

Representative Green, Higher Education Bill Become Orphans

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Washington (Special) — Rep. Edith Green and her Higher Education bill have become orphans of the storm over religious, tax and budget-cutting controversies in the 88th Congress.

The waifs were abruptly abandoned on the House doorstep this past week when the Rules Committee decided to send a Medical Facilities bill to the House for a vote instead of waiting for her bill to come from committee.

Mrs. Green had the White House door slammed in her face last Friday when the President and the House leaders decided to put aside consideration of her bill in favor of the medical facilities bill. The higher education bill had been scheduled that day to be reported from her committee by a unanimous vote of Republicans and Democrats. The White House reportedly wanted it back in the Omnibus Bill.

A Catch-All Bill
Briefly, the Omnibus Education bill is the catchall \$5

billion bill which the Administration forced on a reluctant Congress which gives money to every segment of education, elementary to graduate schools. Mrs. Green's \$2.7 billion higher education bill provides construction money for academic facilities for public and private colleges, including medical centers. HR 12, the Medical Facilities bill, provides \$237 million to construct medical and dental schools, including loans for medical students.

It was reported by reliable sources that there were two reasons for the White House action: supersensitivity on the part of the Catholic "Irish Mafia" on his staff about the religious issue, which defeated the higher education bill last year. It provides grants and loans to private and public college. Southern Democrats don't like it.

The second reason was the budget squeeze for domestic spending, caused by the President's desire to have a huge tax cut to stimulate the economy.

Handles Legislation
Mrs. Green's subcommittee handles legislation for aid to colleges. Because the Commerce Committee handles "health" legislation, the aid to medical schools bill went to that committee. Mrs. Green's committee added money for medical facilities to her bill, which complicated matters.

Because her bill included aid to medical schools, Rep. Howard Smith of Virginia, the patriarch of Rules and wily watchdog of controversial bills, called Mrs. Green before his committee to testify. She began with a slightly quavering voice, which soon found strength as she warmed to her favorite subject. She showed no rancor at the treatment she had received at the hands of her "leaders," President Kennedy and Speaker John McCormack.

"It is a leadership decision," she plaintively replied to a question about whether or

not she would go ahead and report her bill. She needs leadership approval to bring a bill to Rules and thence to the House for a vote. She limited her testimony to the overlapping of the two bills and refused to be drawn into criticisms of her leaders. The Republicans and Smith, tried but they could not unstricken her upper lip. She thanked them for the "novocaine" to relieve her pain, which they were administering as compliments.

Rumbles of Discontent
Under the Medical Facilities Bill, HR 12, medical student loans could be 50 per cent forgivable if the doctor begins practice in an "area of greatest need" designated by the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, or if he goes into the Armed Services because of an emergency, or into Government service. This feature brought rumbles of discontent from Republicans and Democrats.

Mrs. Green pointed out that the ordinary GI who may have borrowed money under the National Defense Education Act to go to college, with no forgiveness feature, would have to pay back every dime, while the doctor would be required to pay only half.

She also objected to having the law administered by the Public Health Service instead of the Office of Education as her higher education bill would be, because the colleges (assuming both passed Congress) have to deal with two agencies for construction and loan funds, doubling the cost of administering the program.

Show The Inconsistency
She pointed out, as she said to show the inconsistency of those opposing grants to private colleges, that the Commerce Committee bill allowed grant money to private colleges for building teaching hospitals in which would be located private chapels. She said that her committee had taken great care to see that under their bill no public money could be used for a college seminary, or for buildings in which sectarian subjects would be taught.

Her bill included a provision for a constitutionality test by the Supreme Court as well, and it had been approved by the Justice Department lawyers as feasible for an early test.

The Young Turk Republicans on her committee, in a press conference after the Rules vote, pointed to the "cynicism" of the Democrat Administration in suddenly pulling the rug from under Mrs. Green and her committee, and giving the green light instead to the medical facilities bill just when they were on the brink of unanimous approval of a bill which also had Republican Minority Leader Charles Halleck's endorsement. They also charged "a deal" had been made with Smith, promising to withhold action on the college bill if he would vote out the medical facilities bill.

Would Not Vote
Some Republicans indicated they would not vote for the medical facilities bill when it comes to the House for a vote after Easter. Two Republicans said that the doctors, with their powerful lobby, did not need the forgiveness feature of the student loan program. Mrs. Green agreed and said she would also vote against it if it retains the forgiveness feature.

Here again on this issue, the Administration may "have outsmarted itself again by half" as a critic said, by going for a lesser bill when they might have had more by fighting for Mrs. Green's bill, which had strong bipartisan support. Both Republicans and Democrats say they have the votes to pass her bill.

One Republican commented that Mrs. Green didn't deserve the treatment, because of her loyalty and hard work for the Administration and genuine dedication to education. He thought that if any rug-pulling had to be done it should have been done to Rep. Oren Harris of the Commerce Committee, no New Frontiersman.

Recruiting Office Receives Plaque

The Medford Navy recruiting office again has received a plaque for outstanding recruiting performance in obtaining new enlistments for March, 1963.

This is the first time the award has been held by a recruiting station for two consecutive months, according to Navy officials.

The rotating award is sought by 23 Navy recruiting stations throughout Oregon, Idaho and southern Washington. Chiefs Edward Hawkins and Ron Vetkos hope to keep the plaque from rotating. They feel the outstanding help and cooperation given the Navy by Jackson county citizens has made the award possible.


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