

Congressman
L. H. FOUNTAIN
Reports
TO THE PEOPLE



WASHINGTON, D. C. . . . We've all heard criticism of our economic aid program in Viet Nam from time to time. More often than not it's difficult to evaluate such charges because we are not familiar with the sources.

This week I'd like to relate to you some first-hand observations by a high-level employee of the Agency for International Development (AID) which administers the program.

He is Woodrow W. Ham, a native of Rocky Mount who plans to return there after retiring later this year from his career

in government. During a recent visit to our office, Mr. Ham, who has served in Viet Nam, said the biggest problem at AID is its insistence on using obsolete management and administrative practices.

"AID is using management practices the Defense Department threw out 15 years ago," Mr. Ham said. "These policies laid down in Washington are clumsy, archaic and inefficient. They make it almost impossible to work in the field, especially in wartime and we are in a war in Viet Nam"

A specific example of AID's inefficiency can be seen by a

comparison with the Defense Department's role in aid programs.

The Defense Department, for example, actually supplies the items agreed upon when it undertakes an aid program. For instance, if the South Vietnamese Army needs uniforms, they get uniforms directly from the American authorities.

AID, on the other hand, relies on the dollar credit system, using the argument that it is following accepted and desirable straight commercial practices.

Let's assume AID has agreed to provide cloth so that the South Vietnamese can buy or make clothing. Under this system, a South Vietnamese importer would go to his bank, make a deposit—say five percent of the total purchase cost—in local currency and receive dollar credits to buy the material from foreign exporters.

He then has to pay huge im-

port duties on the goods when they arrive, sell them to manufacturers or wholesalers who in turn add on substantial profits before shipping to retailers. The retailer adds his share and the final price is vastly inflated.

The AID system does not provide for any policing or checking anywhere throughout this procedure. There is no way for the agency to know how much an import license might cost the importer, how much deposit, if any, he puts down, who actually gets the import fees, who decides to whom a license should be issued or if the importer ever pays off the remainder of his purchase price.

Such a loose system as this practically invites graft, but AID is not in a position to say whether it actually does or does not take place.

Mr. Ham became aware of these shortcomings during 1966-67 when he held a high ranking and responsible job with the AID mission in Saigon.

He points out that our most successful foreign aid programs since World War II were in Western Europe, Japan and South Korea. In each case he notes that they were operated for the most part by the Defense Department with its emphasis on providing assistance in kind.

Mr. Ham also recalls that in 1965-66, when the big buildup got underway in South Viet Nam, there was a logjam in shipping at Saigon Harbor that reached crisis proportions. The delays and extra costs created by that tie-up only contributed further to inflation.

Defense Department transportation controls were instituted which coordinated the arrival and storage of goods on the U. S. West Coast, planned the cargo and loading of ships and scheduled their movements to Viet Nam. There, the U. S. Army took over the unloading. The new approach eliminated the backlog and helped reduce the overall cost of the program.

This has been just a brief account of some of the problems in the Aid program in South Viet Nam. But I think you will agree that Mr. Ham is qualified to speak and that his views are certainly worth careful consideration.

Mail For Serviceman Pamphlet Available At U. S. Postoffices

An illustrated pamphlet—Mail For Servicemen—outlining the expanded program for airlifting letters, packages and other military mail overseas at low postal rates is now available through all Post Office window clerks, Postmaster A. C. Blalock announced this week.

Postmaster Blalock said that "as a result of new legislation and action by President Johnson we are now airlifting more than 75 per cent of all mail going to the military men and women stationed abroad. We hope this guide will help more American families be familiar with these services and use them."

The eight-page pamphlet illustrates three services for airlifting parcels at rates the average family can afford, the speedy service now available for newspapers and news magazines to most overseas bases, the special rates for books and similar educational materials, and how to mail second-recorded personal messages. The

HOME DEMONSTRATION CORNER
EMILY BALLINGER, County Home Economics Agent

Monday, April 29: Office.
Tuesday, April 30: Office.
Wednesday, May 1: The Churchill Extension Homemakers Club will meet with Mrs. C. P. Pope at 2:30 p. m.
Thursday, May 2: The Paschall Extension Homemakers Club will meet with Mrs. Joe Riggan at 2:00 p. m.
Friday, May 3: Office.

Schedule Of Homemakers Meeting

MRS. BERTHA B. FORTE
Home Economics Extension Agent

Monday, April 29: 3:30 p. m., Olive Grove Homemakers will meet with Mrs. P. J. Harrison, and Mrs. J. E. Howard will serve as co-hostess.

Tuesday, April 30: 7:30 p. m., Wise Homemakers will meet with Mrs. E. N. Baskerville.

HEAD START MOTHERS LEARN TO SEW

The following mothers with children attending the Cool Spring's Head Start Center, participated in classes for beginners in sewing; Mrs. Elijah Rodwell, Mrs. Andrew Woodard, Mrs. Matthew King Kearney, Mrs. Milton Broadie, and Mrs. John Allen Davis. Mrs. James D. Davis, dietitian and cook for the Head Start Center, and Mrs. J. K. Williams, Sr., also participated in the classes.

For more than six weeks the ladies took advantage of the opportunity to acquire knowledge and develop skills in sewing.

The Head Start Mothers used patterns with plain lines to make their first dress. As beginners in sewing, they learned something about the selection of patterns and materials, how to use a pattern, necessary equipment for sewing and how to use the sewing machine. The value of being able to use a pattern and construct a garment was revealed to the ladies when they figured the cost of the garments made. The cost for each dress made in class was less than four dollars, three

guide also provides parcel wrapping instructions, information on the time it takes parcels to reach Vietnam and other overseas bases from major U. S. cities, and pointers on the correct way to address military mail.

A family sending a 10-pound package from Warrenton to Vietnam, for example, pays only \$3.40 on a package marked "PAL," while the air parcel rate for the same package is \$8.08, Postmaster Blalock said.

On parcels weighing less than 5 pounds it might be more advantageous for a family to use the older (SAM) Space Available Mail service, which provides surfact transportation to the port of embarkation and airlift overseas. A four-pound SAM package to a European military post from Warrenton costs only 75¢. On packages weighing under two pounds air parcel post is often the patron's "best buy" for through airlift service, the pamphlet suggests.

The steam shovel was invented in 1838 by William Otis of Philadelphia. He obtained a patent on a crane for excavating and removing earth.



WHITBY AND HIS PERSONALIZED LICENSE

Warren Man Featured In Roses Publication

A Warren County man is featured in the April issue of "Communique," publication organ of Roses Stores.

Jack Whitby of Warren Plains is pictured with his new personalized "Roses License Plate," and praised for his punctuality and interest in his work. The article, illustrated and captioned, "I Work For Roses," reads as follows:

Jack Whitby is pictured with his new personalized "Rose License Plate" proclaiming that he is proud to be associated with the organization.

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9th DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
(Franklin, Vance, Person, Warren and Granville Counties)
in the Democratic Primary May 4

- Native of Creedmoor—Graduate of Creedmoor High School and Oak Ridge Military Institute.
- U.S. Army 1942-1946—Winner of Purple Heart and Bronze Star Awards.
- Mason, Shriner, American Legion
- Mayor of Creedmoor, Judge of Creedmoor Recorder's Court
- Married, father of one son and one daughter.

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 - ★ 4 Years Assistant Solicitor Vance County Superior Court.
 - ★ Post Chairman Vance County Democratic Executive Committee.
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