

Washington Report

— By —
CONGRESSMAN WALTER B. JONES

Again last week the House attempted to express its wishes in regard to priorities concerning an approach to a balanced budget. A bill from the Agriculture Committee which would restore the Rural Water and Sewer Grant Program under the Farmers Home Administration was approved by a vote of 297 to 54. This is a program which has been in existence since 1965 wherein FHA provides loans and grants to rural communities to improve their water and sewer systems and more recently, to comply with environmental

legislation passed by the Congress. On January 11, President Nixon announced the termination of all grants under this program, but a continuation of the loans. Far too many small communities have no tax base or any other way to raise the necessary money to replace the prior existing grants; so the legislation which the House approved deleted the words in the original Act "is authorized to," and inserted in lieu thereof, the word "shall." This, of course, means that it will be a congressional mandate for this grant program to continue. Even some of the President's strongest supporters on the Republican side agreed that this is one of the most valuable and worthwhile programs which has ever been enacted for the benefit of rural

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The age of chivalry has gone, and one of calculators and economists has succeeded.—Edmund Burke.

Cities force growth, and make men talkative and entertaining, but they make them artificial.—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

America. It should be kept in mind that rural pollution affects the city dweller as much as it does the rural resident, and a continuation of this program will add much to providing a better and cleaner atmosphere for all of us.

Also last week the House Committee on Agriculture spent many hours considering the future of the Rural Electrification Program in this nation. At the present time, the entire program is terminated by Executive Order and the Committee is working on compromise legislation which hopefully will be acceptable to the Administration and the Congress as well as those affected. The compromise would eliminate to some degree the 2 percent loans, and put some of the co-ops in a position of paying a more compatible rate of interest consistent with the cost of money to the government. It would also create a revolving fund thereby eliminating the necessity of the Treasury funding this program from year to year. While recognizing the value and the contribution that the electric co-ops have made in the years past, certainly it is time to re-examine the original Act which was passed in another day under other conditions and upgrade the modernize a sensible approach to the problems of electric co-ops.

We sometimes think of the Committee on Agriculture as not being a too effective voice in the Congress, but I am proud to say that of the five major bills considered by the House for this the 93rd Congress, four have been from the Committee on Agriculture, while the other Committees continue to hold unending hours of public hearings on various and sundry matters.

Sunday, I had the pleasure of participating in the dedication ceremonies in Morehead City for a new Administration Building for the Morehead Port. Many of us living nearby sometimes fail to realize the importance of this operation and what it means to the total economy which, of course, includes expeditious shipping of agricultural products, such as tobacco, soybeans and other grains. In my opinion, this port means much to the total economy and deserves the interest and support of all citizens of eastern North Carolina.

Nothing is rich but the inexhaustible wealth of nature. She shows us only surfaces, but she is million fathoms deep.—Emerson.

The true grandeur of humanity is in moral elevation, sustained, enlightened and decorated by the intellect of man.—Charles Sumner.

Men possessing minds which are morose, solemn, and inflexible, enjoy, in general, a great share of dignity than happiness.—Bacon.

Show me one couple unhappy merely on account of their limited circumstances, and I will show you ten who are wretched from other causes.—Coleridge.

There is such a thing as literary fashion, and prose and verse have been regulated by the same caprice that cuts our coats and cocks our hats.—Disraeli.

Life is thick sown with thorns, and I know no other remedy than to pass quickly through them. The longer we dwell on our misfortunes, the greater is their power to harm us.—Voltaire.

The only rational liberty is that which is born of subjection, reared in the fear of God and love of man, and made courageous in the defense of a trust, and the prosecution of a duty.—Simms.

The greatest ornament of an illustrious life is modesty and humility, which go a great way in the character even of the most exalted princess.—Napoleon.

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