

**Congressman**

**L. H. FOUNTAIN**

**Reports**

**TO THE PEOPLE**



**FROM ROANOKE RIVER TO VIETNAM**

One recent day — a fairly typical day — I was present at two events vastly different but immensely important to us in the Second District.

The subjects were the Roanoke River and Vietnam.

I flew down early that morning to Roanoke Rapids to a hearing called by the Army Engineers to see if it would be feasible to dredge a barge channel from Williamston to the Roanoke Rapids-Weldon area.

Arguments expressed in favor of the project were impressive. A spokesman for a chemical firm said a barge channel could reduce transportation costs by 50 percent in 15 years.

The dramatic savings that a waterway to the coast would make possible were also emphasized by other industrialists, businessmen, public officials and civic leaders.

Those savings to industry can easily be translated into benefits for a large portion of Eastern North Carolina. Cheaper transportation costs mean increased production for existing plants, encouragement for new industry and more jobs for the region. Jobs are the key to any economic progress.

Even if the study should indicate an acceptable benefits to cost ratio, it would be some time before the channel could actually be dredged. But if the Engineers recommended that the project be carried out, I will do everything I can to get Congress to authorize it and thereafter appropriate the necessary funds.

Even under the most favorable circumstances, however, these matters are regrettably long and drawn out.

After attending the Roanoke Rapids meeting, I flew back to Washington to hear General Westmoreland's stirring speech before a joint session of Congress.

Most Americans will agree with his statement that the war

in Vietnam can be carried to a victorious conclusion if we maintain our resolve.

That is the key: our resolve. As a nation, we have always prided ourselves on seeing a job through. To see this one through, we must give our troops every ounce of support they need. And that includes our resolve above all.

Of course, that resolve also means, among other things, doing whatever needs to be done on land, sea and in the air.

Following the Westmoreland speech to Congress, I attended a White House luncheon and further briefing by the General with several Committees of Congress, the Cabinet and a number of Governors.

Although on that occasion he gave us a good deal of detailed information about the war, he still emphasized the need for a united country. Reports from Hanoi, he said, indicate that North Vietnam is putting considerable hope on the lack of our failure of our resolve.

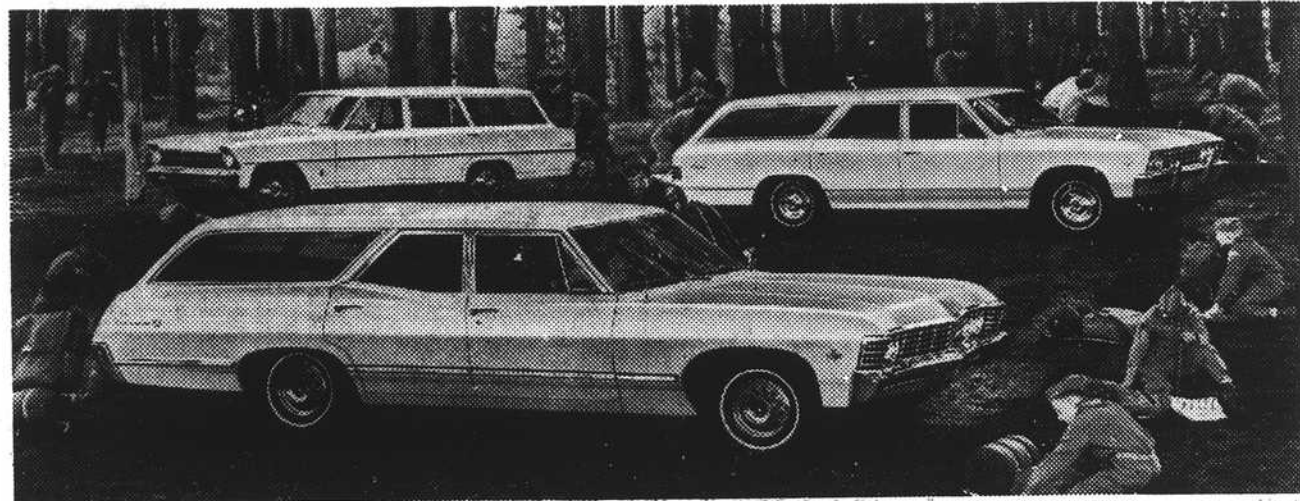
We of course cannot let that happen.

To top off that particular day, after the White House briefing, I flew back to the Second District and spoke to the Tarboro Junior Chamber of Commerce.

'And don't expect any more this time!'



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Top left: Chevy II Nova Station Wagon. Foreground: Chevrolet Impala Station Wagon. Top right: Chevelle Malibu Station Wagon.

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