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Florence P. Dwyer

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REPORT TO THE PEOPLE FROM YOUR CONGRESSWOMAN

FLORENCE P. DWYER - 6th District, New Jersey



1631 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Volume I, Number 5.

March 14, 1957.

This past week's agreement by the Israeli Government to pull its troops out of Egypt and the Gaza Strip marks a great personal achievement by President Eisenhower, demonstrating once more his role as peace-maker in this troubled world.

The Israeli decision was historical, for it was the first time in our nation's history that a Chief Executive has been able, through personal prestige and high leadership qualities, to prevail upon another nation to peacefully withdraw from invaded lands.

To be sure, there still are many grave problems facing us in the Middle East. It was the confidence of the Israeli leaders in President Eisenhower's leadership which, in great measure, persuaded them to withdraw from Egypt. Now we have the moral responsibility to justify this faith; to make certain that guarantees of Israel's rights are honorably observed.

Certainly, the peaceful solution to this most immediate war-threatening question has dramatically shown to the world that even the most awesome crisis can be met without force and bloodshed. It has set a pattern that holds bright promise for the evolvment of a lasting peace in this tense area of the world.

In this respect, I was most gratified this past week when the Senate, after weeks of debate, once again endorsed the President's leadership by

passing the Eisenhower Middle East Resolution with only a few minor changes from the version passed by the House. The House quickly passed the Senate version. Passage of this Resolution, I feel, is a big step toward our goal of peace in the Middle East.

THE WHITE HOUSE RECEPTION

I was most happy this past week to have the privilege of representing the citizens of Union County at President and Mrs. Eisenhower's White House Reception.

It was a beautiful and thrilling event - the last and one of the biggest affairs of Washington's social season. It was, indeed, an impressive occasion, with nearly 1000 persons - Republican and Democrat alike - lining up to shake hands with our President and wish him well.

My husband, Joe Dwyer, who made the trip from Elizabeth to Washington for the Reception, met President Eisenhower for the first time.

It was a memorable evening for both of us; an evening which ended on the pleasant note of dancing to the music of the U.S. Marine Band in the East Room of the White House.

OIL PRICE PROBE STARTS

In recent weeks, I have received a considerable amount of mail from Union County residents expressing concern and indignation over the latest increase in the price of oil and gas products. Like the writers of these letters, I also have been greatly disturbed over this increase, for I, too, have felt the price boost in my fuel oil bills, and I have been asking the same question:

Was this increase justified?

That is why I was pleased to note this past week that a Federal Grand Jury in Alexandria, Virginia, has begun an investigation of possible price-fixing in the oil industry.

This grand jury probe, which probably will last for several months, is in addition to investigations into this matter already being conducted by House and Senate committees. I hope the public will follow the progress of these investigations closely in the press.

The oil industry has been accused of advancing prices because of the increased demand for American oil since the Middle East supply was cut. Industry spokesmen, in turn, have claimed the increase was brought about by higher operating costs, and that it was just a coincidence that this occurred during a critical international oil shortage.

Personally, it strikes me as a very strange coincidence. I believe the American consumer has every right to demand that such an increase be completely justified and not merely an exploitation of a serious international situation. I feel it is up to the oil industry to give a thorough and forthright public accounting of its price policies in this matter. I am certain the current investigations will demand such an accounting.

GI HOME LOAN QUESTION

The House Veterans Affairs Committee, of which I am a member, has completed lengthy hearings on the GI home loan program, with much of the testimony centering around a proposal to increase the interest rate from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent.

With the present "tight" money market freezing out, to a great extent, GI home loans in favor of higher interest rate FHA and conventional-type mortgages, many witnesses expressed belief there would be no easing of the situation unless the rate were increased.

The Committee, after completion of testimony, voted down the proposal to increase the interest rate. Instead, it reported favorably on a bill which would raise the maximum amount in which direct loans may be made from \$10,000 to \$12,500.

This program, however, is designed to encourage veterans' housing in rural areas and small communities, and would bring little or no benefit to veterans of Union County or other urban areas of the nation. Communities of 30,000 or more population would not qualify in this program.

My primary concern in this matter is for the welfare of our veterans. I believe most of our veterans can afford the monthly payments on homes, but cannot accumulate the necessary large amount of cash the conventional-type mortgages require as a down payment.

I also am concerned with the particular problem of those veterans who already have initiated action on the purchase of homes under the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent provisions of the GI home loan plan, but will be faced with the prospect of having the rate jump to 5 per cent if their loans are not approved before any raising of the interest rate.

Thus, the problem of Congress, as I see it, is to find the best and most equitable means of making mortgage money available for veterans who want to take advantage of the small down payment GI home loan program.

VOTE FOR FEDERAL ECONOMIES

This past week, the Republican minority in the House introduced a bill by Rep. Andresen of Minnesota for the relief of the nation's corn farmers - a move which blocked at least temporarily action on a Democratic bill sponsored by Rep. Cooley of North Carolina.

This is an important legislative fight. While our nation's corn farmers unquestionably are faced with a critical problem, the Cooley bill would add a

number of other non-critical crops to the program at a cost to our taxpayers of from \$500 million to \$1 billion.

I will vote against the Cooley bill if it comes up again during this legislative battle, for I believe this measure would turn the soil bank into a mammoth giveaway program at a time when the nation is faced with the biggest peacetime budget in our history.

Earlier, I voted for a \$60 million cut in Interior Department appropriations. A major portion of this reduction had been earmarked for continuing and increasing non-defense subsidies to a small segment of the domestic minerals industry at a time when we already have a five-year stockpile of such minerals.

I will continue to vote for such budget economies wherever such cuts will not destroy or impair essential governmental services to the people or our national security. The welfare of the American consumer and taxpayer must be considered above the interests of special groups.

VISITORS TO WASHINGTON

It is always a pleasure to welcome visitors from Union County to my office in Washington. Here are some of our recent visitors:

WESTFIELD - Mr. and Mrs. Russell Lauver and their daughter, Valerie, of 234 Seneca Place; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Berring, of 833 Dorian Road; Mr. and Mrs. Douglas W. Field and their children, Pat and Douglas, of 1026 Seward Avenue; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bobal, of 523 Hillcrest Avenue.

CRANFORD - Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Benners, of 1 Hamilton Avenue; H. Joyce Stack, 36 Beech Street.; Ralph Taylor, of 723 Rivden Place; Dennis Sheehan, 706 Willow Street.

SUMMIT - Marilyn Benner, of 21 Ashland Road; Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert G. Roessner and their children, Martha, Jane, Anne and Gilbert, of 41 Rowan Road.

SPRINGFIELD - Pat Binder, of 37 Tower Drive.

ROSELLE - Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Nelson and their son, Tom, of 418 Dermody Street; George S. Wright, 134 East 7th Avenue.

ROSELLE PARK - G. G. Gredmundson, of 160 Lincoln Avenue East.

UNION - Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gerber, 1755 Walker Avenue; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Pecklers and their daughter, Diane, of 388 Sherwood Road; Janet Chapin, 948 Salem Road; Eugene W. Langan, of 12 Smith Street; Ralph C. Walz, of 1984 Mountain View Avenue.

HILLSIDE - Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Kilcarr, of 936 Revere Drive; Curt M. Rosenberg, of 957 Salem Avenue.

MOUNTAINSIDE - Mr. and Mrs. John A. Hoff and family, of 1449 Deer Path.

ELIZABETH - Beatrice L. Ryan, of 14 Orchard Street; Robert Harris, of 19 Melrose Terrace; Edward W. Beglin, Jr., of 154 Stiles Street; Conrad Saxer, of 55 Delaware Street; John C. Broman, of 820 Canton Street; Joseph V. Juraszek, of 817 Adams Avenue; Ogden Beatty, of 123 Sayer Street; William Lear, of 613 Bailey Avenue; Edward Cohen, of 987 Coolidge Road.