

ALTOONA, PA.
MIRROR

They Rant and Rave.

DOWN IN WASHINGTON, the seat of government, things get pretty hot, weatherwise and oratorically, and during the past week or so members of Congress provided work galore for the printers who turn out the Congressional Record, official publication of that august group of senators and representatives.

Sen. William Proxmire from Wisconsin set some sort of a record as he talked and talked and ran his speech through 109 pages in The Record.

Rep. Abraham J. Multer of New York was only mild, but longwinded, as he made a report that took 21 more pages.

The cost of printing a single page in the Congressional Record is somewhat over \$300 and when members of Congress talk "that isn't cheap" by any means.

Sen. Proxmire started what he thought was a good idea when Lawrence J. O'Connor Jr. was nominated as a member of the Federal Power Commission, which handles electric, coal, gas and oil, as power suppliers. The Wisconsin senator objected to naming an individual who holds positions, stocks and power in 29 companies for "a conflict of interests" could result.

Proxmire's speech lasted for 26 solid hours, with a couple of coffee breaks and with lots of help from Sen. Wayne Morse of Oregon and finally the sergeant-at-arms had to round up absentee senators to make a quorum. When the vote was taken, 83 members approved the nomination, a mere 12 voted against and five failed to vote. The Proxmire debate was for naught, just so much time-consuming effort. The nominee, Mr. O'Connor, promised to get rid, perhaps at a loss, of all his "conflict" holdings, his interests to be legally transferred over to his aged mother, with the nominee the sole heir later on, of course.

Rep. Multer was good for 21 pages in The Record as he inserted articles pertaining to a subject, "It's time for a change, before it's too late," all of which took the Central Intelligence Agency to task for so many recent failures.

The congressman ended up by stating the "In the secret word of the CIA anything is possible, and no one knows. We can only wonder and doubt. And doubt does not inspire confidence abroad or fervor at home. It's time to clean house."

The 26-hour talk by Sen. Proxmire won only 12 votes. The Multer contribution just stirred up the intelligence experts.

STAT