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CONGRESSMAN WALDIE
Bandaged feet

Waldie Winds Up His 2nd Walk

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Sore of foot but light of heart, Congressman Jerome Waldie trudged up to the Capitol steps shortly after 2 p.m. yesterday, completing a 331½-mile walk here from Bakersfield.

The Antioch Democrat, a candidate for his party's

gubernatorial nomination this year, was wearing a blue knit watch cap, a lumber jacket, slacks, and a well-worn pair of tennis shoes.

The only malaise from the 17-year march was a blister on his right foot "that came after the 300th mile," he said.

This walk, which began on January 3, was his second such hike. He walked from San Diego to Santa Barbara last summer.

"My hair's mussed and my feet hurt," he grinned, "but that's better than having your hair properly combed and sitting in some TV studio mouthing words you don't understand, written by some public relations agency."

It's not 331½ miles from here to Bakersfield, but Waldie and his entourage had to tack a lot on the way up the San Joaquin Valley because pedestrians are not allowed on freeways.

During his meetings with the voters, he told a press conference later, he found three major issues:

- "A belief that the energy crisis has been contrived by the oil companies, and that politicians are in bed with them.

- "The real vehemence of the belief by an overwhelming majority of the people that President Nixon must be impeached. I had always believed that Valley was a bastion of conservatism — perhaps it may still be — but it certainly is no longer Nixon Land.

- "A concern over the problem of agricultural labor. They know I support Cesar Chavez, and many of the growers disagreed with me on that. But I told them it is more a social issue — ending the exploitation of field workers — than a labor issue."