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WASHINGTON REPORT

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The first of the foreign aid questions arose in Congress last week. Although the big foreign aid bill will come up later, the debate gave insights about the tightening battle lines on this issue. Money — where to spend it, when and how much — was the basis of the argument that will echo on Capitol Hill all year.

The new legislation would increase U. S. participation in the International Development Association, which was established in 1960 as a branch of the World Bank. IDA, as this organization has become known, makes loans to underdeveloped countries. The United States provides 40% of the capital. In its first four years,

the U. S. share was \$320 million or 43.1% of the total. By 1964, the fund needed replenishment and this country contributed \$312 million or 41.8%. Last year, IDA depleted its resources again and the American share was set at \$480 million. Eighteen other countries are participating with varying shares including Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Norway, and all the Scandinavian countries. A bill to authorize this amount was stymied last year when Congressional hostility to foreign aid caused action to be postponed.

Basically, the concept of IDA is a sound one. Organizing economically prosperous countries to help new countries help themselves is not only an act of humanity, but could defuse explosive conditions in some parts of the world an improve prospects for peace. It also relieves the United States' trying to carry the load by itself, a project that we clearly cannot continue. A program of loans instead of grants is also more attractive both to the countries providing the money and those incurring the debt. For these reasons, the program has had considerable bipartisan support. However, I have serious misgivings about the proposal debated by the House and I opposed the passage of this bill.

It seems to me that calling these transactions loans is open to question. The money is advanced to the so-called "soft-currency" countries whose financial positions are weak. No interest is charged, although there is a service charge of three-fourths of one percent in lieu of interest. No repayments are made for the first ten years. After that, three percent is expected to be paid back annually for the next thirty years.

Repayments are not returned to the countries making contributions, but to the World Bank.

Payments go into a revolving fund to be loaned out again. We can wonder about the likelihood of repayment at all.

Those supporting the bill contended that IDA's success was proved by the fact that it had run out of money. This is a poor argument since it is no problem to make "loans" under these terms. It is also disturbing that large amounts of the "loans" have gone to India, for instance, where they have not been used for productive projects to create jobs to make India more self-supporting. They were also made at a time when India is paying Russia for over \$100 million for jet fighter planes.

If we look at the total outlays from IDA, we see that through 1967, 71.8% of the funds went to India and Pakistan. These two nations have great internal problems and are bitter enemies because of conflicting territorial claims. U. S. foreign aid in the past has been in the embarrassing position of contributing to armed conflict between these two countries. I do not think the American taxpayer wants that performance repeated.

Rev. Pickard Radio Speaker

RALEIGH, N. C. — The Sunday School of the Air will have as its April speaker the Rev. H. Edwin Pickard, pastor of White Memorial Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, N. C. Dr. Pickard was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and reared in St. Petersburg, Florida. He is married to Helen Little, who is a native of Charlotte, N. C. He graduated from Davidson College as Valedictorian of his class and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He graduated from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia and was awarded the Walter W. Moore and John A. McClain fellowships. His Master of Theology was given by Princeton Theological Seminary and he earned a Th.D. degree from Union Seminary in Virginia.

The Sunday School of the Air, a commentary on the Uniform Lesson, produced by the Department of TRAY of the Synod of North Carolina, is carried over 35 stations in North Carolina. The Sunday School of the Air, is carried in this area over WKMT at Kings Mountain, N. C.

Go Fly A Kite? Not In The Rain

Many Americans are fond of telling people to "Go fly a kite." But there are times when people should be told "Don't fly a kite."

The Insurance Information Institute cites certain precautions which should be taken when planning to unfurl kites into the brisk winds of March.

Use dry string, wood and paper, never wire or metal, for kite equipment. Fly the kites in open areas far away from power lines.

And most important, never fly kites when it is raining. Failure to heed this advice could result in tragedy.

Spring Cleaning? Make Safety Check

Spring cleaning is a good time as any to give your home a complete safety-check, the Insurance Information Institute advises. During the winter months, a considerable amount of rubbish may be accumulated.

While weeding out the clutter from useful articles, it's a good idea to check your appliances. Are any cords frayed, plugs cracked or sockets loose? If so, it's time for immediate replacement.

Then check the appliances for operating efficiency. If you get a shock, or the appliance is faulty, regard these as urgent warnings.

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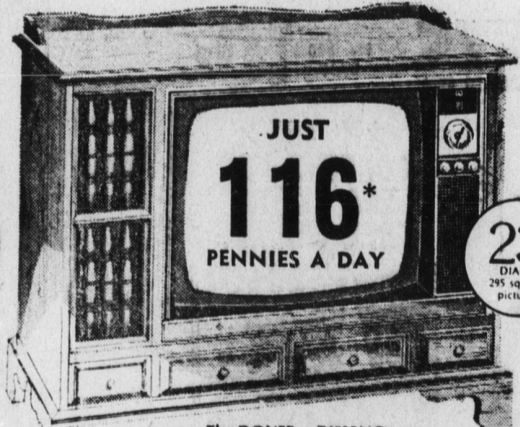
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