

# WASHINGTON WEEK

By Harris Ellsworth, M. C.

Every legislative body in our country seems to have one serious weakness. Bills (which become laws) are rammed through in too much haste at the end of a term. Congress is no exception. Congressman Norblad wrote at some length on this subject in an article in a recent issue of "American Magazine." The 81st congress is not far from adjournment so bills are zipping through the house at a rapid rate. Apparently this last minute rush does not often produce much legislation which can be classified as bad, but I can assure you that it is pretty nerve wracking for a member when the house is legislating at such high speed.

As this is written, some heavy arguments are going on at the leadership level. The present majority is trying to figure out whether to stay in session until mid-September or longer, finish important pending legislation and formally adjourn the session, or go on a temporary recess basis and return later for adjournment. The decision is purely a political one. Incumbent Democrats are under mighty heavy fire this year. There is a very real chance, as things look now, that they will lose control of the house. The leaders and campaign chiefs on the Democrat side want to let their house members go home and mend political fences. However, with the war in Korea in a critical stage they fear the voters might not want congress to adjourn. But the other alternative might be worse. If members are at home when congress is technically in session will the voters understand that it is perfectly all right for them to be in Washington?

The Democratic candidates for congress have a lot to answer for this year. Their administration has brought the country into war, their non-military expenditures for government are 4½ billions higher than during the 80th congress, and there is

strong suspicion that communist sympathizers or worse have been and still may be in fairly high places in our government.

I have introduced my freight car bill. It is H. R. 9480. It may not receive committee attention this session but I shall naturally make every effort to have it considered. This bill attacks the problem of car shortages on a fundamental basis. If it is enacted into law and the program provided for is carried out, there never need be another car shortage.

The press reports which went out on the news tickers when the bill was introduced were in error in one important respect. The press service news story I saw stated that "cars would be leased to private railroad companies at their request," which makes it sound as if the government were to be put in the business of building freight cars for the railroads. That clearly is not my intention nor does the bill say that. The purpose of the bill is to provide a reserve fleet of freight cars under the ownership of the government and in control of the Interstate Commerce Commission to be used ONLY when an emergency arises which a reasonable and normal railroad ownership of freight cars cannot meet. The government cars will, of course, be recalled into the reserve at the end of the emergency.

## LOCAL NEWS

Local Odd Fellows and Rebekahs and their invited friends enjoyed a picnic at Azalea State Park Sunday, with a good time reported by all. Horseshoes and other games filled the afternoon, with the one o'clock dinner too much for everyone to eat.

Mrs. Curt Waldien returned home last week after spending a short time at Los Angeles and other southern California points visiting relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Neill, former local residents, left for Portland after being house guests at the home of Dr. and Mrs. A. O. Schmitt.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kinney returned during the week-end from a trip to Portland. They report the weather being unsufferably hot while there.

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