

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00149R000400060020-3

LEADER
EVENING 20,010
SUNDAY 20,545

SEP 10 1962

FOIAb3b

Holland's Fight Against Poll Tax Bears Fruit

CPYRGHT

WASHINGTON — Sen. Spencer L. Holland's long fight to abolish the poll tax has borne fruit, with the passage by the Congress of a constitutional amendment to end the tax.

The proposed amendment must now be ratified by 38 of the 50 states before it will become a part of the U.S. Constitution.

"In 1937, as a member of the Florida State Senate, I voted to discontinue our state poll tax requirement in all elections," Sen. Holland, of Bartow, said in recounting his battle against the tax.

Stand Needed

"The results of this action were greater citizen participation in voting and the end of machine politics in several counties.

"After coming to Washington," he said, "I realized that the South badly needed to take an affirmative position on some of the continuing battles which divided our country, and it seemed to me that this was clearly the most appropriate measure.

"Accordingly, in 1949, I introduced the amendment and was joined by the late Sen. Walter F. George of Georgia and various other Southern senators who felt, as I did, that through a constitutional amendment we could properly deal with this problem by eliminating, at least in federal elections, a device which had kept many careless citizens and many poor citizens, both white and Negro, from voting.

Cuban Buildup Eyed

"I have renewed my efforts in every succeeding Congress," Sen. Holland said, "and I am happy that apparently the strong sentiment of our people in most of the states is that this step should now be taken. I am particularly grateful for the fact that the leadership of both parties in both Houses supported my efforts this year, and that the amendment had the firm backing of the President."

from the capital. Sen. Holland also called attention to the Cuban situation, which he said is worsening.

"All of us here have been deeply concerned by the buildup of military strength in Cuba through Communist aid.

"Last week, after receiving some alleged specific facts on this subject, I talked twice with the State Department and twice with the White House in the effort to verify or disprove this information.

"At both places I was told that in many respects such information was in accord with what had been verified through sources not available to me, and that the President would make a policy statement . . . which he did on Tuesday.

"The most important new policy announced by the President," Sen. Holland said, "was his statement that the Cuban buildup was largely defensive, and that if used aggressively against any nation in this hemisphere, it would be resisted by us with all necessary force.

"While this will not satisfy the anxiety of many of our people, it is a step forward and I am sure it is accompanied by renewed efforts to get the assurance of further Latin American cooperation so that we would not have to act unilaterally.

"The ultimate decision as to whether and when force should be used must be made only by the President and his advisers, who have access to facts not available to others, such as the reports from the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency), from Guantanamo (the U.S. Naval base in Cuba), from friendly embassies, from our own officials abroad and from other sources," Sen. Holland said.

CPYRGHT