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CONGRESSWOMAN DWYER'S

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

OF THE UNION-ESSEX SUBURBS



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* * * * * Returns from our annual Congressional Questionnaire, which you should have received approximately one week ago, are pouring in, suggesting a continued high rate of participation. In order to speed tabulation of results and get them to you while the issues are still in contention, please return your completed questionnaires by the end of the month. Extra copies are available, singly and in quantity to all interested constituents. Thank you. * * * * *

THE LONG-TERM AND THE SHORT-TERM

With a month-long summer recess scheduled for the period, August 6 to September 8, these next three weeks on Capitol Hill are apt to be rather frantic -- with Congress trying to complete action on appropriations bills and other measures where time is a significant factor before the shop is closed. But most of the legislation with substantial long-term importance will await the cooler weather of fall and winter.

An obvious example of the former, the bill to extend the draft, is presently tied up in a sharply divided House-Senate conference committee where the failure to reach agreement has abruptly shut down the selective service system for the time being. Though both houses passed draft-extension bills, the two versions differ significantly with the major conflict centering on the Mansfield "end-the-war" amendment which was adopted by the Senate and rather narrowly rejected by the House. I was on the losing side, by the way, when we failed in the effort to instruct House conferees to accept the Mansfield amendment in conference, though we came closer to winning than on any previous vote involving opposition to the war.

In view of this changing sentiment in the House and strong support in the Senate, it is generally agreed that the conference committee compromise will contain at least general language urging an early withdrawal from Vietnam, even though most conferees (members of the two Armed Services Committees) have long records of support for the U. S. position in Southeast Asia.

CHANGES IN THE DRAFT

Though this is the overriding issue in the bill, it should not obscure the fact that numerous other provisions contained in one or both bills may drastically alter the operation of the draft. These include: substantial increases in military pay and benefits especially for lower-ranking personnel, which could stimulate volunteers and reduce reliance on the draft; tighter restrictions on the President's discretion in administering the selective service system, and correspondingly broadened rights for persons subject to the draft, including the right to counsel; and the appointment of draft board members more representative of the social and economic groups in their areas.

In the case of legislation having longer-range significance -- executive branch reorganization and revenue sharing are good examples -- there continues to be considerable activity within the appropriate committees and privately behind the scenes even though floor action remains a good distance away.

Our Government Operations Committee is winding up the first series of hearings on the President's reorganization proposals and will shortly print the hearings together with a summary report giving a general overview of the President's broad concept. This will be followed later in the year by more intensive consideration of the four individual proposals for new and consolidated Cabinet-level Departments: Community Development, Human Resources, Natural Resources, and Economic Affairs.

Throughout this process, information will be generated, intentions and objectives clarified, understandings reached, and preliminary positions taken by the members who

will ultimately make the decisions -- altogether, a rather slow, irregular, frustrating but effective method of forging agreement on complicated legislation.

DISPUTE OVER REVENUE SHARING

Roughly the same forces are at work in and around the Ways and Means Committee on the revenue sharing dispute, where contending forces are jockeying for position around either (a) the President's plan for distributing \$5 billion a year to States and localities on a no-strings-attached basis, or (b) Chairman Wilbur Mills' alternative plan to return a somewhat lesser amount of Federal money directly to major cities on a stricter basis of need and with enough conditions to assure that the funds are used for priority purposes. Here, too, it will take a while for issues to be identified and illuminated and for coalitions to be organized, but the process is underway.

In both the long-term and short-term areas, my two committees -- Banking and Currency and Government Operations -- seem to be focal points for much of the most interesting and consequential of current Congressional activities.

In Banking and Currency, for example, we've covered the gamut of legislation from authorizing commemorative coins for the Bicentennial of the American Revolution to strengthening and expanding the operations of the Export-Import Bank. This week, too, we dive headlong into the boiling controversy over the Administration's proposal to guarantee loans up to \$250 million for the Lockheed Corporation and other companies facing financial distress. And on the committee's horizon are two of the most comprehensive and far-reaching proposals ever considered in their respective fields: a bank reform bill which would reorder, among other things, most of the personal relationships between the people who run our financial worlds; and a housing bill which will revise our entire approach to most housing and urban development programs.

FROM CLASSIFICATION TO CONSUMERS

In addition to our work on reorganization, Government Operations is currently involved in a number of hot political areas. For instance, we've undertaken the first Congressional investigation of the Government's classification and declassification policies and procedures since the publication of the Pentagon papers. We are also seeking to penetrate, again, the mysteries and complexities of our economic aid programs in Vietnam and the charges of hidden subsidies, corruption, blackmarketeering, and so on. Our continuing study of the Medicare and Medicaid programs is uncovering new sources of costly waste. And we're getting steadily closer to some kind of final decisions on our Consumer Protection Act.

In recent weeks, I've introduced or co-sponsored a number of bills which may be of interest. Though space doesn't permit an exhaustive or detailed listing, these bills range from: (a) the creation of an Institute for Continuing Studies of Juvenile Justice, which would provide training in the area of juvenile law enforcement and encourage more effective treatment and control of juvenile offenders; to (b) the provision of priority in Government procurement to commodities manufactured by severely handicapped individuals; (c) a limitation on the authority of States to impose income taxes on residents of other States; (d) the furnishing of comprehensive treatment for servicemen and veterans who become narcotics addicts; and (e) the provision of tax relief to homeowners.

This summary -- and it touches on only a relatively few of the issues before this Congress -- suggests at least two conclusions: (1) we'll be in session again right up to the end of the year, and (2) our August recess will find many of us taking lots of homework to the mountains and the shore. But that's only as it should be.