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### Report to the People Vol. 2 No. 18

Florence P. Dwyer

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# REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

by CONGRESSWOMAN

FLORENCE P. DWYER



Volume II, Number 18

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There are so many aspects and angles, factors and significances to Vice President Nixon's Latin-American adventure that it will provide food for thought for politicians, news analysts and interested citizens for a long time to come.

Two of the most obvious are the fact of large-scale Communist infiltration in Latin America and the huge boost received by the Nixon-for-President-in-1960 campaign as a result of the Vice President's superb performance under fire.

But there are other, possibly less obvious, elements in this situation that deserve some emphasis.

I was most impressed by the reaction of my colleagues in the House of Representatives in connection with our passage of the Mutual Security Bill. It could not have been lost on some, for instance, that the coincidence of anti-American demonstrations along the Vice President's route and the burning of American libraries in the Middle East and Algeria, with House consideration of foreign aid, might have brought an angry response in the form of drastic cuts or major changes.

As the crucial vote neared, in fact, the usual drama of an important decision was heightened by the tension of periodic bulletins off the news tickers reporting the assaults on the Vice President.

Nevertheless, the lines held firmly. The substantial margins by which crippling amendments had been defeated during previous days' debates were repeated in the nearly 2-to-1 vote by which the bill was finally passed. The convincing arguments presented by the Administration and by Mr. Nixon himself demonstrating the need for the mutual security program were irrefutable. And the thorough studies of such groups as my own Government Operations Committee in exposing and correcting abuses in the administration of the program contributed greatly to the strengthening of it and obtaining its approval this year by such a big majority--a majority of 125 votes as against 100 last year.

The Vice President's own very thoughtful and responsible and generous reaction to his experience was one of the most favorable and encouraging aspects of the whole business--and very much in contrast to some of the more inflammatory statements that have been made by others.

He refused to blame the majority of Latin Americans for the outrages of a few, and he insisted on searching for basic economic and social causes of the anti-American feeling he found, conditions which Communists and other extremists find it profitable to exploit.

Both he and the President insisted that our friendships with our South American neighbors had not been impaired, that the United States was deeply concerned at cooperating with these countries to improve their opportunities for political and economic advancement; and--most encouraging of all--they indicated our Government's willingness to learn from the unfortunate experience and to seek ways to improve our Latin-American policies.

This is constructive and positive, and it is the kind of attitude that befits a great world power genuinely concerned with exercising its power responsibly. It is, happily, a far cry from the brutality and repression inflicted by Soviet Russia on any of her "friendly neighbors" whose hostile feelings might show.

I hope that Congress will follow the lead of the President and Vice President especially now that we are about to take up legislation extending the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act. Here is a concrete opportunity to cement friendly relations with other nations, to the mutual advantage of all, since all of us profit from a healthy and expanding foreign trade.

Mr. Nixon's reference to the hardships suffered by Latin Americans when trade restrictions injure their markets for oil, coffee, tin, wool, lead, zinc, copper, etc.--products and prices on which whole national economies are dependent--points up the critical importance for the U. S. to continue leading the way toward expanded world trade.

As I wandered about in the warm sunshine of the big airport here, waiting for the Vice President's plane to land, I was struck by the informality and spontaneity of 15,000 people who simply came out to welcome the Nixons home. Republicans and Democrats, officials and plain citizens were joined without thought of partisanship in a spirit of national pride and personal affection for a man who did a good job under tough conditions.

Nothing here was regimented or rehearsed. The bands and banners and signs were home-made, not mass-produced. This was the kind of free and tolerant and friendly manifestation of the American spirit that will go a long way to convince the world that the United States is true to its ideals.