



## Report From Washington

By Rep. Walter B. Jones

After a three-week summer recess, the Congress reconvened on Wednesday, September 3. I had the pleasure of seeing many of you during the recess, and I continue to be most interested in your observations.

School enrollment problems continue to be of the greatest concern to many. The hope of members of all races for a return to "Freedom of Choice" has all but disappeared.

Some expressed interest and concern over the Tax Reform Bill. Most of you expressed approval from the conviction that tax reform was long overdue.

It was a pleasure to note that the sale and price of tobacco is generally satisfactory. It is always a rewarding experience to visit as many communities in the district as possible and attempt to learn of your concern and interest in federal legislation.

As Congress reconvened on September 3, it is now apparent that this could

possibly be one of the longest sessions in history, for with eight months in this session having passed, leaving only four to go, the workload will be heavy. Of the nine required appropriation bills, only one has been passed by both houses. One is in a conference committee, while the seven others still remain in the House Appropriations Committee. In addition to these required appropriations, there are other extremely controversial bills to be considered this year. The extension of the Voting Rights Act, the Crime Bill and Bail-Reform Proposal, authorization of the Anti-poverty Program and an improved Food Stamp Program, Postal Reform, Mine Safety, Foreign Aid, reform of the Electoral College System,

Military Procurement and Research, Water Pollution, reform of the draft system and many others.

The above does not include President Nixon's proposed revision of the present welfare program. So, it is evident that if the Congress is to complete its required work, it will involve hard work and many night sessions.

Last week the House Committee on Agriculture continued its hearings on the extension of the present farm program as well as an extension and increase in food stamps. During the questioning of Julius F. Rothman, associate director of the Department of Urban Affairs of the AFL-CIO, I asked him what position his organization would take on a government guaranteed em-

ployment program for able-bodied citizens who otherwise refuse to work, the employment being a condition upon which they could receive additional aid. He replied that the AFL-CIO would be pleased to see such a program enacted. I hope other members of Congress will join with me in pursuing this philosophy in an effort to aid and improve the standard of living of the poor and uneducated.

Since reconvening, the House passed legislation to amend the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966. This bill extends the act which was enacted to reduce traffic accidents and death and injuries to persons resulting from traffic accidents.

Also, the House approved H. R. 7621, the title of which reads as follows: "To amend the Federal Hazardous Substances Act to Protect Children from toys and other articles intended for use by children which are hazardous due to the presence of electrical, mechanical or thermal hazards."

## Students Eligible For S. S. Benefits

Children of parents who are deceased, retired or disabled can continue to receive social security benefits until age 22 as long as they are full-time students at an approved school and are unmarried. In addition, payments can be made during vacations from school as long as the student is not out of school over four months.

Children currently receiving benefits need to let us know if they will continue to attend school after their eighteenth birthday. Students not receiving social security payments who feel they may be eligible for them, are urged to contact the Elizabeth City Social Security office for information. The office is located at 401 South Dyer Street, Elizabeth City, N. C. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:45 A. M. until 5 P. M. and on Saturday from 9 A. M. until 12 noon.

North Carolina farmers produce at least five commodities with an annual value of at least \$100 million. They are tobacco, broilers, eggs, hogs and milk.

## Sunday School

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and walk humbly in His ways; to do anything less will nullify God's plan for us as a nation.

It has been often said—in cases of outstanding acts of heroism—that the person in question knew no fear. Maybe that is true of some individuals—but in that case are they truly brave men—or merely foolhardy? It is the man who is afraid, who acknowledges that fact to himself, and then goes on to perform an act of bravery that is truly a hero. And it is a fool, indeed, today, who is not afraid.

We need fear—both as a stimuli to reflection, and as a goad to our reactions. We need to be concerned over split ranks and divisive opinions. We need unification—the kind of unification Israel achieved under King David. Only then can we be sure that God is indeed with us.

(These comments are based on outlines of the International Sunday School Lessons, copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education and used by permission).

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## Your MENTAL HEALTH

by NORBERT L. KELLY, Ph. D.  
Director, Education Division  
N. C. Department of Mental Health

### BLACKOUT

A bizarre type of human behavior often experienced by those suffering from alcoholism is the blackout. This is a temporary period of amnesia following a period of inebriety.

After the inebriate has awakened, memory of his activity while drinking has been wiped out. He just can't remember what he did. Popularly, this is called "pulling a blank."

I could give many examples of the blackout. One of the most frequently heard is the alcoholic's not knowing how he got home during a drinking bout. The last thing he can remember is drinking at such

and such a place. And here he is, the next afternoon, at home. What went on between these two events? He has no idea. He can't remember.

Another type of behavior that is frequently blacked out is travel. I've heard alcoholics tell of driving long distances, while drinking, and never remembering it. Some awaken in strange towns and wonder where they are and how they got there.

A very common story illustrates this point very well. An alcoholic awakened one morning after a bender. He left the hotel he was in and started walking down the street. Everything seemed strange. He didn't recognize one landmark. Puzzled, he stopped a passerby and politely asked where he was. "Why you're on Main Street," the man replied. "Never mind the street," said the alcoholic, "just tell me what town I'm in." I believe this little story illustrates not only the blackout, but it also emphasizes how tragic the condition of alcoholism may become. Very few social drinkers experience the blackout. Many alcoholics have them frequently. They are a serious warning signal of the possibility of the illness.

For additional information on alcoholism, visit or phone your community alcoholism information center.

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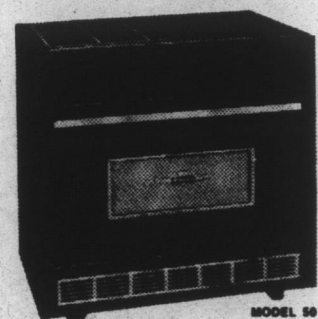
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