

THE GREEN BAG

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Suppose we pass a lot of laws. Do we get praised? Certainly not. We then get denounced by everybody for being a “Meddlesome Congress” and for being a “Busybody Congress.” Is it not so?

But suppose we take warning from that experience. Suppose that in our succeeding session we pass only a few laws. Are we any better off? Certainly not. Then everybody . . . denounces us for being an “Incompetent Congress” and a “Do-Nothing Congress.”

We have no escape – absolutely none. We have no chance – just absolutely no chance. The only way for a Congressman to be happy is to realize that he has no chance.

Speaker Nicholas Longworth (R. 1925–1931)
quoted by Speaker Tip O’Neill (D. 1977–1987)
in *The New Federalist Papers* 108–09 (1988)



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EXCEPTIONS: Maybe.

NOTE: The *Green Bag* is pleased to report that this issue was slightly delayed by the arrival of Oliver Montgomery Kosma on July 9, 2000, 8 lbs. 2 oz.

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