

The Washington Report

By Congressman
Walter B. Jones

Last week the House spent a great amount of time considering the Department of Housing and Urban Development and seventeen independent agency appropriations for 1984. For the past two fiscal years, the Administration has sought and was unsuccessful in reducing this appropriation, but not so this year. The bill contains \$9.5 billion more than President Reagan wanted. Most of the additional funds go for subsidized housing programs.

Of particular interest in the debate on the appropriations bill were efforts, which eventually proved successful, to add an extra \$220 million which brought the Environmental Protection Agency funding to \$1.3 billion, which is almost the amount appropriated the year before President Reagan took office. Most of you are familiar with the rather rough time that the EPA has had in recent months with the threatened subpoena of Anne Gorsch and the ultimate resignation of Anne Burford. The new Administrator is William D. Ruckelshaus, and during the debate a letter was read by the Chairman of the Committee to the effect that Mr. Ruckelshaus did not, at this point in time, want or desire the additional funds. In spite of this request by the Administrator himself, the House voted 200 to 167 to approve the extra \$200 million. As far as my vote was concerned, I respected the request of the Administrator, and voted no.

In spite of the serious economic condition of this country, with some 10 million still unemployed, this nation seems determined to try to finance what I sometimes think is the rest of the world. Last week was the Lebanon Emergency Assistance Act of 1983, which carried a total sum of \$250 million, \$150 million of which would be military assistance, and \$100 million for economic aid. With the huge deficit this government is facing, I could not see the rationale in giving to one small nation one-quarter billion dollars. On final passage, 76 of us voted no.

The House also considered the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill. This bill provides for the expenses of Congressional offices, the Government Printing Office, the Architect of the Capitol, the Congressional Budget Office and the Library of Congress. The appropriation carries the total sum of \$1 billion, 210 million. Overall, the appropriation for Congressional Operations is \$12 million, 700 thousand less than the 1983 level.

Jenkins Receives MCC Diploma

During the fifteenth annual Martin Community College commencement exercises on May 27 at the Martin County Auditorium, 105 graduates were awarded their degrees or diplomas following an address by Dr. John M. Howell, Chancellor of East Carolina University.

Willie Lee Jenkins of Edenton received a diploma and advanced diploma in automotive mechanics during the exercises. Jenkins also received the curriculum achievement award in automotive mechanics.

The program was opened with the invocation by the Rev. Odell McBride; a welcome by Ricky G. Cratt, Student Government Association president and special awards presented by Clarence E. Biggs, Dean of Student Affairs. Piano selections were rendered by Howard Harrison, Martin County public school music teacher.

Following the introduction of the speaker by Tyler B. Warren, member of the MCC Board of Trustees and the address by Chancellor Howell, the candidates for graduation were presented by Dr. Travis Martin.

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