



Report From Washington By Representative Walter Jones

Last week the House ended its first full week of the 93rd Congress. A Democratic Caucus was scheduled for Wednesday, January 10 when we were supposed to have considered congressional reforms, committee chairmanships, closed meetings, etc. But for reasons not stated, this was postponed until a later date.

With the committees not announced, little or no Congressional action took place. According to custom the President always delivers his State of the Union Messages to a joint session of the Congress. Usually this Message is delivered in person, but the President in a surprising announcement, stated that he would transmit the Message to be read by the Clerk of the House.

Many of you have expressed concern about the termination of certain agricultural programs which have been announced within the last few weeks and I can assure you that

Members of Congress are just as concerned. As a result we had an almost day-long session of the House Agriculture Committee with Secretary of Agriculture, Earl Butz, being the principal witness. Some of the changes in programs are as follows: the termination of the disaster emergency loan funds which will be transferred to Farmers Home Administration; several changes in interest rates and establishing other criteria. Another change is in the Agriculture Department's plan of financing REA projects and the total elimination of the Rural Environmental Assistance Program, known as REAP. During the hearing several interesting facts were brought to light. Most startling was the fact that the Agriculture Department had an appropriation for fiscal '73 of approximately \$4-billion. Of this amount the Administration insisted that they reduce it by \$1-billion or 25 per cent. Those of us who are concerned about

the future of agriculture could readily understand this if indeed all Department including the White House staff were treated likewise. During the hearing, Secretary Butz stated that the Department now had in Washington and throughout the nation approximately 82,000 employees. Of this number, 12,000 are in Washington. The Secretary further announced reductions in personnel between

now and June 30 of approximately 1,500. Some of these are going to be in Soil Conservation as a result of the termination of the REAP program. With all crops and commodities in 1970 there were approximately 302 million acres planted. In 1971 this increased to 316 million and in 1972 this was reduced to 307 million, but with the change in allotments by the Department for the '73 crops, this will increase to 319

million. Many of us are concerned that this drastic increase might reflect in lower prices for farmers produce in the coming year.



VEGETABLE VARIETY—Offer some variety in vegetables to the family and guests. Celery is an excellent choice as a hot vegetable as well as for munching and is usually a good buy at the market.

From The Herald Kitchen

By MILDRED HUSKINS
At this time of the year it is rather difficult to present a variety of vegetables to the family most of whom would be just as happy if they did not appear at all.

This could also be called the French Fries generation. Those tasteless little strings piled in a paper cone certainly should not be counted on for very much nutritional value. Maybe if the vegetable offering were more varied you might be able to coax some into the family members.

Take celery, for instance. Celery is a comparative newcomer to the produce counter. Only a few centuries ago the celery plant was a tough and bitter wilding. It was used only as a tonic; certainly nobody expected to find it on a well-set table.

Quite accidentally somebody tried a little loving-kindness and this improved greatly the character of celery. It became sweeter and more tender. Over the years plant breeders have developed deluxe stalks of jewel-green celery which lend their savor to hundreds of dishes. Modern celery is sweet and crackly-crisp.

Celery is an excellent hot vegetable. Cook it briefly in water, broth or vegetable juice; then serve it with melted butter or your favorite cheese sauce. It goes with almost every meat, fish or fowl and it is kind to the pocketbook.

Baked Florida Celery Wedges
1 stalk celery
2 tablespoons butter or margarine
1/2 cup minced onion
1/2 cup sliced mushrooms
2 tablespoons flour
1 can (12 oz.) cocktail vegetable juice
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon oregano leaves, crumbled
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

Trim stem end from celery stalk, keeping base intact. Cut top so that stalk is six inches long. Chop enough tops to make one-half cup chopped celery; reserve. Cut trimmed celery stalk into fourths or sixths, lengthwise; place in baking dish. In a small saucepan melt butter. Add onion, mushrooms and reserved chopped celery; saute five minutes. Stir in flour. Gradually blend in vegetable

juice, salt, oregano and black pepper. Bring to boiling point. Cook and stir two minutes or until sauce thickens. Pour over celery wedges. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes or until celery is crisp-tender. Garnish with celery leaves.

This Celery and Carrot Crunch would be a delicious and attractive vegetable dish to serve some evening soon.

Celery and Carrot Crunch
1 stalk celery
1/4 cup butter or margarine
1/2 cup onion rings
1 cup sliced carrots
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/4 cup toasted slivered almonds

Trim stem end from celery; remove leaves. Separate into ribs. Thinly slice on the diagonal (makes about six cups). In a large skillet melt butter. Add celery and onion rings. Stir-fry for six to eight minutes or until celery is crisp-tender. Stir in carrots, salt and pepper. Stir-fry two minutes longer. Add almonds. Serve immediately.

Salmon Madame Pompadour combines the lowly potato and a can of salmon. It comes out about as elegant as its name and is easy on the cook. It would please the family and it proves that an elegant dish can also be economical.

Salmon Madame Pompadour
2 lbs. potatoes (6 medium)
1/2 teaspoon salt
6 tablespoons butter
1/4 cup milk
1 tablespoon minced onion
1 cup sliced mushrooms
3 tablespoons flour
1 can (1 lb.) salmon
3/4 cup chicken broth
Dash pepper
1/4 cup sherry
1/2 cup cream
1 can (4 oz.) pimientos, chopped

Cook potatoes with the salt until very tender. Heat milk and half the butter until butter is melted. Drain potatoes, mash and beat in butter and milk. Press the mashed potatoes into an eight-inch pie plate, making a nest and building up sides about one inch. In saucepan melt remaining butter and in it saute onion and mushrooms for five minutes. Stir in flour and cook, stirring, until mixture is blended. Stir in salmon liquid

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