

### Most Congressional Mail Brings Prompt, Official-Looking Answer

Washington—UPI—Rep. Walter Norblad (R-Ore.) has received a letter from a constituent who asks him to sponsor a congressional investigation of the Constitution.

"It's unconstitutional," this voter says of the Constitution. Congressional mail this year as usual is pouring in by the truckload and fortunately not all of it is that hard to answer. There are only 10,000 or so people working for Congress, including the 534 members, and there wouldn't be time to think up replies.

Mostly a letter to a House member or senator prompts an official looking answer, bearing the congressman's signature which he may or may not have affixed himself, and reading like this:

"Dear sir:  
I am glad to have had the benefit of your views on the subjects you discuss and to assure you that they will have every consideration should legislation on these matters come before us."

**Form Letter**

In one well-organized congressional office this is form reply No. 6. In other offices the number is different but the letter is the same.

Although President Eisenhower's recent message on the state of the union, the budget, and the economy got a lukewarm reception from Congress, House and Senate postmasters think they were great. They weren't the kind that generate much extra mail to members of Congress.

House Postmaster Hap Morris and his Senate counterpart, David D. Jennings, have their work cut out for them without any help from the President. When hot issues are up,

they are swamped. Even between crises—like now—they and their 100 helpers lug around to the members' offices about 200 bags of incoming mail daily, with maybe 50 pounds to the bag.

"I'm an Idiot"

The time-tested way to retire after one term in Congress is not to answer the mail. So there is as much, or more, going out. As noted above, this sometimes poses a problem. Sen. Kenneth B. Keating (R-N.Y.) got a letter recently which read in full:

"I heard your speech last night on the radio and I read it again in the newspaper this morning. Believe me, you're no idiot. I am for ever having voted for you."

Every lawmaker keeps a file, appropriately labeled, of letters like this. All others, and even some of these, are

### Scientists Study Runoff of Rivers

Washington, (Science Service)—Scientists from 30 countries are studying 65 rivers, which provide 75 per cent of the total runoff to the oceans of mineral matter from rocks and soil. The work had been assigned to a Committee of World-Wide Runoff of Dissolved Solids, appointed from members of the International Association of Scientific Hydrology of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics. Water samples are being taken at least four times a year near the mouth of each river at points where natural river turbulence insures representative sampling and where there is no contamination by sea water. Results will be compiled for publication by the U.S. Geological Survey here.



IN TROUBLE — John M. Spirito, a U. S. citizen from Los Angeles, and a captain in Castro's rebel army, accidentally shot and killed a rebel private near Cienfuegos, Cuba. Spirito is being held pending investigation and possible trial. (File photo).

### International Language Gains French Support

Paris, (Science Service)—France has joined the movement for the utilization of Interlingua, the international auxiliary language that is now widely used for scientific abstracts in journals and conferences. A section of the world organization for Interlingua (UMI) has been formed as l'Union Francaise pour l'Interlingua (UFI) with Andre Tartiveau as secretary. Interlingua is the language with regularized grammar and universal vocabulary that is a sort of modernized Latin or a standard average European-based language, that most people can read without the necessity of studying it.

### NO BRAVE DOGS

London—UPI—The Association of Dog Biscuit Manufacturers announced that it will not award its silver trophy

and a six-months supply of dog biscuits to the bravest British dog this year because no British dog has been sufficiently brave.

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