

FW Solon Credited With Agreements

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## Wright Draws Praise for Work in Mexico

By TERRANCE W. McGARRY

LA PAZ, Mexico (UPI)— Even as a national news magazine was speculating last week that Fort Worth's Rep. Jim Wright may make a Senate bid next year, the young Congressman began building a reputation as an effective behind-the-scenes force at the international level.

Wright was one of 21 U. S. Congressmen who met with 25 Mexican Congressmen in the fifth interparliamentary conference between the two nations in the Baja California city of La Paz.

The news magazine said top Democrats in Texas see

him as their best bet to unseat Republican John Tower.

Congressmen from both countries said privately he deserved a major share of the credit for several of the agreements of the two-nation conference.

Chief among them was the virtually unanimous consensus by the two delegations that the Bracero agreement should be renewed.

Wright headed the American side on the committee that discussed the Bracero situation, and emerged as the spokesman for the riverman coalition of border state Senators and Representatives

that pushed hard to get that consensus.

The committee's final report, written by Wright, spoke optimistically of "any and all future (Bracero) agreements."

Before the conference began, the Mexican delegation was reported to be preparing to push for stiffer controls and more stringent Labor Dept. supervision in any future Bracero agreement.

By the time it ended, both sides said the Mexican delegates would willingly back a renewal of the contract under its old terms.

Wright's delivery of the

committee report to the concluding session of the conference drew the loudest round of applause of the evening.

It took him several minutes to get back to his seat from the stage as he worked his way through the delegates waiting to congratulate him.

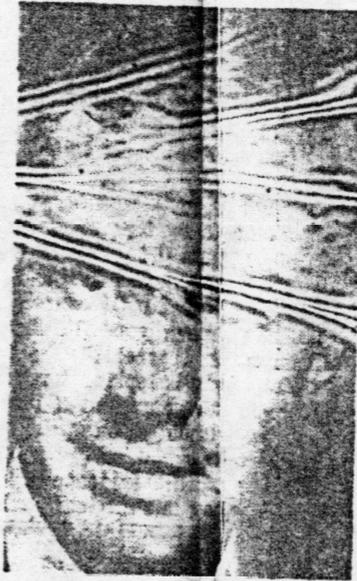
Wright was picked to deliver the final words of the U. S. delegation, a speech of appreciation given by the governor of Southern Baja California after the conference officially ended.

One of the things that impressed several Mexican delegates was Wright's use of Spanish occasionally outside

the committee sessions. (The sessions were conducted with translators and the use of U. N.-style earphones.)

"We know Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Montoya (Rep. Henry Gonzalez, D., Tex., and Sen. Joseph Montoya, D., N. M., both Mexican-Americans, speak Spanish, but they learned it at home, as children," said one Mexican deputy.

"But for Mr. Wright to speak Spanish means he must have taken the time and trouble to study the language, and practice it. This demonstrates a real desire to work toward a closer understanding."



Jim Wright

FOR WORTH STAR TELEGRAM FEB 21, 1966

# Wright Brand Of Diplomacy Wins Bravos

BY LARRY ALLEN

LA PAZ, MEXICO, Feb. 20 (Spl)—Congressman Jim Wright of Fort Worth stole the show at the Fifth U. S.-Mexico Interparliamentary Conference just concluded in this capital city of the Baja (Lower) California territory.

Wright captured acclaim not only by outlining clear-cut proposals for further cementing the "never better" relations between his country and Mexico, but also by saying what he thought in warm, precise words that Mexican officials and Lower California's citizenry found pleasant to the ears. They were spoken in virtually flawless Spanish.

As a matter of fact, his Mexican audiences insisted Wright's Spanish was "perfect." He smilingly contended, however, he still has much to learn before that adjective would be applicable.

Anyhow, Wright, chosen from 24 U. S. senators and representatives to say "thank you to Gov. Bonifacio Salinas Loal and other Mexican hosts for the dazzling reception accorded to the Washington contingent, did it so masterfully at a farewell dinner that he "brought down the house with cheers and ovations."

ALFONSO MARTINEZ Dominguez, leader of Mexico's chamber of deputies; Senator Manuel Tello, formerly foreign secretary and onetime ambassador to Washington, and other kingpins of the 24-member Mexican delegation to La Paz, all hailed Wright's speech-making and the positive results of the two-day discussion.

Senator Wayne Morse, Oregon Democrat and chairman of the Latin American subcommittee of the Senate's foreign relations committee said the La Paz parley was the "best of all the conferences" held annually since the interparliamentary assembly started in Guadalajara in February 1961.

Morse declared Wright "bowed them" by speaking Spanish at the governor's dinner and his report on social relations between the United States and Mexico was a "fine job."

Senator Ernest Gruening, Alaska, Democrat said Wright's work in the assembly was "magnificent and his

the most eloquent I have ever heard."

A shower of laurels also came from the Republican side.

Rep. Alphonzo Bell of California said: "To put it in the vernacular, Jim was the main star of our whole delegation. We of the U. S. scored heavily in improving and cementing our good relations with our Mexican neighbors. A sublon-

Representative Wright's warmth, friendliness, and honesty in his statements."

Rep. F. BRADFORD Morse of Massachusetts, declared Wright's performance in the Interparliamentary Conference was a "perfectly outstanding job."

"I am not a member of Jim's party," Morse added, "but his contribution (in La Paz) made me mighty proud to be a member of Congress, and indeed, to be an American."

The report stressed the desire of both U. S. and Mexican lawmakers to improve understanding and friendship and "a greatly expanded program of social, cultural and technical interchanges, an increasing flow of private tourism and the steady application of statesmanship to the solution of the remaining problems which beset our common border."

Wright said both the United States and Mexico had only "scratched the surface" in educational interchanges and that greater emphasis should be placed on increasing the number of students studying outside their own country, and a "People-to-People" program.

Wright's report called for broadening of the Pan American Health Organization to speed up the eradication of diseases and their causes.

ON THE QUESTION of a new U. S.-Mexico pact to allow Mexican farmhands (braceros) to work in the United States, replacing the one that expired last Dec. 31, Wright's committee advocated: Guarantees that wage rates shall not be disruptive

opportunities among U.S. workers, and protection against "discrimination, mistreatment or unjust exploitation of Mexican workers."

# A Talk on Issues With Fort Worth's

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 anybody's support—and I couldn't sell it," he said.

What, then, needs to be done in the state? he asked rhetorically.

"We need to bring it into the middle of the Twentieth Century. We need to create a new climate which recognizes that it is an urban state, an increasingly industrial state. We need an industrial commission similar to that which Governor Hodges put into effect in North Carolina," differing from the one in Texas in that it was financed by the state and "actively cooperated with local communities when they had an industry on the string." The Hodges commission, Wright said, "helped create a new climate in the communities, a new outlook in which the people became proud to be a progressive state."

Texas also needs a new constitution, he said. "Whether you could sell it or not is another question." Codifying the document and omitting provisions that belong in statutes, "you wouldn't have to amend it every time you try to change the salary of a janitor," and the government itself would become "more viable, less unwieldy and less subject to obstruction."

"The governorship ought to be an office of responsibility," he added; but, even without changes to give the governor more power, recodification would be difficult because of "resistance to change, per se."

Then, too, Wright continued, "Some governor eventually, in the probably foreseeable future, is going to have to come to grips with bringing about an orderly transition in the schools to comply with the integration matter. This can be a thing, if not handled very adroitly, that can mean his political demise. To help accomplish it in an orderly fashion and without violence and lose because of it, that would be worth it; but to come down here, fail to do it, and lose . . . He would have to exercise powerful moral persuasion over the people. I don't know if I can do that. I know that somebody must. Most thoughtful people recognize this must be done."

Elymossynary institutions and colleges and universities need more support, he said.

What about taxes? "I always opposed, when I was in the legislature, of course, sales taxes of all types, even the selective and excise taxes, until it became apparent in several instances it was the only way to raise the revenue. In 1947 I introduced a graduated severance tax on oil, gas, and sulphur, like the one Bob Eckhardt has now on gas. I incurred the active hostility of all of 'em.

"But gee whiz, if we're realists we're not producing as much oil as you once could," the congressman said.

"I think severance taxes, in an ideal theory, inasmuch as they derive from exhaustible resources, ought to be devoted to long term trust funds through the years. These things which are being rapaciously exploited, and in some cases rather rapidly exhausted, might leave behind them a continuing legacy for future uses when they're gone." Such a fund could be administered so that only the interest or proceeds could be spent, the principal being kept intact; "those old boys were pretty long-headed" who set up the permanent school fund, he said.

What is his position on a general sales tax? He does not know how much revenue can be raised with or without it, he said; however, he is impressed by the fact that the governor and members of the House who once opposed it seem now to be advocating it.

"Personally, my inclination has been to agree with the governor that there ought to be exemptions of basic necessities—this proceeds from the assumption that you can't raise adequate revenue without having some form of sales tax, which conclusion the legislature itself seems to have reached," he said. "Apparently everybody has come to the conclusion you've got to have a sales tax."

He stressed he does not have the facts at this point. "Again," he said, "I don't know whether there are other available sources, or not. This is a factual question—not a lot of opinion."

### Federal Aid, Si!

If he was governor, would he oppose or favor the state accepting federal aid to education?

"Of course, the state has to accept federal aid to education," he said. "When the aid is available and the state needs it, obviously it must. The resources of our state are paying for other states' education. Obviously we have as great a need as there is in a median state."

In the next ten years the country will be gripped by a school crisis that will dwarf the present one, he said, citing the need within the next decade for 1,500,000 new teachers—as many as now teach—which will in turn call for

one out of every three college graduates to go into teaching, which is patently impossible. This is one other reason, Wright said, why more money must be spent on higher education: "so we can turn out more graduates in order to reduce this ratio."

What would his water policies be as governor? He said he has not thought through state-level problems, but mentioned that he co-authored the federal water pollution control act signed last Thursday by President Kennedy (he was one of the legislators present for the ceremony). He wrote, he also mentioned, the water supply title of the rivers and harbors bill which permits cities' use behind federal dams. pounding extra water for the cities' use behind federal dams.



"One of the areas of the future," Wright said, "is going to be the area of conservation of resources. With an ever-increasing population, these diminishable mineral, water, and soil resources will have ever-increasing values." The federal government has been working on this 25 years, but the states in general have lagged behind, he said.

Wright has, he confirmed, voted for the Kennedy program all the way this session, except for the issue of raising the debt ceiling.

He voted for the housing bill, liberalized social security, enlarging the House rules committee, and the \$1.25 minimum wage bill, he said. He previously voted for \$1.15 an hour, he said, "as an attainable goal. Politics is the art of the attainable. It wasn't appreciated by a lot of fellas in the labor movement—they felt we should hold out for a bill the President had already said he would veto—and perhaps all I was doing was the same thing they do at their bargaining tables. But that's all right."

He opposed raising the debt ceiling, he said, having advocated and still favoring reduction of the debt by not less than one percent a year either out of current

taxes or reduced expenditures. How does he analyze his chances in the U. S. Senate race?

"The first conclusion is," he said, "I didn't win. My main problem is I didn't get enough votes." He had two difficulties, he said: "not being able to convince one south of San Antonio I had a chance to win and not being able to convince anybody around Fort Worth I had a chance to lose."

He did not have enough money for a balanced campaign, he said. He put all he had into television except some for billboards which would also have spent for had he had his way, the congressman said.

He would have led into the race if had Texas been bordered the south by a semicircle from Texarkana through Austin around through the Plains to southwest corner of New Mexico. Wright said; apart from a position in the southeast Texas an county here and there, he did not do well in the rest of the state. "I got 29 votes in Duval County, none in Zapata, two in Zapata County. I wonder if it would be legal to run as Jim Wright of Fort Worth and Santiago Deming in South Texas?"

He asked this with a laugh and good humor.

Had his feelings changed about the best way to go about getting a majority in a Texas election?

"My conclusion would be that most voters don't acknowledge any label, such as liberal or conservative, so what you've got to do is put together a sufficient attractive program that will appeal to a majority of the people and make sense to 'em," he said.

"I think it's fairly obvious I would have won the Senate if I had had more of labor's support," he said. "I need more of their support than I've had." He maintained he did receive a majority of the votes of working people in Fort Worth, which he carried heavily. "I didn't scratch in Houston. Although I ran well in the Beaumont-Port Arthur area, I ran second. Obviously the people accustomed to following COPE recommendation didn't vote for me."

COPE is the Committee on Political Education of AFL-CIO which endorsed Maury Maverick Jr. for the Senate.

A lot of labor people have c

# Wright in Waiting, Views His Chance

*The Texas Observer* July 29, 1961  
**Gubernatorial Candidate in '62?**

AUSTIN  
 Congressman Jim Wright of Fort Worth may run for governor in 1962. He was sobered by his defeat for the U.S. Senate after labor and liberal support was generally withheld from him because of conservative votes he had cast. His voting record this session in Congress has been almost consistently liberal, as it had been

## Ronnie Dugger

until most recent years; according to a report in Austin, he has advised labor leaders he will not run again without labor support. Some liberals and labor people have been considering backing Wright in 1962 because of his strong showing for senator and his current congressional performance.

When Wright passed through Austin last weekend, the Observer interviewed him. He said he really is not sure whether he will run for governor. He has talked with Governor Price Daniel a time or two, but of course did not divulge what the governor said.

"I am not absolutely convinced that a governor can do more good than a person can by being in the Congress," Wright said. True, Wright said, a congressman does not have much power. Rep. Joe Kilgore of McAllen once exclaimed that an elevator boy has more authority than a congressman; at least the boy is the final arbiter of when the elevator goes up or down.

"You reach the point where you're not expanding your influence, you're in effect waiting around until someone dies or is defeated so you can move up a notch in seniority toward a chair-

manship," Wright said. He reasons that after eight years as a congressman, he still has a ten-year wait for a chairmanship; until then, a congressman "must content himself with the vicarious satisfaction of making suggestions and ideas that are later incorporated in legislation under the name of committee chairmen." Seniority, he explained, is an all-pervading thing; all major legislation is authored by the committee chairmen.



**Jim Wright**

State government is "potentially a fruitful area," the congressman said, with emphasis on the adverb. "Frankly, the powers of the governor are almost solely confined to a hunting license to persuade the public, powers of appointment that can have a salutary effect over a period of time . . . the veto . . ." He would hate to spend four years tied up with "a recalcitrant legislature, no progress achieved—no satisfaction in that."

"To run for governor," he said, "a fella almost has to believe that there's something very very important to be done." Running for governor so as to attain a position from which to advance to senator—"this isn't enough, it isn't worth it. I wouldn't deserve

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