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REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

by CONGRESSWOMAN

FLORENCE P. DWYER



Volume I, Number 10.

April 18, 1957.

I noted with interest the other day that Vice President Nixon, in his report to the nation on his African trip, declared there is a great need for higher-type and better-trained personnel in our Foreign Service posts.

The Vice President's observations once more served to point out the inadequacies of our present system of recruiting men and women for the vital career assignments of our Foreign Service.

I have been concerned with this problem for a long time, and recently I introduced legislation calling for the establishment of a Foreign Service Academy for the training of not only our career diplomats but other governmental officers engaged in the international field, as well.

ACADEMY SENTIMENT GROWS

During this session of Congress, there has been a great buildup of sentiment favoring some such Federal training program that will meet this need.

Just this past week, for example, 10 members of the House - five Democrats and five Republicans, including Rep. Canfield of New Jersey - joined to introduce a resolution calling for the establishment of a 23-member commission to study means of expanding and modernizing our Foreign Service.

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This problem is attracting the support of both conservative and liberal elements in Congress. Republican Senator Mundt of South Dakota and Democratic Senator Humphrey of Minnesota recently have advocated such an Academy, and a resolution by Senator Saltonstall of Massachusetts has resulted in a study of the problem now being made by a subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

It is my belief we need such a program, for present world tensions and the responsibilities of administering the vast sums of money we invest in foreign lands demand the talents of the highest caliber men and women, equipped with a background of the best possible education our nation can provide.

The Government Operations Committee report on Iran, which I joined in signing earlier this year, showed shocking waste and inefficiencies in the handling by U.S. officials of millions in foreign aid funds in that country. This one case, alone, clearly indicates the need for higher type career officials. An Academy which would produce such career officials would, I believe, be a wise investment - an investment which would serve to safeguard our future tax dollar investments in the international field.

ECONOMY DRIVE CONTINUES

The House still is hard at work on the difficult but necessary job of "cutting fat" from next year's budget.

This past week, I joined with the majority in voting for a \$25 million cut in Commerce Department appropriations. I did so because I was convinced that no essential department services would be impaired by the reductions.

To date, I have voted for over a billion dollars in economies, including a vote against the farm program which I felt was needlessly extravagant and would

have imposed additional hardships on the already overburdened consumer.

Not all of my economy votes have, however, been sustained by the majority. This reluctance by Congress, in many instances, to vote for sound economies makes it increasingly apparent that there can be no really effective economizing by government so long as the "folks back home" insistently demand that the Federal Government do for them things which they can and should do for themselves.

The recent House vote for a \$50 million appropriation for Federal grants for local sewage treatment plants illustrates this point. I voted against this appropriation for a program enacted by the last Congress - a program which will cost the taxpayers \$500 million during the next 10 years - because I felt this was a field of State and local responsibility and initiative. Yet, under the pressure of a flood of protests from their home districts, the majority of the House voted for this appropriation.

I wonder if most people realize that when their tax dollar makes its trip to Washington, it buys them but 70 cents worth of merchandise or service, if and when it ever returns to their community? Such a realization, I believe, would serve to temper demands for unnecessary and costly Federal programs.

ECONOMY "BEGINS AT HOME"

At this time, when there is such an urgent need for economy in government, it would be well for Congress itself to give consideration to that old adage, "economy begins at home."

Under legislation passed by a previous session of Congress, a \$200 million-plus Congressional building program is now under way. This includes new office buildings for senators and representatives, inside parking facilities, new restaurants and moving belts or trains for shuttling Congress members from building to building on Capitol Hill, as well as a \$42 million renovation of the front of the Capitol itself.

The new Senate office building is almost completed. However, work has just started on the new House office building - an addition which will give each member of the House three-room office suites instead of two, as we have at present.

Speaking for myself, I find my present two-room office suite is adequate, I do not think the taxpayers should be asked, at this time, to assume the burden of supplying me and other members of Congress with the luxury of an additional office. If legislation calling for curtailment of this program reaches the floor for a vote, I most definitely will support it. It is the taxpayer who needs relief; not members of Congress.

GALLAUDET COLLEGE HONOR

I recently received a letter from Gallaudet College in Washington, informing me that I am the first woman to attain a post on its Board of Directors in its 100-year history. I was named to the Board in January. It is a great privilege to serve in this position. Gallaudet is the only college for the deaf in the world, and is doing a tremendous job in the field of education.