

Legis - Housing
SCHWABE

COLL

March 7, 1946

Mr. Charles J. Deegan
Associate Editor
The Oil and Gas Journal
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Deegan:

I have your unusual letter of the 5th instant, and may say that it is the only letter of the sort I have received. I am forgiving you for writing such a letter for the reason that I know you are misinformed as to the facts.

In the first place, I did not vote against the housing bill, and very few did. Among those who voted against the bill today were some of the leading and staunchest Democrats of the House of Representatives, and several Republicans. My opinion is that this bill will not build any houses for the veterans and I do not think it was designed to do so. I am convinced that it is a snare and a delusion such as most of the GI bills that had been passed by Congress before I came here in January, 1945.

I have four veteran sons of World War II and one veteran son-in-law, and I think I have the interest of you boys at heart about as much as anyone you can find or will hear of. The bill as originally planned and designed is not a veterans' housing bill in any sense of the word. It was a bill merely seeking to create another bureau - a super-bureau - piled upon, or pyramided upon other bureaus. It was designed to make building more difficult and building materials more scarce and harder to obtain, as planned economy always does. The bill was amended numerous times in the House to keep the whole program from being subject to the control of one man and without any relief through the courts or other ways employed by Americans for more than 150 years. I proudly voted against some of the New Deal bureaucracy that was originally written into the bill. You may call that partisanship if you want to; but what we need is building material and houses, and not pious expressions of policy, and more bureaus. Some fifty of the leading Democrats voted the way I did on nearly every phase of this bill or the amendments and provisions finally written into it after seven days of debate, or it would not have been adopted. You would not say that that is partisan, would you? For instance, one amendment

was voted by 209 to 174, and nother by 249 to 134 and another by 246 to 134. Of course, you understand that the House has a majority of forty some odd Democrats over the Republicans. Therefore, the Republicans alone could not have defeated the bill. All of the so-called communistic group in the House voted for more bureaucrats, and I am proud I did not vote with them. The dependable Democrats and Republicans voted together, for the most part; and I am happy that I voted with them.

I thought you might be interested in knowing these facts, and then if you still feel aggrieved, I have no way of changing your attitude. I hope you will look the situation squarely in the face and be inclined to be reasonable, and when others talk to you about the situation that you will not hesitate to pass these facts on to them.

I shall be happy at any time when I am in Tulsa to discuss this or any other matter with you personally, and I shall be glad to have you write me at any time on any subject in which you are interested.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

George B. Schwabe, M.C.

GS:LN

the OIL AND GAS JOURNAL

CHARLES J. DEEGAN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

March 5, 1946.

Mr. George Schwabe,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

This morning's papers report that the Housing Bill was defeated yesterday by a teller vote, but that not a single Republican was observed voting for the bill.

In common with hundreds of fellow Tulsans, I shall remember that you failed to vote for the only concrete proposal to remedy a desperate situation. I hope to have the pleasure of voting for your opponent in the next Republican Primary, and then if he doesn't make a flat commitment to look after his constituents' interests, instead of playing partisan politics with an issue that is not partisan, I shall cheerfully vote for his Democratic opponent in November.

I want a decent house, at a decent price. You voted along with other Republicans that I should not have that, but that instead a small group of real estate agents and contractors here should extort an outrageous price from me, under conditions that arose out of the war. War profiteers is a mild term for these people.

What ever gave you the delusion that housing is a partisan issue? There are no such things as Democratic dwellings and Republican dwellings. Are you suffering from the further delusion that the G.I. lads don't realize that the \$4,000 loan on homes is a snare and delusion, in that the real estate groups have already inflated prices to such an extent that \$3,000 of that loan value has been hijacked from the veterans?

No matter what they say, the building people are hard-headed when it comes to loaning money. You can't buy a house in Tulsa today with \$3,000 cash down payment. That would leave no equity in the real value to protect the loan.

This letter may seem a bit on the rough side to you. If so, you have only yourself to blame. When it comes to my family's welfare, and sheer legal extortion, if you choose to line up against me, I am not going to pussy foot about telling you exactly what I think about your position.

Yours very truly,

Charles J. Deegan

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CONGRESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

*Senate in recess; House worked on Housing Bill.**Vinson testified on British Loan.**Psychiatry, Servicemen Housing, FWA, Federal Judge, and Espionage Investigation Bills cleared for House Consideration.**Un-American Activities voted to invoke Contempt Proceedings.*

SENATE CHAMBER

Senate in recess; will meet again noon Friday, without schedule.

Senate Committees

British Loan: Secretary of the Treasury Fred M. Vinson and Assistant Secretary of State William L. Clayton urged the Banking and Currency Committee to approve S. J. Res. 138, to provide for carrying out the financial agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom calling for a loan of \$3,750,000,000.

Mr. Clayton stated that failure to approve the loan might lead to economic warfare between this country and Great Britain; he indicated that we should grant the loan so that Great Britain would voluntarily curtail trade restrictions.

Committee will meet again tomorrow.

St. Lawrence Waterway: Naval Affairs Committee concluded the taking of rebuttal testimony from persons favoring enactment of H. J. Res. 104, to provide for development of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin.

The following witnesses urged approval of the measure: Oscar Chapman, Assistant Secretary of the Interior; Leland Olds, Chairman of the Federal Power Commission; J. D. Babbage, President of the Rutland Railroad, Vermont; N. R. Danielian, St. Lawrence Division of the Commerce Department; Albert Clifton, CIO; Representative Dondero of Michigan; and General F. B. Wilby, New York Power Authority.

Rebuttal testimony from opposition witnesses will begin tomorrow.

USES: Education and Labor subcommittee resumed consideration of H. R. 4437, to return administration of USES to the States by June 30, 1946, without conditions. Testimony favoring early return as provided in the bill was heard from Stanley Rector and W. O. Hake, Interstate Conference of Employment Security Agencies, and C. A. Williams, Texas Trade Association Executives.

Nazi Germany: Major General John H. Hildring, Director of the Civil Affairs Division, War Department, met with a Military Affairs subcommittee to present information relative to certain matters regarding the Nazi Party.

Neuropsychiatric Institution: Education and Labor subcommittee heard testimony from Government officials on S. 1160, to provide for a National Neuropsychiatric Institution. Hearings will continue tomorrow.

(OVER)

HOUSE CHAMBER

Housing—Speculation Prices: The House today continued consideration but failed to reach a vote on passage of H. R. 4761, to amend the National Housing Act, creating an Office of Housing Stabilization, and to prevent speculation prices and excessive profits in the sale of houses. Vote on passage was not reached when one Member insisted on reading the engrossed copy before voting.

The House after arising from the Committee of the Whole voted again on all of the amendments which had priorly been adopted in the Committee of the Whole. The following amendments were acted on by roll call votes:

By a vote of 209 to 174, the House agreed to the Smith of Ohio amendment to eliminate Section 703 of the bill, known as the "snooping" provision (authorizing investigation and collection of information, etc., and by the use of the subpoena).

By a vote of 249 to 134, the House agreed to a committee amendment to limit price ceilings to new construction.

By a vote of 246 to 134, the House agreed to the committee amendment providing that the Director shall by regulation or order provide for appropriate price increases for major structural changes or improvements, not including ordinary maintenance and repair, effected subsequent to the first sale after the effective date of this title.

During the day, the House in the Committee of the Whole adopted the following amendments which were later approved by the House, by voice vote, before clearing the bill for passage:

By a vote of 102 to 75, an amendment was adopted by Representative Keefe to require OPA to make price adjustments designed to "stimulate production of building materials." By a vote of 135 to 102, an amendment was adopted by Representative Gwynne to give the courts authority to overrule a directive of the Housing Expeditor if it is "unsupported by competent material and insubstantial evidence."

Various other amendments were rejected.

Correction: Yesterday the DAILY reported: "An amendment by Representative Patman providing for the placing of ceilings on existing housing was adopted by a vote of 128 to 87 in the Committee of the Whole."

Instead, the House in Committee of the Whole, by a vote of 128 to 87, agreed to a Patman Amendment which would provide for additional authority for the FHA to insure mortgages, amounting to one billion dollars (\$2 billion with the approval of the President), under Title VI of the National Housing Act. (OVER)

SENATE COMMITTEES

(Continued from page 1)

PAULEY NOMINATION: Former Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes testified further before the Naval Affairs Committee in connection with his opposition to the nomination of Edwin W. Pauley, to be Under Secretary of the Navy.

SURPLUS PROPERTY: Yesterday, the War Investigating Committee continued its study of the surplus property situation, hearing testimony from Lt. General E. B. Gregory, Chairman of the War Assets Corporation, and Vice Admiral W. S. Farber, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations. Committee adjourned subject to call of Chair.

HOUSE CHAMBER

(Continued from page 1)

On Monday, the House in Committee of the Whole agreed to a committee amendment restricting price ceilings to new construction.

URGENT DEFICIENCIES: Yesterday, the House passed without amendment and sent to the Senate H. R. 5671, making appropriations for certain urgent deficiencies.

The bill carried definite appropriations amounting to \$128,550,000; also, by a limited indefinite appropriation, it authorized 25 Federal agencies to make expenditures for pay increases under the Federal Employees Pay Act of 1945, the amounts to be charged against appropriations in a subsequent bill.

The following amounts were in the House-passed bill: Social Security grants to States for old-age assistance, dependent children, and blind persons, \$10,000,000; Veterans' Administration, \$114,000,000; forest fire fighting of Agriculture Department, \$3,350,000; and Post Office foreign mail transportation, \$1,200,000.

In addition, the Office of the Chief of Engineers was authorized to spend an additional \$188,000 out of existing appropriations for personal services to prosecute work on rivers, harbors, and flood control projects.

HOUSE COMMITTEES

PSYCHIATRY: Rules Committee ordered reported a special rule granting one hour of general debate and immediate consideration of H. R. 4512, to provide for Federal grants to States for research relating to psychiatric disorders

and to develop a Federal program related thereto.

HOUSING—SERVICEMEN: Rules Committee ordered reported a rule granting one hour of debate and immediate consideration of H. R. 5455, authorizing an appropriation of \$250,000,000 to provide 100,000 additional temporary housing units for distressed families of servicemen and for veterans and their families.

BILLS CLEARED FOR HOUSE: Committee also ordered reported rules calling for one hour of general debate and immediate consideration of H. R. 5407, granting to the Federal Works Administrator certain powers with respect to site acquisition and construction and purchase of buildings; H. R. 5413, to accept the renunciation by former Federal Judge Albert W. Johnson of pension right; and reported to the House H. Res. 430, to authorize investigation of the disposition of certain espionage cases.

UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES: Un-American Activities Committee voted to cite for contempt certain members of the Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee who refused to disclose records and statements.

Committee also received testimony from representatives of the National Council of American Soviet Friendship. Committee will meet again tomorrow.

PRICE CONTROL EXTENSION: James F. Brownlee, Deputy Stabilization Director, urged the Banking and Currency Committee to report favorably to the House H. R. 5270, to extend the Emergency Price Control and Stabilization Acts for one year, to June 30, 1947.

Mr. Brownlee said that subsidy provisions should be extended and that the Office of Economic Stabilization recommended subsidy authorizations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1947 amounting to over 2 billion dollars.

If the subsidies are not kept in force, he contended, there will be an immediate increase in food prices of 8% and a 3½% rise in the cost of living.

Hearings will continue tomorrow.

SOCIAL SECURITY: Ways and Means Committee received testimony from the following witnesses on proposed amendments to Title II of the Social Security Act (old age and survivors' insurance provisions); L. C. Steward, National Federation of Federal Employees; Claude A. Williams, Texas Trade Association Executives; Dan A. Bittner, CIO; and William F. Montavon, National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Hearings will continue tomorrow.

REA: Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee met in executive session on H. R. 1742, to authorize an appropriation of 5 million dollars for preparation by the Rural Electrification Administration of comprehensive plans on electrification of rural areas, and to authorize the RFC to make additional loans to the REA amounting to 585 million dollars; and H. R. 5555, authorizing the RFC to lend up to 150 million dollars per year to the REA for fiscal years 1947, 1948, and 1949. No action was taken on either of the measures.

Tomorrow, subcommittees will take up H. R. 2390, amending the Federal Trade Commission Act so as to require that findings must be based upon a "preponderance" of evidence, and S. 191, to authorize Federal assistance to States in the construction of hospitals.

WHEAT AND GRAIN: Representative D'Ewart of Montana and officials of the Chicago Board of Trade met with the Special Food Committee to present testimony in connection with the investigation of the supply of wheat, grain and mixed feeds in relation to world needs.

The Board of Trade witnesses were of the opinion that there probably would be no shortage of grains if different price regulations had been put into effect. Committee will continue tomorrow.

NAVY YARD EMPLOYEES: Naval Affairs Committee met on H. R. 5520, to regulate the conditions of employment of workers at Government naval shipyards, naval stations, arsenals, and other Government industrial establishments.

The bill was re-referred to a subcommittee after testimony had been taken from a Navy official and a representative of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

VETERANS HOSPITALS: Yesterday and today, the World War Veterans' Legislation Committee met in executive session on preparation of a report covering its investigation of conditions in veterans' hospitals. Committee will continue tomorrow.

JUDICIARY: Judiciary Committee met in executive session to consider general committee business.

Committee will meet again tomorrow.

SURPLUS PROPERTY: Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments continued its study of disposition of surplus property abroad, again taking testimony from officials of the Foreign Liquidation Commission. Committee adjourned subject to call of Chair.

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