted free to the zoo on this day to hear storytellers

from across the state in the zoo's new amphitheater.

Details about local activities and requirements are available from local participating public libraries. JUST OPEN A BOOK is funded by Title I of the Library Service and Construction Act (LSCA) and is administered by the State Library, a part of the Department of Cultural Resources in Raleigh.

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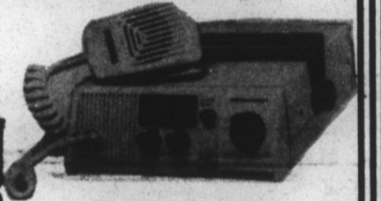
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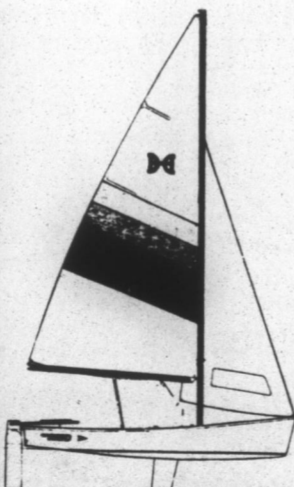
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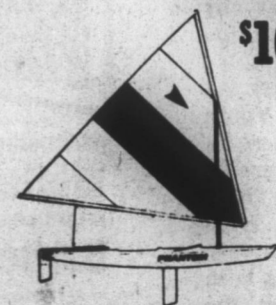
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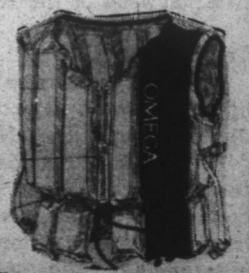
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