

Washington Report

By Congressman James T. Broyhill

National Debt Limit

The House of Representatives last week performed what has become the annual ritual of temporarily increasing the national debt limit. Under present law, the permanent limitation on the national debt is \$400 billion. Present law also provides for a temporary additional increase of \$30 billion, providing an overall limit of \$430 billion, effective through June 30, 1972. The House approved an additional temporary limit of \$20 billion, also effective through June 30, 1972, bringing the total debt limit up to this date to \$450 billion.

During the debate on this measure, several Members expressed the viewpoint that the failure to increase the debt limit would provide a means to limit Federal spending. Although I am greatly concerned about the yearly increase in the national debt, I feel that this is an unrealistic point of view and could be equated with locking the barn door after the horse has escaped.

The most effective way to limit Federal spending is to hold the line of appropriations bills and to curb new programs which authorize expenditures of large, new sums. In this way, spending can be limited on a selective program-by-program basis.

The Administration has received the brunt of the blame for this situation. But to a large degree, the Congress must share much of the burden of blame. The Congress has followed the same anti-quated appropriations process for sixty years, and it is no longer responsive to the nation's fiscal needs. While the fiscal year extends from July 1 through June 30, the Congress follows the calendar year. Thus, when the Congress convenes each January, it has only six months to prepare the appropriations bill for the entire Federal government. It is rare that this July 1 deadline is met, with the results that Federal agencies do not know what their budget will be until well after the new fiscal year has begun.

Another problem with the present appropriations process is the piecemeal consideration which budget bills receive. At no time during the consideration of the fourteen annual appropriations bills is there a balancing of how much total money has been committed. Each bill is considered separately and independently, with the result that it is easy for additional funds to be slipped in with no attempt to look at the total picture. After carefully weighing the consequences, I decided to vote to temporarily increase the national debt limit. I would like to stress that my vote should not be interpreted as advocating increased Federal spending. My voting record will show that I have consistently voted to reduce

Federal spending and cut the waste from the Federal budget. I expect to continue this policy as future appropriations and authorization bills arise. However, I felt that to fail to temporarily increase the debt limit would be an irresponsible way to attempt to bring Federal spending under control.

By keeping the national debt limit below the figure required to meet the cash needs of the Federal Treasury, spending could be limited only in a chaotic and disruptive way. If this were to occur, the Treasury Department would be unable to issue any new securities. The Treasury cash balance would be depleted rapidly. Once the cash balance is exhausted, the government would be compelled to delay full payment, or resort to partial payments, of financial obligations which have been made by law. This would include contract obligations, government salaries

various loan and benefit programs, and grants to states and local governments when they become due. Conceivably this could result in reductions in Social Security and veterans benefits payments and could cause severe financial hardships for a large segment of the population. Companies holding government contracts would also suffer financially.

Once again, the Congress was called upon to intervene in a labor dispute, as the House passed a temporary settlement to the West Coast dock strike. Although longshoremen and shippers had reached a tentative agreement the Congress, to prevent a possible continuation of the strike during the recess, acted to approve the President's emergency legislation to provide a settlement. I have long advocated legislation to provide a permanent method for settling crippling transportation disputes.

Frontier
FOOD NOTES
 By Gene Cox - Historian, Kings Mtn. Military Park

The Affair At Halfway Swamp

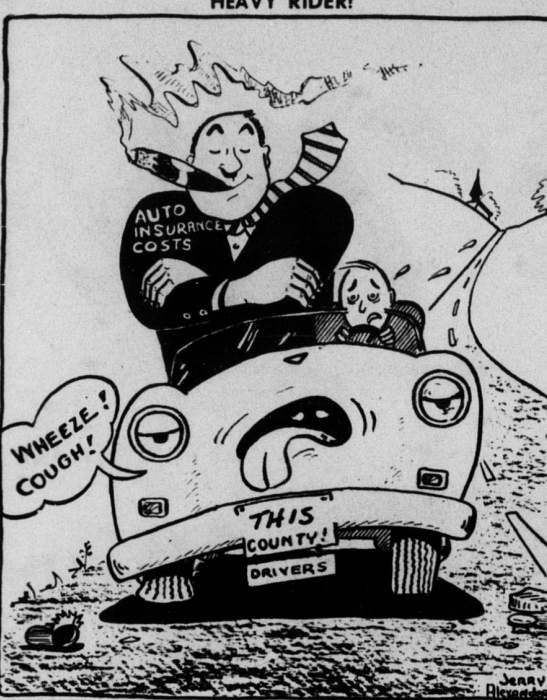
When Francis Marion learned that Major Robert McLoerth with his 64th Regiment was escorting some 200 recruits toward Winnsboro, South Carolina, he assembled 700 mounted men and moved to intercept this force. Some 20 miles North West of Nelson's Ferry on the Santee River, just above Halfway Swamp, Marion made contact. The British pickets were driven in, their rear guard attacked, and McLoerth took up a defensive position. His path now blocked, McLoerth sent a flag to protest the shooting of pickets and daring Marion to meet him in the open. The Swamp Fox, as Marion was nicknamed, replied that so long as the British burned houses and continued their raids he would pick off pickets. As for the fair fight in the open, Marion sent word that if "Major McLoerth wishes to see mortal combat between teams of twenty men picked by each side, I will gratify him." This archaic challenge was accepted, a field was selected, and the fascinating contest was organized. Marion named Major John Vanderhorst team captain and carefully picked 20 men. The rebels decided to hold their fire until they were within 50 yards of the enemy, each one eyeing his target, moved forward. The deadly game was not played out, however, on orders from their officers the British team marched off the field, and it became apparent McLoerth had been stalling for time. Around midnight, McLoerth slipped away from his burning campfires and headed toward Singletons, South Carolina. The rebels learning of this maneuver beat the British to this place and delivered one volley of fire at the redcoats and then, to the amazement of the rebels, they fled. The reason being in this bizarre episode was that the Singleton family had the dreaded disease, smallpox.

FOUNDATION GIVES ART
 Washington--The W. Averell Harriman Foundation has given 22 major works of art to the National Gallery of Art in memory of Marie N. Harriman, wife of the former ambassador. No estimate of the paintings was given, but it is believed to be in the millions.

RESIGNS TITLE
 Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo.--The "U.S. Army Wife of the Year" has resigned the title

in a protest resulting in the manner in which career officers are being discharged. Mrs. Billie Willett made this decision following her husband's discharge.

ON AIRMAIL HIKE
 Seymour Wenner, Postal Rate Commissioner, has proposed a 2-cent increase in airmail rates, higher parcel post rates and a reduction in special fourth class material.



NEWS REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

Congress Stalls-- Nixon's Request-- The Cost-- Politicians Silent--

Washington, D. C.--The White House was bitterly disappointed by recent stalling on Capitol Hill, as West Coast dock workers continued to tie up shipping with their strike. Last year the President personally intervened in an effort to obtain a settlement and at one point thought he had produced a compromise accord. But that bright prospect collapsed and in January--with the strike still crippling the national economy--he appealed to the Democratic-controlled Congress to pass a law ending the strike.

Striking dockers know most politicians in Congress are hesitant to vote for any bill which might cost them organized labor's vote. Congress, as expected, stalled. The President made an urgent appeal in early February, but Congress still moved leisurely. It was the old story. Organized labor exerts greater power over many Congressmen than any other political or pressure group. President Nixon two years ago proposed strikes in rail, airline, shipping, longshore and trucking industries be limited. He would have impartial mediators settle disputes in these industries because such strikes inconvenience or harm the public, the general welfare or national security.

Congress failed to act, even as the dock strike on the West Coast continued to cost the nation hundreds of millions in lost exports--at a time when the nation was experiencing a minus in its export-import trade for the first time in eighty years. The comment of House Labor subcommittee Chairman Frank Thompson (D-NJ) was typical of the attitude of most members of Congress. Thompson, in reply to the President's urgent appeal, said he felt all his colleagues hoped a settlement would be reached

before they were forced to act. Mr. Nixon feels Congress should have acted two years ago, in the case of the dock strike at least a year ago. This basic difference is one of the key issues in the 1972 presidential campaign. The President's position is that strikes by a small number of workers should not be allowed to cause undue suffering to the vast majority, threaten the general welfare and flout the national interest.

Democrats, who have long enjoyed the support of organized labor, won't go along. Among all Democratic presidential candidates, none spoke out forcefully against the West Coast strikes in recent weeks.

EMPLOYMENT UP

The Labor Department has reported that the nation's job situation improved somewhat in January. The total unemployment figure remained high at 5.9 although it was down slightly from the December figure.

ON SCHOOL MERGERS

Attorney General John N. Mitchell has registered his opposition to the merger of suburban school districts with inner city school systems just to achieve racial integration.

ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

President Nixon has asked Congress to broaden the jurisdiction of the Civil Rights Commission to deal with discrimination against women. He said this Administration will continue its strong efforts to open equal opportunities for women.

ON SPENDING

When President Nixon announced a \$246.3-billion fiscal 1973 budget, unveiling two massive deficits totaling \$64.3 billion, no new tax proposals, he requested that Congress limit spending to "stop raids on the Treasury."

reflections

by Rodney Dodson



He's Strictly A Skipper Bowles Man...

When Josh Hinnant got up to introduce Skipper Bowles at the Royal Villa Friday night, he relayed Mayor John Henry Moss's regrets that he could not be present. "The Mayor is attending a class on how to secure Federal funds," said Josh, and after a brief pause added, "I don't know if he's taking the course or teaching it... but the Mayor sends word that he's strictly a Skipper Bowles man." A voice from the audience of about 100 local men piped "I don't believe it!"--that brought the house down.

He's an enthusiastic campaigner, easy talker, and quick thinker, the type of candidate who benefits from personal contact and TV exposure.

formidable candidates, and with the May primary close at hand, the next three months should be interesting indeed, and what about the Republican primary? Very interesting indeed!

NEWS VIEWS

Melvin Laird, Secretary of Defense: "We're moving in the direction of an all-volunteer force."

Frank Church, Senator (D-Idaho): "We could abolish poverty among the elderly for what it costs to run the war in Southeast Asia for three months."

Ernest F. Hollings, Senator (D-SC): "I regard Mr. Wallace as a 'Bona Fide' candidate for the Presidency."

Earl L. Butz, Secretary of Agriculture: "If we're to save America we'll have to save those people whose feet are implanted in the soil."

Erma Angevine, Director, Consumer Federation of America: "This year the unfinished business of Congress will be a prime issue."

George S. McGovern, Senator (D-SD): "Hunger must be eliminated, most especially among our children, because it's wrong in and of itself."

Nguyen Van Thieu, South Vietnamese President, offering to resign: "This will give the people of South Vietnam complete freedom to determine their own future."

Barry Goldwater, Senator (R-Ariz): "The defense procurement needs a head-ruling overhaul to halt waste in money, manpower and time."

GOLDEN GLEAMS

Every man at his best state is altogether vanity. -Psalms 5:150. Virtue would not travel so far if vanity did not keep her company. -La Rochefoucauld.

Sunday School Lesson

The Death That Gives Life

International Sunday School Lesson for February 20, 1972. LESSON TEXT: Luke 23. Jesus' death was the fulfillment of His redemptive mission on earth. Today we will concentrate our attention on the meaning of His death and consider its effect upon mankind at this time, in order to formulate our own individual and adequate response to His love.

fashion of that day, when death had come to someone of importance. Thus Christ, to the end, brought an experience of spiritual perception and awareness to all who were willing to receive Him.

Although Christ was possessed of powers beyond any mere human understanding, and could, at any time, have saved Himself from the agony of the cross -- as He was urged to do, many times, by His tormentors -- He embraced death of His own free will, holding His Messianic mission for mankind dearer than His physical well-being. This was the greatest exhibition of unselfish love the world may ever hope to see. It is therefore not to be wondered at that the impact of this supreme act of salvation by grace brought startling changes in attitudes of those who were witnesses to the spectacle. Crucified between two thieves, one repented and begged Christ to intercede with the Father on his behalf. And Christ, in His last agonies extended forgiveness in His Father's name, not only to the dying thief, but implored forgiveness for those who were crucifying Him. To the end, His love for mankind was His utmost concern! The dying and repentant thief, however, was not the only one affected by His out-reaching love. The Roman centurion and Joseph of Arimathea was moved greatly, indeed, Joseph -- a member of the powerful Sanhedrin gave courageous public testimony of his newfound faith when he begged for the body of Jesus in order that he might tend it in the

The thinking Christian of today will fully acknowledge that the spiritual consequences of the stoning which is inherent in mankind would be unbearable if it were not for Christ's loving intervention on our behalf! For He died, not only for mankind in His own day and time, but for us in ours -- and for the generations yet unborn that will follow us! That is His most glorious truth! Through the advent and death of the Savior of the world we are assured that God has neither forgotten us or abandoned us in our sin. Christ is our intermediary. The tenet of Christ's mission lay in His own simple statement: "I came not to call the righteous, but SINNERS to repentance..." (Luke 23 - V. 32). However, sin that is not acknowledged cannot be forgiven. To achieve a state of grace we must face our failings and acknowledge them openly and honestly, and ever strive to turn from weakness and temptation to sin and sin again. Our attitude must be one of reverence and gratitude, of absolute confidence in -- and commitment to -- the Son of God if we would walk with the Father. That we should have such a golden opportunity was the motivation of Christ's willing sacrifice... the death that gave us life! (These comments are based on outlines of the International Sunday School Lessons, copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education, and used by permission.)

Republican Senate Hopefuls Will Have Rough Primary

Not long ago it was the Democrats who shed all the blood in North Carolina primaries, but that day apparently is gone forever



Tar Heel Republicans have a death struggle going on for the gubernatorial nomination and are on the verge of a Texas Tag Team Match for the U.S. Senate nomination. We reported here on Jan. 3 that Concord's Jimmy Johnson would wind up in the battle for the U.S. Senate and on Monday of this week, he took the trip to Raleigh to announce those intentions. Johnson is the second Republican to lay claims on the Senate nomination. William Boone, a Charlotte attorney, changed his registration from Democrat to Republican and tossed his bonnet into the ring, dutifully citing the 11th Commandment: "Thou shalt not bus my child to school." The fireworks are not over, as far as candidates are concerned. Jesse Helms of Raleigh is a conservative, well known Raleigh television ex-

ecutive. He reads editorials on radio and TV and writes a newspaper column. Helms has that quality that causes people to swear by him or at him. If the tides don't rise and the earth doesn't shake, Jesse Helms will announce as a Republican for the U.S. Senate on Feb. 18. Simple arithmetic tells us that it will be three men running for one nomination. But it's more than that. It's three men who are as controversial as a topless dancer at the church bazaar.

Booe is a redhead who dearly loves a good fight. A member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board, Booe has on occasions so angered fellow members of the board to the extreme they could hardly swallow. He will not run a shy campaign. Johnson is a political maverick, the Wizard of Concord. He openly courts the Democrats, often to the dismay of his own party who sometimes are led to think that an autopsy would reveal a heart shaped like a donkey. Johnson says: "I don't have as much money as I would like to have heading into this campaign, but I think more will come. But if guts and the willingness to fight mean anything, I'll do okay." The 36-year old Johnson almost got dizzy stepping to the brink of this race only to

back off. He had planned to run, then step aside for the hoped-for entry of Congressman Jim Broyhill into the race. With Broyhill out of the way, Johnson again stepped forward to offer his services, only to hear rumblings that Jim Gardner wanted to be a candidate for the Senate. As Gardner said no, Johnson was about ready to go again when word came down: "We think Vinegar Bend (Congressman Wilmer Mizell) is going to agree to run for the Senate." Says Johnson: "I stepped aside for Broyhill, Gardner and Mizell. Now I'm ready to draw the line and say, 'Okay, this is it. I'm running and if you want a fight, you can get one.'"

Like Booe, Johnson will not run a campaign based on timidity. He usually lets people know when something bugs him. "This is the year for the Republicans to win the Senate seat in North Carolina," Johnson says, and you can tell he isn't talking about any old Republican. If it can be said that Booe and Johnson don't back away from a knuckle sandwich the same can certainly be said of Jesse Helms. As an off-the-air campaigner, he won't even have to offer equal time.

That's just the Senat race. You already understand that Jim Gardner and Jim Holsouser will go or the knock-out in the gubernatorial campaign. Back in the good old days, the Republicans used to have all the headlines in the primary to the Democrats. And they seldom lost any of their own blood. GOP Chairman Frank Rouse says of the primaries: "It shows our party has come of age in North Carolina." That ain't the half of it, Mr. Rouse.

Political Notes

Gubernatorial candidate Hugh Morton, who just completed a series of 30-minute televised press conferences, is having a poll taken on the Governor's race. Morton hopes to have the results back in a couple of weeks. Our Man For All Seasons Award: To Mecklenburg Sen. Jack Baugh, who thus far has indicated a desire to run for Congress, the U.S. Senate, the Mecklenburg County Commission and now Congress again.

The Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner scheduled for March 4 is an important event for Tar Heel Democrats. They need the money. Party Chairman Church says: "We're not in great financial shape but we're decent."

A Democratic Party kingly in North Carolina paid off his company's workers last week, with this message stamped on the pay envelopes "Warning, President Nixon's may be hazardous to your wealth."

Charlie Knox, who heads Pat Taylor's campaign in Mecklenburg, is the brother of Mecklenburg State Sen. Eddie Knox. I don't know if the IRS investigation into campaign donations will mean anything, but try telling that to politicians trying to raise money this year. Skipper Bowles must have a dozen blue suits. Notice him during the campaign. It's a blue suit every day.

North Carolina Democratic Party Chairman John T. Church is happy the Republicans are having a primary for Governor. "We knew we would have a tough primary," Church said, "and now the Republicans have one of their own. That sort of equalizes things."

Best Of Press

Generous
Many a man's charity is to give unto others the advice he can't use himself. -Spotlight, San Diego.

They Do?
Babies are angels whose wings grow shorter as their legs grow longer. -Bee, Midway Islands.

So They Say
It takes hard work to make easy living. -Enterprise, Hubbard, Ore.

Well Defined
Some folks are like blisters--they don't show up until the work is done. -Tribune, Chicago.

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