

Washington Report

— By —
CONGRESSMAN WALTER B. JONES

The First District—I have always been grateful and proud of the honor of serving as a Member of Congress from the First District of North Carolina.

But recently I have become even more proud of the many "firsts" that have been awarded our local residents.

In a recent column, I pointed out the honor that had come to Lenny Heath of Robersonville, a student at North Pitt High School, who was one of the 40 finalists in the nationwide Westinghouse Talent Search contest.

Last week, Danny Grady of Lenoir County was honored here in Washington as the first place winner of the North Carolina VFW "Voice of Democracy" essay contest. To me, this is indicative of the ability and the talents of the many young people of our District.

On Monday of last week, I had the pleasure of accompanying Mr. and Mrs. Gerritt Boerma of Hyde County and their four children to the White House where they were greeted by President Nixon and congratulated on winning first place in the FHA national contest for "Farm Family of the Year."

The President was most complimentary to the Boerma family on their outstanding



ASTRONAUTS . . . The crew of the successful Apollo 14 mission, with the mission insignia in the background. Left to right, Stuart A. Roosa, command module pilot; Alan B. Shepard, Jr., mission commander; and Edgar D. Mitchell, lunar module pilot.

achievement in their farming operations. Tuesday, I had the pleasure of acting as their host at a luncheon in the Capitol Dining Room.

I had previously reported in this column the record of the Boerma family at the time they won the State award last spring. Their record of financial success is almost unbelievable, when we consider that they arrived in this country from Holland in 1949, with very little money and no friends or relatives.

It indeed shows that the United States is still the land of opportunity if one will put to full use his ingenuity and is willing to work to reach his own goals.

The House action is still at a minimum. Most major legislation is being considered by the various Committees. The House, however, did pass legislation on Wednesday, by a vote of 381 yeas to 19 nays, to extend until March 31, 1973, the provisions of the law relating to interest rates, mortgage credit controls, and cost-of-living stabilization, including giving the President the authority to impose wage and price controls to cope with the runaway inflation at any time he sees fit. This authority has existed for some time.

Our Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries is holding public hearings on the proposed closing by Hew of eight Public Health hospitals as well as the Out-Patient Clinics. As previously reported, I have

sponsored legislation which would insure the continuation of these medical facilities. It is my hope that these Committee hearings will develop testimony substantiating the urgent need for these hospitals.

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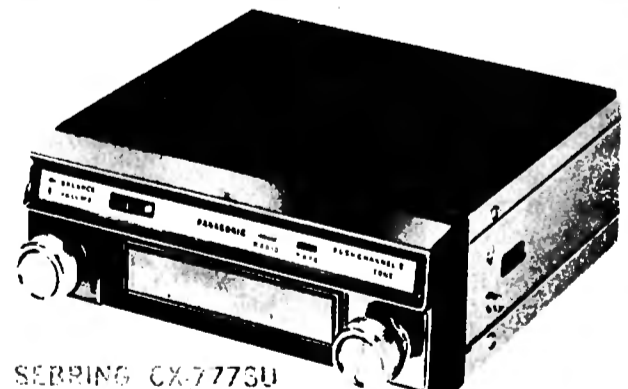
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