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THE LEGISLATIVE SCENE Selected Newsletters, Journals, and Other Periodical Publications Covering Congressional Activities

by

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# ABSTRACT

The activities of Congress in legislative and policymaking matters are reported in various periodicals, newsletters, and other periodical publications that may be of interest to those who follow congressional activities. Names, addresses, rates, and descriptions of such publications are included in this report.

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# THE LEGISLATIVE SCENE Selected Newsletters, Journals, and Other Periodical Publications Covering Congressional Activities

#### INTRODUCTION

The activities of Congress in legislative and policymaking matters are reported in various published sources, ranging from the all-encompassing coverage of regularly published periodicals to the limited-in-scope newsletters published by interest groups and commercial publishers. The former usually cover a variety of topics of interest to Congress and provide coverage of a wide spectrum of congressional activities. Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report and National Journal provide this type of service, summarizing activities in the various branches of Government and their relation to congressional activities. There are partisan analyses of congressional activities such as First Monday, published by the Republican National Committee, and the DSG Legislative Report, prepared by the Democratic Study Group of the House of Representatives. There are a great many limited-coverage newsletters, generally issue or ideologically oriented, such as Human Events. For the most part, they have not been listed here but they can be identified in such directories as the Standard Directory of Newsletters, Oxbridge Directory of Newsletters, National Directory of Newsletters and Reporting Services, or through the Encyclopedia of Associations, which may be found in local public

and research libraries. In addition to these publications devoted to legislative action, information on legislation on various subjects can be found in the general newsletters of the various organizations interested in those topics.

The following list of publications is representative of these various types and is not intended to be all inclusive. The information presented is accurate as of the date of this report but is subject to change.

## American Enterprise Institute Legislative Analyses

American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research 1150 17th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036

Telephone: (202) 862-5800

Subscription: \$3.75 per copy; free to Members of Congress Editor: Russell Chapin, Director of Legislative Analysis

Frequency: Occasional

Format: Pamphlet

The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research describes itself as "a publicly supported, nonpartisan research and educational organization" which provides "objective analysis of national and international issues." Publications in its Legislative Analyses series each provide a background discussion and an analysis of current legislative proposals on a subject before Congress. Recent reports have covered such topics as youth employment, lobbying law, privacy protection, and limiting presidential and congressional terms. The reports are written by Institute staff with the help of outside specialists, provide "balanced analyses of current proposals," and have generally been respected by those with moderate and moderately conservative views.

# Briefing

National Association of Manufacturers 1776 F Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006

Telephone: (202) 626-3825

Subscription: Free to NAM members; \$55 per year to non-members

Editor: Laura Paynter

Frequency: Weekly while Congress is in session

Format: Newsletter

Briefing is a weekly status report on legislation, covering all legislative and regulatory issues that are of interest to U.S. manufacturers. A monthly feature, "Regulatory Index," gives the status of major regulations in these areas of interest, and another monthly section, "Washington Outlook," features articles on particular issues.

# Bureau of National Affairs Daily Report for Executives

Bureau of National Affairs, Inc. 1231 25th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20037

Telephone: (202) 452-4500 Subscription: \$2,888 per year

Editor: William A. Beltz, Editor in Chief

Frequency: Five times a week

Format: Magazine

Daily Report for Executives is mailed to subscribers each weekday evening and contains reports on Government actions affecting business and industry. There is coverage of legislative activity on taxation and finance, including extensive coverage of the Federal budget process. Analysis of trends and statistics on the national economy is provided. Actions of regulatory agencies and developments in the areas of national defense and space programs, industry, and agriculture are reported. The average issue is about 50 pages long. Texts of important bills, regulations, statements, and committee reports are included. Biweekly indexes cumulate monthly.

## Commerce Clearing House Congressional Index

Commerce Clearing House 1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Suite 1100 Washington, D.C. 20004

Telephone: (202) 626-2200

Subscription: \$405 per year; to Government agencies, \$310

per calendar year

Frequency: Weekly while Congress is in session

Format: Loose-leaf service

This loose-leaf service reports the status of all pending legislation. There are indexes by subject, sponsor, and companion and identical bill number. Congressional action on reorganization plans, treaties, and nominations is indicated. The count on roll call and recorded teller votes is given by party, with a list of members who did not vote with the majority of their party. Measures enacted are indexed by public law number, bill number, subject, and sponsor, and there is a chronological list of measures vetoed. There is biographical information on Senators and Representatives and lists of members of all committees. A chronological list of hearings held by each committee indicates whether the transcript has been printed.

# Common Cause Magazine

Common Cause 2030 M Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036

Telephone: (202) 833-1200

Subscription: Available only to members of Common Cause. Annual

dues of \$20 include the cost of the magazine plus

special material pertaining to public issues

Editor: Florence Graves
Frequency: Bimonthly
Format: Magazine

Common Cause is a "national citizens lobby pressing for reordering of national priorities and revitalization of the public process to make our political and governmental institutions more responsive to the needs of the nation and its citizens." Common Cause Magazine contains articles concerning issues in which Common Cause is interested, such as public financing of congressional elections, conflict of interest, sunset legislation, and voting studies of congressional votes on Common Cause issues.

# Congress Daily

Congress Daily 499 National Press Building Washington, D.C. 20045

Telephone: (202) 347-7757

Subscription: \$200 per year; free to subscribers of Congressional Monitor

(see p. 6)

Editor: Jeremy Gaunt

Frequency: Daily while Congress is in session

Format: Newsletter

Published by Washington Monitor and beginning publication in January 1981, this newsletter presents in a compact format the daily activities of Congress. It is hand-delivered to subscribers in the District of Columbia.

# Congressional Digest

Congressional Digest Corporation 3231 P Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20007

Telephone: (202) 333-7332 Subscription: \$20 per year Editor: Norbin Robinson Frequency: 10 issues per year

Format: Magazine

Each issue features a pro-con discussion of a current legislative problem, such as school prayer, Federal revenue sharing, and the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Footnoted excerpts from hearing testimony, the Congressional Record, and the news media are included.

## Congressional Monitor

Congressional Monitor 499 National Press Building Washington, D.C. 20045

Telephone: (202) 347-7757

Subscription: \$500 per year. Lower rates available for quantity orders.

President and editor: James Marsh

Frequency: Five times a week

Format: Newsletter

This daily publication includes a listing of all scheduled hearings for up to two months in advance, announced witness lists, and a summary of previous day and current day floor action. It is accompanied by Congress Daily (see p.5). Three weekly supplements include: "Anticipated Committee Action," which is an educated guess on committee actions likely to take place for up to a year in advance; a "Weekly Legislative Status Report," which tracks 200 bills; and a list of just-printed committee hearings and prints. The basic service includes a documents pickup service and a telephone information service. The Congressional Record Scanner, a daily listing under eight basic subject categories of all items appearing in the Congressional Record, is available for an additional \$300 per year.

### Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report

Congressional Quarterly, Inc. 1414 22nd Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20037

Telephone: (202) 296-6800

Subscription: Rates furnished on request

Executive editor: Wayne Kelley

Frequency: Weekly, with special supplements and annual Almanac

Format: Magazine

Each weekly issue summarizes what happened in Congress, at the Supreme Court, and in national politics for the week. There are sections on committee and floor action, a table indicating the status of major legislation, and charts showing recorded votes in both chambers. Articles in each issue provide background information on such topics as coal, leadership in Congress, the 1980 census, abortion, media lobbying, and the automobile industry. Special supplements are frequently published, such as Inside Congress, U.S. Defense Policy, Weapons, Strategy, and Commitments, and Electing Congress. The annual Congressional Quarterly Almanac is a comprehensive review of the legislative session.

## Conservation Report

National Wildlife Federation 1412 16th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036

Telephone: (202) 797-6800

Subscription: Mailed free of charge to all Members of Congress

Editor: Sheldon Kinsel and Patricia Goggin Frequency: Weekly while Congress is in session

Format: Newsletter

Conservation Report discusses legislation on the environment, energy, and natural resources. Statements made during congressional hearings and floor debates are summarized and significant new bills are described when they are introduced. Periodically there is a "Box Score" which gives the status of all major natural resources legislation for the current Congress.

#### DSG Legislative Report

Democratic Study Group Room 1422 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Telephone: (202) 225-4549

Subscription: Free to dues-paying DSG members (includes all publications described); \$50 to others (includes

DSG Fact Sheets and Special Reports)

Frequency: Weekly while Congress is in session

Format: Newsletter

DSG Legislative Report is produced by the Democratic Study Group and summarizes every bill scheduled for floor action each week. DSG Fact Sheets provide in-depth analyses of major legislation. DSG Special Reports discuss controversial issues on which Members may have to vote. Two additional publications sent to DSG members are the DSG Staff Bulletin, issued weekly while Congress is in session, which provides research on upcoming legislation and other activities of the Congress, and DSG Record Vote Books, which summarize and analyze every vote taken in the House.

## First Monday

Republican National Committee 310 First Street, S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003

Telephone: (202) 484-6500

Subscription: Mailed to all contributors of at least \$15

Editor: Barbara Gleason

Frequency: Monthly Format: Magazine

Contains feature articles, editorials, and news summaries of events affecting Republicans.

# Human Events

422 First Street, S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003

Telephone: (202) 546-0856 Subscription: \$25 per year Editor: Thomas S. Winter

Frequency: Weekly Format: Newspaper

Human Events contains sections called "Capitol Briefs,"
"This Week's News from Inside Washington," and "Spotlight
on Congress." The writers express a "conservative" viewpoint about national problems and congressional legislation.
Long feature articles appear, as well as brief summaries of
the news. The paper features advertisements of books of
interest to conservatives.

## Major Legislation of the Congress

Superintendent of Documents Government Printing Office Washington, D.C. 20402

Subscription: Price has not been established Frequency: Monthly when Congress is in session

Format: Magazine

This publication, prepared by the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress, summarizes selected major legislation of the current Congress. The arrangement is by subject and includes background on the issue and information on the content and status of major bills affecting that issue. The publication is available to libraries which are designated as depository libraries for U.S. Government publications. It is anticipated that in 1981 it will become a sales item, available to the public on a subscription basis.

# National Journal

Government Research Corporation 1730 M Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20016

Telephone: (202) 857-1400

Subscription: Rates furnished on request

Editor: Richard S. Frank

Frequency: Weekly Format: Magazine

This magazine contains summary reports on current issues, such as energy policy and regulatory reform. What is going on in the executive and legislative branches and the courts is covered in a weekly "Washington Update" section. A biweekly feature, "Policy Forum," contains position papers on current policy issues written by public officials, private individuals, and interest groups. There is a cumulative geographical index, a private organization index, a key word subject index, and a personal name index. A separately issued monthly report, National Issues/Outlook, gives one-page analyses of current issues, with citations to National Journal articles for addition information.

# Roll Call: The Newspaper of Capitol Hill

201 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002

Telephone: (202) 546-3080

Subscription: \$12 Editor: Sidney Yudain

Frequency: Weekly while Congress is in session

Format: Newspaper

Roll Call, published every Thursday, claims to be the "only newspaper written for, by, and about the U.S. Congress."

The paper contains human interest stories and information on social events involving Members of Congress and staff.

Roll Call also highlights legislative activity. "Congressional Casualties" provides a cumulative listing of Members who have died, announced retirement, resigned, were defeated in a primary election or regular election, or are seeking other office.