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J. Beh. Evening News Journal
8/17/83

Local Youth Spends Summer As Congressional Page

By DAYNA DUPLER
News-Journal Staff Writer

Guy Fronstin knew he was making the right choice when he abandoned his after high school graduation vacation plans two weeks before he was to leave.

Fronstin was notified he had been chosen by Rep. Bill Chappell, D-Daytona Beach Shores, and the Page Review Committee to serve as a congressional page.

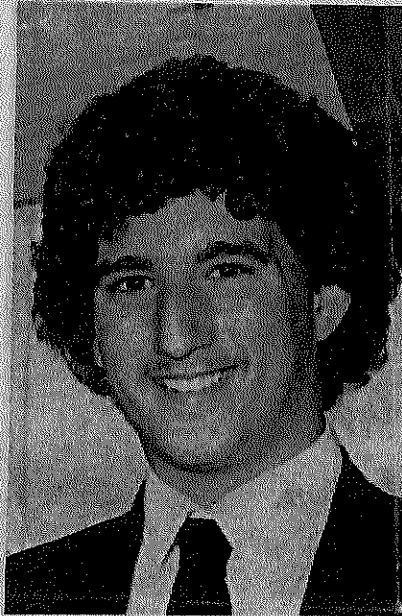
He arrived in Washington July 1 and returned to his home in Ormond Beach Aug. 6, the day after his 18th birthday and just in time to repack before leaving Wednesday to enter Tulane University in New Orleans.

Fronstin said in an interview this week that the experience was enjoyable because of "the prestige and ego trip of it all."

He said one congressman walked up and asked for his opinion on changing daylight saving time dates — whether he thought it was a hardship to go to school in the dark — with only a half hour of debate left before the vote on the issue. And congressmen habitually needed pages to get them more background and information in a hurry before issues were to be voted upon, he said.

Fronstin said he began his term as a "running page," delivering documents to representatives' offices when requested. He said the runners worked under an overseer page who worked behind a desk and took calls from representatives' offices. Pages were expected to learn as many of the 435 congressmen's names, faces and room numbers, listed in a book, as they could, because representatives usually didn't identify themselves when they came to the desk to request documents.

Runners received points for each errand they made and at the end of each day's session, the page with the most



GUY FRONSTIN
Served as congressional page

points was allowed to leave first. When a vacancy was to be filled, those with the most accumulated points were promoted, he said.

"I was very surprised," Fronstin said. "After two weeks I was promoted." Fronstin was promoted to overseer page.

Other page positions include a parliamentarian page, a speaker's page who serves House Speaker Tip O'Neill, and a documentarian who rings a complex sequence of bells whenever a vote is called. He said the speaker's page position is the most prestigious and the boy who held that position had been a page since January 1982 and had graduated from the page school.

Fronstin said he didn't take any

classes during the summer, but other pages told him that the special school for congressional pages has become tougher in recent years. Classes begin at 5 a.m. and end half an hour before a session would begin — just enough time for pages to change into their uniforms.

"It's tough because congressmen often stay very late," Fronstin said. "One night they stayed until 3 a.m. before the session ended."

He said pages were usually kept busy until about two hours after sessions were over.

Because the summer session was busier than usual, there were more pages than usual, Fronstin said. The Senate had 20 pages and the House had 40, whereas 12 pages for the Senate and 25 for the House is the average for most of the year, he said.

Dormitories in a House office building were created for pages last year after former Pages Leroy Williams and Jeffrey Opps claimed they had had sex with congressmen. Fronstin said pages had to sign in and out and only those pages whose parents lived in Washington weren't required to live in the dorms, which he said were quite nice and much larger than a college dormitory room. Security was also increased for the summer because of recent scandals involving pages and congressmen.

He said Williams' claims sparked investigation which resulted in Daniel Crane, R-Ill., and Gerry S. D-Mass., admitting they had had with pages.

Fronstin said he was standing on the House floor and could see Cra Studds' faces when that announcement was made July 14. The pages called together after the announcement and warned the media would be for them outside each door of the Capitol building and were told to

anything. "The security at the dorm was incredible. It was very good," Fronstin said. "It was very exciting to watch friends come back in past the reporters."

Fronstin said he isn't necessarily planning a career in politics.

"I just like to do different things," he said and added he has been very active on the Southeast Federation of Temple Youth regional board.

"I don't know if I'll end up in law or medicine," he said when asked about his plans for college studies.