Washington Report

— By — CONGRESSMAN WALTER B. JONES

Although the 92nd Congress is in its early days, it now appears there are two areas affecting the people of this nation which will receive a high priority within the next two years.

The first is hospital or medical insurance. Those of you or members of your family who have been hospitalized recently are well aware of the spiraling cost of medical bills. The cost of medical attention and care has increased 170 percent since 1960.

Last week the President proposed comprehensive legislation known as the Family Health Insurance Plan, which ultimately will provide coverage for over 90 percent of the people of this nation.

Those with the earning ability to pay would be required to contribute to the plan, while for those unable to pay, the coverage would be provided by the Federal Government.

One feature of this proposed would be provided by the Federal Government.

One feature of this proposed legislation which is of interest to our District is that an expanding loan program for medical students is proposed, including a special provision for graduates who practice in a scarcity area, that is, remote rural areas, where shortages of doctors now exist.

The President estimates that in the first year of operation of this program, the cost would be

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SOME TIPS ON FILM

We're often asked if film can be used at all after the expiration date on the container. The answer is a qualified yes—but that date is there for a reason. As film gets older, beyond a safe period, it begins to lose both speed and contrast. You'll get pictures with out-of-date film, but you run the risk of poor re-

A related question has to do with "freezing" film to keep it fresh. This is possible. The only provision is that the film be kept in a sealed, moisture-proof package. It will keep for months or longer, and needs only to be thawed out for a couple of hours before being used.

before being used.

However, keeping film too long so that it deteriorates, or keeping it "on ice," can be a true waste of film. Loading or unloading in strong light is another kind of waste. Take reasonable precautions with your film, load in subdued light, and unload, and use it while it's fresh. You'll like the results better.

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\$112 billion.

Other plans have been proposed and legislation introduced on this subject. Senator Ted Kennedy has introduced legislation which is much more liberal than the President's proposal.

On January 22, I joined with other Members of Congress, including Congressman Hall, who is a practicing physician from the State of Missiouri, in introducing legislation on this subject; the title of the bill is: To assure all Americans adequate protection against the costs of health care, through Federal-State programs covering all costs incurred by those who are unable to provide such protection for themselves a Federal program covering catastrophic costs incurred by those who are normally able to provide such protection.

I am sure that the Congress will enact some type of

extended health coverage.

The other item of extreme interest and concern is the matter of pollution. Next week the House Committee on Agriculture will conduct hearings on the general subject of pesticides. Officials of the newly established Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be among the first to appear.

Later, representatives of the chemical companies and related businesses will testify. Many of us feel that there is justifiable concern about the effects of using chemicals in the eradication of insects and pests

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But, on the other hand, if farm production should be jcopardized by the prohibition of a certain compound, then we should know that and try to find a substitute that will assure a continued supply of wholesome, nutritious food.

There are many other aspects

of pollution which will be considered by other Committees in view of legislation already introduced. It is incumbant on the Congress to provide legislation that will assure this nation of a continuing supply of pure water and air. Efforts begun in the 91st Congress and I am sure will continue through the 92nd.

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