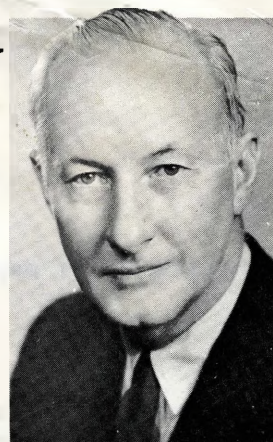
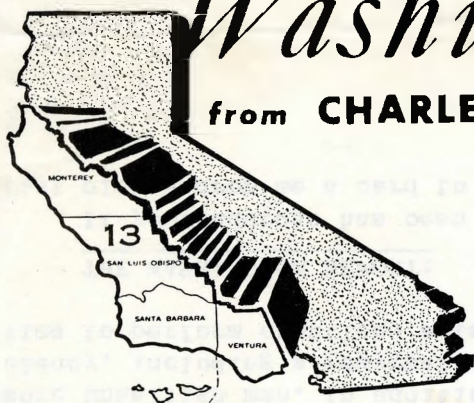


Washington Report

from CHARLES M. TEAGUE

your congressman



(NOT PRINTED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE)



January 30, 1960

Dear Friends:

POLITICS! This subject will overlie actions of this, the 2nd session of the 86th Congress, to a greater extent than it has in any of the other five years I have served as your Representative. The reasons: (1) This is a presidential election year in which the Democrats feel they have a chance to regain the White House. They had no such real hope in 1956. (2) At least ten members of the Senate and House have presidential or vice-presidential aspirations.

I am not saying this is bad. It isn't. It is part of our American system which is still the best in the world. I do suggest, however, that you take with a few grains of salt the charges and counter-charges which will emanate from Washington during the next several months. Fortunately, in most cases, the American people have a marvelous faculty of instinctively making decisions at the polls which are in the long-time best interests of our country.

Here is a brief summary of latest developments on some of the issues of the day:

HOW IS THE NEW FEDERAL LABOR LEGISLATION (Landrum-Griffin Bill) WORKING?

It has not yet thoroughly been tested for such bugs as it may contain. However, it has recently been reported that the operation of the Act has restored all twelve thousand members of Akron's Operating Engineers Local 18 to a status of first class citizens in their union. All of the members can now vote in union elections, and all can run for union office. Before the Landrum-Griffin Law the union was split into "A" "B" "C" members. Only "A" members could vote or run for office. They comprised only about half of the total union membership. The new law bars such discrimination.

WHAT ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET?

The President pointed out the possibilities of a \$4.2 billion surplus for fiscal 1961. (July 1, 1960 to June 30, 1961) If such a result is accomplished, inflationary pressures would be eased, of course, and two things would be possible: (1) A reduction in the National Debt. (2) A tax cut which would stimulate our economy. The President's budget philosophy makes common sense. It simply says that when you have a lot of bills they should be paid before you start on a new spending spree. From a realistic standpoint, however, it should be pointed out that the general opinion here in Washington is that the Congress will not pass the postal rate and gasoline tax increases which the President has recommended. Nevertheless, if the bulk of his other recommendations are followed, we still should come up with a surplus close to \$4 billion. It will be difficult in an election year, however, to prevent the passage of numerous spending proposals which have been offered. These words of the President are worth re-reading and I hope heeded by the Congress: "We must fight inflation as we would a fire that imperils our home. Only by so doing can we prevent it from destroying our salaries, savings, pensions, and insurance, and from gnawing away the very roots of a free healthy economy and the Nations' security."

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION?

The President has recommended, and the Republican Policy Committee, of which I am a Member, has approved a bill which will guarantee voting rights for all citizens of this country regardless of race, creed or color. The Democratic-controlled Judiciary Committee has approved the Bill, but it has been stymied for several months in the House Rules Committee. There are 8 Democrats on this Committee, and 4 Republicans. The Democrat members of the House differ radically among themselves on the subject of Civil Rights legislation. Here is where the "politics" I referred to in the opening paragraph come into play. The Democrats are in control of the House of Representatives by almost a 2-1 majority. There are many more northern Democrats than there are southern Democrats. Nevertheless, it is being maintained that somehow the Republican members of the House are responsible for the fact that the Civil Rights legislation has not reached the Floor of the House for a vote. There are several procedural methods whereby the Democratic leadership could get action on this legislation if the leaders so wished. The bill which would be considered is reasonable and would be passed overwhelmingly. Certainly, it is the responsibility of the Democratic majority to get action. We Republicans get blamed for a lot of things, and sometimes with some justification. This time we plead innocent.

WHAT ARE CHANCES FOR SOME SENSIBLE FARM LEGISLATION?

Not very good. In spite of pleas by the President and Secretary of Agriculture Benson a majority of the members of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees refuses to bring out legislation getting away from unrealistic price supports which continue to build up huge surpluses costing the tax-payers a billion dollars a year in storage and handling alone. But the time is coming when public patience will run out. The vast cost of the present farm program is borne in large part by city dwellers.

WHAT ABOUT INTEREST ON GOVERNMENT BORROWINGS?

Chances are brightening that Congress will assume its responsibility and lift the ceiling rates on long-term government bonds. The present limitation makes it virtually impossible for the government to do long-term financing. As a result, short-term borrowings are at a much higher interest rate than the same loans would carry if they could be made for a longer period.

HOW DO WE STAND IN THE SCIENCE RACE - AS IT IS RELATED TO MILITARY PREPAREDNESS?

Several members of the Joint Atomic Committee visited Russia recently. One of the visitors was Congressman Craig Hosmer of Long Beach. He reports the following summary to be the unanimous opinion of both Republican and Democratic members of the Committee who made the trip: (1) What Russian scientists do, they do well. Their competent men in a particular field are as competent as any in the United States. (2) The Russian scientists are not competent in as many fields as ours are. (3) The USSR has fewer competent scientists than the United States of America. (4) The Russians are very adept at gearing their scientific efforts to cold war propaganda purposes. Example: The Sputnik and moon shots. (5) We produce nuclear war heads that weigh considerably less than those produced by the USSR, and which, therefore, can be propelled by less powerful engines. (6) Russian scientists were directed to undertake the job of producing an extremely powerful rocket engine, rather than the more difficult scientific job of producing a lighter nuclear war head. They have accomplished their assignment with considerable success.

Conclusion to be drawn: Russia is ahead in some fields. We are ahead in others. We must maintain a balanced defense position. It seems to me that President Eisenhower and the Joint Chiefs of Staff are in a better position to establish and maintain that balance than are some of their critics. In this connection, the President has recommended that (1) our armed forces be kept at present strength, (2) \$3.8 billion be spent for missile procurement, some \$580 million more than last year, (3) a step-up in nuclear-powered submarines, (4) an expansion of Atlas and Titan squadrons, and (5) more long-range bombers. The objective, of course, is to provide a balanced military strength sufficient to deter potential enemies, while we strive to find a way to reduce the threat of war.

MISCELLANEOUS:

WILL HOFFA BE ABLE TO PURGE THE CONGRESSMEN HE DOESN'T LIKE?

The men falling in this category consider Mr. Hoffa's opposition to be an asset rather than a liability. They have formed a group called "COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT HOFFA-THREATENED CONGRESSMEN."

DISTRICT OFFICE:

As you may recall, our district Congressional office is now located in the Santa Barbara Post Office Building. It would be an unnecessary burden on the taxpayer if I were to keep the office open full time while I am in Washington. And yet I did not feel that it should be closed completely. Therefore, we will be open for business on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings, with a staff member in attendance.

However, most problems in which I am asked to assist must be handled here in Washington. Mail should be addressed to me as follows:

Congressman Charles M. Teague
1427 New House Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

LARRY SLATER:

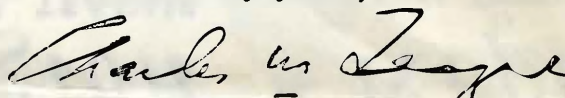
When I first came to Washington, scores of people applied for the position as my administrative and legislative assistant. I chose Lawrence B. Slater for the job. With each passing day I was more thankful that I had done so. Larry was a former school superintendent, official in Lions International, and had had many years of experience here on Capitol Hill.

I regret to inform his many friends in California that Larry died on January 24. Early in December he suffered a severe stroke from which he never recovered. I have never known a finer or more unselfish man. In addition to performing his duties with an extremely high degree of efficiency, including a remarkable ability to cut through red tape here in Washington, he also found time to perform countless acts of kindness.

THE WASHINGTON REPORT:

If your address has been changed or if you have friends who wish to be added to my mailing list please drop me a card to that effect.

Sincerely yours,


CHARLES M. TEAGUE, M.C.