



Report From Washington By Rep. Walter B. Jones

The legislative action of Congress continues to drag. Among the limited number of bills considered by the House last week was a bill to amend the "Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act to provide for the establishment of a council on environmental quality, and for other purposes." In brief, this bill provides for the increase in research on the hazards as well as the benefits of our environment with special emphasis on the atmosphere and the aquatic, including the marine, estuaries and fresh waters. I feel that this can be of tremendous potential value to our First Congressional District.

Another bill approved, guarantees the confidentiality of census information. In considering this bill,

many of us felt that the proposed questionnaire to be used in the 1970 census was too involved, and in certain instances, some of the questions would be of an extremely personal nature. I joined with others in attempting to amend this to limit the census questions to a maximum of six. Our amendment was not accepted and as finally approved, removes the possibility of a prison sentence for failing to answer, but the penalty of a fine is still retained. The bill also imposes a fine or jail sentence on government employees who release personal statistics or information to anyone other than designated branches of government.

For several months now, the House Committee on Agriculture has been conducting hearings on an overall farm bill to replace present legislation known as the "Farm Act of 1965." The committee has been awaiting some sense of direction by the Department of Agriculture. Last week Secretary Hardin appeared before the House Committee. He proposed consideration of a "set aside" program which would provide a domestic allotment for cotton and wheat and, in addition, a national feed grain base. Price supports would apply to producers who would agree to set aside a certain amount of acreage.

Another proposal was

titled "A Domestic Allotment and Diversion Program." This, as with most farm programs, would be based on the anticipated demand. Again, this is basically directed to the feed grain and wheat production. Of course, those not participating would not be entitled to diversion or other supplemental payments.

Perhaps the most significant feature of the two proposals is that compliance would be voluntary, and it would be giving the farmer a freedom of choice as to his individual participation. None of his proposals affected the present tobacco program and, in response to a direct question from me to the secretary, he admitted that he had received less criticism regarding the tobacco program than any other farm program in existence. I hopefully take this as an indication that no major changes are planned in the tobacco program at this time.

In committee action, the House Agriculture Committee gave its approval to amending the Federal Seed Act to provide for uniform certification of seeds as to their purity and genetic qualities. This will involve seeds that travel in interstate commerce, as well as seeds imported from foreign countries.

Many of you have asked from time to time about the conditions of crime here in Washington, D. C. I regret to inform you that statistics released last week by the FBI are as follows: For the first six months of 1969 as compared with the first six months of 1968: Murders, rapes, robberies and Assaults are up 37.3 per cent, or three times the national increase. A further breakdown shows that murders are up 42 per cent, rapes are up 50 per cent and robberies are up 46 per cent. And this alarming rate of crime in what should be the safest and most beautiful city in the world. So long as the courts continue to be overly concerned about the rights of the criminal, while ignoring the rights of the innocent, little relief can be expected.

IN PUERTO RICO

Thurrell G. Bunch, manager of Ron-Wood Carpet Company, is on a five-day trip to Puerto Rico. He won the trip in a floor covering contest.

Make Church - Going A Habit . . .

WHY ISRAEL DIVIDED

International Sunday School Lesson for Oct. 5

Memory Selection: "Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people."—Proverbs 14:34.

Lesson Text: I Kings 12-16.

Our memory selection for this week is the context of this lesson—"Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people."—Proverbs 14:34.

Upon the death of Solomon and the succession of his son, Rehoboam, Israel faced a time of crisis. Under Solomon's rule Israel had prospered; this, however, was not accomplished without the levying of fairly heavy taxes; so, the people, feeling dissatisfied and moved to protest, approached Rehoboam, appealing for relief from the heavy taxation they had been shouldering for such a long time. Rehoboam, however, turned a deaf ear to their pleas.

Thus it was that Israel became divided. It was not solely because of taxation, however, that this came about. Many Israelites were greatly disturbed by the introduction of pagan shrines and pagan worship into their midst. They sincerely believed that Israel had a covenant with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and that covenant should be zealously guarded and adhered to.

This background provided fertile soil for the return of Jeroboam, who had at one time been an overseer for public works under King Solomon, and who had fled to Egypt after an unsuccessful attempt to stir the people into revolt. The news of Solomon's death brought Jeroboam's return to Israel, hoping to succeed where once he had failed. His second attempt was successful, and Israel was divided into two parts—the kingdom of Judah, supported by the tribe of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin, and the Northern Kingdom, supported by the other ten tribes.

Jeroboam, however, was far from secure in his rule. He felt constrained to win Israel away from her ties with Jerusalem, lest the people be won back to the support of Rehoboam. He, therefore, set up two graven images in the form of two golden calves, placing one in Dan and one in Bethel, and these he called on the people to worship. Idolatry again in the national life of Israel.

The separation and division which Israel experienced has a frightening and familiar ring for us today. The world is divided in its opinions, its outlooks—in fact, in just about everything we can think of. The generations are divided—not just by years, but by beliefs and by trends.

While the division of Israel came about in Rehoboam's reign (and was, in part, brought about by his unbending attitude to the will of the people, and his failure to listen to older and wiser counselors) still, his father, Solomon, also shared in the responsibility for the sundering of hitherto close ties.

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"What's in the cup, Granddad?"



Not many bother to answer the countless questions he loves to ask. But usually he can count on Granddad.

"What was in The Cup at church this morning?" It's a question many people ask — people sincerely wanting to know its significance . . . people who like to argue. (Is it wine or grape juice?) Theorists . . . theologians . . . people older and wiser than a little boy.

"Why can't I drink The Cup, like you and all the others, Granddad?"

"You're a little young, Sonny. It's one of the important things in life . . . a privilege . . . a part of growing up!"

"What does it mean, Granddad?"

"It means remembering . . . remembering what God gave us — what Christ did for us — what the Church is to us. It means being truly sorry that we have failed to do our very best."

"I don't understand, Granddad."

"But you will. That's why we all go to church . . . to learn . . . to understand . . . to remember . . . to love our Lord."

"Maybe I do understand, Granddad, about The Cup — 'cause I already love the Lord."



Scriptures selected by the American Bible Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Amos 7:10-17	Amos 9:1-15	Hosea 2:1-13	Hosea 3:1-4	Hosea 5:3-14	Hosea 5:15	Hosea 11:1-9

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