

Ordinarily, by about mid-September, Members of Congress would be back in their Districts talking about accomplishments of the recently-adjourned Session. Here it is late November--Congress is still in session and will be until Christmas. My report then must center largely on what has not been accomplished.

Some of my colleagues who have been in Congress for many years tell me this has been the least productive Congress within memory. It is true little major legislation has been enacted, or is likely to be approved this year. But it is also true that several major Administration legislative proposals have fallen, and frankly, are better dead than alive. No action at all is infinitely preferable to ill-advised action.

The Nation will survive--and in my opinion will be better off--without the Administration-sponsored versions of Area Redevelopment, National Service Corps, Medicare tied to Social Security and various Federal Aid to Education proposals. The tax cut and tax reform bill, tagged the No. 1 objective of the Administration, will not be enacted this year. While everyone wants lower taxes, there is a growing sentiment in Congress, and among the people, that a tax cut should be accompanied by a substantial reduction in federal spending. Thus far the Administration has shown no inclination to accept this view.

Civil Rights legislation will still be pending when the Second Session gets underway in January. Here again, there is sentiment for a fair civil rights bill--but this objective is caught in a deadly crossfire from extremists on both sides. There will be civil rights legislation in 1964--but **only** after a time-consuming debate, especially in the Senate which could sidetrack other important measures.

Why, it may be asked, has the Administration's legislative program bogged down so badly? Democrats hold a 2 to 1 majority in the Senate and a 5 to 3 majority in the House. Obviously, if Democrats in Congress were in agreement with the President's program, it could have been approved in its entirety months ago. Simple mathematics rule out the contention of Democrat leaders that the Republicans are obstructing the Kennedy program. The hard truth is the Administration cannot achieve substantial agreement among its own party members on many controversial issues, including civil rights, tax reduction, foreign aid, farm legislation and a host of other issues.

There are many Democrats, including Senator Harry F. Byrd of Virginia, Chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee, who are just as deeply concerned over continued deficit spending and fiscal irresponsibility as Republicans are. I believe most members of Congress, regardless of party, sense the prevailing mood of the people concerning this subject. The public is alarmed, and rightly, over the fact that Congress has been forced to raise the ceiling on the national debt three times this year, so the Treasury Department could meet its day-to-day obligations.

Although this Congress has succeeded in cutting some of the fat from the Administration's proposed budget, federal expenditures during the current fiscal year are still likely to set an all-time record, and the most certain thing in the world is that even greater drains on the federal treasury will be sought in the next fiscal year. In defense of constantly-increasing federal spending, Administration apologists say, in effect, "We are a growing country, with more people earning more money each year and therefore the percentage of each individual's personal income collected by the government doesn't really go up, even if total federal expenditures do."

Though this may be partly true, is it necessary for the federal government to increase its spending each year just because there are more people, with higher incomes, who can be snared in the tax collector's net? Must the maximum amount which can be extracted from the taxpaying public fix the size of the federal budget? Why not just once tailor federal outlays to real needs, rather than to bureaucratic estimates of the maximum which can be levied, borrowed and spent?

I am fearful that however high Congress may set the federal debt ceiling, the federal debt will rise to meet it. That ceiling is now \$315 billion. I would not even venture a guess as to how much higher it will be ten years from now, if present fiscal policies are continued.

Of one thing I am certain. It will grow and grow unless the American people, through expression of their will at the polls, call a halt to ever-growing, ever-expanding, ever more free spending government.