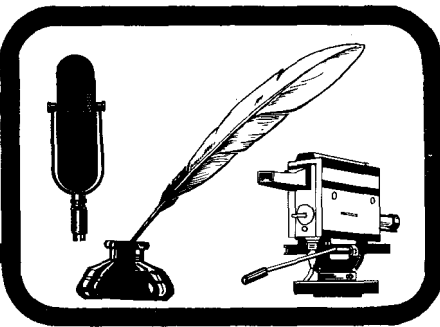


**The original documents are located in Box D4, folder “Ford Press Releases, January - July 1969” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--IMMEDIATE RELEASE--  
January 7, 1969

Rep. Gerald R. Ford (R-Mich.) today announced the appointment of Robert T. Hartmann as Legislative Assistant to the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

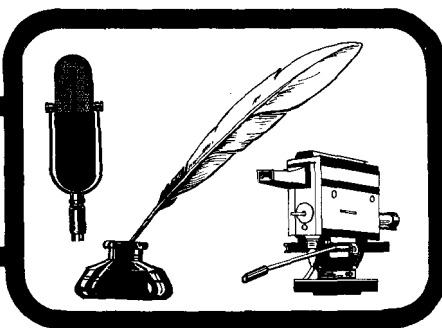
The announcement was made at a breakfast meeting of House Republicans honoring the Members-Designate of President-Elect Nixon's Cabinet and White House staff. The new post was created to improve liaison and communication between the Republican leadership in the House and the new Republican Administration, Ford said.

Mr. Hartmann, 51, was Assistant to the Permanent Chairman of the 1968 Republican National Convention (Congressman Ford) and since 1965 has served as Editor for the House Republican Conference. He will continue in that editorial advisory capacity as Legislative Assistant to the Minority Leader. From 1954 to 1963, he was Washington Bureau chief for the Los Angeles Times and in 1964 and 1965 North American Regional Information Adviser for the Food & Agriculture Organization.

The Hartmanns reside at 5001 Baltimore Avenue, Westgate, Maryland.

# # #

*Instruction: Full, Dallas 11:30 a.m. 1/7/69 M Office Copy  
mail P.M. of 1/7/69*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**



--FOR RELEASE IN TUESDAY PM'S--  
January 7, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives.

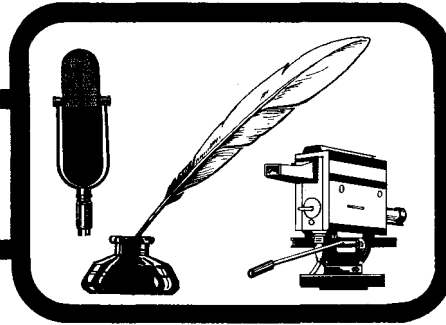
On Monday the Congress in effect upheld the right of a presidential elector to cast his vote for any candidate of his choice, regardless of the wishes of the voters in his state.

This action dramatizes the urgent need for reforming the electoral college system or abolishing it in favor of direct popular election of the President.

I would like to see Congress quickly set in motion the steps necessary to modify or replace the electoral college system. Since this involves amending the U.S. Constitution, a long time-consuming process, it is important that the Congress act soon in order to allow sufficient time for ratification by the states of the proposed constitutional change.

I personally have not decided what action should be taken but there is no doubt in my mind that Congress and the states should overhaul or replace the electoral college system before the 1972 Presidential election. To that end, congressional hearings on the matter should proceed expeditiously so that the Congress may act soon on the basis of committee recommendations.

# # #



CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER



--FOR RELEASE IN TUESDAY PM's--  
January 7, 1969

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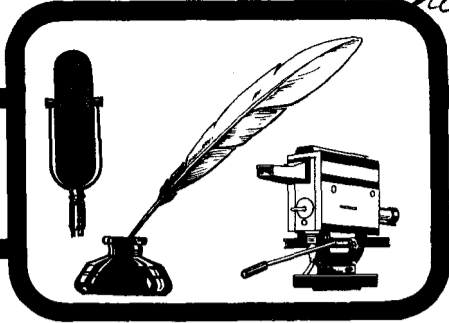
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# # #

*Distribution : Full  
Galleries 1:45 p.m.  
1/14/69*

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**



--FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT--  
January 14, 1969

I am very pleased that Mayor Walter Washington has joined hands with House Republicans who are seeking legislation to deny bond to dangerous criminals awaiting trial.

I and 21 other Republican House members introduced a bill on Jan. 8 aimed at denying bond to the dangerous offender who may well go out and commit another crime if released while his case is pending.

The sponsors of this amendment to the Bail Reform Act included Rep. William M. McCulloch, R-Ohio, senior Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, and Rep. Richard H. Poff, R-Va., chairman of the House Republican Task Force on Crime. Mr. Poff also had introduced a bail reform bill in somewhat different form on Jan. 3, opening day of this congressional session.

Republicans have been shaping this legislation since last year.

In the last session of Congress the House Republican Task Force on Crime gave priority attention to bail reform. The proposed amendment was not quite in final form when the session ended.

Mr. Poff informs me that he is encouraged by Mayor Walter Washington's attitude, by his "willingness to go out on a limb on bail reform."

I congratulate the mayor on backing the kind of bail reform legislation advocated by House Republicans. We welcome his support.

As the mayor has pointed out, this is only one of the steps that must be taken to cope with the fresh crime wave which is resulting in an average of 20 armed robberies a day in Washington and a rash of bank holdups and killings.

I urge that prompt action be taken to deal with the situation.

###



CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 9 P.M. TUESDAY--  
January 14, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Minority Leader, U.S. House of Reps.

Lyndon Johnson's sixth State of the Union Message is a most gracious and fitting farewell address.

To me the most significant statement was his plea that Democrats in the Congress cooperate with Richard Nixon when he assumes the heavy responsibilities of the President on Jan. 20. I was most pleased that Mr. Johnson urged members of his party not to seek "narrow personal or partisan advantage." I feel sure the American people join with Mr. Johnson in that wish.

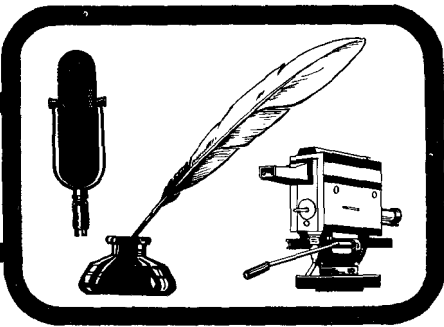
Mr. Johnson's valedictory was moderate and restrained in tone. He could have delivered a partisan message but chose not to do so. I am sure he made his various recommendations in a spirit of hopefulness although he will not be in a position to seek to implement them. In all candor, we must look to the new Administration to set a course for the years ahead.

I am pleased that Mr. Johnson and Mr. Nixon found it possible to agree on a surtax recommendation. It seems inescapable to me that under current conditions -- extreme inflationary pressures and the continuing high cost of the war in Vietnam -- the 10 per cent surcharge would have to be extended. However, the final decision will not be made now but in May or June. And it is important to note that Mr. Nixon properly reserves for himself the right to make the decision he deems wise at the time a definitive judgment must be made and in the light of conditions existing at that time.

The smoothness of the transition from one administration to the other gives reason to hope that the cooperative spirit of Lyndon Johnson will become the spirit of the 91st Congress.

# # #

*Official Copy*



CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT--  
January 30, 1969

House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford (Mich.) today announced the appointment of Rep. Richard H. Poff of Virginia as secretary for the House Republican Leadership.

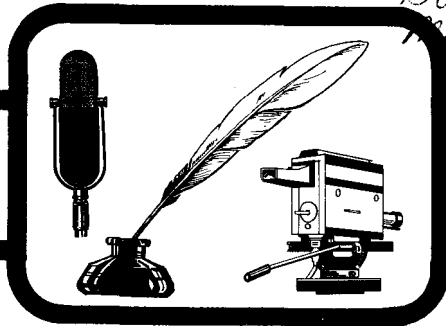
Rep. Poff has been the elected Secretary of the House Republican Conference since 1955, and is chairman of its Task Force on Crime. He will now in addition serve the House Republican Leadership, of which he is a member, as secretary on such occasions as the regular White House meetings with the President and with the Senate Republican Leadership.

The Radford (Va.) legislator has represented the 6th District of Virginia in the House since 1953.

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*Distribution: Full  
Galleries 11:30 a.m. 2/4/69  
Reading P.M. 2/4/69*

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**



--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--  
February 4, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

I am pleased that President Nixon has chosen John A. Hannah, the president of Michigan State University, to head the Agency for International Development.

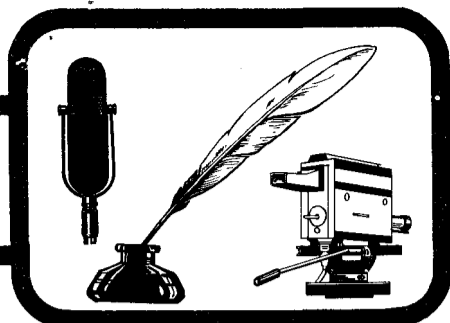
The position of AID administrator is a big job, but John Hannah is a big man. Some would say that running the foreign aid program is an impossible job. If anyone can handle it, John Hannah can. He has had 28 years of experience in running a large university. He is a strong administrator. He is an excellent choice as head of AID.

###



*Distribution: Fifth District  
Via Mail 4:15 p.m. 2/5/69*

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT--  
February 5, 1969

Note to Editors: Copies of letters written by Congressman Ford to President Nixon and to the Greater Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce are attached to this release for any use you may wish to make of them.

Congressman Gerald R. Ford today announced that Grand Rapids, Michigan is one of 50 cities proposed for inclusion in the JOBS program (Job Opportunities in the Business Sector).

In making the announcement, Ford said: "The JOBS program to date has been highly successful in training the hard-core unemployed and the underemployed for jobs requiring skills and paying good wages. I will do all I can to see that such a program is launched in Grand Rapids. From what I have been able to determine, the prospects are good."

Ford said he has written to President Nixon, urging that the present JOBS program be expanded to include Grand Rapids. He has also discussed the matter with Byron T. Gardner, acting head of the National Alliance of Businessmen (NAB), Manpower Training Administration officials in the U.S. Labor Department, and officials in the Federal Budget Bureau.

The JOBS program now is operating in 50 key cities, with the support of the NAB. It enlists the services of private industry and labor in providing training and employment for the disadvantaged. It is funded at \$210 million in fiscal 1969. These funds are used to reimburse industry for the special costs -- the extra expenses -- involved in training the hard-core unemployed.

In his fiscal 1970 budget, former President Johnson proposed that the JOBS program be expanded to include a second group of 50 cities. He urged that the funding for the program be doubled.

By the end of 1968 -- after being in operation for just six months -- the JOBS program had reached its first-year goal of training 100,000 of the disadvantaged and providing them with good jobs. This was accomplished in the Nation's 50 largest cities, nearly six months ahead of schedule.

The fiscal 1970 budget calls for training and placing in good jobs an additional 140,000 of the disadvantaged. Ford wants Grand Rapids included in this "second round" of the JOBS program.

"Grand Rapids is on the list now and I intend to see that it stays there," Ford declared.

Ford made the comment in a letter to Robert D. Swartz, president of the Greater Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. Ford made this letter and his letter to the President public to underscore his deep interest in the JOBS program.

Swartz wrote Ford on behalf of the Chamber, urging his support for inclusion of Grand Rapids in the JOBS program.

###

**Congress of the United States**  
**Office of the Minority Leader**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

February 4, 1969

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to let you know of my deep interest in the JOBS program directed by the National Alliance of Businessmen.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, the chief city in my congressional district, is among the "second round" communities proposed for inclusion in the JOBS program.

I personally am very desirous that the JOBS program be initiated in Grand Rapids, and the Greater Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce has urged that this be done. I am enclosing a copy of a letter to me from the Chamber regarding manpower training efforts in Grand Rapids.

In the past Grand Rapids has been scarred by rioting. And it certainly has its share of hard-core unemployed and underemployed people. I feel certain that Grand Rapids would benefit from the JOBS program.

It appears to me that the JOBS program has been one of the more successful manpower training efforts. Since it involves on-the-job training by industry, I believe the program should not only be continued but expanded in line with 1970 budget recommendations.

I am told by Barney Gardner of NAB that because of the spadework required there would be practically no funds needed to begin now with expansion of the JOBS program to the second group of 50 cities.

I would be pleased if you would indicate to me the prospects for inclusion of Grand Rapids in the JOBS program.

Best regards,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:pKR  
Encl.

**Congress of the United States**  
**Office of the Minority Leader**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

February 4, 1969

Mr. Robert D. Swartz, President  
Greater Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce  
300 Federal Square Building  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49502

Dear Mr. Swartz:

I was pleased to receive your letter urging inclusion of Grand Rapids in the JOBS program, particularly since I myself am highly enthusiastic about the idea.

Since receiving your letter I have talked with Barney Gardner, acting head of the National Alliance of Businessmen, and also with officials in the Labor Department and the Budget Bureau.

Indications are there will be no problem, although the new Administration has not yet reviewed that portion of the proposed 1970 budget dealing with the JOBS program.

The budget as prepared proposes an appropriation of \$420 million for the JOBS program, a doubling of its present scope to include an additional 50 cities. Grand Rapids is on the list of these "second round" cities, and I intend to see that it stays there.

It is doubtful that anything but the necessary spadework can be done before July 1, so the fact that present funds do not provide for immediate expansion of the JOBS program probably is of no great consequence. The new budget does provide the funds for the expansion which would include Grand Rapids.

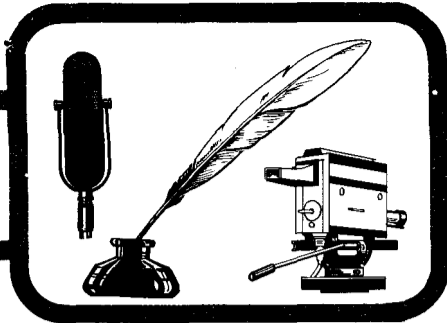
Of course, the 1970 budget will be undergoing the usual congressional scrutiny, but my feeling is that the Grand Rapids outlook is good.

I am sending you a copy of my letter to the President. Please let me know if there is anything further I can do for you.

Best regards,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:pKR  
Encl.



CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER



--FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT--  
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"Grand Rapids is on the list now and I intend to see that it stays there," Ford declared.

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**Congress of the United States**  
**Office of the Minority Leader**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

February 4, 1969

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The White House  
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Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:pKR  
Encl.

**Congress of the United States**  
**Office of the Minority Leader**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

February 4, 1969

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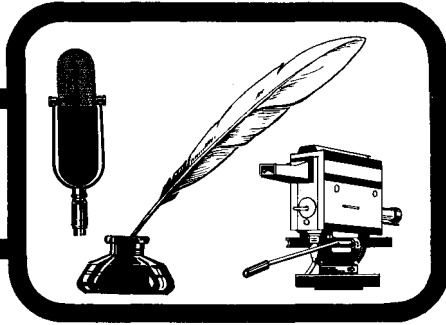
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GRF:pKR  
Encl.

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**



--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

February 21, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Republican Leader, U. S. House of Representatives

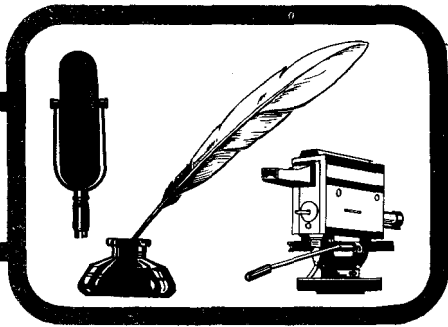
I hope Congress will be as realistic about Electoral College Reform as President Nixon has been in his Message on the subject.

I think the President has taken exactly the right approach to the problem. It is unrealistic to expect that a Constitutional Amendment proposing direct popular election of the President will receive two-thirds approval in the Congress and approval by three-fourths of the states. Therefore the most sensible way to proceed is to draft an alternate plan which abides by the original concept of federalism and will attract the broadest possible support.

While I personally have leaned toward direct popular election of the President, I have consistently contended that inability to achieve that change should not stand in the way of improving the manner in which the American people elect a President.

I therefore heartily endorse the basic point made by President Nixon--that we should proceed to achieve a solution to the fundamental problems involved rather than get tangled in interminable controversy.

#####



CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

February 25, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Republican Leader, U. S. House of Representatives

I have long personally advocated making advancement in the postal system a matter of merit and opening the top job in each Post Office to career employees on that basis.

For that and other reasons I wholeheartedly support President Nixon's legislative proposals aimed at taking politics out of the Post Office Department.

Delivery of the mail is a government service which touches the lives of all Americans. It is a service which must be improved or it will break down under the steadily increasing weight of demands placed upon it.

Enactment of the President's recommendations for reform of the postal system will benefit the Nation. That is the clearest indication of their merit. In addition, conditions in the Post Office Department place a mark of greatest urgency on the actions proposed by the President.

I urge that the Congress approve the President's proposals as soon as possible after thorough examination of the legislation required to implement them.

#####



Congressman Gerald R. Ford today said he is urging the Congress to assign a higher priority to the fight against water pollution and to begin by banning the dumping of polluted harbor dredgings back into Lake Michigan and other waters.

Ford spoke out against the Army Corps of Engineers' practice of dumping the polluted material back into the Great Lakes in a statement filed with the House Public Works Committee. The congressman urged the committee to approve a bill he has introduced to halt the dumping practice.

In his statement, Ford declared:

"Unless the costs and other factors involved in land area disposal of polluted dredging materials represent insurmountable obstacles, there can be no excuse for continued dumping of such material back into the navigable lakes and streams of America.

"We speak of re-ordering our priorities. Is there any priority greater than that of cleaning up our drinking water?

"The people of Michigan have accorded the control of water pollution its proper priority. The people of my state last November approved a \$335 million state bond issue for water pollution control, to be combined with federal and local funds in a massive assault on the pollution problem.

"I believe the Congress should act with no less urgency on the task of cleaning up our lakes and streams. And it should approach that overall task with clean hands by dealing head-on with the problem of dredging spoil being dumped into our navigable waters."

Ford noted that the Corps of Engineers and the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration have issued a report pointing to some reduction in the dumping of polluted dredging spoil back into the Great Lakes and promising still more progress.

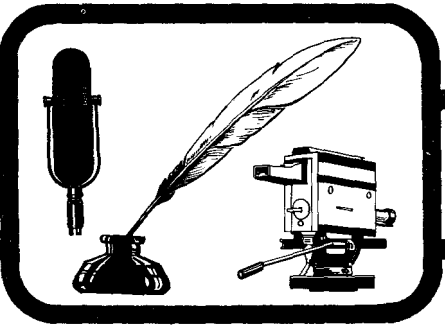
This is hardly satisfactory, Ford declared, since the Army Corps of Engineers still was dumping nearly 70 per cent of its polluted dredgings back into the Great Lakes in 1968.

As for the Corps' and the FWPCA's argument that the only ultimate solution is for cities and industries to stop polluting the lakes in the first place, Ford said he heartily agreed. But, he asserted, "two wrongs don't make a right." And so it is ridiculous for the Corps of Engineers to go on dumping polluted material back into the Great Lakes just because the cities and industries haven't stopped polluting them, Ford said.

#####

*Distribution: Full*

*Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**



--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--  
March 3, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., House Minority Leader

Every effort must be made to remove hazards from the job of the coal miner, to the extent possible.

President Nixon's executive actions and his proposals in the area of coal mine safety are directed at achieving that objective.

No action that is taken by this Administration or this Congress can restore the lives of men who have died in coal mine accidents or whose lives have been choked out by black lung disease. But we can do our utmost to try to prevent such deaths in the future -- and we must.

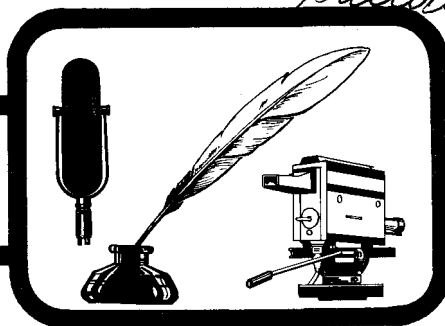
President Nixon's Message to the Congress on Coal Mine Safety lays out the guidelines for a comprehensive program of augmented coal mine safety measures.

I applaud his executive actions, including those to increase the number of mine inspectors and to insist upon more stringent operating standards, to establish cooperative labor-management programs at the mine level to reduce hazards to miners, and to initiate planning grants to the states for their own upgraded coal mining health and safety programs.

I also urge congressional enactment of the President's legislative proposals in the field of coal mine safety, including the modernizing of mandatory health and safety standards and the authorizing of additional and revised standards by the Secretary of Interior subject to appropriate review.

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*Distribution: Full Galleries 10:15 a.m. 3/4/69 M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**



--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--  
March 5, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives.

President Nixon's televised press conference on foreign policy -- nearly a full hour question and answer session -- was a first for America.

It was truly remarkable that an American President would bring the people as fully into the workings of personal diplomacy and the formulation of foreign policy as did Mr. Nixon.

This cannot help but establish a feeling of trust between President Nixon and the American people in the area of foreign policy, just as the new President has created feelings of mutual trust between himself and the leaders of Western Europe as the result of his European trip.

Mr. Nixon's televised press conference on foreign policy was a unique and most effective way of reporting to the American people on the President's tour of Europe. It communicated far more to them than any presidential monologue might have done.

# # #

*Distribution: Fifth District  
Air Mail 6:45 p.m. 3/18/69*

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT--  
March 19, 1969

Congressman Gerald R. Ford today announced plans to make 40 half-hour television and film reports on the operation of the Federal Government's three branches available for showing at high schools in Kent and Ionia Counties in the near future.

The 40-program series has just been completed under the direction of the Westinghouse Broadcasting Co., whose officials worked hand in hand with a group of congressional wives, congresswomen and wives of Supreme Court members and Cabinet members. The women's group was known as the Operation Government Committee.

Congressman Ford's wife, Betty, served as co-chairman of the Operation Government Committee, working in tandem with the wife of Rep. Charles A. Vanik, D-Ohio. The television and film series is entitled "The Government Story."

Ford said the television and film versions of "The Government Story" will provide students and other Americans with "a great opportunity" to learn more about the workings of the three branches of the Federal Government.

A first showing of one of the half-hour programs took place Tuesday evening at a congressional office building in Washington. Those attending included Congressman and Mrs. Ford, members of the House and Senate, the Supreme Court, and the President's Cabinet.

The completed films on the Federal Government were presented to Ford and House Speaker John W. McCormack, D-Mass., who in turn presented them to the Library of Congress.

Twenty-two of the half-hour programs are devoted to the workings of Congress, and the others to the Executive Branch and the Supreme Court. The interview device is used extensively to tell the story.

Commenting on this, Ford said, "The bipartisanship and good will which the members of this House and the other body have shown in cooperating in this series promise to make it among the most candid and useful educational programs on how the Federal legislative process really works. Mrs. Ford and I certainly have enjoyed helping with this important project. And I feel sure the people of my congressional district will benefit greatly from this series."

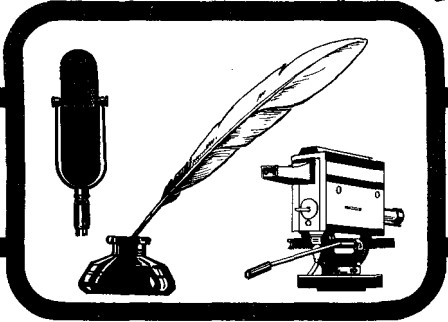
The 22 programs on the Congress will be shown in more than 15 major TV markets within the next month, without commercial sponsorship. At a later time, educational and 16-millimeter film versions will be circulated for classroom use.

In remarks to the House of Representatives, Rep. Catherine May, R-Wash., said: "Betty Vanik and Betty Ford deserve special mention, for they are the women who kept this project vital and pushed and prodded when doors needed opening and things had to be expedited."

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*distribution: Fifth District  
photo & video media*

*M Office Copy*



CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON MONDAY--  
March 24, 1969

Congressman Gerald R. Ford today announced the appointment of Gordon E. Vander Till, Grand Rapids native and former consultant to the State Senate Business Committee, as his "man in the district."

Ford said Vander Till will begin functioning immediately as his full-time representative in Kent and Ionia Counties.

He said his purpose in naming Vander Till as a special assistant is to provide residents of Kent and Ionia Counties with "a full-time on-the-spot Fifth Congressional District contact." "This is an added service," he said.

Vander Till's headquarters will be the present Ford District Office at 425 Cherry Street, S.E., in Grand Rapids but he will be available for service anywhere in Kent and Ionia Counties, Ford said.

Ford said he will arrange for Vander Till to be in various communities in the Congressional District during certain hours to talk with any Ford constituents having problems involving Federal agencies or wanting to express views on national and international affairs. These special office hours will be announced later.

"It is my hope," Ford said, "that through this means I will be able to provide the best possible service to the people of Kent and Ionia Counties, especially with regard to Social Security matters, veterans affairs, tax problems and military service problems."

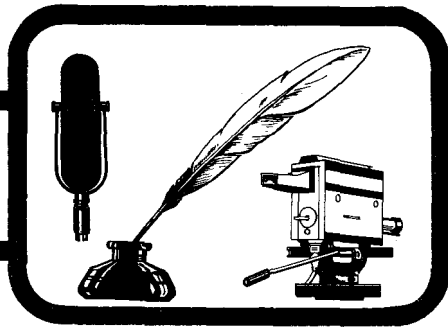
Ford said he personally will continue his long standing policy of person-to-person contacts with individuals and groups in the District.

Vander Till, 30, was graduated from Calvin College in 1966 with a major in political science and received a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Michigan in 1967. He also has done some work toward a doctorate at Michigan State University. He was in the Army for 3 years, including 27 months in Japan.

Vander Till served for seven months as a staff assistant to State Sen. Robert VanderLaan under a Michigan legislative fellowship and for a year as a Michigan Municipal League research assistant.

A 1956 graduate of Central Christian High School in Grand Rapids, Vander Till is a past president of various church societies.

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CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON--  
March 26, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U.S. House of Reps.

I feel certain the Congress will approve President Nixon's proposals to meet the very serious problem of inflation head-on by extending the 10 per cent surtax for a year and by achieving a substantial budget surplus in fiscal 1970.

I urge that the American people likewise enlist in the fight against inflation by making those spending and saving decisions which will help bring inflation under control.

This is not a problem that the President alone can solve. He needs the help of the Congress and he needs the help of the people. Business, labor and consumers -- all must make a commitment to the goal that President Nixon has set, that of erasing the current inflationary psychology and halting the steady erosion of the dollar's purchasing power. If America whips inflation now our people can have a strong, growing economy with low unemployment in the future.

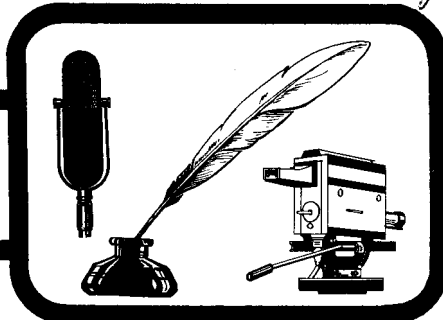
President Nixon has accepted the challenge. He has made the politically unpopular decision to recommend extension of the surtax for a full year at the existing level.

This took courage. Let's all of us now have the courage to back the President in this painful course, for the longterm good of the Nation and especially the poor and the pensioners.

# # #

*Distribution: Mailing Only 3/28/69 a.m.  
20 copies of Mr Ford for  
Eugene, Oreg.*

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**



--FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT--  
March 28, 1969

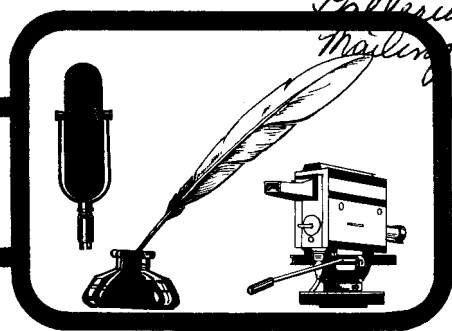
Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., House Minority Leader

People the world over will mourn the death of Dwight D. Eisenhower, for he was a great and good man. Although he spent most of his life as a military man, he became the symbol of peace for millions everywhere. His entire life served the cause of peace. He led the Allied armies that wiped out the scourge of fascism and brought peace to the ravaged continent of Europe. He assumed the Presidency and negotiated an honorable peace in Korea. As President, he faced up to crisis after crisis in international affairs, prevented dangerous incidents from flaring into general warfare. There was peace, blessed peace, during Dwight Eisenhower's eight years in the White House. President Eisenhower was a soldier of peace, and that, I feel sure, is how he will be regarded by the historians. He was one of the greatest of American Presidents.

# # #

*Distribution: Full  
Galleries 1:30 p.m. 3/28/69  
Mailing p.m. 3/28/69*

*Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--  
March 28, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., House Minority Leader

The death of President Eisenhower brings a deep sense of loss that is both personal and universal. Words seem inadequate to eulogize the greatest American of our generation.

His full life was dedicated to honor, duty, and the service of his country. He accepted and discharged the greatest responsibilities. He won and wore well his nation's highest honors. He wielded with decision and laid down with dignity the most awesome power ever entrusted to a man and kept only the admiration and affection of all who love freedom.

A last message from General Eisenhower to his countrymen called for "a willingness to subordinate self to the general good" and reminded us of "the greatest of this nation and its people." As he looked confidently to a brighter future so must we.

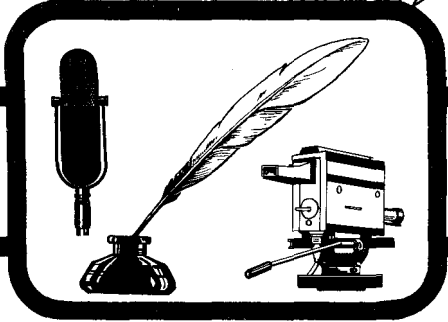
May his courageous spirit and fine example continue to sustain his family and his countrymen.

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*Distribution: Full  
Galleries - 1:30 p.m. 4/14/69  
Airmail - 2:00 p.m. 4/14/69*

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--  
April 14, 1969

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, as placed in the Congressional Record.

MR. SPEAKER: I invite the attention of every member of this House to President Nixon's Message spelling out the recommendations which now will begin flowing from the White House to the Congress.

This presidential message is highly significant, for it points the Federal Government, and indeed the entire Nation, in New Directions. It calls for new approaches to deep and persistent problems. It opens the door to a new national effort to improve the quality of life for all Americans -- a partnership of the individual citizen, the local community, the private sector, business and industry, the states and the Federal Government -- all working together for the common good.

The new approaches will be laid out for the Congress to examine and dissect, Mr. Speaker -- a start on sharing Federal income tax revenue with the states and local units of government; a program of tax credits, using tax incentives to promote the achievement of social objectives.

The Nixon Administration is moving, too, to meet our most challenging and difficult problems head-on -- through a crackdown on narcotics traffickers; through a program to promote equal employment opportunity more effectively; through a top-to-bottom reorganization of the Post Office Department; through new programs in air and mass transit travel; through expansion and improvements in job training and placement; and through reform of our tax structure.

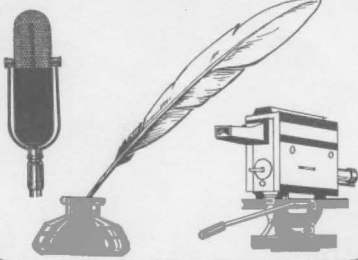
For our senior citizens, struggling to make ends meet in the face of rising prices, we pledge a substantial increase in Social Security benefits. Our pensioners have a great need for help. We must meet that need.

Mr. Speaker, it is not important that these proposals did not begin moving from the White House to the Congress until after the Easter Recess. The most urgent initial task of the new Administration was one of review, reappraisal and consolidation.

Mr. Speaker, President Nixon has outlined the initial scope of his legislative program. He has also moved to fight inflation with a new determination which I believe points toward success.

We have our work cut out for us, Mr. Speaker. It now is up to us to help move the Nation ahead.

###



CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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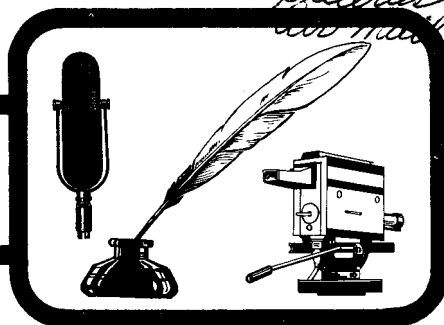
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*Distribution:* Full  
Belleries 10:15 a.m. 4/18/69  
10:30 a.m. 4/18/69

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**



--FOR RELEASE IN FRIDAY PM's--  
April 18, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U.S. House of Reps.

I commend Secretary of Commerce Maurice Stans for ordering changes in 1970 census procedures.

These changes partially meet objections raised by some members of the House on the ground that the census taker is a snooper. In that connection, I would cite Secretary Stans' assurance that questions regarding bathroom and kitchen facilities have been rephrased to eliminate objectionable implications.

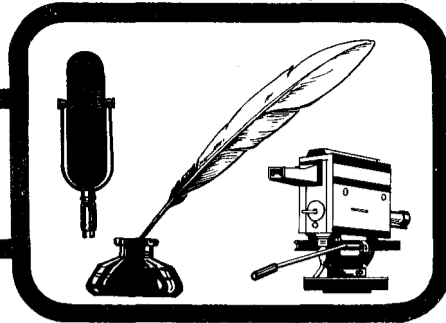
I also find it commendable that the number of householders asked to respond to long lists of questions has been sharply reduced and that the confidentiality of all replies will be emphasized.

There is no question that the collecting of valid census data is highly important both to government and business. The steps being taken by Secretary Stans with regard to 1970 census taking remove some of the objectionable features of this decennial exercise.

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Distribution: Full  
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Air Mail  
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1:30 p.m. 4/21/69

M Office Copy



CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON MONDAY--  
April 21, 1969

A statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U.S. House of Reps.

President Nixon is proposing bold steps in response to urgent needs -- the need to give the American people income tax relief at the earliest possible moment consonant with sound policy and to eliminate the 7 per cent investment tax credit as a fuel currently too rich for the American economic engine.

The President's proposal to extend the surtax at 10 per cent only until Jan. 1, 1970, and then to reduce it to 5 per cent is clear recognition that income taxes are too high. We all recognize that. We know the burden should be reduced as soon as circumstances permit.

The proposal to reduce the surtax to 5 per cent as of Jan. 1, 1970, is -- as the President stated -- tied tightly to the proposal to eliminate the 7 per cent investment tax credit.

The revenue loss from the surtax reduction must be largely offset by revenue gain from elimination of the tax credit.

Elimination of the normal 7 per cent investment tax credit will serve several purposes.

It will tend to slow down the overheated American economy and thus help curb inflation.

It will bring an estimated \$3 billion additional revenue into the U.S. Treasury.

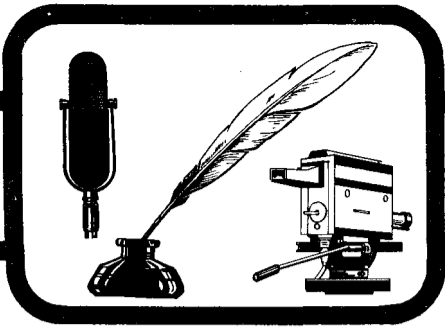
It will create conditions under which business and industry will have greater incentive to use the special tax credits Mr. Nixon is proposing for investment in poverty areas in fiscal 1971.

The need for elimination of the normal 7 per cent investment tax credit became apparent when all of the other fiscal and monetary tightening actions taken by the Nixon Administration and the Federal Reserve Board failed to slow down the economy sufficiently to assure success in the fight against inflation.

The "big news" in the President's tax reform message should not obscure other highly meaningful proposals -- elimination of income taxes for Americans at poverty level, the imposition of what in effect is a minimum income tax for a small group of high-income individuals, and the closing of a number of income tax loopholes.

The President's proposals will move America toward a common sense and fair tax structure.

###



CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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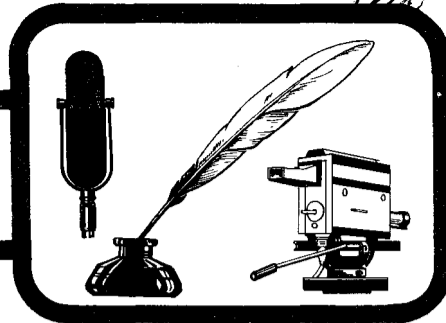
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*Distribution: Full  
Hallways 11:45 a.m. 4/23/69  
By Mail 1:30 p.m. 4/23/69*

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON--  
April 23, 1969

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., delivered on the Floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, April 23, 1969.

Mr. Speaker: I rise today to urge every member of this House to join with President Nixon in placing the leaders of La Cosa Nostra at the top of America's Most Wanted Criminals list.

Mr. Speaker, I also urge every member of this House to help arouse the law-abiding citizens of this land.

We have before us today, Mr. Speaker, a battle plan from the President of the United States -- an outline of the strategy and a list of the weapons needed to strike at the crime lords of this country, the greedy, vicious, rapacious criminal kings whose subjects are the gamblers, drug pushers, panderers and other criminal types who drain away America's moral strength and economic life blood like millions of leeches.

In the message we have received from the White House today, President Nixon has branded organized crime as Enemy Number One. He has told us what we are doing now to fight the enemy. He has urged us to do more -- far more -- in terms of men and money and new laws. We must accept that challenge.

The President has spelled out his plans to make life miserable for the Mafia. And on the basis of his plans, if Congress concurs, I would advise anyone with stock in the Mafia to sell it right now.

I agree completely with the President that the best-laid plans are useless without the manpower to carry them out -- the manpower to carry out the President's declared objective of convicting the heads of the Mafia, paralyzing crime syndicate administrators, frightening the street workers and ultimately squeezing to death the whole crime syndicate operation in our cities.

I therefore join the President in urging this House to vote the additional funds needed to double our present outlays for fighting organized crime and to vote the full \$300 million authorization to help the states and local communities join with Federal authorities in a nationwide drive against racketeers and street criminals.

I applaud the proposed increase in the number of Federal Racketeering

(more)

Field Offices and the establishment of a new Special Federal-State Racket Squad in the Southern District of New York.

I also urge congressional approval of President Nixon's requests for new authority aimed at stepping up the rate of Mafia prosecutions and convictions -- authority dealing with general witness immunity, bribery and corruption of police or local officials, illicit gambling operations in interstate commerce, and wagering tax law amendments.

These are anti-crime weapons Congress should make immediately available to our anti-racketeering forces.

As the President has so well put it: The Federal Government must prosecute both the corruptor and the corrupted.

Mr. Speaker, organized crime is like an octopus stretching its tentacles into every corner of our land. From time to time we have lopped off an arm or a leg but new members have grown in their place. It is long past time to strike at the head of the operation, to cut deep into the brains of this monstrosity which has the entire nation in its grip.

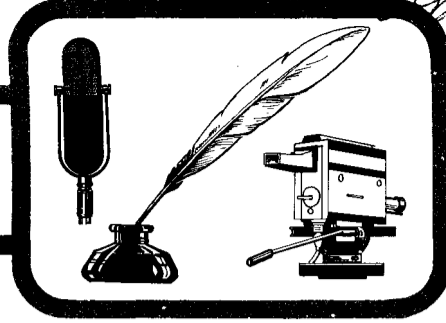
We must hunt down the chieftains of organized crime. We must bring every one of them to book if we are to halt the crime wave which has swept over America like a poisonous torrent.

President Nixon has asked for the weapons to do the job. Let us, the chosen representatives of the people, give him the tools he needs.

# # #

*Distribution: Full  
Hallways 12:00 noon 4/24  
Mail 12:30 p.m. 4/24*

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**



--FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT--  
April 24, 1969

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U.S. House of Reps.,  
Placed in the Body of the Congressional Record of Thursday, April 24, 1969.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to proceed for one minute and to  
revise and extend my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, on April 21 the President of the United States sent the  
Congress a message urging repeal of the 7 per cent investment tax credit effective  
as of that date.

On that same day I endorsed President Nixon's call for repeal of the  
investment tax credit for several reasons but primarily because I believe such  
action is necessary to curb inflation and thus shield the American people from  
the repeated blows of price escalation.

Yesterday I was shocked to learn that the cost of living had jumped  
eight-tenths of one per cent during March, a rate of price rise which runs to  
nearly 10 per cent on an annual basis.

Mr. Speaker, as the proverb in the greatest book ever written so wisely  
warned: "As ye sow, so shall ye reap." We are today continuing to suffer from  
the inflationary policies of the past three years and the failure of the Johnson  
Administration to take timely action against inflationary pressures that surfaced  
as early as late 1965. Now the battle against inflation is infinitely more  
difficult to win.

Mr. Speaker, the sharp cost of living jump in March strengthens my earlier  
judgment that the Congress should respond as quickly as possible to President  
Nixon's call for repeal of the investment tax credit.

Although it is possible to read too much into one month's cost-of-living  
index figures, the warning signal in the March data is unmistakable.

To me it says that the fiscal and monetary measures already taken by the  
Administration and by the Federal Reserve Board to slow down the economy and bring  
inflation under control are inadequate for the task.

There is always risk involved in actions taken to dampen down the economy.  
But we must take such risks, carefully and judiciously, if we are to bring  
inflation under control.

The impact of investment tax credit repeal will not be felt in the economy  
immediately. When it does register, cutting the income tax surcharge in half next  
Jan. 1 as proposed by President Nixon will probably be needed as a stimulus to the  
economy.

We must win the fight against inflation, for it weighs most heavily upon  
the poor. And runaway inflation would inevitably be followed by a deep recession  
and heavy unemployment.

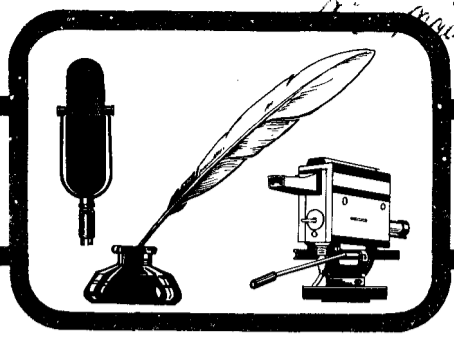
I hope the members of this House will support the President in his efforts  
to repeal the investment tax credit.

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*distribution: Full  
Holleries 1:00 p.m. 4/29/69  
2:30 p.m. 4/29/69*

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--  
April 29, 1969

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Minority Leader, U.S. House of Reps.  
Placed in the Body of the Congressional Record on April 29, 1969.

Mr. Speaker: Today I join with Mr. McCulloch and the Republican members of the House Committee on the Judiciary in introducing the Illegal Gambling Business Control Act of 1969 to permit the Federal Government to further assist the States in the control of illegal gambling.

This proposal is one of the keystones of the President's Organized Crime message which he sent to Congress on April 23, 1969. It is vital to the internal well-being of this nation that the activities of organized criminals be curtailed; that the influence and control this small but potent segment of our society wields be reduced. The bill I introduce today, if enacted, will take us a long way toward accomplishing this task.

For many, gambling does not appear to be a very sinister aspect of organized criminal activity. Its existence is certainly not as shocking to society as murder, kidnapping, armed robbery, rape or any of the other spectacular varieties of criminal behavior which make daily newspaper headlines. It is exactly this attitude -- this lack of concern -- which makes illegal gambling such a force in our society. It takes from the pocketbooks of millions of citizens, usually those who can least afford the loss, anywhere from \$20 billion to \$50 billion annually.

Referring to the profits realized from illegal gambling in his recent message, the President said:

"Many decent Americans contribute regularly, voluntarily and unwittingly to the coffers of organized crime -- the suburban housewife and the city slum dweller who place a twenty-five cent numbers bet, the bricklayer and the college student who buy a football card; the businessman and the secretary who bet illegally on a horse."

To curb this drain from the economy, the bill I am introducing will give the Federal government two additional methods of assisting States in combatting illegal gambling.

(more)

Title I will make it a felony for gamblers involved in any operation which exists for 30 days or has a gross daily revenue in excess of \$2000 to scheme with any public or law enforcement official to obstruct, hinder, or impede the enforcement of gambling laws by means of bribery of the government official.

Title II makes it a Federal offense to engage in a large-scale gambling enterprise.

Title III amends existing law to permit interception of wire or oral communications where such interception may lead to evidence of an offense punishable under this proposal.

This proposal is the heart of the Administration's war on organized crime. If the profit can be taken from illegal gambling, the flow of funds used to finance such deadly activities as narcotics traffic will be dried up.

Illegal gambling itself is a menace to our society; the criminal activity financed from its bounty is far worse. We need the additional Federal weapons of law enforcement this legislation will provide. With these the Attorney General can effectively work with State and local governments to eradicate this evil from our nation. I urge rapid consideration and favorable action on the Illegal Gambling Business Control Act of 1969.

# # #

May 1, 1969

*Distribution: Fifth Dist.  
Air Mail 5:00 p.m. 5/1/69*

*M Office Copy*

Congressman Gerald R. Ford of Grand Rapids Friday urged the nation's governors to back President Nixon's call for power to cut Federal red tape and eliminate the overlapping that snarls Federal grants to states and local units of government.

Ford addressed his remarks to Republican governors meeting in conference at Lexington, Ky., but said they were directed at the chief executives of all 50 of the states.

Said Ford: "I urge all Republican governors, and indeed all 50 governors, to press for prompt action (by the Congress), already long overdue, to make sense out of hundreds of categorical aid programs. This would lead to greater efficiency and flexibility in such areas as job training, housing, health, urban renewal and other programs."

Ford was seeking support for Nixon's request that Congress empower him to combine similar programs under one agency to eliminate duplication of effort on the Federal level and to simplify procedure on the state and local level.

Under the Nixon proposal, any program consolidation plan made possible under the requested legislation would be subject to congressional veto within 60 days after being sent to Congress. If either the House or Senate rejected the plan within the two-month period, it would die.

This is the same procedure as that laid down by Congress in giving the President authority to reorganize the Executive Branch of the Federal Government.

In seeking similar power to consolidate programs, subject to congressional veto, Nixon said the move would not only help state and local governments but would benefit the American taxpayer.

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*Distribution: Full  
Galleries 11:00 a.m. 5/5/69  
Air Mail 11:30 a.m. 5/5/69*

*M Office Copy*

CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--  
May 5, 1969

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., placed in the Body of the Congressional Record of Monday, May 5, 1969.

Mr. Speaker: Congress has struggled long and unsuccessfully to cope with the problem created by the mailing of obscene material. Now the Nixon Administration has come up with three proposals which offer genuine hope of curbing this despicable activity of the smut profiteer.

The trend of most United States Supreme Court decisions in recent years has caused some members of Congress to throw up their hands and take the attitude that little or nothing can be done about obscene mail.

But President Nixon appears to have found the means of stopping the flood of obscene mailings. This mail is aimed at expanding the smut peddler's market and is therefore directed to our youth and to adults as well.

In the case of our young people, President Nixon is proposing an anti-obscene mail law which is based on a New York statute already upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. This law would place a flat ban on the sending of obscene materials to any young person under 18. The court has indicated that such a blanket prohibition on the mailing of offensive sex materials to under-18 Americans will be upheld because of the age of those involved.

The other two of the Nixon Administration's anti-obscenity proposals involve mailings to adults. I strongly support these proposals as well as that dealing with young people. It is long past time that the courts recognize there must be a basis in law to support the desire of decent Americans to curb the smut peddler.

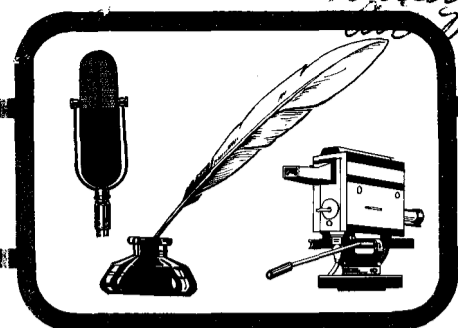
The people rightly are looking to the Federal Government for protection from the flood of pornographic mail. The laws now on the books have definitely proven inadequate.

President Nixon's anti-obscenity proposals constitute a reasoned and workable approach to a most difficult problem. I intend to press for prompt enactment of his recommendations. I would expect that the Congress would welcome Mr. Nixon's legislative initiative in this problem area.

# # #

*Distribution: Full  
Galleries 3:15 p.m. 5/7/69  
Mail 3:30 p.m. 5/7/69*

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--  
May 7, 1969

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., to be placed in the body of the Congressional Record of Wednesday, May 7, 1969.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Congress to go on record in support of a new national goal -- an end to both hunger and malnutrition in America.

Hunger is directly related to poverty. Malnutrition may be present even when sufficient funds are available to maintain a proper diet.

The hunger and malnutrition problems therefore are twofold, and the malnutrition problem is especially complex.

The answers are adequate funding, the most efficient possible channeling of nutritious food to low-income Americans, and the educating of insufficiently informed Americans regarding proper diet and its relationship to good health.

The program proposed by President Nixon in his Message to the Congress on Hunger and Malnutrition seeks to resolve many of the complexities involved in feeding the poor and feeding them properly.

No program coming before the Congress in this or any other year can be more important than this Nixon Administration proposal for properly meeting the food needs of low-income Americans.

The President has said the expanded program will go into effect sometime after next Jan. 1. I would urge that it be implemented as soon as possible. The task of providing the Administration with the necessary legislative authority, the reprogramming of funds and the other administrative arrangements necessary to carry the expanded program forward should be attended to in a spirit of the greatest urgency.

I applaud the decision to double the food stamp program. I applaud the decision to establish a Family Food Assistance Program before July 1970 in the more than 440 counties now lacking it.

These decisions in themselves deserve the highest praise, but I would point out also that President Nixon will go far beyond these actions to seek additional improvements in government food programs -- by calling a White House Conference on Food and Nutrition aimed at promoting good food habits, by

(more)

redirecting Office of Economic Opportunity funds to increase food, health and sanitation services in our most depressed areas where improved food services alone are not the answer, and by issuing various other White House directives to government departments.

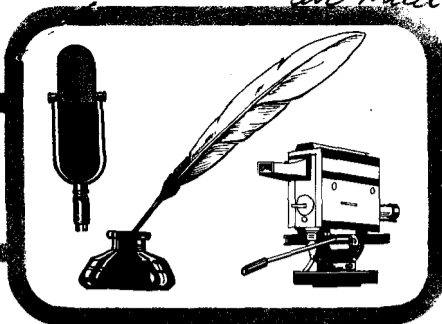
Mr. Speaker, the Nixon Administration has been praised as a pragmatic administration which is bringing careful thought and keen analysis to the great problems this country faces as we approach the decade of the seventies.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that with this Message on Hunger and Malnutrition President Nixon has clearly demonstrated that his Administration has not only a head but a heart.

# # #

*Distribution: Full  
Galleries 2:00 p.m. 5/13/69  
Air Mail 2:45 p.m. 5/13/69*

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--  
May 13, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., placed in the body of the Congressional Record of Tuesday, May 13, 1969.

In wartime -- and we are at war -- there is no issue more important to a young man and his parents than the draft.

The draft is necessary as long as the Vietnam War continues. It is vital, therefore, that the draft be made as fair as possible. It is also vital that the uncertainty which clouds the lives of young American men under the present Selective Service System be eliminated.

To make the draft fair and to wipe out uncertainty the Congress must reform the present draft law.

President Nixon today has outlined for the Congress the reforms needed to achieve equity and certainty.

The only way to make the draft fair is to spread the risk of induction equally among all who are eligible. The President's proposals would do this.

The only way to eliminate uncertainty is to let it be known at an early age whether or not a man has been chosen to serve sometime during his draft-eligible years. The President's reform plan also would do this.

The most important feature of the President's suggested reforms is the plan for choosing by lot those who are actually drafted. Actually, this is the only change which the President does not now have the power to make on his own. It is essential that this power be restored to him, for without this change the others he suggests would not be feasible.

Why not? Imagine for a moment that the President has set up a system in which the prime age group contains younger men and in which each man stays in that vulnerable status for only a one-year period, when he is 19 or 20. How do you then decide who will be called first and who will be called last? Who will be at the top of the draft list and who will be at the bottom? The present law would force the government to list men for this purpose in the order of their birthdates.

Now, suppose that there were 500,000 men available in 1970 but that we only needed 250,000. The only way we could pick out those who would be inducted

(more)

would be to start with those born on January 1, go next to those born on January 2, then take those who were born on January 3 and so on. Everyone born in January and February would always be taken. And no one born in November or December would ever be taken. Those who were born in March and April would run a much, much greater risk each year than those born in September and October.

Now someone will say, "No! We can do it on a month-by-month basis." But once again the same problem arises. And all those born on the first, the second, or the third day of each month would always be called up. Nobody whose birthday is on the 28th or the 29th or the 30th would run a very great risk ever. Moreover, since draft calls are almost always higher in some months than in others, those who happened to have their birthdays in high-call months would be systematically discriminated against.

In the present oldest-first system, these problems are somewhat obscured because everyone who is passed over by the draft during one month or one year moves higher and higher on the list as time passes. But that system has the overwhelming disadvantage of prolonging the time of vulnerability and uncertainty. A youngest-first, limited vulnerability system corrects this evil and, in addition, it provides more easily-trained personnel.

But the only way such a system can work sensibly is if the risk of induction is equally distributed among all who are eligible. This cannot be done unless we change from the order of birthdate system to a random system, as the President proposes.

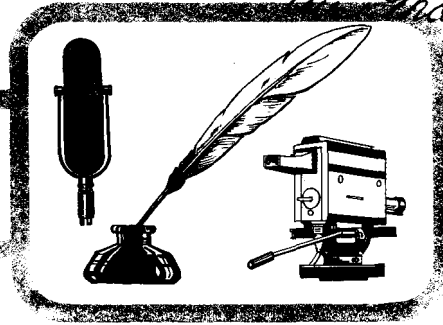
The draft as it presently operates is terribly disruptive of a young man's life. It generates tensions and divisions within our society. I believe reform of the present Selective Service System as proposed by President Nixon is an absolute necessity.

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*Distribution: Full  
Galleries: 10:30 a.m. 5/15/69  
By Mail 11:00 a.m.*

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--  
May 15, 1969

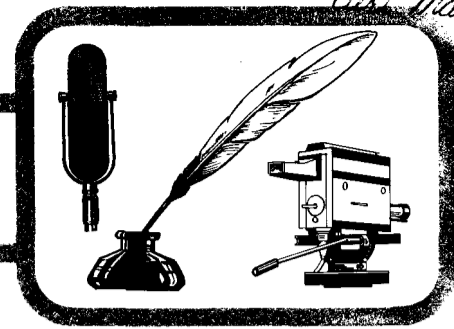
Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich.

Mr. Fortas took exactly the right action in resigning. Impeachment proceedings, had they been undertaken, would have shaken the confidence of the American people in their highest court and would have diverted the attention of the Congress and the entire Nation from other important business. The matter is best resolved as Mr. Fortas has resolved it.

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*Distribution: Full  
Hallway - 12:05 5/15/69  
Civ. Mail - 12:40 5/15/69*

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--  
May 15, 1969

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, on the floor of the House, Thursday, May 15, 1969.

Mr. Speaker: President Nixon's Vietnam speech will stimulate progress toward a peace settlement.

It should convince North Vietnam's leaders that they have nothing to gain by delay or by new military offensives.

Americans have always united behind their President in time of war; now we have the nobler privilege of uniting for peace.

President Nixon has taken his countrymen into his confidence in the great tradition of other American Presidents in time of crisis. President Franklin D. Roosevelt in World War II, President Dwight D. Eisenhower in Korea, and President John F. Kennedy in the Cuban missile crisis rallied the American people.

The President made a number of facts plain -- and his firmness in stating these facts should not be lost on North Vietnam and the Viet Cong. Those facts are: There will be no large-scale unilateral withdrawal of American troops in the absence of a peace settlement. Peace in South Vietnam must be based on a free choice by the South Vietnamese people of the government they will live under. The Nixon Administration has ruled out any idea of seeking a military solution in Vietnam. The other side cannot possibly succeed in imposing a military solution in Vietnam. The United States will not sell out South Vietnam.

President Nixon has set forth a simple formula for peace. He has made it obvious to the other side that there is really only one avenue to peace in South Vietnam -- that of national self-determination through free elections.

The President showed himself firm on principle but flexible on means, determined to do all that can be done to bring peace closer and at the same time to do all that must be done to insure that peace, when achieved, is a peace that will last.

This should make "believers" of the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong.

The President's speech was a report to the American people, to North Vietnam, to South Vietnam, and indeed to the world. I believe the American people will respond favorably to the President's quiet appeal for time to build peace on a lasting basis.

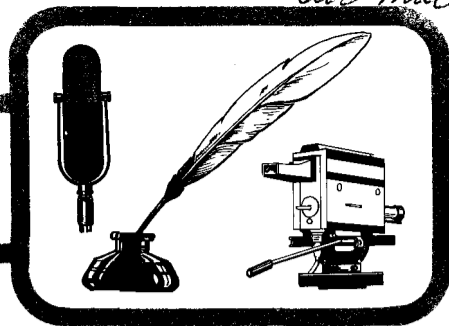
I trust Hanoi will show the good sense to negotiate for peace without delay to avoid further destruction and loss of life.

# # #

*Distribution:*

*House Galleries 3:30 p.m. 5/19/69  
Air Mail 4:15 p.m. - 5/19/69*

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON TUESDAY--  
May 20, 1969

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., in connection with a statement on nutrition placed in the Congressional Record May 20, 1969, by Rep. Rogers C. B. Morton, R-Md., and others.

Mr. Speaker: In addressing the 1968 Republican National Convention as permanent convention chairman on August 6, 1968, I made a number of prophecies as to what the election of a Republican Administration would mean to America.

One of my shortest predictions contained just five words -- "And nobody will go hungry."

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are elated that President Nixon has moved swiftly and surely to make good that prediction during his First Hundred Days in office. In testimonial to that presidential action born of compassion and determination to solve a shameful national problem, House Republicans today are placing in the Congressional Record a statement regarding President Nixon's national nutrition program.

I join with my colleagues in calling special attention to the President's program of nutrition for a healthy America because I believe the problem of hunger and malnutrition to be second to none in this land. I also take great pride in the fact that a commitment to free this Nation from hunger and malnutrition has been implanted in the heart of America by a Republican President.

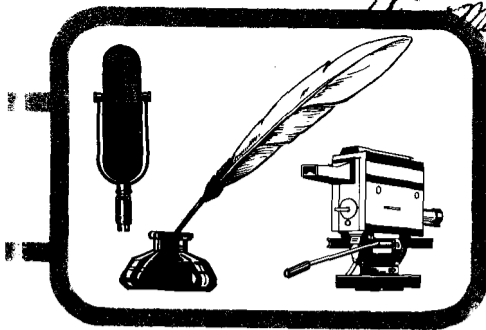
No program coming before the Congress in this or any other year can be more important than the Nixon Administration's proposals for properly meeting the nutrition needs of low-income Americans.

I urge the Congress to go on record, as the Nixon Administration already has done, in support of a new national goal -- an end to both hunger and malnutrition in America. This is one of the most meaningful contributions the Congress could make to raising the level of life in our country.

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*distribution: Full  
Galleries 11:45 a.m. 5/27/69  
Mail 12:00 noon 5/27/69*

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--  
May 27, 1969

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U.S. House of Reps.  
on the floor of the House, Tuesday, May 27, 1969.

Mr. Speaker: It is often true that what we need the most for our own well-being we assiduously avoid. There is little question in my mind that complete re-direction of our postal system is, as President Nixon today has told us, "absolutely essential."

There is also little question in my mind that if the sweeping reforms proposed by the President are to become reality, it will only be because postal employes finally recognize that the proposed new United States Postal Service is in their own self-interest.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want a thorough-going change in the operations of the Post Office Department. They want improved, efficient, fast mail delivery. The taxpayers want postal reform. They are sick of subsidizing the Post Office Department to the tune of nearly a billion dollars a year. I don't think anyone will have to sell the President's proposed new Postal Service to the people.

But the President and all others who recognize the imperative need for putting delivery of the mail on a business basis will have to do a selling job on postal employes and the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the proposed creation of a government corporation to run the United States Postal Service is an idea whose time has come. This is not a partisan political issue. Former Postmaster General Lawrence O'Brien strongly supports the new concept for an improved mail service.

Its time has come because all of the facts show postal reform to be in the enlightened self-interest of all of the American people, including our 750,000 postal employes.

Regrettably I understand that representatives of postal employes have vowed to fight the proposal for a Postal Service Corporation down to the last mail bag. It is my guess that their views will change when they see what it will mean in terms of their own self-interest.

Whatever the significance for other federal employes, the fact remains that postal workers under the President's reform plan will be able to engage in true collective bargaining for the first time. In addition, the plan calls for binding arbitration of stalemated disputes.

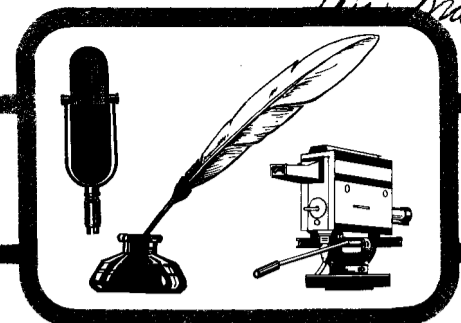
As President Nixon expressed it, "The postal worker will finally take his rightful place beside the worker in private industry."

Mr. Speaker, the Congress must take every vestige of politics out of our postal system. Postal reform deserves the support of every member of Congress, regardless of party.

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*Distribution: Full  
Galleries 11:45 a.m. 5/28/69  
Air Mail 12:15 p.m. 5/28/69*

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON--  
May 28, 1969

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U.S. House of Reps.  
on the floor of the House, May 28, 1969.

Mr. Speaker: I have always supported the foreign aid program in principle because I believe it helps to further one of America's national goals -- that of promoting peace and order in the world. However, I have become increasingly critical of the manner in which our foreign aid program has been administered, the repeated instances of waste, stupidity and corruption, and the appalling lack of results in relation to tremendous U.S. investments.

Against this backdrop of comment, I would like to say that I am pleased by the thrust of President Nixon's foreign aid message. It appears to signal a New Direction in our foreign aid program, focusing as it does on a fresh approach to private enterprise involvement in the program and on multi-nation assistance programs rather than unilateral U.S. aid to the Third World.

On the face of it, the President's proposed Overseas Private Investment Corporation appears to be an excellent idea. Assuming its approval by the Congress, the proof will be in the implementation of the proposal. I also heartily approve the President's declared intention to place a mandate upon the Agency for International Development to help improve opportunities for local private enterprise in the developing countries.

I particularly commend the President for his proposal to create a position of Auditor General in AID, assuming that the new AG will be a man of great determination and the courage to ride herd on his own people. I am hopeful that President Nixon can greatly strengthen the AID program by establishing the new position of AID auditor general. I base that hope in part on the fact that the AG will be reporting directly to an excellent administrator, former Michigan State University president John Hannah.

In essence I endorse the Nixon foreign aid program. But I take no position on the dollar amount. The Congress will scrutinize the dollar requests and then work its will. We can make a judgment on the fund requests only on the basis of supporting data.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all members may have five legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of the President's foreign aid message.

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Sent to Ionia Sentinel  
GRP 6/16/69  
6/17/69

Washington, D.C.  
'Fabulous City,'  
Ford Intern Says

(CUTLINES...)

'OLLIE' BROWN CONFERS WITH JERRY FORD -- Olive Brown, daughter of the president of Brown Corp. of Ionia, asks Congressman Gerald R. Ford of Grand Rapids about a few details before proceeding with one of her tasks as an intern in Ford's office during the month of June.

##

Ideally, every American should visit Washington, D.C., during his or her lifetime, says Olive Brown of 130 Glenview Drive S.E., a student intern in Congressman Gerald R. Ford's office.

Olive, a daughter of Edward H. Brown, president of the Brown Corp. of Ionia, is working in Ford's office just during the month of June but already she has had many "fabulous" experiences.

As a temporary member of Ford's staff, Ollie had the opportunity of seeing President Nixon return to the White House from his Midway Island conference with President Thieu of South Vietnam.

"I am not the sort of person who goes around swooning over so-called personages," Ollie said, "but I really found it thrilling."

Ollie also felt her heart jump when she toured Washington at night, visiting the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials and the White House.

"When I went to the Lincoln Memorial and gazed up at the tremendous statue of Abraham Lincoln seated there, I was very much moved.

"When I went by the White House at night, it was so beautiful that I was struck immediately ~~by~~ by the memory of the John F. Kennedy assassination and how ugly that tragedy was."

After spending her freshman year at Calvin College, Ollie this fall will enroll at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, so she can major in psychology. She wants to become a clinical psychologist.

Earlier she had considered going into journalism, and this interest prompted her to seek a month's internship in Ford's office.

"I wanted to learn something of what politics is like and wanted to see something of Washington...and not as a tourist," Ollie said. "Working in Rep. Ford's office has offered me these opportunities. It's been so fabulous.



"Working in Congressman Ford's office and living in Washington has been an education. I think it has led me to a better basic understanding of life and will be very beneficial to me. It has given me a sense of history."

"This is my first time in Washington, and I think it is a fabulous city," Ollie said. "I think everybody should see Washington, D.C."

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(OUTLINES)

NELL CHECKS WITH CONGRESSMAN FORD -- Petronella (Nell) Ytsma, 3977 Maple, checks with Congressman Gerald R. Ford of Grand Rapids before going ahead with one of her chores as an intern serving in Mr. Ford's office during the month of June.

###

"It was just wonderful," Nell Ytsma breathed as she bounced back into Congressman Gerald R. Ford's office after joining Ford, other congressmen, and their staffs in welcoming President Nixon back to Washington from his Midway Island trip.

As an intern in Ford's office during the month of June, Petronella Ytsma, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jelle Ytsma of 3977 Maple, had the privilege of going with Ford to the White House to help welcome Mr. Nixon after his return from his recent conference with President Thieu of South Vietnam.

"I was so excited," Nell said. "I shook President Nixon's hand not once but three times, and I shook hands with the First Lady twice. It was just wonderful."

Nell said she was standing right near former Michigan Gov. George Romney, now Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and was near the President at all times.

Seeing the President as his helicopter touched down on the White House lawn has been the highlight of Nell's one-month tour of duty in Congressman Ford's office, of course, but Nell says the entire experience has been "just tremendous."

"I am afraid I have developed what they call Potomac fever," Nell said. "I'd like to stay on all summer with Mr. Ford and come back to Washington after I finish school."

Nell said she first fell in love with Washington when the entire Ytsma family visited the Nation's capital six years ago.

Nell has many plans for the future. She has even "thought about" running for public office "sometime."

But meantime she is looking ahead to next fall when she will be a junior at Calvin College, majoring in sociology.

Nell's aim is to get a master's degree in guidance and counseling. She also would like to serve in the Peace Corps.

Idealistic like so many young people today, Nell wants to have a share in building a better world.

"There would be a lot of self-satisfaction in serving in the Peace Corps,"





Nell said. "I am talking about the self-satisfaction that comes with giving of oneself. Also, it would be a challenge, and I like challenging experiences."

Nell will be giving of herself during the next school year at Calvin when she takes on the job of staff adviser in charge of 120 girls.

"I like to work with people," she explained. "I like to come into close contact with them. I think at the same time you learn a lot about yourself."

Why did Nell want to work as an intern in Congressman Ford's office?

"I took a course in political science this past school year and it made me want to learn more about politics--learn more about current events at the level of government--to get a better perspective and to get some insight into how government works and how our laws are made."

Although Nell said she has considered seeking public office someday, she responded negatively to the idea of a woman's being elected President of the United States.

"The job is too big," she said. "I feel a man is stronger than a woman. Besides, women get too involved emotionally in problems. I really don't see why anyone would want to be President of the United States when I think of what the burdens are. After all, look at the kind of schedule Mr. Ford has. He seems to be absolutely tireless."

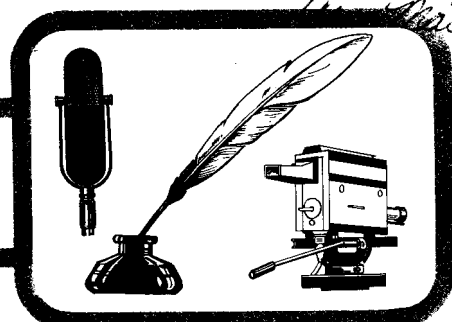
Nell did give other members of her sex a nod, however. She said she believes the day will come when a woman will be appointed to the United States Supreme Court.

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*Distribution: Full  
Galleries 11:20 a.m. 7/8/69  
Mail 12:15 p.m. 7/8/69*

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**



--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--  
July 8, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., on the President's Message dealing with Unemployment Insurance, July 8, 1969.

President Nixon's proposals to expand, improve and strengthen our unemployment insurance system clearly constitute one of the most important items of legislative business on the agenda of the 91st Congress.

It is vital that we extend unemployment insurance to an additional 4,800,000 workers as recommended by the President and that we provide for payment of benefits during worker retraining and for automatic extension of benefits during long periods of high unemployment.

I expect that these proposals by President Nixon will be relatively non-controversial. The fight, if any, will come over the recommendation that states be given two years to meet the goal of paying unemployment benefits amounting to at least 50 per cent of a worker's weekly wage.

In this connection, it should be remembered that the unemployment insurance system is a Federal-State program. Every attempt should therefore be made to improve the system with the full cooperation of and action on the part of the respective states.

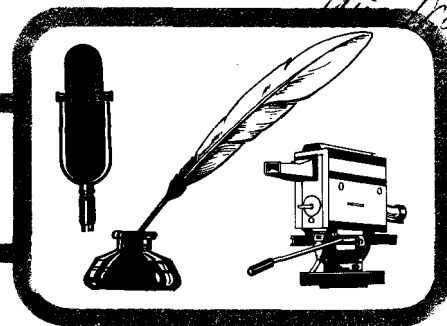
I subscribe to the concept that unemployment benefits amounting to at least 50 per cent of a worker's weekly pay should be paid in every state. In those states where this objective is not being met, injustice is visited upon the unemployed who are eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. Also, employers in that state are given a competitive advantage over employers in other states.

But it would be far better to achieve the 50 per cent objective through federal encouragement than through federal bludgeoning. I therefore feel a grace period is in order.

Enactment of the other Nixon recommendations into law will greatly strengthen our unemployment insurance system and improve the health of the American economy.

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*Distribution: Full*  
*Galleries 11:00 a.m. 7/10/69*  
*Air Mail 11:30 a.m. 7/10/69* **M Office Copy**



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--  
July 10, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Republican leader, U.S. House of Representatives, regarding overseas reductions in U.S. troops and civilian employees.

President Nixon's order withdrawing 14,900 military personnel from U.S. bases overseas and reducing federal civilian employees overseas by 5,100 is meaningful in terms of efficiency, budgetary savings and improvement in our balance of payments situation.

The cutback does not weaken the U.S. stance abroad in any way. It simply streamlines our overseas forces and staffs while cutting government costs.

It is important that the United States periodically review the numbers and operations of its overseas personnel and trim away the fat. If this is not done, our overseas staffs grow upon themselves and tend to become bloated.

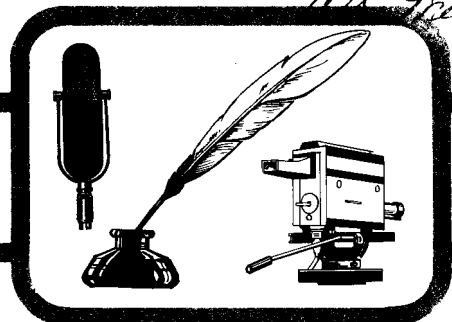
The President has taken a needful step with his cutback order. It is a proper and desirable action.

I would also applaud the agreement reached between our government and the West German government under which the West Germans will buy more U.S. goods to help offset international payments losses resulting from the stationing of our troops in West Germany.

This agreement will be far more effective and beneficial as regards our balance of payments situation than the pact which expired last June 30 and primarily involved West German purchase of U.S. Treasury bonds.

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*Distribution: Full  
Ballroom 12:20 p.m. 7/14/69  
Air Mail 12:35 p.m. 7/14/69* **M Office Copy**



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**



--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--  
July 14, 1969

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., on the President's Message on Drug Abuse

Mr. Speaker, the American people are greatly alarmed, and justifiably, over the growing traffic in narcotics and the increasing use of drugs by our youth.

If there is any problem area in which the people want speedy and effective action, it is the area of narcotics peddling and drug addiction.

I believe the American people are well aware that offenses committed by drug addicts who need money to support their habit account in some areas for a majority of the major crimes occurring there. They recognize, too, that this is but one reason why Federal, state and local resources should be marshalled in a coordinated attack on the narcotics problem.

President Nixon, in the Message he has sent Congress today, is pointing the way toward a sorely needed comprehensive action program which must be carried out nationwide and with the greatest possible cooperation at all government levels if the narcotics problem is to be brought under control.

The President's proposals for dealing with the narcotics problem obviously constitute a broad, carefully planned program which should produce the maximum possible results if it receives the greatest possible support -- support it so well deserves.

I urge that the Congress act as quickly on President Nixon's legislative proposals as circumstances permit -- the revision and consolidation of the Federal narcotics statutes into a single and more effective Act, and the funding of administrative actions being taken to step up the fight against narcotics abuse.

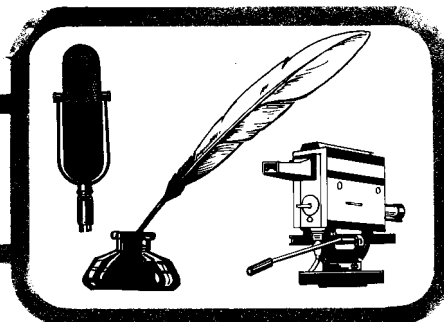
Meantime, I wish to take this opportunity to commend the President for the administrative initiatives he has taken to deal more effectively with narcotics trafficking and drug abuse.

I would note that only through the sweeping approach adopted by President Nixon -- the strengthening of efforts to halt the production and sale of illegal narcotics, the improving of rehabilitation programs for drug addicts, and the educating of all Americans to the dangers of drug abuse -- can we begin to cope effectively with this most complex problem of drug addiction and its rise and spread.

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*Distribution: 5th Dist (All) Air Mail  
7/11/69*

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**



Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., in observance of Captive Nations Week 1969, placed in the Congressional Record of Monday, July 14, 1969.

Mr. Speaker, this week we mark the 10th anniversary of a testament to freedom first proclaimed by the late President Dwight D. Eisenhower. This is the 10th annual observance of Captive Nations Week, authorized by congressional resolution in 1959. That resolution empowered American Presidents to proclaim Captive Nations Week each year until "such time as freedom and independence shall have been achieved for all Captive Nations of the world."

This 10th anniversary of the observance of Captive Nations Week takes on special significance. It comes while the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia is fresh in our minds. It is a most fitting time to look at the original Captive Nations resolution and to ask ourselves some searching questions about the meaning and purpose of Captive Nations Week.

The original resolution told it like it is. It said: "The imperialistic policies of Communist Russia have led through direct and indirect aggression to the subjugation of the national independence of Poland, Hungary, Lithuania, Ukrainia, Czechoslovakia, Latvia," etc. In all, 22 nations were listed as having lost their independence because of Communist aggression. The last on the list was North Vietnam.

Today we are fighting Communist aggression in South Vietnam and maneuvering against Soviet domination of the Mideast while probing the possibility of a peaceful settlement in Vietnam and a general arms control agreement with the Soviet Union.

But whatever is involved in the intricacies of current diplomacy, we still must tell it like it is.

We still weep for the Polish workers of Poznan so brutally suppressed when they rose in revolt 13 years ago against their Communist puppet rulers. We still are outraged over the bloodbath 13 years ago in Hungary when security forces fired upon the people and the Communist puppet rulers there called in Soviet troops to put down the uprising. Our hearts go out to the people of Czechoslovakia, invaded by the Soviet Union and four other Warsaw Pact nations last August 20 in

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a move to stamp out the freedoms being enjoyed by the Czechs and Slovaks.

What tremendous courage has been shown by the Poles of Poznan, the freedom fighters of Hungary, and the Czechoslovakians resisting the Soviet occupation and the reimposition of tyranny and censorship in their country!

It is this that points up the significance of Captive Nations Week and the dedication of Americans to the nurturing of freedom throughout the world.

There is a truth that no arms and no occupation can kill. The truth is that within the hearts of the enslaved peoples there burns a love of liberty which is a constant threat to their rulers -- a yearning for freedom which will ultimately prevail. And this truth gives meaning to our Captive Nations Week observance.

Communism as an ideology has proven itself a myth. The form of government we see in the Soviet Union, Communist China and the Red satellite nations is simply statism -- tyrannical rule by an oligarchy and a single political party. Statism is dictatorship, whatever the name given to it -- Communism, Naziism or Fascism.

Only the government which governs with the consent of the governed is worthy of allegiance from its people.

This, too, is a truth that must be trumpeted during Captive Nations Week. And it is a truth which evokes fear and anger within Communist ruling circles when Americans speak of it during Captive Nations Week or any other time.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the United States should seek enforceable agreements with the Soviet Union aimed at avoiding a third world war.

But it would be the greatest hypocrisy to close our eyes to the wrongs that the Soviet Union has done to millions of human beings deprived of individual freedoms and national independence.

There are some Americans who think that Captive Nations Week should be soft-pedalled or forgotten. I strongly disagree.

Americans must continue to make known their deep concern about the people of the Captive Nations and convey this message to the captive world.

Americans should continue to make known their refusal to accept the regimes imposed upon these unfortunate victims of tyranny.

Americans should continue to promote the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms which are the God-given rights of all people -- and not talk of them only when it may be expedient to do so.

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Americans must never accept the view that freedom is foreclosed for the now-enslaved peoples of the world. Consistent with our own national interests, America should constantly explore all avenues that might lead to a lessening of their plight.

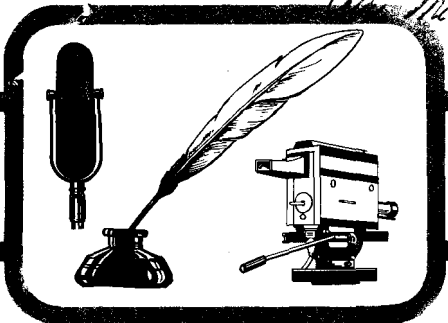
Let us continue to inform the captive peoples of our full and uncompromising support for their unquenchable goal of national and individual freedom. Let them ever know that Americans are dedicated to the furtherance of freedom throughout the world.

Let us keep faith with the people of the Captive Nations.

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**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--  
July 15, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

Mr. Speaker, the United States and South Vietnam have taken initiative after initiative for peace in Vietnam without any matching response from Hanoi. In fact, one of the phenomena of the Vietnam War in recent weeks has been the tendency of some Americans to discount U.S. and South Vietnamese peace initiatives and to demand additional concessions to North Vietnam and the Liberation Front.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, for Americans to rise in vocal and ardent support of President Nixon's strategy for peace in Vietnam.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, for members of Congress and all other Americans to ask, as with one voice: What is Hanoi doing to bring about peace in Vietnam? Where are Hanoi's initiatives for peace?

President Nixon has worked diligently and carefully toward the goal of peace in Vietnam since assuming office not quite six months ago. He has opened the door to a peaceful settlement of the Vietnam War. He has been joined by the Saigon Government in stepping through that door. Only Hanoi and the NLF remain outside the door of peace, encouraged...I believe...by those critics in America and elsewhere who support the Communist demand for immediate massive unilateral withdrawal of U.S. forces from South Vietnam.

Let us review what President Nixon has done to advance the cause of peace in Vietnam and then ask ourselves whether these critics are helping to end the war by supporting the enemy's unbending demands.

Prior to Jan. 20, the United States halted the bombing of North Vietnam and agreed to sit down at the conference table with the National Liberation Front as well as the government of North Vietnam.

We stayed at the peace table and refrained from a resumption of the bombing despite Hanoi's shelling of major South Vietnamese cities and inhumane slaughter of defenseless civilians, its repeated violations of the Demilitarized Zone, and its refusal to deal with the South Vietnamese government.

On March 25, President Thieu offered to meet with the NLF for private talks without preconditions on a political settlement.

On May 14, with Thieu's support, President Nixon put forward an eight-point plan for peace in South Vietnam. The President ruled out a military solution,

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offered withdrawal of U.S. and allied forces within 12 months under international guarantees, and emphasized that our only objective was to secure the right of the South Vietnamese people to determine their own future without outside interference.

On June 8, President Nixon announced the withdrawal of 25,000 U.S. combat troops and said decisions would be made later on additional troop withdrawals.

At Midway, both Thieu and President Nixon declared their willingness to accept any political result arrived at through free elections in South Vietnam.

Thieu has now outlined plans for the holding of free elections under terms which offer the NLF representation on a national election planning committee and places on the ballot. The only condition is that the NLF end its war against the Saigon Government and renounce the use of violence.

Mr. Speaker, every American who believes that aggression should not be rewarded and that peaceful solutions should be pursued in international disputes should support attempts to arrange for fair and impartial elections in South Vietnam.

I believe President Thieu is to be commended for advancing his elections plan and that the American people should rally behind the strategy for peace being followed by President Nixon.

It is time the American people and free peoples throughout the world demand to know when Hanoi is going to act to further a peaceful settlement in Vietnam.

Both President Nixon and President Thieu have made meaningful moves on behalf of peace in Vietnam. The burden now is on Hanoi, and we should let the world know it.

# # #

Squired by Rep. Gerald R. Ford of Grand Rapids, a Caledonia GI who escaped from the Viet Cong last April was lionized Thursday on Capitol Hill.

The youth, Spec. 5 Thomas H. Van Putten, was introduced by Ford to House Speaker John W. McCormack of Massachusetts and House Majority Leader Carl Albert of Oklahoma and then taken into the U.S. House of Representatives chamber to sit in the Speaker's chair for a few minutes before the House went into session.

Ford presented Van Putten to McCormack as "one of the finest young Americans we'll ever meet." When Ford told McCormack of Van Putten's escape after 13 months in the hands of the Viet Cong, McCormack shook hands warmly with the Caledonia soldier and said: "This is not only a privilege but an honor."

Ford said Van Putten agreed with him that "it is important for the United States to be successful in Vietnam."

Van Putten later remarked that he would "rather go back to Vietnam than see the United States just pull out and give it to the enemy."

After his visit to the Speaker's office in company with House Minority Leader Ford, Van Putten had lunch in the House of Representatives dining room as a guest of Rep. Garry Brown of Schoolcraft. Van Putten's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry M. Van Putten of Duncan Lake, live in Brown's congressional district.

Tom Van Putten has made a big decision since escaping from the Viet Cong, wandering around half-starved in the jungle for 18 days before being picked up by a U.S. helicopter, being welcomed royally by the hometown folks in Caledonia after his return home, coming down with pneumonia and spending weeks in the hospital.

"I've decided to make the Army my career," he said. "After getting out of the hospital I talked with several people about it and changed my mind about getting a discharge at the end of my three-year hitch in September. I just like the Army, I guess. So I'm going to 're-up' when I report to Fort Sheridan, Ill., for duty in mid-August. I'll be with an engineering company at Ft. Sheridan."

Van Putten's decision to reenlist has nothing to do with the fact that Lt. Col. Raymond T. Nutter, Army congressional liaison officer, is arranging for him to meet Army Chief of Staff Gen. William C. Westmoreland, former U.S. commander in Vietnam. Van Putten made up his mind before Col. Nutter suggested the meeting with Westmoreland.

Although Van Putten currently is on leave, he is spending his own time talking with officers at the Pentagon about "tactics of evasion and escape" as they apply to Vietnam. He began this chore last Monday and says the information he is supplying will be used in briefing GI's assigned to duty in Vietnam. # # #

*Distribution: Full  
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Air Mail 12:00pm 7/18/69*

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON--  
FRIDAY, JULY 18, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican leader, U.S. House of Reps.,  
re: President's Message on Population Growth and Control.

President Nixon's proposed Commission on Population Growth and the American Future cannot begin work too soon.

President Nixon has said what has needed saying by an American chief executive for many years -- that our planning in relation to population growth has been woefully inadequate, that such planning is vital if we are to improve the quality of life in America, and that family planning service should be made readily available to all women who want it but cannot afford it.

The President's Message on Population Growth is a singular document. It is the first of its kind ever sent to the Congress. It is a document which should excite much thought and careful action. The objectives outlined in the President's Message deserve the full support of the Congress and of the American people.

The President has dramatically set forth the staggering immensity of the problems posed in projections of U.S. and world population growth. He has focused on the key to meeting these problems -- planning. He has also called for action. I subscribe fully to the approach he has outlined.

"Society," the President said, "will not be ready for this growth unless it begins its planning immediately."

I agree, and I therefore urge the Congress to implement as soon as possible legislation establishing the President's proposed Commission on Population Growth and the American Future. I would add that President Nixon is correct in observing that the work of this commission will be as much educational as investigative.

Key portions of the President's Message also deal with administrative actions which President Nixon is taking in advance of any report by the proposed commission.

There is a clear and present need for the President's moves to expand and improve domestic family planning services.

I subscribe whole-heartedly to the President's proposal that we establish as a national goal the providing of adequate family planning services within the next five years for all American women who want them but cannot afford them.

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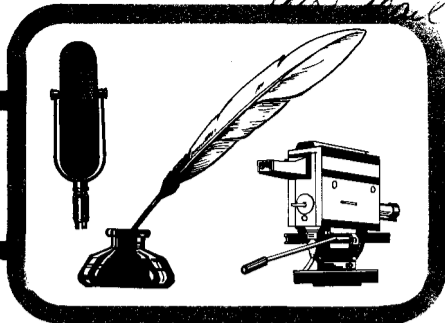
However, I would also underscore my agreement with the President's pledge that "in no circumstances will the activities associated with our pursuit of this goal be allowed to infringe upon the religious convictions or personal wishes or freedom of any individual, nor will they be allowed to impair the absolute right of all individuals to have such matters of conscience respected by public authorities."

I endorse at this time Health-Education-and-Welfare Secretary Finch's plans to reorganize the major family planning service activities of his department into a separate unit. This plan deserves the support of the Congress.

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*Distribution: Full  
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*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**



--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--  
July 22, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Minority Leader, U.S. House of Reps.  
placed in the body of the Congressional Record of Tuesday, July 22, 1969.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was in Grand Rapids, Mich., and was unable to join my colleagues in the House in expressing the jubilation we all felt over America's mighty achievement -- manned exploration of the moon.

In the exhilaration we all experienced during the lunar landing and moon walk, many Americans perhaps forgot that the Apollo Project cost far more than the estimated \$24 billion expended on sending a man to the moon. It also took the lives of three fine Americans -- Roger Chaffee, Ed White and Gus Grissom -- in a flash fire that swept through their Apollo spacecraft Jan. 27, 1967, while it sat on a Cape Kennedy launch pad. Roger Chaffee was from my home town of Grand Rapids. We went to the same high school.

Mr. Speaker, the flight of Apollo 11 was such a scintillating success that it almost seemed easy.

I would venture to guess that one reason the flight was so flawless was because the National Aeronautics and Space Administration ordered a full-scale rebuilding of the Apollo spacecraft after the tragic fire in 1967. Safety precautions were tightened up, over-all.

Mr. Speaker, let us all salute Neil Armstrong, Ed Aldrin and Mike Collins and pray for a safe splashdown in the Pacific on Thursday. But let us also say a prayer for Roger Chaffee, Gus Grissom and Ed White and pay tribute to them for the heroic contribution they made so that Eagle might land on the moon and return to planet earth.

Mr. Speaker, with the successful flight of Apollo 11 the United States has opened up the universe for all the peoples of the earth.

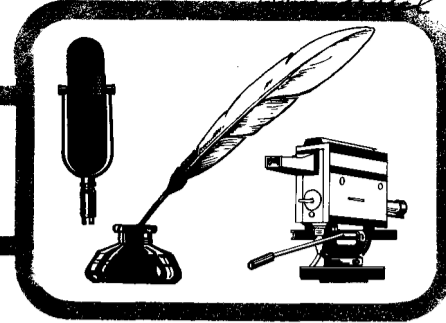
I believe our moon journey has kindled a new feeling of pride in country in all our citizens -- a new and much-needed patriotism, if you will.

This welling up of national pride is most natural. I am sure the other peoples of the world flash an understanding smile as we throw out our chests and crow just a little.

# # #

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*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--  
July 22, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Minority Leader, U.S. House of Reps.  
on the floor of the House of Representatives on July 22, 1969.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the President of the United States on his courage and boldness in scheduling a visit to the Communist State of Romania.

What the President has done is simply to place the Eastern Communist world on notice that the United States will move toward friendship, step for step, with those who wish to move toward friendship with us. It places the Western world on notice that the United States has recognized the cracks in the Communist monolith and we intend to pursue these developments in the interests of the peoples of Eastern Europe, and in the interests of peace.

The President is and has always been a realist toward the Communist world. He rejects the naive assumptions of past policy that, by throwing away economic concessions, we will win political gains. He deals with the nations of Eastern Europe as an American head of state should deal with them -- recognizing that they have interests and we have interests and we do not intend to give up something for nothing. If they seek trade advantages in the United States, we will hold those out, but there are political and diplomatic dividends which we seek in Eastern Europe -- and we welcome a horse trade. There will be no something-for-nothing deals with the Communist world with President Nixon in the White House.

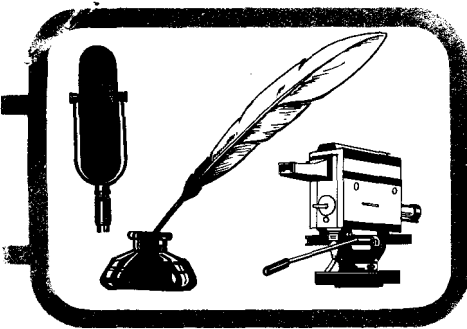
The President has been criticized for not "clearing" his visit with the Soviet Union. It is not the custom of American Presidents, certainly it is not the practice of this one, to clear our diplomatic moves in advance with Moscow. They have never cleared theirs with us. Indeed, if we are to take Foreign Minister Gromyko at his word, the visit to Bucharest is not seen by them as a provocative act.

It is a welcome development to find that we have in the White House today a President who initiates moves in foreign policy rather than reacts to them. It is good to have a dynamic foreign policy for the United States rather than a static and sterile one. The President takes with him on this visit into Eastern Europe and the Communist world by an American President our hopes that he can bring back some sign of a more just and enduring peace. He should be commended by the American people for making this historic effort.

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*Distribution Fifth District  
A.M. of 7/24/69*

*M Office Copy*



**CONGRESSMAN  
GERALD R. FORD  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

NOTE TO EDITOR: A copy of this radio talk by Rep. Ford, sent out for use by Kent and Ionia radio stations the weekend of July 26-27, is also being sent to you for whatever use you might choose to make of it.

For many years after the end of World War II, it was commonplace for people to ask each other, "Where were you on V-E Day?" There will be little or no need to ask Americans where they were on July 20, 1969. Nearly all of them were -- of course -- glued to the tube, watching two of their countrymen make an almost unbelievable landing on the moon. Then, on into the early hours of July 21, 1969, Americans gazed in awe as their television sets brought them pictures of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walking on the powdery surface of another planet a quarter of a million miles away.

I could not help feeling as my wife Betty and I and the children watched this greatest of all television spectacles that the moon mission seemed almost easy. Then I remembered the price we had paid -- not only an estimated \$24 billion in federal expenditures but also the lives of three gallant astronauts who didn't make it to the moon, our own Roger Chaffee of Grand Rapids and his buddies Gus Grissom and Ed White.

It is a jarring thought to think back to the flash fire of Jan. 27, 1967, that took the lives of Roger Chaffee, Ed White and Gus Grissom, but I think we should remember...we should remember and honor them, just as much as we honor the moon mission men of Apollo 11, Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Mike Collins. Chaffee, Grissom and White also made an heroic contribution to the success of Apollo 11. They also helped make it possible for Eagle to land on the moon and for Columbia to return to planet earth with information that may unlock the secrets of the universe.

Now, as we sit back and ponder the incredible journey of Apollo 11, we are filled with mixed emotions and our thoughts are somewhat jumbled. We feel a tremendous pride. But we also are troubled by nagging questions. If we can put a man on the moon, why can't we solve the problems of the cities? If we can put a man on the moon, why can't we find ways for men to live in peace on earth?

There are, of course, no easy answers to these questions. We must try, and we must try much harder than we have. This I know. It is easier to put a man on the moon than it is to resolve the crisis of the cities. The crisis of the cities

(more)

is an even greater challenge than space exploration. Not as exciting. But success in this effort would be just as rewarding, if not more so.

So we are going to have to constantly review our priorities in terms of demands on the federal dollar and what we know we must do as a Nation and a people. Then, we must do it.

As for the search for peace, President Nixon has embarked upon another effort in that direction with his trip to Asia and to Romania. Some Americans may wonder why the President should visit Romania. It's clear to me that the President is seeking to promote friendship with those who want friendship with us -- and that this is the path to world peace. Enmity, hatred, hostility -- these have never brought peace, whether those involved were nations or individual men. At the same time, America and the world should know that President Nixon is a realist in dealing with the Communists. He does not intend to give away something for nothing.

Earlier I spoke of the great competition for the federal dollar posed by our various national needs and interests. I might mention here and now the great need to protect the dollar so that it will continue to buy something.

There are those in Congress who have opposed the President's plan to continue the surtax at 10 per cent until Jan. 1, then drop it to 5 per cent and finally phase it out next June 30. Some have argued that the President's cuts of \$4 billion in the federal budget were not enough. Last week the President announced additional cuts of \$3.5 billion in federal spending, just to offset rises in certain federal outlays over which the Nixon Administration has no control -- interest on the national debt, medicare, social security, civil service retirement benefits, public assistance and veterans benefits. The President is holding down federal outlays to the very best of his ability. And I am supporting the surtax extension and phaseout as the best weapon at hand to fight inflation.

# # #