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FOR RELEASE: 2 November 1972

92-352

FROM: Kika de la Garza, M C

WASHINGTON, D C -- During the recently concluded second session of the 92nd Congress, 5,805 bills and resolutions were introduced in the House and 1,403 in the Senate. Of these, the House passed 753 measures and the Senate 767. Only 273 public bills were enacted into law by Congress during the session. Joint, concurrent and simple resolutions accounted for the remainder.

In the House, there were 133 quorum calls during the session, 244 yea-and-nay votes, and 85 record teller votes.

For what it's worth, a summing up of congressional activity shows that Senators, although considerably fewer in number than Representatives, are much more talkative. Reports of Senate proceedings filled 18,665 pages of the Congressional Record", while the House accounted for 10,461 pages.

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A SUBCOMMITTEE'S WORK-- Such a resume gives only a bare bones idea of what goes on in Congress during the course of a long session. A better picture of a Congressman's work can be gained from a report of just one subcommittee's activity.

As a member of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, I am assigned to the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation--a panel of considerable significance to our area. Of the 529 bills and resolutions referred to the full Committee during sessions of the 92nd Congress, 329 came to our Subcommittee. We had to look at all these measures, decide which ones to consider, which were to be the subject of open hearings, and which were to be reported to the House for action. Obviously, all this entailed a considerable amount of work.

One of the first pieces of legislation to be considered by the Subcommittee resulted in the enactment of a law prohibiting the hunting of fish and wildlife from aircraft. Another important conservation measure provided specific authority for the establishment of new wildlife refuges in areas in dire need of immediate protection. I reported last week on the passage of legislation to extend the Fishermen's Protective Act.

The Subcommittee played an important role in developing the important piece of legislation known as the "ocean dumping" bill. Under its provisions an absolute ban would be imposed on the dumping of radiological, chemical, or biological warfare agents, or any other high level radioactive waste, into our coastal and off-shore waters. Dumping of dredge and fill material would continue to be regulated by the Corps of Engineers and all other waste material would be regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Two measures approved by our Subcommittee will provide additional funds for the preservation of wildlife. One bill authorized an increase in the price of the duck stamp and the other provided for a new tax on bows and arrows. Proceeds will go to the states for conservation purposes.

We who serve on the Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation Subcommittee are proud of these and other measures we sent on their way to passage.

* * *

NATIONAL PARK PASSPORTS -- People 62 years of age or older are eligible for Golden Age Passports which entitle them to visit 75 national recreation areas of the National Park Service and U S Forest Service without paying admission fees. The passports also provide a 50 percent discount on user fees for such facilities as camp grounds.

Golden Age Passports and \$10 Golden Eagle Passports for young people, covering 1973, will become available January 1. They will be issued at post offices and areas charging entrance fees.

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POOR EXCUSES -- This seems an appropriate time to consider 10 "sins against citizenship" compiled by the late Cardinal Cushing of Boston. Here they are:

1. Indifference: "I am not interested in politics."
2. Laziness: "I am too busy to bother."
3. Greed: "I am making good money. I should worry about who runs the government."
4. Prejudice: "I am voting for him because he is one of our kind."
5. False pride: "It is all dirty politics. Why should I get mixed up in it?"
6. Cynicism: "One vote won't make any difference one way or the other."
7. Hopelessness: "It is the pressure groups who run things anyway."
8. Ineligibility: "I forgot to register."
9. Why-bother attitude: "All politicians are alike."
10. Cowardice: "I might make enemies if I stood up for my convictions."

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