

September Radio Sprint  
Congressman Robert T. Stafford  
Thursday, September 15, 1955

Hello, fellow Vermonters. This is your Congressman, Bob Stafford, reporting once again to you from the nation's capital in Washington, D.C.

The 86th Congress keeps rolling on. The experts and the pundits who forecast a labor day adjournment are now turning their crystal ball on the first of October, merely proving that there are ~~di~~ eternal optimists left here in Washington. I can't help <sup>BUT</sup> remember that ~~two~~ two years ago when we were supposed to adjourn in October, the final gavel fell <sup>as</sup> the snow ~~was~~ <sup>did</sup> like Lewis' on Christmas Eve.

I do expect, seriously though, that this first session of the 86th Congress will wind up its work sometime around the middle of October. Whenever the date does come, I plan to spend as much time as possible <sup>through</sup> back in Vermont reporting directly to organizations and individuals on the activities which have taken place in Washington this year. If we make it <sup>By</sup> mid-October, I will then plan to be in Vermont for four or five days each week for a five or six week period, returning to Washington on weekends to be with my family.

While I cannot make any definite commitments regarding time, until I know when we will adjourn, I would be glad to hear from any group which wishes me to make a personal report on my activities as your Congressman. I, of course, regret that I have had to turn down invitations to a number of meetings in Vermont this month, but I know Vermonters want me to give first attention to the job they elected me to perform in the House of Representatives.

I will be making at least one more of these monthly radio reports to you before the close of the Congress, and I trust that at that time I can give you more specific information on just when I will be in the state.

The emphasis of the administration during this Congress continues to be on pushing domestic legislation. Few would deny that there has been plenty of action in this field. But at the same time, as I have remarked about in the past months, problems continue to mount on the international scene.

Quite frankly, I have an uncomfortable feeling that while we are attempting to build a great society here at home, our alliances overseas are crumbling. The war in Vietnam continues to demand more of our strength and resources. Now, a potentially more dangerous situation from an international standpoint <sup>rears</sup> its ugly head as we witness a direct confrontation between India and Pakistan. In our part of the world, the revolt in the Dominican Republic continues to smoulder from time to time. And in Europe, the entire NATO alliance is threatened as French President Charles de Gaulle calls for an end to the joint military command. Former President Eisenhower reacted strongly to de Gaulle's continued independent action, stating that if the joint military effort in Europe is scrapped, NATO is doomed.

It seems to me that President Johnson and his entire administration should immediately turn their attention and energies toward bringing about a permanent end to the India-Pakistan battle, and to consolidating our relations with countries throughout the world which were once supposed to be our allies. History has proved that we cannot live within our own borders and ignore situations in other parts of the world. It will do little good to build any great society here at home, if we are to loose our friends and our support abroad. So, this Congressman hopes that the administration will give evidence of taking more direct action to end present conflicts on the international scene.

As I have indicated, there has been no slow down in the Congressional action on domestic issues. Both the House of Representatives and the Senate have in the last month approved the second major educational assistance bill to come before the present Congress. You will recall that earlier this year the first major Federal program of aid to elementary and secondary education was enacted into law. Now we are on the doorstep to final approval of a measure providing aid to Higher Education, with House and Senate conferees working on details of disagreement between the bills approved separately by each body.

As passed by the House, the Higher Education legislation will establish the first program of direct scholarship to college students and it will greatly increase and liberalize the loans which are available for such students.

In addition, **I** provides increased funds for construction grants to build undergraduate facilities; it establishes a five-year program to improve college libraries; it provides grants to colleges and universities who wish to develop and offer community service courses; and it establishes a program for assisting those small developing institutions of higher learning which have begun operations around the country in recent years.

Your Congressman supported this legislation when it was debated in the House and approved by a vote of 367 to 22. But I still regret the fact that the majority party in the Congress has thus far refused to give any consideration to legislation which I introduced earlier this year, giving direct tax credits to all individuals who were footing the costly bills incurred when our young people go to college. The tax credit plan is the only one which would give every family with a child in college some direct assistance toward meeting these costs. I will continue to urge action on this plan next year.

The administration's omnibus farm bill, employing what I term Shotgun methods, was also passed by the House and has now received Senate approval. It covers every major farm commodity produced in this country and over the next four years will cost the taxpayers some 19 billion dollars. We in the East will pay more taxes to subsidize feed grain, wheat and other products and then our farmers will pay higher costs to purchase these grains for their poultry and dairy cattle. For the first time, this measure will also provide for the establishment of milk quotas for dairy farmers. The only saving grace about this section is that it will have to be approved by two-thirds of the milk producers in each marketing area before being put into effect. I voted against the bill and will undoubtedly oppose whatever compromise is reported back to the House from conference.

The House gave overwhelming approval to legislation changing the Immigration system so as to eliminate the national origins quotas. It increased pensions for disabled veterans and annuities for civil service retirees. The military pay bill, which your Congressman co-sponsored was given final approval and signed by the President despite his opposition to it while it was going through Congress.

The Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 received my support and was approved by the House after being amended during debate to insure that small states were entitled to assistance under its provisions.

The new Housing and Urban Development Act, which also includes programs for water and sewer facilities and neighborhood improvement programs, was signed into law. I have already been contacted by several Vermont communities who wish to apply for water and sewer grants under this new act. Vermont will also receive payments under the Elementary-Secondary Educational Assistance Act, as Congress approved one billion dollars to implement this new program.

My recent activities as your Congressman also included testifying on three matters before the Congress. I appeared before a House Agriculture committee in support of the Rural Water Bill, which was first introduced by Senator Aiken. This important bill has now been cleared for House action and should help some of our Vermont rural towns which are among the 30,000 areas in the nation without an adequate water supply and system.

I also appeared before the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress and suggested nine specific reforms which I felt ~~will~~ would make the Congress more efficient and up-to-date.

Earlier this week, I gave strong endorsement to the proposal which would provide Vermont with an additional Federal District Judgeship.

Evidence presented by me to the Judiciary Committee shows that Vermont's single District Court presently has the fifth heaviest caseload of the 99 District courts in the country. This proposal has also been supported by the Federal Judicial system, the Governor of Vermont and has been approved by the Senate. I expect approval will be given to it early next year. In the House,

while not being able to get home to Vermont for some time, it has been encouraging to have many of you write me your views on particular legislation.

I appreciate your taking the time to write and hope you will continue to do so.

This is your Congressman, Bob Stafford, talking to you from Washington.

I will be with you on this radio station again next month. Thanks for listening.