

# Suburbanites Like To Wire Protests

By HENRY J. TEUTSCH  
Let Western Union do your protesting for you—POM.  
If you don't like something someone has said and you want to write your congressman or senator, simply call Western Union and send a "protest" telegram for 90 cents.

W. L. Stewman, regional manager for Michigan and Indiana, said this is the age of protest and more people are using the telegram to protest than ever before.  
POM stands for "Personal Opinion Message" and was designed to let the public have a voice and get their opinion to their representatives for a very small fee, he said.

SUBURBIA contributes about 40 to 60 per cent of the total volume of messages sent by suburban people on the fringe of big cities do the most protesting, Stewman said.  
"We reached a peak year in 1967," he said, "We forwarded 1,540,000 telegrams throughout the United States on subjects ranging from the war in Vietnam to the Middle East crisis." He said that 1967's volume was more than double the number of POM messages sent the first year the service was begun in 1965. That year 20,000 telegrams were sent by anyone who had something to say.

STEWMAN SAID the switchboard lights up like a Christmas tree after a political candidate makes a speech on television.

If you want to protest, he said, call the Western Union office and tell them you want to send a POM telegram. For 90 cents, under this plan, a person can lodge a complaint to his elected representative in Washington or his home state in 15 words or less.

He said his office will supply the name of the official the caller wishes to contact, but they will not help the person write the message.

The director added that Western Union insists that the caller include his address so that the official may reply.

"This is an age of protest and it seems to have generated more interest in affairs," he said.

WHEN THE AID to non-public schools was a hot issue in California a few months ago, Stewman said, there were

40,000 POM messages from that area to Washington alone. Interestingly enough, he pointed out, the housewife uses this service more than men do.  
Western Union will continue the POM message system as long as there is interest from

the public.  
He added that the most messages sent now deal with the various political races around the country. He expects more people to do more sending in the coming week when the national conventions get under way.

## Moving Task

It recently took three men to carry a giant philodendron that had decorated a Hackensack, N.J., barber shop for more than two years.  
The philodendron had grown to a length of 85 feet when the shop moved.

## Give Free Food

JAKARTA — The American relief organization CARE will provide free food for more than 20,000 Indonesian school children under an agreement announced here.



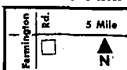
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