

Congressman Points Out Public Works Bill Considers Everybody

By DICK WEST
Washington—Frankly, I hadn't paid much attention to this year's public works bill until it came up for passage in the House of Representatives late last week. What finally aroused my interest was a statement by Chairman Clarence Cannon of the House Appropriations Committee that "there is something here for everybody."

Upon hearing that, I naturally acquired a copy of the bill to see if I could find what was in it for me. Public works (pronounced "pork barrel") is normally interpreted to mean navigation, flood control, irrigation and power projects. Off hand, there wouldn't seem to be much there of direct benefit to a suburbanite like myself. For instance, I couldn't

understand at first how I might stand to gain from a \$20 million appropriation for harbor work in Flushing Bay, N.Y. Then Rep. H. R. Gross (R-Iowa) cleared that up for me.

In trying to persuade the House to eliminate the project, Gross alleged that its purpose was to make the harbor better able to accommodate yachts that dock there for the 1964 World's Fair.

Well, sir, I might very well visit the Fair and I certainly hope that by that time I am able to afford a yacht. So Cannon was right. There is something in the bill for me.

Rep. Ben F. Jensen of Iowa, ranking Republican on the Appropriations Committee, was even more expansive than Cannon, a Missouri Democrat, in extolling the committee's handiwork.

"Heaven is perfect, but God purposely made the earth imperfect," Jensen explained. "We would have become a nation of drones if the world

were perfect. It is our duty, and the duty of every American, to assist in making this earth a little more perfect."

Under the terms of the bill, we will be making our part of the earth 4.6 billion more perfect. Not having any inside information, I will have to accept Jensen's word this puts us on solid theological ground.

Somehow, the public works discussion reminded me of an incident related by Moss Hart, the late playwright, in his book "Act One."

Hart had been spending vast sums of money to landscape his country home, even to the extent of moving giant trees from one part of the grounds to another.

When the project was completed, he invited a friend out to see what miracles had been wrought. The friend was duly impressed.

"It's beautiful, Moss," he exclaimed. "It's just like God would have done it if he had been rich."

Jackie Kennedy Honorary Citizen

Ravello, Italy—Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, 30, was today named an honorary citizen of Ravello, a distinction that escaped such illustrious guests of the past as King Victor Emmanuel III, composer Richard Wagner and actress Greta Garbo.

Mayor Lorenzo Mansi said the American first lady would be officially honored a week from Tuesday for her charm and natural dignity—and in the hope she will return.

"We want to express our gratitude to Mrs. Kennedy for picking Italy in general and Ravello in particular for her vacation. If she is a citizen of Ravello she will have to come back," he said.

Wagner, Garbo and the late king in the past spend holidays in this picturesque town on the Amalfi Coast. But they were never given honorary citizenship. Mrs. Kennedy, in a setting of old world charm, Sunday night accepted an award as "the most elegant woman of 1961."

QUITS TEAMSTERS

Washington—Sam Baron, a Teamsters' union official who accused President James R. Hoffa of slugging him, resigned his \$17,000-a-year job Sunday and demanded \$50,000 severance pay. Baron said in a letter to Hoffa that he hoped to "serve the Teamsters again but not as long as you are president of that great organization."

Tomlin Lectures Conclude With Dr. Atkins Talk

Dr. Hedley John Barnard Atkins, guest lecturer from Guy's hospital, London, England, concluded the John Tomlin Memorial lectures on Cancer of the Breast last week at Rogue Valley Country club under the auspices of the American Cancer society.

Speaking to doctors in general medical practices, he stressed the importance of early diagnosis and treatment. Conditions which might be confused with cancer of the breast also were discussed.

As an unsavory rule he advocated removal of any nodule or lump in the breast, followed by total removal of the breast if cancer was found in the lump. Breasts that contain many fine and at times painful nodules usually represented a normal physiological process, he noted.

Slides were shown of an operation, and the use of x-ray for treatment of intermediate and late cancer was discussed.

In addition to surgery and x-ray, various hormones also are used in the treatment depending on the extent of the cancer.

An after-dinner lecture earlier in the series, on the life of Charles Darwin was well received by the 132 doctors and wives present.

The final lecture dealt with the research aspects of the treatment of breast cancer. An outline of the program in progress was presented.

A panel discussion by Dr. Atkins, Dr. Clifford E. Allen, radiotherapy department, University of Oregon medical school in Portland, Dr. Oscar Heyerman, internist, Medford, and moderated by Dr. Harvey Baker, surgeon, of Portland, gave the audience an opportunity to question panelists on many points in the treatment of breast cancer.

Salem Man Fails To Get Signatures

Albany—Don Belling, a Salem contractor, failed again Sunday to secure 250 signatures at a convention for a petition to run as an independent candidate for governor in the November election.

Belling, who also failed Saturday, said he will try again Wednesday night. Under state law, the 250 persons signing the petition must attend the convention at the same time. The petition must be turned in to the state elections office at Salem.

He hopes to run against Gov. Mark Hatfield, the Republican nominee; Atty. Gen. Robert Thornton, the Democratic candidate, and Robert Wampler, another independent, in the gubernatorial election.

More than 100 doctors from Oregon and northern California were registered for a series of lectures. Chairman Dr. Brian Stringer, Medford, expressed his appreciation for all those who helped make the meeting a success. The Tomlin committee has noted with satisfaction the yearly increase in attendance at the lectures.

Your Money's Worth

By SYLVIA PORTER
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LIVING COST STILL RISING—BUT IT'S NOT INFLATION
Early next week, the U. S. Government will report that our cost of living either is holding at the highest level in history or more probably, again has risen slightly to another all-time peak.

This will be disclosed in the monthly report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics showing that in July the consumer price index—the only measure we have of living cost changes in our country—was at or a bit above the 105.3 mark it hit in June. (The index has been updated so that the base of "100" is now the period 1957-59. An index of 105 means that today it costs \$105 to buy the goods and services \$100 bought in the closing years of the 1950s.)

The price index is up about 1.2 per cent from the level of summer, 1961. It is almost one per cent above the level at the start of 1962.

There is virtually no chance that the index will decline during the rest of this year. Rather, the odds are that when the books are closed in 1962, the record will show prices of typical goods and services in an average city family's marketbasket 1 to 1 1/2 per cent over 1961.

When the statistic is released next week, it will be front-paged. News that the consumer price index has hit a new high always is headlined and it almost surely will revive talk of inflation—inflation even in this cycle of sluggish business advance, strictly high unemployment, excess plant capacity in industries throughout the nation.

Will this talk be justified? Is a rise of 1 to 1 1/2 per cent in the consumer price index in 1962 on top of a rise of 1/2 per cent in the index in 1961 "inflation"?

It is not. I've said this before, I say it once more. The 1/2 per cent rise in 1961 was remarkable stability, so extraordinary it had few precedents in modern U.S. economic history. A rise of the magnitude now foreseen for 1962 will be reasonable stability.

The very idea of a price index holding absolutely steady is unrealistic in a dynamic society such as ours; inherent in the definition of dynamic is "change." The to-be-published overall price index, for instance, probably will show food prices have risen because of seasonal forces while clothing prices have declined because of summer clearances, the cost of medical care has climbed because of hikes in hospitalization insurance rates while prices of new cars have slipped because of concessions on 1962 models. Even more indicative is the fact that a big questionmark in the July index is the cost of gasoline—with seasonal pressures suggesting more costly gas while price wars suggest cheaper gas.

More of the same is shaping up for the balance of the year. The cost of services will still be mounting month after month, although the pace of the postwar climb is definitely slowing and the signs are clear that service costs finally are "catching up." Rents still will be going up a bit month after month, but also at a slower pace, a reflection of the increase in apartment vacancies and the softness in the housing market in general. Food prices will be at least firm with higher prices for restaurant meals pulling the food index up.

But the increases will be moderate, spotty—nothing like the big across-the-board rises we saw in past inflation periods and alert managers of the household budget easily will be able to sidestep many of them.

And most important is the picture that emerges when the 1962 price climb is placed against the 1962 employment-pay background. For the fact is that tens of millions of Americans do have jobs and are getting pay increases that average substantially more than the increases in the prices of goods and services they buy. They are not only matching the cost of living rise but also beating it by around two per cent on average, gaining "real" purchasing power.

Not sharing in this good fortune are the unemployed and their families. Their plight is the blackest spot in our economic pattern. Also not sharing are millions entirely dependent on fixed pensions. They lose every time a price of an essential product or service climbs.

But bitter though this part of the story is, it cannot hide the shining fact that the higher incomes of the vast majority of U.S. families have more than offset living cost increases in recent years and in 1962, this vast majority again will be enjoying the best bread-and-butter year of their lives.

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