

WILLIAM E. TIMMONS
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

THE WHITE HOUSE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 20, 1971

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE
PRESS CONFERENCE
OF
SENATOR HUGH SCOTT
AND
CONGRESSMAN GERALD R. FORD
THE BRIEFING ROOM



AT 10:00 A.M.

MR. ZIEGLER: The Leadership Meeting this morning lasted two hours. Senator Scott and Congressman Ford are here to discuss it with you.

We will begin this morning with Senator Scott.

Senator.

SENATOR SCOTT: There was much discussion of the economy. The President and Mr. Shultz both expressed a great deal of pleasure as to how it is going. The GNP quarterly increase to \$28.5 billion is an encouraging sign in spite of the earlier pessimistic predictions of some of about \$22 billion. We expect a continued downward movement in unemployment.

There are very sharp decreases in the interest rates that have occurred -- the prime rate from 8-1/4 to 5-1/4 percent. The Department of Commerce is revising its estimate of total construction for the next fiscal year upward to \$109 billion, an increase of 10 percent over the \$90 billion this year, and it includes increases in all major sectors, housing, commercial, industrial and highways, for example, and personal income is up from \$801 billion in 1970 to a seasonally adjusted total so far indicated of \$829 billion.

The cost of money is going down. Inflation has slowed and, as the President himself pointed out, the question for economists now is not over whether the economy is improving, but how much.

CONGRESSMAN FORD: I might just supplement what Senator Scott has said. He has given you the statistics that certainly should greatly encourage all Americans that the transition from a war-time economy to a peace-time economy has been moving ahead very, very successfully.

The statistics show that we are on an upswing and we have accomplished this without the problem of inflation getting worse, but inflation getting under control.

The last two months show that inflation, if you analyze it, is at an average rate of about 2.4 percent compared with 6.2 percent, I think, in 1969.

MORE

I am sure that these figures and this new optimism won't encourage our Democratic friends.

I would simply say to them that they have a vested interest in the President's economic policies failing. And we, as Republicans, believe those policies will be successful. And all of the new evidence certainly indicates that is the case.

The second subject which was discussed was the Foreign Aid Message which is coming up to the Hill tomorrow. It closely follows the recommendations of the Peterson Commission. We hope to have prompt hearings in the House and in the Senate. It is a revision that makes the Foreign Aid Program more workable and more effective.

And we hope that the dollar amounts which are approximately what the Congress authorized and appropriated for the current fiscal year will be substantially supported.

Q What is the figure on that?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: The figures are, in the case of international security assistance, which includes the military assistance, supporting assistance, \$1.993 billion; the international development assistance, \$1.245 billion.

These are figures that are within the ball park of the present fiscal year appropriations.

SENATOR SCOTT: One of these bills is for a one-year extension. That is the military. The other is a three-year extension.

One other comment on the economy: That is that Mr. Shultz points out that long-term interest rates represent, in the judgment of the financial community, the long-term inflation situation. Therefore, as these rates drop sharply, it can be interpreted as the investment community's judgment that inflation is clearly coming under control.

There was also discussion of the draft presented by Mr. Flanigan. It was pointed out that the incentives to volunteer for the armed forces have not yet been adequately evaluated and next year a sharp fall of 100,000 men is expected so that we can't take a chance of solving those problems in one year.

Many on the Hill, including myself, have long favored ultimately an all volunteer force. The President himself undoubtedly would like to see us get to the point of an all volunteer force. But meanwhile, we have to proceed with the facts as they exist. We have to have an army. And the military pay increases in the House, taken with the recent pay increases, would mean 100 percent total increase, which is hardly supportable and would mean severe cuts in other vital areas in the Defense Department.



It is hoped that the Senate will consider a bonus on first enlistments, particularly where combat duty is involved, and reprogramming of some funds for proficiency pay will be included.

The Administration rather likes the House action on student deferment changes and random selection draft procedures.

But we in the Senate will seek to obtain a return to the Administration pay increase recommendations. I would expect that the Senate Armed Services Committee will probably not go along with a one-year, but rather a two-year draft extension.

I would hope that the pay scale recommended by the Administration would prevail in the Senate.

Q Did you discuss China or Vietnam, sir?

SENATOR SCOTT: Not at any great length. The President made it clear that he feels that he is on the right course in Vietnam. China was only discussed in a very limited way. The President indicated these are certain small steps that are being taken.

Q In discussing China, Senator, was there any explanation of why the Vice President feels one way and the President feels another way?

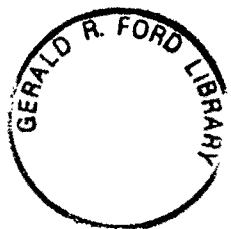
SENATOR SCOTT: I think Mr. Ford was there. He can comment on that.

CONGRESSMAN FORD: I was at the luncheon yesterday where the Vice President spoke to the Governors and those of us who were the guests of the Governors.

I listened to the speech very carefully. It was an outstanding dissertation on the situation. The Vice President indicated his strong support for the initiatives of the President in trade, in cultural exchanges. There was not one iota, no comment whatsoever by the Vice President at that luncheon that indicated his non-support for the President's initiatives in our relationships with China.

Q Congressman, I understand the Vice President voiced his objections not at the luncheon, but at a private session. Were you at that session also?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: I was not at the private meeting. As I read in the paper this morning, he met for some time with some reporters at Williamsburg. But I can say categorically and with emphasis that at the luncheon the Vice President indicated his affirmative support for the President's new initiatives and our relationships with China, and, in fact, pointed out some things that would be highly beneficial in possibly the expansion of our relationships with China.



Q Like what?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: This was a speech given in executive session. I would prefer that the Vice President speak on that.

Q Was the Vice President at the meeting this morning?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: The Vice President was at the meeting this morning.

Q Did he talk about the reports of his off the record comments?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: There was no comment by the Vice President in that regard.

Q Do you think he was misquoted?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: I wouldn't know. I can only say affirmatively that I was at the luncheon and the Vice President spoke up as I indicated categorically in favor of the new initiatives taken by the Administration in reference to our policy in China.

Q Was it a private session with all the Governors?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: It was a luncheon given by the Governors and he was the only person that spoke. And it was an excellent presentation that very greatly impressed me.

Q Did he discuss the ping pong team visit?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: He didn't get into that aspect of it.

Q Sir, I would like to ask Mr. Ziegler, if I may.

SENATOR SCOTT: Let me comment on the ping pong. It was completely an above-the-board relationship with China. (Laughter).

Q If I could interject one question. Do you have any comment on the reports of the private briefing between the Vice President and nine or eight reporters?

MR. ZIEGLER: No, I have no comment on the report of the private session that the Vice President had in Williamsburg with the reporters. I did talk to the Vice President this morning before the Leadership meeting. Also, having sat in most of the NSC meetings in which the subject of China has been discussed, I can say, first of all on my own, that there has never been any indication that the Vice President does not support the initiatives that the President has taken most recently and also the initiatives that he has taken toward the People's Republic of China in the earlier days and months of the Administration.

MORE

The Vice President authorized me to say on his behalf this morning, anticipating your question, that there is absolutely no disagreement between the Vice President and the President's decision regarding the initiatives taken in relation to the People's Republic of China.

The Vice President, as in the case in most Councils in which he sits, often raises questions which merit discussion and this happened in this particular case regarding our discussions of further initiatives regarding Mainland China.

But I will just conclude by saying that there is no difference between the Vice President and the President's policy regarding the People's Republic of China.

MORE

Q May I ask you one more question? Faced with reports in several papers this morning of what the Vice President allegedly told a group of reporters--I understand the formula through which you arrive at decisions, the dichotomy involving policy -- how do you explain these reports from reporters, experienced reporters, who say they have heard the Vice President say what he is reported to have said?

MR. ZIEGLER: I haven't seen a report from those who attended an off-the-record session with the Vice President. I saw a report written by reporters who apparently had discussions with someone who attended the off-the-record session with the Vice President. However, I have not, as long as I have been in this job, attempted to be able to fully explain how impressions are created and how things from time to time are, in all good spirit and good intention, reported in the press.

All I can do is tell you at this time, quite directly, that you should not pursue the story that there is a difference of opinion within the Administration, particularly a difference of opinion between the Vice President and the President regarding the recent initiatives that the United States Government took toward the People's Republic of China. There is no difference of opinion.

I will simply stand on that statement and not attempt to get into an analysis or an assessment of how stories unfold or develop, particularly when apparently this one has developed from an off-the-record session that the Vice President had with certain members of the press.

I would finally conclude by saying that I think Congressman Ford was quite clear on his remarks where he reported on the Vice President's remarks at the executive session that the Congressman attended.

Q Ron, based on your conversation with the Vice President this morning, then the Administration's position is that that story is absolutely false?

MR. ZIEGLER: The Administration's position, as I think I stated it, is that there is no difference of opinion between the Vice President and the President regarding recent initiatives that the United States Government has taken toward the People's Republic of China.

Q But you did indicate that the Vice President had raised some questions in the NSC meetings. Is that what you said?

MR. ZIEGLER: Let me just say that the Vice President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, when you are involved in a session talking about major policy -- the President probes their minds to find out what their views are, what thinking they have on a given subject. This is the way the President proceeds in a meeting.

So that took place in these particular deliberations, also. But I said my assessment, having sat in most of those meetings, was that there was -- even going through that process -- no great difference of opinion between the Vice President and

the President.

So as I suggested, I would not pursue that story any further.

Q May I ask Senator Scott a question? Sir, you are a lifelong student of China and considered an expert. How do you evaluate the apparent thaw? Are you genuinely encouraged?

SENATOR SCOTT: I believe that where you have a nation with a population approaching a billion people that it is necessary to know and to recognize that they exist. We were dealing with them in Warsaw. It would be good to have the Warsaw conferences resumed, which were cancelled at the time of Cambodia.

I think it is desirable to take such small and modest, and on the whole, amiable steps as would encourage the people of Mainland China to understand that the people of the United States have nothing but friendly feelings toward them as a people.

And they are an insular and isolated society at the present time, and that is never good for world comfort.

I have talked to the President in the past and he has said that the time will come when Mainland China will open up entirely to visitors. And I have suggested that if he ever plans to go there after his eight years in office, I would like to accompany him.

Q Sir, do you think that China now and the People's Republic is more or less xenophobic than it was at the time of the Boxer Uprising?

SENATOR SCOTT: I think certainly less xenophobic because then the entire focus was against the so-called "foreign devils" in the international settlements which have been held by colonialist methods.

The Red Guard Uprising was xenophobic, surely, in its aspects recently -- a few years ago. But there are signs that the all-out revolutionary Maoism is being tempered to at least some degree by the influence of such as Chou En-Lai. I think I am one of the few people who have ever seen Chou En-Lai close up. I had that opportunity once.

It is likely that he is more world-minded than the Chairman of the Party.

Q Senator, another question: Did the President say anything about unfreezing that \$12 billion, or whatever it is, of money?

SENATOR SCOTT: No, it was a warm meeting. We weren't discussing freezing or unfreezing or anything else. It didn't come up.

Q Senator, did you discuss the charges by some Members of Congress that they are under surveillance by the FBI?

SENATOR SCOTT: It wasn't discussed, because it didn't happen, in my opinion.

Q Did the President give any kind of a date, speaking of dates, on when China would open up?

SENATOR SCOTT: No, I am not getting into dates. Ron and I have an agreement on that. (Laughter)

Q Senator, do you envision a visit to Red China while the President is in office?

SENATOR SCOTT: By him or me?

Q By him or you.

SENATOR SCOTT: I don't have any knowledge of any such thing being under consideration at all by either of us at this time. But if a bunch of Congressmen start over there, they had better make room for me on the plane.

Q I would like to ask Mr. Ziegler a question. Ron, was it ascertained that Vice President Agnew actually had a private session with a few reporters in Williamsburg yesterday?

MR. ZIEGLER: I have given my comments. You will have to pursue that with the Vice President's staff.

Q I think it is essential that we know whether this even occurred. You talked about third-hand reports and so forth. I simply want to know if, in your conversations with him or somebody's conversation, he was asked if he did indeed have this session.

MR. ZIEGLER: As I said, you will have to pursue that with the Vice President's staff. I think it is known that there was a session in Williamsburg with members of the press. I think I referred to that earlier, Jim.

Q Would you like to speculate as to why the Vice President would have an off-the-record session with a few reporters to discuss China?

MR. ZIEGLER: You will have to pursue that with his staff, Jim.

SENATOR SCOTT: I think it is just because he likes newspaper people. (Laughter)

Q Did the name J. Edgar Hoover come up this morning?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: The whole issue, including J. Edgar Hoover, was never discussed at the meeting this morning.

Q Has Congressman Boggs given you any indication of what he is going to say on Thursday in terms of wiretapping?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: I haven't seen the text of his comments, I know he has a special order on Thursday for one hour. I personally believe that whatever evidence he has, if he has any, ought to be submitted to an appropriate committee of the House or the Senate and put out for the benefit of the Congress as a whole and for the American people.

I think this is a serious charge. Evidence is the best way to determine the facts, if there is evidence. Then, of course, the Department of Justice and the FBI would have the opportunity to put its case likewise before an appropriate committee.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

(AT 10:21 A.M. EST)

HOUSE ACTION, PERIOD MARCH 23, 1971 THROUGH APRIL 19, 1971

Tuesday, March 23, 1971

COMMITTEE FUNDS

By a voice vote, the House agreed to 14 funding resolutions from the House Administration Committee.

PAN AMERICAN DAY

By a voice vote, the House agreed to H. Res. 338, designating Tuesday, April 20, 1971, for the celebration of Pan American Day.

VOTING RIGHTS

RULE

On Wednesday, March 17, 1971, the House, by a voice vote, adopted H. Res. 299, providing for the consideration of and 2 hours of general debate on H. J. Res. 223, constitutional amendment extending voting rights to 18-year-olds.

PASSAGE

By a record vote of 400 yeas to 19 nays, the House passed S.J. Res. 7 (in lieu of H.J. Res. 223), proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, extending the right to vote to citizens 18 years of age or older, clearing the measure for the President.

RECOMMIT

By a voice vote, the House rejected a motion by Mr. Schmitz to recommit the measure to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Wednesday, March 24, 1971

RURAL TELEPHONE BANK

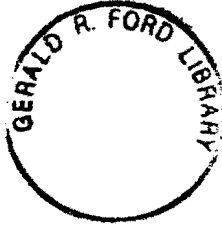
RULE

By a record vote of 366 yeas to 26 nays, the House adopted H. Res. 339, providing two hours of open debate.

PASSAGE

By a record vote of 269 yeas to 127 nays, the House passed H.R. 7, to provide an additional source of financing for the rural telephone program.

Subsequently, this passage was vacated and S. 70, a similar Senate-passed bill was passed in lieu after being amended to contain the language of the House bill as passed.



(MORE)

Wednesday, March 24, 1971 (continued)

RURAL TELEPHONE BANK (continued)

The House insisted on its amendment and asked a conference with the Senate. Appointed as conferees: Representatives Poage, Stubblefield, Purcell, Foley, Belcher, Teague of California, and Wampler.

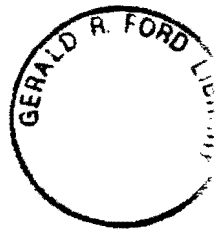
RECOMMIT

By a voice vote, the House rejected a motion by Mr. Teague of California to recommit the bill to the Committee on Agriculture.

Thursday, March 25, 1971

RESTAURANT COMMITTEE

By a voice vote, the House agreed to H. Res. 317, creating a select committee to be known as the Select Committee on the House Restaurant.



Monday, March 29, 1971

RULE CONSIDERATION

By a record vote of 324 yeas to 6 nays, the House agreed to consider H. Res. 349, a rule providing for the consideration of and 1 hour of debate on S.J.Res. 55, to provide a temporary extension of certain provisions of law relating to interest rates and cost-of-living stabilization.

INTEREST RATES

RULE

By a voice vote, the House adopted H. Res. 349, providing 1 hour of open debate.

PASSAGE

By a voice vote, the House passed S. J. Res. 55, to provide a temporary extension of certain provisions of law relating to interest rates and cost-of-living stabilization.

RECOMMIT

By a voice vote, the House rejected a motion by Mr. Blackburn to recommit the measure to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

Prior to final passage, the House rejected, by a record teller vote of 143 yeas to 183 nays, an amendment by Mr. Reuss designed to cause the equitable use by the President of wage and price controls.

(MORE)

Monday, March 29, 1971 (continued)

RESTAURANT COMMITTEE

The Speaker appointed the following as members of the Select Committee on the House Restaurant: Representatives Kluczynski, chairman, Steed, Cabell, Collier, and Thomson of Wisconsin.

Tuesday, March 30, 1971

INTEREST EQUALIZATION TAX

The House agreed to the amendments of the Senate on H.R. 5432, to provide an extension of the interest equalization tax, clearing the measure for the President.

DRAFT

RULE

By a voice vote, the House adopted H. Res. 350, providing four hours of open debate.

The House concluded all general debate on H.R. 6531, to amend the Military Selective Service Act of 1967; to increase military pay; to authorize military active duty strengths for fiscal year 1972; and began reading the bill for amendment when the Committee of the Whole rose. Proceedings under the 5-minute rule will continue tomorrow.

Wednesday, March 31, 1971

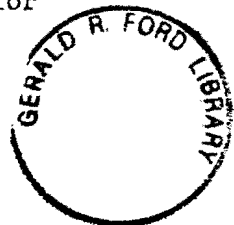
DRAFT

The House continued consideration of H.R. 6531, to amend the Military Selective Service Act of 1967; to increase military pay; to authorize military active duty strengths for fiscal year 1972; but came to no resolution thereon. Proceedings under the 5-minute rule will continue tomorrow.

While in the Committee of the Whole, took the following action:

Agreed to: An amendment by Mr. Brinkley that specifies that local draft boards, clerks, and their attendant records, be available in each county; a conforming amendment by Mr. Brinkley to the previous amendment; and an amendment by Mr. Byrne (Pa.) that provides draft exemption for divinity students (agreed to by a division vote of 114 yeas to 29 nays).

Rejected: An amendment by Mr. Whalen that sought to extend the draft for only 1 year (rejected by a record teller vote of 198 yeas to 200 nays).



Thursday, April 1, 1971

TOBACCO QUOTAS

The House agreed to the committee amendment and passed S. 789, to amend the tobacco marketing quota provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended.

DRAFT

RULE

On Tuesday, March 30, 1971, the House adopted, by a voice vote, H. Res. 350, providing four hours of open debate.

PASSAGE

By a record vote of 293 yeas to 99 nays, with two voting "present," the House passed H.R. 6531, to amend the Military Selective Service Act of 1967; to increase military pay; to authorize military active duty strengths for fiscal year 1972.



RECOMMIT

By a voice vote, the House rejected a motion by Mr. O'Konski to recommit the bill to the Committee on Armed Services.

Prior to final passage, by a division vote of 130 yeas to 41 nays, the House agreed to an amendment by Mr. Broyhill of North Carolina that excludes from the draft any surviving members of a family that has lost a member who was killed in action.

By a voice vote, the House agreed to an amendment by Mr. McKinney that expands the field of employment in which conscientious objectors may work, in lieu of military service.

The House also rejected a number of amendments prior to final passage of the bill.

Monday, April 5, 1971

THE HOUSE CONSIDERED THE CONSENT CALENDAR

INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY

By a voice vote, the House agreed to H. Res. 333, to authorize additional investigative authority to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EASTER RECESS

By a voice vote, the House agreed to H. Con. Res. 257, providing for an adjournment of the House from the close of business on Wednesday, April 7, until noon on Monday, April 19.

Tuesday, April 6, 1971

THE HOUSE CONSIDERED THE PRIVATE CALENDAR

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE PRESS DAY

By a voice vote, the House passed H. J. Res. 278, authorizing the President to declare the last Saturday in April of each year as "National Collegiate Press Day." Agreed to amendments that limit the designation to the year 1971 only.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK

By a voice vote, the House passed H. J. Res. 372, authorizing the President to proclaim the period April 19 through April 24, 1971, as "School Bus Safety Week."

ACTIVE 20-30 WEEK

By a voice vote, the House passed H. J. Res. 329, authorizing the President to proclaim the period February 6 through February 12, 1972, as "Active 20-30 Week."

EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

The House debated H.R. 7016, making appropriations for the Office of Education and related agencies, for fiscal year 1972; but came to no resolution thereon. There are 31 minutes of general debate time remaining when further consideration is continued on Wednesday.

FEED GRAIN BASES--SUGAR BEETS

RULE

By a record vote of 182 yeas to 178 nays, the House agreed to H. Res. 356, providing two hours of open debate.

The House considered H.R. 5981, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to establish feed grain bases, wheat domestic allotments, and upland cotton base acreage allotments for certain growers of sugar beets.

Subsequently, by a record teller vote of 193 yeas to 115 nays, the House agreed to a preferential motion by Mr. Findley that the Committee now rise with the recommendation that the enacting clause be stricken.

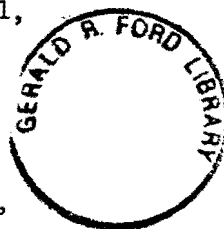
Wednesday, April 7, 1971

EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

PASSAGE

By a record vote of 354 yeas to 7 nays, the House passed H.R. 7016, making appropriations for the Office of Education and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1972.

(MORE)



Wednesday, April 7, 1971 (continued)

EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS (continued)

Prior to final passage, by a division vote of 86 yeas to 68 nays, the House agreed to an amendment by Mr. Lennon that provides an additional 6-percent increase in Federal aid for impacted areas.

A point of order by Mr. O'Hara was sustained against language that would direct the spending of elementary and secondary education funds.

Prior to final passage, the following amendments were rejected:

By a record teller vote of 187 yeas to 192 nays, with one voting "present," the House rejected an amendment by Mr. Hathaway that sought to add \$728.6 million for certain educational programs.

By a record teller vote of 149 yeas to 206 nays, the House rejected an amendment by Mr. Conte that sought to strike out the section which forbids forced busing.

By a teller vote of 92 yeas to 157 nays, the House rejected an amendment by Mr. Conte that sought to strike out the section which provides freedom of choice school desegregation plans.

Monday, April 19, 1971

HOUSE CONSIDERED THE CONSENT CALENDAR

SUSPENSIONS (2 BILLS)

The House voted to suspend the rules and pass the following bills:

H.R. 1534, to amend Sections 320 and 321 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. (passed by a voice vote)

H.R. 1535, to amend Section 312 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. (passed by a record vote of 191 yeas to 84 nays)

EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS

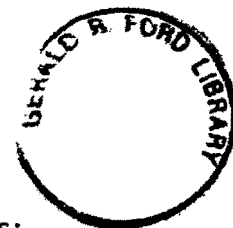
Mr. Mahon by unanimous consent announced that anytime on Thursday he would call up a House Joint Resolution making certain emergency supplemental appropriations.

PROGRAM AHEAD

Tuesday, April 20, 1971

PAN AMERICAN DAY
PRIVATE CALENDAR

(MORE)



PROGRAM AHEAD (continued)

Tuesday, April 20, 1971 (continued)

H.R. 5352 - Supplemental Maritime Authorization for Fiscal Year 1971
(OPEN RULE - ONE HOUR OF DEBATE)

H.R. 4724 - Maritime Authorization, 1972
(OPEN RULE - ONE HOUR OF DEBATE)

Wednesday, April 21, 1971

H.R. 5376 - Accelerated Public Works Act
(OPEN RULE - TWO HOURS OF DEBATE)

Thursday, April 21, 1971, and Balance of Week

H. Res. 28 - To provide funds for the Committee on the District of Columbia.

H. Res. 282 - To provide pay comparability adjustments for certain House employees whose pay rates are specifically fixed by House resolutions.

H. Res. 288 - Foreign Affairs Committee Investigation Authority.

H. Res. 320 - Transferring jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Foundations of the Select Committee on Small Business to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

H.R. 6444 - Railroad Retirement Annuity Increase.
(SUBJECT TO A RULE BEING GRANTED)

H.J.Res. ___ - Making certain emergency supplemental appropriations.
(announced by Mr. Mahon on Monday, April 19, 1971)

