

Washington Report

By CONGRESSMAN JAMES T. BROYHILL

RECENT VOTES IN CONGRESS
The last few weeks have seen a considerable step-up in activity here in Washington. Over this time, I have reported back to you in the Washington Report an in-depth discussion of some of the issues and legislation that Congress has faced recently. This week, I would like to present a review of some of the votes I have cast recently in the House of Representatives.

Debt Ceiling: Two weeks ago, the House of Representatives passed legislation temporarily extending the national debt ceiling. Over the years, I have opposed such bills. The practice has been for the administration to come running to Congress to increase the debt ceiling every time it runs out of money. As a result, this action is never considered in direct relationship to the spending bills passed by Congress. I will continue to vote against this type of legislation until Congress takes action on pending legisla-

tion which I have sponsored along with my colleagues on the Joint Study Committee on Budget Control. This legislation would reform the Congressional appropriations process and, in my opinion, is the necessary first step in developing fiscal responsibility in the Federal budget.

National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities: Recently, Congress passed the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities amendments act of 1973. This worthwhile program encourages the development of artistic and cultural endeavors and supports programs of academic and scholarly teaching and research. The legislation as reported out of committee doubled the authorized spending level over last year. In this time of austerity, I felt that this was fiscally imprudent. Consequently, I supported a successful amendment which reduced authorized funding to last year's figure.

LEAA: I supported the Law Enforcement Assistance Amendments act which passed Congress last week. The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, created by the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, was established to help local law enforcement agencies upgrade their work and more effectively combat crime. In my opinion, the legislation we passed will strengthen this effort to fight lawlessness and crime and will also mean a more efficient use of the funds available to local police units through LEAA.

Legal Services Corporation: I voted against the establishment of a Legal Services Corporation which was approved by Congress late last week. I was pleased that the committee version of the legislation was substantially improved on the floor of the House of Representatives by amendments which would prohibit political activity by legal services lawyers and would prohibit the use of legal services money in pro-school-busing suits. I do not feel that any fair-minded citizen would disagree with aid to indigents to defend themselves in court. But the past history of the legal services system shows a clear pattern of misuse of funds for dubious purposes. All too often, the legal services program has been used for harassment suits in our courts of law, pitted government agency against government agency, and used government funds for political purposes. I have introduced legislation that, I feel, would curb these abuses and yet provide needed legal services for the indigent. Basically, my bill would allow the states, under individualized state programs, to administer the program under block grants from Washington.

Coming up: Within the next two weeks, Congress will be considering war powers legislation. This legislation is designed to correct some of the Constitutional imbalances between the legislative and executive branches in foreign and military policy that the Indochina conflict has brought to attention. I hope that the Congressional debate will center on the larger and more important question of how to develop a more responsible system of Congressional control over foreign and military operations.

Social Security News

Q.—When I signed up for medical insurance under Medicare, I couldn't get hospital insurance because I hadn't worked long enough under social security. However, my sister told me that this has recently been changed. How do I apply for hospital insurance coverage?

A.—Call, write, or visit any social security office to apply. Persons, like yourself, who previously couldn't get hospital insurance coverage may now enroll at a cost of \$33 per month. The enrollment period for 1973 extends through August. If you do not enroll by August 31, 1973, you will not be able to enroll until the next general enrollment period—the first 3 months of 1974.

Q.—I heard that Medicare now covers kidney treatment and kidney transplants. Do I have to be getting monthly social security disability checks in order to qualify for this Medicare coverage?

A.—No. If you've worked long enough under social security to be insured, you, your wife and any dependent children who require dialysis or a kidney transplant are eligible for Medicare coverage. Eligibility begins the 3rd month after the month in which dialysis is begun.

Q.—I just started working full time and my first two check stubs showed the wrong social security number. What should I do?

A.—Report the error to your employer as soon as possible, and show him your social security card so he can correct his records right away.

SUMMER THIRST

If you resort to "no-cal" beverages for thirst quenching in the summer, try a glass of fresh lemonade made with noncaloric sweetener. Lemonade prepared this way has only 10 calories and the fresh flavor of tree ripened lemons.

Herald Want Ads Pay

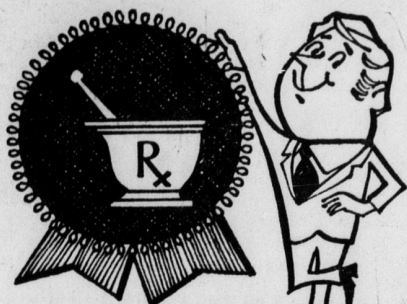
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