

Washington Report

This past week has seen the usual rush of major pre-Christmas legislation. Among the legislation considered this week by the House of Representatives was the Foreign Aid Appropriations bill, the Trade Reform Act of 1973, the National Energy Emergency Act and the Conference Report on the District of Columbia Self-government Act.

The Trade Reform Act, which provided new authorities for U. S. participation in the upcoming Geneva multinational trade talks, was passed by the House of Representatives by a vote of 272 to 140. I supported this legislation after voting for an amendment which forbid the extension of U. S. Export-Import Bank credit for trade purposes with Communist countries which restrict emigration.

I think that nearly everyone agrees that the time has come for some basic shift in our international posture. The international marketplace in the 1970's is no longer the market we knew in the 1950's and 1960's. Major structural changes in the world economy have occurred as Germany and Japan emerged as strong economic and competitive powers. The world monetary system has become increasingly

unstable and inequitable. The result of all of these changes has been the evolution of a world market structure vulnerable to recurrent crisis and economic stress and distortion. The trade reform bill is particularly addressed toward permitting the U. S. to play a leading role in the forging of a new and more realistic international market.

However, unlike most past trade legislation, the Trade Reform Act of 1973 also looks at the needs of the American worker and American business. It increases power to deal with unfair trade practices of other nations. Sanctions are strengthened which deal with the dumping of cheaper, below-cost foreign goods, restrictive and discriminatory foreign trade barriers, and other such practice.

This means, of course, additional protection for American jobs against unfair competition. The Trade Reform Act also additional protection of American jobs and industry from foreign goods through economic relief and adjustment assistance to both firms and their employees. The Trade Reform Act is not perfect. But it is a start in securing a workable foundation for today's and tomorrow's, new international marketplace. It

must go now to the Senate for consideration.

FOREIGN AID

The House of Representatives also passed the Foreign Aid Appropriations Act this week on a very close vote of 219 to 189. I voted against the foreign aid appropriation, as I have every year that I have been in Congress. This year's foreign aid appropriations bill in the House totaled \$5.8 billion. This represents a cut of over \$1 billion from the Administration's request. In my opinion, this near \$6 billion figure simply represents too much money going abroad that could be better spent in America on our own domestic priorities or returned to the people through lower taxes. Particularly at a time when we face economic difficulties over the next year, it is much better to keep these funds for domestic needs in the United States.

As this goes to press, we are still debating and amending the National Emergency Act on the floor of the House. Next week, I will give you a wrap-up report on this legislation which is very important to every American.

Work stoppages due to strikes declined to 1.3 working days per thousand during the first nine months of 1973—the lowest level for that period in nine years—the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports.

Gaston Hospital Sets Opening

Gaston Memorial hospital will move into its new building Wednesday, Dec. 26. The new 479-bed hospital is located in Gastonia at 2525 Court Dr., between North New Hope and Cox roads.

"We want the public to know the schedule of operation on that day, so that they will know where and when to come for hospital service," said T. R. Matherlee, executive director of Gaston Memorial.

"The transfer of patients from the old to the new building will begin at 8 a. m. on Dec. 26. Most of our patients will be transferred by ambulance. We anticipate completing the transfer of patients shortly after noon, however, this depends on the number to be moved.

The emergency room at the new hospital will open at 8 a. m. on this day. Persons requiring emergency treatment should come to the new hospital, not the old one, after this hour," said Matherlee.

Out-patient services such as the laboratory and x-ray departments will be in at the new hospital at 1 p. m., Dec. 26.

"A great amount of detailed planning has been developed for the hospital move. We are striving to make it as safe and comfortable for our patients as possible. Through the cooperation of the Piedmont Association of Emergency Services, we will have over 20 ambulances in which to move patients.

"Members of the hospital staff their assignments and responsibilities for the move and will be very busy at this time preparing and moving the patients.

"We earnestly request the cooperation of the public on the day of the move. Visiting will not be permitted in the old hospital on the morning of Dec. 26. One member of the immediate family will be allowed to see the patient at the new hospital after the transfer that morning.

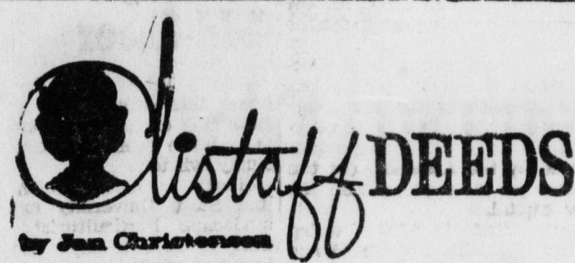
"Visiting hours for the general public will begin at 3 p. m. at the new hospital," Matherlee said.

Elective admissions will begin at the new hospital on Thursday, Dec. 27.

Suggs Finishes Police School

SAN ANTONIO — Airman Roy D. Scruggs, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Suggs of 707 Meadowbrook Road, Kings Mountain, N. C., has graduated at Lackland AFB, Tex., from the U. S. Air Force security policeman course conducted by the Air Training Command.

The airman, who was trained in security and law enforcement, is being assigned to Pope AFB, N. C., for duty with a unit of the Tactical Air Command. Airman Scruggs is a 1973 graduate of Kings Mountain High School.



By JANICE BRISTENSEN

Items that normally go into the trash were converted into decorative Christmas gifts by members of the Willow Street Extension Homemakers Club, Rockingham county.

Among the items made were decorated Christmas trees fashioned from egg cartons and candle holders from air freshener containers.

Each gift was to go in the room of a bed-ridden patient in the community.

Ldia Scott, assistant home economics extension agent, thinks this project is a good inexpensive way to use resources at hand to cheer up sick persons at Christmas.

BIKE POWER

There's nothing like accomplishing several goals when going to an Extension Homemakers club meeting, believe Carleen and Barbara Freeman.

The Columbus county homemakers arrived at their meeting huffing and puffing from the 1-2 mile bicycle ride. "They were carrying three small children in bike baskets which accounted for part of their fatigue," add Mrs. Elaine Blake, home economics extension agent.

The women pointed out that they were getting their daily exercise and saving gas.

TOP CLUB

What does it take to have the most outstanding Extension Homemakers Club in Gaston county? Plenty, including an active interest in community and civic events.

The top club, the Geri Spear Extension Homemakers club, conducted 37 workshops in home-making and crafts. Members canned and froze food for use in a local "Meals on Wheels" program, taught ceramics at the Orthopedic hospital and Central school, made drapes and stage curtains for a school for the

Liberty Life At High Mark

Liberty Life Insurance Company reached the \$1 billion mark of total insurance in force during the first week of December, and company president Herman N. Hipp says the accomplishment "is a result of keeping pace with economic growth and meeting the changing needs of people in the southeast."

Insurance in force, according to Hipp, represents the total amount of protection provided for insured persons by the company. Liberty Life, founded in 1905, reached \$1 billion in force in 1958, \$2 billion in 1966 and \$3 billion in 1971.

"The important thing about this accomplishment is that it means we are providing \$1 billion worth of financial security for our clients," Hipp said. "But even more important, this achievement reflects the unparalleled economic growth of the southeast, our primary marketing area, and the opportunities that this growth offers for the future."

"People are simply doing better than ever. They earn more

money at better jobs. Our job is to continue to develop insurance products and services that serve the changing needs created by this growth."

Hipp said that South Carolina, Liberty Life's home state, is indicative of the growth of the southeast. "Between 1960 and 1972, our state had the second highest increase in per capita personal income."

Hipp also praised Liberty Life's 1,100 field representatives. "Reaching \$1 billion of protection in force, is more than anything else, an indication that our representatives are very concerned about making sure their clients have adequate protection they're also doing something about it."

WORN LOOK

The well-worn look is wanted by young people, especially in their denim clothes. To oblige, the industry has provided prefaded fabric for the Jean Market, notes Harriet Tuttle, extension clothing specialist, North Carolina State University. Shade variations range from light to sharply contrasting.

MESSAGE TO THE CITIZENS OF KINGS MOUNTAIN

KINGS MOUNTAIN NATURAL GAS SYSTEM

Due to the energy crisis and shortage of Natural Gas available, the City of Kings Mountain, along with concerned authorities, requests that all natural gas customers make a special effort to conserve natural gas.

It is suggested that no one burn gas for decorative purposes; usage being restricted to cooking, water heating and heating. The City would like to insure that all citizens are aware of the fact that there is no gas available to add new customers to the system.

The City will appreciate dedicated cooperation of all citizens.



WESTERN AUTO

BIGGEST EVER

Gift Inventory

LAYAWAY? PLEASE DO!

- Household Appliances
- Sporting Goods
- Toys To Please Boys and Girls of All Ages
- Television Sets
- Bicycles
- Tricycles

Western Auto Store

Odus Smith, Owner

NOTICE PENALTY

ON

UNPAID 1973

City Taxes

APPLIES

January 1, 1974

AT RATE OF

2%

City of Kings Mountain
TAX DEPARTMENT