

# Report From Washington

BY CONGRESSMAN JAMES T. HROYHILL

In these concluding weeks of the session, activity on Capitol Hill shows signs of picking up some of the steam it has lacked. Although much of the log-jam of necessary bills in the Senate, the House, too, has been slow to get down to business on the scores of so-called priority proposals that await consideration.

Last week, Foreign Aid legislation dominated the scene on the House side of the Capitol. This annual ritual authorized \$2.2 billion, a figure about \$441 million below the budget request. I opposed this bill because I feel that the full reductions and serious reforms that must be made in this wasteful and largely ineffectual program have not been made. The international spending binge has poured out vast sums over the years with very spotty results at best.

With Federal spending being strongly curtailed, many valuable and desirable programs have been cut back because of the necessity to put the nation's financial house in order. Certainly, much more of the foreign aid program should be cut and given a much lower order of priority so we can better meet the legitimate needs of our own people. We will have another chance to face this issue when the actual appropriations bill arises in several weeks.

Less publicized, but of widespread interest, nonetheless, was legislation to amend the gun control law that was passed last year. This law, in my opinion, was unwise and unjustified. It was agreed to on the national wave of feeling following the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King and Senator Robert Kennedy. Its purpose was to strengthen Federal gun control statutes and to help reduce crime. As a whole, the bill showed little promise of accomplishing its purpose. I opposed the legislation as it finally became law because of the number of bad features it contained and I have joined others here this year to change the statute.

One of the most unacceptable parts of the law requires that storekeepers maintain an elaborate series of records on sales of shotgun and rifle ammunition. The results, many of us argued when the original bill was considered would be confusion and burden upon merchants and law-abiding citizens alike without making any significant contribution to stamping out crime.

These predictions have proved true. The Treasury Department now finds that the records require for sales of sales of sporting-type ammunition "are not effective as a law enforcement tool." In addition, the Department recognizes the unnecessary inconvenience this portion of the law has caused and has found that

its unreasonable provisions have generated "criticism from sportsmen and others and detracts from the effective enforcement of other provisions of the firearms laws." As a result of these conclusions and mounting pressure for legislative action, the repeal of this record-keeping requirement as it applies to shotgun and rifle ammunition was added to the Interest-Equalization Tax bill as it passed the Senate a few days ago. The House was quick to act and the bill is now on the President's desk.

Last year, the strongest advocates of new and stringent gun control laws, including firearms registration, were in the Senate. The registration proposal was rejected and there is no serious effort to revive it this year. What was done in 1968, it seemed to me, took primitive action against law-abiding citizens and their right to own firearms without facing the central problem of dealing with criminals who use guns to commit crimes. In the House version of the bill last year, there was a strong provision which would require mandatory and additional jail sentences for persons committing Federal crimes with firearms. I believe that was a useful and necessary provision which would help reduce crime. Unfortunately, the Senate removed that provision from the bill last year.

## More Units Needed For Yule Parade

Additional units for Boone's Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 13, are being accepted by the Boone Parks and Recreation Commission.

The parade will be held at 3 p. m. through downtown Boone. Children who wish to enter the Busted Britches Brigade should write their letters to the commission. Other parade entries may be secured by phoning the recreation office.

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## School Vacation To Start 19th

Christmas vacation for Watauga County's public school children will begin shortly after lunch on Friday, Dec. 19. The Watauga County Board of Education Monday night asked that students be dismissed following lunch.

School will be resumed on Monday, Dec. 29. The schools will be closed again for a one-day holiday on Thursday, Jan. 1. Students will return to school on Friday, Jan. 2. The holiday schedule had been approved earlier by the school board according to recommendations by the faculty calendar committee.

## COLONEL SANDER'S SPECIALS



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(Livers, Potatoes, Gravy, Bread)  
Thursday - Regular Dinner Box ..... 99c  
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Friday - Fish Dinner ..... 99c  
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## Elementary School To Make A Movie

Today we are faced with a young generation of Americans who want to be involved and consulted on decisions concerning social, domestic and foreign affairs. This is generally a healthy attitude on the part of our youth. Our public schools should offer students the opportunity to develop their character and leadership ability under conditions that will foster or promote individual inquiry and creativity while at the same time teaching our youth the respect for our political system, and the laws by which we are all governed. These ideas are much easier to write about than to put into actual practice. Appalachian Elementary School is trying to create this atmosphere among the teachers and students at the elementary school.

## News Of Servicemen

### Vietnam Rifleman

Army Pfc. Ted L. Miller, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer F. Miller, Route 1, Deep Gap, N. C., was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in Vietnam Oct. 22 as a rifleman.

### Serves In Vietnam

Army Pfc. Fred Townsend Jr., 20, whose parents live in Valle Crucis, N. C., was assigned Oct. 12 to the 4th Infantry Division near Pleiku, Vietnam, as a carpenter.

### 6 OPERATIONS CLOSED

Colorado Springs—The closing of six North American Air Defense Command region and division headquarters in the United States and Canada was announced by Gen. Seth J. McKee, NORAD commander.

they were to plan any course of action or programs that the group might decide to formalize. The students elected a chairman, Ted Hagaman, a vice chairman, Joe Robinson, and a secretary, Myra Harrill. The students decided to meet every other Friday at 1:30 in the school library. The students began to suggest possible projects that might be undertaken by the committee, and it was finally decided to make a movie concerning conditions at the school and the conditions for improvements.

Since no one on the committee, including the sponsors, had ever made a movie, the Audio-Visual Department at Appalachian State University was contacted for assistance. Two students from this department, Richard Peters and Rosalie Shumate, now meet with the committee and serve as technical advisors. The committee elected two students, John Fish and Joe Robinson, to serve as cameramen, and they are being trained by Richard Peters to operate a movie camera, which the university has loaned to the committee.

The committee is working on five scenes for the movie, and possibly the students will be ready to start filming these scenes in color by January. The members of the Student Advisory Committee areas follows: Grade four—Jim Graham from Mrs. Greene's class; Charles Fox, Mrs. Stanley; Doug Brackbill, Mrs. High; Karen Aires, Mrs. Edloth; Grade five—Mark Trivett, Mr. Foster; Kevin Welborn, Mrs. Culyer; Paula Hagaman, Mrs. Coffey; Carol Carpenter, Mrs. Buckland; Grade six—Chuck Hayes, Miss Nabors; Fred Wilson, Mrs. Randall; John Fish, Mrs. Horton; Grade seven—Ronnie Johnson, Mrs. Triplett; Carolyn Davis, Miss Amas; Rachel Welborn, Mr. Petrey; Susan Furman, Mrs. Sigmon; Grade eight—Joe Robinson, Mrs. Hamby; Johnny Vance, Mr. Harvey; Myra Harrill, Mr. Day, and Ted Hagaman, Mrs. Hamlin, Dr. Anderson and Mr. Keller are the sponsors for this committee.

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