

Senator Sam Ervin Says

WASHINGTON—The first session of the 91st Congress might be characterized as a transitional era between the Johnson and Nixon administrations.

As such, there was less emphasis on broad new social reforms and greater emphasis on consolidation of the hundreds of federal programs already in existence. Even so, Congress undertook the study of a massive amount of legislation, much of which will not be ready for final action until the second session considers it. Other than the fact that the Nixon administration took a conservative approach in suggesting legislation, the first session of the legislative calendar ran according to the pattern which has prevailed during much of the last decade. Generally, major legislative proposals, other than appropriations bills, take more than one session before they are finally enacted. As a consequence, it is not unusual for a major revision of the law to carry over from the first session to the second session of the Congress.

Thus Congress considered new legislation which dealt with tax revision, social security, airports and airways, oil pollution, crime control, voting rights, electoral college reform, post office reorganization, mass transportation, welfare, food stamps and job training, but did not complete action on some of these measures.

The two most pressing issues which confronted the nation in 1969, however, admitted of no ready solutions. These were the Vietnam war and inflation. There is much agony in the minds of our people over the progress of the Vietnam war. The President has the major burden of establishing policies with respect to this war, since he carries the constitutional responsibility of being our commander-in-chief. I am gratified that he discussed his plans with respect to our role in Vietnam in his mid-November address to the nation. I believe that the President has sought to pursue the wisest course of action in respect to Vietnam under the circumstances now existing, and I share his hope that we can gradually transfer the American share of that war to the South Vietnamese forces.

Everyone in this nation is aware of the ravages made upon our pocket-books by inflation. The latest governmental statistics show that the cost of living continues to rise at a rapid rate. Some of the causes of the deterioration of the value of the dollar lie within the realm of individual actions by employers, employees and consumers. Other causes of this major domestic problem lie within the workings of market and monetary forces.

At the same time, however, it should be recognized that much of the inflation we are experiencing today can be attributed to the spending policies of the federal government. Soon the President will submit a new budget for the next fiscal year to

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Sunday School Lesson

Nevertheless aligned Himself with them and their heartbreaks, their sufferings, their causes. For righteousness is more — much more — than observing the letter of the law; true righteousness is compounded of compassion and love and self-identification.

Jesus, Himself, called John the Baptist "the greatest of the Prophets." He asserted this in his actions. He accepted John's missionary work as the basis from which He, Himself, would build. Others had labored and He was entering into their labor—identifying Himself with it. Therefore, His authority was immediately recognized, as was John's.

As a Christian, how worthy of recognition are you?

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

Make Church - Going A Habit . . .

GOD'S BELOVED SON

International Sunday School Lesson for Jan. 4

Memory Selection: "Lo, a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."—Matthew 3:17.

Lesson Text: Matthew 3; John 1:19-36; Acts 19:1-7.

It is somewhat fitting, as we humbly recognize the first Sunday in a bright and sparkling New Year, that we study the beginning of Christ's public life of service to mankind.

John the Baptist was the forerunner of Christ's ministry on earth. This fact is clearly established in the Bible, and, in this particular chapter concerned with our studies, is publicly acknowledged by Christ himself.

John foretold Christ's ministry on earth, out of his own unwavering faith; he called upon men to repent, and submitted himself as God's instrument within the act of baptism. Baptism called for repentance of sins, and dedication henceforth to God's Holy Will. Why then, should God's own beloved Son, himself sinless, be baptized?

Perhaps this single act, more than all others, demonstrates the fact that Christ identified himself with mankind. The final act of identification, the sublimation of His short tenure on earth, was to come later, in His death on the cross, but the act of baptism was the beginning of the message of God's love for mankind—irrevocable and all-embracing.

We who earnestly try to emulate Christ's spirit of love and forgiveness as we go about our daily lives, may often be dismayed at our myriad failures; somewhat unnecessarily, certainly, since failures are a sign of humanity—and who was more human than Christ? (Remember, even Christ, at the end of His ordeal of crucifixion, cried out, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?")

Jesus was no alien figure, indeed. He lived, He loved, He suffered. Before He presented Himself to the people as the Messiah, He lived spending His formative years in a very humble, hard-working, run-of-the-mill working family. His earthly father, Joseph, was a carpenter. Jesus, Himself, at an early age, learned the same trade. Our redemption, indeed, depends upon our acceptance of this fact—that Christ was human, subject to temptations such as we are. But Jesus was faithful in all His human relationships.

What, as human beings, can we find that is harder? We are hurt—so our immediate instinct is to hurt back. The fact that it is an un-Christianlike thing to do, seldom deters us. Christ was spiritually and morally aware of His communion with God; God was His father—they shared emotions, thoughts, hope. But this close communion never separated Christ from mankind; rather, it heightened His identification with mortal man. For wherever He went, crowds gathered to hear His words, His teachings. Although different from others, He nev-

Concluded in Adjoining Column



Symbol of the New Year—a bouncing baby boy! Symbol of the Old Year—a gnarled and dejected Father Time! As the New Year begins, we want to wipe the slate clean, we want to erase everything that has happened and start all over again.

But stop and think a moment. Naturally, there were things in the past that we wish had never happened. There were things that we are sorry we had said and done. But what of the wonderful hours, the tender moments—the really good things?

The best way to start a really "new" New Year is by going to church and taking a quiet personal look at yourself. Take advantage of the experiences given us during the past, and then, with a new perspective, plan your New Year with faith and resolution.

Sunday
Zecchariah
9:9-10

Monday
Joel
2:23-29

Tuesday
Psalms
16:1-11

Saturday
Matthew
2:13-18



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Dear friends,

As we look back over the past year, we will find that our happiest moments and memories come from the little acts of kindness and service rendered to our family and fellowmen. What better guide for our future behavior to assure for ourselves and others a

HAPPY NEW YEAR

H. B. Williford

1 PER CENT TAX INTEREST

WILL BE ADDED TO ALL 1969 CHOWAN COUNTY TAXES NOT PAID BEFORE

February 1, 1970

Interest will increase every month your taxes remain unpaid after February 1st. This is required by state law.

PAY NOW-SAVE

AVOID THE INCREASED INTEREST

Any Taxpayer who cannot pay his or her taxes in one payment can make partial payments until paid. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Elizabeth Goodwin
CHOWAN COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR