

**VOTING RIGHTS EXTENSION ACT**

**HON. BARBARA JORDAN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 19, 1975

Ms. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced legislation which extends the provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to jurisdictions in which Mexican American voters reside—principally Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and parts of Colorado, and California. In addition, my bill would extend coverage of the act for jurisdictions currently covered by its provisions for an additional 10 years, and also place a permanent national ban on the use of literacy tests.

Beginning on February 25, the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Constitutional Rights of the House Judiciary Committee will hold hearings on extension of the Voting Rights Act. Without congressional action, the act will expire on August 7, 1975. I have joined Chairman PETER RODINO and DON EDWARDS in cosponsoring a simple extension of the act for additional 10 years. Passage of the Rodino-Edwards bill is vital. Nothing should impede the Congress from this task. In addition to the testimony which will be heard by the subcommittee justifying simple extension of the Voting Rights Act, witnesses will testify and affidavits will be submitted supporting extension of the act's provisions to areas of the country in which Mexican American voters reside.

Nearly all the forms of discriminatory voting practices suffered by blacks in the South are being suffered by Mexican Americans in the Southwest. When Mexican Americans tried to register in one town they were told the registrar ran out of printed forms. Polling places have been located in places where only whites normally congregate. There have been instances where Mexican American ballots have been consistently challenged, causing voters to appear in court and attempt to recognize their ballot among many thousands cast. Jurisdictions have apportioned themselves to minimize the effect of the Mexican American vote. These and other specific instances of voting discrimination against Mexican Americans will be presented to the subcommittee. The legislation I have introduced today is designed to apply the remedies of the Voting Rights Act to these jurisdictions.

Under my proposal a jurisdiction would be covered by the Voting Rights Act if, first, less than 50 percent of the eligible voters were registered to vote or less than 50 percent of the eligible voters actually voted during the Presidential election of 1972 and, second, if the jurisdiction printed election or registration materials only in the English language when more than 5 percent of the eligible voters are of a single mother tongue other than English. The current definition of test or device includes any requirement "that a person as a prerequisite for voting or registration for voting demonstrate the ability to read, write, understand, or in-

terpret any matter." My amendment would make explicit that the failure to provide bilingual registration forms and ballots when a substantial number of voters do not read fluent English constitutes the use of a "test or device." The Bureau of the Census collects, on a county by county basis, statistics on the mother tongue of residents. It is possible, therefore, to utilize the mother tongue of residents as a measure of the difficulty eligible voters confront when presented with election materials printed only in English.

Jurisdictions covered by the act would be required, as are jurisdictions currently covered, to submit to the Attorney General for his concurrence any changes made in voting laws or procedures. This means that changes in voting laws or procedures cannot be implemented in covered jurisdictions unless the Attorney General determines that the proposed changes would not have a discriminatory effect. In addition, the Attorney General may send Federal registrars and poll watchers into covered jurisdictions to assist eligible voters to exercise their franchise under the guarantees of the 15th amendment. Enactment of this bill, therefore, would charge the Attorney General with protecting the voting rights of Mexican-Americans residing in the Southwest.

In its just released report on the effectiveness of the Voting Rights Act, the U.S. Civil Rights Commission voted to study the voting rights of residents located in jurisdictions not covered by the Act. However, the Commission recommended "that the Congress not await the Commission's forthcoming report before giving serious consideration to including an amendment to the extension of the Voting Rights Act to cover those language minorities as well as other minorities who, according to preliminary information require the protection of this law."

Mr. Speaker, my bill implements the preliminary recommendation of the Civil Rights Commission by extending the protections of the Voting Rights Act to Mexican-Americans residing in the Southwest. The disenfranchised voters of this country must be enfranchised. They must know they are part of the citizenry of this country. Their rights, their privileges and their votes must be protected. An open and free society can do no less. The legislation I have introduced today will accomplish this goal.

**AT A FUNDRAISING DINNER**

**HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 19, 1975

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend at a fundraising dinner for Vice President ROCKEFELLER, President Ford said it is easier to negotiate with our country's adversaries than to negotiate with the Congress.

The audience howled its delight. Me, too.

I mean, after all, this is the administration that negotiated the Russian wheat deal.

Speaking of Congress, is not a fundraiser for a Rockefeller somewhat incongruous?

**CONSTITUENT SERVICE FUND**

**HON. RONALD A. SARASIN**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 19, 1975

Mr. SARASIN. Mr. Speaker, a little over 1 year ago I entered in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a lengthy discussion of my intention to establish a constituent service fund to help underwrite the costs of providing my Fifth District Connecticut constituency with the kind of communications and services which I feel they deserve. I also feel strongly that they have a right to a full disclosure of this fund and how it is used.

I placed before my colleagues and the public a detailed explanation of the type of expenses I believe could properly be covered by such a fund, the method by which I intended to raise the money and a lengthy opinion from the Internal Revenue Service which I solicited to make sure the fund met every legal and ethical requirement.

Last August, I placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a complete accounting of the operation of the funds for the first 6 months. I would now like to offer to my colleagues and the public a report on the first full year of this constituent service fund. It has been of tremendous value in enabling me to maintain the kind of service and communications I feel are my responsibility as a representative of the people of my district and I also wish to express my gratitude to the many contributors who have made the program a success.

The basic structure of the fund is based on a maximum \$200 subscription from any individual and also benefits from miscellaneous contributions ranging from \$1 upward. The following represents a full accounting of the operations of my constituent service fund from January 1, 1974 to December 31, 1974:

**RECEIPTS**

Miscellaneous receipts from constituents ranging from \$1.00 to \$100.00	\$178.00
Thirty-five members at \$200.00 fully paid	7,000.00
Four (one-half year paid at \$100.00) second one-half year balance due	400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,578.00</b>

**EXPENDITURES**

Additional staff and expense	428.20
Rental of meeting rooms and janitor expenses	67.20
Sarasin mobile office and travel expenses	384.42
Printing of newsletters, questionnaires, senior citizen handbooks	6,327.61
Bank charges	11.78
Fifth District club functions	260.02
Coordinator meetings—expenses and refreshments	12.36