

UNITED STATES



OF AMERICA

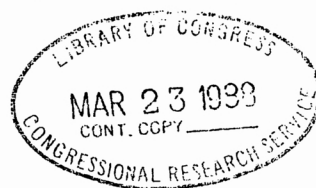
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different status, so that they are treated as one and the same.●

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO PUERTO RICO NEEDS EQUAL TREATMENT

HON. BALTASAR CORRADA

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 1983

● Mr. CORRADA. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced legislation to provide that Federal Assistance to Puerto Rico under the programs known as aid to families with dependent children, child welfare, social services, and the special benefits for age 72 for certain uninsured individuals shall be furnished on the same basis, under the same formula, and without specific dollar ceiling as in the case of other States.

Mr. Speaker, this is another example of social welfare programs aimed to help our needy children and their families throughout the Nation where eligible children and families residing in Puerto Rico are treated in a discriminatory manner.

Puerto Rico receives a total amount of \$72 million under a cap to the AFDC programs. This amount bears no proportion to the needs of our actual and potential recipients of benefits under this program.

To seek and achieve equal treatment under AFDC programs is nothing but just and fair.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all my colleagues to support this bill. By doing so we will be honoring our commitment to promote the well-being of all American citizens throughout the Nation.●

THE REPRESENTATIVE CONGRESS

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 1983

● Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, January 19, 1983 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

THE REPRESENTATIVE CONGRESS

For the past year, I have been keeping a secret list. It enumerates the complaints that people have made to me against the United States Congress.

The list includes the following entries: Congress is not efficient; Congress is not solving the problems of the nation; Congress is immobilized by delay and obstruction; Congress cannot do anything but pass a budget and increase taxes; Congress is too busy; Congress gets bogged down in details; Congress is too responsive to special interest groups; Congress has the best politicians that money can buy; Congress treats its

members too generously, with paid junkets and political perks; Congress is a center of scandal, whether of money, sex, illegal drugs, or alcohol; Congress does not pay enough attention to the average man and woman.

From this distressingly long but still incomplete list (to which you may want to add a complaint of your own), it is clear that knocking Congress is one of America's favorite indoor sports. I would not argue for a moment that there is no truth to these complaints. There is something to each of them, and without doubt Congress needs to improve its performance and its image in every instance. It could—and can—do better.

Nonetheless, I have come to believe that one of the distinctive and permanent features of Congress is its widespread unpopularity. The unpopularity comes about in part, I think, because of the nature of the legislative process. The process is slow, complex, cumbersome, and often unproductive. Congress is also unpopular because the substance of its work is highly controversial. The range of policies and the volume of problems Congress deals with create endless opportunities for dissatisfaction. With respect to most issues, either action or inaction draws fire. I suppose that an institution to which people ascribe the responsibility for resolving all the ills of the nation is bound to fall short of expectations. Disfavor may be its lot in life. It is also true that most members of Congress do not defend the institution; in fact, many seem to enjoy its unpopularity. They campaign against it, and they go to great pains to separate themselves from it. Americans will probably not acclaim an institution which their own representatives disclaim.

If a most vital characteristic of Congress—its representativeness—is kept in mind, then the failings of Congress can be better understood. To my way of thinking, it is the representative nature of Congress that lies at the root of many of the most scathing criticisms. Yet if the people want a truly representative legislature—one which faithfully reflects the variety of America as it confronts the nation's most difficult problems—then the legislature will inevitably be sluggish, untidy, overburdened, and somewhat chaotic. It appears to me that an institution which is both efficient and representative is a contradiction in terms.

Our constitutional forefathers did not expect Congress to be efficient. They wanted it to represent the people and to be responsive to the people. My view of Congress, often expressed and frequently challenged, is that it is more responsive to the people and more representative of the people than most Americans think. A body of 535 men and women elected by 230 million Americans from extremely diverse states and districts is just not going to function like clockwork. Complete integrity will not be its hallmark. It will never live up to exalted standards of performance.

Critics often overlook the fact that Congress is an intensely political organization. No longer are members of Congress insulated from their constituencies as they were in the early days of the nation; on the contrary, today they are within a few hours of their constituents no matter where they live, and in any case they are only a telephone call away. Most of them are quite readily accessible to the folks back home. Moreover, members' records are widely publicized, and their statements are quickly analyzed. While it is true that Congress may

not respond to all people as well as it should, it does respond to those people (and they are many) who know how to use the political process to their advantage and who understand how to press their views upon members. If Congress does not always discern the public good and if it is not always totally fair to all groups, that may be because not every group has been equally effective in pressing its interests on Congress. In most cases, however, Congress has been responsive and has acted as a representative of the people, at least for those who have made their claims.

There is another way to appreciate the political character of Congress. I would suggest that Congress follows quite closely the clear and dominant moods of the country. In recent years, Congress has shown sensitivity to the moods against big government, against high taxes, and against too little defense by supporting deregulation, tax cuts, and additional defense spending. Today, for example, Congress is not passing much new legislation because it senses that the people really do not want it. Far from being unresponsive, members of Congress are astute politicians, acutely aware of the views of their constituents and well prepared to serve them.

The responsiveness of Congress, of course, can be overstated. Given the number of interests in the country, Congress cannot and does not answer all of them. But overall, members of Congress strive to represent their constituents' interests as they understand those interests; the extent to which those interests are understood depends on how effectively they have been communicated to members of Congress. The most difficult cases arise when interests conflict. In such cases, there is usually ambiguity or delay as the act of legislative balancing runs its course.

In sum, Congress is a political body which mirrors the views of the American people. Its main feature is neither its courage, its skill, nor its efficiency, but its representativeness.●

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY A NATIONAL HOLIDAY

HON. PETER W. RODINO, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 1983

● Mr. RODINO. Mr. Speaker, I am once again joining as a sponsor of legislation to designate Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday a national holiday. I have been committed to this cause for over a decade because I believe our country should set aside a day to honor the American who laid the foundation for the civil rights movement and who generated the drive for human rights around the world. At the same time, this national holiday would be a time for all Americans to reexamine our commitment to fight bigotry, hatred, oppression, and injustice.

It has been nearly 15 years since Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated

in Memphis. Yet we still do not have a national holiday to honor this man who aroused the conscience of this Nation to live up to its great humanitarian ideals. We still do not have a day devoted to reflection and recommitment to these ideals.

I believe it takes a rare person or an extraordinary event to justify a national holiday. Martin Luther King, Jr. was much more than a rare person. He was unique in American history—as a man, as a leader, and as an advocate for freedom. The events closely associated with his leadership of the civil rights movement were more than extraordinary. They had, and will continue to have, an extraordinary impact on American society.

The Nation and the world feel the deep loss of the presence, the voice, and the wisdom of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

For, no voice would be more welcome now, when the forces of reaction are trying to push back the clock of civil rights. No voice would be more helpful today, when Federal budget managers are ignoring the issues of unemployment, poverty, hunger in our society, and decay in our cities. No voice is more needed now, when the senseless escalation of the nuclear arms race has moved our Nation and our world closer to the brink of annihilation.

His firm, resolute, confident voice of freedom, of justice, of love, of nonviolent action, and peace is sorely missed now.

A national holiday dedicated to Dr. King's ideals would give us an opportunity to nurture his dream.

I will continue to work for the Dr. King holiday bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

Dr. King sacrificed his life for his dream of a fully just America. Surely we can dedicate 1 day to sustain the life of that dream.●

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

HON. ROBERT H. MICHEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 1983

● Mr. MICHEL. Mr. Speaker, those of us in Congress are so close to the legislative process that we sometimes forget that the way in which a bill becomes law is not clearly understood by many of our fellow Americans. I receive inquiries from time to time about this question. I have prepared a brief summary of the process in the hope it may be useful to anyone who is interested in the machinery of government.

HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW

Ours is a government of the people, by the people, for the people. It is not a pure democracy. It is a republic in a democracy. It is a representative democracy.

Our laws are the embodiment of the wishes and wants, the ideas and ideals of the American people as expressed through their representatives in the Congress: 435 in the House of Representatives and 100 in the Senate. Any Member of the House or Senate may introduce a bill embodying a proposed law or revision of existing laws, at any time when his respective House is in session. When introduced, the bill will be entered in the Journal of the House, and the title and sponsors of it printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of that day.

EACH BILL NUMBERED

Each bill introduced is assigned a number by the clerk of each House and referred to the committee having jurisdiction over the subject matter by the presiding officer, that is, the Speaker of the House or the President of the Senate. Copies of the bill are printed by the Government Printing Office and made publicly available from the congressional document rooms.

Acting through its chairman, the committee decides whether a bill should be taken up by the full committee or referred to a subcommittee for its initial consideration.

THE DELIBERATIVE STAGE

The committee's deliberations are the most important stage of the legislative process. It is here that detailed study of the proposed legislation is made and where people are given the right to present their views in public hearings. When the chairman has set a date for public hearings it is generally announced by publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Copies of the bill under consideration by the committee are customarily sent to the executive departments or agencies concerned with the subject matter for their official views to be presented in writing or by oral testimony before the committee. The number of witnesses, pro and con, heard by the committee is largely dictated by the importance of the proposed legislation and degree of public interest in it.

TESTIMONY HEARD

The transcript of the testimony taken is available for inspection in the individual committee offices. Quite frequently, dependent on the importance of the subject matter, the committee hearings on a bill are printed and copies made available to the public.

After conclusion of the hearings the committee proceeds to meet in executive sessions—sometimes referred to as "markup" sessions—to discuss the bill in detail and to consider such amendments as any member of the committee may wish to offer. Each committee has its own rules of procedure but they generally conform to the rules of the House itself.

THE COMMITTEE VOTE

By a formal vote of the committee, it decides whether to report favorably to the House the bill with or without committee amendments. A committee report must accompany the bill, setting forth the nature of the bill and reasons for the committee's recommended approval. The report sets forth specifically the committee amendments and, in compliance with the rules of each House, indicates all changes the bill would make in existing law. Any committee member, individually or jointly, may file additional supplemental or minority views to accompany the majority committee report. The committee report, accompanying the bill, is viewed by the courts and the administrative agencies as the most important document as to the intent of the Congress in the proposed legislation.

AFTER REPORTING

When a bill is reported by the committee it is placed on the appropriate calendar. The majority leadership decides how and when the bill will be considered on the floor. In general the bill is allowed to remain on the calendar for several days to enable members to become acquainted with its provisions.

In both the House and the Senate innumerable measure of relatively minor importance are disposed of by unanimous consent. In the Senate, where debate is unlimited, major bills are brought up on motion of the majority leader and in the House are called up under a privileged resolution reported from the Rules Committee which fixes the limits of debate and whether amendments may be offered from the floor. The Rules Committee resolution is called a rule for consideration of a bill; a closed rule if no amendments are allowed, as is generally the case in tax bills, and an open rule if amendments can be offered.

REACHING CONSENSUS

While there are distant differences between the House and Senate procedures, in general a bill is debated at length with the proponents and opponents presenting their views to acquaint the membership, as well as the general public, with the issues involved, and all with a view to arriving at the consensus. Amendments are frequently offered to make the measure more in conformity with the judgment of the majority. In the course of consideration of the bill there are various parliamentary motions, in both the House and the Senate, which may be offered to determine the sentiment of the members with respect to the pending legislation. The measure may be postponed to some future date or referred back to the committee which reported it.

With the conclusion of general debate and the reading of the bill for

hard economic times. But we also know that this is an age in which the luxury of time to prepare no longer exists, for this is truly the age of the quick or the dead.

A few yards from here is the Alamo. Santa Ana won that battle because he enjoyed overwhelming numbers. But not many weeks after the Alamo, Santa Ana suffered total defeat, in an afternoon battle at San Jacinto. I don't think a single soldier of his army escaped death or capture that day. The disaster that hit Santa Ana was the result of surprise; it seems that the Generalissimo had taken time for his daily siesta, and a dalliance with a certain young lady. You might say that he suffered defeat, and Texas gained independence, because Santa Ana was overconfident, thoughtless, and careless. That was in 1836. Today, nearly 150 years later, the weapons of war have changed—but one thing that remains the same is that today, it's still an invitation to disaster to be caught with your military pants down. We, in San Antonio, understand that—and so do you, and so must the rest of the country.

Again, as we say here, bienvenidos, y buenas dias.●

IRV KUPCINET CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS POPULAR CHICAGO NEWSPAPER COLUMN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ANNUNZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

● Mr. ANNUNZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues the 40th anniversary of "Kup's Column," authored by my good friend, Irv Kupcinet, of the Chicago Sun-Times and nationally known syndicated talk show host. During the past four decades, he has written some 12,000 columns.

As stated in the January 17, 1983, edition of the Sun-Times:

Kup is a Chicago legend. The man and his prominence as author, syndicated columnist, radio commentator, television personality, National Football League official and tireless charity worker have spawned profiles in national magazines and spread his fame around the world. But his heart is here, and he never made any bones about Chicago being his own. His 1960 book, which the cover touts as an "affectionate portrait" of the city, was titled "Kup's Chicago."

Irv Kupcinet's newspaper career began in 1935 when he joined the Chicago Times, predecessor of the Sun-Times, as a sportswriter. He earned his B.A. in journalism from the University of North Dakota, where he also played football. A member of the 1935 all-star squad, Kupcinet played pro ball with the Philadelphia Eagles, and later officiated in the National Football League for 10 years.

Kup has continually and tirelessly devoted endless hours to many charitable causes, helping to make our city a great place to live, and for 38 years, he has led the Purple Heart Cruise, an annual all-day event in Chicago to honor hospitalized veterans and GI's

in training at Chicago area military bases.

I congratulate him on the 40th anniversary of his column, and I extend my best wishes to Irv Kupcinet for abundant good health and continuing success in his career and his charitable endeavors during the years ahead.●

MARTIN LUTHER KING NATIONAL HOLIDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

● Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the measure by Mr. CONYERS to designate January 15 as a national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Dr. King stood for peace, which for him was not a state brought about by passiveness, but something bound up in the achievement of justice. His dedication to political equality has caused many Americans to ask that we designate one day a year to remember the man and what he stood for.

If ever there were times in which we needed a day to reflect on the need for peace and justice, these are the times. If we are to honor someone who dedicated his life to these goals, Dr. King is that man. His moral and political leadership enlightened many of us during his lifetime. His legacy of deeds and words inspires us today.

On the arms race, Dr. King was adamant when he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. He said:

I refuse to accept the cynical notion that nation after nation must spiral down a militaristic stairway into the hell of nuclear destruction.

How far have the nations of the world swirled down that stairway since Dr. King spoke those words? We should all be so adamant.

On another issue that continues to haunt us, the easy access of even the least stable among us to firearms, Dr. King had this to say:

By our readiness to allow firearms to be purchased at will and fired at whim, we have created an atmosphere in which violence and hatred have become popular pastimes.

Those all too popular pastimes ended Dr. King's life. He suggested his own eulogy in a sermon on February 4, 1968, just 2 months before his death:

Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice; say that I was a drum major for peace; I was a drum major for righteousness; and all the other shallow things will not matter . . .

Dr. King was indeed a drum major for peace and justice. We should not allow shallow arguments against making his birthday a national holiday prevail.

To those who argue that making January 15 a national holiday will somehow hurt national productivity, I

say: Look to Pennsylvania. It has designated January 15 as a State holiday, and continues to function well. I hope that this Congress will follow Pennsylvania's example.

At this point, I would like to share with my colleagues a 1981 Pittsburgh City Council resolution which calls on the Congress to do just that:

RESOLUTION No. 34

Whereas, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. dedicated his life and endeavors to the achievement of a just and healthy society and the enhancement of respect and trust in our institutions and the insurance that all citizens are treated equally before the law; and

Whereas, his outstanding contributions included the Nobel Peace Prize and other forms of international recognition; and

Whereas, January 15 is the birthdate of this great American and is celebrated throughout the United States of America; and

Whereas, celebrations are held in schools, churches and community centers; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has designated January 15 as a State holiday; and

Whereas, the United States Congress has been petitioned to designate January 15 as a National legal holiday;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Mayor and the Members of Council of the City of Pittsburgh on behalf of the residents of the City of Pittsburgh do honor and recognize the birthdate of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and encourage the Congress of the United States to designate January 15 as a National legal holiday.●

COMPUTER CRIME LOOPHOLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NELSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

● Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as we enter the 98th Congress, I would like to address an issue that is becoming more salient to the Federal Government's information system—computer crime.

As the author of the Federal Computer Systems Protection Act, which I intend to reintroduce this session, I have followed with interest the story of a former Federal employee who, after leaving his Government position, used a telephone line to invade the Federal Reserve Board's confidential computer files. Tapped was sensitive data on the Nation's money supply. Although the criminal is now facing charges of wire fraud, I believe the significance of the incident is clear. As Newsweek, January 17, 1983, commented in its coverage of the case, "computer theft, even of confidential Government information is no difficult feat, and Theo Langevin will not be the last to try breaking the data bank."

I suggest to you today that in our increasing reliance on these tremendous machines, without adequate deterrents, the Federal Government is vul-