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VIEWPOINT

THESE BILLS WERE APPROVED

Congress has shown that it can act and act decisively when it comes to serving its own interests, according to an article in the Nebraska Oil Jobber

The following is a list of 12 bills passed in the House of Representatives in the last 24 months.

—Raised Congressional salaries

—Automatic future pay raises based on cost of living index

—Gave Congressman and one staff member round trip to organizational caucus

—Increased annual stationery allowance by $1,250, up 23.8 per cent.

—Increased district office allowance by 42.8 per cent.

—Changed telecommunications compensation in such a way as to boost this allowance

—Increased staff salary allowance by $32,064, up 12.5 per cent

—Increased permissible size of office staff from 16 to 18, up 12.5 per cent.

—Increased special allowance for air mail and special delivery stamps by 25.2 per cent.

—Created a new budget of approximately $5,000 per member to reimburse the printing cost of two newsletters a year

—Passed legislation (awaiting Senate action) to double tax deduction for living expenses in the District of Columbia

The average cost of maintaining each member of Congress has risen in the past two years from $376,505 to $488,505, about 30 per cent. In the past 20 years, the cost of running Congress has increased 560 per cent.

Ask and your claim shall be satisfied?

For all the awareness generated by the consumerism movement, the average American apparently is a strong and silent type who, for whatever reasons, keeps his complaints to himself.

A recent survey of 2,500 households found that consumers have problems of one kind or another with one out of every four of their purchases. Yet most people don't bother to report the problems to anyone

The survey was jointly conducted by Ralph Nader's Center for Study of Responsive Law and Call for Action, a private volunteer organization. The households questioned were asked about their experiences with 34 categories of goods and services. The five categories that were the source of the greatest percentage of dissatisfaction were car repairs, appliance repairs, mail-order items, household repairs and toys, in that order.

Only one-third of the complaints were reported to the businesses involved, and only one per cent were reported to a third party, such as a consumer complaint agency, or were taken to court

The significant finding, however, is that of the complaints made to businesses, more than half were resolved to the satisfaction of the customer

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States thinks it's significant, anyway. It cites this and other studies in arguing that too much emphasis has been placed on efforts to establish a new federal agency with superpowers and a multimillion-dollar budget to represent consumers en masse, whereas the problems are largely individual ones Instead, it calls for

— A people-to-people complaint-handling system to be created by individual companies

— A mediation-arbitration system, such as a plan used in the appliance industry which, says the Chamber, resolves 90 per cent of the cases referred to it

— A revitalized system of small claims courts, conveniently located, inexpensive and ensuring fair and prompt decisions

According to a study made for the Federal Office of Consumer Affairs by State University College at Buffalo, small claims courts are one of the best avenues for customers to get satisfaction when they have a serious complaint against a company

Such a three-point program, says the Chamber, would not only avoid government bureaucracy but would get at the heart of the problem — unresolved consumer complaints

In the meantime, the message to unhappy consumers seems to be Speak up Most companies will listen

AS TIME GOES BY

Moran asks

FORTY YEARS AGO
—1936—

Otoe County Attorney Edwin Moran said he might ask County Judge T. S. Morton for a continuance of the preliminary hearing of Mary Taylor, charged with first degree murder in connection with the death of her husband. . . .Crooner Rudy Vallee cancelled a concert at a New York club following the death of his former wife, acress Fay Webb. . The maritime strike at Pacific Coast ports was denounced by the American Federation of Labor and was threatening Hawaii and Alaska with food shortages. .Mae West, Randolph Scott and Warren William starred in "Go West Young Man" at the Booth

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Former Olympic Swimming Champion Eleanor Holm Rose filed for a legal separation from her pint-sized husband, showman Billy Rose. John Baltensperger was ordained a minister at the First Baptist Church in Nebraska City...The Chamber of Commerce decided to operate the local Western Union office on an agency basis, pending FCC approval .George Wilhelm, well-known Dunbar merchant, died.

TEN YEARS AGO
-1966-

A four generation picture of the family of Mrs Della Mallory, 88, of Hamburg, Iowa, appeared in the News-Press.. General William C Westmoreland, U.S. military commander in Viet Nam, said that still more American troops and equipment are needed to fight the war there...A total of $534 was taken in from the Jaycees Honey Sunday sale....Mrs Clarence Monahan of Palmyra was recognized for her 15 years of leader service by the Otoe County Extension Service...Garry Ailes, winner of the Nebraska City Gold Association annual handicap tournament, received the traveling trophy from Glen Peterson, past president of the Association.

Today In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Nov. 21, the 326th day of 1976. There are 40 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history:

On this date in 1877, Thomas Edison announced that he had invented a talking machine. He called it the phonograph.

In 1894, the Japanese captured the Manchurian city of Port Arthur.

Today's birthdays: Actress Vivian Blaine is 55. Baseball's Stan Musial is 56.

Bicentennial footnote: Two hundred years ago today, the British Revolutionary War Commander, General William Howe, visited Fort Lee, N.J., one day after its capture from the Americans.



"Don't be bashful — we're behind you!"



Ray Cromley

A coming Congress-Carter confrontation

By Ray Cromley

WASHINGTON — (NEA) — Jimmy Carter struck pay dirt by arguing he had no Washington entanglements

But senators and representatives do — and up to their necks And it is on these men President Carter must depend if he is to keep his campaign promises To wit

Government reorganization, tax and welfare reform, programs to get industry moving and meaningful jobs programs other than frauds Ike the Humphrey - Hawkins bill

It will be relatively simple for Mr Carter and his team to prepare model laws and send them to Congress. But as surely as each is submitted, at least 50 senators and 100 congressmen will start working on exceptions favoring constituents or backers, promoting their own ideas of equity and efficiency or providing material for self-serving handouts.

Congressmen react much more strongly, of course, to pressure from home than they do to pressures from the White House For it is clear to every man in the Congress that it is his district or state which elects him, and assures his returning for another term or going down to defeat Few presidents have been much help in this regard So far as I can determine, there are very few of next year's Congress who feel indebted to Mr Carter for their seats

For 30 years in this town I have watched presidents come and presidents go In each man's time there was feuding with Congress For all his charm and national popularity, President Franklin Roosevelt in the end had to depend on the veto, as did Presidents Johnson, Truman, Kennedy, Nixon and Ford Yet Johnson knew the ins and out of the Senate and its sources of power as have few men Kennedy, Truman, Nixon and Ford were not neophytes Being expert in the ways of Congress thus did not seem to help Nor popularity. Nor charm

President Eisenhower did relatively well because he had a Lyndon Johnson in the Senate Though the two men were of different parties, Johnson was superb, when he chose, in disregarding party lines But, as noted above, when he gained the White House, President Johnson had no Senator Johnson to give him the help he badly needed

And, as of today, there is no Senator Johnson in sight to rescue President - elect Carter

Carter's term as governor of Georgia does not signal a happy time with the Congress He used the veto strongly, lost out on some of the measures he most prized, reportedly because of an unwillingness to compromise

A Time magazine account puts it this way "The governor's relationship with the legislature was stormy A stubborn, even self-righteous man, he seemed temperamentally unsuited for give-and-take He thought nothing of tongue-lashing legislators and lobbyists he considered obstructionist "

Wrote Phil Stanford in Capitol Hill News Service "By the end of his term (as governor) Carter was at odds with a large portion of the state legislature "

Stanford quotes the Atlanta Constitution as stating that Carter "made a number of senators see the light of his logic by threatening to cancel pet projects, by calling some of their key constituents back home and on occasion by simply berating them in front of friends " He quotes then Georgia House Speaker Thomas B Murphy, who supported Carter in both gubernatorial races, as saying "There was nearly total conflict during his entire term Jim has no compromising ability It's his way or no way " And State Senator Julian Bond "I have never seen a man so rigid, and it was not a question of high principle Carter just won't give in "

Hopefully, Mr Carter has learned from this experience



Don Oakley

Entrust elections to popular will

By Don Oakley

It happens every presidential election — at least every election that turns out to be a squeaker, or when there is a strong independent candidate in the running

We hear renewed calls to junk the antiquated Electoral College system, but no sooner has the tumult died than we forget about it for another four years

It has happened again this year, and once again the angels who watch over drunkards, small children and the United States have pulled us through

Jimmy Carter received a comfortable plurality of the popular vote — 51 per cent to President Ford's 48 per cent But a shift of as few as 4,000 votes in Ohio and Hawaii would have given the Electoral College Majority to Ford, even though Carter would still have had a majority of popular votes.

There have been a number of defenses of the Electoral College system.

One is that since a candidate takes all of a state's electoral votes even though he may have carried that state by only one more popular vote than his opponent, it gives the appearance of a greater mandate for the winner than is artually the case. This is said to confer some sort of psychological benefit by consoling those who voted for the loser.

It also gives small states a greater voice in the election process in proportion to their populations since each state has as many electors as it has senators and representatives. Small-state opposition to abolishing the Electoral College has, in fact, been the major reason why any nnumber of proposed constitutional amendments have never gotten anywhere

Three times in our history, however, a president has been elected with fewer popular votes than his opponent, and the possibility remains that someday a third-party candidate will win enough electoral votes to deny a majority to any candidate, throwing the election into the House of Representatives

The Electoral College is an 18th-century relic bequeathed us by the founding fathers, who designed it to insulate the selection of the president from the passions of the "mob " The people were to vote for electors, who in turn would — theoretically — use their own judgment in choosing the president

But the college quickly became merely a rubber stamp for the popular vote by each state, and that is the only reason we have put up with it for 187 years Thus the Electoral College remains in existence — useless, unnecessary and potentially dangerous

It took until 1912 to abolish the indirect election of U S senators Surely we have reached the point where we may safely entrust the election of the president and vice president to the popular will

In the meantime, Jimmy Carter is not officially our 39th president-elect — not until Dec. 13 when 538 electors (how many can you name?) meet in their respective state captials and tell us he is.

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The Prayer For Today From The Upper Room

"Thank God for everything." (1 Thessalonians 5 18 MOFFATT)

PRAYER: O Thou who hast given us so much to enjoy, grant us one thing more — a thankful heart. Amen.



Ivan D.E. Beaumont

THE BUCK ENDS HERE

Bless your little. . .heart

Ivan D.E. Beaumont

The little pat —

Dr. Koerber applied his stethoscope to the chest of a small boy explaining he had to listen to his heart

"That's the wrong place," the little fellow beamed. "It's where I sit."

"Whatever gave you that idea?" the doctor asked

"Well," the boy replied, "whenever I do something good, grandmother pats me there and says 'Bless your little heart'

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Your newspaper —

In today's paper you will find three additional sections devoted to the histories of Nebraska City and surrounding communities

This wraps up our Bicentennial program for 1976. It started January 2 when we printed the red, white and blue Bicentennial seal on Page one and listed our Bicentennial towns

We thank all of you who have contributed pictures and stories and to the businesses, industries and the individuals whose names appear on the pages

We printed a number of extra copies of the three sections of the Bicentennial edition They are available at our counter for 50c If you want to mail one to a relative or friend, send 30 cents for postage for each issue

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The Chamber —

Congratulations to Dr A O Gigstad and Mrs Maxine Fitzekam for receiving the Chamber and Women's Division awards

We know Mrs Fitzekam is especially deserving because we have been fortunate enough to sit at the same table when sessions were held on planning retail business She received the Ethel Gaskill award and is the caliber of person deserving of the Gaskill plaque

Mrs Gaskill was city clerk for nearly 40 years and pretty well conducted the business of the city and watched over her three charges, the city commissioners

There aren't many people who will stick their necks out and keep on coming back but Dr Gigstad is one of those rare people He lost a bid for reelection to the school board, but continues a sincere interest in the school programs He was removed as mayor of the town in a recall election over an airport dispute, but remains actively interested in city government He is an elected director of the Nemaha Valley Watershed District

He was pleasantly surprised with the award, but suspicious

"I saw my family here," he said

Best wishes and much success during the year to Garry Ailes, the new Chamber president

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Mr Saggau returns —

Bernie Saggau who spoke at the Chamber banquet did what he was assigned — pep up the Chamber membership If you've heard Mr Saggau before, then you know the enthusiasm he has when he speaks

He spoke of love for fellow man, competition in business, athletics, 50 years of success for today's mankind, but most important he spoke about the necessity of living a full and active life

His warm and personal message was felt by all There were a number in the audience with moistened eyes when he told of the death of his 23-year-old son and about his friend who stretched the death hand of cancer until his daughter graduated from high school

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About the only time I've ever made a "visitation" with the Optimist club was when the late Harry Vondrak, Virgil Pitstick and several others attended a luncheon at the Elks in Lincoln

I've forgotten the name of the speaker, but not the topic It was wine — food or drink

The man told about vineyards, the wine producing business, bottling and selling He explained different kinds of wine and turned the luncheon into a wine tasting bee

The next day Virg, who has been a regular office visitor around here for a long time, stopped in to ask what I thought about the program

"Well, it was different," I explained "I know a lot more about wine now than I did before I think of it as a food "

"Yeah, me too," Virg said "I got so interested that I bought a bottle of wine when we got home "

"I did the same," I said

"You did?" Virg asked

"Yeah," I answered, "it's funny though it didn't taste near as good as the stuff we had at that luncheon "

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The science fair —

The annual Science and Engineering fair is being planned this year under the direction of Mrs Bob (Jay) Hawkes The fair will be March 26-27 at Nebraska City Senior High

The fair was started here a number of years ago and has grown so much that it had to be moved from the armory to the high school for display and auditorium spaces

This is Mrs Hawkes' first year as director succeeding Mrs Bob Melchert, and we wish her much success

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Stolen —

I called my plumber and told him the drain was clogged and water was backing up all over the house

He promised he would be over as soon as possible

And that's the way it was, 200 years ago today



Dr. Lamb

Raynaud's disease: hard to treat

By Lawrence E Lamb, M D

DEAR DR LAMB — Does Raynaud's disease affect the arteries or the veins? I've had Raynaud's disease longer than 12 years and am taking medicine for it plus Valium when I need it Some days I don't take any Valium at all My doctor says if I can find anything about Raynaud s he'd also be glad to know also a medication to help I am 63

It seems to show up when I m nervous, causing my wrists, arms hands to tingle At times my arms will ache and my hands turn a shade of red I've also noticed I have cramping in my arms, hands and fingers when I get cold especially my hands My hands will turn white with the veins turning blue then the hands turn a shade of red again

DEAR READER — As your doctor knows this is a difficult condition to treat In the first place there are two general types of Raynaud s disease In some cases it is a complication of another disease and in others the cause is unknown

Sometimes it is a complication of arterial disease with obstructive lesions of the arteries It can also be a complication of arthritis or from compression of the nerve and artery trunks in the shoulder region An extra rib (cervical rib) or the way the clavicle (collarbone) or muscles are arranged in relation to the arteries and nerves can cause pressure on these structures and be an underlying cause

The cases with no known cause are usually precipitated by exposure to cold as you have noticed Once established emotional upsets can also trigger an attack That is why you are getting a tranquilizer

The small arteries in the hand really cause the problem They go into spasms decreasing blood flow to the hand At this stage you have pale or waxy fingers and sometimes involvement of the hand and wrist The small veins dilate and blood stagnates in them During this stage the hands may turn blue or grey As the attack subsides and the arteries dilate they overdilate allowing increased amounts of arterial blood to course through the fingers and hands This is the red stage associated with pain and tingling

The hands are most often involved but the hands and feet may be affected Rarely the tip of the nose ears cheeks and chin may be involved

The best treatment is avoiding exposure to cold That means keeping the whole body warm You will need to give special attention to the hands avoiding touching anything cold You may be able to stop an attack by warming the hands in warm water Don t touch cold steering wheels or use cold water

Some individuals have enough trouble to warrant moving to a warmer climate However in established cases attacks can occur in both winter and summer

Medicines are used to promote dilation of the arteries These are sometimes useful and other times do not appear to help much Your doctor may want to try Cyclospasmol It has to be used for a fairly long period of time and then used continuously to get the best results from it I cannot guarantee that it will be any more effective than any other vasodilator medicine he might use

For information about vitamin C in colds and nutrition send 50 cents for The Health Letter Number 3-3 Vitamin C (Ascorbic Acid) Send a long stamped self addressed envelope for mailing Address your letter to me in care of this newspaper P O Box 1551 Radio City Station New York NY 10019

News in Brief

LITTLE ROCK, Ark (AP) An elderly minister and poet, Joseph Boone Hunter, 90, has written a special version of President-elect Jimmy Carter's favorite hymn, "Amazing Grace "

Two of the four stanzas go "I tried for years to live alone and keep His love away But, He, my path, did walk beside, To shield my steps each day And now I would my witness bear, His love and Grace make known, I've found my task along life's road, His call shall be my own "

NEW YORK (AP) — The president of the Rabbinical Council of America, Rabbi Walter S Wurzburger, has urged religious institutions "not to avail themselves of the recently passed law in New York State permitting 'Las Vegas Nites' and other forms of gambling" in synagogues and churches.

It would "jeopardize the religious integrity of the institutions" that the new law was intended to help, he says.

Berry's World



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"Your qualifications for the job are impeccable. How are you at softball?"