

HR 642: The National Commemorative Bill

BEFORE CONGRESS—

There are two items of interest which you may wish to consider:

ITEM #1 - HR 624 - This House bill, called the *National Observances Act*, is essentially the same as those which Congress almost enacted in the winter of 1989-1990. (HR 539, in the 101st Congress, and HR 1882, in the 102nd Congress) (see *Special Days Bill—Part 1-2 [WM—267-268]*, etc., for details about those earlier bills and hearings held on them)

Our church leaders declare that such bills are nothing to worry about, since they only affect yearly commemoratives. But the truth is that the actual wording of these bills does not, in any way, preclude the enactment of a National Sunday Law. It could easily be done by the small committee established by that bill. The committee would have the authority to do it, with no advance warning, or notification to the press.

Here is the present status of HR 624: Under House rules, no further hearings are required. It could come up for vote and be enacted at any time. It could be voted on in one day. But this particular bill could also die.

The 103rd Congress is adjourned at this time, but a special session of Congress has been called to begin on November 29, 1994. It would be possible for HR 624 to be passed

at such a session. Because it is a lame duck session, this could happen. When that special session ends, the 103rd Congress (1993-1994) will end with it.

At the present time, it has 140 co-sponsors, and only needs 218 for certain enactment. So a new bill could easily be initiated to take its place, after the turn of the year.

A complete copy of the seven-page bill (HR 642) will be included in our December Tractpack.

ITEM #2 - GATT - This is the *General Agreement on Treaties and Tariffs*, an international trade treaty, which the nations of Europe (and Clinton) want America to become fully involved in. Because it is a treaty, it only needs Senate enactment for approval, and overrides any conflicting U.S. laws. Under the U.S. Constitution, treaties are more powerful than laws.

But, little known to most people, Germany has been strongly pushing for a **federal Sunday law clause** to be added to the GATT Treaty. *The added clause would affect all signatory nations to GATT.* Our federal government approved GATT several months ago. But now Germany wants all the signers to adopt this added Sunday law clause. The matter is moving slowly, and there is little information available on it. We do know that both Republicans and Democrats favor additional GATT

legislation, and Clinton is also urging it.

Here is further information:

The special session of Congress, which will convene on November 29, will deal with *The Round Agreements Act: Retirement Protection Act of 1994* (HR 5110, in the House, and S2467, in the Senate). This act is to implement the GATT Treaty. HR 5110 has already been reported out of committee. S2467 is expected to be reported out of committee on November 22.

A phone call to a congressman elicited the fact that this special November session of Congress has been specifically called to usher in the *World Trade Organization*. In view of the strong push, by Germany, to add a federal-level Sunday law section to GATT, we have good reason to be concerned. Such a clause would require every nation which has signed the GATT Treaty to enact and enforce a National Sunday Law. These would not be regional Sunday laws, but enforced on a nationwide basis, by each member country.

Germany has close ties to the Vatican, and is urgently trying to get this Sunday law proviso added to the GATT Treaty. Germany wants to impose Sunday observance, not only on the EEC (*European Economic Community*), but also on all signatories to GATT.

Turn just now to Revelation 13:16-17 and read it again.

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