

FOR RELEASE JULY 2

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

Advances made by President Eisenhower toward reorganization of our excessively cumbersome Federal government have put a new spark of life into governmental processes. As the first move toward a balanced budget, the President sought to streamline wherever possible. His military training taught him that no organization functions properly if there are too many bosses duplicating one another's work.

President Eisenhower's accomplishments toward the goal of more effective and efficient government have been encouraging to the American public and to advocates of the Hoover Commission recommendations. The Internal Revenue Department, for instance, in the past, bungling around in left field, has been brought closer to home plate. The Chief Executive has cut the unwieldy number of Internal Revenue Districts by one half.

Other agencies which have come in for substantial pruning, and in some cases complete elimination, are the Defense Production Administration and the Economic Stabilization agencies. In addition 20 RFC offices have been closed throughout the Nation.

In the Post Office Department experiments are under way to accomplish more effective operation of this vital activity of our Federal government. A Presidential directive established a "pilot" region to test decentralization.

Large scale personnel reorganization has been effected in the past six months resulting in closely-knit organization and more efficient operation of the various agencies.

Pruning and cultivating a garden, long overgrown with weeds is no easy job. But once the weeds have been eliminated, order restored, and the sunlight permitted to reach the roots of the plants, the garden can be expected to produce better than ever. President Eisenhower and the Congress have held to this policy during the past five months and results will soon be evident in better service from your government for less money.

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Congress, in recent years, has spent no little time berating various federal agencies whose "big wigs" insisted upon having at their disposal large chauffeur-driven limousines provided for them by taxpayers' money. This prac-



tice has been criticized in the past, but is being corrected under the new Administration.

But while Congress casts its economy stones downtown in the direction of the Executive Agencies it would be wise to inspect its own glass house. Last week I did some checking and to my surprise found that some little-known employees of the legislative branch of the government were enjoying the luxury of government-owned and operated limousines with chauffeurs.

The Architect of the Capitol, for example, with a salary of \$15,000, for a good many years has had limousine service at public expense...nothing less than a 210 horsepower sedan with white sidewall tires and other frills. The Assistant Architect of the Capitol, whose annual salary is \$14,800, has also been provided with an expensive sedan and driver.

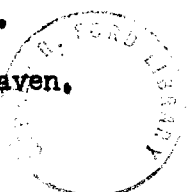
To eliminate this needless expense I sponsored an amendment to prohibit the expenditure of federal funds for the purchase, operation or repair of such special cars for these two well-paid employees of the legislative branch. The House of Representatives agreed with my amendment. If the Senate concurs, next year more progress can be made in cutting down on some of the special vehicles provided employees of the House and Senate. This practice has developed without too much publicity, but it is my contention that in all fairness to all taxpayers a very definite line must be drawn to eliminate these unnecessary luxuries. In the future, we'll be looking forward to seeing considerably fewer deluxe automobiles parked in the vicinity of Capitol Hill.

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The Department of Defense appropriation bill was approved by the Committee on Appropriations with a further cut of 1.3 billion dollars below the budget presented by President Eisenhower and 6.2 billion dollars less than the Truman budget. My subcommittee, in charge of the Army funds, reduced the requested amount by \$689 million. The cuts will eliminate unnecessary and uneconomical operations and programs without any decrease in our military strength. Our committee bill is the result of extensive hearings, careful analysis and deliberate action. I assure you that we would be the last ones to make hap-hazard cuts in an appropriation which means so much to the security of our nation.

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Visitors: Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Matthews and daughter Jean, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. VanderMeer, Delores Konyndyk, Janet Smith, Mrs. John M. Nelson, Arthur H. German, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cox, Si Albert, and Seth Edwell of Grand Rapids.
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd McLaughlin and family, Ruth Ver Duin of Grand Haven,
Florence Becker of Holland.



YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

The dramatic crisis over excess profits tax legislation reached a climax earlier last week and might have provided enough excitement for an entire month of legislative action, nevertheless we can expect large doses of "hot" news to break into the headlines at frequent intervals in the remaining weeks of this session.

Wednesday of this past week saw the culmination of many long months of eye-straining and brain-tingling scrutiny of the defense budget. The military subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations, fortified with facts and figures acquired during the long and complicated hearings, presented its bill to the other 426 members of the House of Representatives.

We expected a certain amount of opposition and it was forthcoming. In most instances, however, when the committee made known its reasons for the various cuts in items in the defense budget, the committee recommendations were readily accepted. But before full explanation for each item was given, I'm afraid my colleagues were more like vultures than the friendly fellows I work with. On the whole however, they're reasonable chaps and though a few bristled at decreases in the research and development appropriation, for example, they became less vehement in their opposition when the committee pointed out that there were over 39 million dollars in un-expended and over 400 million un-obligated funds available in the Army alone for this purpose... IN ADDITION TO the allocation which the committee recommended for this year. Research is important if our Army is to be the best in the world. We want our G.I.'s to have the finest guns and the most modern tanks, yet it would be unwarranted extravagance to appropriate hard-earned tax dollars for such purposes if the money would not be spent wisely.

It was anticipated that a big explosion would be set off when the Airforce budget came up for consideration. Congressman Mahon of Texas had many strong supporters of his amendment which would add over one billion dollars to the Airforce appropriation, but on the crucial vote his amendment was defeated overwhelmingly. The evidence was convincing



that the effectiveness of the airforce would not be hampered by the reductions recommended by President Eisenhower. Some people contend the mere appropriation of billions of dollars means Uncle Sam will have the best Airforce. This is certainly not the case. President Eisenhower and Secretary of Defense Wilson want an Airforce actually equipped with planes, pilots, and the necessary bases. For too long a time, despite the appropriation of billions by Congress, the Airforce has had "paper" wings, because of non-delivery of planes, poor personnel management, and waste in the construction of airfields. These conditions will be corrected under Ike and the new military leaders.

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Now that the major work of my Defense Department sub-committee has been completed, the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, Congressman Tabor, was afraid that I might have a little spare time and assigned me to the sub-committee on Mutual Security.

For the next few weeks therefore, I shall be a member of the committee considering the actual appropriations for foreign aid. If any of you should be confused by the Mutual Security bill which passed the House a few weeks ago, that bill merely authorized appropriations and set a limit on the amount Congress could appropriate for foreign aid. Now it remains for the special committee to which I have been assigned to screen the foreign aid budget, item by item. It is contended that additional cuts can be made, If this is possible I shall certainly do my part in making the reductions.

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Visitors who braved the July heat to visit their Nation's Capital:

Mr. and Mrs. William Sytsema, Mr. and Mrs. Si Schippers, Luella Brady, Audrey Snyder, David TerMeer, Patricia Zahm, Esther Hartmen, Mr. A.E. Underhill, Joanne E. Schields, Delores Sayles, Mrs. Cedric Sayles, Mr. and Mrs. William Kuiper of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mr. James W. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Paull of Rockford.



YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

Confined to our committee room for exceptionally long periods of time this past week, I hardly feel qualified to discuss anything but mutual security appropriations in this column. Our nine-member subcommittee literally burned the midnight oil ferreting out every detail of the foreign aid budget and we have accomplished an encouraging amount of work. The committee expects to make its report in a matter of days but until that time hearings are in progress. The committee intends to persevere in its search for every possible cut of unnecessary items from this very important appropriation bill. The committee's recommendations will be based on this criteria -- how much can and should Uncle Sam spend for his own military and economic security.

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More and more encouraging reports are being made by the Executive branch of our government which prove that economy hasn't been just a matter of talk, nor has the attitude prevailed that economy is something the other fellow should practice. For the most part, each and every department has made every effort to cooperate to the maximum in saving our tax dollars.

Over in the Commerce Department, Secretary Weeks ordered the shutdown by July 31 of 11 of his department's 42 field offices throughout the country.

At the White House 14 lower priced sedans have replaced costly limousines which had been used during the former Administration.

The Veterans Administration has consolidated many of its divisions into fewer tightly organized and smoothly functioning divisions. For example, the agency's personnel, administrative services, and purchasing branches are being combined under one administrator for better service to veterans at less cost.

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President Eisenhower recently announced his intention to revoke the Truman "gag" order on news from executive agencies. This order gave almost unrestricted censorship authority to all Federal agencies, whether



or not connected with defense work, and was bitterly criticized by the nation's press. A new order will give limited classification power to sensitive agencies only.

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There's been more heat in Washington than that generated by Old Sol alone. Senators and Representatives along with the general public are getting hot under the collar extracting information from rebellious witnesses mostly alleged communists, who, as it turns out, aren't such cool customers themselves.

It has been generally agreed that the wholesale recourse to immunity by commie-tinged party-liners under the Fifth Amendment has hopelessly frustrated the work of several otherwise highly effective committees of Congress. It is generally agreed, too, that something must be done about this refusal to answer on the grounds of self-incrimination.

Obviously, it is necessary to change the letter of the law. And here's where the difficulty arises. Should the Amendment be changed to eliminate the possibility of its abuse but also to protect those who have a right to its legitimate use? Actually, two fundamental principles must be kept in mind: the full exercise of legislative and investigative powers conferred on Congress must not be interfered with and at the same time witnesses must be assured maximum fairness.

At the present time many bills are pending in the Congress which their advocates believe would solve the problem in one way or another. Congressman Keating, Republican of New York has championed a bill which would establish a "bill of rights" for witnesses called to testify before congressional committees. He has also submitted a bill which would give Congressional committees immediate access to court decision as to whether or not a witness may declare immunity under the Fifth Amendment.

On July 9, the Senate passed a bill which would permit two-thirds of the full committee concerned or a majority of the members of one of the Houses of Congress to grant immunity to a witness if he so desires. On the other hand, if a witness fails to receive this supporting vote he may be cited for contempt of Congress.

Generally speaking, we may say that too many witnesses have overstepped their bounds in refusing to answer justifiable questions and

yet it is very difficult to draw the line between the so-called contempt and legitimate silence. A Congressional sub-committee has been established to study the various details and consequences of the required legislation. It is hoped they will be able to report a satisfactory solution to the problems which have been besieging congressional investigating committees.

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Visitors: Foster D. Poe, William Gedris of Grand Rapids.

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

Last week after members of the Foreign Aid sub-Committee on Appropriations had heard many witnesses point out the benefits of this program, President Eisenhower himself invited us to breakfast at the White House. The invitation said 8 a.m. so ten Congressmen on our Committee, General Gruenther, boss of the combined allied forces in Europe, Budget Director Dodge and Mutual Security Administrator Stassen, assembled at the White House a few minutes ahead of the appointed hour. For obvious reason Emily Post frowns on tardiness on such an occasion.

Before getting to the serious side of the breakfast conference let me tell of an amusing incident. It is customary when you arrive for a White House meal, for an aide to greet you and indicate precisely where you are to be seated at the table. A la Washington style, place cards are arranged strictly according to protocol. On this occasion however, the President, after greeting everyone with his most infectious smile, grabbed two guests by the arm and asked them to sit next to him. Lo and behold the President's graciousness had fouled up the seating arrangement! The little mix up reminded all the men present how similar incidents in the past have put us in the dog house with each of our wives.

What did President Eisenhower talk about? First, Ike said he was unalterably opposed to any give away program. Second, he was in favor of foreign aid only because it was the cheapest and most effective way for the United States to protect itself. The President looks upon this program as a part of the whole national defense program. If Uncle Sam doesn't spend the money to help our allies, he believes, our nation will be forced to spend many times more money and lives to keep aggressors from our own United States borders.

The President did not tell the ten Congressmen to make no cuts in his budget for foreign aid. In fact, he expressed the opinion that reductions should be made if they could be factually justified.

Following the breakfast, the committee returned to its sanctum at the Capitol where we worked diligently most of the day and far into the night on the dollar amounts to be included in the appropriation bill. It was no easy task and no one took the responsibility lightly. The final result showed that the committee had cut about \$1.1 from a total of \$7.3 billion. Did the committee go contrary to the President's request? I doubt it. We can show where the extra money could not be wisely



spent in the next year. The cut was a fair and reasonable compromise between widely divergent points of view. It will permit the United States to work with our allies in destroying the ruthless communist dictators behind the Iron Curtain. This is a job which we cannot do alone.

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Reports of large reductions in Federal payrolls have been coming in from various government agencies with considerable regularity. For the month of May alone, a total personnel cutback of 23,500 was declared by all Federal agencies combined.

Of course, "personnel cutback" is a high-sounding way of saying people are losing their jobs. Despite the fact that payroll reductions may bring about economy in the Federal government, it's still bad news for those individuals who have been effected by the lay-offs.

Perhaps some of you have been wondering as I have lately about how these drastic personnel reductions are going to effect our employment picture. I did a little research on my own this week and obtained some figures from the Labor department which proved very enlightening.

Labor Department statistics show that employment figures for June of 1953 exceed those of the same period last year by over one million. In other words, over one million more people in the U.S. now hold jobs than were working last year. In the same period last year over one million persons were unemployed, The unemployment figure for 1953 is about 200,000 less than 1952.

In other words, the over-all employment picture is, in effect, much improved over last year. Furthermore, figures demonstrate quite clearly that job-seekers are being absorbed into industry and business at a far more rapid rate than has been seen for quite some time.

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Visitors: Mr and Mrs. M.H. DeVivorne and Anne of Grand Rapids.
Mrs. D.W. Burton and Jeanne of Sparta.

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

What's it like to live behind the Communist Iron Curtain and what drives a young man to seek refuge from dictator's oppression by escaping to the free world?

The answer to this question was given to me by Lt. Franciszek Jarecki, the 22-year old Polish flier who in March 1953 dramatically delivered a Russian MIG into the hands of the Allies. The people of Poland submit to the dictates of the Russians only because there's not much else to do when someone issues orders at gun point and one has no weapons to defend oneself. Lt. Jarecki continued to say that the Polish people did avail themselves of two very effective weapons at their disposal: sabotage and small but frequent revolts. Lt. Jarecki cited the example of a Russian munitions factory which had been moved no less than three times in an effort to thwart saboteurs who in the past had been especially efficient. The factory now stands, the Lieutenant tells us, in a largely wooded area and bears a sign "Kitchen Utensils."

During the warm-up preceding the filming of my regular television broadcast, my guest, Lt. Jarecki who speaks only Polish, engaged in a lively discussion with Congressman O'Konski of Wisconsin and my Administrative Assistant, John Milanowski. I was forced to rely upon them to act as my interpreters. Though the language barrier provided some difficulty we all managed to carry on our discussion with considerable ease.

Naturally, in the off-the-record discussion we were most interested in details of Lt. Jarecki's experiences which were neglected in most newspaper stories. It was almost impossible to believe that this youthful, handsome boy (for he hardly seemed more than that) held the controls of a Russian MIG. And yet, in all modesty, he told us that under the Russian system, jet fliers are the "cream of the crop", so to speak. Out of 8,000 boys in his age range, 150 were chosen to enter the jet training school, and Lt. Jarecki led his class.

He had been acclaimed by Red officials as a "model" young communist, and yet all the time in the back of his mind was his plan to escape from the regime of lies under the communist thumb. He was taken on speaking tours throughout Poland to encourage the youth of the country to be like himself, a "model" communist. His closing remarks always were: "Follow my example. Do exactly as I do." Now Lt. Jarecki hopes the young Poles under communist domination will remember his advice.



When questioned about his future, the young hero says that he has been so overwhelmed by America that he can hardly think what he should do. He does want to go to school more than anything else, but wants to have time to think over his course of studies first.

At present Lt. Jarecki can think of nothing better than a well deserved rest after his ordeal and the long list of speaking engagements which have taken him all over the United States. After a little relaxation he looks forward to continuing his efforts to free Poland from the communism which holds it captive. He plans to exert every effort to help America in its fight against the successors of Joe Stalin.

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One of my biggest regrets these days is that I cannot get back to the District to attend some of the functions to which many of you have so graciously invited me. The closing days of a session of Congress leave no room for quick trips home. During this period there is a vast number of roll calls and important committee meetings on vital appropriation bills which demand our undivided attention.

It is very difficult to say "no" to every single invitation which comes my way from back home, especially when so many of them include an opportunity to give you a first hand outline of what your Congress has accomplished this year. But until adjournment (which we still expect to be around July 31) "no" must be the very apologetic but firm answer.

After adjournment and following a committee investigating trip I plan to be back in Western Michigan and at that time hope to make good many of the rain checks I've accumulated in the past weeks.

Thanks for being so patient.

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Visitors: Mrs. D. W. Burton of Sparta; Harold Fox and S. J. Hilarides of Grand Rapids.



YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

Heading into the home stretch toward final adjournment for the first session of the 83rd Congress meant long hours on the floor of the House and longer hours in conference with Senat Appropriation Committee members.

In the heat of last minute legislation, the House approved two major Presidential reorganization plans. Plan No. 7, which received the green light from House members in the last few days, establishes a single Foreign Operations Administration to supplant the Mutual Security Administration and related agencies.

Plan No. 8 calls for a unified United States Information Agency which would replace the Voice of America and various other agencies which are engaged in virtually the same type of work.

These reorganization plans are, obviously, in accord with the Hoover Commission recommendations, and also with the economy program which this Congress has endeavored to carry out. Both these plans became effective on August 1.

Action on postal rate increase has been postponed indefinitely by the extremely heavy schedule of legislation before the House this week. Chairman Rees announced that it had been impossible to continue and complete hearings this week because of the frequent calls for members to be present on the floor while vital legislation is being completed before adjournment.

Up to this time the committee has heard testimony from approximately 60 witnesses who had various objections to the bill. The last to be heard prior to cessation of hearings were Post Office officials who believe new rate increases are necessary to erase an annual deficit estimated by former President Truman to be approximately \$746 million. Postmaster General Summerfield, by economy and efficiency, has reduced this deficit by \$431 million. This shows what good management can do for a government agency.

Chairman Rees expressed the opinion that the hearings had been full and complete in every detail and would provide more than adequate information and facts for the committee to begin immediately to write up new Postal legislation as soon as the next session begins.

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House and Senate conferees this past week put their heads together on the appropriation bill involving slightly over \$34 billion for the Army, Navy and Air Force. In any measure in which this much money is at stake, legitimate differences of opinion are bound to exist between the two Houses of Congress.

As might be expected, there was considerable discussion over details in amounts and wording in the two defense bills. However, a concentrated effort on the part of all the House and Senate participants brought forth the final version of the bill in relatively short order.

The completed draft came well under the amounts specified in both the House and Senate bills. The result is perhaps unique but certainly understandable. Conferees agreed on a bill which was \$125 million under the House appropriation and \$65 million less than the Senate version of the defense appropriation bill.

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By special invitation I was permitted to attend the signing of the bill by President Eisenhower this past week for the relief of Franciszek Jarecki whose experiences I discussed at some length in last week's column.

This was a very special private relief bill unlike most in that everyone is familiar with the name Jarecki, and with the heroic deed it immediately calls to mind. The President's signature on this private bill means that Lt. Jarecki of the Polish Army becomes private American citizen Jarecki, free to work, go to school and to show his gratitude for his new found freedom. It must be a welcome relief to be liberated from the oppression of the Communist dictators. This young lad has vowed to help America his new country, and her allies in every conceivable way to rid the world of the Communist menace.

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Visitors this week were Mr. J. Vern Jennings; Mrs. Hilda G. Smith, of Grand Rapids, and her daughter Carolyn, of Muskegon.

FOR RELEASE AUGUST 13, 1953

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

By the time this column reaches your favorite newspaper I will be well on my way to the Far East. My three-week inspection trip will take me to Army installations in Japan, Korea, Formosa and elsewhere in the Far East. My two companions will be Col. M. T. Tilghman and Gen. George Honnen, Army budget officer. Part of the inspection trip will be in conjunction with an inspection tour of the Secretary of the Army. In order to keep you up to date I will report to you regularly by means of this column, of my impressions and experiences throughout my trip half way round the world.

Recently, Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks announced the sale of the government-owned Inland Waterways Corporation to a private operator.

Since 1948, Secretary Weeks claimed, there had been five specific attempts to purchase the corporation, These attempts had been completely ignored prior to January 20, 1953 when the Eisenhower Administration took office. In less than three weeks after the new Secretary of Commerce took over this white elephant was up for sale. The record shows this government barge line was no baby white elephant. Over the past fourteen years the Corporation netted a loss of \$9,749,000 having made a profit during the period for only two of the fourteen years.

According to agreements made by the new owner, uninterrupted service is guaranteed to shippers who use the facilities of Inland Waterway Corporation. Specific terms of the contract include default provisions to insure proper services to the Line's customers under the management of the new owner.

General feeling is that the government is well out of this business... for many good reasons. In the first place, it is not at all the proper function of the government to engage in commercial activities which private enterprise is better able to perform. Secondly, it is not the place of the government to compete with private business unnecessarily. Thirdly and possibly the most forceful argument prompting the decision to sell the corporation, the operation



of this business was proving excessively costly to the U. S. Treasury. Its annual losses only added a greater burden to the Federal deficit. The sale of Inland Waterways Corporation means another saving for all of us taxpayers and I, for one, would call that good business!

In the orchids-for-the-ladies department.....

The Eisenhower Administration has 27 women filling top-ranking positions in our government. They have been given jobs dealing with everything from diplomatic relations to civil defense and parole problems. The women who have held policy-making jobs since the inauguration of the new administration, have had a great part in the achievements of the Eisenhower Administration up to this time. We men are not going to be a bit backward about giving credit where credit is due and certainly they deserve our heartiest congratulations for the way they have accepted their responsibilities with enthusiasm and exhibited initiative and competence of which any man could be very proud.

Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, for one, has gone at her job with an efficiency which has both amazed and pleased everyone.

Clare Booth Luce has won the hearts of the Italian people as our Ambassador to Italy.

Mrs. Frances Willis, Ambassador to Switzerland, Mrs. Ivy Baker Priest, U. S. Treasurer, Mrs. Frances Bolton, Congresswoman and delegate to the U. N. to name only a few, have made it very clear that the ladies take no back seat when it comes to handling the vital matters of government. President Eisenhower promised to give the ladies their opportunity to help and the records indicate the "gals" are assuming their responsibilities.

VISITORS

Mr. J. Vern Jennings, Dr. G. H. Door, Mrs. G. H. Door and children, Sandra, Linda and Terrence Door.

G. R. Ford

ORIGINAL RELEASED BY THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

FOR RELEASE August 27, 1953

Editor - This Washington Review longer than usual.
Deletions may be made if necessary.



YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW

By Gerald R. Ford, Jr.

(As Jerry told you in last week's column, he is in the Far East on a three weeks official inspection trip of military and foreign aid installations. Jerry is writing a series of letters to his wife, Betty, and their children, Mike and Jack. To keep you informed of his experiences, these letters are being used to make up the column for the next two weeks.)

Monday, August 3rd.

12:30 PM Washington time.

Dearest Betty, Mike and Jack,

Right at the moment we are flying at 16,000 feet half way between McChord Field (Seattle-Takoma) and Shemya Airfield in the Aleutians. A very smooth, uneventful plane ride with nothing but clouds below. We have not seen land or water since leaving the U.S.A. This is our second leg - about 2458 nautical miles - and we expect to make it in approximately eleven hours. After a stopover of 1 1/2 hours in Shemya, we will be on our way to Seoul, Korea, a hop of 2346 nautical miles.

The trip from Washington to McChord Field was comfortable and without incident. As you know Secretary of State Dulles' plane took off about 15 minutes ahead of ours, but we, with a lesser load (fewer "brass") overtook them and landed 5 or 10 minutes prior to their arrival.

We were met at the field by General Bennet, of the Air Force, and he had dinner arranged for the party while the planes were refueled. Our plane had developed slight mechanical difficulties on the way west and this had to be fixed up before departure on the second lap.

General Honnen, the Army Finance Officer, and I, instead of waiting around at McChord Field, drove over to Fort Lewis, an Army installation, for a quick look at this base.

Upon our return to the planes we found there was some further delay so joined Sec. Dulles and his group, including Mr. Walter Robertson who had recently spent weeks in top level negotiations with President Syngman Rhee. It was most interesting to spend this hour or so with these two gentlemen who are on one of the most vital missions in the history of American diplomacy.

Sec. Dulles' plane took off for Shemya Air Force base ahead of us because some further mechanical difficulties developed on our Constellation. Finally we shoved off and I was about to retire in one of the bunks when our pilot came back from the cockpit to report new mechanical difficulties - this time instrument trouble - and he recommended immediate return to McChord Field. This made sense for I was not anxious to fly approximately 2500 miles in the foul Alaskan weather with some of our flight instruments on the blink.

The return trip to McChord Field was uneventful, but the repair work held us up about 5 hours. Finally about 2 A.M. Monday morning, those in our plane crawled in the ship's bunks. However, just before doing so we had word that Sec. Dulles' plane had developed trouble in one engine, about three hours out on the 11 hour hop to Shemya, and that they also were returning to McChord Field. I don't know when they arrived back for I was sound asleep after a long day, but apparently their plane was quickly repaired for the two planes took off again around 7 A.M. Monday, Washington time.

The long hops have given me a wonderful opportunity to pour over the detailed reports furnished me by the Army and the State Department on Korea, Formosa, the Philippines and French Indo-China. This background material, on the political, military and economic status of each area, will be most helpful when the actual inspections are made by General Honnen and myself.

I will be writing again in a day or so. Until then,

All my love,

Jerry

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Thursday, August 6th

Written in flight from
Seoul, Korea, to Saigon,
Indo-China.

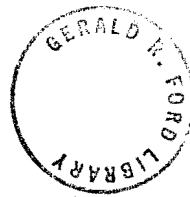


ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

Dearest Betty, Mike and Jack,

Operation Big Switch, the Prisoner of War exchange, will interest you most, but my last letter left off at Shemya Airforce Base in the Aleutians, so first some travel details before the story on the historic return of our American GIs from the Communist prison camps.

The long flight to Korea from Alaska was without incident except for strong headwinds that were part of a typhoon off the southern tip of the peninsula. Sec. Dulles' plane arrived just ahead of ours at the Seoul airport, at about midnight, but despite the lateness of the hour, the South Koreans really put on a show for the Secretary of State. The Korean Army, Navy, Marine and Airforce



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honor guards were lined up on the field in their finest splendor to pay welcome to Sec. Dulles and party. After the ceremonies, General Max Taylor, head of the 8th Army, whisked us off to our quarters in a typical Oriental residence, called the Guest House. The accommodations were comfortable, but the building and facilities were never built for six foot tall Americans. Until I learned the hard way, I repeatedly bumped the top of my head moving from one room to another. Shaving in a bowl built for shorter Koreans is a back cramping operation.

Everyone was up bright and early the next morning in order to attend the regular 8th Army briefing before departure for Munsan where operation Big Switch took place. General Taylor, Sec. of the Army Stevens and I flew from Seoul to Munsan, a 20 minute hop, and arrived there in time to get a full briefing on just how the United Nations prisoners of war would be processed at Freedom Village.

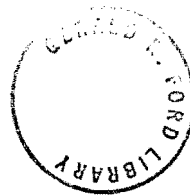
A huge building, about 100' x 200', had been built with additional auxiliary structures alongside. Big Switch was excellently organized with all the emphasis on the care and treatment of our returning POWs.

The POWs were actually turned over by the Communists to our forces at Panmunjom, a road distance of 12 miles from Freedom Village at Munsan. The medical cases were flown by helicopter and arrived 30 or 40 minutes ahead of the others who came by field ambulances. The first were all stretcher cases, but despite their disabilities you could see the joy in their hearts at being freed from the Communist prison camps.

Each returnee received a quick medical check-up for any emergency, later followed by a thorough examination. In the first group the doctors detected some tuberculosis cases resulting from poor care and malnutrition. Each boy stopped at the Chaplains area where Protestant, Catholic and Jewish chaplains were available, and out of the first three groups of Americans, every one sought religious contact. One of the returned prisoners told me how they held their own church services regularly during their imprisonment and how helpful this was while they spent their weary days in North Korea. The Communists constantly disparaged the church services held by our boys.

Each American POW could be interviewed by war correspondents at Freedom Village without censorship if he desired the opportunity. The first interviewed by the press, radio and TV was a young lad from Detroit, and he recounted vividly his tragic experiences of the past 2 1/2 years.

The Red Cross had a mighty fine set-up at Freedom Village where the POWs could relax after their medical exams, their chaplain contacts, their showers, new GI clothing issue, and some good American chow. Red Cross workers, both men



Page 4

and women, were able to do this essential job because all of us have contributed our dollars to our local chapters each year.

Later General Taylor took Sec. of the Army Stevens and me on a helicopter tour of the surrounding area where we saw from the air Panmunjom in the distance, a train load of Communist POWs, and the prisoner compound for those North Korean and Chinese the United Nations were returning. By this time Sec. Dulles had completed his first vital conference with President Rhee. We joined him for lunch at the UN negotiators' camp, and I had the opportunity to talk extensively with Major General Bryant, the new top UN negotiator on problems involving the truce.

After lunch the 8th Army commander took the group on a helicopter tour of a part of the battlefield to see what was going on during the first few days of no hostilities. We stopped in for a briefing at a Marine division headquarters, then over some mountainous Korean geography to a British, Canadian, Australian division area. The next stop took us to a South Korea division headquarters, and that was an inspiring sight. The ROKs had a small review with their band playing the American and Korean national anthems. We met the young South Korean general, under 35 years of age, who gave us a briefing on what his soldiers were doing, and had done, in the fight against the Communists. An American officer told me this South Korean division had fought the Reds to a standstill on every occasion. The final stop was a call on the 7th American division, a top fighting outfit that had attached to it battalions of Columbians and Ethiopians. At the review for Sec. Dulles, the GI band played the national anthems of each country. Reports indicate these smaller UN forces, despite their limited numbers, in comparison to our own and the South Koreans, have helped in thwarting the Communist invasion from above the 38th parallel. The American forces and the South Koreans have borne the brunt in this struggle against the Reds. The ROKs have been wonderful allies, and America wants and needs that relationship to continue in the future, which is the reason for Sec. of State Dulles' personal trip to Korea.

After a long day we had a quiet dinner in Seoul, followed by a two hour Army budget session with the fiscal expert from General Mark Clark's staff in Tokyo. The truce requires considerable replanning in the expenditure of Army funds in the Pacific area, and the Congress, and particularly my committee, is interested in how this will be accomplished with the maximum economy and efficiency.

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Thursday morning we shoved off for Saigon, Indo-China, in Secretary of the Army Stevens' plane. Its a big hop, about 2540 miles. With the weather clear and the plane at 16,000 feet, we could see parts of Okinawa, Formosa, and the Luzon island of the Philippines. Arrival at Saigon in late afternoon was as planned, with the heat and humidity reminding me of Washington, D.C., at its best or worst.

Must sign off hurriedly if I'm to get this letter in the mail for delivery to you half way around the world.

Love to you all,

Jerry.



YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW

By Gerald R. Ford, Jr.

(As we told you in last week's column, Congressman Ford is writing a series of letters to his wife, Betty, and their children, Mike and Jack, on his trip to the Far East. Here is another letter from Jerry.)

Written enroute to Taipei,
Formosa, August 9th.

Dearest Betty, Mike and Jack,

Our inspection group spent 2 1/2 days in Saigon, Indo-China, practically half way around the world from Washington, D.C. Some statistician has figured out the White House is 65 miles closer to Saigon if you travel via Europe rather than over the Pacific. Its a gross understatement to say, either way its a long trek homeward.

An old friend from Grand Rapids, Bud Vestal, works for Uncle Sam in Saigon, in the U. S. Information Agency. Unfortunately I didn't have too much time in the crowded schedule to see him and his family, but we did get together for a short session where I brought him up-to-date on news from home, and he reciprocated with his personal comments on the dangerous communist activities in Indo-China.

Saigon is a relatively modern city in appearance, certainly far different from war torn Seoul in South Korea. Its a city built up by the French as part of their colonial empire, and their civilian and military installations over the years have cost them many millions of dollars. These investments, and the potential wealth in natural resources, has probably caused their reluctance to pull out and let the Vietnamese, the Cambodians, and the Laotians set up their own governments.

Since 1946 the Communists have had their eye on Indo-China, and have waged vicious war on the French and local forces in an effort to capture this key area in the very heart of the Far East. It has been a bloody and expensive struggle with no decisive victory for either side. In the last several years the United States has supplied the anti-communist forces with military equipment. More help of this sort is contemplated in the months ahead so the communist threat can be turned back.

During our visit we had full and complete briefings on the military picture and made careful checks on the past and planned "end-use" of the military supplies being furnished by Uncle Sam. The American Ambassador filled us in on the political picture which is complicated by the varied problems resulting from the desire of the local people to achieve full independence from the French at the earliest possible date. Fortunately, and wisely, the French, on July 3rd, agreed to independence for the three associated states forming Indo-China. The sooner this autonomy is

achieved, bearing in mind the manifold administrative difficulties, the greater likelihood of victory for the anti-communist forces.

The Indo-China war has had a heavy toll on the civilian population as evidenced by the thousands of rural families displaced from their ancestral homes by the ruthless tactics of the communist soldiers. These refugees with no means of livelihood, having fled from the communist held areas, have been helped by the combined efforts of the local government and the American technical assistance experts. Fifteen miles from Saigon I saw a newly built thatched-roof village, surrounded by many acres of rice paddies, where approximately 600 native families (4000 persons) were getting a new start in life. This rehabilitation program is bound to be effective. The communists in Indo-China have promised the natives land and "model villages". In reality the Reds have driven the families from their homes. The local governments with our help have provided homes, a means of livelihood, medical care and basic educational opportunities for these refugees. With only two classrooms and two teachers, it is unfortunately impossible to teach all of the village's 1200 children, so one child is chosen from each family to be educated until more facilities can be made available. Certainly in this situation the false promises of the communists have been exposed to the fullest, while the anti-communists with 21 such villages have lived up to the concept that the "free world" does help the needy.

The two and a half days passed quickly because of the heavy schedule. Although local custom dictates a three hour lunch period (because of the noon-day tropical heat), our inspection group worked right through the siesta period each day. It was the only way to see and hear all of the facts. Some day a more leisurely trip to this area and its fine people would be a wonderful and pleasant experience.

The trip homeward has started, although it will be a week or more before we land at the Nation's Capital. The first leg from Saigon to Hong Kong was uneventful, but certainly this vast and beautiful city off the south China coast is a sight to behold. From Hong Kong to Taipei, in Formosa, was the second hop, and I will write later of what we saw on this controversial island where Chaing Kai-Shek and the Chinese Nationals await the day to return to the mainland.

Love to you all. It won't be too long before we'll be back.

Jerry

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

FOR RELEASE September 3, 1953

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW

By Gerald R. Ford, Jr.

(As we told you in last week's column, Congressman Ford is writing a series of letters to his wife, Betty, and their children, Mike and Jack, on his trip to the Far East. Here is another letter from Jerry.)

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Love to you all. It won't be too long before we'll be back.

Jerry

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

FOR RELEASE September 3, 1953

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
By Gerald R. Ford, Jr.

(Here's another in Congressman Ford's series written to his wife, Betty, and sons, Mike and Jack.)

(Written Taigu, Korea after
dinner Wednesday, August 12th.)

Dearest Betty, Mike and Jack:

There has been several days' delay since the last missive but you will understand I hope, when you see the schedule of the past 72 hours. The Army officials have done a good job in compressing many points of interest into the limited time available, although the net result is no time for correspondence and on-the-spot correlation and evaluation of data collected.

The late afternoon arrival in Formosa found our party met at the Taipei Airport by Ambassador Rankin, General Chase, American military advisor to the Nationalist forces, and numerous other high-ranking U. S. and Chinese officials. I was informed that Chang Kai Shek, President of Free China, and Madame Chang were expecting us for tea. Their residence, 45 minutes up the mountainside took us over a winding road which was in surprisingly good shape.

Our transportation pulled into the President's home where we were met by one of his top aides who escorted us into the living room that was furnished in most appropriate Chinese style. Chang Kai Shek sat in the far corner but as we entered he arose, shook hands and through an interpreter, expressed a cordial welcome. We chatted for a few minutes, always by interpreter, and then Madame Chang made her appearance. I ended up sitting between the President and Madame Chang--she, by the way, speaks English fluently.

It was an exceedingly interesting hour with our hosts serving iced tea with mint leaves, a Chinese food concoction, and a large dish of American ice cream. As we left, one of President Chang's advisors presented me with two boxes of his special brands of red and green tea plus the Ford seal in Chinese. If my letters are signed in the future in Chinese, it will be through the courtesy of the anti-communist leader of the Chinese people.

The American Ambassador lives next door and he had a dinner set up where our inspecting group could get acquainted and discuss controversial problems with the U. S. military and civilian officials who are working with the Chinese in Formosa. It was a pleasant but productive end to a long day. From Saigon to Hong Kong to Taipei in Formosa is a good many miles.



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Our quarters for the night were in the Formosan palace, built for and used by the Japanese Crown Prince when the island was controlled by his people. It's a tremendously large place with beautiful Japanese gardens. My room for the night plus all of the adjoining rooms and balconies, was the area in the palace actually occupied by the Crown Prince.

The next morning a full briefing by the American Ambassador on the political aspects of the complicated Chinese problem followed by further conferences with our U. S. military mission. General Chase, who has been working with the Chang Kai Shek forces, has been most helpful in aiding the rehabilitation of the Chinese Nationalist forces since they left the mainland of China several years ago. Chang's army, navy and airforce are certainly a force to be reckoned with. Obviously they have as their prime motivation a strong desire to return to the Chinese mainland.

The next leg of the trip from Formosa to Okinawa was just long enough for us to have a Chinese-prepared box lunch on the plane. American G.I.s who fought on Okinawa in 1945 would not recognize the place today. Eight years ago after our Marines and Army forces wrested this tiny island from the Japanese it was laid waste. Now it's a powerful military bastion and a vital outpost in the American defense set-up. We spent a fruitful 6 hours in briefings and inspections. I came away with the distinct feeling that the U. S. needs this power-packed island and the surrounding territories for our own security.

We boarded our plane in time for a late evening meal enroute to Korea. The trip from Okinawa to Seoul, a distance of 900 miles, consumed only 3 hours and 45 minutes. It was midnight before we wearily crawled into bed. Just before retiring I was handed the itinerary for the next day, which included a full schedule of visits to numerous Army units from one end of the Korean front line to the other. My next letter will give you the details on this most interesting part of the trip.

The trip homeward will be somewhat slower for there are some problems that must be carefully examined on the civilian relief and rehabilitation program for South Korea. Nevertheless, I'll be in Washington as scheduled.

Love to you all,

Jerry



FOR RELEASE September 10, 1953

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
By Gerald R. Ford, Jr.

(This is the fourth in a series of letters Congressman Ford has written from the Far East to his wife, Betty, and their sons, Mike and Jack.)

(In flight Friday night, August 14th,
Pusan, Korea to Tokyo)

Dearest Betty, Mike and Jack:

For almost two days I covered the Korean front by every conceivable means of transportation including jeeps, trucks, helicopters, light planes and "shanks-horses." The inspections covered the heart of the Army, the infantry, the heavy and light artillery units, the power-packed armoured units, and the vital supply and technical groups without which no Army could operate effectively.

We started our trip at the eastern shore of the Korean peninsula and worked our way westward along the old 155-mile battle line. There were detailed briefings at several corps headquarters to get the overall picture which usually ended up with an on-the-spot visit to a platoon right at the edge of the new demilitarized line. From the air in a helicopter we scanned the demilitarized zone where one could see our troops recovering and retrieving battle-used equipment. At the same time we could see our GIs building new fortifications just south of the old battle line below the newly demilitarized area. On the ground via jeep I viewed first hand the precautions our military officials are taking to make certain that our troops abide 100 per cent by the truce terms.

The various U. S. Army Divisions, the Marines and other U. N. units making up the 8th Army in Korea have an intense but healthy rivalry with one another. All are rightfully proud of their past records and each seeks to outdo the other in their future accomplishments. At every stop in our inspection trip the individual unit would put forth its best effort. Frankly, our citizens at home should be mighty proud of the American fighting forces. They have done an excellent job in the past under terrific difficulties and have a deep appreciation of their serious responsibilities in the future. From my personal conversations with a number of GIs who have been in Korea for some months, I gather the impression they are mighty glad the shooting is over but likewise they have no illusions about the need and necessity for full American military preparedness in the global struggle against Communism. Their morale appears high and in addition the Army officials are doing everything possible to retain this essential spirit with stepped-up training programs, the maximum possible recreation and even better food and housing.



At several Army Division headquarters the program included an Honor Guard and Review. As an old Navy hand, at first I was more than a little clumsy in understanding what one should do in receiving the honors and reviewing the troops, but after the second experience I guess my performance was reasonably up to Army standards.

Practically every unit was thoughtful enough to give me a memento of my visit. Consequently, my luggage is filled with Division histories, honorary unit membership cards and various gadgets, fashioned and presented by the men themselves. Each presentation by one of these top-notch Army groups left an indelible mark which will grow in significance as the years pass by.

Michigan has certainly supplied a full share of the boys in the Army in Korea. Without fail at every stop the Commanding Officer would have the Michigan GIs assembled so I could have an informal "bull session" with them. It was heartwarming and enlightening for me to see these boys and talk with them. The GIs from Kent and Ottawa counties had countless questions about the old home town. I will try to call their parents and wives upon my return.

After two days in Seoul we flew to Taegu, part way down the Korean peninsula, for a briefing on what the numerous Army outfits are doing to back up the front line forces. Without proper supporting units battles can't be won.

Following 17 hours at Taegu the inspection group hopped via plane to Kwangu, in the southwest corner of Korea, for a good look at the training schools for the Republic of Korea Army. The Chief of Staff of the Korean Army was my host at a military review that rivaled any I have ever seen. One must see to appreciate this superb training program sponsored and guided by our Army officials. However, without the full cooperation of the South Koreans such a program could not be successful for it is no easy task to take a man from a rice paddy and make him an efficient soldier in a relatively short period of time. General Paik, his staff and the Korean trainees have my highest respect and admiration. They are not only top-notch soldiers, they are solidly anti-communist.

The last leg of the South Korean trip involved briefings and inspections in the Pusan area where thousands of tons of our supplies entered the war theatre. The port of Pusan despite the fabulously heavy burden of troop and equipment shipments somehow kept everything moving to the GIs to the north.



YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW - Page 3

Before departing for Tokyo we inspected one of the prisoner-of-war camps where some of the anti-communist North Koreans and Chinese are being temporarily held prior to being turned over to the Indians under the truce agreement. A small number of "dyed-in-the-wool" red prisoners were still in the camp and although at the time they appeared very docile behind the heavy wire their past records indicated them to be among the most vicious and ardent Communists.

We were escorted all about the P. W. compound including a visit through the hospital which has been provided for those needing medical and surgical care. I talked with the American doctors who have cared for the prisoners day after day. Regardless of what the Communists may contend, the U. S. has definitely lived up to and undoubtedly exceeded the standards set by the Geneva agreement on the care and treatment of PWs. The Communists may eventually howl and scream about inadequate conditions in our P. W. camps, but from my observations any such claims would be entirely false.

The trip throughout Korea has been a highlight of the inspection tour. One should stay even longer but time will not permit.

Love to you all,

Jerry

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
By Gerald R. Ford, Jr.

(This is the fifth letter in a series written by Congressman Ford from the Far East to his wife, Betty, and sons, Mike and Jack.)

(Written Tuesday, August 18th
enroute Tokyo to Wake Island)

Dearest Betty, Mike and Jack:

The four days in Japan were as filled with activity as all the others on the trip. This was my initial landing in Japan, although during World War II the aircraft carrier on which I served in the Pacific came relatively close to the shore on several occasions. It is interesting to compare the impressions one held in the period 1941 through 1945 with those of 1953.

The first morning in Tokyo included a full briefing by the top man in the Air Force, General Weyland, who during General Mark Clark's absence has been acting boss of all Army, Navy and Air Force operations in the Far East. Although the ground forces have borne the brunt of the fighting in Korea, both in men and equipment, the Air Force has done a most essential job and done it well. Without control of the air the GIs on the ground would have found their chores much more difficult. It was reassuring to find that our Air Force could and did work so effectively with the ground forces and also to learn that U. S. Marine air wings and other U. N. air units could operate under the overall command of our Air Force. This record is evidence of what can be done under wartime operational conditions.

From this initial briefing our group was subjected to another but this time from the various officials in the Far East Command which includes Japan, Korea, and other areas in the vicinity. Subsequently General Harrison, who did most of the negotiating with the Chinese Communists on the Korean truce, was our host at lunch and then for an hour or more afterwards expressed his private observations and views on problems of the Far East. General Harrison, a West Point schoolmate of President Eisenhower, is one of the Army's foremost authorities on the Bible and an ordained minister. It was a rare opportunity to talk with this fine man who has so recently been locked in almost daily controversy with the Communist representatives at Panmunjon.

Today when one visits Tokyo or other parts of Japan it is natural to look for evidence of our U. S. bombings in World War II. Those Americans who were in Japan right after the war apparently saw ample evidence of the destruction wrought by our B-29s but today one must actually search to find the remaining



scars. The Japanese apparently accepted the vast damage to their homeland as one of the inevitable consequences of their military defeat and then plunged into a rebuilding program with vigor and intelligence. Although there is some limited evidence of Communist infiltration in Japan the people generally are conservative and definitely oppose Russian domination of Asia and the Pacific ocean. This viewpoint coincides with U. S. foreign policy. Isn't it somewhat paradoxical that 8 years after the end of World War II, the victor and vanquished in that mortal struggle in the Pacific should now see "eye-to-eye" on many basic international questions.

The four days in Japan included inspection trips to U. S. Army bases in Yokahama and the surrounding area. One of the most interesting installations is the highly coordinated automotive rebuild shops where the Army takes the badly damaged jeeps, the trucks, and all other motor vehicles from Korea and rebuilds them into practically new equipment. It is amazing to see a really ruined jeep or 2 1/2-ton truck transformed into a highly serviceable vehicle by the use of Japanese plants and workers plus the supervision and "know-how" of American military and civilian personnel. I had frequently heard of this U. S. Vehicle Rebuild Program in Japan, which everyone said saved millions of dollars, but had no idea of its magnitude. Until I saw the production schedules and the actual dollar savings I was more than a little dubious.

One of the final inspections was a "quick-look-see" at the U. S. Naval Base south of Tokyo. At the termination of World War II when Japan's fleet was no longer in being our Navy took over this excellent spot for our ships and sailors. It has been most useful during the Korean War. The U. S. Commanding Officer told us he has among the Japanese civilian laborers working on the base for Uncle Sam a number of former admirals in the Japanese Navy. The fortunes of war in this instance had strange results.

Another highlight of the Tokyo stopover was a conference and luncheon with the American Ambassador. Our Ambassador to Japan, Mr. John Allison, has had wide experience in the Far East for many years and consequently was most helpful in filling in all political and diplomatic details on oriental matters. I should add that Mrs. Allison, the Ambassador's wife, kindly devoted some time to our joint shopping tour. Without such aid I'm certain my shopping efforts would have been most unsuccessful.

We're on our way back. In fact this might arrive after we land in Washington.

Love to you all,

Jerry

FOR RELEASE September 24, 1953

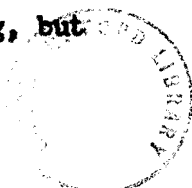
YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
By Gerald R. Ford, Jr.

The final lap of the 25,000-mile Far East trip, covering a good share of the Pacific Ocean, included a 24-hour stopover at Hawaii where previously I had spent some time during World War II with the U. S. Navy. Pearl Harbor, Honolulu and the surrounding area has changed considerably in the 8-year interval. Some of the battle scars of December 7, 1941 still exist as a vivid reminder that our nation must never again lower its guard as an open invitation for a military attack by a vicious aggressor, whether it be the Japanese or the Communists. If the Japanese had known America would recover and fight with all its resources, the attack at Pearl Harbor undoubtedly would not have been launched. Somewhat similar conditions prevail today in that if the "Red Bosses" in the Kremlin know that the United States is strong militarily and will resist expansion and aggression, the Communists will probably hold their fire.

Incidentally the recent trip to Hawaii has further convinced me that the Congress should approve statehood for the Territory of Hawaii. On the basis of the sound arguments presented I have voted for such legislation on two occasions in the past. If the Senate takes favorable action in 1954, shortly thereafter we will have 49 rather than 48 states in the Union.

The overnight plane trip from Honolulu to San Francisco brought the inspection party to Sixth Army Headquarters at the Praesidio for a look at the Army's defense plans for the west coast. Our western states are perhaps more vulnerable to attack because of their geographical location, and as a result special planning is essential in those vital and exposed areas. Our survey indicated that the Army, Navy and Air Force defense plans, including those against air attack, are proceeding satisfactorily although there is probably no complete security in this mechanical age.

One of the most serious problems in the Sixth Army area and all other Army commands is the Reserve Training Program. Frankly, the United States cannot maintain a large standing Army comparable to what we had in World War II without the federal treasury going "broke." The alternative is an Army of reasonable size bolstered and supported by civilian reservists who can be called to active duty in any emergency. For some time the Army reserve training program has not been up to strength. Why? At the moment no one seems to have the answer. Army officials have tried several plans without success. Congress has enacted various laws to encourage reservists to participate in weekly drills and summer camp training, but apparently this legislation is not the answer.



My briefing on the reserve program on the west coast has convinced me of this one fact: The Army must put its best minds to work on finding a solution to this important and perplexing problem, and the Congress in turn must cooperate to the maximum in implementing any and all sound recommendations. Failure to find a solution means a standing Army too expensive to support, or an Army inadequate in size to protect America from Communist aggression.

Since my return to the United States I've had time to reflect a bit on a few of the broad questions in which all of us are interested. In the past few years there has been an inordinate emphasis by our government on European problems, both military and economic. The Pacific area with its vast manpower and natural resource potential has been comparatively neglected. From my recent experiences it is encouraging to see that Secretary of State Dulles is concentrating more on the Far East, and not treating this vast, underdeveloped area as a "second cousin."

Another point which vividly impressed me was the long range capabilities of airpower. When you can fly approximately 6600 miles in three rapid hops, the distance from behind the Iron Curtain to our own shores seems mighty short. No longer can America consider itself isolated and immune from enemy attack just because we live a few thousand miles from Europe or Asia. Soviet Russia does have aircraft capabilities with which to launch an attack on parts of the United States. As long as this danger is understood, appreciated, and action taken to maintain and build our military defense, we have no reason to become hysterical.

Two other general comments before writing "finis" to the story of the trip. First, our foreign aid programs in the economic sphere in some of the Far Eastern countries have been badly mismanaged, probably because those in charge were visionaries rather than administrators. This situation is being corrected under Mr. Harold Stassen, the new boss of the Mutual Security, or Foreign Operations Administration. By better management the same results can be achieved at less cost. Second, I am convinced the U. S. Army is now doing a good job in emphasizing the need and necessity for the most economical use of equipment and supplies. Millions of dollars can be honestly saved by such a program, and at the same time strengthen rather than weaken our military potential.

