

# 'Congressmen Overworked' Defenders Say in Attempt To Lessen Modern Demands

Washington (CQ)—One reason Congress doesn't do more is that it is overworked already.

That at least, is the opinion of many in Congress. According to Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) "a common complaint of Members of Congress is that they don't have time to be legislators."

While most people think of Congressmen primarily as lawmakers, the actual demands of the job put as much—if not more—stress on serving constituents—being "errand boys."

Members are acutely aware of the need to maintain good relations with their constituents. They know that the chances of defeat are high for any member who neglects his mail and turns a deaf ear to the troubles which constitute relations with their constituent-bureaucracy.

**Serious Problems**

Social Security cases, Veterans Administration cases, treatment and discharges in the military services, claims of discrimination in defense contracts, and immigration matters are among the more serious problems which people bring their Congressmen.

So important is voter-relationship to them that members and their equally overworked staffs even perform such time-consuming tasks as helping to find information for students writing school assignments, congratulating new graduates and winners of major scholarship awards in the state or district and taking visiting high school classes on tours of the Capitol.

According to Humphrey, "it is a conservative estimate that every member of Congress spends more than half his time in direct service to constituents." Some estimates

give non-legislative work 80 to 90 per cent of a member's time.

Improved communications and a growing population add daily to this burden of "case work."

Meanwhile, the increasing number of problems which face Congress, ranging from nuclear test ban treaties to eradicating weeds in the District of Columbia, from protecting waterfowl refugees to the federal income tax structure, add to the legislative burden.

An active Member of Congress may frequently spend a 10- to 12-hour day at the office before going home to catch up on reading related to his work.

During the day, he might spend time talking with a lobbyist or two and with visiting constituents, possibly conducting a tour of the Capitol for tourists from his state or district, reading and answering some of the large amount of daily mail—200 to 600 letters a day in some offices; talking to the district or state office on the telephone; and meeting newsmen.

**Meetings Many**

He would probably have a morning committee meeting, and possibly one in the afternoon. He would find time to discuss pending bills and politics with other Members, or to read a newspaper. He might take part in floor debate, and would take time to vote when called to the floor by the bells.

There might be some party or regional meeting of Members during the day which he should attend.

Finally, he might take an hour or two to work on a speech or a newsletter to constituents, or to develop some pet project.

In addition to this personal

activity, he would oversee the work of his office staff—in the House 8 to 10 workers; in the Senate, 15 to 30 or more. By far the majority of his staff would be concerned with constituent mail and case work.

If, moreover, he were chairman of a committee or subcommittee or held some leadership office (in the whip organization, for instance) he would have additional duties and demands on his time.

**Manage Time**

Most proposals to ease the burden on Congressmen fall into three categories: delegating many chores and duties to administrative agencies; improving schedules to provide a more efficient use of time; and improving office and staff aids.

Perhaps the most far-reaching proposal to delegate chores has been made by Rep. Henry S. Reuss (D-Wis.) who believes that Congress could adopt a practice followed in several Scandinavian countries. There, a special administrator, called an "ombudsman," is appointed by the legislature to handle constituent complaints concerning the operations of the executive branch and to conduct investigations of wrongdoing by officials.

According to Reuss, Congress should set up a special officer to handle much of the case work now done by Congressmen. However, constituents would still have to approach this officer through their Congressman.

Many observers say that other chores which Congress could give up are: governing the District of Columbia, handling applications to the service academies, settling small claims against the government and handling im-

migration and naturalization for floor action and committee business, docking the pay of absent Congressmen, and installing an electronic voting system in the House.

Suggestions to improve office and staff aids have included: increasing staff allowances where needed; purchasing modern reproducing, addressing and mailing equipment; and expanding available office space. (However, the high cost of the most recent office building—the Rayburn House Office Building, estimated to cost between \$80 million and \$100 million—

makes construction of yet another building doubtful at present.)

If any reform takes place it is unlikely that Congress will give to administrative offices very much of its case-work burden, or indeed any other prerequisites which give

it a claim on the voters—such as immigration bills, small claims bills, public works bills, and appointment of postmasters and candidates to the service academies.

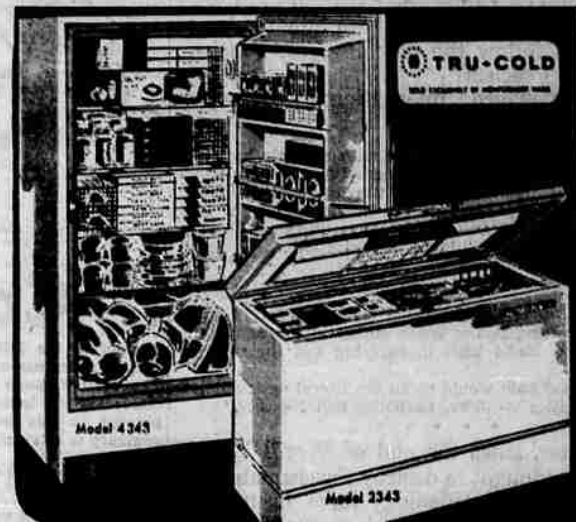
Of the "nonessential" functions performed by Congress, only governing the District of

Columbia has little to do with helping the constituents. But even if Congress were willing to give up this job by giving the District home rule, it would make little overall difference in the workload. (Copyright 1963, Congressional Quarterly Inc.)

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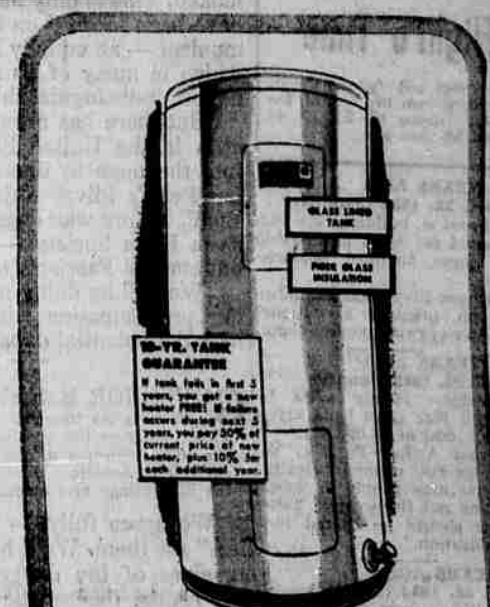
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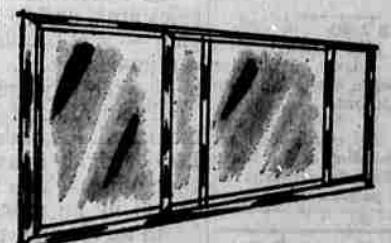
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**SHRINE OFFICIALS**—A delegation of more than 100 Shriners was at the Medford Municipal airport this week when Imperial Potentate George M. Klepper, second from right head of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine for North America, and Mrs. Klepper, arrived in the valley for an official visit. Heading the local

## Michael Whinihan To Give Mathematics Paper

**CHECK**

New York — UFB — Pulpwood required to produce the paper for the 15 billion checks written by the Americans in 1962 would make a stack four feet wide, eight long and 25 miles high — 32,760 standard cords of woods, according to American Forest Products industries.

The world's largest bicycle was a 10-eater, made in Waltham, Mass., in 1888.

delegation was Hillah Temple's Illustrious Potentate Sen. Lynn Newbry, (right), General chairman for the entertainment during the visit was Raymond R. Reter, member of the board of governors of the Portland Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children. The Kleppers are from Memphis, Tenn.

Michael J. Whinihan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Whinihan, 109 Westerlund dr., Medford High school student who was recently awarded a scholarship by Harvard university, has been invited to present a paper on mathematics at the annual meeting of the Pacific Northwest section of the Mathematical Association of America.

The meeting will be held on the campus of Western Washington State college, Bellingham, Wash., on June 21.

The invitation was extended Whinihan by Harvey M. Gelder, associate professor of the department of mathematics at Western Washington State college. It is an outgrowth of his attendance at the summer institute in science and mathematics at Oregon State University last year.

While attending that summer session, Whinihan wrote the paper entitled "Fibonacci Nim." This is the paper he will give in June.

**Invitation Cited**

The membership of the Mathematical Association of America has been instrumental in the creation of new programs in mathematics at all levels. Dr. Gelder explained in presenting the invitation to the Medford youth, "and would look upon the inclusion of your presentation as a new high in program selection."

Whinihan has been invited to remain in Bellingham for the full meeting of the Mathematical Association of America, which will follow the Pacific Northwest section.

His paper has been described as "A generalization of nim which I believe is entirely new."

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