

7/14/75

## FIFTH DISTRICT REPORT

by Congressman Paul Tsongas

One of the best ways for a Congressman to keep in touch with constituents is through correspondence. The volume of mail and opinions expressed are an invaluable means of sensing public priorities and sentiments. I thought I might share a sampling of these letters with you on issues that the Congress faces this year.

### OIL TARIFFS-- PRO AND CON

"The proposed \$3 a barrel tariff on oil is unjustified because it puts a burden on the poor and working classes... This is true for all petroleum related products, especially in New England and northern states, where foreign oil is almost exclusively used." (Methuen)

"The import tax is simpler (than a gasoline tax) and is subject to no heavy cost in implementing... The proposed gas tax with rebates for necessary use is political dynamite... once the heavy gas tax is on, it will never be removed." (Concord)

### ENERGY SAMPLER

"What the heck are we waiting for, let's get something going on a self-sufficient energy program." (Billerica)

"An Atomic Energy Commission sponsored program for the liquid metal fast breeder reactor... would be the most stupid thing we ever did." (E. Pepperell)

"I think that solar energy would be a sufficient alternative... The power and energy capable of being supplied by the sun is practically unlimited." (Dunstable)

"If there is a probable source of gas and oil in the Atlantic, shouldn't we start looking for it now? What more could we have asked for than a close-by supply, independent of OPEC?" (Chelmsford)

### TAXES

"Nelson Rockefeller, Richard Nixon, and other wealthy individuals have paid virtually nothing on previous years... We are tired of all loopholes and other excuses of the wealthy." (Pepperell)

"I believe the present Federal tax system is riddled with loopholes and inequities that play right into the hands of the rich... The rich should pay their fair share and not be wards of the state." (North Billerica)

"There should be no special deductions (other than costs for producing income), discounts, or allowances, and the tax rate should be uniform for all, regardless of how large or small the income is." (Bedford)

DICKEY-LINCOLN HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT--- PRO AND CON

"The obstructionists who call themselves environmentalists should be stopped with speedy legislation from stopping all construction... They are not compromising with any sort of middle road policy and have crippled our construction industry." (an area businessman)

"It is still as worthless a plan as it was when first proposed. Not only would such a project destroy many acres of valuable and irreplaceable wilderness and timberland, but it carries no certainty whatsoever that cheaper and more plentiful power would be produced." (North Reading)

I believe it is important for a Congressman to read every letter that is received and to consider the opinions expressed. In the past few months, this has assisted me in making decisions on various issues and in initiating specific legislation. I encourage you to write and express your views. It does make a difference.