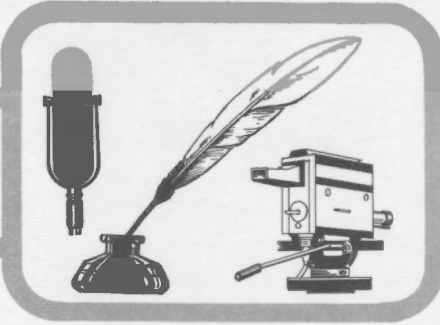


The original documents are located in Box D7, folder “Ford Press Releases - Fifth District, 1971-1973” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 2:00 P.M. THURSDAY--
January 28, 1971

I am deeply disappointed that Grand Rapids, Mich., has not been included in the Railpax System by the Department of Transportation as of this time, and I am hopeful that it will be incorporated into the routings in the future.

In a letter to me, Transportation Secretary John Volpe declared: "I will work very hard to be sure that the most paramount of considerations will be given to the recommendations for service between Detroit and Chicago via Grand Rapids."

The Michigan Public Service Commission strongly favors rail passenger service linking Grand Rapids with Chicago and Detroit, and local citizens are vigorously supporting such service. I urge that they continue their efforts on behalf of Grand Rapids service with the thought that we may yet prevail.

Secretary Volpe has assured me that changes in Railpax routings can be made in the future. This gives reason to hope that Grand Rapids will be included in the Detroit-Chicago run, which is definitely a part of the new system.

The Secretary has told me: "We are very aware of the extraordinary reputation that Grand Rapids has had throughout its tradition and history as a furniture manufacturing center, as well as being the second largest city in Michigan. These very factors are being analyzed by my staff and will be considered very carefully in putting together this final system."

#





CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON--

Friday, March 12, 1971

Rep. Gerald R. Ford last night challenged the Democratic-controlled Congress to "ride the winds of change with the Republican Party."

Speaking at a Lincoln Day Dinner in Ionia, Ford said President Nixon has laid before the Congress a blueprint for progress which would scrap what has failed and have the Nation meet the needs of tomorrow in tomorrow's terms.

Ford urged that the Congress join with the President in seeking to meet the six great goals set forth in the President's State of the Union Message-- prosperity in peacetime, welfare reform, the restoration of our environment, the best possible health care for all Americans, strengthening of State and local government through a sharing of Federal revenue, and complete reform of the Federal Government through an overhaul of cabinet departments.

Ford pointed to recent Presidential messages to the Congress on health care and law enforcement and manpower revenue sharing and declared: "President Nixon has taken dramatic new initiatives on social legislation and on the structure of government--and the response among the people makes it clear he has captured the imagination of the nation."

Ford said the President is asking for a chance to prove that government can work.

He said he is seeking to do this by replacing the present "scandalous" welfare system, by bolstering state and local governments, by overhauling job training and job placement programs, and by sharing Federal revenue with the states and local communities.

Said Ford: "The President wants to reform government itself--so that instead of sliding further into musclebound ineffectiveness it can at last deliver the services it promises and bridge the gap between promise and performance."

Ford added: "Through Federal revenue sharing, by putting the money where the problems are, we will be returning government to the people. And, as Abraham Lincoln so well expressed it, 'We hold to the true Republican position. In leaving the people's business in their hands, we cannot be wrong.'"

###



*Distribution: All daily 5th Dist. News Media
3/8/71 12 noon air mail*

M. Office Copy



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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*Distribution: All 5th Dist. News Media
P.M. 3/12/71*

Office Copy

AMERICAN VETERANS
OF WORLD WAR II
KOREA - VIETNAM



AMVETS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

NEWS RELEASE

1710 Rhode Island Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036
(202) 223-9550

RALPH E. HALL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARTIN C. COY, PUBLIC RELATIONS

FOR RELEASE AT WILL ON OR BEFORE MARCH 27

REP. GERALD FORD TO RECEIVE AMVETS CONGRESSIONAL
SILVER HELMET AWARD

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Honorable Gerald R. Ford (R-Mich.), who in the Congressional circle is considered "The Congressman's Congressman," will be presented the AMVETS Silver Helmet Congressional Award at their Fourteenth Annual Awards Banquet to be held at the Mayflower Hotel here, March 27.

AMVETS National Commander Robert W. Showalter will make the presentation to Rep. Ford in recognition of his enlightened service and leadership to the people of the nation as an outstanding legislator, civic leader, athlete and American citizen. Rep. Ford will receive his award along with several other distinguished persons selected in light of their outstanding contributions to society.

Although Congressman Ford has had many awards bestowed upon him over the years, including many for his continuing support of legislation beneficial to veterans and their dependents, the most gratifying fact to AMVETS in reviewing his accomplishments is that during twenty years of service to the Nation as a legislator, while fulfilling all outside demands on his time, he still maintained an attendance record of 90.9% in the Congress, missing only 48 roll calls out of 5,346.

Past recipients of the Congressional Award include; Rep. William Jennings Bryan Dorn, 1970; The Honorable John W. McCormack, Speaker of the House, 1967; and Rep. Olin Teague, 1952.

Other persons to be honored with Representative Ford are: Actor Danny Thomas; Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird; the late Paul Powell, Secretary of State for the State of Illinois; Criss Cole, Texas Judge and President Pro-tem of the Texas Senate; Irene Parsons, Personnel Director of the Central Office of the Veterans Administration in Washington, D.C.; the United Service Organizations; the Dodge Division of Chrysler Corporation; His Holiness, Pope Paul VI, who was already officially presented his award in September during special ceremonies at his summer home in Castel Gandolfo, Italy; and, Frank J. Scarane of Maspeth, New York, AMVETS Past National Convention Co-chairman.



Office Copy

5th District Only

AMERICAN VETERANS
OF WORLD WAR II
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AMVETS

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1710 Rhode Island Ave., N.W.
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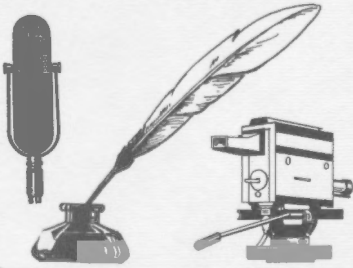
CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

In a few days, the voters of Grand Rapids will have the opportunity to demonstrate their support of the local schools. This election on April 13, 1971 is vital to the continued progress and growth of the Grand Rapids schools.

Permit me to add my name to the lengthy list of community leaders and organizations of your neighbors who urge you to Keep Everyone a Winner -- Vote "Yes" April 13.

#####



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE IN THURSDAY PM's--

April 1, 1971

Congressman Gerald R. Ford today announced that he is inaugurating "hot line" telephone service between his constituents and his Washington office.

Ford explained that any of his constituents in Kent and Ionia Counties may talk with his Washington office without charge on urgent business matters simply by calling his district office in Grand Rapids. The number is 456-9607.

Ford said two special lines have been installed in his Grand Rapids office. If one line is busy, the call automatically will come in on the second line.

"When someone calls 456-9607, a staff member in my district office will put the call through to my Washington office," Ford said. "I or one of my Washington staff members then will take the call and handle the problem," he added.

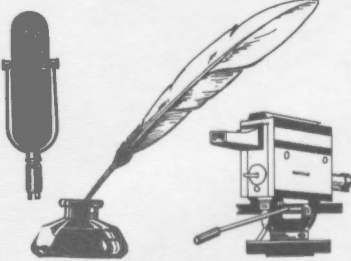
Ford emphasized that the hot line service is primarily to expedite matters of immediate concern. In most instances, he said, letter-writing is best because then a constituent can explain all details of a problem.

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5th District Only

Office Copy



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON THURSDAY--
April 22, 1971

News Release from the Office of Congressman Gerald R. Ford

Congressman Gerald R. Ford today announced that he and others will meet with Federal Highway Administrator Francis C. Turner in the hope of expediting construction of a four-lane divided US 131 from Cedar Springs to Cadillac.

Ford said he has set up a meeting Wednesday (April 28) in his office with Turner, U.S. Rep. Elford A. Cederberg of Bay City, a group of State legislators, and officials of the US 131 Area Development Association.

"A way must be found to expedite construction of a new US 131 from Cedar Springs to Cadillac," Ford declared. "The State Highway Department and the State Highway Commission obviously are not giving 131 any greater priority than US 31, if as much. Their plan to build these two four-lane freeways at pretty much the same pace smacks of nothing but politics to me. The facts show 81 fatalities on the 186-mile stretch from Grand Rapids to Petoskey on 131 as compared with 53 fatalities on 31 from Muskegon to Petoskey. This situation cannot be tolerated any longer. US 131 should definitely be speeded up."

State Rep. Thomas G. Ford Sr. of Grand Rapids, Congressman Ford's brother, has been pressuring the State Highway Department for more than five years to expedite construction of a new 131.

Those expected to attend the US 131 meeting in Congressman Ford's office besides Turner and Cederberg are: State Rep. Ford, State Sen. Milton Zaagman of Grand Rapids, State Sen. John F. Toepp of Cadillac, State Rep. Donald Holbrook of Clare, State Rep. Michael Dively of Traverse City, US 131 Association Executive Secretary Gordon Huizenga of Grand Rapids, and Association President Robert W. Ransom of Cadillac.

Congressman Ford said the group will propose to Turner that 131 either be taken into the Interstate Highway System or that U.S. highway funds be earmarked specifically for the project because 131 is "a killer highway."

The US 131 freeway now ends at M 57 south of Cedar Springs. Bids are scheduled to be taken this summer and next fall for the stretch from M 57 to M 46 north of Howard City. The State Highway Department says that 19-mile stretch should be opened to traffic in 1973.

The section from Howard City to Reed City now is scheduled for contracting in 1975. Congressman Ford is hopeful that with Federal intervention the Howard City-to-Reed City section can be advanced for contracting to at least 1973. # # #



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

JAMES E. MERNA

NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

**5709 83RD PLACE
NEW CARROLLTON, MARYLAND 20784**

**PHONE
577-6642**



NEWS RELEASE

National Headquarters

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS

933 NORTH KENMORE STREET, SUITE 317

• ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22201

• PHONE 524-1137

For immediate release

WASHINGTON, D. C. (May 18, 1971) -- Two of the nation's foremost leaders in military and governmental affairs, both former college football stars, will be in Grand Rapids, Michigan on Saturday, May 22 to pay honors at a Recruit Graduation Ceremony of the Young Marines of Grand Rapids.

Four-star General Lewis W. Walt, USMC (Retired), former Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and gridiron star at Colorado State University will arrive by air from his home in Colorado Springs, Colorado to team up with Representative Gerald R. Ford (R-Michigan), House Minority Leader and an ex-Big 10 gridder for the graduation ceremonies to be held at 12 noon at the Navy-Marine Training Center in Grand Rapids.

The Young Marines is an action training program for boys aged 8 to 17, sponsored by the Marine Corps League, with emphasis on citizenship, leadership, physical fitness, school, personal habits, and home and community activities directed to mental, moral, and physical development.

Saturday's graduation will witness the completion of an intensive basic training period for approximately 125 youngsters from Grand Rapids and the surrounding area who will join the present 250 man Young Marines Unit.

Other distinguished guests who will be on hand for the ceremonies include Colonel John Kleinhans from Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, Mr. Lou Caldara, National Director of the Young Marines, Grand Rapids Mayor Robert Bolens, and Mayor Thomas Eardley of Wyoming, Michigan.

The Young Marine Recruits will pass in review under the ceremonial command of Young Marine Major Tom Sokolowski of Grand Rapids and will receive their Certificates of Graduation from Company Commander Charles Reintges.

Refreshments will be served and the public is cordially invited to attend. In case of inclement weather, the ceremonies will be held at Wyoming Park High School.

- End -

For further information, contact:

James E. Merna
National Public Relations Director
Marine Corps League, Wash, D. C.
(202) 697-3722 (office)
(301) 577-6642 (home)

or

Paul J. Gilmet
Grand Rapids, Michigan
(616) 361-6691
(616) 363-3431 (after 5 p.m.)





NEWS RELEASE

National Headquarters

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS

933 NORTH KENMORE STREET, SUITE 317

• ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22201

• PHONE 524-1137

For immediate release

MRS. MARJORIE MERRIWEATHER POST FETES WOUNDED VIETNAM VETERANS

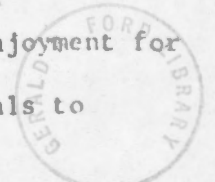
WASHINGTON (May 17, 1971) -- In his Armed Forces Day message, President Nixon called upon all Americans to pause on May 15 in honor and appreciation of the men and women of our Armed Forces, "not only for their sacrifices but for their constant guardianship of freedom and justice throughout the world."

One Washington resident, in a continued expression of her admiration and respect for the American serviceman, quickly and quietly set forth to participate in this celebration in her own way -- by hosting a lavish garden party for a large group of Washington area hospitalized Vietnam Veterans.

The hostess was Mrs. Marjorie Merriweather Post, famed Washington socialite. The May 12th garden party marked the fifth consecutive year that Mrs. Merriweather Post has entertained hospitalized sailors, soldiers, and Marines from Bethesda Naval Hospital and Walter Reed Army Hospital at her Hillwood estate.

The first social at Hillwood for servicemen was held on Flag Day, June 14, 1967. This was Mrs. Post's initial "Welcome Home" to the heavy influx of wounded Vietnam casualties returning to the Washington area, in conjunction with the Marine Corps League's "Operation Appreciation" Program.

Mrs. Merriweather Post has ministered to the needs of many returning servicemen from the battlefields of Vietnam and has taken an individual interest in several of them. Over the years, she has sponsored a variety of entertainment and enjoyment for the recuperating servicemen ranging from concerts, stage shows, and musicals to



attendance at athletic events, Christmas parties and gifts, trips to local restaurants and night clubs, etc.

In recognition and appreciation of her demonstrated concern and solid support for the American hospitalized serviceman, and for her lifetime of philanthropy and public service, the Marine Corps League, a Congressionally-chartered national veterans service organization of active duty, retired, and honorably discharged U. S. Marines, bestowed its top award, the "Dickey Chapelle Award" upon Mrs. Marjorie Merriweather Post at their 1969 national convention in Miami Beach, Florida.

The Dickey Chapelle Award is presented annually in memory of newswoman Dickey Chapelle who was killed by a Viet Cong booby-trap while on patrol with a Marine Company on November 4, 1965.

- End -

For further information, contact:

James E. Merna
National Public Relations Director
Marine Corps League
524-1137
577-6642 (Home)

5th District Media only

GERALD R. FORD
FIFTH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

Office Copy
MICHIGAN OFFICE
425 CHERRY STREET SE.
GRAND RAPIDS
ZIP 49502

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

May 22, 1971

Dear News Editor:

My 1971 congressional questionnaire has been mailed to the 147,000 residences in the Fifth District.

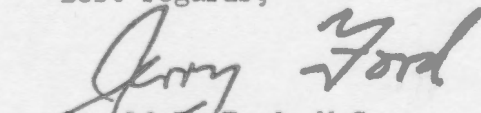
Any help you can provide in calling attention to this survey would be appreciated. I am hoping that as many people as possible will fill out the questionnaire and return it to me.

This year I have done something different in formulating the questionnaire. Since some people feel that any questions I personally put together may be biased, I wrote to political science professors at every college in the Grand Rapids Area and asked each of them to submit 10 suggested questions. I drew upon responses from these professors in formulating my questionnaire.

I am sending you a copy of the questionnaire so that you might have information regarding the questions in the survey. If you care to publish the questionnaire, I would be most pleased.

The results of the questionnaire will be helpful to me in deciding how to vote on the many bills which will be coming up in the 92nd Congress.

Best regards,


Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:pc

Enclosures

An Office Copy



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

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR USE ON RECEIPT--

Congressman Gerald R. Ford today announced he has sent out a 1971 questionnaire to the nearly 148,000 residences in the Fifth Congressional District to get a sampling of opinion on current issues.

Ford said the questions contained in the survey form are based on sample questionnaires prepared for him at his request by political science professors on the faculties of colleges in the Grand Rapids Area.

"Invariably some people feel that questions I prepare myself are drawn so as to invite a particular answer," Ford said. "For that reason I decided to base my questionnaire on sample questions submitted to me by political science instructors. This should set to rest any question of bias on my part."

Ford said he has used a format which permits husband and wife to answer the questions individually--as was done last year.

"I find that husband and wife do not always agree in their thinking on issues of the day," Ford said. "So I feel it is a good idea to offer them an opportunity to express varying views in answer to my questionnaire."

Ford said the majority responses to questions in the survey will help him decide how to vote on crucial questions in Congress in the months ahead.

"This 1971 questionnaire will provide me with valuable guidance," Ford said. "Of course, I have the ultimate responsibility for deciding how to vote on any particular question. But I would like the advice of the people of Kent and Ionia Counties on important questions facing the Congress."

Seven of the 11 questions in the poll require yes or no answers. The other four are multiple choice. There are two questions on Vietnam--a yes or no question on whether to keep a residual force in Vietnam until all prisoners of war are released, and a multiple choice question on withdrawal from Vietnam. # # #

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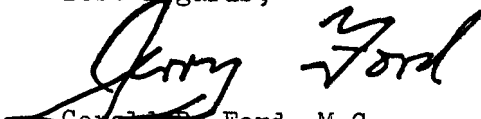
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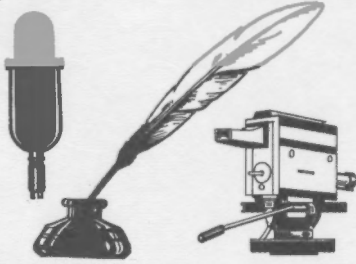
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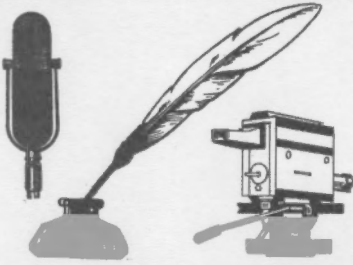
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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON TUESDAY--

June 15, 1971

(Note to Editors: A copy of Mr. Ford's letter is attached)

Rep. Gerald R. Ford today released the text of a letter to Grand Rapids Mayor Robert Boelens and members of the Grand Rapids City Commission urging Federal revenue sharing as an alternative to a local income tax increase.

Ford noted that the City Commission is considering an increase in the local income tax in the event the State Legislature adopts a bill permitting Michigan cities to raise municipal income taxes from 1 per cent to a maximum of 2 per cent.

Ford pointed out that the City of Grand Rapids allocation under the Nixon Administration's general revenue sharing plan would be \$2,215,551. This, he said, would come close to bridging Grand Rapids' unmet revenue needs for fiscal year 1972.

Said Ford: "While the Grand Rapids revenue sharing allocation would not totally bridge the dollar gap, it would go far toward doing it. It would seem entirely possible to effect some economies and thus obviate the need for a municipal income tax increase."

Ford said prospects are "bright" for a compromise between the Nixon Administration's revenue sharing bill and a proposal by House Ways and Means Chairman Wilbur Mills, D-Ark. He declared there "should be an area of reasonable and responsible compromise."

Ford urged continued support by the Grand Rapids City Commission for Federal revenue sharing.

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(The following is the text of the letter from Rep. Ford to Grand Rapids Mayor Robert Boelens and members of the Grand Rapids City Commission.)

"I am deeply concerned about the pressure on state and local officials to raise taxes to meet mounting public service needs.

"It has come to my attention that the City Commission of Grand Rapids is considering an increase in the local income tax in the event that the State Legislature adopts a bill permitting Michigan cities to raise local income taxes from 1 per cent to a maximum of 2 per cent.

"We are all also aware that Governor Milliken has proposed an increase in state income taxes and that the Grand Rapids Press has proposed a County income tax in view of the property tax bind in which the County Government finds itself.

"This prompts me to point out that--in my view--sharing of Federal income tax revenue with the states and local units of government is the best answer to the whole problem--the fiscal squeeze on the state and local governments and the growing tax burden on the local taxpayer.

"Federal revenue sharing is very much to be preferred to continued increases in state and local taxes. Revenue sharing would ease the pressure on state and local officials to constantly raise taxes or, on the other hand, to cut back services.

"Under the Nixon Administration's current plan to share roughly \$5 billion in Federal revenue with the states and local units of government, Michigan would get \$229 million. Of that sum, the State would keep \$128,883,405 and the rest would go to local governments. Of the local allocations, the City of Grand Rapids would receive \$2,215,551, and the Kent County Government would get \$1,363,217.

"I note that City Manager Joseph Grassie has estimated municipal expenditures of \$26.2 million for fiscal 1972, as against anticipated revenue of \$22.5 million. That leaves a gap of \$3.7 million.

"While the Grand Rapids revenue sharing allocation would not totally bridge the dollar gap, it would go far toward doing it. It would seem entirely possible to effect some economies and thus obviate the need for a municipal income tax increase--in the event Federal revenue sharing were enacted by the Congress.

"Your continuing support for revenue sharing is needed now more than ever. Prospects have become bright for a compromise between President Nixon and the Democratic leaders in the Congress. House Ways and Means Chairman Wilbur Mills, the chief foe of the Administration bill, has come up with a modified revenue sharing proposal, and Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield has said he would like to see an "accommodation" between the Administration and Mills. I share the view of Senator Mansfield that there should be an area of reasonable and responsible compromise.

"Federal revenue sharing is the answer to steadily increasing needs for additional state and local revenue. Your support for the Federal legislation is vital.

/s/ Gerald R. Ford, M.C."

*Distribution: Fifth District
Wash. Newsmen*

Office Copy



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON THURSDAY--

July 22, 1971

A wild pony now roaming about on Assateague Island off the eastern shore of Virginia will soon make his home in the Grand Rapids Municipal Zoo, courtesy of Rep. Gerald R. Ford and the town of Chincoteague, Va.

The town of Chincoteague will make Ford a present of the pony, and Ford in turn will give it to the City of Grand Rapids. City Recreation Director William Pries has happily accepted the pony on behalf of the city.

Every year the members of the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Department go to Assateague Island and round up the wild ponies there. There have been wild horses on Assateague Island for hundreds of years. The firemen guide the ponies into the water at low tide, and the ponies swim with their mothers to neighboring Chincoteague Island. There they are auctioned off by the Town of Chincoteague to raise money for the Volunteer Fire Department.

The ponies are brought through the sandy streets of Chincoteague to a corral.

Next Wednesday, July 28, Ford will go to the Chincoteague corral and will pick out a pony for Grand Rapids from among all those which swim over from Assateague. The pony then will be taken to the presentation stand and turned over to Ford in a formal ceremony. Rep. Thomas N. Downing, D-Va., will take part in the presentation.

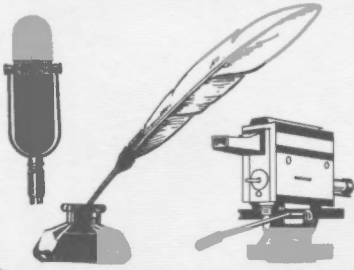
The ponies' swim from Assateague to Chincoteague is in western roundup style, with the volunteer firementon horseback guiding the ponies.

Grand Rapids Recreation Department officials will make arrangements to have the gift pony transported to Grand Rapids.

Prior to the presentation ceremony, Ford and Downing will make a flying tour of the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, accompanied by J. C. Apple, refuge superintendent. The plane will be provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON THURSDAY--

July 22, 1971

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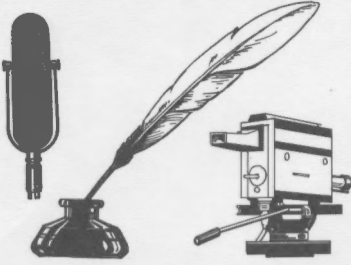
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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON THURSDAY--
July 29, 1971

Only three out of 10 Kent and Ionia County residents favor "withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Vietnam by a fixed date regardless of the effect on negotiations," Rep. Gerald R. Ford's 1971 questionnaire results indicate.

Of those responding to Ford's questionnaire, 33.3 per cent said they favor withdrawal by a date certain regardless of the consequences.

Nearly half--49.3 per cent--said they favor withdrawing U.S. troops on a monthly basis while continuing negotiations aimed at a political settlement. This is the policy President Nixon is pursuing.

A smaller number--13 per cent--favor increasing our military effort in hope of achieving victory in Vietnam.

In answer to a related question, 65.5 per cent said they favor keeping a residual force in Vietnam until all American prisoners of war are released, while 27.8 per cent said "no."

Ford's questionnaire drew nearly 16,000 responses. All replies were tabulated, with the work done by a Washington computer firm at no cost to the taxpayer. The yes and no responses and the multiple choice answers do not add up to 100 per cent because some respondents did not answer some of the questions or checked more than one choice.

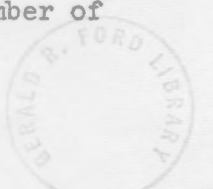
An overwhelming number--81.6 per cent--favored the welfare reform legislation already approved by the House of Representatives and now pending in the U.S. Senate.

On the question of what to do about State and local financial problems, 37.7 per cent said a percentage of Federal income tax revenue should be returned to the States and local units of government; 25.5 per cent favored increasing State and local taxes and cutting the Federal income tax; 13.9 per cent favored a Federal takeover of all welfare costs; and 7.8 per cent favored increasing Federal grants for local matching programs.

The balloting on mandatory wage and price restraints was fairly close, with 53.6 per cent favoring strict controls and 41.6 per cent opposed.

Nearly seven out of 10--68.7 per cent--favor President Nixon's plan to reorganize the Executive Branch of the Federal Government and reduce the number of cabinet departments from 11 to eight.

(more)



A huge number--80.5 per cent---are opposed to making food stamps available to strikers.

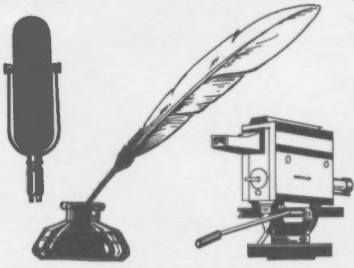
Nearly seven out of 10--68.3 per cent--are willing to pay more in increased prices and taxes to expand efforts to control air and water pollution.

More than 60 per cent (66.4) were opposed to Federal deficit financing to stimulate the economy.

Nearly eight out of 10--77.5 per cent--favor Federal legislation requiring "unit pricing" of food items so the cost per pound of various brands can be easily compared.

Results of a question on national health insurance were not tabulated because a typographical error invalidated the question. Since Congress is not expected to act on health insurance until next year, this question will be repeated in correct form in Ford's 1972 questionnaire.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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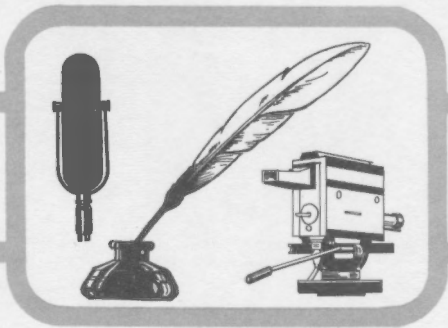
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7/30/71 *Office Copy*



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

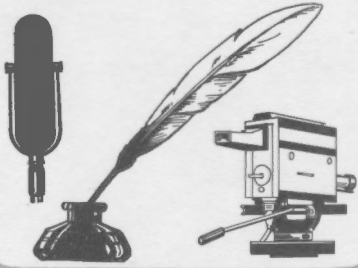
**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR ANYTIME USE--

Grand Rapids Junior College and Mercy Central School of Nursing will share in a \$1,253,243 Federal allocation of student loan and scholarship funds to Michigan schools of nursing for fiscal 1972, Rep. Gerald R. Ford reported.

Mercy Central will receive \$14,400 in loan funds and \$10,000 in scholarship money for a total of \$24,400. Grand Rapids Junior College will get \$7,200 for loans and \$8,000 for scholarships for a total of \$15,200.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON THURSDAY--

August 5, 1971

Rep. Gerald R. Ford will tour the Fifth Congressional District in his mobile office during the "August Recess" of Congress.

Ford will visit 18 locations in Kent and Ionia Counties during the periods August 23-26 and August 30-Sept. 3. Morning hours will be from 9 to 11:30, and afternoon hours from 2:30 to 5.

"I am looking forward to this opportunity to talk with my constituents," Ford said in announcing his itinerary. "This will give me a chance to learn more about their problems first hand."

Places where Ford will be available to constituents in his mobile office are as follows, with the first community mentioned after each date the morning location and the second the afternoon location:

August 23--Kent City, Township Hall; Sparta, East Division Parking Lot.

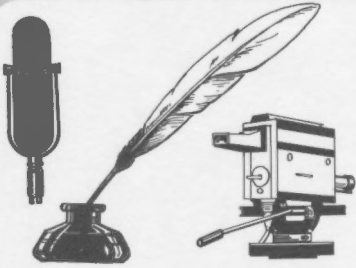
August 24--Cedar Springs, Main at Ash; Rockford, Don's Pharmacy. August 25--

Comstock Park, Lamoreaux Drugs; Standale, Plaza. August 26--Grandville, City Hall Parking Lot; Rogers Plaza, Schensul's Sign.

August 30--Belding, City Hall; Ionia, First Security Bank. August 31--Portland, City Parking Lot; Lyons-Muir, Tabor and Superior Streets. Sept. 1--

Saranac, 28 North Bridge; Lake Odessa, BraDee Parking. Sept. 2--Lowell, Main at Lafayette; Caledonia, Main at Lake Avenue. Sept. 3--Byron Center, Harkema Parking; and Cascade, Old Kent Bank Parking.

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1-21-72

CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT--

Rep. Gerald R. Ford today announced that his district office will be moved to larger quarters in the building where it is presently located, 425 Cherry Street, S.E., Grand Rapids.

The office will be moved from the second floor to the first floor, where it will be more readily accessible to the public.

Ford commented:

"We've had occasions when people have had a hard time finding the office. Now it's out in plain sight. The office space will be larger, so it will be possible to accommodate bigger numbers of people at one time.

"This is a continuing effort on my part to be of greater service to my constituents in the Fifth Congressional District (Kent and Ionia Counties). In that connection, I would like to remind my constituents that they may call my Washington office without charge during business hours by dialing 456-9607, my district office number. The call will then be 'patched through' to Washington. I would simply emphasize that these 'hot line' calls should only be carried out to expedite matters of immediate concern. In most instances, it is best to write me a letter and explain all the details of a problem."

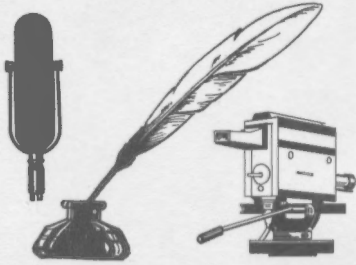
Ford noted that his office relocation is an interim move, and that his street address and district office phone number remain the same. Ford's district office ultimately will be located in the new Federal Office Building, now under construction in downtown Grand Rapids. The projected occupancy date for the new building is December 1972. However, construction is running ahead of schedule.

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5th Dist Weeklies Only

Office Copy
1972



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford
Special to Weeklies publishing Feb. 23 and Feb. 24

This week the Future Farmers of America organization celebrates its 44th birthday.

It is not an accident that FFA has picked this particular week to mark the anniversary of its founding. This is also the week when we observe the birthday of George Washington, who was not only the "father of our country" but one of America's most famous farmers. George Washington loved farming. After all, Mt. Vernon was a farm. And he made many significant contributions to agriculture.

So it is that this week the 430,000 members of FFA mark both FFA's birthday and that of George Washington. FFA membership is made up of boys and girls, 14 through 21 years of age, who are studying vocational agriculture in 8,200 public schools in 49 states, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The members are taught agricultural skills by advisers of their local chapters.

The destiny of our country lies in the hands of its youth. We can all feel encouraged by the fact that FFA is pointing all of its members in the right direction.

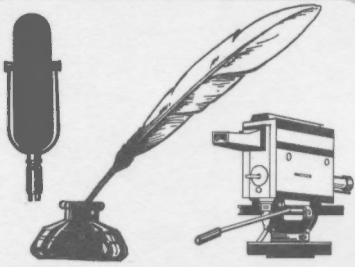
FFA is moving ahead with a program called Building Our American Communities-- a program now in its third year. The program involves the promotion of physical improvements in communities throughout the country, job placement help for students and career counseling. The FFA has been extremely successful in getting the cooperation of non-members who wish to improve their surroundings and better their communities.

The theme of FFA Week this year is "Youth With A Purpose." This theme certainly symbolizes the efforts that are being carried out by FFA members.

I am proud to have this opportunity to salute the FFA on this occasion and to congratulate its members on their many outstanding achievements. I wish them every success, now and in the future.

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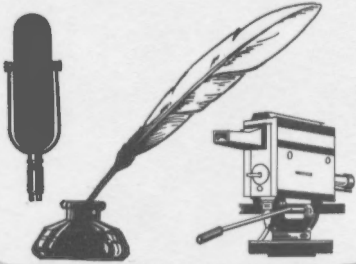
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Fifth District Media only

Official Copy



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON MONDAY--

March 27, 1972

Rep. Gerald R. Ford today proposed that Kent and Ionia County 18-year-olds attending high school be given school time to register to vote.

Ford made his proposal in a letter to all of the school superintendents in Kent and Ionia Counties and sent copies to all of the principals.

"I just think we should make it as easy as possible for our 18-year-olds to register to vote," Ford said. "Now that the 26th Amendment to the Constitution has made 18-year-olds eligible to vote, I would like to see them become involved in the democratic process immediately."

He said the best way to do that would be for school officials to arrange for 18-year-olds to register on school time, either by having an official Deputy come to the school and register them in class or by busing the 18-year-olds to the nearest voter registration office.

Informed by Ford of his proposal, Kent Intermediate School Supt. Albert L. Deal said: "I think it's a tremendous idea. I subscribe to it wholeheartedly. We want to get this age group involved in government."

Ford is a sponsor of a national program called "Released Time for Registration," together with six other House Republicans and seven House Democrats.

Ford's letter is as follows:

"Dear Superintendent:

As you know, the 26th Admendment to the Constitution was enacted last year, making all 18-year-olds eligible to vote.

I think the rest of us should make it as simple as possible for 18-year-olds to register to vote and should encourage them to do so.

To that end, I am suggesting that school time be made available to your eligible seniors for registration. This could be an important civics project for your graduating class. To vote in this year's Primary Election, your schools' 18-year-olds must register by July 7.

This project could be carried out on school time either by having an official Deputy register the students in class or by busing all eligible students to the nearest voter registration office on a field trip.

You probably will be contacted further by your local National Education Association representative, League of Women Voters, Student Vote Organization, or other group.

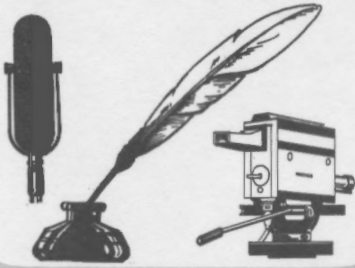
My Congressional Office pledges to you and your 18-year-olds my complete cooperation in this effort. If I can assist you in any way, please let me know."

Best regards,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

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Fifth district only

Office Copy



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON FRIDAY --
April 14, 1972

Rep. Gerald R. Ford has sent a questionnaire into the roughly 150,000 households in the Fifth Congressional District posing queries on everything from the proposed moratorium on forced busing to a U.S. pullout from Vietnam.

In the question on busing, Kent and Ionia County residents are asked whether they favor a national moratorium on forced busing to achieve racial balance, coupled with special Federal aid to disadvantaged schools.

The question on Vietnam offers two alternatives--declaration of a ceasefire in Vietnam and immediate withdrawal of all U.S. forces; or, withdrawal of all U.S. forces conditioned on release of American prisoners of war, a ceasefire throughout Indochina and the holding of an internationally supervised presidential election in South Vietnam.

Ford's last questionnaire made it possible for a husband and wife to vote separately, so that each could express a view. His 1972 questionnaire continues this feature but also offers new young voters, the 18-through-20-year-olds, an opportunity to express their opinions in special balloting.

Ford said the questionnaire was printed at no cost to the taxpayer and said compilation of the results also will be paid from private funds.

The complete questionnaire is as follows:

JERRY FORD 1972 QUESTIONNAIRE
(MULTIPLE CHOICE)

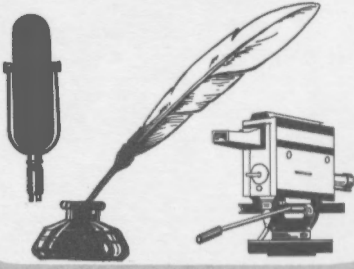
HIS HERS 18-20
Yr. Old
Yes No Yes No Yes No

HIS HERS 18-20
Yr. Old

- 1. Do you favor a moratorium on forced busing to achieve racial balance, coupled with special Federal aid to disadvantaged schools?
- 2. Do you favor Federal legislation to prevent national emergency strikes in transportation (railroads, airlines, shipping and trucking)?
- 3. Do you favor diverting some of the highway user taxes to finance urban mass transit systems?
- 4. Do you favor sharing of Federal income tax revenue with the cities and States on a fixed percentage basis?
- 5. In the last four years the Soviet Union has increased its strategic missile capability and greatly expanded its naval forces. Do you favor an increase in U.S. military spending to offset this?
- 6. Do you favor continuing wage and price controls until inflation is curbed?
- 7. Do you favor a substantial increase in Social Security benefits if this means higher Social Security taxes?

- 8. On health insurance, which do you favor? -- CHOOSE ONE --
 - A. An improved nationwide private health insurance system, with employers required to pay 65 to 75 per cent of the premiums and employees the rest, and with insurance companies placed under Federal regulation and control.
 - B. A Federal Government program financed with special payroll taxes.
- 9. On Vietnam, the United States Government should: -- CHOOSE ONE --
 - A. Declare a ceasefire within the nation of Vietnam and immediately withdraw all American military personnel therefrom.
 - B. Withdraw all American forces from South Vietnam, conditioned on release of U.S. prisoners of war, a ceasefire throughout Indochina and the holding of an internationally supervised Presidential election in South Vietnam.

(SIMPLY DETACH THIS HALF OF CARD, AFFIX STAMP ON OTHER SIDE AND MAIL BACK)



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1972, AND THEREAFTER

Beginning this week, Kent and Ionia County students will have an opportunity to "tell it to their congressman."

Rep. Gerald R. Ford Thursday will inaugurate a phone-a-school program which will allow students in schools throughout the Fifth Congressional District to ask him questions during half-hour conversations with him.

By previous arrangement, Ford will call a certain school at a designated time via special telephone equipment which will allow students to respond with questions or comments of their own. He usually will be calling from Washington.

Ford's call will be amplified by means of portable telephone equipment plugged into a jack in one of the rooms at the school. The congressman will call a number assigned to that jack, and his voice will be amplified to all the students in the room.

The equipment will make it possible for students to speak into a microphone and ask Ford questions. The students are expected to ask questions covering everything from how government works to Ford's stands on specific issues.

The half-hour chat will begin with a five-minute review by Ford of what is currently happening in the Congress. The rest of the session then will be devoted to questions from the students.

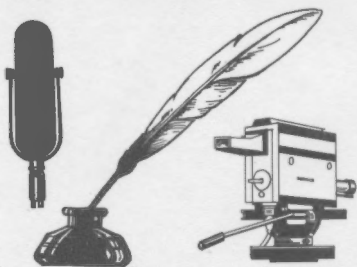
"I am doing this to make myself as accessible as possible to the young people in my Congressional district," Ford said in announcing the new program. "If some student has a question to ask me or a bone to pick with me, this will give him a chance to do it. I hope students will take advantage of my phone-a-class program to talk or ask about whatever is on their minds."

The first phone-in will take place at 9:45 a.m. Thursday, May 11 at Calvin Christian High School in Grandville. Ford will talk with William Haverkamp's government class from his Washington office.

Under the phone-in program, the students may be members of a government or history class, or the session may be opened up to any student with a free hour at that particular time.

Schools interested in arranging for a Ford phone-in may do so by calling Mrs. Marba Perrott at Ford's district office, 456-9607. Ford will accommodate such requests on a first-come, first-served basis and to the extent that his time permits.

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HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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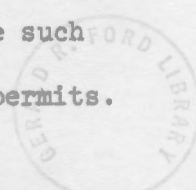
The half-hour chat will begin with a five-minute review by Ford of what is currently happening in the Congress. The rest of the session then will be devoted to questions from the students.

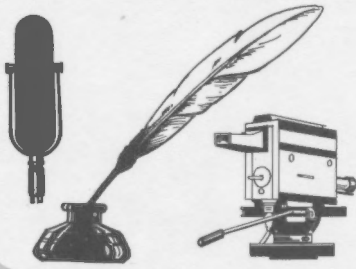
"I am doing this to make myself as accessible as possible to the young people in my Congressional district," Ford said in announcing the new program. "If some student has a question to ask me or a bone to pick with me, this will give him a chance to do it. I hope students will take advantage of my phone-a-class program to talk or ask about whatever is on their minds."

The first phone-in will take place at 9:45 a.m. Thursday, May 11 at Calvin Christian High School in Grandville. Ford will talk with William Haverkamp's government class from his Washington office.

Under the phone-in program, the students may be members of a government or history class, or the session may be opened up to any student with a free hour at that particular time.

Schools interested in arranging for a Ford phone-in may do so by calling Mrs. Marba Perrott at Ford's district office, 456-9607. Ford will accommodate such requests on a first-come, first-served basis and to the extent that his time permits.





CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON TUESDAY, MAY 16, 1972, AND THEREAFTER

Congressman Gerald R. Ford has scheduled four more "phone-ins" at Fifth Congressional District high schools.

In response to requests, Ford will speak from Washington via special telephone equipment to government classes at Caledonia Community High School, East Christian, Belding High School, and South Christian.

The half-hour chats are slated for 8:30 a.m. May 17 at Caledonia, 8 a.m. May 18 at East Christian, 10:30 a.m. May 19 at Belding, and 1:30 p.m. May 25 at South Christian.

Ford inaugurated his school phone-in program last week with a call to Calvin Christian High School in Grandville. He spoke for a few minutes on legislation being acted upon by the House at the moment and then answered a series of student questions focusing primarily on the Vietnam War.

After the half-hour session, instructor William Haverkamp said: "We were thrilled to be a part of this new program and very pleased to be the first school involved."

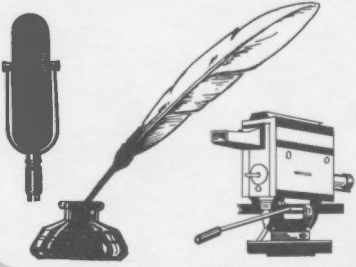
Ford's call to the students is amplified by a piece of portable telephone equipment which he is leasing from the telephone company. Students are expected to ask questions covering everything from how government works to Ford's positions on various issues.

Ford said the session with the Calvin Christian students was most enjoyable.

"I found my conversation with Bill Haverkamp's class very stimulating," Ford said. "The students asked excellent questions. It made for a great rap session."

Fifth Dist.

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HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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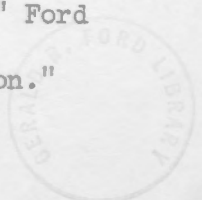
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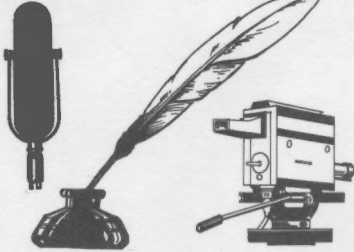
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Galleries Here*



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

Official Copy
**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON MONDAY--

May 22, 1972

Fifth District residents responding to Rep. Gerald R. Ford's 1972 questionnaire reject an unconditional pullout from Vietnam and endorse the basic terms of President Nixon's latest peace proposal.

Ford made this report today as he announced the tabulation of his questionnaire results. More than 20,000 Kent and Ionia County residents sent back completed questionnaires, he said.

On Vietnam, Ford gave his constituents a choice between the referendum question on the Nov. 2, 1971, Grand Rapids ballot and a withdrawal from Vietnam tied to release of U.S. prisoners of war, an Indochina ceasefire, and the holding of an internationally supervised election in Vietnam.

President Nixon's latest peace offer calls for withdrawing all American ground troops from Vietnam within four months after an Indochina ceasefire and return of U.S. war prisoners. He has dropped the election provision.

Fifth District residents voted 68 per cent in favor of withdrawal tied to an Indochina ceasefire and return of American POW's and only 22 per cent for the referendum proposal.

The referendum question, which had passed by a large margin, urged that the U.S. "declare a ceasefire within the nation of Vietnam and immediately withdraw all American military personnel therefrom."

Ford said he believes his questionnaire results show conclusively that Fifth District residents prefer a withdrawal linked with return of American POW's and declaration of an Indochina ceasefire by both sides.

Ford drew up his questionnaire so that newly eligible voters, 18 through 20 years old, could have their views tabulated separately from those of persons 21 years and older. On Vietnam, the 18-20-year-olds voted 53 per cent in favor of the Administration's peace plan and 27 per cent for the referendum proposal.

The percentages do not add up to 100 because the remainder did not answer the question one way or another.

(more)



Summing up the questionnaire results, Ford found that Fifth District residents responding favor a moratorium on forced busing to achieve racial balance coupled with special Federal aid to disadvantaged schools (64 per cent to 31), favor Federal legislation to prevent national emergency strikes in transportation (80 to 17), oppose diverting some of the highway user tax revenue to finance urban mass transit systems (57 to 38), favor Federal revenue sharing with the states and local units of government (63 to 28), favor an increase in military spending to offset advances made by the Soviet Union (52 to 43), favor continuing price and wage controls until inflation is curbed (82 to 13), favor--slightly--a substantial increase in Social Security benefits if it means higher Social Security taxes (49 to 47), prefer the Administration's health care proposal (requiring employers to pay 65 to 75 per cent of health insurance premiums and placing health insurance companies under Federal regulation) to Sen. Kennedy's plan for a Federalized health insurance system paid for through Federal payroll taxes and the Federal treasury (58 to 19).

On health care, Ford learned that many Fifth District residents are opposed to both the Administration and the Kennedy plans. They want the Federal government to stay out of health care altogether.

Because so many persons hold this view, more than 20 per cent of the Fifth District respondents did not answer the health insurance question.

Ford is a primary sponsor of the Administration's health insurance bill, but with an amendment providing Federal financial help for small businessmen who would find it a heavy burden to pay the bulk of their employes' health insurance premiums.

Ford also has cosponsored legislation which would prevent crippling strikes in transportation. Under this bill, the President would have the option of appointing a panel which could order a binding settlement. The panel could choose the better of the final offers made by labor and management and use this as a solution.

On busing, Ford favors legislation which would prevent forced busing to achieve racial balance. He also is backing a proposed Constitutional amendment which would ban forced busing altogether.

#

WASHINGTON REVIEW

*A Report
From Your Congressman*



*Serving
Kent and Ionia Counties*

JERRY FORD

May 22, 1972

NOT PRINTED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE

MORE THAN 20,000 RESPOND TO QUESTIONNAIRE

I received a total of 20,184 responses to my 1972 questionnaire in time for tabulation by a computer firm selected by me to add up the answers.

Quickly summing up the results, I find that those Fifth District residents responding to my questionnaire reject an unconditional withdrawal of U.S. forces from Vietnam, favor the Administration's health care proposal over Sen. Kennedy's plan for federalizing national health insurance, approve of President Nixon's proposals for a moratorium on busing to achieve racial balance coupled with special Federal aid to disadvantaged schools, overwhelmingly favor Federal legislation to prevent national emergency strikes in transportation, strongly favor a continuation of price and wage controls until inflation is curbed, solidly approve of Federal revenue sharing with states and local units of government, favor an increase in military spending by slightly over 50 per cent, reject the idea of diverting a slice of Federal highway user tax revenue for mass transit, and vote by less than 50 per cent for Social Security increases which involve an increase in Social Security taxes.

DISTRICT WANTS CEASEFIRE, RETURN OF PRISONERS

In posing my Vietnam question, I offered constituents a choice between the referendum which appeared on the Nov. 2, 1971, Grand Rapids ballot and a withdrawal of U.S. troops tied to return of U.S. prisoners of war, an Indochina ceasefire and an internationally supervised election in Vietnam.

The President's latest peace proposal calls for a pullout of all U.S. ground troops within four months, conditioned on release of American prisoners of war and a ceasefire throughout Indochina. He has dropped the election proposal.

The 1971 referendum question simply asked whether the U.S. should "declare a ceasefire within the nation of Vietnam and immediately withdraw all American military personnel therefrom." Nothing was said about getting back our prisoners of war.

Balloting on my multiple choice Vietnam question showed 67.8 per cent favoring a withdrawal tied to a ceasefire and return of prisoners and only 21.6 per cent for the referendum proposal.

At the time the referendum was voted on by Grand Rapids residents, I described the ballot question as poorly drawn because it said nothing about getting back our prisoners of war. I was later criticized for that by those advocating the proposal. Quite obviously, Fifth District residents want both sides to enter into a ceasefire agreement, and they want our prisoners back.

HEALTH INSURANCE--BUILD ON PRESENT SYSTEM

A sizable majority--57.8 per cent of those responding--favor the Administration approach of seeking to solve our health care problems by building on the present system of private health insurance.

Fifth District residents obviously abhor what many respondents call "Federal interference" in health matters.

This was indicated when only 19.3 per cent expressed a preference for Sen. Kennedy's proposed Federal health insurance system financed from Federal payroll taxes and the Federal treasury.

(over)

It was further pointed up by the fact that 22.86 per cent did not answer the question at all--many people scrawling across the question the word, "neither."

The Administration plan would require employers to pay 65 to 75 per cent of private health insurance premiums and would bring health insurance companies under Federal regulation.

I have sponsored the Administration bill but with an added provision or amendment which gives small businessmen Federal assistance in paying the bulk of their workers' premiums.

DISTRICT OPPOSES FORCED BUSING

District respondents voted 64.4 per cent in favor of a moratorium on forced busing to achieve racial balance, plus Federal financial assistance to disadvantaged schools. Of the rest, 30.9 per cent opposed the proposal, and 4.7 per cent did not answer.

Many Fifth District residents opposed to busing voted "no" on this question because they want busing banned altogether, not just placed under moratorium.

I am supporting legislation to prevent forced busing and also a proposed Constitutional amendment which would ban busing completely.

I do not believe forced busing of students out of their neighborhoods to distant schools is the answer to quality education. I favor quality education, not racial quotas. The answer, when it does come, will come through changes in housing patterns.

TRANSPORT STRIKE PREVENTION FAVORED

My questionnaire showed overwhelming support--79.6 per cent--for Administration legislation which would prevent national emergency strikes in transportation.

One of the options given the President under the measure would be to appoint an arbitration panel which would order a settlement based on the better of the final offers submitted by both labor and management. I am a primary cosponsor of this legislation.

YOUTH, ELDERS DISAGREE ON DEFENSE SPENDING

I set up my questionnaire so that balloting by 18-through-20-year-olds could be counted separately from the votes of those 21 years and older.

The views expressed by the special youth group--the new voters--were substantially the same on all questions except defense spending. Asked if they favor increased defense spending to offset advances made by the Russians, the youth group voted 60 per cent against and only 32.6 per cent in favor. By contrast, the 21-and-older respondents voted 53.5 per cent for more military spending and 41.2 per cent against.

The complete results of the questionnaire voting are shown below, listed in percentages rounded off to the nearest full digit. Percentages given do not add up to 100 per cent because the remainder did not answer the question.

JERRY FORD 1972 QUESTIONNAIRE

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	Yr. Old		Total			Yr. Old	Total		
	Yes	No	Yes	No					
1. Do you favor a moratorium on forced busing to achieve racial balance, coupled with special Federal aid to disadvantaged schools?	53	42	64	31					
2. Do you favor Federal legislation to prevent national emergency strikes in transportation (railroads, airlines, shipping and trucking)?	61	31	80	17					
3. Do you favor diverting some of the highway user taxes to finance urban mass transit systems?	40	52	38	57					
4. Do you favor sharing of Federal income tax revenue with the cities and States on a fixed percentage basis?	53	35	63	28					
5. In the last four years the Soviet Union has increased its strategic missile capability and greatly expanded its naval forces. Do you favor an increase in U.S. military spending to offset this?	33	60	52	43					
6. Do you favor continuing wage and price controls until inflation is curbed?	68	23	82	13					
7. Do you favor a substantial increase in Social Security benefits if this means higher Social Security taxes?	36	54	49	47					
					8. On health insurance, which do you favor?				
					A. An improved nationwide private health insurance system, with employers required to pay 65 to 75 per cent of the premiums and employees the rest, and with insurance companies placed under Federal regulation and control.	47		58	
					B. A Federal Government program financed with special payroll taxes.	21		19	
					9. On Vietnam, the United States Government should:				
					A. Declare a ceasefire within the nation of Vietnam and immediately withdraw all American military personnel therefrom.	27		22	
					B. Withdraw all American forces from South Vietnam, conditioned on release of U.S. prisoners of war, a ceasefire throughout Indochina and the holding of an internationally supervised Presidential election in South Vietnam.	53		68	



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Fifth District media only

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON MONDAY, MAY 29, 1972, AND THEREAFTER--

Congressman Gerald R. Ford will leave the United States June 23 on a two-week trip to the People's Republic of China which the State Department calls "a pathfinder mission on the part of the House of Representatives."

Ford will be joined on the trip by House Majority Leader Hale Boggs, D-La. The two congressmen's wives will accompany them. The House leaders are making the trip at the invitation of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs and the request of President Nixon.

William Brown, deputy director of the China Desk at the State Department, said the Ford-Boggs trip will "continue the dialogue begun by President Nixon and entered into by Senate leaders Mike Mansfield and Hugh Scott and will open wider the door to China that was swung open by the President."

Brown, who will go to China with Ford and Boggs, said the House leaders' trip to China "could lead to further exchanges in the medical, scientific, sports and academic fields." It will, he said, contribute to further normalization of Sino-American relations.

Ford and Boggs hope to meet with high-level Chinese leaders on their trip, including Chinese Premier Chou En-lai. Plans also call for visits to industrial plants and agricultural communes, as well as historical and cultural sites.

Ford and Boggs will depart from Andrews Air Force Base in a military jet at 10 a.m. June 23. They are scheduled to arrive in Shanghai June 26 after stopovers at Hickam Field, Honolulu, and at Guam.

Their tentative itinerary in China includes Peking, Shanghai, Canton, and various rural areas. They will leave Canton by rail for Hong Kong on July 4. Ford and Boggs are due to arrive back at Andrews Air Force Base the evening of July 7.

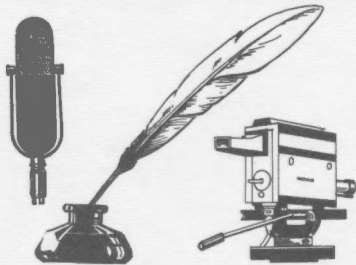
Ford and Boggs will report to the House of Representatives and to the President after their return.

Ford will take three staff members with him: Administrative Assistant Frank Meyer, Legislative Assistant Robert Hartmann, and Press Secretary Paul Miltich.

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Fifth District Media only

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 1972

All summer long Stephen Elkins of Grand Rapids will be literally rubbing elbows with men and women who are making the Nation's laws.

Steven, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce L. Elkins, 2550 Northville Drive, N.E., is a "summer page" in the U.S. House of Representatives by appointment of Rep. Gerald R. Ford.

Pages serve primarily as messengers, carrying material between the Capitol and congressmen's offices and congressional committees. The boys also prepare the desks, seats or bench in the congressional chambers for the day's work. During the daily sessions, they run errands for individual congressmen.

As the minority party, the Republicans are privileged to appoint only five of the 51 pages who assist members of the House of Representatives. The Democrats name the remaining 46 from among their own constituents. However, the Democrats permit the Republicans to appoint temporary summer pages.

Last February, at a Lincoln Day Dinner in Grand Rapids, Steve and his parents told Ford about Steve's ambition to serve as a page in Washington this summer.

Steve said he wanted to be a page because a page becomes part of U.S. history in the making.

Ford moved to make Steve a page, his first such appointment.

"I feel Stephen's experience as a page will be not only educational but also stimulating and inspiring," Ford said.

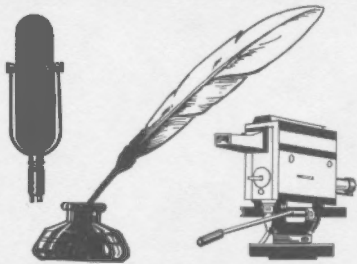
Steven has now been a page since June 1, just long enough to "get his feet wet." His term as a page will run until August 18.

Asked how he likes his job, Steve said: "I'm quite impressed with it. It's a lot of fun but it's also a lot of work. You see important people all the time, and it's really interesting. To me, it's fascinating."

Steve currently is living in Arlington, Va., but will be moving shortly to a boarding house on East Capitol Str-et where he will be living with F.B.I. men, law students and other pages.

He believes his page experience will be invaluable because he is thinking about going into law and perhaps eventually into politics. He will be a senior next fall at Northview High School.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

September 11, 1972

Congressman Gerald R. Ford today announced six openings at the service academies for interested young men from the Fifth Congressional District. One with the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, another with the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, and four with the U. S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs are being offered to high school seniors who are U. S. citizens, under 22 years of age, never married, and able to pass the medical, physical, and scholastic requirements of the respective academies.

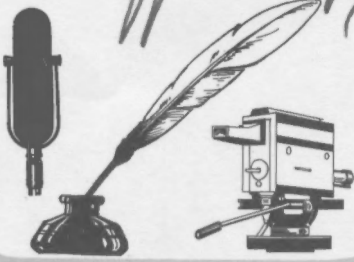
Applications for these positions can be obtained from Jerry Ford's office at 425 Cherry Street, S.E. in Grand Rapids (telephone 456-9747) and from his Washington, D.C. office. The deadline for filing the applications is September 25.

Appointments are also available to the Merchant Marine and Coast Guard Academies, but the selection to those institutions is not limited to a Congressional district. Michigan Congressmen may nominate up to ten candidates for the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York to compete state-wide for 12 available scholarships. The Coast Guard makes its own selection of cadets to attend the Academy at New London, Connecticut from a nation-wide competition.

Selection of Fifth District candidates is based on the results of an open, competitive Civil Service Examination. This examination will be given on Saturday, September 30 in Grand Rapids and other cities throughout the nation. Make-up tests for those candidates unable to attend the September 30 examination will be given on Tuesday, October 31. Application for the make-up tests will be accepted as late as October 27.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

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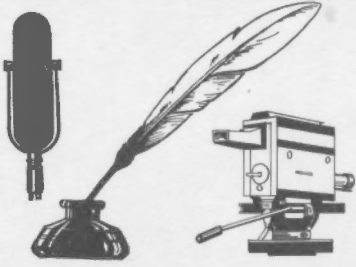
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These all-expense college scholarships at the Academies lead to a bachelor's degree in science and a commission in one of the Services. "These appointments offer a wonderful educational opportunity and an honorable career in the service of our country," Ford said. "At the present time we have at the academies six young men from Grand Rapids, three from Wyoming, two from Cedar Springs, and each each from Ada, Ionia, and Sparta.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT--

September 26, 1972

Congressman Gerald R. Ford is resuming his highly popular program of "phone-ins" to Fifth District high schools.

Under the program, Ford talks with government classes and other students via special telephone equipment at high schools scheduling a "phone-in." He usually calls from Washington.

Ford's call is amplified by means of portable telephone equipment plugged into a jack in one of the rooms at the school. The equipment makes it possible for students to speak into a microphone and ask Ford questions. Ford has been spending up to an hour with groups of students in this fashion, engaged in spirited and timely give-and-take.

Ford phone-ins which are upcoming in the near future are: Northview High School, Ted Burba's class, 9:30 a.m. Oct. 4; Godfrey-Lee High School, Jack McKinley's class, 9 a.m. Oct. 9; and Central High, Dick Hoek's class, 10 a.m., Oct. 9.

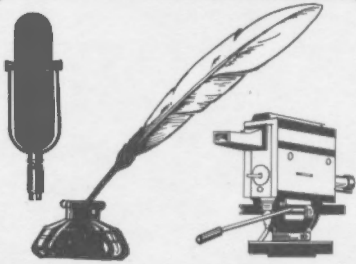
Ford may also do some phone-ins from his district office during October since he will be in Grand Rapids so much of the time that month.

Ford said he wants to make himself as "accessible as possible" to the young people in his congressional district. He said he enjoys "rapping with the students and helping them get things off their chests."

Under the phone-in program, the students may be members of a government or history class, or the session may be opened up to any student with a free hour at that particular time. The students may ask Ford any question they wish.

Schools interested in arranging for a Ford phone-in may do so by calling Mrs. Marba Perrott at Ford's district office, 456-9607. Ford will accommodate such requests on a first-come, first-served basis--to the extent his time permits.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON WEDNESDAY--

October 18, 1972

Congressman Gerald R. Ford today announced the formation of a Fifth Congressional District Science Advisory Committee headed by Dr. Vernon J. Ehlers of Calvin College.

Ford said the committee will advise him, on a permanent basis, on all matters related to the environment, the sciences and technology.

Other members of the committee in addition to Dr. Ehlers are: Dr. Gordon L. Van Harn of the Calvin Biology Department; Edwin H. Krug of Lear Siegler, Inc.; Carl Jay Bajema of the Grand Valley State College Biology Department; and John Van Zytveld of the Calvin Physics Department.

Areas of expertise of the committee members are as follows: Dr. Ehlers--physics; Dr. Van Harn--physiology, medical and general environmental; Krug--engineering; Bajema--population, ecology, environmental issues, and genetics; and Zytveld--physical science and technology, energy resources, and natural product resources.

Ford said the committee is Ehlers' brainchild, an idea he conceived early this year. Ehlers sees the committee advising Ford on any scientific or technical matters on which he requests such advice and alerting Ford to developments in science and technology which will require his attention.

Ford urges that Fifth District citizens who want the committee to explore any environmental, scientific or technical questions bring such matters directly to his attention. Ford then will lay these questions before the committee for study and a report. He will carefully weigh any advice the committee gives him.

Dr. Ehlers picked the members of the Fifth District Science Advisory Committee. He said he employed two basic criteria in choosing the committee members--that they be good scientists, and that they be socially aware of the impact of scientific developments on the world.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13, 1972, and THEREAFTER

Rep. Gerald R. Ford will move his district office from its present location at 425 Cherry Street, S.E., Grand Rapids, to quarters in the new Federal Building, 110 West Michigan Avenue, on Dec. 20.

The office is staffed by District Assistant Gordon Vander Till, Mrs. Marba Perrott, Therese Turkenberg, and George Ter Horst. Ter Horst, a recently discharged veteran, is devoting much of his time to military and military-related casework.

Congressman Ford's new office is located in the top southwest corner of the new Federal Building--Room 720. The Ford district office phone number will remain the same, 456-9607.

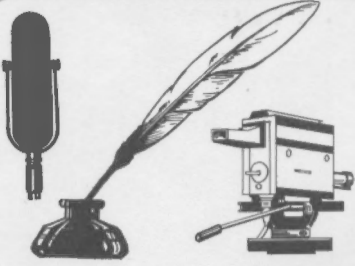
The Ford district staff hopes to resume full-scale activity the afternoon of Dec. 21, after the Dec. 20 move to the Federal Building.

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Fifth District only

Office Copy



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON WEDNESDAY--

December 20, 1972

Federal outlays in the Fifth Congressional District increased measurably in fiscal 1972 over fiscal 1971, Rep. Gerald R. Ford reported today on the basis of a report from the Executive Office of the President.

Federal dollars flowing into Kent County in the last fiscal year totalled \$252,867,655, Ford said, as compared with \$238,495,734 in fiscal 1971. That is a rise of \$14,371,921.

Federal funds going into Ionia County totalled \$26,356,405 in fiscal 1972, as compared with \$23,552,569 in the previous fiscal year--an increase of \$2,803,936.

Ford also reported that Federal outlays in Barry County amounted to \$19,800,547 in fiscal 1972, up \$1,890,681 from fiscal 1971; in Clinton County, \$24,730,507, greater by \$7,747,693 than in fiscal 1971; in Eaton County, \$26,452,365, up \$2,690,099 from fiscal 1971; and in Montcalm County, \$30,417,119, up \$8,371,276 over fiscal 1971.

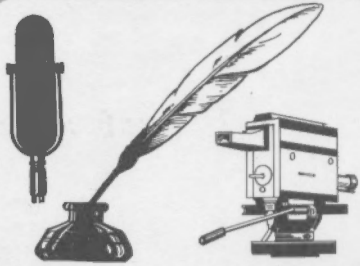
The Fifth District includes all of Kent County but Bowne Township, all of Ionia County but Sebewa Township, plus the townships of Thornapple and Yankee Springs in Barry County; Roxand in Eaton; Lebanon and Dallas in Clinton; and Maple Valley, Bushnell and Bloomer (except Carson City) in Montcalm.

Large sums going into Kent County from the Federal Government in fiscal 1972 included \$130,857,285 from the Health-Education-Welfare Department; \$36,281,000 from the Defense Department; \$7,667,916 from the Labor Department; \$15,330,772 from the Veterans Administration; and \$5,647,354 from the Environmental Protection Agency.

For Ionia County, the largest Federal outlays in fiscal 1972 included \$15,726,789 from HEW; \$3,686,971 from the Agriculture Department; and \$1,718,408 from the Veterans Administration.

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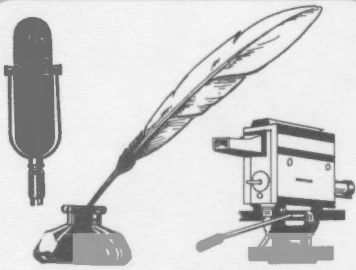
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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 21, 1973

Congressman Gerald R. Ford today announced that he is offering a \$1,000 scholarship for study and travel abroad this summer to one high school junior or sophomore in the Fifth Congressional District.

The scholarship is made available through the American Institute for Foreign Study. This is the fourth consecutive year that Ford has sponsored the scholarship, with the cooperation of the AIFS.

The winner of the scholarship is selected by a panel of school officials from among candidates nominated by each high school located in the Fifth District. Each high school principal decides how his school's nominee will be selected.

The scholarship covers tuition for foreign study, fees, room and board, compulsory medical insurance, a little pocket money, and travel arrangements from New York to Europe and return. The winner of the scholarship must pay for transportation to and from New York, passport and immunization fees, and items of a purely personal nature.

The student may select a program in England, France, Spain, Italy, and certain other countries. The Institute assigns the student to a particular campus and chaperoned group.

Most of the programs consist of four weeks spent at school with an additional 10 days spent sightseeing in various cities in Europe.

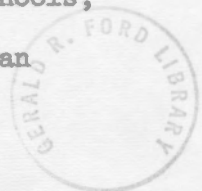
Each high school located in the Fifth District--and those others serving Fifth District students--may nominate one person for the scholarship except that schools having a combined total of 600 or more juniors and sophomores may nominate two.

To be eligible, a student must be a resident of the Fifth District, which includes all of Kent County except Bowne Township; all of Ionia County except Sebewa Township; Thornapple and Yankee Springs Townships in Barry County; Dallas and Lebanon Townships in Clinton County; Roxand Township in Eaton County; Bushnell, Maple Valley and Bloomer Townships (except Carson City) in Montcalm County.

Each high school principal is to submit his school's nomination to Ford's Grand Rapids office before April 1.

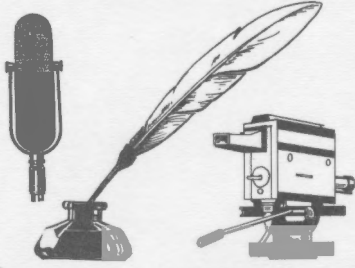
The scholarship winner will be selected by the following school officials or persons representing them: The superintendents of the Grand Rapids public schools, the schools of the Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids, the Grand Rapids Christian Schools, the Ionia County Intermediate School District, and the Kent County Intermediate School District.

###



5th District Media only

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HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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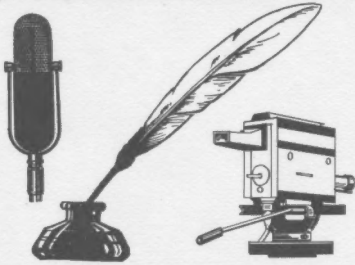
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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
Wednesday, March 7, 1973

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford

I applaud the decision of the Cost of Living Council to impose price controls on the largest oil companies.

This action, the first of its kind to be taken since Phase III was inaugurated, should convince even the most skeptical that the Administration means business with Phase III and that Phase III will have teeth in it.

As for this particular price control decision, the impact of petroleum product price increases is so far-reaching that the imposition of price controls on this industry is unquestionably justified.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON--
Wednesday, March 14, 1973

Congressman Gerald R. Ford announced today he has sent American flags commemorating the signing of the Vietnam Peace Guarantee Agreement to each mayor and village president in the Fifth District.

A total of 27 flags were mailed. The flags were flown over the Capitol on the day the peace guarantee agreement was signed, March 2. The flags are to be a symbolic link between Ford's constituents and the peace guarantee agreement.

"I had the great privilege of attending the formal signing in Paris of the Vietnam Peace Guarantee Agreement," Ford said. "As I watched Secretary of State Rogers sign on behalf of the United States, I felt that I was representing all Americans who have prayed so long and earnestly for an honorable peace, and most particularly the people of the Fifth District of Michigan who made it possible for me to witness this impressive ceremony. I hope the flags will inspire the same feeling of pride and faith in our country which I felt."

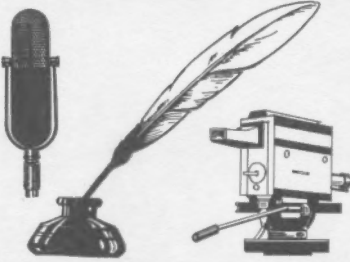
Foreign ministers who signed the peace guarantee agreement were those of the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union, China, North and South Vietnam, the Viet Cong, Canada, Hungary, Indonesia and Poland.

The declaration commits the 12 governments to total support for the Jan. 27 peace agreement and respect for the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination.

###

Fifth District only

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1973

Congressman Gerald R. Ford today pointed out he already has a bill pending in the Congress to require that railroad freight cars be equipped with reflectors or luminous material so they can be readily seen at night.

"I am informed," Ford said, "that a number of Ionia Area residents are circulating petitions asking that the sides of trains be marked with reflectors or fluorescent paint strips. I introduced a bill on April 3, 1973, that would do exactly that."

In a followup to introduction of his bill, Ford on April 9 asked House Commerce Committee Chairman Harley Staggers to request reports on the reflector bill from all interested Federal departments and agencies. This is a necessary first step in seeking enactment of legislation.

Ford said he has been trying to get railroad freight car reflector legislation passed since 1957 but has run into strong opposition in every administration.

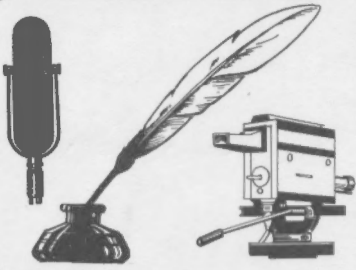
"I am pressing hard for this legislation," Ford said. "I have read the newspaper stories about the two recent fatal night-time accidents at railroad crossings in Ionia County. As people in the Ionia Area have pointed out, requiring reflectors or luminous material on freight cars would cost the railroads money but the absence of this safety feature may be costing drivers their lives."

Ford said a report made on his bill in 1965 by the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) is typical of the reaction of previous administrations to the legislation.

The report stated: "The ICC cannot at this time make a finding that the net benefits to be derived from the use of these reflectors would be commensurate with the expenditure required for their installation and maintenance."

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

**NEWS
RELEASE**

—FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON THURSDAY—

May 3, 1973

Congressman Gerald R. Ford today said he has mailed out copies of his 1973 questionnaire to the nearly 162,000 households in the Fifth Congressional District.

Ford said he is eager to take the pulse of the district on the subjects covered by the questionnaire. The topics involved range from a congressional spending ceiling to abortion and amnesty.

"As spokesman in Congress for the Fifth District, I have the responsibility of representing as faithfully as possible the views of my constituents," Ford said. "Consequently, it will be very helpful to me to get a good sampling of the opinions held by the people in my district."

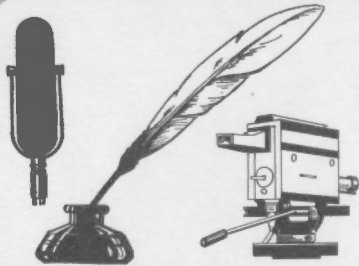
Ford said his questionnaire is based upon questions drafted by political science professors at Grand Rapids Area colleges.

"There are always those who contend some of the questions are slanted," Ford commented. "I therefore have asked the help of the political science professors in order to meet this criticism as best I can."

There are seven yes-or-no questions and two multiple choice. The multiple choice questions deal with abortion and amnesty.

The yes-or-no questions ask whether Congress should adopt an annual spending ceiling, whether Congress should give the President the power to raise or lower tariffs, whether to allow the use of Highway Trust Fund money for mass transit capital outlays, whether Congress should pass a law protecting the claimed right of newsmen not to reveal the identity of confidential news sources, whether to provide tax credits to parents to defray part of the cost of tuition paid to nonprofit nonpublic elementary and secondary schools, whether to restore the death penalty, and whether the U. S. should contribute to the postwar reconstruction of North Vietnam.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON WEDNESDAY--

May 30, 1973

House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford today announced he has appointed Katherine Siddall, 17, of East Grand Rapids, Mich., as the first Republican girl page in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Kathy will serve as a page during June and July. She actually is one of two Republican girl pages coming on duty June 1, but she is technically the first GOP girl page in the House because her appointment was approved by the House Republican Personnel Committee before that of the other GOP girl. The other Republican girl page is Nancy Sue Bailey of Birmingham, Ala., an appointee of Rep. John Buchanan.

Ford said: "I am delighted to be able to appoint Kathy as a page. She is obviously a very fine girl. I am sure this will be a great experience for her."

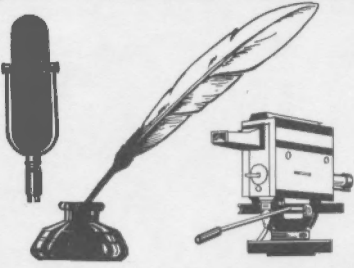
House Speaker Carl Albert recently appointed the very first House of Representatives girl page.

Ford said Kathy is an outstanding student and an all-around athlete who has won varsity letters at East Grand Rapids High School in basketball, softball, tennis and volleyball. A pitcher on the softball team, Kathy has won the team's most-valuable-player award for two years in a row.

The first House Republican girl page works in a women's apparel store after school, and on weekends does dog-census work for the City of East Grand Rapids. She hopes to become a lawyer. Kathy is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Siddall, 2715 Berwyck Rd., S.E.

Ford said the House GOP leadership plans to arrange for Republican pages to attend committee meetings and otherwise become acquainted with House legislative procedures this summer when they are not occupied with their regular duties.

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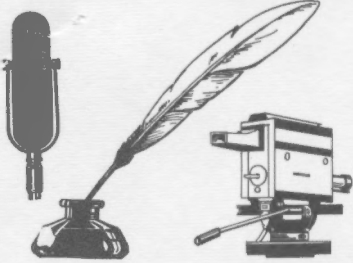
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###

Fifth District only

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON MONDAY, JUNE 25, 1973

Three out of five Fifth District residents responding to Congressman Gerald R. Ford's 1973 questionnaire would like to see the Supreme Court ruling on abortions reversed.

That became known today as Ford announced the results of his survey, tabulated in a computerized count. Ford reported that 27,770 persons had filled out his questionnaire, nearly one-third again as many as last year.

Offered three choices, only 31 per cent of those responding to Ford's question on abortion said they favor allowing the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortions to stand. Nearly half--45 per cent--favored a constitutional amendment prohibiting abortions in all but extreme circumstances while 18 per cent want a constitutional amendment restoring to the states the power to regulate abortions. The combined vote for the proposed constitutional amendments, both now in the House Judiciary Committee, was 63 per cent. The numbers do not add up to 100 per cent because the remainder did not answer the question or voted for more than one choice.

An overwhelming majority of those answering Ford's questions--a full 80 per cent--rejected the idea of U.S. aid for the postwar reconstruction of North Vietnam. The Administration has not submitted any aid proposal to Congress, but in the Paris Peace Agreement the United States agreed to provide North Vietnam with economic aid.

Two out of three of the Ford questionnaire respondents (67 per cent) voted against diversion of Highway Trust Fund monies for mass transit. The House on April 19 defeated a move to give states and cities the option of using up to \$700 million in Trust Fund money for rail and bus systems. Ford fought the move. The House last Wednesday appropriated \$980 million for mass transit from general revenues. Ford supported the legislation.

(more)



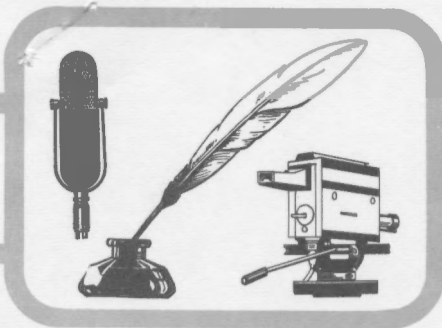
The questionnaire respondents divided sharply on the question of amnesty for deserters and draft-dodgers. Ten per cent favored unconditional amnesty while 37 per cent were for giving amnesty to those willing to serve two or three years in government service. Forty nine per cent opposed amnesty under any conditions.

Summing up the rest of the questionnaire results, Ford reported that the respondents heavily favored restoring the death penalty for certain crimes, favored Federal income tax credits for part of the cost of sending children to nonprofit nonpublic elementary and secondary schools, endorsed giving President Nixon the power to raise or lower tariffs as a tool in trade negotiations, strongly favored having Congress adopt an annual spending ceiling even at the expense of existing programs, and favored protecting the right of newsmen not to reveal the identity of news sources.

Ford is the author of a bill which would provide a Federal income tax credit of up to \$200 per child for parents sending their children to nonprofit nonpublic elementary and secondary schools. He said House Ways and Means Chairman Wilbur Mills, D-Ark., has informed him the tax credit proposal "undoubtedly" will be included in the omnibus tax reform bill to be written by Mills' committee.

Ford said this means the tax credit provision will pass the House. However, he said he could make no prediction as to what will happen to it in the Senate.

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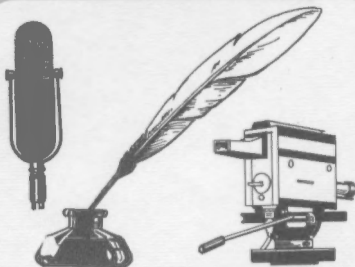
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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

6/29/73
**NEWS
RELEASE**

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford regarding Watergate and the Banking and Currency Committee

(Memo to Fifth District News Media: I understand that an attempt will be made by Bob Kleiner at a press conference Monday morning to tie me in with Watergate. The following statement is my comment on any charges that might be made in connection with the House Banking and Currency Committee vote last Oct. 3 against a committee investigation of the Watergate Affair.)

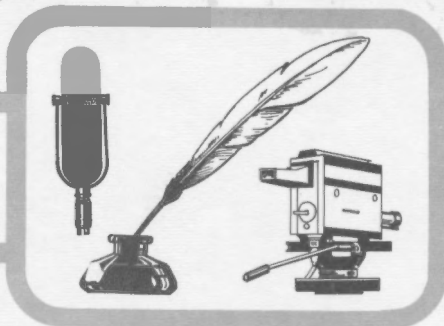
"On Oct. 3, 1972, the House Banking and Currency Committee voted 20 to 15 against conducting an investigation of the June break-in and bugging of Democratic National Headquarters.

"All 14 Republican members of the committee voted against the proposed investigation. So did six Democrats. Had these six Democrats voted with other Democratic members of the committee to proceed with the investigation, the vote would have been 21 to 14 to go ahead with the probe. It is therefore ridiculous for Fifth District Democrats--or for that matter, for Democrats anywhere--to charge that Republicans blocked an investigation of Watergate by the House Banking and Currency Committee.

"The motivation of the committee Democrats who voted against the investigation was the same as that of the Republicans. The investigation would have interfered with the proper prosecution of the suspects arrested in connection with the Watergate break-in and would have been interpreted as infringing on their constitutional right to a fair trial.

"The White House did not even discuss this matter with me in advance of the Oct. 3 meeting of the Banking and Currency Committee. The House Republican Leadership did meet with Republican members of the committee on Sept. 26 and 27 in the Office of the Republican Whip (Rep. Leslie Arends, R-Ill.) but these meetings took place at the request--I emphasize, at the request--of the committee Republicans and not on the initiative of the leadership or the White House. The Republican committee members wanted to discuss with the leadership the problem that confronted them--the fact that public committee hearings could jeopardize the rights of the Watergate defendants. I never received a request from the White House that the House Republican Leadership meet with Republican members of the House Banking and Currency Committee. For anyone to try to tie me in with Watergate because of the vote Oct. 3, 1972 in the Banking and Currency Committee against an investigation of Watergate is utterly ridiculous. Such charges are a complete fabrication without any basis in fact."

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON THURSDAY--

July 19, 1973

Congressman Gerald R. Ford will tour the Fifth Congressional District in his mobile office during the "August Recess" of Congress.

Ford will visit 19 locations in the district during the periods August 6-8 and August 23-September 1.

"I am looking forward to this opportunity to talk with my constituents," Ford said in announcing his itinerary. "It is always good to get together with the folks at home. This tour in my mobile office will give me a chance to learn more about their problems first hand."

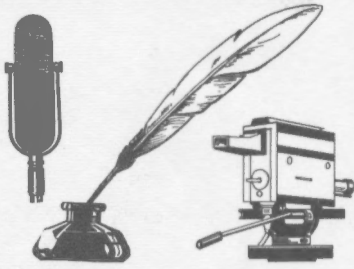
Places and times when Ford will be available to constituents in his mobile office are as follows:

August 6--Belding, in front of City Hall, 2:30 to 5 p.m.; August 7--Portland, at City Parking lot side of Kent, two blocks from Grand River Avenue, 9 to 11:30 a.m., and Lake Odessa, Bradee's Drugs parking lot, 2:30 to 5; August 8--Lowell, City parking lot on Main Street, 9 to 11:30, and Ada, Union Bank parking lot, 2:30 to 5.

August 23--Kent City, in front of Township Hall, 9 to 11:30; August 24--Fowler, southwest corner of Second and Main in front of former Fowler Hotel, 9 to 11:30; August 25--Middleville, northeast corner of High and Main in Standard Service Station, 9 to 11:30; August 27--Byron Center, Byron Center Shoprite parking lot, 9 to 11:30, and Rockford, Main Street near Don's Pharmacy, 2:30 to 5; August 28--Caledonia, Main Street by Lake Avenue Eleanor House, 9 to 11:30; and Sparta, on Main Street, 2:30 to 5; August 29--Ionia, in front of Ionia County Bank on Main Street, 9 to 11:30, and Saranac, in front of McCarty Advertising, 2:30 to 5; August 30--Cedar Springs, northwest corner of Ash and Main, by Lipperts, 9 to 11:30, and Standale, at the Plaza, 2:30 to 5; August 31--Comstock Park, at Lamoreaux Drug parking lot, 9 to 11:30, and Rogers Plaza, by the Schensul Sign, 2:30 to 5; September 1--Grandville, City Hall parking lot, 9 to 11:30.

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**NEWS
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--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON THURSDAY--
August 2, 1973

Congressman Gerald R. Ford will make 14 public appearances in the Fifth Congressional District during the August recess of Congress.

Ford will give talks to eight luncheon groups, the first before the Belding Rotary Club August 6. The other appearances, all at noon, will be: August 7, Portland Kiwanis; August 8, Lowell Rotary; August 27, Grand Rapids Downtown Kiwanis; August 28, Middleville Rotary; August 29, Ionia Rotary; August 30, Grand Rapids Downtown Rotary; August 31, Grand Rapids Roundtable.

Additional Ford appearances include a speech at 7:30 p.m. August 6 at Sparta High School cafeteria before the Peach Ridge Fruit Growers Association, a tour August 7 of the Emerging Arts Forum at 206 Wellington, S.E., Grand Rapids, and talks at 7:30 a.m. August 8 at the Pantlind Hotel before the Breakfast Club and at 6:30 p.m. August 28 before the Sparta Lions Club.

On Sept. 3, Ford will take part in the Labor Day Parade at Belding and will crown the queen chosen at the Sparta Rodeo.

These public appearances will be part of a busy schedule of Ford activities which will include a tour of the Fifth Congressional District in his mobile office August 6-8 and August 23-Sept. 1.

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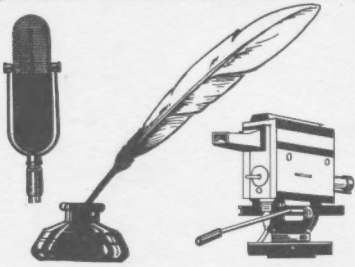
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CONGRESSMAN
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HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON FRIDAY--
August 3, 1973

It has come to my attention that some of my constituents mistakenly believe I have reversed my position regarding release of the Presidential tapes dealing with Watergate. I have not changed my position one iota. I believe the White House could have selected out those portions of the tapes relating to Watergate and that the President should have made those portions of the tapes available to the Ervin Committee and to Mr. Cox, the Special Prosecutor. I subsequently said I believed the Supreme Court on constitutional grounds would uphold the President's right to withhold the tapes. I simply meant to say that I think the President is on sound legal ground in withholding the tapes. I still believe he should have released them.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

September 5, 1973

Two appointments to the U. S. Military Academy at West Point and four appointments to the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis are available to young men of the Fifth Congressional District, Congressman Gerald R. Ford announced today.

These all-expense college scholarships are open to high school seniors and graduates who are interested in careers in the armed services of the United States. In addition, applicants must be U. S. citizens, under 22 years of age, unmarried, and able to pass the physical and scholastic requirements.

Applications for these positions may be obtained from Jerry Ford's office at 720 Federal Building, 110 Michigan Avenue, N.W., in Grand Rapids (telephone 456-9607) and from his Washington, D.C. office. The deadline for filing the applications is September 25.

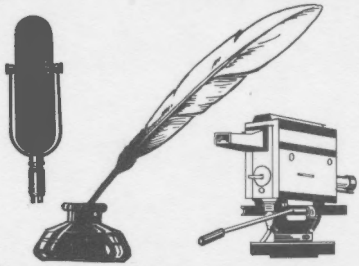
Ford suggested that boys interested in the Air Force Academy also fill out applications in the event openings develop.

Appointments are also available to the Merchant Marine and Coast Guard Academies, but the selection to those institutions is not limited to a Congressional district. Michigan Congressmen may nominate up to ten candidates for the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York to compete state-wide for 12 available scholarships. The Coast Guard makes its own selection of cadets to attend the Academy at New London, Connecticut from a nation-wide competition.

Selection of Fifth District candidates is based on the results of an open, competitive Civil Service Examination. This examination will be given on Saturday, September 29 in Grand Rapids and other cities throughout the nation. Make-up tests for those candidates unable to attend the September 29 examination will be given on Saturday, November 3. Such applications will be accepted as late as October 30.

"The opportunities for training and a career offered by the United States Military, Naval, Air Force, Merchant Marine, and Coast Guard Academies should be seriously considered by many young men in the Fifth Congressional District," Rep. Ford said. "These appointments offer a wonderful educational opportunity and an honorable career in the service of our country. I urge all qualified young men who are interested in this worthwhile profession leading to a bachelor's degree in science and a commission in one of the Services, to obtain further information and an application form as soon as possible."

* * * * *



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

September 12, 1973

Two appointments to the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, four appointments to the U. S. Naval Academy to Annapolis, and one appointment to the U. S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs are available to young men of the Fifth Congressional District, Congressman Gerald R. Ford announced today.

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**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT--

Congressman Gerald R. Ford today made public a General Accounting Office report of findings based on an investigation into certain aspects of the Grand Rapids, Mich., Model Cities Program.

Ford, who had initiated the GAO investigation, said he felt the GAO probe was "most thorough and very far-reaching."

As for the GAO findings regarding the Economic Development program, Ford commented:

"I found those portions of the report dealing with loan delinquency and consulting services very disturbing. I am encouraged by the fact that corrective action is provided for in the third-year action contract given the EDC. I believe the GAO investigation which I requested was instrumental in bringing about these remedial measures."

The GAO investigated charges involving EDC's handling of questionable loan transactions and consultant contracts, alleged conflicts of interest, and alleged kickbacks of funds to obtain loans.

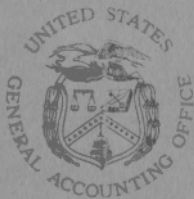
Comptroller General Elmer B. Staats informed Ford that the GAO probe showed the EDC "did not always adhere to its loan guidelines" in deciding whether recipients might be in a position to repay loans.

However, Staats also said GAO found no basis for four of five charges concerning questionable grants and consultant contracts--although the services provided by one consultant were "of poor quality."

GAO said there was "no evidence" of any kickbacks.

GAO referred questions involving possible conflict of interest to the City Attorney, who ruled that "the situations were either not conflicts or were conflicts not contrary to the public interest."

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Review Of Certain Aspects Of
The Grand Rapids, Michigan,
Model Cities Program B-171500

Department of Housing and
Urban Development

*BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL
OF THE UNITED STATES*

NOV. 1 1973





COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

B-171500

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
Minority Leader
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Ford:

By letter dated February 27, 1973, you requested GAO to investigate the Model Cities Program in Grand Rapids, Michigan. During subsequent discussions with your office, we agreed to review certain activities of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC), contractor for the economic development project of the Grand Rapids Model Cities Program, and to obtain information on Freedom Homes, Inc., contractor for a home construction and rehabilitation project of the program. You gave us various documents containing charges of improprieties in EDC's handling of funds, which we agreed to review. The charges were categorized as

- questionable loan transactions,
- questionable grants and consultant contracts,
- conflicts of interest, and
- kickbacks of funds to obtain loans.

Our review of the charges concerning questionable loan transactions disclosed that EDC did not always adhere to its loan guidelines which required it to evaluate the potential recipients' abilities to repay loans. As of May 31, 1973, payments on the loans we reviewed were as much as 13 months delinquent. EDC has since taken legal action to recover the amounts outstanding on certain loans. (See appendix, p. 4.)

We found no basis for four of five charges concerning questionable grants and consultant contracts. We found evidence, however, that part of the fifth charge was correct--services provided to EDC by a consultant were of poor quality. (See appendix, p. 9.)

The contract between EDC and the city of Grand Rapids provides that possible conflict-of-interest situations are to be referred to the Grand Rapids city attorney for a final

determination. We gave the information we had obtained concerning possible conflict-of-interest situations to the city attorney to examine. He ruled that the situations were either not conflicts or were conflicts not contrary to the public interest. An official of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which is responsible for administering the Model Cities Program at the Federal level, concurred with these rulings. (See appendix, p. 17.)

We found no evidence to support the three charges that loan recipients had made kickbacks to obtain loans from EDC. In two instances, the individuals named in the charges had not received EDC loans. The third individual had received a loan from EDC, but we found no evidence that a kickback had been made. (See appendix, p. 20.)

We are recommending to the Secretary of HUD that the Department follow up to evaluate the adequacy of the actions taken by the city and EDC to correct the problems noted in EDC's administration of the economic development project. (See appendix, p. 25.)

The information we obtained concerning the home construction and rehabilitation project operated by Freedom Homes, Inc., showed that little had been accomplished for the amount of funds spent. During the project's 2-year existence, Freedom Homes, Inc., spent \$193,300 and only partially completed the construction of two homes. (See appendix, p. 26.) Details of our findings are contained in the appendix to this letter.

At your request, we discussed with the mayor of Grand Rapids the results of our review and our tentative conclusions. The city manager and a representative of your office also attended this briefing.

As agreed with your office, we have not given the officials of HUD; the city of Grand Rapids; EDC; or Freedom Homes, Inc.; or the individuals named in the report the opportunity to examine and comment on the matters in this report. However, we have discussed our observations with them and have considered their views in finalizing this report.

Also as agreed with your office, we will provide the Secretary of HUD with copies of the report. We will also provide copies to the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations and Government Operations.

We do not plan to distribute this report further unless you agree or publicly announce its contents.

Sincerely yours,

James B. Staats

Comptroller General
of the United States

ABBREVIATIONS

CDA	city development agency
CPA	city public affairs
HUD	United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
FRA	Federal Reserve Administration
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
...	...
...	...
...	...

C o n t e n t s

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ABBREVIATIONS

CDA	city demonstration agency
CPA	certified public accountant
EDC	Economic Development Corporation
FHA	Federal Housing Administration
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
TMA	technical and management assistance
USI	Urban Systems, Incorporated

The development and implementation of the Model Cities Program at the local level is the responsibility of a city demonstration agency (CDA) which, in Grand Rapids, is the Urban Systems, Incorporated. The Grand Rapids program was initiated in October 1970. As of June 30, 1973, CDA had incurred costs of about \$4.7 million.

Although CDA has local responsibility for the program, the various projects are usually contracted out.

Also as agreed with your office, we will provide the Secretary of HUD with copies of the report. We will also provide copies to the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations and Government Operations.

We do not plan to distribute this report further unless you agree to publicly announce its contents.

Sincerely yours,



Comptroller General
of the United States

REVIEW OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE GRAND RAPIDS,

MICHIGAN, MODEL CITIES PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

By letter dated February 27, 1973, Congressman Gerald R. Ford requested us to investigate the Model Cities Program in Grand Rapids, Michigan. During subsequent discussions with his office, we agreed to review certain activities of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC), contractor for the economic development project of the Grand Rapids Model Cities Program, and to obtain information on Freedom Homes, Inc., contractor for a home construction and rehabilitation project of the program. Mr. Ford gave us various documents containing charges of improprieties in EDC's handling of funds, which we agreed to review. The charges were categorized as

- questionable loan transactions,
- questionable grants and consultant contracts,
- conflicts of interest, and
- kickbacks of funds to obtain loans.

The Model Cities Program was established by title I of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3301). A local Model Cities Program consists of (1) a 5-year comprehensive demonstration plan describing the needs of the city in terms of projects required to make a substantial impact on social, economic, and physical problems of the city and (2) annual "action" plans which outline projects to be implemented each year. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)--responsible for administering the Model Cities Program at the Federal level--allocates funds to the cities for these plans.

The development and implementation of the Model Cities Program at the local level is the responsibility of a city demonstration agency (CDA) which, in Grand Rapids, is an administrative unit of the city. The Grand Rapids program was initiated in October 1970. As of June 30, 1973, CDA had incurred costs of about \$4.7 million.

Although CDA has local responsibility for the program, the various projects are usually contracted out.

EDC

CDA awarded a contract on July 27, 1971, to EDC--a private, nonprofit corporation--to develop, assist, and coordinate economic efforts and improve the economic base of the Grand Rapids Model Neighborhood citizens and area. Specifically, EDC's major objectives--stated in its first action-year contract and carried over to its second-year contract--were to

- provide residents with a source of investment capital, expert business assistance, and management training;
- coordinate business development programs in the Model Neighborhood area;
- create plans for new investment in the Model Neighborhood area;
- increase resident ownership and employment in Model Neighborhood businesses; and
- provide consumer education.

EDC received and used funds through the second action year ended December 31, 1972, as follows:

Source of funds:	
Model Cities grants	\$630,857
Interest from loans and repayment of principal	<u>16,465</u>
Total	<u>\$647,322</u>

Application of funds:	
Loans	\$221,006
Grants and contracts for special projects	53,433
Contracts for professional consulting services	151,576
Operating costs	217,092
Excess receipts over disbursements	<u>4,215</u>
Total	<u>\$647,322</u>

In July 1973 CDA approved a third action-year contract with EDC amounting to \$544,000 for January 1, 1973, through June 30, 1974.

In analyzing EDC activities, we reviewed loans, expenditures for professional and consultant services, special projects, and other administrative items. We also analyzed results of (1) reviews by the HUD Office of Audit and a firm of certified public accountants (CPA) engaged by CDA and (2) CDA evaluations. (See p. 22.) The detailed results of our review of EDC's activities are discussed in the following sections.

Questionable loan transactions

One of EDC's major objectives is to provide a source of investment capital to businesses and residents of the Model Neighborhood area. The resources to accomplish this objective were provided through three funds:

- Seed Money Revolving Trust Fund--to be used only for loans on projects requiring additional funding from public and/or private business development sources. Funds were to be used for projects in the Model Neighborhood area or for projects employing Model Neighborhood citizens.
- Discretionary Revolving Trust Fund--to be used to finance projects, special studies, or research projects and to make low-interest loans to Model Neighborhood area businessmen when funds from other sources were not available.
- Special Projects Fund--to be used for business development ventures relating to youths aged 13 to 21.

During the first 2 action years (a 17-month period), EDC made 29 loans totaling about \$221,000 and guaranteed 2 bank loans totaling \$3,021. Additional amounts provided under these loans after January 1, 1973, brought the total loans as of May 31, 1973, to about \$250,000. Their status as of May 31, 1973, follows.

<u>Status</u>	<u>Loans</u>	<u>Loan amount</u>	<u>Loan balance</u>
Paid in full	1	\$ 600	-
Payments current	7	118,792	\$ 95,253
Payments delinquent:			
2 months or less	5	22,772	20,535
Over 2 months	<u>16</u>	<u>108,209</u>	<u>104,928</u>
Total	<u>29</u>	<u>\$250,373</u>	<u>\$220,716</u>

In addition, payments were delinquent on the guaranteed loans as of May 31, 1973.

EDC has taken action on several of the delinquent loans. For example:

- It is taking legal action to recover \$17,316 outstanding on 3 of the 16 loans delinquent over 2 months and \$1,004 on 1 of the 2 delinquent guaranteed loans.
- We were informed that legal action has been initiated on the remaining guaranteed loan--for which it has a \$2,017 liability--to secure from the loan recipient the musical instruments acquired with the loan funds and pledged as collateral for the loan.
- One recipient with a loan balance of \$5,798 has gone through bankruptcy proceedings. According to EDC officials, EDC will write off this amount.

EDC's Executive Director informed us that as of July 23, 1973, EDC had no plans to take legal action on the remaining delinquent loans.

Our review primarily evaluated the charges relating to certain loans. As agreed with Congressman Ford's office, we also reviewed a limited number of loans not related to the charges to determine whether EDC was complying with its loan guidelines. We analyzed EDC loan files and certain loan recipient records and discussed pertinent matters with EDC officials and the loan recipients.

The results of our review of individual charges are discussed below.

CHARGE--EDC granted Mrs. Thelma Frakes a loan insufficient to meet the financial needs of her business. In addition, EDC required Mrs. Frakes to sign two security agreements.

EDC loaned Mrs. Frakes \$5,825 as partial financing for a restaurant without obtaining assurance that the remainder of her financial needs--\$6,802--could be obtained through a bank and/or the Small Business Administration. Mrs. Frakes was unable to obtain the additional financing needed, and her business failed after 7 months. EDC's Executive Director stated that Mrs. Frakes' business failed because it was undercapitalized and that EDC acted prematurely in approving her loan without first obtaining assurance that additional financing could be obtained. As of May 31, 1973, Mrs. Frakes had repaid \$291 but was 6 months delinquent in her payments.

EDC did require Mrs. Frakes to sign two security agreements. The purpose of the second agreement was to list, by serial number, specific items of equipment used as collateral because the first security agreement did not contain such a complete list of the collateral.

CHARGE--EDC made loans to two musical groups--the Patterns and the Mississippi River--and a painter--Ed Wilson & Sons--that were questionable because the residences or places of business cited in the loan applications appeared to be unoccupied or occupied by other than the loan recipients.

EDC loaned \$1,100 to the Patterns to finance a tour. As of May 31, 1973, the group had repaid \$228 and was, according to EDC records, 3 months delinquent in its repayments. On August 27, 1973, however, EDC told us that the Patterns would be given credit for musical performances at EDC events in the Model Cities area and that this credit would, in effect, bring them up to date on their payments.

EDC's loan guidelines provide that before a loan is approved, EDC is to evaluate the potential recipient's ability to repay by obtaining and analyzing information on his projected income. We noted, however, that EDC did not adhere to these guidelines when it approved the loan to the Patterns.

Mr. Champion, EDC's Executive Director, stated that the address shown on the Patterns' application apparently was accurate, as he recently corresponded with them using that address. On July 31, 1973, we contacted a member of the Patterns at that address.

Although EDC initially approved a loan of \$2,017 to the Mississippi River group for purchasing musical equipment, the group subsequently obtained an EDC-guaranteed loan through a local bank. The group defaulted on the bank loan, and as of May 31, 1973, EDC had paid the bank \$188 under its loan guarantee. At the time of our review, EDC was attempting to repossess the group's musical instruments.

EDC's loan files indicated that before guaranteeing the loan EDC obtained information to show that the group had a

contract to entertain for an indefinite time at \$140 a week. Loan payments are \$94 a month. Also, EDC had a copy of a note and security agreement between the group and the bank on which the musical instruments were listed as collateral.

The leader of the Mississippi River group, Glen Gray (whose address was used on the loan documents), subsequently moved. However, Mr. Champion stated that he has contacted him about repaying the loan. In addition, EDC has the names and addresses of the other members of the group. On August 27, 1973, Mr. Champion advised us that legal action had been initiated to secure from the group the collateral for the loan.

On April 5, 1972, EDC loaned Ed Wilson \$5,421 to finance his painting and decorating business. Wilson, however, had not made any payments on the loan as of May 31, 1973, and, at that time, was 13 months delinquent in his payments.

Our review indicated that before approving the loan EDC obtained data on the financial feasibility of Wilson's business and how the loan proceeds would be used. During our review, we visited the address given by Wilson in his loan application and found it unoccupied. We were unable to locate Wilson to determine why he had not made any payments on his loan or to ascertain his views as to why the business venture apparently failed. EDC subsequently contacted him in connection with the legal action it was taking to obtain repayment of the loan.

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Our review of other loans disclosed one outside of the scope of EDC's program. In April 1972 EDC loaned \$600 to an individual to pay his tuition at a local college. Although recognizing that this loan was improper, an EDC official stated that it was approved for humanitarian reasons. The loan has been repaid in full.

In addition to using the revolving trust funds to make loans to businesses, EDC was authorized to use these funds to develop projects. The charges relating to one of these projects and our evaluation follow.

CHARGE--EDC improperly used loan funds to establish the Multi-Plex Development Corporation to purchase an interest in local businesses. In addition, there was a question as to what happened to the difference (\$6,000) between the \$15,900 purchase price for the Varsity Grill and the \$21,900 received from EDC for this purchase.

In March 1972 EDC did establish the Multi-Plex Development Corporation--a wholly owned profit corporation--to purchase an interest in local businesses. EDC considered this a desirable means for perpetuating and expanding business development after the conclusion of the Model Cities Program. Multi-Plex received \$71,900 from EDC--\$50,000 from the Discretionary Revolving Trust Fund in May 1972 and \$21,900 from the Seed Money Revolving Trust Fund in July 1972. With these funds, Multi-Plex purchased the Varsity Grill and a 51-percent interest in the Grand Rapids Times weekly newspaper.

According to HUD guidelines, a profit corporation may be established to acquire equity in individual businesses to stimulate economic growth, if a substantial number of Model Neighborhood residents own stock in the corporation and thereby control its operations. However, because Multi-Plex had not implemented its plan to sell stock to the residents, the city of Grand Rapids required EDC to give up its equity interest in the two businesses. To accomplish this, late in 1972 all of Multi-Plex's assets were transferred to EDC which, in turn, sold the Varsity Grill and converted its interest in the newspaper into a loan to the former owner.

Multi-Plex originally had an option to purchase the Varsity Grill for \$15,900 and a lot adjacent to it for \$6,000 for a total of \$21,900--the amount received from EDC. However, Multi-Plex purchased only the Varsity Grill. On October 10, 1972, while EDC was assuming the assets of Multi-Plex, the \$6,000 for the purchase of the vacant lot was returned to EDC by Multi-Plex.

Questionable grants and consultant contracts

In addition to providing a source of investment capital through the revolving funds, EDC was authorized to award contracts to third parties and fund special projects to accomplish its objectives, such as

- providing expert business assistance and management training,
- coordinating business development programs, and
- providing consumer education.

As of December 31, 1972, EDC had awarded 13 contracts and had spent about \$192,000 under them. In addition, EDC spent about \$12,000 on three special projects.

We reviewed the award and administration of contracts and special projects for which there were charges of improprieties. We also reviewed contracts on which there were no such charges to determine whether any problems existed. We evaluated contracting procedures used by EDC; analyzed contractor records; evaluated services provided, when possible; and discussed such matters with EDC, CDA, and contractor officials.

The charges and the results of our analysis follow.

CHARGE--EDC paid between \$2,700 and \$3,700 to Mrs. Patricia Mathis to conduct business training seminars, even though she did not have any special training or experience. Further, EDC did not terminate or change Mrs. Mathis' contract despite the disappointing attendance at her classes.

Our analysis did not disclose any information to question Mrs. Mathis' qualifications to teach a course in record-keeping and business management. However, we found that the Grand Rapids school system offered a similar course for substantially less than the \$3,700 paid to Mrs. Mathis. For example, the school system could have provided the course for 10 students at a maximum cost of \$200.



As charged, Mrs. Mathis' classes had very limited attendance. Available records for 15 of her 20 classes showed that no one attended 10 and only 1 to 7 attended the other 5. The contract did not require Mrs. Mathis to guarantee a specific level of attendance at her classes and allowed EDC to terminate the contract only if Mrs. Mathis did not perform satisfactorily.

We discussed this matter with the CDA Director, who admitted that it would have been good business practice to include a provision in the contract whereby EDC could terminate or reduce payments to Mrs. Mathis under these conditions. He stated it was an administrative oversight on his part for not recommending such a provision before contract approval. The EDC Executive Director told us that future contracts will include proper controls.

CHARGE--EDC approved a contract or grant to Consultants and Counseling, Inc.--a nonexistent corporation--to prepare a directory of minority businesses. Also, EDC directly paid Mrs. Samson Gary rather than Consultants and Counseling, Inc.

On November 1, 1971, EDC awarded a \$9,448 contract to Grand Rapids Consultants and Counseling, Inc., which--contrary to the charge--was a registered Michigan corporation as of May 10, 1971. The contract, awarded 5 months after the company was incorporated, required the contractor to obtain information necessary to establish a management information system useful to the Model Cities Program. The corporation was not required to and did not prepare a minority business directory. EDC's records showed that payments were made directly to the corporation, not to Mrs. Gary, and that the corporation paid Mrs. Gary a weekly salary of \$150.

CHARGE--EDC paid Alphonse Lewis \$19,950 for legal services rendered during 1972 while he may have been suspended from professional practice because of a conviction of income tax evasion.

According to Lewis, he billed EDC \$17,700 for legal services performed in 1972. However, EDC paid Lewis \$13,000--the maximum amount allowed for services provided

under his contracts for January 3, 1972, through December 31, 1972. According to the Michigan Bar Association, Lewis had been continually licensed to practice law in Michigan since at least January 1, 1971.

CHARGE--Rodella Horton, an EDC loan recipient, catered numerous luncheons for EDC and was paid by EDC for more meals than actually served.

According to both Rodella Horton and EDC's Executive Director, EDC had an informal agreement to pay for the number of meals ordered even though the number of guests attending the luncheons was less. Records were not available to determine the number of meals ordered or served. The records did show that she received about \$1,700 for catering meals in calendar year 1972.

CHARGE--EDC awarded noncompetitive contracts to Urban Systems, Inc. (USI) contrary to CDA regulations. Further, EDC paid USI substantial sums--possibly as much as \$120,000--for consulting services performed sloppily.

We found that EDC had noncompetitively awarded USI two contracts with a total value, as amended, of \$99,220. However, at the time--September 1971 and April 1972--CDA had not adopted its policy that contracts over \$1,000 should be awarded competitively. CDA did not adopt this policy until July 1972, and such contractors as EDC were not required to implement the policy until late 1972.

USI, a Maryland corporation, was organized in 1966 to provide research and consulting services to private and Governmental organizations involved in finding solutions to the social and economic problems of our cities.

EDC initially awarded a contract to USI in September 1971 to provide technical assistance in

--preparing and negotiating portions of the contract between EDC and CDA,

--planning and developing an orientation and procedures manual,

- preparing EDC's work program,
- establishing the initial economic development strategy,
- developing management and staff training programs,
- designing a management information system and consumer service program, and
- developing detailed guidelines for spending trust funds.

Under the contract, EDC paid USI \$20,833 for services provided which, according to EDC's Executive Director, were satisfactorily completed.

To evaluate the types of expenditures charged, we attempted to obtain USI's records relating to this contract from John Huffner, USI's president. However, Huffner advised us that these records were stored at his residence in the Washington, D.C., area. Huffner left Grand Rapids after closing his office on March 31, 1973. We contacted him at his residence in Maryland on June 7, 1973, and he agreed to give us the records on the first contract. However, Huffner failed to provide the records and we have been unable to contact him again.

Before leaving Grand Rapids, Huffner did furnish us records on the second contract awarded by EDC in April 1972. Under this contract, valued at \$77,378, USI was to design, organize, and administer a technical and management assistance (TMA) delivery system to support EDC-designated projects--loan recipients and other businesses.

According to our review of the services provided and the costs incurred by USI under the second contract:

- USI did not provide the full range of services required by its contract and, as charged, those services provided were of poor quality.
- EDC paid USI without verifying whether the billed amounts under this cost-reimbursable contract represented actual costs incurred in performing the contract.

The TMA system, as designed by USI, was to provide EDC loan recipients with a wide range of technical and management assistance needed to establish businesses and assist them in dealing with day-to-day operating problems. The broad design of the system called for "project managers" to work closely with businesses to determine their needs and then bring in specialists to provide the technical assistance needed.

Although a broad range of services was to be provided, a CDA evaluation report dated March 12, 1973, showed USI rarely performed more than bookkeeping service for most EDC loan recipients. According to 27 businesses polled by CDA evaluators, 17 had been given help with their bookkeeping and 7 had received assistance in advertising and promotion. According to the CDA evaluation, these businesses did not use the USI assistance in other management areas, primarily because they felt they knew more about managing their own businesses than the USI staff did.

In evaluating the quality of the USI services, we reviewed the accounting records of several businesses whose records were maintained by USI personnel. We found that they contained numerous weaknesses, including the following, in applying generally accepted accounting practices.

- Improper computation of owners' capital and depreciation accounts.
- Erroneous journal entries.
- Improperly stated asset and liability accounts.
- Numerous computation errors.

In addition, EDC personnel stated that for loan recipients served, USI had not

- provided EDC with required profit-and-loss statements on a timely basis,
- prepared records in accordance with EDC guidelines, and
- closed books at the end of the year, thus requiring the EDC accountant to perform this function.

In commenting on the quality of services provided, Huffner stated that his employees made many mistakes because they came from the Model Cities Neighborhood and had little experience in providing TMA services. He stated that he believed his employees' identification with the area and with businessmen were important factors which offset the disadvantage of being unskilled.

Under its second contract, USI was to maintain accounting and expense records to document and support all costs incurred. Requests for payment to EDC under the contract were to be submitted for actual costs incurred. Mr. Huffner stated that USI's requests to EDC for payment were based on the EDC Executive Director's advice as to the amount EDC had available to pay USI rather than on the basis of costs incurred. The Executive Director stated that he had not asked for data to support the costs incurred because no one at CDA had asked for it and he assumed USI had such data on file at its office, as required by its contract.

Our review of USI records showed certain accounting records had not been posted since August 1972, and at the time of our review invoices were unavailable to support all the transactions in the records. As a result, we were unable to verify all the costs incurred by USI under the contract.

However, our review did show several questionable transactions, as follows:

--USI received a \$15,000 check from EDC; however, Huffner deposited \$13,900 in USI's bank account. In tracing the disposition of the remaining \$1,100, we found it had been recorded in USI's books as expenditures for travel and supplies. Huffner advised us that the \$1,100 was not deposited because he used it to pay personal expenses. He stated the entries in USI's books were in error and that the amount should have been charged to his salary account.

--USI deducted Federal income tax from its employees' salaries but did not deposit the money to the credit of the Government. Huffner stated USI owes over \$5,000 in back taxes because it did not have sufficient funds to make the payments. We referred this

matter to the Detroit District Office of the Internal Revenue Service. The Detroit Office was unable to locate Huffner in Michigan and on June 29, 1973, requested their Baltimore District Office to pursue the matter further since Huffner apparently lives in Brinklow, Maryland.

--USI purchased and recorded as an asset of the corporation a motorcycle costing \$1,600 for the personal use of Huffner. Huffner agreed the transaction was recorded incorrectly. He stated the purchase price should have been charged to his salary account.

--USI loaned \$444 to an EDC board member. Huffner stated he made the loan as a personal favor and had not received repayment as of May 7, 1973. This appears to be an ineligible cost for reimbursement under the contract.

Huffner agreed that records supporting expenditures under this TMA contract were poor. He stated that he was unaware of their condition until he examined the books in January 1973. (USI's records were maintained by an accountant on his staff.) Huffner also stated that he had worked more hours than he had been paid for under the contract and that entries in his books would support this. His records showed about \$8,900 was due him for hours worked from inception of the contract in April 1972 through August 1972 and that he had been paid about \$6,000 for his services for the period. However, his records showed no entries of hours worked to support payments of \$6,400 from September through December 1972.

According to EDC records, EDC still owes USI \$4,900 under this contract. EDC's Executive Director stated on July 23, 1973, that before making final payment EDC will thoroughly review USI's records to insure that all costs are properly supported and allowable under terms of the contract. He specifically stated that he would disallow reimbursement of the \$444 loan to an EDC Board member.

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We identified two other instances where contracts were awarded for services that could have been obtained free or at less cost from other sources. In addition, one of the

contracts was for services outside the scope of EDA's objectives.

EDC awarded a contract for \$3,700 to provide Model Neighborhood businessmen instructions and materials to inscribe an identifying mark on their equipment so that it could be identified if stolen. This service could have been obtained free from the Independent Insurance Agents of Grand Rapids. EDC's Executive Director, Mr. Champion, stated that, although he was aware of the free service, he favored award of the contract because the service would be taken to the businesses rather than the businesses having to take the initiative to obtain the services.

EDC also awarded a contract for \$5,500 to a community center to purchase typewriters and teach typewriter repair and related skills. The center, however, did not teach the course in typewriter repair because after the award of the contract the center determined that the Grand Rapids area had little or no demand for typewriter repairmen. Instead, since typewriters had been purchased, the center taught typing courses. We found that the Grand Rapids school system taught such courses at little or no cost. In our opinion, such training would more appropriately be sponsored by the Model Cities Comprehensive Manpower Program--responsible for providing job assistance and training to Model Neighborhood residents.

Mr. Champion stated that a typewriter repair course would have been within the scope of EDC's objectives, since it would have prepared individuals to go into the typewriter repair business. However, he stated that after the contract was awarded, the decision to go ahead with the typing course--which was outside the scope of EDC's objectives--was made to make use of the typewriters.

Conflicts of interest

Under conflict-of-interest provisions incorporated in EDC's contracts, members of EDC, CDA, and the city's governing bodies or their employees are not allowed to receive any benefit, directly or indirectly, from the contracts. Neither are they allowed to own or acquire any personal interest in any property, contract, or proposed contract which would conflict with the performance of their duties. Any interest on the part of EDC or its employees must be disclosed to CDA. The contract provides, however, that the conflict-of-interest provisions shall be interpreted so as not to impede the statutory requirement that maximum opportunity be provided for employment of and participation by residents of the Model Neighborhood area. HUD guidelines require CDA to take appropriate action to insure compliance.

Seven conflict-of-interest situations related to EDC's activities were alleged. EDC's Executive Director stated that, although he did not formally ask for CDA's opinion on whether the situations constituted conflicts of interest, he had discussed most of the instances with the CDA Director.

CDA's Director stated he was aware of the possible conflict-of-interest situations. Further, he stated the cases were not referred to the city attorney or HUD for a legal determination because he had determined that they were not contrary to the public interest. He stated that he had discussed several of the situations with the HUD official responsible for administering the Grand Rapids Model Cities Program and that the HUD official concurred with his position.

We discussed the possible conflicts with a HUD official who advised us that the CDA Director followed the normal procedure for resolving possible conflict-of-interest situations. She stated that CDA is responsible for insuring that the Model Cities Program is administered according to HUD and city guidelines and that HUD does not require possible conflict-of-interest situations to be submitted to it for legal determinations. She also stated that she concurred with the city attorney's opinions we requested regarding the cases described below.

On July 23, 1973, we requested an opinion from the Grand Rapids city attorney on situations which were charged

to be conflicts of interest. The charges, the facts concerning each situation, and the city attorney's opinions follow.

CHARGE--EDC Board members served as members of the Board of Directors of the Multi-Plex Development Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of EDC.

Although EDC Board members had served in the dual capacity, as charged, the Grand Rapids city attorney concluded that this did not constitute a conflict of interest since EDC wholly owned Multi-Plex. He stated that interlocking directorships between a parent company and a subsidiary are common and do not create conflict situations. Multi-Plex--no longer a functioning organization--was required by the city to return all its assets to EDC. (See p. 8.)

CHARGE--Mr. Champion, EDC's Executive Director, was affiliated with Action Unlimited, an EDC contractor.

CDA awarded a contract to EDC on July 27, 1971. In accordance with HUD guidelines, Champion resigned from Action Unlimited on August 1, 1971, to avoid any conflict of interest.

CHARGE--EDC awarded a \$3,700 contract to Mrs. Patricia Mathis, the wife of EDC's accountant, to teach a course in recordkeeping and business management.

As charged, this contract was awarded to the wife of an EDC staff member, Mr. Mathis. However, the Grand Rapids city attorney stated that neither HUD nor city conflict-of-interest provisions were violated by awarding contracts to relatives of staff members who have no control over contractual matters. The attorney also stated that the most this would represent is nepotism, which is not illegal. Services under this contract were completed, and final payment was made by EDC in late 1972.

CHARGE--Under an EDC contract with the Grand Rapids Consultants and Counseling, Inc., Mrs. Ledora Gary, wife of EDC's business analyst, was employed as project director.

Mrs. Gary was employed as the project director. However, as in the case above, the Grand Rapids city attorney stated

that neither HUD nor city conflict-of-interest provisions preclude awarding contracts to relatives of staff members if the staff members have no responsibility for administering contracts. Services under this \$9,448 contract were completed in May 1972.

CHARGE--Several people in responsible positions--Samson Gary, EDC's business analyst; Alphonse Lewis, under contract to EDC for legal services; and Wilbur Warren, board member of the Model Neighborhood Citizen Committee--were on the board of directors of Telecommunications Actions Committee when it received a grant of \$2,665 from EDC.

The above-named individuals were involved with both organizations. Gary subsequently resigned from the Telecommunications Actions Committee--a nonprofit corporation whose purpose is to encourage radio and television industries to become constructively involved in meeting the communications needs of minorities. As of July 1973 the other individuals were still affiliated with both organizations. Of the \$2,665 received, the Committee's expenditures as of June 15, 1973, were \$1,380 for administrative costs and reimbursement of some travel expenses.

The Grand Rapids city attorney stated that, since the Committee was a nonprofit organization and the individuals involved received no salary, this would not constitute a conflict of interest under HUD or city guidelines.

CHARGE--EDC's Executive Director is affiliated with the Small Business League which is renting office space to EDC for \$650 per month.

The Executive Director of EDC is President of the Small Business League, and EDC does rent space from that nonprofit corporation. In May 1973 EDC was paying \$400 a month rent to the League. The CPA firm engaged by CDA found that the rent paid by EDC was reasonable for the space occupied. The Grand Rapids city attorney stated that, since the League was a nonprofit organization with goals similar to EDC's and since the rent paid was reasonable, HUD and city conflict-of-interest provisions were not violated.

CHARGE--Rodella Horton--a business associate of EDC's Executive Director, Mr. Champion--received an EDC loan.

EDC did loan \$13,354 to Rodella Horton in March 1972. Although Miss Horton's records were incomplete, we were informed that she used the loan proceeds for (1) payment of outstanding debts, (2) a downpayment on some business property, and (3) working capital.

She is a business associate of Champion, as she is on the board of directors of the Small Business League, of which Champion is President. In addition, she holds a real estate license under Champion Real Estate, owned by Champion. Miss Horton did not become a League board member until May 1972--3 months after receiving her loan--and her real estate license was not transferred to Champion Real Estate until August 1972--5 months after receiving her loan. The Grand Rapids city attorney stated that, under the circumstances, neither HUD nor city conflict-of-interest provisions were violated by this loan.

Kickbacks

Our review of the three specific charges did not disclose any kickbacks. When possible, we analyzed receipts and disbursements of selected businesses, reviewed and compared checks written by EDC to the accounting records of various loan recipients, and discussed with loan recipients the possibility of kickbacks. To determine whether any potential kickback situations, other than the three charged, existed, we also reviewed loan application files and talked to applicants who had not received loans. We found no evidence that any kickbacks had occurred.

The specific charges and the results of our review follow.

CHARGE--Jerry Conaty claimed that in April 1971 he gave Lessley Fisher \$5,000 to give to Champion in return for a loan from EDC. Also, Conaty charged that five other individuals were to receive kickbacks when the money from the loan was received.

During discussions with Conaty, we were informed that the alleged \$5,000 cash payment was made to Fisher to be given to Champion in return for a loan. Conaty also stated that

Fisher had repaid him \$2,700 in cash. However, both Fisher and Champion stated that there was no truth to Conaty's charge. Because documentation was lacking, we were unable to determine whether the alleged \$5,000 payment had actually been made to obtain a loan from EDC. We noted, however, that as of July 23, 1973, neither Conaty nor Fisher had received a loan from EDC.

CHARGE--A member of EDC's loan review committee told Luther Von Miller his loan would be approved if he gave her a table and two chairs.

In November 1972 Von Miller requested the EDC loan review committee to approve a loan for about \$36,000 to expand his furniture manufacturing business. The committee, after discussing Von Miller's proposal, requested the EDC staff to obtain additional information. Von Miller informed us that the charge concerning the gift of a table and two chairs to obtain a loan misrepresented the facts. He stated that for promotional purposes he offered to sell, at a discount, furniture which he manufactured to several Grand Rapids citizens, including an EDC board member. In retrospect, Von Miller believed he should not have offered his furniture for sale to such people because his intentions could have been misinterpreted. As of July 23, 1973, Von Miller had not received a loan from EDC.

CHARGE--EDC's Executive Director told Silas Deans that he could obtain a larger loan if he would make EDC a partner in his business.

EDC's Executive Director told us that neither he nor anyone at EDC had made such a statement to Deans. Deans applied to EDC for a loan of \$75,000 to start a business of making and distributing posters. EDC's Business Research Analyst told us that EDC approved a loan for \$9,930 because (1) Deans could not support the need for the proposed \$75,000 loan, (2) Deans had only limited collateral to secure the loan, and (3) a single loan of \$75,000 would have rapidly depleted EDC's loan funds. As of May 31, 1973, Deans was 8 months delinquent in his loan payments. EDC took legal action to recover the balance due from him in December 1972. Deans was incarcerated because of another matter at the time of our review, and, as agreed with Congressman Ford's office, we did not attempt to contact him for clarification or any additional details on this charge.

Prior reviews of EDC

The HUD Office of Audit reviewed the Grand Rapids Model Cities Program for the 3 years ended September 30, 1972. The HUD audit concentrated on evaluating CDA activities and operations. At the request of CDA, a CPA firm reviewed EDC's financial transactions for June 17 through December 31, 1971, and for the year ended December 31, 1972. CDA also evaluated EDC operations for both the first and second action years.

Audits by CPA firm

The CPA firm's February 24, 1972, report on EDC's financial condition as of December 31, 1971, stated that all costs incurred by EDC were eligible and in accordance with contractual terms. The report pointed out that some of EDC's accounting procedures generally failed to comply with HUD regulations. The auditors noted that at the completion of their review some corrective action had been taken and the problems with the remaining accounting procedures could be readily resolved.

The auditors' report covering EDC's financial condition as of December 31, 1972, was issued on March 14, 1973. Although stating that EDC's accounting policies and procedures substantially met all HUD requirements, the auditors

- questioned the propriety of using loan funds for purposes other than granting loans;
- made observations concerning possible conflicts of interest;
- suggested EDC try to reduce travel costs; and
- recommended advertising be done on a planned, selective basis.

The auditors mentioned three possible conflict-of-interest situations in their report which are also discussed in our report. In summary, the auditors stated:

"Some of the projects undertaken, because of the costs involved, have seriously impaired the Agency's [EDC's] ability to grant loans to neighborhood businesses. The [EDC] Board should be encouraged to establish priorities for the use of available funds and systematically develop a program that will maximize benefits to those for whom the entire program was initiated."

CDA evaluations

CDA's first-year evaluation report of EDC's activities was dated June 20, 1972. In this report, the CDA Evaluation Task Force concluded

- too many of the loan recipients were non-Model Neighborhood residents,
- too many of the businesses assisted by loans were located outside the Model Neighborhood area,
- the type and amount of technical assistance given to businesses needed to be reevaluated, and
- loan procedures needed to be shortened and made more flexible.

Its second-year evaluation report, dated March 12, 1973, pointed out that EDC committed a major part of its three funds to a series of transactions which strained the guidelines established for the use of these funds, including

- loaning money to non-Model Neighborhood residents or to businesses outside the Model Neighborhood area and
- financing contracts for professional services, consumer services, and other projects.

The report concluded that resources which could have been available for loans were put to other uses and spent in ways which would not return the resources to the revolving funds.



EDC officials' comments

Mr. Champion stated that actions had been or would be taken to overcome problems identified as a result of evaluations of EDC activities. He stated that EDC's third action-year contract had been revised to specifically limit the use of loan funds for anything but loans and business development activities.

Under business development activities, the contract allows up to \$40,000 to be used for market analysis and feasibility studies for large commercial and industrial ventures. Also, under the contract EDC will be required to develop new loan guidelines establishing preference criteria for using loan funds, including insuring that Model Neighborhood residents and businesses are given preference on loans. The guidelines require also that EDC act on loan applications within 30 days after receipt.

Mr. Champion stated that most technical assistance given to businessmen will be provided by EDC staff rather than under consultant contracts, as previously done. Mr. Champion stated also that the CDA policies and procedures manual now requires advance CDA approval for certain travel and that he is reevaluating and revising EDC's advertising policy.

Conclusions

Our review disclosed several problems in EDC's administration of the Grand Rapids Model Cities economic development project and confirmed the validity of certain aspects of charges made against EDC. Additional questions were raised concerning EDC's operations in reports on reviews made by other review groups.

On May 23, 1973, as requested by Congressman Ford's office, we briefed the mayor of Grand Rapids on the results of our review. The city manager also attended this briefing, at which we pointed out that many of the problems with EDC's loan and contracting practices had previously been reported to the city in CDA's evaluation report and in the CPA firm's report on its financial audit of EDC. We stated that the reports contained many recommendations which should be carefully considered in arriving at EDC's third action-year

contract. The mayor stated that he would fully consider our findings and the recommendations in the other reports. After we completed our fieldwork, the city awarded EDC a third action-year contract for \$544,000. According to the CDA Director, provisions of this contract, and a closer monitoring of EDC activities by CDA, should preclude many of the past problems. For instance, he stated that the contract language on use of loan funds is much more specific and that other actions were being taken, such as training the EDC staff and loan review committee and requiring EDC to obtain CDA approval before incurring travel costs in some instances. He added that the contract allows greater city involvement earlier in EDC's decisionmaking process.

Recommendation to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

We recommend that HUD follow up to evaluate the adequacy of the actions taken by CDA and EDC to correct the problems noted in EDC's administration of the economic development project.

FREEDOM HOMES, INC.

CDA awarded Freedom Homes, Inc., a contract in March 1971--with maximum allowable expenditures of \$125,000--to improve housing in the Model Neighborhood. The major objectives of the Freedom Homes project during its first action year were to

- construct at least 20 new single-family homes,
- rehabilitate for sale at least 24 homes, and
- provide employment and on-the-job training for at least 6 Model Neighborhood residents.

The city subsequently awarded Freedom Homes a contract for the second action year--January 1, 1972, through December 31, 1972--with maximum allowable expenditures of \$187,000. The contract period was later extended through February 28, 1973. Under the second-year contract, Freedom Homes was to construct at least 50 homes, rehabilitate at least 50 homes, and employ and train at least 12 Model Neighborhood residents.

According to CDA records, Freedom Homes had spent \$193,300 as of June 13, 1973, under the two contracts, as follows:

Salaries	\$ 84,550
Administrative expenses	45,200
Construction expenses	<u>63,550</u>
 Total	 <u>\$193,300</u>

The CDA Director advised us that the city did not award Freedom Homes a contract for the third action year because it believed Freedom Homes had not satisfactorily achieved its objectives under the first two contracts.

Our review of the activities of Freedom Homes was limited to examining CDA's files and evaluation reports and discussing them with CDA officials. In April 1973 we requested CDA to obtain Freedom Homes' records--reportedly held by the Chairman of Freedom Homes. However, as of June 14, 1973, CDA was unable to obtain these records.

CDA evaluation of Freedom Homes, Inc.

The CDA Evaluation Task Force report on Freedom Homes, issued in January 1973, pointed out that, as of December 1972, Freedom Homes had not built or rehabilitated any homes, although it had begun construction on two new homes during December. The report cited two major reasons for this lack of activity:

- CDA did not release money for the revolving funds until November 1972 because Freedom Homes did not have an adequate accounting system.
- Freedom Homes did not take the basic steps necessary to get a construction program underway.

Adequacy of accounting systems

Before CDA awarded the first action-year contract, a CPA firm evaluated Freedom Homes' accounting, reporting, and internal control systems to determine whether they met city and HUD requirements. In a December 18, 1970, letter to CDA, the firm reported that Freedom Homes' systems and procedures did not comply with HUD regulations and made specific recommendations on the changes needed.

In March 1971--when the first action-year contract was awarded--CDA instructed Freedom Homes to implement the CPA firm's recommendations to improve its financial control system. In July 1971 Freedom Homes submitted to CDA proposed guidelines for using construction and rehabilitation funds. These guidelines were approved by the city in November 1971 and by HUD in mid-December 1971.

In December 1971 Freedom Homes requested an advance of funds from CDA to begin construction and rehabilitation. However, before releasing any money for these purposes, CDA requested Freedom Homes to insure that its fiscal control system met HUD standards. In January 1972 Freedom Homes wrote to CDA describing the improvements in its system.

Subsequently, CDA asked the CPA firm to certify that Freedom Homes' accounting system now met HUD requirements. The CPA firm, however, could not certify the system because essential bookkeeping had not been done for 6 months.

Freedom Homes did not finish updating its accounting records and implementing the recommended improvements in the fiscal control system until October 1972. The CPA firm subsequently certified the system as complying with HUD regulations. CDA released funds to Freedom Homes on November 28, 1972--20 months after awarding the first contract--and construction was started on two homes in December 1972. As of September 14, 1973, the two homes had been completed by CDA and were available for sale for \$17,500 and \$18,000.

Mortgage financing

One of the more important tasks preliminary to construction or rehabilitation was to obtain a Federal Housing Administration (FHA) commitment to insure the full amount of the mortgages for the proposed units. Freedom Homes did not contact FHA until August 1972. FHA would not make a commitment to insure the full amount of the mortgages for the proposed homes because the value of the needed mortgages substantially exceeded the market value of the homes in the neighborhood. This problem was substantially overcome when CDA obtained an FHA commitment to insure the mortgages for up to \$17,500 for each home. CDA agreed to use its funds to underwrite the difference between the amounts insured by FHA and the selling price of the homes.

CDA Director's comments

The CDA Director stated that he continued funding Freedom Homes through February 1973 because enough progress was being made or promised to justify a certain amount of optimism. He stated that he had believed that, given additional time, the contractor would accomplish some tangible benefits. However, he later concluded that the program would have to be re-evaluated and a new contractor found if any benefits were to be derived.