

Kean University

## Kean Digital Learning Commons

---

Florence Dwyer Report to the People Newsletter 1958 Florence Dwyer Report to the People Newsletter

---

1-16-1958

### Report to the People Vol. 2 No. 1

Florence P. Dwyer

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.kean.edu/cp\\_dwyer\\_newsletters\\_1958](https://digitalcommons.kean.edu/cp_dwyer_newsletters_1958)

---

# REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

by CONGRESSWOMAN

FLORENCE P. DWYER



Volume II, Number 1.

January 16, 1958.

The sense of worried urgency, which has gripped the nation since the Soviet Union injected new and frightening portents into the Cold War with the launching of its satellites, filled the House chamber with tense expectancy as the President began his State of the Union message to Congress last Thursday.

The crowded galleries were hushed - and down on the floor of the historic chamber members of the House and Senate awaited the answer to a question: Would President Eisenhower, with his once-unquestioned prestige shadowed by public anxieties and doubt and partisan attacks on his policies, be able to re-assert the compelling leadership which had in the past inspired all the Free World?

The President's address provided a dramatic answer.

Point by point, in what I believe was one of the most powerful and moving speeches of his years in the White House, the President not only faced the bitter facts of survival but also advanced sound and far-reaching proposals for combating the dangers which beset us.

## THUNDEROUS OVATION

It was a speech of a statesman - devoid of partisanship and providing the inspiring spark of leadership so essential in times of crisis.

When the President finished, the House chamber erupted in a long and thunderous ovation. It was, I believe, a far more spontaneous and enthusiastic demonstration than that accorded by the Congress to the President's State of the Union message last year following his overwhelming victory at the polls.

I left the House chamber feeling that President Eisenhower had laid the facts on the line in a forthright manner which served to revive what had been weakening and wavering support; that he had, with his words, set into action what undoubtedly will be one of the most critical sessions of Congress in our history.

-more-

The days ahead will require high courage and determination from all Americans - a willingness to make sacrifices necessary to carry the staggering tasks that lie ahead. And we who are privileged to serve the people in Congress have a special responsibility to place at all times the general welfare above partisan politics in this time of crisis. I feel the President's message has helped form the foundations of such vital unity of purpose.

#### THE CHANGING TIMES

During these first hectic days of the second session, I have found one thing increasingly evident, and that is the abrupt and almost total shift in the thinking of Congress.

Last year, as the 85th Congress went to work, the dominant mood on both sides of the aisle was for economy-at-almost-any-price.

Nothing escaped the budget-cutting axe - defense, missiles, research and development, foreign aid, domestic programs - as the Congress set its sights on a tax cut for 1958's election year.

As you may recall, I repeatedly opposed certain of these economy cuts, particularly in our defense, missile, research and development, and foreign aid programs.

At the time, I declared that - while I believed there were many areas in which sound governmental economies could, and should, be made - I was convinced we were recklessly gambling with our nation's security by indulging in indiscriminate budget-cutting in fields vital to our defense and the security of the Free World.

#### BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL

Now, however, in the few months since the first session ended, times have changed. Some of my colleagues who were shouting the loudest for wholesale economy are now demanding just as vociferously that we write a blank check for an all-out defense effort.

Nowhere on Capitol Hill have I found stirrings of last year's economy demands. There is no talk of a tax cut. The Battle of the Budget has been replaced on the beachheads of Congress by the Battle for Survival.

Certainly, there is no question that we must greatly expand our defense effort - especially in the fields of missiles, space satellites and research. The Soviet Union's unquestioned advances in new scientific and technological fields have given sudden frightening aspects to the Cold War. The challenge of Sputnik is one we cannot afford to ignore or minimize.

### CALM THINKING NECESSARY

However, as we in Congress face this challenge, it seems to me we must guard against one thing above all: we must not let the economy hysteria of last year explode into a spending hysteria this year. For, just as the reckless economy surge served only to weaken and retard our defense effort, a runaway spending hysteria can only be equally disastrous on our national economy.

There is no doubt that the price of resolving the dangers which beset us will be high. But I believe it is important that we in Congress not lose sight, during such times of crisis, of several important objectives:

We must realize, unless we are to burden future generations with an even more awesome national debt, that we must "tighten the belt" on non-essential government spending, even though it means cutting back on programs which are politically popular.

We must continue to strive for sound and lasting economies in government, and to utilize such savings for the job at hand.

We must exert constant vigilance against inefficiency and waste, to make sure our defense and foreign aid dollars are bringing our people a maximum performance on their vast investment in security.

We must not, in our national concern over Cold War perils, overemphasize weapons and policies of destruction, at the expense of our aspirations for building toward a lasting world peace.

### OTHER VITAL AREAS

In this regard, as the President noted repeatedly in his address, we as a nation must never cease to exert our energies and our resources toward those areas which are vital to peace.

I would like to cite just one of these areas - that of education - as an example of the vision and action necessary in working for peace.

It is my belief that what we do toward strengthening our education system at all levels has a direct bearing on our stature in the eyes of the world. Development of weapons of destruction creates only fear; but the utilization and expansion of knowledge brings understanding and respect.

In the field of foreign aid, for example, I feel there is an important education challenge. We are spending vast amounts for foreign aid, yet we have no system for utilizing the best trained people to represent us abroad. I feel,

as I did last year when I introduced legislation, that establishment of a Foreign Service Academy is of urgent importance if we are to sustain our leadership of the Free World.

It is my hope that this will be one of the objectives we in Congress will work for as we face the critical days ahead. I will continue to work for establishment of such an Academy, for I believe most deeply that a portion of the billions we spend for foreign aid could be utilized for such a project to insure our nation of the highest type representation throughout this crisis-torn world.