

Washington Report

— By —
CONGRESSMAN WALTER B. JONES

The ever-growing problem of drugs has become one of major importance. No longer is it confined to the big cities, but has spread to practically every area of this country. Unfortunately, recent statistics show that young teen-agers are the most likely victims.

Last week in an effort to combat this menace, the House passed legislation, H. R. 12089, which would establish the Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention. This will bring under one department a co-ordination of efforts now being exercised by several. As was stated during the debate, "We can no longer afford the luxury of having each Federal agency respond to one part of the drug problem without linking its efforts to others underway." Perhaps the intent of the bill can best be expressed by language contained in the subtitle, "It is the policy of the United States and the purpose of

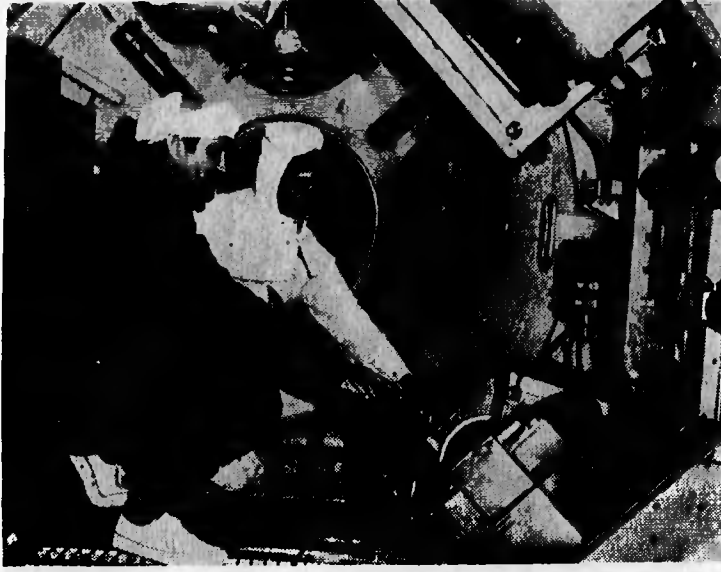
this Act to focus the resources on the Federal Government and bring them to bear on drug abuse to significantly reduce the incidence of drug addiction and drug abuse in the U. S. within the shortest practicable period of time and to develop a comprehensive coordinated long-term Federal strategy to combat drug abuse."

A heated controversy arose as a result of Congressman Teague, Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, attempting to remove the VA hospitals from the authority and control of the Special Office for Drug Abuse and Prevention. He contended that the VA had special problems as it related to military personnel and should be free to combat the drug problem with their own methods and procedures. Although his amendment was rejected 196 to 174, along with Congressmen Fountain, Jenderson, Mizell and Ruth, I voted with the Veterans Administration; with Congressmen Broyhill, Jonas and Preyer voting no. Not voting was Galifinakis and Lennon who is recovering from an operation.

On final passage, the legislation was passed unanimously 380 to 0.

During the week, the House was again asked to approve an increase in the number of Federal Judges in the States of Louisiana, Indiana, Florida Missouri and Texas. The bill was approved by a voice vote; but had it been a roll call, I would have, as usual, voted no.

The House Committee on Agriculture gave approval this week to a bill known as the Rural Development Act of 1972. Basically, the bill would broaden the credit services of the Farmers Home Ad-



SKYLAB CHECK . . . Stephanie Smith, associate engineer at Martin Marietta Corporation's Denver division, outlines equipment location for Astronaut William R. Pogue during the NASA acceptance checkout of the Skylab Multiple Docking Adapter. The docking adapter is one of five major segments of the United States' first experimental space station, will serve as an experiment control center and the docking port for the Skylab.

ministration, emphasize rural development, and give greater emphasis to community development and environmental aspects of the Small Watershed and Resource, Conservation and Development programs of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It would also authorize for the first time aid to finance pollution abatement and control programs in rural areas. As was stated in the Committee, "The time has come for this House to recognize that poverty is not confined to the big city, that America's countryside is in economic chaos, and that problems in our urban areas are

linked directly to the suffering in our rural areas. We cannot separate the problem between rural and urban America—there is no dividing line."

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