

Rep. Walter Jones Reports...

With the Presidential election approximately two months away and the inauguration of the next President approximately four months away, it was rather strange last week to see the construction of the speaker's stand and the temporary bleachers being built in the front of the Capitol. With the usual large crowd that attends this spectacular event, it requires a great amount of preparation. The pageantry is great, but I sometimes wonder if the inauguration could not be performed in a more simple fashion, thereby saving the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.

In two primaries, widely separated, one in Colorado and one in South Carolina, we saw the defeat of two long time members of the House, both of whom were chairmen of important committees. One, John McMillan, the controversial chairman of the District of Columbia Committee; the other Congressman Wayne Aspinall, a veteran of 24 years, chairman of the Committee on Interior. This makes a total of five committee chairmen who either through defeat or voluntary retirement will not be present during the next session of Congress.

On the legislative front, the major bill considered by the House was the Military Appropriation of fiscal year 1973. The bill is the largest one in military outlay since World War II, despite House reductions of \$4.3 billion, thus leaving a total appropriation of \$74.6 billion. The most controversial items was an amendment offered by Congressman Bob Sikes of Florida to provide for the civilian contractual food services to the military. The Air Force and Navy have already begun contracting KP chores out to civilians, and the Army wanted to begin, but the committee did not approve. The Department of Army considers this service essential in order to attract recruits for an all-volunteer force. The proponents of the amendment argued that the approximately \$100 million would be more economical than permitting members of the Armed Services to provide this work. In an unusual move, the House voted 265 to 116 to reverse the Appropriations Committee, thus ending the enlisted man's KP duties.

The Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock and Grains, of which I am privileged to be a member, held extensive hearings with Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz being the principal witness, questioning the recent wheat transaction between this nation and Russia. Many allegations have been made of the impropriety and advanced knowledge some processors received, thereby making exorbitant profits. On the other hand, the department contends that in this instance they followed the normal procedure as practical on the exporting of any farm commodity. The secretary made a most interesting business and the hearings will continue during the following week. It is my hope that these hearings will not develop into a partisan political football; but on the other hand, the public is entitled to know if the American taxpayer is subsidizing the Russian people, and if indeed this government stands to lose the taxpayers' dollars in the event that Russia defaults in its payments.

WRAP TRUNKS

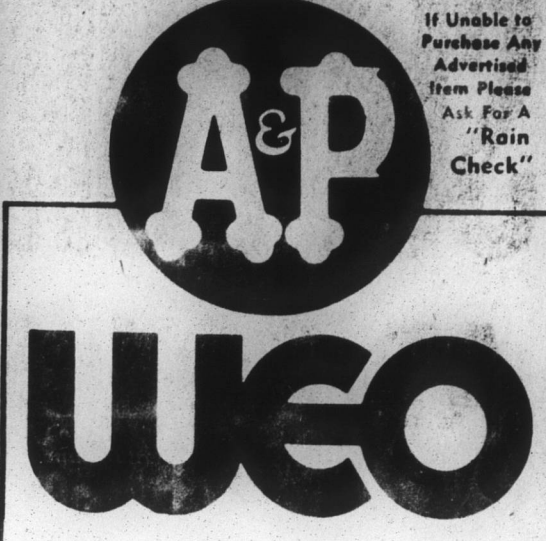
Young trees or those dug from shady places may easily be damaged by sudden exposure to the sun. If you replant them in an open area, protect them by wrapping the trunks with strips of burlap or durable paper. N. C. State University horticultural specialists suggest.

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