

Washington Report

— By —
CONGRESSMAN WALTER B. JONES

Last week, the United States House of Representatives was in recess following the Easter holiday season. In reviewing the Congressional action since the

convening in mid-January, the record will show that there have been 7,462 bills introduced in the House. In addition, there have been 1,202 resolutions introduced. Through March 31, there had been 1,607 bills introduced in the Senate and 179 Senate Resolutions. These figures are presented to show the almost impossible job of Members of Congress in being familiar with all legislation. The majority of these bills which have been introduced will never be reported out of Committee. Those which are ultimately brought to the Floor for consideration will be given thorough Committee hearings and information will be made available to the Members prior to final consideration.

Legislation already approved by the 92nd Congress consists of the following:

A social security increase which provides for a 10 percent across-the-board increase to all recipients. Efforts to increase the present limitation on other earnings were unsuccessful; so, one receiving social security still can only earn up to \$1,680 annually without affecting social security benefits. Many of us made a serious effort to increase this to at least \$2,400.

Another important matter was the defeat of the appropriation to continue the construction of a supersonic air transport system. This was a close vote in the House of 215 to 204.

Of interest to the young citizens of this nation was the approval of submitting a constitutional amendment to the various states to extend the 18 year-old voting age for all elections, and it is predicted that the necessary number of State Legislatures will approve this before the '72 elections.

The Congress has also extended the Selective Service Act for two years with certain changes, which for the most part in the future will remove



SUITING UP . . . A Little League baseballer tries on a shirt stencilled by Army Reservists of the 3343d Army Hospital, Mobile, Ala., as a community project.

college deferments. In an effort to ultimately create an "All-Volunteer Army," the pay grades for the lower ranks were increased approximately 100 percent.

Some of the major bills still to be considered include a National Health Insurance Plan, and I predict the Congress will approve some plan to assist our lower and middle income citizens in meeting the ever-mounting cost of hospitalization and medical care.

Also pending is President Nixon's "revenue sharing" proposal, which as of this moment appears to have a most difficult change of being approved; however, it appears that some direct aid to the states and local government units will be approved by the 92nd Congress.

Among the many bills that I have sponsored or co-sponsored is one which is designed to encourage medical school graduates to practice in underprivileged areas. The language in the original bill is such that I am sure it would be of great assistance to many medical schools both now in existence or proposed new ones, such as the ECU two-year school of medicine.

The House will reconvene on Monday, April 19.

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MAYOR

May 4, 1971



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