

construction of a sea-level canal at Panama, presumably less vulnerable to atomic attack than a locks canal. Later the H-bomb and more recently the guided missiles have raised doubts that any type of canal would be invulnerable.

Consequently, there is a renewed tendency in Congress to appraise the Atlantic-to-Pacific waterway problem from the measurable standpoints of potential world commerce requirements and costs of construction.

Temporarily at least, the public demand for budgetary economy appears likely to strengthen the case for an enlarged and modernized Panama locks canal, rather than a Panama sea-level canal or a canal on a new route, such as the Nicaraguan.

However, nothing like a showdown has yet occurred in Congress, and it is still uncertain whether Congress will take any significant action at all during its present session.

Representative DANIEL J. FLOOD, Democrat, of Pennsylvania, is one of a group of Congressmen who have been especially active in creating public opinion and speeding action toward the improvement and modernization of the Panama Canal.

Flood is the author of a bill which would create an interoceanic canal commission of 11 members, to be appointed by the President with the consent of the Senate.

This commission would be given broad authority to investigate and report on the merits of a third locks or other expansion and improvement of the present Panama Canal or a sea-level canal at Panama, or another canal connecting the Atlantic and Pacific.

Flood has also sponsored a concurrent resolution to the effect that the United States should not surrender to any other government or authority its jurisdiction over and control of the Canal Zone. This resolution if approved would forestall the possibility of any future internationalization of the Panama Canal.

Flood said to the United Press: "Under no circumstances should any international situation divest the United States of its present status in the Canal Zone. The increasing development of international trade increases in direct ratio the importance of the canal to the United States.

"The canal must be modernized, widened and deepened by utilizing its existing facilities, enlarging and improving them.

"The need for a so-called sea level canal in the Panama area or elsewhere no longer can be established. In the best interest of this country, the responsible congressional committees should act without delay.

The report of the 1947 commission is patently obsolete. To that end the suggested commission called for in my bill should be created and set to work immediately. The time is already late. The traffic situation at Panama is saturated now, and the water supply problem becomes worse."

Fifth Anniversary of Puerto Rican Commonwealth Day, July 25, 1952

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. PETER W. RODINO, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 1957

Mr. RODINO. Mr. Speaker, this year has been a period of great political strains, of small but brutal skirmishes in many parts of the world, and even in the area of the American hemisphere,

relatively peaceful in comparison to the rest of the world, bitter animosities and bloody internal strife.

For these reasons, it is with even greater pride than ever before that today I speak of the fifth anniversary of Commonwealth Day in Puerto Rico.

Five years ago today, the Constitution of Puerto Rico was officially launched as the supreme law of the land, giving Puerto Ricans complete autonomy in running their own affairs. Many of us are guilty of being too busy to know the background of the sunny islands that are part of the United States may not even be aware that the Puerto Rican Constitution, written and ratified in a democratic process similar to the inception of our own, embodies the best liberal thought of our time. Its "bill of rights" assures every Puerto Rican of the same civil rights that we hold precious. Its governmental structure makes impossible the kind of cancerous growth of dictatorship which the 20th century has made too familiar on both sides of both oceans. Its judicial system guarantees the men and women of Puerto Rico equal justice before the law.

We congratulate the people of Puerto Rico for their many fine achievements since the first Commonwealth Day, and especially do we praise them for the greatest feat of all—their having proved themselves completely able to govern themselves in a manner that is an example to all democracies: the voting privilege is universally prized and used; the government administration is efficient, enlightened, and honest; the efforts made to raise the standard of living have been successfully directed to improving the condition of the entire population.

These things are most important, from the long-range point of view, than other achievements which appear much more prominent to many observers—that is, the amazing improvement in health and education, the swift industrialization and urbanization of the islands, the fantastic momentum in creative and cultural affairs. The important point is that the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has advanced most remarkably under the impetus of good government and has so become a model and an example for others.

The present generation of Puerto Rico and the generations to come, looking back upon the history of these past 5 years since the Constitution and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico were established, will find that, beyond the great economic and political benefits which were initiated at that time, there was another and greater concept which was given beautiful expression—the integration into harmonious pattern of two cultures in the Western Hemisphere, a blending of the best of both of them into an inspiring, dynamic relationship.

We agree entirely with the great Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, who said last March—

The bonds of common citizenship which unite Puerto Rico and the United States are juridical bonds which have our unswerving loyalty. But they are more than that, they are bonds of affection, of deep understanding—bonds of freedom, of friendship.

The Injustice in Federal Aid to Education

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. HAROLD R. COLLIER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 1957

Mr. COLLIER. Mr. Speaker, among the issues which have created editorial comment throughout the country, perhaps one of the most controversial is that which is being considered now by the House—Federal aid to education. The Garfieldian, a weekly newspaper published in the 10th District of Illinois, printed on July 11 an editorial which I believe has ably and succinctly summed up the position in which many of my constituents find themselves when confronted by this program. I think the editorial which follows merits the attention of every Member:

THE INJUSTICE IN FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION

Both sides in the controversy over Federal aid to education are agreed that a Federal aid program would result in large prosperous States (Illinois, for one) sending money to the Federal Government which would eventually be used in supposedly less prosperous and backward States, mostly in the South.

Though this is obviously using the tax money of one State to benefit citizens of another State, the program is defended on the grounds that people in prosperous States should be more than willing to help the residents of other less fortunate States—particularly when it comes to educating children.

If taxes were levied equally in all States, and if the property assessments on which these levies were based were equal this argument might make some sense. This is not true, however.

In Illinois, for example, schools get the biggest share of the real estate tax, which is based on the assessed valuation of property owned by individuals, business and industry. The assessments are not as uniform throughout the State as they should be, though efforts are being made to bring them into line, but in all cases they are reasonably high.

Now take Alabama, which is one of the States that undoubtedly would benefit from Federal aid to education. A news story in a daily paper of one of the cities of that State reported recently that the city received only \$78,000 in property tax revenue last year. The low figure was admittedly the result of inequitable assessments. It listed one building which sold for over \$300,000, yet was valued at only \$30,000 on the tax assessor's records. A house sold for \$19,500 was valued at \$1,500, and another building and property was sold for \$800,000, but valued at only \$77,500 on tax books. The average assessment, according to the news story, was 15 percent.

Not all cities in Alabama, or all States in the South are as lax as the example cited, we are sure, but indications are that the assessments do not come near the 65 percent of actual value paid by property owners in some counties in Illinois.

Under these conditions, it would be a monumental injustice to take Federal taxes collected in Illinois and divert them to Alabama or any other States that is not doing all that it can to support itself.

This could apply to all forms of Federal aid, but it seems particularly pertinent in regard to education because such a huge part of the real estate tax collected in Illinois goes for schools.