

## The Washington Report

by  
Rep. Walter B. Jones

For week beginning  
February 12, 1979

The main topic of conversation and interest last week was the arrival of the American Agricultural Movement members with their trucks and tractors. By and large, it was an orderly demonstration with a few exceptions such as blocking the traffic in to the city on Monday. On Wednesday, four or five inches of snowfall cooled the demonstration to some degree. The participants this year are considerably less in number than the delegation that was here last year.

Secretary of Agriculture, Bob Bergland, was cross-examined by the House Agriculture Committee at length during the week for some four and one-half hours, with a room overflowing with the American Agriculture members. Bergland maintained his composure very well and cited economic reasons why he did not feel it would be in the best interest of the American economy to grant their basic request for a guaranteed 90 % of parity. Among other things he said was that if this was done, we would possibly lose 50 % of our agricultural exports due to pricing ourselves out of the world market. We are all aware that many farmers in the southeast and part of the Midwest are in serious financial straits. This concerns mainly the wheat and corn producers. Chairman Tom Foley of the House Agriculture Committee has announced public hearings for four days for the week beginning February 12 in order that the representatives of the different organizations can be heard as well as other USDA officials. I am certain that every Member of the House Committee on Agriculture has an intense desire to see that the American farmer receives a fair return on his investment of time and money.

As a Member of Congress, I feel that any individual or group who feels that they have a justified complaint against the government has an inherent right to be heard. But sometimes the cost of these demonstrations to the taxpayers is overlooked in the emotional drama. Probably one item not considered is the 1,000 or so Capitol Hill Police, which under these circumstances, are forced to work almost around the clock involving massive overtime pay amounting to approximately \$100,000 per day. A small, but yet, interesting item, is that the police are not permitted any lunch hour, and therefore, are furnished box lunches to be consumed at their posts, and this runs approximately \$2,500 for each meal. Certainly this is no indictment of the American farmers' visit to Washington, but applies to any and all demonstrations which might occur.

Also last week the Subcommittee assignments were completed and of interest to the District, the Tobacco Subcommittee is as follows: As previously reported I will serve as Chairman; and on the Democratic side are Tom Foley of the State of Washington; Dawson Mathis of Georgia; Charlie Whitley and Charlie Rose of North Carolina; and Alvin Baldus of Wisconsin--and on the Republican side, Bill Wampler of Virginia; Richard Kelly of Florida; and Larry Hopkins of Kentucky.

The Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries concluded its assignments, and I am happy to report that I will be the ranking member on the Coast Guard Subcommittee. The Committee this year will probably be faced with certain legislation to financially implement the Panama Canal treaty. In fact, a special Subcommittee for this one subject was appointed. At the present time it is my prediction that the Panama Canal treaty or at least the part which the House will be called upon to implement, will face tough deliberations in the Committee.

# Letters To The Editor They're fighting for your life

Equality for all should be the law

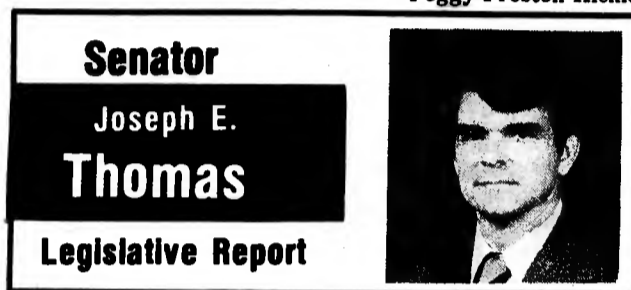
February 9, 1979

To the Editor:

I feel it is time to speak out in support of the Equal Rights Amendment. Your article entitled "E. R. A. Supporters Named" (Feb. 8, 1979) leads one to believe that only communists, homosexuals, prostitutes and the like favor the amendment. I strongly support the Equal Rights Amendment and am not any of the above. I am merely an individual who wishes to see that the equality of all individuals be legitimized under the law. I think that if the text of the amendment were carefully studied, many people would find that their fears are completely unfounded. I would urge all those who favor the amendment to do so with as much ardor as those who have opposed it.

Sincerely,

Peggy Preston Hickie



Senator

Joseph E.

Thomas

Legislative Report

February 9, 1979

One of the most interesting aspects of the Morehead City Tributary Area, the Second Senatorial District, is the wide diversification of employment. Although our industrial opportunities and future are only now being fully realized, the agricultural, military, fishing, and shipping have long been recognized.

Such diversification, however, does not guarantee that the Second District will be automatically allowed to take its rightful place among the leading areas in North Carolina as well as the much talked-about southern "Sun Belt."

Because such guarantees are not forthcoming, one of my main priorities as a State Senator is to assure that the immense possibilities of this area are known to the people of North Carolina and the rest of the country.

Of course, the most recent victory in this effort was the appointment by Governor Hunt of a trade representative for the Morehead City Port last week.

Another means by which this effort can continue is through the committee assignments of the Second District representatives in the State Legislature. I believe I have been most fortunate in this critical area since virtually every one of my committee assignments deals with some aspect of the economic base of the Carteret, Craven, Pamlico area--in particular, the Veterans and Military Affairs Committee, Transportation, Economy, and Finance.

As a member of Natural and Economic Resources, I was selected last week to serve as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Marine Fisheries Law Amendments.

This Subcommittee will be studying several amendments designed to tighten up marine law violations and to protect the important commercial fishing industry of the coastal area. At some time in the near future, I will be soliciting your opinions on these important amendments so that we might pass legislation which can further enhance our fishing economy.

In the Senate Economy Committee hearing last week, we were treated to a rather detailed outlook of the agricultural picture for the next couple of years. Though the picture is not nearly as bright as we would like, North Carolina State University expert, W. D. Toussaint, predicts that farm income for 1979 will be slightly up and that production costs might possibly stabilize by 1980. Hopefully, such predictions might come about and, at least in part, help the beleaguered farmer.

Another interesting topic to surface in the Capital last week was bingo. The State House was literally over-run by opponents of a proposed bill aimed at tightening the regulations of bingo games.

Although we must move cautiously on this subject, I believe that the regulations can be tightened to avoid private operators from making a profit and yet still protect legitimate non-profit organizations.

On one final note, the public hearing on removal of the containerized freight crane from Morehead City is scheduled for February 21, 1979 at 12:00 noon. We need a good turn-out of people supporting the crane in order to help turn the tide. I hope you will be able to attend.

In searching for a topic for my very first editorial, I thought what better subject than the important work being done by the American Heart Association. The 1979 Heart Fund Campaign is well underway. Volunteers throughout Craven County are hard at work collecting the funds so necessary for this important work. The Heart Fund helps to support the vital programs of rehabilitation, education and research.

Heart disease is the number one killer in the country today. Diseases of the heart and blood vessels account for more than half of the total number of deaths in the United States and in Craven County. High blood pressure affects 33 million Americans. It is the leading cause of heart attacks, strokes, and kidney failures.

The Heart Association realizes the danger, if high blood pressure is left untreated. Because it has no apparent symptoms, you may not realize that you have it. The only way to find out if you have high blood pressure is to have it checked. It is a simple, painless, examination, which only takes a few minutes. If you have not had your blood pressure checked, I urge you to see a doctor or stop by the Heart Association's blood pressure screening program. One of these is scheduled for February 17 from 9:30 to 5:30 at Belk Department store in New Bern. A Registered Nurse will be on hand to check blood pressures and give out free information.

Other projects of the Heart Fund include balloon and tag sales on February 17 from 10:00 to 3:00 at Nichol's, Roses, and Clark's. Students and other volunteers will be giving red Heart Fund balloons or tags to contributors.

The Heart Association offers the public information on a variety of health questions. I join them in urging everyone to have regular medical check-ups, to get plenty of exercise, to eat less saturated fat, and to cut out smoking. They are working to help you live a longer, happier, and more active life.

When a representative of the Heart Fund contacts you, please give generously.

## PTA donates playground equipment

The Vanceboro Elementary and Farm Life Parent-Teachers Association recently presented the two schools with checks totaling \$575. This money will be used to purchase playground equipment. The teachers at the two schools were given \$25 each for the needed equipment.

Richard Bowers, principal of Farm Life, reported that orders for playground balls, jump ropes, hula hoops, and other equipment have already been placed. He announced that tumbling mats and additional equipment for the Farm Life gym are also being purchased with other funds.

## Oak Grove Ladies meet

The Ladies auxiliary met February 6 at the home of Mrs. Charlie Carrow. The Meeting was called to order by President Daisy McLawhorn. She welcomed everyone and thanked Mrs. Carrow for being hostess. Mrs. Josh Smith, program chairman, asked Mrs. Geneva Lewis to open the lesson with prayer. Each of the ladies took part in the lesson and prayer for the sick.

The group discussed a benefit dinner on March 2, for Camp Vandermere, N.C. The meeting was ended by prayer from Mrs. Pauline Shivers. The next meeting will be at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Josh Smith.

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