

Kean University

Kean Digital Learning Commons

Florence Dwyer Report to the People Newsletter 1959 Florence Dwyer Report to the People Newsletter

1-8-1959

Report to the People Vol. 3 No. 1

Florence P. Dwyer

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.kean.edu/cp_dwyer_newsletters_1959

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

by CONGRESSWOMAN



FLORENCE P. DWYER

Volume III, Number 1

For Release:
Thursday, January 8, 1959

Forecasting--political and otherwise--has traditionally been the order of the day during the early hours of a new year, especially at the outset of a new Congress. Forecasting and resolving and hoping.

But here in Washington in the first week of 1959, it might be wiser to emphasize the resolving and the hoping, and stay away from the forecasting. For who can possibly predict the course of the next two years? With Soviet Russia surging toward new goals of production, education and scientific progress; with Communist China harnessing the bodies of hundreds of millions of people in a brutal drive for world power; with the new countries of Africa winning their independence so fast they may not be able to control it; with dictators winning power in one part of the world and losing it in another; with great unrest in Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia and Latin America--in the face of all this revolutionary turmoil, multiplied by the tools of change produced by science, what prophet among us can see even a few days into the future?

Yet, these are the relentless challenges that face us, as a people and as a Government. And who can predict what our response will be? A giant question mark is raised over the next two years by virtue of the fact that our Government will be two-headed. With Congress more firmly in the hands of one party, with the Administration controlled by the other but with its influence waning because it is prevented by law from succeeding itself, from which source will leadership and a sense of direction come?

Which is why I suggest that resolve and hope may be more appropriate qualities than prophecy, in this first week of January 1959:

The resolve to make the best and fullest use of our immense human and material resources; and the hope that our nation's leaders can avoid the temptation to turn these crucial years into an arena for the pursuit of political power for 1960.

The resolve to focus our energies and resources and spiritual reserves on the job of strengthening freedom and opportunity--to demonstrate to the billions who

do not yet understand that freedom, not communism, is the road to peace and progress and prosperity; and the hope that our leaders will show the courage and resourcefulness to get out in front and lead!

During these past two post-election months, I've had a chance to talk with hundreds and hundreds of people in Union County and I know they think frequently of these great issues--along with those closer to home, like bills to pay, children to educate, and better job opportunities. And they expect their Representatives to think about them, too--and act appropriately.

These have been busy days. The hours spent in our District office, the two days of "Legislative Open House," a survey tour of unemployment offices in the County, the hearings in Newark on the pending discontinuance of railroad ferries--these and other activities and just talking with people have also been extremely enlightening.

I feel that I'm closer to understanding what our people value and need and want than I have ever been--and consequently in a better position to represent them faithfully in the Congress.

And, as it always has been, this will be my goal in the next two years: to provide the kind of service that our people have a right to expect, service for all our people without regard to politics or position in life, and service on a full-time, all-the-time basis.

As far as legislation is concerned, this means long hours on the House floor and careful study of the pros and cons of all the issues. It means casting my vote on the merits of each bill, in the best interests of the greatest number of our people.

It means, too, that I shall continue in every way possible to stay close to the people I represent, to seek their views and give them full and honest consideration. So, you can expect more of what we've done in the past: newsletters, regular District office hours, office hours in other communities throughout the County, "legislative open house," student press conferences, questionnaires, and prompt attention to your requests and views and ideas.

I look forward to these coming two years enthusiastically. And I am grateful to all of you for making them possible, for giving me this renewed opportunity for public service.

I hope you will always remember that my only reason for being here is to represent you.