

**WASHINGTON REPORT**

We can be certain that this Congress has approved tremendous new powers for the Federal government and has written a tremendous new role for Washington in managing the lives of the American people. In education, housing, welfare, health, agriculture and in a sweeping list of other fields, the Federal government has preempted authority.

Questions about moving too fast, too far, too soon, and in the wrong direction have been swept aside during the past ten months in what has often seemed like a compulsive drive to hand over powers to the President and his executive agencies that would have been deeply shocking to the American people only a few short years ago. Whether the country has lost its ability to be shocked at this change in American life remains to be seen as the consequences are more fully realized.

Among the most striking facts in the Washington scene this year was the willingness

of the Congress to "go along" and to subordinate its independent role to the wishes of the White House. This has happened time after time although it was clear enough that the results were questionable, vague and badly written laws whose effects no one can fully explain. This seems to be dawdling now on some of the leaders on the majority side.

A few days ago, the Majority Leader of the Senate, Senator Mike Mansfield, warned that, "We have passed a lot of major bills this session—some of them very hastily and they stand in extreme need of going over for loopholes, rough corners, and particularly for an assessment of current and ultimate cost in the framework of our capacity to meet it."

While it seems that about everything the White House wanted was done promptly, there are a few instances where the end of the session saw misgivings by the Congress about being driven into agreement on some of the legislation. We saw that in the Senate's refusal to repeal Section 14 (b) of the Taft-Hartley Act after the House had approved such a bill. As recently as last week, there was some slight rebellion about two other Administration programs. In these instances, the Congress stiffened its backbone and refused to grant funds for the programs of Federal rent subsidies and the formation of the Teachers Corps that had been demanded by the President. Both of these programs had been approved earlier. In the Teachers Corps that had been demanded by the President. Both of these programs had been approved earlier. In the Teachers Corps, we can see how far the Federal government seeks to go in public education since it would place in the hands of the Commissioner of Education power to recruit, train, and assign teachers to local school districts—all without the approval by the States.

As we close this session, we can hope that Congress is regaining its senses.

**Social Security News**

Claimants for social security benefits were today reminded by Robert C. Thomas, District Manager of the Salisbury Social Security Office, that they have the right to be represented by a person of their choice in any business they may have with the Social Security Administration. Mr. Thomas stated this does not mean that a representative is needed since most people handle their social security affairs with the help of the people in the social security office.

An applicant for social security benefits may be represented by an attorney or other qualified person of his choice. The representative may act for the social security claimant generally on all social security matters except for the signing of the claims application. He may request a reconsideration, hearing, or Appeals Council review. Any notice or request sent to the representative has the same effect as if sent to the social

Mr. Thomas stated that attorneys are limited in the amount of fees that may be charged social security claimants and a representative who is not an attorney may not charge or receive any fee for his services without prior approval of the Social Security Administration. An attorney without prior approval of the Social Security Administration may charge a fee which may be no more than \$20 for representation before the Social Security Administration and an additional \$30 for representation before a hearing examiner or the Appeals Council of the Social Security Administration or both. An attorney who wishes to charge a higher fee must secure the approval of the Social Security Administration.

Mr. Thomas pointed out that the limitation of fees that may be paid to representatives of social security claimants is designed to protect the rights of social security claimants while at the same time allowing attorneys and other representatives adequate compensation for their services. Mr. Thomas further stated that any social security claimant may obtain additional information regarding the appointment of a representative and limits on the fees that may be charged by calling at or writing to the social security district office located at 105 Corriher Avenue, Salisbury, North Carolina. Their telephone number is 633-6470.

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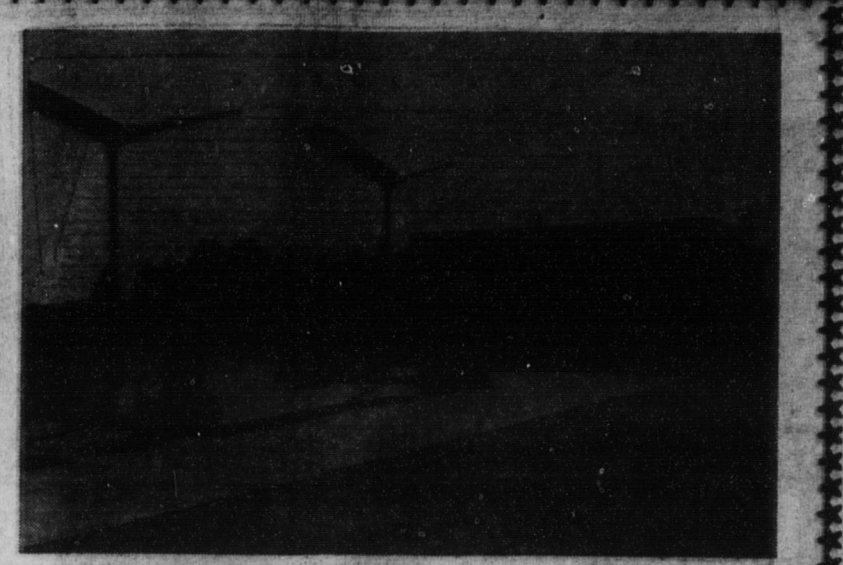
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**OFFICE HOURS**  
 Through this long and demanding session, I have been able to return to North Carolina only briefly and it has not been possible to hold regular office hours in each of the eleven counties of the 9th District. Plans are being worked out now so that I will be available to anyone who would like to discuss national issues or personal problems they are experiencing with the Federal government. The detailed schedule will be announced in the local newspapers of each county soon.

**Card of Thanks**  
 We wish to extend our heart felt thanks and appreciation for the acts of kindness, messages of sympathy, and beautiful floral offerings received from our kind friends and neighbors during our bereavement.

The Family of the late  
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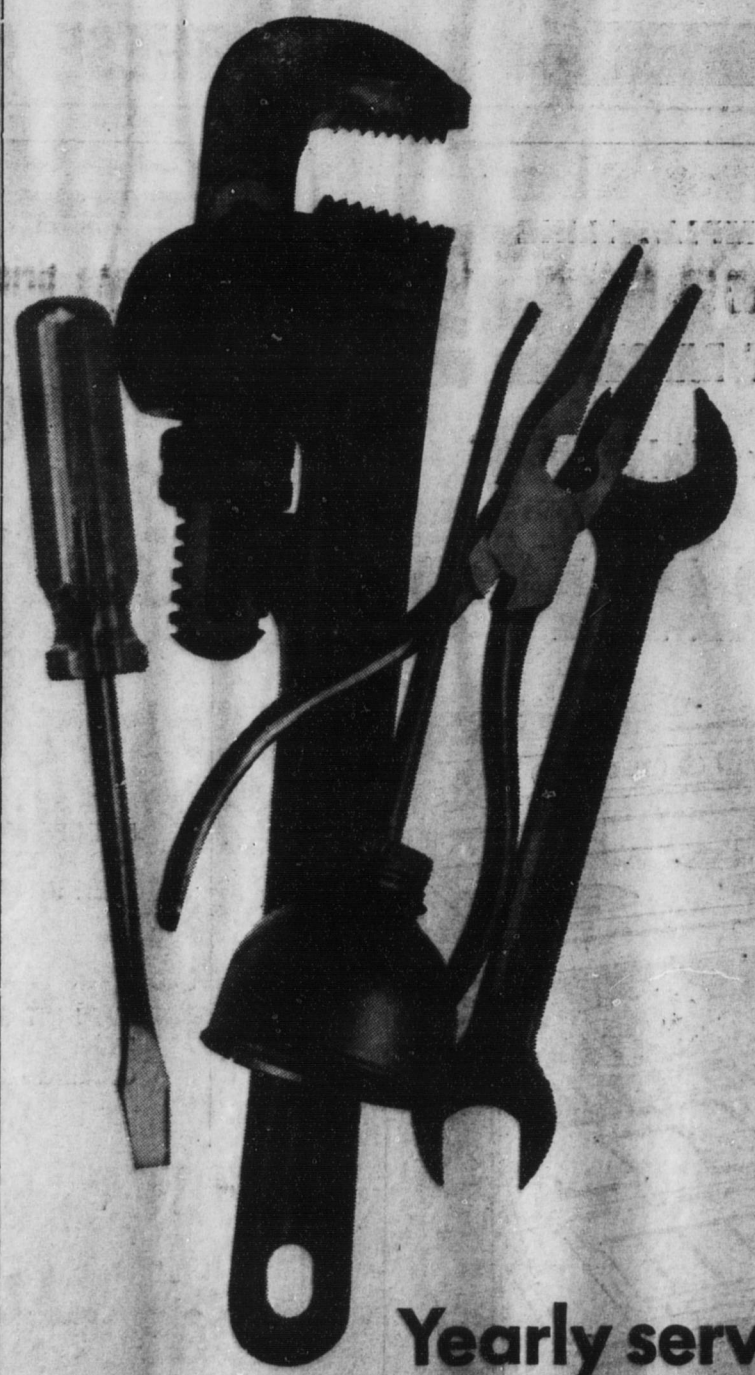
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