

# Washington Scene

## House Committees Begin Hearings on New Bills

**Congressman, 17th District**  
Here in the Nation's Capital activities are really picking up. In the Congress the pace is also quickening. The committees, for example, are meeting three and four times a week, often twice a day, to consider the thousands and thousands of new bills already introduced.

The Public Works Committee, of which I am a member, is focusing its attention on the urgent problem of water pollution. The recent disaster off the coast of Santa Barbara has accelerated our efforts to make and keep our waters clean. The bill which I co-sponsored is known as the Comprehensive Water Quality Control Act and would provide penalties for those found polluting our waters whether oil, acid, thermal or sewage. I am very hopeful this bill or one similar will pass this session of Congress.

In addition to meeting with the Public Works Committee almost daily for the last two weeks, I have sponsored or co-sponsored eight other bills, delivered two speeches in the House of Representatives, and met with many constituents and colleagues.

Another very important bill to our district is one which Congressman Dick Hanna and I co-authored to set up a Joint United States-Mexican Commission to investigate the flow of marijuana, narcotics, and dangerous drugs between the two countries. The continuing supply of narcotics coming into the United States and their increasing use by young people makes it imperative that immediate steps be taken to curb this illicit traffic.

I have also co-authored three bills relating to air traffic. One would ask the Civil Aeronautics Board to retain reduced air fares for young people which they are proposing to eliminate. Another would authorize reduced air fares on a similar basis for senior citizens thereby giving them an opportunity to travel and visit distant friends and families at half fare.

A third and very important bill would raise the qualifications, standards, and salary levels of the air traffic controllers who direct airplanes in and out of most airports, including Los Angeles International, Hawthorne Municipal, Torrance Municipal, Compton, and Catalina. The bill would make our air transportation system safer and more efficient.

Another important bill affecting our district is the Electric Reliability Act which I co-authored. The bill is identical to the one introduced by Sen. Edward Kennedy in the Senate and is designed to prevent a massive electric power failure such as the one which hit New York in 1965. The bill would prevent such an occurrence in Southern California which so far has been very fortunate in escaping a major power blackout.

Of particular concern to me is the proposed Sentinel Anti-Ballistic Missile Base presently being considered by the Department of Defense for placement in the city of Compton.

Last week in a speech in the House of Representatives I expressed my opposition to the deployment of the ABM in this area for several reasons. One is that it would require the condemnation of several hundred acres of prime industrial property now being developed as a major industrial complex and expected to attract many new companies, create thousands of new jobs and provide millions of tax dollars for local governments.

### Candidate For Mayor Will Speak

Baxter Ward, former KABC newscaster currently running for mayor of Los Angeles, will speak at Harbor College Wednesday, March 19, at 10 a.m. in Seahawk Center.

Ward, rated as an outside shot to unseat incumbent Mayor Sam Yorty when he entered the campaign in January, was the second most popular choice in the field of 16 candidates in the first poll, released late last month.

The 49-year-old resident of Tarzana has refused to accept campaign contributions of any size, saying, "It remains my belief that a candidate must be free of any obligation whatsoever."

The speech is sponsored by Young Democrats, who presented Thomas Bradley, another candidate for mayor, to a crowd of 300 people last month.

ANOTHER reason is that such a location would not only endanger a populated urban area by making it a vulnerable enemy target but would increase the possibility, no matter how remote, of a nuclear accident. Finally, I am opposed to this site because there is no sound reason why the base can't be located in a remote unpopulated area of California on government-owned land and thereby save the taxpayers money.

I would be very interested to hear the views of all concerned residents of the 17th Congressional District, and particularly those who live in the City of Compton, on this most important issue.

This is the time of year when young men interested in competing for appointments to the service academies for Fall 1969 are announced. I am happy to report that the following have been nominated to compete for appointments:

Army Academy at West Point: Ralph Davis and Michael J. Young, Compton.  
Naval Academy at Annapolis: Brett L. Francisco, 16300 Ainsworth St.; David James

Surber, 1109 Elm St.; John Oliver Griffith, Compton; Edwin L. Hansen, 26343 Belle Port Ave., Harbor City; Jeffrey Baker Robbins, Quarters "L" Naval Station, Long Beach.

Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs: Monte D. Herrington, Lawndale.  
I will soon be considering nominations for the 1970 classes. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be interested,

please contact my San Pedro office. I appreciate and welcome the many letters that have been received. Your continuing expression of views is most welcome.

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