

Washington Report

— By —

CONGRESSMAN WALTER B. JONES

To those who have expressed interest in "Congressional reform," you will be delighted to know that the House approved as one of its rules a motion which provides that all Committee meetings will be open to the public unless on the date of the hearing, the Committee votes otherwise. In the past the situation has been

reversed to the end that all voting sessions of a Committee were closed unless the Committee voted to hold an open session. I have previously mentioned other changes in the House rules including the limiting of the number of subcommittees a Member can hold, the limitation of being chairman of only one subcommittee, and the electronic voting system.

In House action a bill was approved that provides Federal financial assistance to the Child Nutrition programs to be maintained at the level budgeted for fiscal year 1973. The purpose of the bill was to allow the Department of Agriculture to make full use of the funds already allocated to it this year for the purchase of commodities in the school-lunch and school-breakfast programs. The need for the bill has come about because the amount of foods being distributed this year by the Department to the States for the lunch and breakfast programs has declined substantially below the level of last year. In fact, most States are receiving half as much this year in commodities as they received last year. And some States are even receiving as little as 30 percent of last year's level.

The House also passed an authorization to continue the Vocational Rehabilitation Act. This is virtually the same legislation that President Nixon vetoed October 22, 1972. Briefly, the bill extends the 52-year old vocational rehabilitation program for 2 years which assists handicapped individuals return to employment;

provides for a new program for individuals who are so severely handicapped that they might never be able to work, but who might be expected to develop some self-sufficiency, and thereby lessen some of the strain on their families and allow those members to seek employment;

provide the necessary help to persons suffering from serious

Spring Fashions Swing Toward Softer Colors

RALEIGH -- Pale cotton candy pink, mint green and powder blue are the colors that will attract attention in Spring fashions, while bright, primary colors will take a backseat.

These newly popular pastels are luminous, almost washed out, observes Dorothy Barrier, North Carolina State University, extension clothing specialist.

Even so, the pinks come in all shades--from the deep purplish-pinks through pink lacquer, down to pale pink pastel. Greens vary too. Mint green or jade green seem the most popular.

Indicative of the more refined mood of Spring 1973, even the fabric patterns and prints are toned down. Florals are smaller, checks neater and figuratives more simple.

Most of the print trends seem to be carry overs from fall, but are recolored in the soft pastel tones. For instance, gingham checks, dots, florals on plaid grounds, nauticals, and giant seersucker plaids will still abound, but in pale colors.

It may be interesting to watch several new trends this spring, Miss Barrier adds. Whimsical children's prints with story book characters,

kidney disease;

provide special programs for persons suffering from spinal cord injuries;

provide special programs for deaf and older blind individuals. But most important, it authorized a \$900 million reduction in the bill which the President vetoed last year. It is difficult to see how anyone could not agree with the approval of these much needed programs for our sick and handicapped citizens. On final passage of the bill, all Members of the North Carolina delegation voted for the bill, except Republican Congressman, Jim Martin.

On Tuesday, March 6, the Subcommittee on Oilseeds and Rice, of which I am chairman, held public hearings in opposition to proposed Administration changes in the peanut program for 1973. Seventeen witnesses from North Carolina, Georgia, Texas and Louisiana, testified in opposition and I am of the opinion that valid arguments for the continuation of the program were made. The general thrust was to request the Department to continue the program for this year, with the promise of revised legislation for 1974.

dery and satin stripes all may make it big in Spring of 1973.

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