



## The rolling Thone

Competition for Nebraska's First Congressional District seat can properly at this point be considered less than vicious. The freshman Congressman serving in that seat for the last two years will probably not be unseated by anything less than political dynamite. There are no such fuses to be lit.

During his past two year term in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Charles Thone of Lincoln has scored well in a number of ways. This is most interesting because he didn't even seek the seat until after the primary election was over last year.

Congressman James Denney, after winning the Republican nomination for the first district slot, was

appointed to a federal judgeship, leaving the general election ballot position wide open.

Thone was approached by state Republicans, and became their choice. Thone says that at that time in history he thought of the race as a "new mountain to climb". Prior to running, he was involved in a private law practice in Lincoln.

When asked just what highlights there have been during his first term, he replied, "there really aren't too many exhilarating highlights—a new person in Washington must get grounded first." Thone went on to say that, "Some of the little things in service work are gratifying; that is, being able to turn around some aspect of the federal government in the favor of a constituent." Thone spends a good deal of time talking with his constituents and responding to each and every piece of correspondence that reaches his office.

His voting record in the House is one evidencing individuality. Several times he has opposed the Nixon administration's efforts concerning major legislation. Congressman Thone voted against the SST funding bill, against the Lockheed loan measure, and opposed the Higher Education Act of 1972, all contrary to the wishes of the Republican administration.

Involvement in the Republican party's selection of senior committee members has been an event in Thone's Congressional life. He was involved in effecting rules saying that the senior members of a Congressional committee need not be the politician with the most years in office.

A good deal of Charles Thone's time is spent traveling back and forth between Washington and Lincoln. He is back here in Nebraska this week for two days of meetings and engagements.

Most recently, Thone helped to introduce a measure known as the Omnibus Safety Act of 1972. It is a twelve-point program to reduce highway injuries and fatalities. He co-introduced the bill with Congressman William H. Harsha, senior Republican on the House Public Works Committee.

Congressman Charles Thone certainly ranks now as one of the top freshmen now serving in the House of Representatives. If only one member of Nebraska's five-man Congressional delegation was ever deserving of re-election, Thone most easily qualifies.

Barry Pilger

editorial

After going \$87 billion in the red in his first three budgets, President Richard M. Nixon came under heavy fire in 1972 for proposing a hefty increase in defense spending the fourth time around.

"The country will go bankrupt and to the bow-wows," muttered Democrats and other tightwads everywhere.

But the President remained firm. "Only by increasing defense spending," he said, "can we insure our safety from enemy attack."

And in the end he proved absolutely right.

For at the time, of course, the Russians and the Chinese, while pretending to be enemies, actually had a secret plan to capture America and despoil it of its wealth.

The Communist Blueprint, drawn up on Nov. 3, 1971, at Pigg-Zye in far Outer Mongolia, called for Russia to saw off the U.S. Eastern Seaboard, while the Chinese would unscrew all the nuts in Southern California, thus loosening the West. The amber waves of grain were to go to the Russians and the fruited plains to the Chinese, with the purple mountains' majesty left up in the air.

"All we have to do," said the sinister Chinese negotiator, Fu Man, rubbing his hands, "is wait until the U.S. defense budget drops below \$75 billion a year. Then we'll have them at our mercy!"

But thanks to Nixon, it was not to be. Instead of cutting the defense budget, he upped the requested authorization to \$83.4 billion.

"Oh, we'll never take them over now," prophetically said the Russian negotiator, Justa Poppova, sadly tearing up the Communist Blueprint. And he was right.

For Congress, not wishing to offend anyone in uniform,

routinely approved the extra half billion (give or take a billion or two) the President requested.

And with that money, the Pentagon was able, after much haggling, to purchase 16 new tanks with white sidewall treads, a gun that could shoot backward as well as forward and a giant cargo plane capable of landing on one ski.

Unfortunately, the extra half a dozen billion or so, what with cost overruns, pushed the national debt to exactly half a trillion dollars. And this unnerved Herman R. Opple of Broome, Wisc.

"Half a trillion's a lot of dough to be in debt," he said thoughtfully to his wife, Imagreen. And he went right down and cashed in his U.S. Defense Bonds, all \$243.12 worth.

Well, you know how these panics spread. In 24 hours, everyone was cashing in Defense Bonds. The financiers were cashing in their Treasury Bonds. And nobody was buying any government notes, long-term or short-term. In a word, the government was bankrupt.

So the government went into receivership, sold off what assets it had (mostly real estate), and settled with its millions of creditors for ten cents on the dollar.

But the country was broke. Riots and fires spread through the long-neglected cities. The long-overburdened transportation system broke down. Without money, the schools closed, welfare agencies shut their doors, and the unpaid Army mutinied and went home. The nation lay defenseless.

But just as Nixon predicted it was now safe from enemy attack. For as Poppova said to Fu Man after a brief inspection tour of the strife-torn, hunger-ridden, poverty-stricken land:

"Who'd want a country like that?"

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