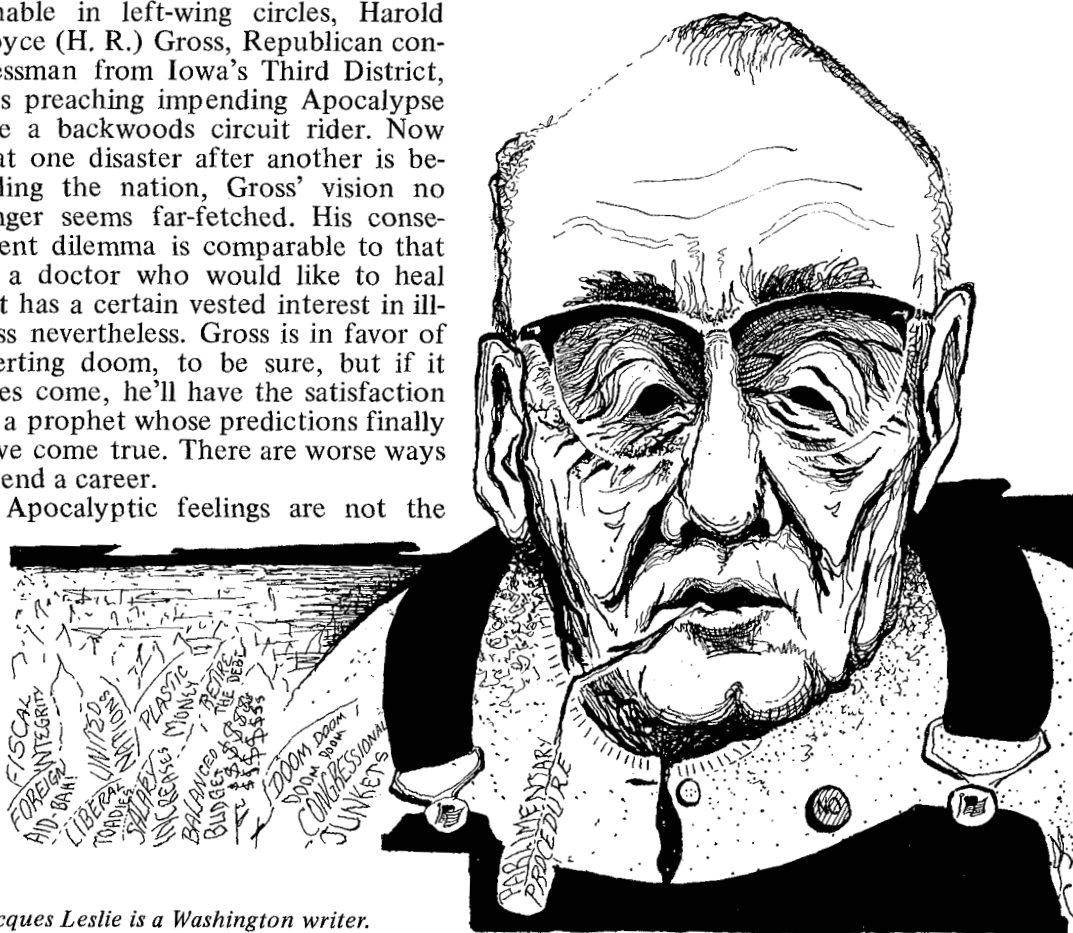


H. R. Gross: The Conscience of Uncle Sucker

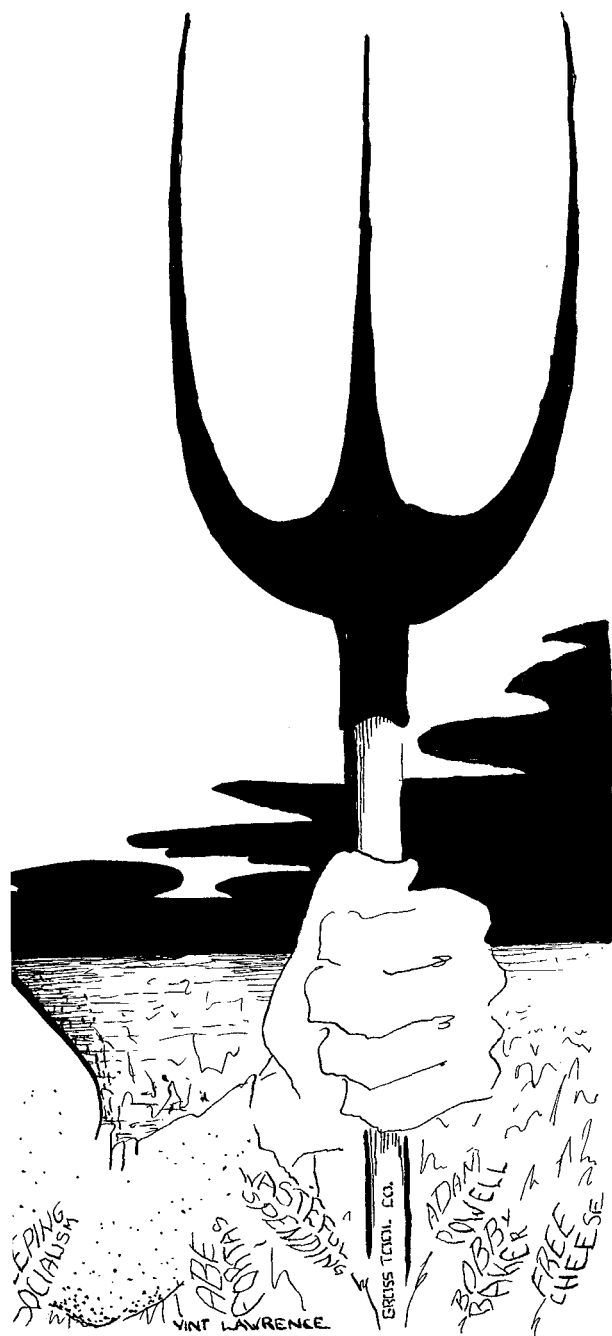
by Jacques Leslie

Long before the word was fashionable in left-wing circles, Harold Royce (H. R.) Gross, Republican congressman from Iowa's Third District, was preaching impending Apocalypse like a backwoods circuit rider. Now that one disaster after another is befalling the nation, Gross' vision no longer seems far-fetched. His consequent dilemma is comparable to that of a doctor who would like to heal but has a certain vested interest in illness nevertheless. Gross is in favor of averting doom, to be sure, but if it does come, he'll have the satisfaction of a prophet whose predictions finally have come true. There are worse ways to end a career.

Apocalyptic feelings are not the



Jacques Leslie is a Washington writer.



only thing Gross has in common with his left-wing counterparts. Like them, he has frequently inveighed against wasteful federal spending and the frightening power of the federal bureaucracy. He refers to the Pentagon as "Fort Fumble" and has words of praise for A. Ernest Fitzgerald, who exposed the \$2-billion cost overrun on the C-5A. But Gross is anything but a liberal. He has built his reputation on a combination of uncompromising integrity, sophisticated understanding of House parliamentary procedure, a rough-hewn, ridiculing sense of humor, and an unquestioning belief in the wisdom of a balanced budget.

Called by some "the watchdog of the federal treasury" and by others "the abominable no-man of the House," Gross cultivates the idea that he is a principled loner, an exception among men who have taken to heart Sam Rayburn's maxim, "To get along, go along." In the 91st Congress, for example, Gross voted against President Nixon more often than all congressmen serving a full two-year term, opposing him on 58 per cent of all roll-call votes. (The average House member opposed the President 29 per cent of the time.) To Gross, ineffectiveness is practically evidence of vir-

tue. "I don't care in committee or on the floor of the House whether I'm the sole vote. If I'm firmly convinced that a bill is bad, or enough of it is bad to overbalance whatever good may be in it, why I'll vote against it," Gross says. "You lose these fights. While you enjoy winning, it doesn't bother me to be in the minority as I have been a great many times."

Among the programs Gross has unsuccessfully opposed are foreign aid, the Peace Corps, all salary increases for congressmen from the time they received \$12,500 a year (they now get \$42,500), most congressional junkets, and the United Nations. When Gross loses, he occasionally resorts to sarcasm. A few days after President John F. Kennedy's death, when House members were considering a bill to pay for burial expenses, Gross rose on the floor to ask if the cost of the eternal flame at Arlington was included in the bill. When a bill to reimburse New York City for its expenses during Khrushchev's 1960 visit to the UN passed, Gross said on the floor, "I swear I think that what we ought to do is pass a bill, if that is necessary, to remove the torch from the hand of the Statue of Liberty and insert in lieu thereof a cup—a tin cup."

Gothic Radical

The front room of Gross' office gives fair warning of what lies within. One sign on the wall says "Nothing is easier than the expenditure of public money. It does not appear to belong to anybody. The temptation is overwhelming to bestow it on somebody." Another says, "There is always free cheese in a mousetrap." And another, "Error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it.—Thomas Jefferson." The last quotation is particularly apt, for, like Jefferson, Gross is a Francophile and an Anglophobe, and believes farmers are extraordinarily virtuous. He appears to have burrowed deeply into anti-establishment individualism—down through George Wallace and the

racist flag-wavers, past Jerry Rubin and the underground left, around by tunnels occupied by Thoreau, Calhoun, and small farmers, and back through Andy Jackson to Jefferson. An example of his attitude towards France appears in his newsletter in a eulogy of Charles De Gaulle. Gross writes, "He was a nationalist and he put what he conceived to be the best interest of France above all other considerations. Would that we could find a President of the United States who would do as much!" Gross finishes his article by saying, "His coffin, made of rough oak timber, cost \$63."

Looking like an American Gothic in glasses, Gross is a slight man with a booming voice. Born on a farm in Arispe, Iowa, in 1899, he never finished high school. After serving in the Army first under General John J. Pershing at the Mexican border and then in France in World War I, he studied at the University of Missouri School of Journalism but did not receive a degree. For the next 15 years he worked as a reporter and editor for various Iowa newspapers, then put his voice to use as a newscaster for radio station WHO in Des Moines. Known as "the fastest tongue in radio," Gross could speak 200 words a minute in a clear, solid tone. The man who introduced the future congressman and did his commercials was Ronald Reagan.

Gross first ran unsuccessfully in the Republican primary for governor in 1940, then in 1948 was elected to Congress from Iowa's Third District, which has not been represented by a Democrat since 1934. Gross' only close call came in 1964, when the Johnson landslide swept out all other Iowa Republican congressmen. Gross won that election by 419 votes. In 1968 he considered running for the Senate against Harold Hughes, but says he decided against it because of his advancing age (he is now 72).

Some observers think of Gross as an unmitigated clown, a "Caliban" who "has exploited and profited from every rigid prejudice in the state of Iowa" and "has an invincible incapac-

ity for growth." A look at the newsletter he sends out weekly to 9,000 Iowa subscribers does not entirely dispel that notion. In it, the United States is referred to as "Uncle Sap," "Uncle Sucker," "Uncle Sugar," and "Uncle Handout"; *The Washington Post* is a "far-out left-wing newspaper"; credit cards are known as "plastic money"; and Martin Luther King "can foment trouble with the same facility that he advocates 'peace.'" He relates jokes about the Office of Economic Opportunity and hippies and, after mentioning a news account about President Johnson tossing beer cans out of his car as he sped around his Texas ranch, suggests that "Home on the Range" be changed to "Foam on the Range."

On occasion, Gross uses ridicule to make his colleagues squirm because they spend money so freely. When, for instance, Rep. Frank Thompson's bill to establish the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities was brought to the floor for passage, Gross introduced an amendment to make sure that the Foundation would provide for belly dancing. He specified that he meant: "the irregular jactitations and/or rhythmic contraction and coordinated relaxations of the serrati, obliques, and abdominis recti group of muscles—accompanied by rotatory undulations, tilts, and turns timed with and attuned to the titillating and blended tones of synchronous woodwinds." Gross later admitted to the chamber that he had received technical assistance in drafting his amendment from Rep. Durward G. Hall, the only proctologist in Congress.

Not all of Congressman Gross' legislative humor demonstrates a light touch, however. When the House was considering a bill to control and exterminate rats, Gross asked on the floor, "It would be interesting to know how many children are bitten by squirrels that they feed and try to handle. On the basis of that, does anyone suggest a program to exterminate squirrels?" Partially as a result of Gross' opposition, the bill was scuttled.

Gross is in turn the frequent object of barbs from other congressmen. Observing that Gross has not left the United States since he fought in France in World War I and is opposed to congressional junkets, Reps. John Ashbrook and Frank Thompson sponsored a resolution last year to create a committee consisting only of Gross with the task of inspecting U.S. economic and military aid expenditures throughout the world. The committee was to be called the "H. R. Gross Special Congressional Investigating Committee."

Junketing congressmen often send Gross postcards from the countries they visit. "Paris is great! Wish you were here!" a typical card says. Rep. Morris Udall says he sent Gross a letter asking him to join a junket, and added, "Rome is ready for you." Udall says Gross wrote back saying, "The damn trouble is that I'm not ready for Rome."

Even President Johnson has joined in the needling. After giving his last State of the Union speech before a joint session of Congress on January 15, 1969, Johnson told reporters that he had seen tears in Lady Bird's eyes during the speech, and afterwards asked her why. Mrs. Johnson, who was sitting in the House gallery with her 19-month-old grandchild, Patrick Lyndon Nugent, said the child had been waving his bottle around, causing her to fear that "it would slip and hit H.R. Gross right on top of the head." President Johnson added, "I guess she felt that every Congress should have one H. R. Gross. I guess she wanted to preserve him."

The Techniques of Obstruction

Yet for all the kidding Gross receives, he is praised by a large number of congressmen on both sides of the aisle. Of 17 congressmen asked their opinion of him, only one failed to indicate respect for his efforts. For example, Rep. Silvio Conte, whose political persuasions are far to the left of Gross', says, "I think he performs a

hell of a great service for the Congress." The conventional wisdom among representatives is that it is important to have one person like Gross in each Congress, but that if the House were filled with Grosses, it would be unworkable. He introduces relatively few bills each session and does not play a particularly active role in the shaping of legislation in committee. Instead, his function is essentially negative. Whereas most members pay detailed attention to bills within their committees, Gross is the only congressman who makes a concerted effort to read the entire contents of every bill, regardless of committee or calendar, that reaches the House floor. This is no mean feat, since in the 91st Congress, for example, 2,951 bills, many of them several hundred pages long, were reported to the floor.

Gross is constantly on the lookout for wasteful appropriations, self-serving arrangements among members, or ambiguous legislation. When he is unclear about some bill, he asks a question, and the response about the legislation's intent is then a matter of record. If the answer does not satisfy him, he may turn to his array of procedural gimmicks to delay or prevent the bill's passage, to ensure that other members know what they are voting on, or to get a record vote. He is generally well prepared, he is a good debater and expert parliamentarian, and his questions are germane. Because congressmen generally have a well-developed fear of embarrassment on the House floor, the knowledge that Gross is perennially there ready to challenge them has stimulated many to be well prepared themselves.

The most famous of Gross' techniques is the quorum call. He believes that all congressmen's first responsibility is to be on the floor when the House is in session, and therefore has no qualms about calling a quorum at any time. Though no statistics have ever been compiled on the subject, it is possible that the congressman from Iowa has called more quorum calls than any congressman since the

founding of the Republic. During one six-month period, from January to June 1962, Gross called more than half of the 60 quorum calls put on in the House. Now, because a few other congressmen, notably Reps. Hall, Ashbrook, and William Scherle, have taken up his cause, Gross asks for relatively few quorum calls. Several years ago, Hall called a quorum simply to honor Gross' birthday. On another occasion, Rep. Tom Rees, angered by two quorum calls (one by Gross) which had been called during a meeting of the liberal Democratic Study Group the day before, made a speech on the House floor against "capricious and senseless use of quorum calls which have little or no relationship to the important matters which this Congress has at hand." As soon as Rees finished his speech, Gross made a point of order that a quorum was not present.

Because it takes half an hour to read through the list of House members, the quorum call can be used to delay action on a bill. Gross defends his use of it, saying, "How else can you make a point? Suppose you get up and you're pushed around by the Speaker or whoever is presiding. This is one way of letting them know that you don't like it. . . . The point is that I think they [other congressmen] ought to be on the House floor. I don't know whether they're in their offices or playing golf or in the gymnasium or in the swimming pool. . . . I'm using the quorum call just as they could use it, and if they're on the floor, I can't get a quorum call."

Other congressmen disagree. They believe they can spend much of their time more productively in their offices than on the floor and say that Gross can afford to spend so much time there only because he does not take an active part in the writing and shaping of legislation. "I'd like to know where I'd be if I spent as much time on the floor as he does," says Rep. Udall. "If you insisted that all 435 members be there all the time, it

would be an incredible waste of time."

Another of Gross' techniques is the objection to unanimous consent requests. The House handles much of its business, particularly scheduling, private bills, and assorted matters of secondary interest, through unanimous consent. When it is used, the objection of one member is enough to defeat a motion. Congressman Gross employs this technique to combat the "Tuesday-Thursday Club," comprised of congressmen who arrange to have unimportant business scheduled on Friday and Monday so that they can go home four days at a stretch. Gross has frequently used unanimous consent objections to block long weekend recesses or the scheduling of unimportant bills on Friday, thereby transforming the Tuesday-Thursday Club into the Tuesday-Friday Club. Asked if Gross had ever put a monkey wrench in his plans, Carl Albert, now the Speaker of the House, said, "There have been so many times, I can't recall."

Another dilatory procedure is the motion to "strike the enacting clause." This can be used only when all time for discussion of an amendment has expired. By moving to "strike the enacting clause," a congressman gets five more minutes of debate time, followed by a vote whether or not to kill the bill. Because this motion must be made in writing, Gross always carries copies of it in his pocket.

To some extent Congressman Gross benefits from the mystification that surrounds House parliamentary procedure. House procedure is codified in four sources: the Constitution, the House rules, Thomas Jefferson's *Manual*, and the 11 volumes of precedents of the Speakers and Chairmen of the Committees of the Whole. Gross has made himself an expert on House procedure and advises new members that the first thing they should do is learn the rules. "I can see some congressmen who've been here for several terms who don't even

know the working rules of the House Some of them are pitiful, some of them never engage in debate, never get into any issues. That's their business, but nobody can tell me that the country wouldn't be better served if more of them were staying on the floor of the House and knew what the hell was going on."

Rep. Udall, who ran unsuccessfully for House Majority Leader in January and has co-authored a book called *The Job of a Congressman*, believes Gross over-emphasizes the importance of the rules. "It's a myth that the rules are so tough and complicated. The gimmicks Gross uses you could teach a guy in a week or two."

Because of Gross' willingness to use all the parliamentary procedures at his disposal, he is something of an alien power to the leadership of both parties. One congressman cites House Minority Leader Gerald Ford as saying, "There are three parties in the House—Democrats, Republicans, and H. R. Gross." Many committee chairmen try to iron out possible differences with Gross by notifying him of their intentions in advance. Some congressmen report that they have changed legislation in committee to anticipate Gross' objections on the floor. Thus, though Gross rarely has the votes to back up his convictions, he does have a negative influence, a veto power, over some aspects of legislation.

The Gadfly as Freak

The basic article of Gross' faith is summed up in his bill, H.R. 144 (a gross equals 12 dozen), which he has introduced annually for more than a decade. The bill is invariably assigned to the Ways and Means Committee and never heard from again. It calls for, essentially, a balanced budget and the gradual retirement of the national debt. Deficit spending is not only responsible for the nation's present economic difficulties, Gross says, but also, "We're plastering the generations to come with mortgages that will

never be paid off. We're putting them under an unbelievable handicap. And all this is having its effect on the moral fiber of the country. . . . The main reason why we will go into a crisis will be financial. At least that will be the springboard."

Gross is aware that his view of deficit spending is a distinctly minority one. "All you have to do," he says, "is get up and ask them [other congressmen] when they're going to give consideration to paying on the federal debt, and they look down their noses or smile at you as though you're some sort of a freak standing down in the well of the House. I can see it. My vision isn't getting any better with age but I can see them around on the floor. 'What the hell, you must be nuts!'"

Estimates of what Rep. Gross has "saved" American taxpayers range from millions to billions of dollars, but not everyone agrees that the amount saved always justifies the scuttling of the programs. Certainly some of Gross' proposed economies are reasonable. One example is a bill he has introduced this year to prohibit junkets by lame-duck congressmen. In the past such trips have been authorized as a kind of farewell present to non-returning congressmen.

But Gross is opposed not only to lame-duck junkets, but the great majority of other junkets as well. When asked if he thought any junkets might have an educational value worth their expense, Gross said, "Oh, some of them might, but all too many of them are in the nature of pleasure trips." While that statement is probably true, many congressmen believe Gross' efforts in preventing junkets are a bit overzealous and a perfect reflection of his own provincialism.

Nevertheless, some of Gross' objections to junkets seem unquestionably justified. In July, 1969, Gross blocked a unanimous consent request to skip a House session on the day of the Apollo 11 launching so that Congressmen could accept free government transportation to Cape Kennedy

to observe the moonshot. Gross said he was "unable to find any reason at all why a substantial amount of money should be spent" to transport the congressmen and their families to Florida. Because of his objection, the House was forced to meet on the day of the launching anyway.

Among the projects Gross has opposed are the Rayburn House Office Building, Robert F. Kennedy Stadium, and the D. C. Aquarium. He voted against a bill to appropriate \$76,000 to outgoing Speaker John McCormack for office space; he blocked House passage of a bill authorizing a \$500,000 study of proposals for the United States to convert to the metric system; he blocked a \$1,500 expense allowance for the congressional physician. Some charge that Gross is concerned only with trivial appropriations, while ignoring the huge sums meted out annually to agencies like the Department of Defense. Last year Gross voted against the appropriation bills for the Departments of Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, Labor, Post Office, State, Transportation, Treasury, and Health, Education, and Welfare; he voted against appropriations for the Office of Education, foreign aid, independent offices, the Madison Building of the Library of Congress, the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities, and the Smithsonian Institution. But he did vote in favor of the largest appropriation bill of all, \$66.6 billion for the Department of Defense, because "in this business I would prefer to make an error on the side of what I conceive to be national security, the ability to retaliate, the ability to live in a nuclear holocaust." Gross says he believes some of the \$66.6 billion is spent wastefully, but because so much necessary information is classified, "unless you're a member of the House Armed Services Committee, how in the hell can you know whether it's justified or not?"

Gross hopes the numerous examples of wasteful spending he has found will have a symbolic effect on the

public. "It's a hell of a lot clearer picture when you're dealing with \$850,000 than with \$70 billion when you can't get a handle on it." But once armed with the knowledge that the government is wasteful, what is the public supposed to do? Gross doesn't know. "All we can do is try to hold members of Congress to account for the results obtained from the expenditure of [for example] \$70 billion [on defense]. Eventually it shows up in one way or another. It may be a hell of a long time, and those who are the most responsible may be beyond the reach of the public, but there's no easy answer to this."

Gurgling in the Wasteland

If Gross is not a sophisticated political theorist, then he is a dedicated moralist who has joined in attacks on Abe Fortas, Adam Clayton Powell, and Bobby Baker. As a result of his accusation that Max Kampelman, a Johnson appointee to the post of chairman of the District of Columbia City Council, was involved in a \$4-billion international deal that "reeks of incompetence or fraud or both," Kampelman withdrew his name and Johnson was forced to appoint someone else.

The Congressman gets much of his information on wasteful spending and unethical activities through tips from reporters. Clark Mollenhoff, the Washington bureau chief of the *Des Moines Register*, who calls Gross a "genuine liberal," says he frequently gives bits of information to Gross resulting in seven to ten stories a year. "We've got something going all the time," Mollenhoff says. He gives a perhaps inflated estimate that from 20 to 40 other reporters also give tips to Gross, who makes the accusations public when he feels sure of their accuracy. Gross' two chief assistants, Bob Case and Julian Morrison, are both former reporters themselves, but the Congressman denies that this is anything more than a coincidence.

By Washington standards Gross

leads a spartan existence, so much so that some believe he finds the concept of pleasure offensive. While he labors on Capitol Hill during the day, his wife is at home reading and underlining for him. By the time he returns home, she has put the material she thinks he should read on a table next to his easy chair. At the end of the evening, if there is time, the couple plays a game of cribbage, then goes to bed. Gross has boasted of the fact that he does not own a tuxedo, nor his wife an evening gown. Several years ago he expressed shock that the Reverend Bill D. Moyers, special assistant to President Johnson, danced the watusi and frug at a party at the Smithsonian Institution. Gross himself infrequently indulges in fresh-water fishing, his only hobby. Known privately as a gentle, gracious man, his friends include former Senator Eugene McCarthy, who once reflected on Gross: "He has always proceeded with good spirit."

Gross gives the impression of a gruff, hard-bitten, no-nonsense curmudgeon, but this is to some extent a pose, a self-protective device. During an interview in his office, he is interrupted by five loud rings announcing a House session at noon. He stops for a moment and says, "That could ring once, and you could hear it, and you'd be put on notice that there was to be a session of Congress at noon, but it rings five times. There's an old story in the Navy: 'If it moves, salute it; if it stands still, paint it; and if you write about it, make 10 copies.'" Then, without a trace of a smile, he returns to his original subject. Rep. Frank Thompson says that after he acknowledged Gross' birthday on the floor of the House last year, Gross met with him at the rear of the House chamber. Gross first upbraided Thompson for mentioning his birthday, then smiled for a moment and said, "Thanks."

Several congressmen believe Gross has mellowed over the years. Following the death of Rep. Robert J. Corbett in April, Gross became the rank-

ing minority member of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee. Rep. Edward J. Derwinski, who ranks immediately behind Gross in both the Foreign Affairs Committee and Post Office and Civil Service Committee, says, "H. R. has already done more in a month than Corbett did in years. He consults with us. He's had meetings. He's considerate of all the members. He's an extremely attentive ranking member to his people. I think he recognizes he has a responsibility to the other members of the party. He's no longer H. R. Gross the gadfly, he's H. R. Gross the ranking member." Derwinski says that when a junket proposal in the Post Office and Civil Service Committee came up, "He could have made it more uncomfortable if he wanted to. But he just went through the motions of opposing as we passed the travel resolution. He no longer has the same vehemence as he did before." Morris Udall, who is also on the Post Office and Civil Service Committee, says, "Responsibility is sobering. Gross is not being as unreasonable as was feared." Gross denies that he has mellowed.

Slouching Toward Iowa

With his constant attendance on the House floor, his careful consideration of every bill, his desire to truly debate legislation on the floor, and his relatively minor role in committee work, Gross probably comes closer to embodying the grade school textbook's conception of a congressman than any other member. A literalist, Gross believes he is doing what the framers of the Constitution had in mind.

In his newsletter Gross once cited approvingly a statement by Barry Goldwater: "The challenge is not to find new or different truths, but to learn to apply established truths to the problems of the contemporary world." Gross embodies the old values that he thinks are disappearing from America: simplicity, frugality, integrity, diligence, and God-fearing religiosity.

We have gone wrong, he thinks, in allowing an all-encompassing federal bureaucracy to control our lives and diminish our freedoms.

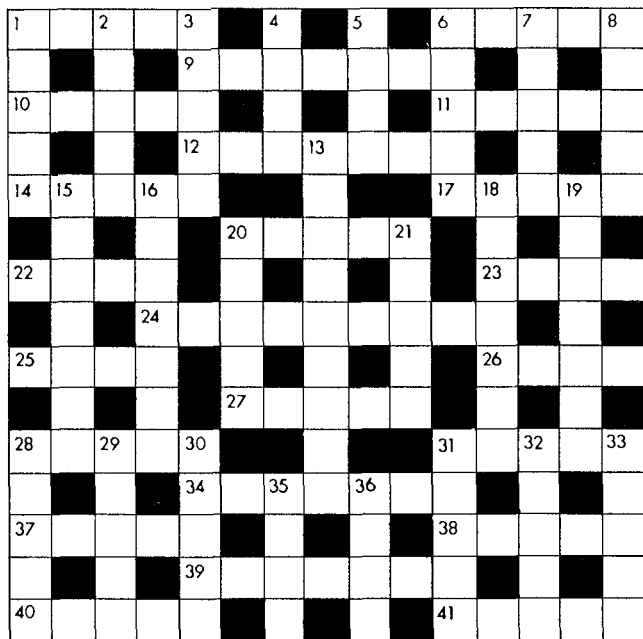
Rep. Otto Passman, one of Gross' admirers, accurately describes the thrust of Gross' efforts in Congress: "I came out of the free enterprise system, but it seems that now we are on the road to socialism. The government will control people's lives from cradle to grave, and the people won't fight it because they haven't experienced democracy. With socialism, putting people on the dole, you paralyze initiative and deaden incentive. There's never been a democracy that's lasted more than 200 years, and this country is 181 years old now. Gross has slowed down the trend to socialism from a walk to a crawl, but he hasn't stopped it."

To Gross, that rough beast slouching towards us is socialism. He prides himself on having identified the animal for us, and if he could, he would slay it. But he is no fool, and he knows that parliamentary gimmicks are no match for this beast. Consequently, even accolades like the following, from Rep. William J. Scherle, one of Congress' more determinedly reactionary members, do not cheer him: "It's interesting to find out how many times this renowned scholar has predicted what was going to happen, how year after year his statements have come true, but not only that, how many people have to eat crow . . . I think that anybody who ever gets the books and papers of H. R. Gross probably will own one of the most gratifying gifts anybody could ever receive."

In a few years Gross will retire to his home in Waterloo. It is easy to imagine him there, trying to live the leisurely life that a man with a career of hard work behind him is entitled to. He'll go to church on Sundays and play cribbage at night. He'll read the papers, and see the evidences of Uncle Sucker's latest follies, and hope for a few more years before the beast reaches Iowa. ■

The Political Puzzle

by John Barclay



ACROSS

1. Followed by 6 Across, a 1972 focal point. (5)
6. See 1 Across. (5)
9. G. I. coach preceded 1 & 6 Across. (7)
10. Boredom in Rouen nuits. (5)
11. A nonstop without short answer comes out ahead. (2, 3)
12. Where to be near the champs. (7)
14. Needleworker creates pollution? (5)
17. Be slow in straightening up tea yard. (5)
20. Take a position in East and West. (5)
22. Second person comes out grand in slang. (4)
23. Proved impossible to stop items emerging. (4)

24. In 1 Across, he may try to elate aged. (1, 8)
25. Rule used to bind 24 Across in 6 Across. (4)
26. Broadcaster from Carnegie Tech. (4)
27. Proved impossible to stop items emerging. (5)
28. He reads to sweet little things. (5)
31. Place to put poor ideas. (5)
34. Trip end for the Vietnam papers. (7)
37. Good place for lofty panel discussions. (5)
38. Columnist doubles as pol. (5)
39. For a miner, it helps time pass. (7)
40. As yet no action, but should come later. (5)
41. This industry could not settle strike. (5)

DOWN

1. They follow track and help. (5)
2. Wild golfer upsets back end of Volkswagen. (5)
3. It's even trickier when you eliminate the short track. (5)
4. 9 Across, for example. (4)
5. Elimination of railroad brings farmer to the fore. (4)
6. Sometimes it will help to sob. (5)
7. Best man to imitate dog or cat. (5)
8. After slap, these days returned, or so they sang. (5)
13. Names test true leaders. (9)
15. Develop a better cane hen. (7)
16. Keeps North and South from coming together. (7)
18. These views set SPCA apart. (7)
19. How nest did get bigger. (7)
20. East-West goody. (5)
21. Rusk and Acheson ride in a sedan chair. (5)
28. It would be great to add New York to Fun City list. (5)
29. Loses bet, but still comes out ahead. (5)
30. Bad for bowler, except after the game. (5)
31. Kind of apple for Henry or Maude. (5)
32. Can it be Susan? That is the question. (5)
33. In sex, pelicans really put out. (5)
35. No, it doesn't turn out that way. (4)
36. A timely expression. (4)

The numbers indicate the number of letters and words, e.g., (2, 3) means a two-letter word followed by a three-letter word. Groups of letters, e.g., USA, are treated as one word. Answers to last month's puzzle are on page 9.