

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

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YOUR CONGRESSMAN REPORTS

by John Dowdy

THE NEW CIVIL RIGHTS PROPOSAL is called the "Voting Rights Act of 1965". This bill proposes to repeal, by legislative act, that portion of the U. S. Constitution which gives the several states sole power to prescribe voter qualifications so long as there is no denial on account of race or color. The bill would ban all tests, even the ability to read and write. It seems to go far enough to include idiots and lunatics. Federal registrars would be appointed in any subject political subdivision whenever the U. S. Attorney General received complaints from 20 residents. The bill provides that federal registrars be authorized to accept late payment of poll tax, and place the applicant on the list of voters. This is a head-on conflict with the law in Texas which requires registration and payment of tax prior to February 1. Every qualified citizen is and should be entitled to vote, but the foregoing is only a brief outline of some portions of the bill. It has eleven pages and goes far beyond anything ever heretofore contemplated.

FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION. The bill for federal aid to education will soon be before the House. It would provide aid to both church school, and public school students. There is no price tag on the bill, and no one knows how much it will cost the taxpayers. Its claimed purpose is to help the poor school, but under its provisions, the ten richest counties in the United States will get twice as much as the ten poorest counties. One of the questions on my recent questionnaire was about federal aid to public and church schools. Tabulations thus far of the answer on this question show 12% for such aid, 83% opposed, and 5% no opinion, qualified or indefinite answer. These replies are solely from our Congressional District.

THE FEDERAL DEFICIT CONTINUES. This weakens the dollar. Nevertheless, proposals for spending more and more money multiply. The deficits produce inflation in progressively faster steps. What happens to the value of our dollar affects every individual in the land. New spending programs always start small but establish the principle. A program, once set in action, has a tenacity for clinging to life that is unbelievable. A government agency or bureau just never dies. We have about 2500 now. Speculation as to future costs of the proposed new programs has been completely muted. They mean deficits beyond belief.