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U.S. CONGRESSMAN

Glenn English, Cordell Democrat

By Lynn Burns



conservative from Cordell

Congressman Glenn English of Oklahoma's Sixth District is working hard to make Oklahoma a better, more productive place to live. His work is aimed at making Oklahoma a healthier, happier, drug-free place to rear children and live a quality life. But it hasn't happened overnight. Many years of hard work and education have gone into making his dream a possibility, and many years of equally hard work are yet to come.

Congressman English is a family man who realizes the significance of the family unit in society. Included in his family are Jan, his wife, John, their fifteen-year-old son, and T. J., their eleven-year-old daughter.

Glenn English is a small-town boy. He was born and reared in Cordell. After graduating from Cordell High School in 1958, he went on to receive a double degree in Economics and Business at SOSU in Weatherford in 1964. He then served six years in the Army Reserves (1965-1971) and also worked as the Executive State Director for the Oklahoma Democratic Party. In 1974, English ran for election to Congress in the sixth district of Oklahoma. He won easily in this Republican-dominated district and has repeatedly won re-election just as easily.

According to Alan Ehrenhalt, "English has turned out to be one of the most conservative of Southern members of Congress. . . a man who pays much closer attention to the wishes of his prairie district than to the wishes of the Democrat leadership."

Making Oklahoma a healthier, happier, drug-free place is his goal.

On cultural issues, English's view is mixed; however, on economic and foreign issues, his stand is strictly conservative. As a result of his knowledge and skill, he has been named to numerous committees:

1. Agriculture: Subcommittees — Cotton, Rice, and Sugar; Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry; Tobacco and Peanuts; Wheat, Soybeans, and Feed Grains.

2. Government Operations: Subcommittees — Government Information, Justice, and Agriculture, of which he is chairman, where he took on the job of overseeing the government's entire drug-enforcement effort.



Congressman Glenn English is briefed in the cockpit of a Lockheed P-3 aircraft used to track drug smugglers.

3. White House Conference for a Drug-Free America.

4. Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control — where he directed a task force on drug abuse and the military.

English has made drug enforcement a top priority of his subcommittee. He has spent many years researching this country's drug problems and has worked just as hard developing proposals to fight the war on drugs. His hard work has finally paid off — in part as a result of the needs he has seen and the solutions he has developed to overcome the inadequacies. A recently developed and approved anti-drug plan is now in effect. It isn't a plan that English developed on his own, but it is one he has greatly influenced and one in which many of his proposals are included. He has declared the overall plan a "major victory" for Congress against drug smugglers.

The Anti-drug plan is a major boost for law enforcement. It is making what seems an impossible job of drug enforcement a truly obtainable plan to defeat the selling of drugs in this country.

Such a plan will give law-enforcement agencies all of the resources they need to declare war on drugs. These resources include manpower, money, planes,

helicopters, detection equipment, and the authority to stop any drug deal on U.S. soil and in the Bahamas. Arrests can now be made.

On economic and foreign issues, his stand is strictly conservative.

This Anti-drug program will have a major effect on Oklahoma because the National Command and Control Center will be located at the Will Rogers Airport in Oklahoma City. Staffing of the \$20 million Command Center, which will surely affect our economy, has already begun. The center, which promises to make Oklahoma the heart or center of all drug enforcement, is now in temporary quarters. A ground-breaking ceremony for the new building will be held sometime this year. This center will handle the duties of intelligence, planning, coordinating, and command for all drug-enforcement agencies. One of the major plans is to stop the illegal flow of drugs into the United States and also to stop the cultivation of drugs.

In one of his reports from Washington, English insists that his is not just another plan to throw money at drugs. The plan has been well thought out, and the multiple hearings he has held support it. It is a well-developed, well-studied plan. Given time, it will work.

To assure the effectiveness of his plan, English wrote a reorganization bill which has been included in the drug plan. The bill requires the President to submit his recommendations concerning how the nation's drug forces should be reorganized to provide for more effective drug enforcement. These recommendations must be made within six months of the bill becoming law. The date was set for the first White House Conference on the Drug Act — between February 28 and March 3, 1988. Officials from all over the country were present for the conference, and Mr. English spoke to the group on March 1.

The beginning of use of the plan will be slow because much time and work are required to make any new program a success. Congress realizes that the beginning will be laborious, but many congressmen believe that the program will ultimately succeed.

Such success from a small-town Western Oklahoman is noteworthy. Oklahoma is once again the center of attention, and all of us can be duly proud of the conservative congressman from Cordell. ■

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