GREETINGS

Greetings to the home folks. This issue of the Congressional Front comes from Jerusalem in the Holy Land. There has been opportunity to attend Easter Services at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and visit some of the interesting places that are found in the very cradle of Christianity. Palestine has become the favorite place for soldiers on furlough. The weather is ideal. The city of Tel Aviv is one of the most modern up-to-date places in the whole Middle East. There are so many things to see. One can easily understand why men in uniform like to find respite here.

A REPORT

My journey is about two-thirds complete from the standpoint of distance and time. A brief, interim report would, therefore, be quite in order. You will remember that the purpose of this overseas trip was to inspect American operations abroad and make a report to both Congress and Country on the efficiency and economy of the expenditure of public money. Thus far I've travelled about 16,000 miles by plane; 2,000 miles by railroad; and about 500 miles by car. To take advantage of good flying weather, I thought it advisable to go to the end of the journey and work back to Europe. As a result, there have been very few interruptions in the original schedule and I've managed to get over England, Ceylon, India, Iraq, Iran, Northern Africa and am now enroute to Syria, Turkey, Italy and France.

THINGS SEEN

In pursuing the official assignment as a one man subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee of Congress, I've made a special point of visiting hospitals; inspecting food supplies and canteens; talking to officers and enlisted men everywhere; inspecting airports and camps; examining the operations of war agencies such as War Information, Lend-Lease, War Shipping, Strategic Services and others. In addition, there has been an abundant chance to note the staffing and facilities of our consular and diplomatic offices abroad. This has been a most fruitful and informative experience. In addition, the trip furnished an opportunity to talk with leaders who are shaping policies in some of the troubled political areas of the world with which the United Nations must ultimately deal.

PEOPLE

In the course of the trip I've visited with thousands of GI's and officers. This includes Lord Mountbatten and Lieutenant Colonel Wheeler and Sultan, Major Generals Gillo, Covally, Evans, Stratemeyer and many others. The civilian list includes the Viceroy of India, the leaders of the Moslem, Indian, and Untouchable groups, the Governor of Bengal, the Prime Minister of Iraq, the Ameer of Trans-Jordan, our Consuls, Ministers and Ambassadors and many more.

MOST DRAMATIC EXPERIENCE

Most dramatic experience of the trip was to sit down in the Middle East desert about 250 miles from the nearest habitation of any consequence and find a First Lieutenant and ten enlisted men pursuing their jobs with courage and unflinching morale. They were surprised to see a Congressman in such an out-of-the-way post. My visit with them was a stimulating affair.

WHAT DO I THINK

Let me set down but two brief conclusions at this time. First, let it be said that we can be proud of our military and civil forces abroad. They meet every great tradition of our country. Secondly, after seeing many lands, one can sing with joyous abandon "God Has Blest America." We have a responsibility.