

# WASHINGTON REPORT

by  
Congressman  
James T. Broyhill



week, it was the intention of the House of Representatives that the reserves be strengthened and not weakened. In short, the bill would provide for the following: 1) the establishment of the permanent position of an Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. Under our system of civilian dominance in military matters, it would be his responsibility for the management and administration of the reserve forces structure; 2) the requirement by law that organized units of the active reserve be provided the equipment necessary to conduct their training functions and to meet their mobilization requirements; 3) the establishment by law of a floor of minimum strength of the active reserve units so as to insure the availability of sufficient manpower in the event of mobilization.

Another section of the bill would establish Federal employee status for the technicians who are employed on a full time basis by the National Guard. These technicians are paid by the Federal government and this measure would simply make them eligible for the same retirement and other benefits as other Federal Employees receive.

One section of the bill drew nationwide publicity and attention. The section gives the President authority to call in to active duty some 133,000 individuals who have not been trained for the minimum of four months and are attached to some reserve unit. In addition, authority is given to the President so he may call up some 60,000 men who have been trained but are not attached to an active reserve unit. The question, of course, is why is this action necessary?

Simply stated, under the present circumstances, the President, as the Armed Forces' Commander-in-Chief, must depend upon increased call-up of draftees rather than Reservists. The Draft System with its problems and inequities was discussed at some length in the debate. It is my hope that the Congress will give further consideration to possible changes in the Selective Service Law. But, pending this decision, it is clearly the responsibility of the Congress to provide alternative ways to meet our manpower requirements.

Another question of manpower came before the House last week. Although not as dramatic and headline-producing as the bill I just discussed, the problem it deals with is no less serious. I am

referring to the amendments to the Manpower Development Training Act which I have strongly supported over the years. This has been one of the most successful programs yet devised to help people in need of job and vocational training become self-supporting. The Manpower Development Training Program deserves, and I am glad to say, has received widespread support from members of both parties. This present bill attempts to update and improve this basic program, and will enable it to serve an even more useful role in the country's continuing effort to provide the skills so that our manpower will be equal to the task of meeting the challenge of advancing technology.

## Miss Nancy Chambers

**SALISBURY** -- Miss Nancy Sue Chambers, 19, of Lexington, Route 9, died at 7:30 P. M. Saturday in Rowan Memorial Hospital following 3 months illness.

She was born in Mocksville to W. M. and Lizzie Milton Chambers. She was a member of Green Needle Baptist Church in Davidson County.

Surviving are her father; two sisters, Mrs. Richard Yarbrough of Salisbury, Route 1, and Mrs. Sam Gabard of Tryon.

The funeral was at 3 P. M. Tuesday at Green Needle Baptist Church. Burial was in the Churchland Cemetery.

The test of character comes when one person holds a preponderance of advantages over others — in the way he treats them.

## SOCIAL SECURITY NEWS

"September is a deadline month for many older citizens in this area." There are still some people in this area who have not yet paid their medical insurance premium. "Those who get monthly social security benefits have the premium taken from their checks; this does not apply to them." But others must pay direct. If not paid by September 30, the medical insurance coverage will be lost. It will be October 1967 before it can be taken out again.

Everyone who is behind in his premium payment has been sent a notice and urged to remember the September 30 deadline. Payments should be made by check or money order and mailed as soon as possible. The social security office will also accept payments in cash, but the district manager urged beneficiaries not to send cash by mail. He also said that each social security representative

working in the field carries an official identification card, and will always give a written payment. All authorized social security representatives will be happy to present their credentials, if there is any question about their authority to accept these premium payments in the field.

Little people criticize those who are trying to accomplish something worthwhile.

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mid-October, the legislative calendar is bulging with unfinished business. I would say frankly that the war in Vietnam is uppermost in the mind of Members of Congress. This serious conflict in Southeast Asia demands concern and legislative attention.

Over the past several months, as the draft calls have run higher and higher, questions of the availability of manpower for our Armed Forces have confronted the leaders of the country. One of the loose and dangling threads in this question has been the status of the Army and Air Force Reservists and National Guardsmen. The House of Representatives considered legislation last week to gain some partial answers to questions about the future status of the several hundred thousand men who belong to some of the reserve or National Guard units.

For at least four years, the House Armed Services Committee has been studying the status of the reserves and there has been a running conflict between the Congress and the Pentagon, which apparently wishes to downgrade the roll of the reservist and the National Guardsmen. In the legislation passed last

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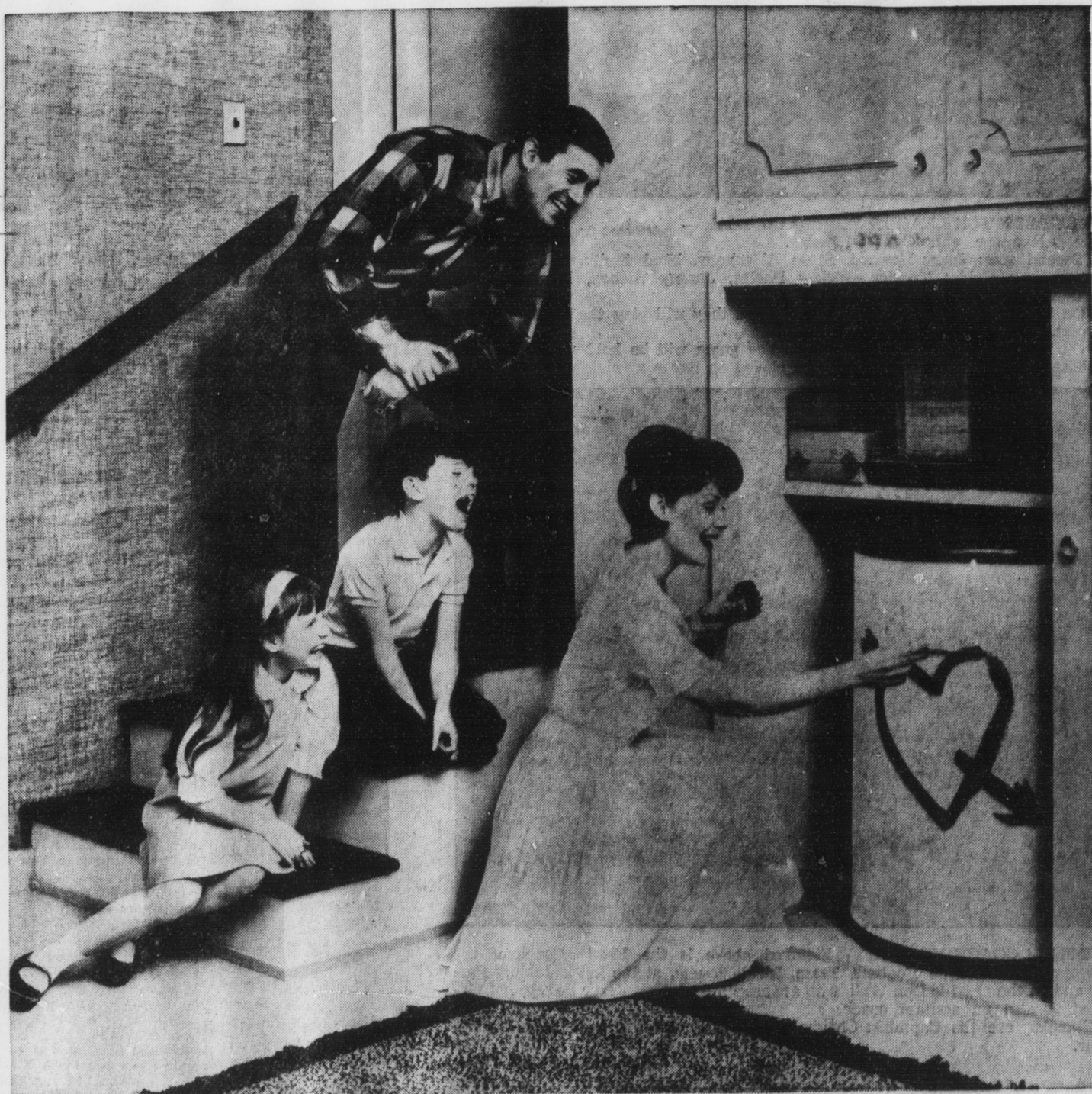
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