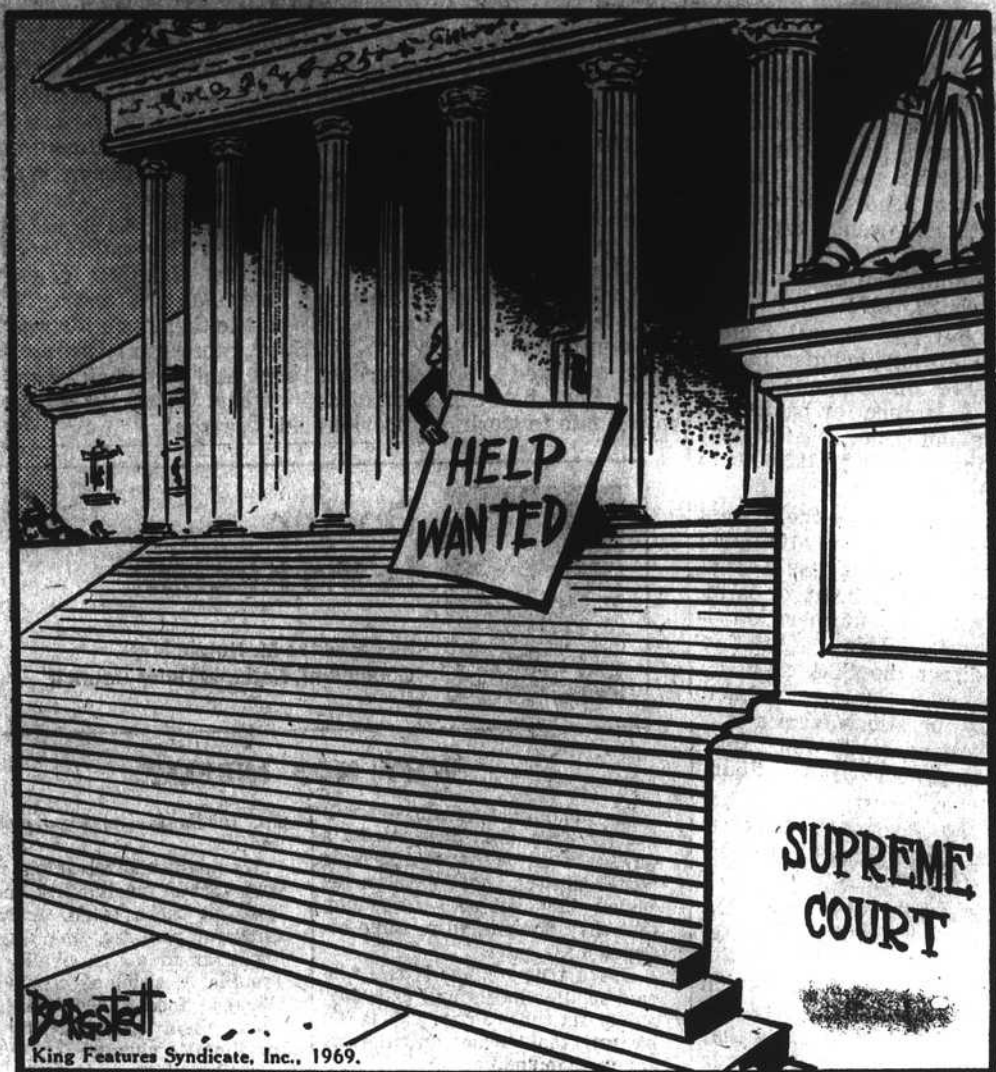


Cartoon Viewpoint of the Week



Congressman

L. H. FOUNTAIN

Reports

TO THE PEOPLE



As we who represent you in the Congress look back on the year which will soon come to an end, we can see a number of legislative milestones. Notable among them was the adoption of, not a perfect, but a better and fairer system of Selective Service, one which burdens our young men with only one year of susceptibility to the draft instead of seven. Time and space will not permit me to enumerate more.

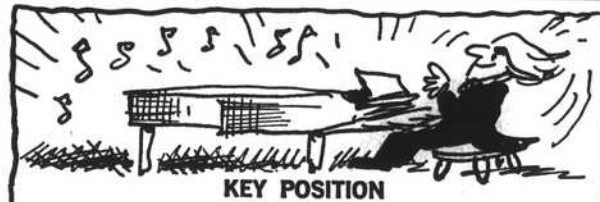
Especially noteworthy in the 1969 legislative year was the stop-look-and-listen attitude of the Congress. There was, I believe, a realization by the Congress that the people of this country had given a mandate for more careful deliberation of each and every legislative proposal.

I think it was a mandate for

caution to the President and all of government as well as to Congress. I'm sure you've noticed substantial adherence to that mandate by all branches of government—maybe not enough — but much more than usual. This has not always been the case in recent years. In the past those of us who pressed for reason in legislation were often in the minority.

In this connection, I might point out that, though difficult for some to understand, a negative vote — a no vote — is often in the best interests of the country. Some of the national news media have not yet learned that essential truth.

Congress has wrestled, and is wrestling, with many problems this year. However, we should never lose sight of the fact that all of the problems of mankind are basically spiritual problems.



Famed pianist Ignace Paderewski became the first premier of the Republic of Poland after World War I.

SENATOR SAM ERVIN

★ SAYS ★



The first session of the 91st Congress might be characterized as a transitional era between the Johnson and Nixon Administrations. As such, there was less emphasis on broad new social reforms and greater emphasis on consolidation of the hundreds of Federal programs already in existence. Even so, Congress undertook the study of a massive amount of legislation, much of which will not be ready for final action until the second session considers it. Other than the fact that the Nixon Administration took a conservative approach in suggesting legislation, the first session of the legislative calendar ran according to the pattern which has prevailed during much of the last decade. Generally, major legislative proposals, other than appropriations bills, take more than one session before they are finally enacted. As a consequence, it is not unusual for a major revision of the law to carry over from the first session to the second session of the Congress.

Thus Congress considered new legislation which dealt with tax revision, social security, airports and airways, oil pollution, crime control, voting rights, electoral-college reform, post office, reorganization, mass transportation, welfare, food stamps, and job training, but did not complete action on some of these measures.

The two most pressing issues which confronted the nation in 1969, however, admitted of no ready solutions. These were the Vietnam War and inflation. There is much agony in the minds of our people over the

deterioration of the value of the dollar lie within the realm of individual actions by employers, employees, and consumers. Other causes of this major domestic problem lie within the workings of market and monetary forces.

At the same time, however, it should be recognized that much of the inflation we are experiencing today can be attributed to the spending policies of the Federal Government. Soon the President will submit a new budget for the next fiscal year to Congress. I hope that he will submit a balanced budget which meets the essential needs of the country, but one which recognizes that our government cannot finance all of the demands for new programs which it receives each year. Such a budget would constitute the most effective approach which our Federal Government could take to deal with inflation.

Everyone in this nation is aware of the ravages made upon our pocketbooks, by inflation. The latest governmental statistics show that the cost of living continues to rise at a rapid rate. Some of the courses of the

progress of the Vietnam War. The President has the major burden of establishing policies with respect to this war, since he carries the constitutional responsibility of being our Commander-in-Chief. I am gratified that he discussed his plans with respect to our role in Vietnam in his mid-November address to the Nation. I believe that the President has sought to pursue the wisest course of action in respect to Vietnam under the circumstances now existing, and I share his hope that we can gradually transfer the American share of that war to the South Vietnamese forces.

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