

# Washington Report

— By —  
**CONGRESSMAN WALTER B. JONES**

The main topic of conversation last week was the startling results of the Presidential Primary in Florida and later President Nixon's position on forced school busing. I am delighted that the leaders of both races have finally come to the conclusion that the most important factor in public education is that of providing the best quality possible. You will recall that the President recommended an appropriation of \$2½ billion to upgrade the inferior schools as one alternative to busing. But this too raises another question: Will money alone create quality education? A negative example is here in the city school system of Washington, D. C., where the per pupil investment is among the highest in the nation, but yet by any criteria, the school system is among the poorest. In any event, it will be interesting to see what relief, if any, the final results will produce. I remain convinced the only solution as far as the courts are concerned is to submit to the

people of this nation a Constitutional amendment, and then I am reasonably confident that the courts will abide by this mandate where there remains some doubt as to their reaction to Congressional action.

The House approved a supplemental appropriation bill for \$957 million; \$911 million of this was necessary to continue the Federal participation in unemployment compensation payments due to the very high level of unemployment that exists under this Administration. Another \$12 million provides for the payment of insured student loans which are currently in default. Also, there was in excess of \$500 million for claims and judgements of individuals against the Federal Government.

Another bill considered by the House was an authorization to provide assistance to the funding of the Rail Service Passenger Act. Realizing the necessity of improved mass



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transportation, it was extremely difficult to vote against this, but the original Act provided for an appropriation of \$40 million and authority to borrow up to \$100 million guaranteed by the Federal Government which the Congress at that time was assured was sufficient.

Yet, the bill before us last week provided for

an ultimate grant of \$170 million, and in addition, another guaranteed borrowing authority in the amount of \$100 million. This raises the continuing question of how far the Government should go in subsidizing public services or private enterprise. A most interesting amendment was one which was approved which provided that any officer of AMTRAK Corporation who

received an annual salary in excess of \$60,000. Must be paid out of the profits of the corporation. From past experience, this was needless apprehension.

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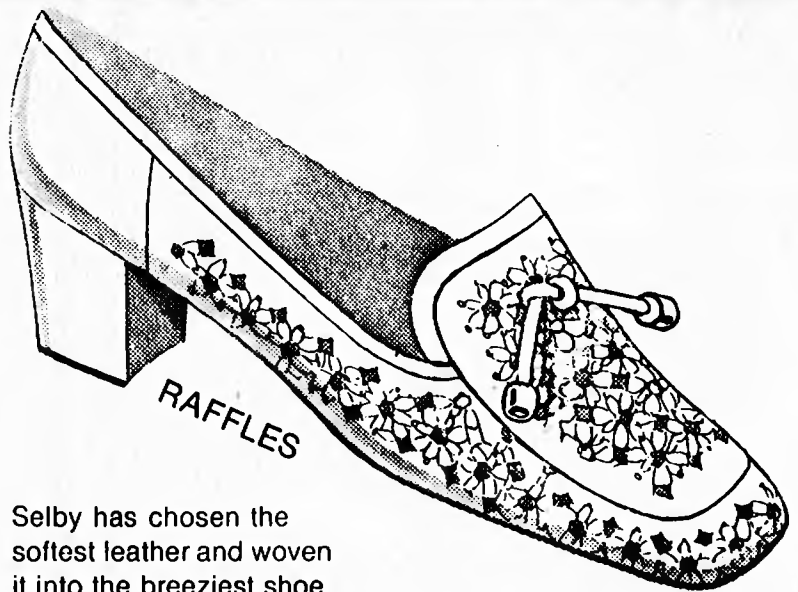
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