

# FOUNTAIN FINDS REFUGE ISSUE PARAMOUNT IN OFFICIAL TOUR OF MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES

by Rep. L. H. Fountain  
After two weeks of confer-  
ring and meeting with more  
than 100 Arab and Israeli lead-  
ers and visiting more than sev-

en countries during a study mis-  
sion to the Middle East, it is  
wonderful to be back — safe  
and sound — on American soil.  
The series of hijacking took

place while we were there and  
I am happy to see that our gov-  
ernment is finally waking up to  
this grave problem.

There have been no less than  
73 successful hijackings since  
1961 and most of these took  
place in the United States. Hope-  
fully, the Administration's pre-  
ventive measures will be suc-  
cessful.

The mission by the House  
Foreign Affairs Near East Sub-  
committee which I chair, went  
first to Lebanon, then on to the  
island kingdoms of Kuwait and  
Bahrein, next to several points  
in Saudi Arabia, to Cairo, Egypt,  
and finally to Israel by way of  
Cyprus.

The need for this mission grew  
out of the recent hearings on the  
tense and explosive Middle  
East situation, conducted by the  
Near East Subcommittee. We  
set out to gather as much in-  
formation as possible for the  
use of the Congress.

The major conferences in each  
country were, of course, with the  
heads of state. Some were Prime  
Ministers, others were Kings or  
Emirs or Shaykhs (sheiks).

There was a unanimous desire  
for peace on the part of every  
high official I talked to, Arab  
and Israeli alike. However, as  
was to be expected, they dif-  
fered greatly on the question  
of just how peace is to be a-  
chieved.

One thing is clear, the ques-  
tion of the Palestinian refugees  
is at the heart of the problem.  
It must somehow be resolved  
before peace of any duration  
can come in the Arab-Israeli  
conflict.

However, some of the key  
Arab leaders did not rule out  
the possibility of compensation  
to these refugees as an aid to  
restoration of peace.

Israeli officials rightfully  
stressed self-defense. Israel  
want to be able to buy enough  
arms from America to adequately  
defend herself.

As Prime Minister Golda  
Meir told me, Israel can only  
lose one war. If they lose once,  
they cease to exist. The Arabs,  
on the other hand, can lose war  
after war and still survive.

Arab leaders expressed the  
feeling that America has be-  
come anti-Arab during the last  
twenty years, that we are pro-  
Israel, and that the Administra-  
tion's Middle Eastern policy is  
not even-handed. Prime Minis-  
ter H. E. Rachid Karame of Leb-  
anon was especially forceful in  
presenting this view, but others  
said much the same thing.

In Kuwait, we met with Crown  
Prince Shykh Jaber, the acting

Emir, in Bahrein with the Rul-  
er, Shaykh Isa Bin Salman; in  
Saudi Arabia with King Faisal;  
in Egypt with Dr. Fawzi, of the  
Foreign Ministry and Nasser's  
righthand man; and in Israel  
with Mrs. Meir and her top ad-  
visor, Dr. Yaacov Herzog and  
Foreign Minister Abba Eban.

Of course, as I've indicated, we  
also met with many other Arab  
and Israeli government officials  
and business leaders to numer-  
ous to name here.

Notwithstanding a tight sched-  
ule, we did manage to find a  
few hours on the last afternoon  
to make an extremely interest-  
ing trip to some of the Holy  
places in Bethlehem, Nazareth,  
and Jerusalem. It was inspir-  
ing to visit these places where  
Jesus walked and taught.

My impressions from this mis-  
sion are many, but time and  
space will not permit me to  
give any more details this week.  
And, of course, there are al-  
ways further developments in  
this rapidly changing situation.  
For example, Prime Minister  
Golda Meir has been in Wash-  
ington since I got back.

It's my guess that she concen-  
trated on asking us to sell Israel  
the wherewithal to defend it-  
self.

But, whatever we do, I think  
we should keep up the pressure  
on both Israel and the Arab  
world to seek a settlement. We  
must do everything we properly  
can to prevent the present con-  
flict from engulfing the whole  
world in war. We certainly don't  
want any more Viet Nams.

### Other Editors Say

WRAL-TV VIEWPOINT

## Helms Finds Hope on Kansas Campus

If hope springs eternal — as  
it must, and as it does — then  
the country's fervent hope just  
now surely must be that Presi-  
dent Nixon will correctly assess  
the real meaning of his gratify-  
ing experience at Kansas State  
University a few days ago.

The thunderous ovations giv-  
en him by the young people  
should not be viewed by the  
President as either a personal  
triumph or a political endorse-  
ment. The young people were  
telling the President something  
— something that should have  
been apparent all along, not on-  
ly to Mr. Nixon but to all Amer-  
icans.

Which was that young Ameri-  
cans — the vast majority of  
them — want their country to  
resume and preserve its funda-  
mentals of decency, honor and  
responsibility. They cheered  
not so much Nixon the man as  
Nixon the symbol, the elected  
leader. They stood in repeated  
tribute to what he was saying  
when he condemned violence,  
lawlessness, cowardice, and  
crudeness. Each standing ova-  
tion was a mandate for the Pres-  
ident, and all others in govern-  
ment, to start thinking again of  
those who wish to build a bet-  
ter America, and to stop trem-  
bling at the threats of a mi-  
nority determined to tear the  
country apart.

The shoe has been on the  
wrong foot for far too long al-  
ready. Minorities which seek to  
destroy, not build, have been al-  
lowed to plunder the will, the  
very purpose, of the republic.  
Militants have not only invaded,  
but destroyed, the rights of oth-  
ers while the leadership of the  
country compromised and vas-  
cillated. Mr. Nixon himself,

sad to say, has not always stood  
firm, as he pledged he would  
in 1966.

But he received a magnificent  
reminder at Kansas State Univer-  
sity that the country is ready  
to stand firm, that it supports  
law and order, decent behavior  
and personal responsibility.

Mr. Nixon spoke of education  
at Kansas State, and he spoke  
wisely. He observed that only  
the administrators and faculty  
members and responsible stu-  
dent leaders can save education  
— that the government cannot.  
He could have said, and should  
have said, that the government  
— the federal government which  
Mr. Nixon heads — is largely  
responsible for much of the up-  
heaval in education today.

If Mr. Nixon will continue to  
heed the mood of the country  
— if he will analyze the ovations  
of support that thundered in  
his ears in Kansas — he will  
understand that the people are  
fed up with a lot of things,  
among them federal meddling  
in education. The President can  
serve his country well by exer-  
cising his authority and lead-  
ership in making certain that  
freedom of choice is resurrected  
from the graveyard of federal  
tyranny.

He cannot — and should not  
— control the federal judges,  
but he can make his position  
clear — the one that he took  
as a candidate for President in  
1968 — that forced busing of  
school children is unwise and  
destructive. We suspect that  
the President would again be  
astonished at the clamor of sup-  
port that would come to him  
from all sections of the land.

It is a paradox. Mostly what  
the country needs now is lead-  
ership willing to stand up for  
what is logical, wise and fair.  
Yet, for more than a decade,  
politicians have been shoving  
American down the road to self-  
destruction. Destructive mili-  
tants have been courted and  
glorified, while citizens dedi-  
cated to building America have  
been ignored. Loafers have  
been pampered while the work-  
ing man has been taxed to sup-  
port them. Gallant young men  
have gone off to fight a war that  
their country would not let them  
win in order to appease half-  
baked revolutionaries parading  
in the streets at home.

The soul of American can yet  
be preserved — as was eloquent-  
ly demonstrated before Richard  
Nixon's eyes at Kansas State  
University. The President ac-  
knowledged there that he was  
hearing from the majority. Let  
us hope that he keeps in mind  
the message the majority was  
trying to convey to him.



HARNESS RACING is just one of the many events in the Grand-stand at Fairtime. Many of the State's top trotting ponys and sulkie drivers will be on hand Thursday, Oct. 23 to compete for nearly \$2,600 in premium awards.



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