

**REPORT FROM  
U.S. Senator  
JESSE ★★  
HELMS**

WASHINGTON—The Washington correspondent for one of North Carolina's major daily newspapers wrote an article a few weeks back in which he commented on the fact that I have sometimes voted alone against various pieces of bad legislation in the Senate.

It was a rather complimentary story, and I appreciated it. In preparing his story, the reporter interviewed me at some length, and one of his questions, in effect, was whether I feel lonely when I cast the lone vote against a piece of legislation.

I guess, in a way, that there is some of that, but mostly it's a wishful feeling that more Senators should be on the Senate Floor during the debates on some of the most crucial issues of our time.

**NATIONAL DEFENSE**—Take the issue of national defense, for example. There is no doubt about the Soviet Union's determination to move into a clearly superior position in the world with its awesome war machine. The United States is falling behind.

Yet, when national defense is debated in the Senate, there is scarcely ever more than a handful of Senators present. The debate on the B-1 bomber was conducted in an almost empty Senate Chamber. When the debate was concluded, and the roll-call vote began, it was obvious that many Senators came to cast their votes on the basis of loyalty to the Carter Administration, and not on the merits of the issue.

The same was true in the instance of the Export Administration Act, which passed the Senate several weeks ago with only one dissenting vote—mine. I voted against this measure because it will allow the United States to export more of our highly sophisticated computer technology to the communists of the Soviet Union.

Had it not been for the technology we have supplied the communists in the past, the Soviet Union would never have been able to build such a frightening war machine. Therefore, as a matter of conscience, I could not vote for legislation that will continue such folly.

**SPENDING**—I feel the same way about many of the big-spending bills that sail through the Senate. I could not vote in favor of legislation, for example, that would require the hard-working taxpayers of this country to finance food stamps for strikers — people who deliberately walk off their jobs. I could not vote in favor of the enormous "foreign aid" bill that will send even more billions of the American taxpayers' dollars to foreign governments, many of which are little more than communist puppets.

I could not vote in favor of the creation of another vast federal bureaucracy, called the "Department of Energy," which will cost the American taxpayers more than all the oil we purchased last year from the Arabs. My feeling is that we are not going to solve the energy problem, or any other problem, simply by throwing money at it.

**ALONE**—So, it's true that I sometimes vote alone, or with a minority of Senators. It is my duty, as I see it, to study each piece of legislation coming before us, and make my judgments, one by one, as to whether it's good for the country.

A very wise friend commented the other day that America has been badly hurt by "yes-men" who, down through the years, have voted for big-spending, excessive federal controls, and all manner of federal giveaway programs. Viewed in that light, I guess it's not too bad to vote "No" when such legislation comes up. It may sometimes be a lonely vote, but it's a matter of doing what one believes to be right.



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