

Washington Report

— By —
CONGRESSMAN WALTER B. JONES

The Senate hearings on the Watergate affair which opened this week have tended to overshadow all other matters on Capitol Hill; however, one of

the most controversial bills considered by the House this session was passed this week which authorized \$40 million as the United States participation in an International Environmental Program to be administered by the United Nations.

This figure represents 40 percent of the estimated amount required, and definitely violates the terms of an Act passed by the Congress in 1972. For at that time we were able to pass legislation which put a limit of 25 percent U. S. participation for UN activities.

Several amendments were offered to reduce the amount authorized, all of which I supported. Certainly I would not advocate the withdrawal of the U. S. from the UN, but I think it is time that the other countries of the world provided their fair share of the cost, rather than the United States contributing anywhere from 40 to 50 percent

of the operational requirements.

With this in mind, I voted no on final passage, although the bill was passed by a vote of 226 to 123.

Legislation also passed last week by the House was the Hobby Protection Act, designed to protect hobbyists against the reproduction or manufacture of certain imitation hobby items. Under the legislation, any imitation political item manufactured in, or imported into, the United States for introduction or distribution must be plainly and permanently marked with the calendar year of its manufacture, and any imitation numismatic item must be marked "copy."

It is estimated that in the United States there are well over one million people who collect coins, tokens, commemorative medals and political items; and there is a growing incidence of imitation numismatic and political items being purchased or obtained through trade in the belief that they are original items—the legislation purports to offer some relief in this area.

I think most people are beginning to realize that we are facing an acute shortage of petroleum products. Many of the major companies are beginning to ration their dealers and terminate their contracts with individuals. So, with the necessity of agriculture having an adequate supply of petroleum products for planting and harvesting of this year's crop, the Committee on Agriculture held hearings trying to discover what measure could be taken to make this possible.

A most interesting statement was made to the end that we are wasting 40 percent of our total energy and that by 1980 unless this trend is reversed, this figure will reach 60 percent.

A spokesman for the industry blamed the environmentalists for the lack of necessary

refineries in this country, citing various state laws which have been enacted which prevents the construction of refineries in areas which would be most desirable.

The construction of the Alaskan Pipeline which has been delayed from some time presents another problem as it relates to the petroleum shortage. The increased demand for petroleum is obviously a part of the shortage.

In the year 1972 fuel oil and gas consumption increased by 7½ percent. Even more alarming, the first three months of this year showed another 9 percent increase.

None of the witnesses or Members of Congress have any definite solution as to what might be done.

Several suggestions were

made including a national 50 mph speed limit which would save 1 gallon out of every 10 now being used. If the emergency increases, it is my opinion that we must return to national gas and fuel oil rationing as we did in World War II and the Korean War.

At the moment, the Administration seems to rely on voluntary compliance with the implied promise that if this doesn't solve the problem then mandatory restrictions will be enacted. It is a serious problem and one which cannot be ignored any longer.

A true man never frets about his place in the world, but just slides into it by the gravitation of his nature, and swings there as easily as a star.—E. H. Chapin.

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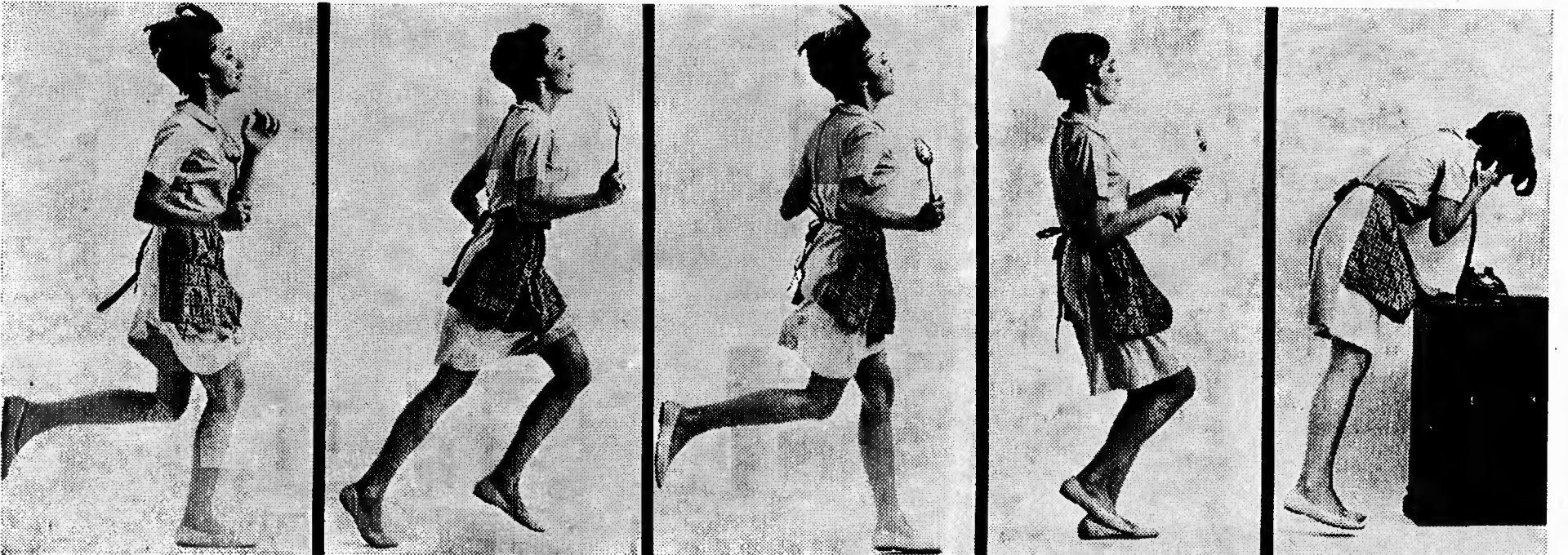
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