

Herald and News

# Editorial Page

## Too Many Messages

President Kennedy has sent more than 20 major messages and letters to the Capitol so far this year—one for every five days that Congress has been in session.

It is a tremendous work load. Each message has contained from one to more than 30 legislative recommendations. The total, according to government sources, is close to 400.

Now going into the eighth month of its current session, Congress has passed and the President has signed into law nearly 100 bills. But not one of the approved measures has anything to do with a presidential recommendation.

A Senate Republican Policy Committee staff report finds that the whole program is stalled because the President has made more than 200 requests for money to finance new or enlarged programs and 70 requests for more power.

As a fundamental reason for the lack of action on Capitol Hill that explanation may be an oversimplification. Most of the President's recommendations admittedly are controversial.

From a Democratic administration point of view, the President's program recognizes that the United States and the whole world are changing. New solutions are said to be needed to meet new problems.

Congress and the country have not adjusted to this need for change. So the whole program is slowed down.

Whatever the cause may be, some of the pessimists now are saying that not more than half a dozen of the President's major recommendations will be acted on by Congress this year.

It is further predicted that all of the original requests considered will be changed materially—some almost beyond recognition.

This list includes tax cuts, a limited civil rights program, some additional aid for depressed areas and manpower retraining, new powers over the stock markets for Securities and Exchange Commission, a resolution to deal with the railroad labor crisis if management and the brotherhoods do not settle it

themselves and, finally, ratification of the nuclear test ban.

Given much lower prospects for passage this year are several consumer protection measures, aid for mass transit in metropolitan areas, further changes in labor standards and unemployment insurance legislation, aids to grade and college education, new wheat, cotton and dairy programs—all of which were recommended to Congress by the President last year.

The score on the President's major special messages to Congress, for this session therefore stands about like this:

Tax reduction—House Ways and Means Committee just completing first draft of bill still to be acted on by Congress.

Health—Hospitalization for the aged under Social Security in Senate committee; House hearings may begin soon. Aid for mental retardation passed by Senate, in House committee.

Development of recreation facilities—Still in Senate and House committees. Wilderness bill passed by Senate but still before House committee.

Youth programs—Youth Conservation Corps passed by Senate, reported out by House committee. National Service Corps reported out by Senate committee but still in House committee.

No action at all has been taken on the President's recommendations on tax benefits for political contributions, revision of national origins quota system and other immigration laws, measures for reducing U.S. balance of payments deficit.

Investigations—all under Democratic chairmen—drag on endlessly, probing Department of Defense contracts on the TFX fighter, the space program, civil rights, foreign agents lobbying, foreign aid, economic policy and fiscal policies.

It's small wonder congressmen don't have time to legislate. They're working like dogs, chasing their tails.

The only thing that can remedy all this is reorganization of Congress itself—which all but a few of the lawmakers refuse even to consider.



## IN WASHINGTON... The Irony Of Overkill

By RALPH DE TOLEDANO  
If a group of so-called humanitarians has its way, the Pentagon will be forced to gear its military strategy to outright extinction of the enemy. This is what the agitation by a Columbia University professor and his associates can lead to. At the same time, America's defenses would be drastically reduced, leaving us the prey of any major nuclear power seeking to destroy us.

U.S. must stop producing new nuclear weapons. His thesis is that we have more than enough. But if you talk to Gen. Maxwell Taylor, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, or to any one of half a dozen Pentagon strategists, you realize that Dr. Melman is proposing a program of horror which would make Hitler's schrecklichkeit seem like a Sunday school picnic.

His explanation makes very good sense. "Overkill," he points out, "is a meaningless term when applied to nuclear warfare. Before we can talk about a surplus of bombs or missiles, we've got to remember that every weapon we've got is becoming obsolete at a tremendous rate. So it is important to keep the pipelines from production line to military unit always filled. Much of our defense potential is being constantly changed and improved—which means that it is not in condition to be mobilized in case of attack."



## STRICTLY PERSONAL

By SYDNEY J. HARRIS  
Purely Personal Prejudices: Show me a man who mistrusts others, and I would not trust him with a shoelace of my own; my opinion of mankind is the refracted opinion we secretly hold of ourselves.

People who believe that "enthusiasm" is the principal ingredient of success forget that the school cheerleader is generally the fellow who can do nothing else.

With a limited number of nuclear bombs, determined by a mathematical reckoning of their lethal power and the number of areas we must hit, then the Pentagon must think in terms of blasting cities and suburban areas in order to kill as many as possible in as quick a time as our ingenuity can devise.



## WILLIAM S. WHITE... Labor Pressure Fails

WASHINGTON—Labor-management relations in this country have been fundamentally and forever altered by Congressional passage of the most significant law in this field since the Wagner Act of the '30s turned labor from a place of too little to a place of too much power over our national economic life.

threat of a nationally destructive strike in the airlines, in the defense plants, or even in the millions of trucks whose drivers are under the command of the malodorous national Teamsters Union of Jimmy Hoffa.

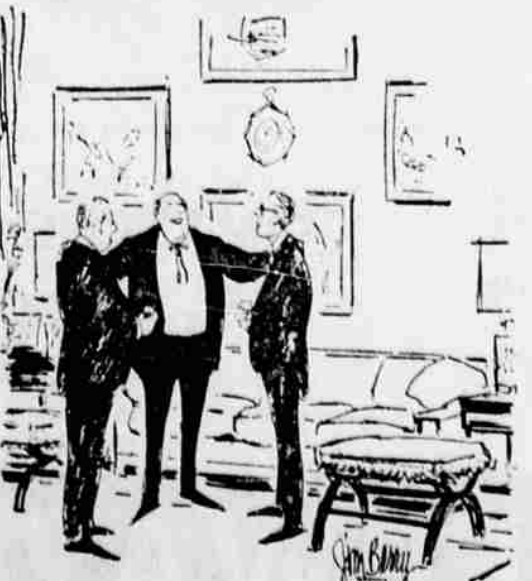
Only those who have watched Congress closely for many years in its approach to labor can imagine how very far the wheel has turned. Politicians long docile toward labor's smallest request are docile no longer. It is not that they have "turned on" labor. It is that labor has turned on them and on itself by increasingly open disregard for a far larger—if far less articulate—lobby than all others combined. This is the lobby of the public.

Congress, reluctantly and with many a nostalgic glance at the past, has actually set a new standard which, stripped of all the whereases and yes-buts, says this: The point has been reached where the interest of the public is openly proclaimed to be what it has always actually been—the dominant interest which must in the end override all others, including those of both labor and capital.

But wistful Congressional declarations that this is to be seen as only a one-shot statute, having no special application for the future, cannot change the deep-root fact that a fork in the road has been turned. For Congress has done more than to force by federal law, for the first time in peacetime in our history, a settlement of an industrial contest between two private giants, the railroad industry and big labor.

Pressure groups are perfectly right and proper and even necessary parts of our political process. But the final lesson to be read here is that any and every pressure group—even those full of the most decent original purposes—can at last go too far. And, going too far, they can find slammed tightly shut a door that once gave inward at their slightest touch.

## BERRY'S WORLD



"The fellows in the Senate have asked me to get the House's thinking on this congressional pay increase thing!"

## Almanac

By United Press International  
Today is Thursday, Sept. 5, the 248th day of 1963 with 117 to follow.

It is difficult for some personalities to understand (until too late) that doing nothing is a form of doing something—and often its most disastrous form. The refusal to make a decision is a grave decision.

General Taylor and the Pentagon legislative liaison team are scurrying about on Capitol Hill attempting to explain this concept to House and Senate. Normally, most legislators would listen and agree.



## WASHINGTON CALLING... Lo, The Vanishing Local Postmaster

By MARQUIS CHILDS  
WASHINGTON—In the difficult search for a Postmaster General the White House might do well to try a want ad: WANTED chief executive for largest business in the world with 377,000 employees; salary \$25,000; must be able to get along with all sorts of characters telling you how to run the business; annual deficit no cause for worry.

were involved. But the second-class mailing privilege has long been one of the principal reasons for the deficit. In a detailed reply to Life, Rep. Morris K. Udall of Arizona charged that in the current year it would cost \$310,000,000 to carry the second-class mail while the Post Office Department would get back in revenue only \$95,000,000—by the Udall calculation a subsidy of \$215,000,000.

Like many another hoary institution the Post Office Department is caught in the switches of lightning change. The postal service was based on the railroads and that base has been largely eroded away.

Third-class or junk mail is another reason for the deficit, which was \$400,000,000 last fiscal year and would have been twice that much if the cost of postage had not been increased in January. Yet the flood of junk mail adds less to the deficit than second-class.

For the first time in the fiscal year recently ended the number of postal employees was not increased over the previous year. This is attributed to some of the changes Day introduced in his effort to move out of the handicraft era into the age of automation.

Someday the machines will read handwriting and then ZIP numbers may do away with place names. It is a melancholy prospect whatever the contribution to efficiency may be. Stephen Vincent Benet wrote a poem about American names—Lost Mule Flat, Medicine Hat, Deadwood, Painted Post, Wounded Knee, Lundy's Lane, Santa Cruz. If those names give way to ZIP numbers we shall be infinitely poorer and nearer that day—in 1984 perhaps—when each individual is a number sited on a vast concrete thoroughway with the landscape all a dreary sameness.



## WASHINGTON REPORT... McCormack Blunder Assists Republicans

By FULTON LEWIS JR.  
A tactical miscue by Speaker of the House John McCormack helped Republicans to slash more than a half a billion dollars from the Administration foreign aid authorization bill last week.

GOP unity was surprising. Of 172 Republicans who cast their ballots, only 16 voted not to wield the ax.

McCormack, after conferences with floor leaders Carl Albert and Hale Boggs, felt he had sufficient votes for passage. He rejected suggestions that the vote be postponed for several days.

Had GOP Whip Leslie Arends been able to find one more vote, nations trading with Castro Cuba could be forced off this country's foreign aid gravy train.

The President personally asked Walter Judd, ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, for help. Judd, the GOP's principal expert on foreign matters, agreed. He made impassioned speeches for the President's program and helped the Chief Executive with the UN bond vote and other legislation.

A similar law is now on the books, largely ignored by the President. That statute calls for an end of foreign aid to all nations supplying Castro with strategic materials including petroleum.