

J.S.
CONGRESSIONAL NEWSLETTER

Congressman James R. Jones
327 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-2211



Congressman James R. Jones (center) directs action on Oklahoma problems with members of his Washington staff. Left to right, are: Carolyn Cheney, Dr. William Savage, John Lynn and Sandy Driver.

District Office:

Federal Building (Room 4536)
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Phone: (918) 581-7111

Fellow Citizen,

This is the first of a series of newsletters planned to advise you of Congressional activities which affect our District and our nation.

COMMUNICATIONS: Communication between citizens and their government officials is one of the most important parts of making democracy work. As your Congressman, I want to bring the federal government closer to the people and to develop ways to make your government work more effectively for you. Accordingly, we have begun the following:

MOBILE CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE: Next month, our mobile office will be inaugurated. This mobile office will travel throughout the First District into every neighborhood and community.

TELEVISION DEBATES: On April 27 on KTUL-TV, our first in a monthly series of "Congressional Debates" will be broadcast. Through this 30 minute program, major issues on which Congress will be voting will be presented. The pro and con sides of the argument will be presented by knowledgeable Oklahomans. After hearing both sides of the arguments, I will appreciate hearing from you as to where you stand on the issue.

SPECIAL WORKSHOPS: On April 14, our Congressional office sponsored a "Vietnam Veterans Workshop." We had federal, state and local officials on hand to explain programs and answer problems facing veterans. Those who participated said that such "personalizing" of government activities was most beneficial. We hope to have further workshops to help groups such as senior citizens, flood victims and others. If you have any suggestions for additional workshops, please let me know.

VISITS BACK HOME: Although the work of Congress requires me to be in Washington most of the time, I have been coming home to Oklahoma at least twice each month. I will also be in Oklahoma during Congressional recesses such as most of the month of August. I look forward to these personal visits because I can learn first hand the concerns of my neighbors in the First District.

QUESTIONNAIRES AND NEWSLETTERS: We plan to send these newsletters and questionnaires asking your opinions and relating Congressional activities periodically each year.

CONGRESSIONAL ASSIGNMENTS AND STAFF: I feel most fortunate to have a hard-working and talented staff both in the Washington and Tulsa offices. Good staff work is especially important because of the demanding Committee assignments I received. I was one of the few new Congressmen to obtain two major committee posts.

As a member of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, I will be working on legislation dealing with the energy crisis, Indian affairs, environmental protection, and water resource development.

My assignment on the Armed Services Committee gives me an opportunity to insure that America maintains a defense force second to none while at the same time developing ways to reduce cost overruns and other wasteful practices in military spending.

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP: I am especially pleased to have won the race for Assistant Majority Whip. In this post, I am a member of the House of Representatives leadership team and the only freshman Congressman to have been elected as an Assistant Whip. The Whips meet weekly with the Speaker and Majority Leader to discuss policy and to plan the legislative schedule for the House of Representatives. One of my principal aims as an Assistant Whip is to help persuade Congress to press for fiscal responsibility in federal spending. I also hope to persuade my colleagues to push for Congressional reforms and to provide Congress with the tools to create coordinated budget and revenue policies, and to establish ceilings on federal spending.

LAKE USER FEES: The Corps of Engineers by administrative action recently imposed user fees on reservoir recreational areas. I opposed these fees for several reasons including the fact that projected revenues from user fees probably will be less than the costs of collecting the fees. This seems to be "penny wise and pound foolish" government action. I introduced legislation to prevent these fees on Corps projects. The legislation should be acted on by the House of Representatives in early May and it will then go to the Senate for a vote. I am hopeful that the bill will pass and be signed by the President.

LEGISLATIVE VERSUS EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY: The Constitutional question of "where does authority rest for setting national spending priorities" will be settled this year. Several bills have been introduced to define more distinctly the divisions between Congressional and Presidential authority.

The conflict arises out of Executive impoundment of Congressional appropriations. Last year, Congress appropriated funds for such programs as education, health, housing, highways and rural development. The President signed these bills into law. Now the President refuses to spend the money. The impoundment of funds will reduce or abolish some of these programs. Impoundment will also substantially reduce Congressional authority in setting legislative priorities.

The loss of Congressional authority is not new. It has been developing under the last three Presidents. The question is: Shall Congressional responsibility continue to erode?

Two things must be done if Congress is to assume again its rightful place as a co-equal partner in federal government. First, statutory authority for Congress and the Executive Branch must again be defined. This is being done in the "anti-impoundment" legislation. Second, Congress must equip itself with responsible methods of dealing with federal spending. A special House-Senate Committee is working on this and legislation should be introduced this summer.

I support both goals. Our Founding Fathers established Congress as the closest link between the federal government and the people. In three years, America will have a new President. That President may have a totally different set of priorities and he may, for example, set out to weaken our national defense by Executive action through impoundment. If Congress abdicates its authority now, then Congress will be powerless to act in your behalf in future years because the precedent will be firmly established giving too much power to the White House.

JAMES R. JONES
FIRST DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

MEMBER:
COMMITTEE ON ARMED
SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND
INSULAR AFFAIRS

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RECEIVED
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

NOV 16 1973
Washington, D.C. 20515

JAMES R. JONES, M.C.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April, 1973

Dear Friend:

The 93rd Congress is now organized and legislation is beginning to move through Committees. Accordingly, I am resuming a practice begun by my predecessor, Congressman Belcher. Through this questionnaire, I am asking for YOUR opinions and YOUR frank comments on important legislation that I may be voting on this year. I consider it a prime responsibility as your Congressman to represent and fight for YOUR views on developing federal policies. As soon as possible, please respond to the following questions and let me know where YOU stand. Thank you for working with me to make government work for you. Send me "your message."

James R. Jones
James R. Jones
Member of Congress

SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT

1. **REBUILD NORTH VIETNAM:** The President has indicated that he will ask Congress to appropriate money to rebuild North Vietnam. What are your opinions on this subject?

HOW DO YOU VOTE: Would you be in favor of Congress appropriating funds to rebuild North Vietnam?

Yes No

2. **FEDERAL BUDGET:** The President has proposed a 269 billion dollar budget which he is asking Congress to approve. The President acknowledges that his budget has a built-in deficit of at least 13 billion dollars. Many Congressmen believe that the deficit is too great and should be reduced.

HOW DO YOU VOTE:

a. Try to reduce the size of the deficit in the President's budget.

Yes No

b. Approve the President's proposal for a 269 billion dollar budget.

Yes No

3. **ENERGY:** Do you favor a proposal that all matters relating to energy be consolidated into a Cabinet level "Department of Natural Resources"? The office would exercise control over such resources as oil, gas, coal, electricity, hydro-power, atomic-power generation, including research and development.

HOW DO YOU VOTE: Are you in favor of a Cabinet level post that exercises authority over all matters pertaining to energy?

Yes No

4. **GENERAL REVENUE SHARING:** The 1974 budget allocates six million dollars for general revenue sharing payments to state and local governments. Some Congressmen argue that there should be no revenue sharing when the Federal government has a deficit budget.

HOW DO YOU VOTE:

a. Do you favor the six billion dollar per year General Revenue Sharing Program?

Yes No

b. Would you support legislation to prevent revenue sharing when the Federal government has a deficit budget?

Yes No

5. **ECONOMIC CONTROLS:** During periods of excessive inflation as defined by the Administration, would you support Congressional legislation (with a fixed time limit of one year) to require stricter controls on prices, wages, interest rates and rents?

HOW DO YOU VOTE: Are you in favor of stricter controls on:

a. Prices Yes No

c. Interest rates Yes No

b. Wages Yes No

d. Rents Yes No

6. **HEALTH CARE:** The Administration proposes that older Americans pay a larger share of their health care costs by reducing health care benefits for senior citizens. It is estimated that older Americans must assume about \$900 million more next year to pay for medical expenses. Do you support this proposal?

HOW DO YOU VOTE: Should health care benefits for senior citizens be reduced?

Yes No

If you feel that there are other issues on which you wish to express your views, please use a separate page to tell me about them. If at a later time, you feel a concern about anything about which I may do something, please write to me.

When you have completed the questionnaire, please send it to me:

Congressman James R. Jones
327 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

If you wish, please give your name and address:

Name: *Mrs + Mrs DR Clark*
Address: *RT 2 Box 79*
City: *Bartlesville* Zip: *74003*

NIXON-70

November 16, 1973

Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Clark
Route 2, Box 79
Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Clark:

Your letter arrived while Congressman Jones is out of the country. As you may know, Mr. Jones was appointed to a special subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee to gather facts about the Middle East with which to report back to the House of Representatives. The Congressman is presently in Egypt and Israel.

I am taking the liberty of acknowledging receipt of your letter, and I will bring your correspondence to Congressman Jones' personal attention immediately upon his return to the United States in late November.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen Kaplan
Legislative Assistant