



# John Tower

United States Senator for TEXAS

Armed Services Committee  
Banking & Currency Committee  
Joint Committee on Defense Production  
Housing & Urban Affairs Subcommittee  
Defense Construction Subcommittee

## Reports from Washington

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### AN ILLNESS OF LAWLESSNESS

I have difficulty describing the feeling. It was a sort of dismay I've never felt before, and it came from seeing armed paratroopers at every door of the Senate Office Building, a machine gun on the Capitol steps, police reduced to directing traffic for looters, and arsonists burning at will within blocks of the White House. I suspect you felt pretty much the same way as you watched it on television.

It happened here in the days after Dr. King's death, but militants and lawless elements rapidly made a mockery of that death and the nonviolent philosophy Dr. King preached. (Senseless rioting is the same sort of lawlessness as senseless assassination.) Rioters and hoodlums roamed wild agitated by such as Stokely Carmichael--lately returned from Havana and Hanoi.

It all had little to do with "civil rights." Those involved were vandals, criminals and revolutionaries. They outraged civilized society, bred chaos, and directly assaulted American concepts of law and order. Unfortunately, for too long such criminals have been coddled with the restraint we traditionally apply to peaceful demonstrators. And we see what has happened. Such criminal disruption must stop in America. And the best medicine to cure the illness of lawlessness is a good, stiff dose of law and order.

It's time government remembered the law-abiding citizens--Latin, Negro and white--and protected them against terrorism and plunder. It's time the Attorney General stood up for the law instead of apologizing for it. It's time those people who want to do the right thing got some support from their leadership. The Senate has passed both a Civil Rights Bill and a Law Enforcement Bill this spring. Neither was perfect, but in conjunction they reveal, I believe, the determination of citizens of good will that our nation shall have both social progress and certain order. That's what I seek as your United States senator.



### 4-H CONFEREES

These young Texans took time out to visit your Senate office during their trip to the National 4-H Conference in Washington.

Left to right they are, La Nita Wood of Lubbock; Byron Gossett of Dumas; Jackie Smajstrla, Victoria; and Carm Hamilton, Canada. Seated is Gretchen Barnes, Channelview.

## A WELCOME STAFF ADDITION

Miguel A. Cavazos, Jr., has accepted my appointment to the United States Capitol Police Force and has assumed his duties here. Mike, who is 24 years old and a native of Rio Grande City is an Air Force veteran. He came to Washington from Edinburg where he was a senior at Pan American College, and he hopes to continue his college work at one of the schools here. (My staff thinks Mike's long-ball hitting may provide an uplift for the spring softball season.)



Talking and Fighting We all are pleased that at least some preliminary talks with the North Vietnamese seem possible. I believe that in this time of sensitive diplomatic contacts it is particularly important that none of us here at home do or say anything that would hamper our President's peace efforts or that would encourage the enemy to prolong his stubbornness. I know Texans will stand firm against the prophets of "peace at any price" and will, instead, support our quest for meaningful talks backed up by impressive allied military strength.

U. S. S. Pueblo The Armed Services Committee has tried to keep itself advised of all developments on the Pueblo. The most hopeful thing I can report is that we probably will be able to negotiate release of the crew sometime in 1969. Meantime, we can all also hope our nation has learned its lesson and will never again allow a U. S. ship to be seized on the high seas with the captor nation going free of meaningful punishment.

A Destroyed Economy Our economy is in trouble. So is our dollar. Deficit federal spending has finally caught up with us as you and I have for so long warned. Our \$10 bill has lost \$1 in buying power in just three years. I supported a Senate bill to cut federal spending \$6 Billion and to impose a 10% surtax. We are a national family faced with potential bankruptcy. We have worried and talked for a decade now. If we don't act promptly the next decade will be a difficult one, indeed.

Low-income Housing The Housing and Urban Affairs subcommittee has sent the Senate an important bill to help make housing available to citizens of low income. I'll be working to ensure that the bill's emphasis remains there, where the need is greatest.

Hemisfair San Antonio's big spring fair of the Americas is underway. It's excitement and beauty will attract thousands of tourists from outside our state. I hope a lot of Texans will be able to go, too.

Correspondence My Washington, Austin and Houston offices receive about a thousand pieces of mail each day. I continue to do my very best to respond to your personal letters, and my experienced staff is both willing and able to help answer questions, fill requests or respond to problems involving the federal government.

I regret that these newsletters to you have been a little few and far between recently. That's because requests for the newsletter have pushed the mailing list upwards toward a quarter-million Texas individuals and families. In order to allow more frequent, flexible mailings it's been necessary to undertake a time-consuming transition to a computerized, magnetic-tape mailing system.

I hope you will not hesitate to share with me the addresses of any of your friends interested in receiving these newsletters. And, I'd appreciate it if at the same time you would check the envelope to see that your address is correctly listed. If not, send me the envelope with the correction noted.

John S. Tower