

Washington Report

— By —
CONGRESSMAN WALTER B. JONES

Poverty. For six days the House debated the controversial anti-poverty program. Finally, late Wednesday night, the House adopted its version of this legislation for 1967. The major changes from existing law are as follows:

First, each local board directing anti-poverty activities will be required to have 1/3 of its membership from elected officials. This would include city and county or state officials or its subdivisions. It is believed that this will give more local control and direction to the program.

Too often in the past these programs have been organized and administered by persons from distant places who have no deep interest in the local area and ignore the advice and requests of local officials.

The second major change will require additional local financial participation. Presently, the local contribution requires 10% of the total budget. Under the House version local participation will now be 20%, with half of that required to be in cash.

It is believed that here again this will result in more local interest and control. One of the greatest criticisms of the Poverty Program has been that entirely too much money has been used for administration and in many cases very few benefits have reached the poor.

Another amendment prohibits anyone employed or receiving poverty funds from participating in riots and violent demonstrations. Also, we had a provision which prohibits a past or present member of the Communist Party from being employed in the over-all program.

Admittedly, there are certain phases of the Poverty Program which have done a certain amount of good, but on the other hand, there is entirely

too much waste and lost motion in the administration. So, on final passage the question for each Member to decide was whether the good outweighed the bad or vice versa.

No vote should be construed as a vote for or against the poor. Rather the vote indicated approval of present Administration policies or a protest.

Many of us were hoping that the bill could be amended to retain the best of the Poverty Program and eliminate the unnecessary. Since this was not possible, those of us who voted against it on final passage did so as a protest.

In the North Carolina delegation only two Members voted yes on final passage, they were, Congressman Jones and Galitanskis. It still remains for the Senate to agree with the House version before this will become law.

Last week I experienced bureaucracy at its best, or worse. In Hyde County where the Lake Mattamuskeet National Refuge is located, for a number of years the County Commissioners have received a sum of money from the proceeds of the revenue and sale of products at Lake Mattamuskeet, under the Revenue Sharing Act which has been in existence for a long time.

This year the sum of some \$32,000.00 had been with held by the Department of Interior for the reason that the Hyde County Board of Education was in non-compliance with REW.

When this was called to my attention, I protested vigorously, for there certainly was no connection in the relationship between the Department of Interior, the Hyde County Commissioners and the non-compliance regulations under REW.

I am delighted to say that after reconsidering, REW and the Department of Justice waived their objections and the release of the funds to Hyde County is now in progress.

This is not to be construed as any criticism against the Department of Interior, for just as the Hyde County Commissioners, they were victims of the other two bureaucracies.

Starry Sky

Although the sky on a clear night seems to be filled with an infinite number of stars, no more than 3,200 can be seen with the unaided eye.

State Highway Patrol Will Begin Using 'Vascar' to Get Speedsters

The honeymoon is over . . . it ends officially December 1.

On that date the State Highway Patrol will begin utilizing its new speed-timing device--VASCAR--for arrest purposes.

"Since Governor Moore authorized the use of VASCAR in North Carolina in mid-October," Colonel Charles Speed, Patrol commander said, "we have been issuing only warnings to motorists clocked over the legal limit with the instrument."

Colonel Speed noted that in cases where troopers could substantiate violations by means other than VASCAR, tickets have still been issued.

"However," the Patrol officer said, "we will not issue speeding tickets solely on VASCAR evidence until December 1."

Governor Moore authorized the use of the new device at the October 13th Law and Order Conference in Raleigh where he called for a crack down on traffic law violators.

VASCAR is a mechanical computer about the size of a cigar box which is mounted in a Patrol car and can be operated by a trooper while on regular patrol.

The instrument measures the time it takes a vehicle to travel a specific distance and automatically computes the speed

of this vehicle.

"A trooper can check speeding violations for vehicles he meets, those following, those in front and those crossing at intersections," Colonel Speed said. "We feel this device will now give the law enforcement officer the upper hand in dealing with chronic traffic law violators."

Motorists, clocked over the legal limit by VASCAR, have been receiving and will continue to receive from troopers a card explaining how VASCAR operates. The card also asked for continued care in driving on the streets and highways.

Motor Vehicles Commissioner Ralph L. Howland has told the Patrol to "get tough" with the chronic and habitual traffic law violators. His special emphasis has been on the

speeder and the drunk driver.

The drinking driver is also in for a jolt as the Patrol pursues a stricter policy of enforcement.

"We now have 70 Breathalyzer units available for use," Colonel Speed said.

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