

More of Everything to Show Up During Next Session of Congress

BY FRANK ELEAZER
Washington—(R.N.Y.)—Rep. Harold C. Osterdag (R-N.Y.) says the word for the coming session of Congress undoubtedly will be "more." More defense is mostly what Osterdag had in mind for the new year. He might have added more noise, more bickering, more investigations, more viewing with alarm; more efforts by more members to hook more pet projects onto the defense bandwagon; more official inspection trips, along about the end of winter to sunny places like Hawaii and the Panama Canal.

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Probably the most important units of time that govern our lives are the months of the year. Here are the stories of the words which stand for the months.

January. This month is named for the Roman God Janus who was always represented with two faces—one that gazed at the past and one that looked to the future. And so, when the clock strikes 12 on New Year's Eve and December passes into January, we say farewell to the year just gone and hail the New Year ahead. **February.** This month got its name from an ancient rite. During the middle of this month, the women of Rome when barren were beaten with sacred things called februa. Struck by these "instruments of purification" they would no longer be barren. February had 29 days but the Roman senate took away one day and gave it to August so that August would not be inferior to July.

March. This month was dedicated to Mars, the god of war, and named after him. Before the time of Julius Caesar, the Roman New Year began with this month.

April. This month being the time when the first flowers open was given the Roman name Aprilis which is based on the Latin word aperio, which means "open."

May. The origin of May is uncertain. It may be from the Latin word Maia, the mother of the god Hermes. Although this is the "time of the singing birds" in Roman days it was not considered a romantic month. In fact, it was considered an unlucky month for marriage for on this month fell the festival of the unhappy dead.

Protectress of Women
June. Some scholars believe June came from the goddess Juno who was the protectress of women, since June has been the favorite month for marriages all the way down from earliest Rome. (Possibly the ancient taboos against May marriages caused the June rush to the altars.) Others think that the name came from Junius, the name of a Latin family to which the murderers of Julius Caesar belonged.

July. The name of this month was proposed by Mark Anthony in honor of Julius (July) Caesar. The name came into use the year of Caesar's assassination.

August. This month received its name from Octavian, the nephew of Julius Caesar. The Roman senate had given him the official title of Augustus in honor of his distinguished services to the state. . . and although born in September, he chose the month August on which to bestow his name.

September. Because the Roman year originally began in March, September was the 7th month and the name is taken from the Latin word "septem" which means seven. When the calendar was changed and September became the ninth month, the name was not changed.

October. Octo in Latin means eight—and this is the eighth month of the old Roman year.

November. Since Emperor Augustus had his month and Julius Caesar his, the Romans thought it only proper to propose that November be renamed for Emperor Tiberius. But fortunately Tiberius objected saying: "What will you do if you have eleven Caesars?" So the name remained November from the Latin "novem," meaning nine.

December. Emperor Lucius Aelius Aurelius Commodus of Rome once asked his girl friend, "Amazonius" how she would like to see her name on the calendar. Even though he tried, the Senate would not go along with him and apparently told him to go and watch the gladiators and lions instead. So December remained December—which stands for "decem" the Latin word for "ten," the tenth month of the year.

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Also, more of a gap than ever between hope and performance on economy, a balanced budget and a tax cut. None of this is any reflection on the 435 House members (less five vacancies as of opening day) and 96 senators who will be returning to their desks Jan. 4 for the second session of the 85th Congress.

It's just the way the seltzer fizzes. Like most everything else it all can and will be blamed first on Sputnik and second on Republicans or Democrats, as the case may be, depending on which party you happen not to belong to.

Outlook for 1958
So as of today here is the congressional outlook in an aspirin box:

Missiles: Ask, and it shall be given. Nothing is too good

this year for our missile makers. Scientists once again will be spoken to, and kindly. President Eisenhower wants to spend about \$40 billion in the new fiscal year on defense. What's already worrying him is how to keep the Congress from giving him more. Last year it was just

the other way around. Soviet party boss Nikita Khrushchev, obviously, is like the best lobbyist. Too bad he isn't around to answer some of the questions at the innumerable hearings into how come Russia was first.

Tax cut: Quit kidding yourself and each other. Count

yourself lucky taxes aren't going to be raised. With the budget at a peacetime high (\$74 billion is what it looks like now), and revenues declining, there's no room for a tax cut, no matter what the wishful thinkers are saying.

Benson in Trouble
Offsetting economies: This is another laugh. April 1 style. Congress claimed to have cut the President's money requests last year by billions, and what came of it? Nothing. Spending rolled along. And last year the word was "economy." This year, remember, it's more.

Farm price supports: Benson wants authority to lower them. The farm bloc doesn't know what it wants except that this isn't it. Dairy state congressmen hope to repeal

Benson's recent order cutting supports under milk. As for the deal they may have to make with other farm interests to put that one across, your guess is as good as anybody's. One thing is certain. It will cost money.

Postal rates: They'll go up for sure this time. You may as well lay in some of those pretty new red, white and blue four cent stamps for letters of complaint to your congressman. Blame this one on Sputnik II. Uncle Sam will need the extra half billion dollars yearly which a rate increase would produce.

Civil rights: Plenty of talk about this, with a Sputnik angle here too. The idea is that rights abuse in this country plays into Communist hands and that Little Rock

did us more damage abroad than Laika, the satellite dog. But no new civil rights legislation, pro or con, is in the cards now.

Aid To Education
Tariffs: Boring as it sounds, this is important, and one of Congress' hottest battles this year will be what to do about them. Ike wants continued authority to negotiate mutual reductions, so trade with our friends will be freer. But Congress has been listening lately to the protectionists who say the home folks are beginning to hurt. For the outcome see your newspapers about next July.

Education: Eisenhower has twice taken a licking on federal aid to build schools. Now he's back with a plan for federal scholarships, and other

aids to train more of the scientists we need in the contest with Russia.

Sputnik again. The senators so far seem more amenable to this than the House.

Statehood: This plum will be dangled, as usual, before Hawaii and Alaska. As usual, it will be snatched away in the nick of time to prevent passage. However, this won't be done without due consideration. One or more inspection groups will certainly make an on-the-spot study at sunny Waikiki, probably sometime near Easter. Alaska they will turn down without even looking.

Presidential inability: This one already has rolled up plenty of oratorical mileage and is good for lots more. Question is what to do about

any president who isn't up to the job, either when he initiates this decision. Some members can't restrain themselves from naming names, and that's where the trouble starts. In the end, probably nothing will be done.

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