



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



January 15, 1958

The second session of the 85th Congress opened on Tuesday but the highlight of the week was President Eisenhower's State of the Union Speech on Thursday. I was particularly impressed with the President's emphasis on a positive program for waging total peace. It was reassuring to have his appraisal of our present military strength and the job that has to be done to maintain superiority over the Soviet Union. But it is most significant that he challenged the Soviets to work with us toward a solution of the basic problem of world peace.

The message was a factual, non-partisan appraisal of the problems we face because of Soviet threats. The speech forcefully suggests an 8-point program to meet the challenge and insure our security and stability.

First of all, Ike called for an end to any harmful inter-service rivalries and announced that he will soon make specific recommendations for reorganization of the Department of Defense to obtain the most efficient and economical direction of our military power. In this age of total, nuclear warfare it is becoming increasingly difficult to departmentalize functions and missions of the various services. New weapons and methods of warfare necessitate a realignment in organization; total war requires unified direction and 100 per cent cooperation. It must be pointed out that the present organizational structure of the Department of Defense is based on laws enacted by Congress in the last 11 years. Ike will urge changes but Congress must act affirmatively.

To guarantee the security of the nation at the present time, the President called for a speed-up in the development and production of the most modern weapons and for improvement in all types of defensive and retaliatory action. He made it clear that any potential attacker would face the prospect of total annihilation. We in the Congress must respond by authorizing every needed improvement and by providing the essential funds required for an adequate defense in the world as it exists today.

I am sure that Sputnik and the Intercontinental missile has destroyed the last vestige of isolationism in our country. The ICBM and missile-launching submarines remove from us any protective significance of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Our military bases must be far-flung and we must have strong allies all around the world. We must continue to strengthen our Mutual Security program which has enabled our friends to grow strong militarily and economically and which has provided us with a ring of steel around the iron curtain in the form of over 250 military bases.

The President also called for an extension of our mutual trade agreements. We and our allies still prefer "trade, not aid," and we must expand our world trade if we are to continue to expand our own domestic economy.

In his fifth point, the President recognized the obvious truth that scientific knowledge and accomplishment know no national boundary lines. For our own selfish interests, the Congress must authorize the exchange of appropriate scientific and technical information with friendly countries.

The President acknowledged that we have problems in the area of education and research and has presented a four-year, billion dollar program to improve teacher quality and student opportunities. While there is no question that additional funds are needed, I don't think we can solve all our problems in the field of education simply by spending more money. The use to which these additional funds are put and the source from which they should come must be carefully studied. As Mr. Eisenhower pointed out, to complete the job will require hard work on the part of all and as he said, "perhaps most important of all--the student himself, with his bag of books and his homework." Or, as another has written, what we undoubtedly need is, "more readin', writin', and 'rithmetic, and less rockin', rollin', and swingin'."

Mr. Eisenhower has not discarded his fundamental belief in a balanced budget. Every effort will be made to keep expenditures within income during fiscal year 1959. This may require some severe reductions in non-defense and in less essential defense items, and we must apply "stern tests of priority" if the tax burden is not to be increased. None of us want to see a complete swing from the "spirit of economy" of 1957 to a "spree of spending" in 1958. As a member of the Committee on Appropriations, I intend to scrutinize each and every budget item and to judge them by a stern test of priority.

But most important of all, any defense program or preparation for war must be considered fundamentally as a necessary evil, far from the kind of world situation we desire. We must never let any nation or people feel that the United States will not talk over an international problem nor undertake discussions which will make for better understanding between peoples. It is true this must be done from a position of strength, but we must be willing to talk and to cooperate. So, Mr. Eisenhower called for "Works of Peace" and invited the Soviet people to join with us in a great work of and for humanity. Our long-term program and guiding principles are understanding, cooperation, disarmament, peace. For these we must continue to strive.



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January 22, 1958

The first appropriation bill of the second session of the 85th Congress is being considered by the House of Representatives this week. It is the request of the President for an additional \$1.26 billion for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending June 30. This action is necessary to some extent to repair the damage done by the Congress last summer when it reduced President Eisenhower's budget request for military funds by \$1.2 billion. Dollarwise, the President is now in effect asking for funds to make up for the House and Senate cutbacks of last session. Interestingly enough those who were so anxious to cut the military budget last June are extremely quiet this January.

The primary emphasis in the first appropriation bill of the session is the maintenance of our military superiority over the Soviet Union. It will put the Strategic Air Command on a more alert basis and improve its state of readiness. New bases will be constructed to provide for further dispersal of big bomber units and tanker refueling units will be relocated farther north. About \$90 million is allocated to four Air Force Bases in Michigan which are a vital part of the Strategic Air Command's retaliation "knock-out" punch.

These additional, essential funds will provide a powerful stimulant for our missile program. Millions will be spent not only for research and development, but also for the actual procurement of missiles and ground equipment. While much of this money will go to the Air Force, over \$100 million will be expended to expedite the production of the Army's "Jupiter," a liquid-propellant IRBM, which will be manufactured by the Chrysler Corporation in Michigan. This means that Chrysler in our state will expand its labor force from 4500 to 9000 within the next 12 months.

The Navy Department will receive an additional \$350 million from this Supplemental, a substantial part of which will go for construction of nuclear-powered submarines equipped with Polaris Ballistic Missiles. The Polaris is a 1500-mile missile which can be fired from a submerged submarine. Many authorities insist that in the long run this development of the A-Submarine-Polaris combination will be the best missile program for the United States. It will combine secrecy and surprise, mobility and speed, with an accurate and effective destructive weapon.

THE BUDGET MESSAGE: Last week President Eisenhower presented the Congress with a sound, balanced budget which will meet our military and our domestic needs without any increase in Federal Taxes. The budget always reflects the most pressing national problems

and illustrates changes in emphasis and in our collective thinking. In the next fiscal year, 64 percent of our expenditures will be for our own national security. But the change in emphasis is most striking. There is hardly a production model aircraft to be purchased by the Air Force with 1959 funds that was included in its 1955 program. All new fighters and bombers will have supersonic speeds, capable of launching air-to-surface or air-to-air missiles and will carry nuclear weapons. For the total missile program, about 90 percent of the money to be spent in fiscal 1959 is for weapons which were not in production in operational quantities in 1955.

With over \$16 billion budgeted for civil benefits (labor and welfare, commerce and housing, veterans services and benefits, agriculture and natural resources), the President is making recommendation to reduce some of these programs and to transfer greater responsibility from the Federal level to State and local governments, and to private enterprise. Ike pointed out that it is not only necessary to curtail some Federal activity, but that "the continued strength of our federal system also depends upon reinforcing the administrative and fiscal ability of the states to carry out their responsibilities."

THE DEBT LIMIT: Many of us are disappointed that it was necessary for the Administration to seek a temporary increase in the statutory debt limit. While personally I would like to see the figure remain at 275 billion, the urgency for action in increasing our military power and the necessity of giving the Treasury Department adequate leeway in the management of our fiscal affairs will probably force us to make this temporary change in the debt limit. President Eisenhower has consistently demonstrated a deep sense of fiscal responsibility and only the realities of the times prompt this emergency and temporary increase in the debt limit.

AGRICULTURAL MESSAGE: The President's message on Agriculture pointed out some encouraging facts and made some controversial recommendations. Prices received by farmers on the average are running 3 percent above those of a year ago; 75 percent of our farms are owned by those who operate them (the highest percentage on record), and the total debt of our farm people equals only 11 per cent of total assets as compared with 19 per cent before World War II.

The President would terminate the short-term Acreage Reserve Program of the Soil Bank and strengthen the long-term Conservation Reserve. While in Kent County there were 311 agreements on the 1957 crop in the Soil Bank, this has fallen to 63 for the 1958 crop. This is in line with the general trend throughout the country. The President would shift the emphasis of the Soil Bank away from the Acreage Reserve, which is aimed at reducing surplus of particular crops to the longer-term Conservation Reserve, aimed at overall production adjustment.



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January 30, 1958



On December 18th the Secretary of Agriculture announced that effective April 1, the Federal price support on dairy products would be reduced from 83 per cent to 75 percent of parity. This will have the effect of lowering the support price for 3.95 (butterfat content) manufacturing milk from \$3.25 to about \$3.02 per hundred. The President further recommended in his special message on Agriculture that the Secretary be authorized to cut Federal supports to as far as 60 percent of parity which today would mean about \$2.37 for the 3.95 milk.

Repercussions from this action and recommendation are now being felt in many Congressmen's offices including our own. It is obvious that there will be a powerful demand that Congress do something, and four alternatives seem to present themselves. We can let the Secretary's order stand by taking no action whatsoever; the Congress may adopt the President's recommendation in which case there may be further reductions in price supports, or the Congress may pass some stop-gap legislation nullifying the Secretary's milk order and maintaining the support price at \$3.25.

There is one other possibility and that is to move in a new direction with a view to getting the Federal Government out of the dairy business. Legislation has been introduced to establish a "self-help" dairy stabilization program. This plan, which has the backing of the National Milk Producers Federation, would shift the problem of dairy product surpluses from the government to the producers. A 15-member Dairy Stabilization Board, appointed by the President from nominees selected by dairy farmers, would support milk and butterfat prices at a minimum figure to insure efficient and sufficient production. This Board would buy and sell dairy products in order to stabilize the price in much the same manner as the Department of Agriculture does at the present time. It would have the responsibility of disposing of any surplus domestically or on the world market. But the essential difference is this: the program would be financed by an assessment of about 25¢ per hundredweight on producers of milk. The cost of the program would not be borne by the Federal taxpayers but rather by the producers themselves. It is proposed that there be a penalty fee on those who produce a surplus, and it is contended that this plan would save the government \$300 million a year. Incidentally, the legislation calls for a referendum of milk producers before the program could become effective.

While neither this specific bill nor the "self-help" idea in general may be the answer to the "farm problem," I think it is noteworthy that we do have a constructive alternative to the present system and that in this case the National Milk Producers Federation

is advocating a plan which shifts the responsibility for dairy product surpluses from the Government to the producers. I believe the Congress should give serious consideration to this "self-help" concept, not only for dairy products but for all major agricultural commodities.

CONGRESS AND THE MILITARY: Since General James Gavin announced his intention to resign, there has been much speculation as to reasons, and the President and those in charge of the Department of Defense have been blamed in varying degrees for the loss of an outstanding military leader. I was impressed, therefore, to learn from a responsible source that Congress must share the responsibility for this loss. It was reported that "General Gavin says privately he expects a 'couple of generals and a slew of colonels' to resign from the Army very soon. The reason: They, too, are fed up with 'hot and cold running' Congresses which one year slash military funds, the next, demand to know why the U. S. lags in Defense."

As you may recall, in the last session of the Congress President Eisenhower's National Defense budget was slashed \$1.2 billion by the House and Senate. Now in this session of the Congress many who spearheaded that effort to "meat-axe" the budget for the Army, Navy, and Air Force are critical of our military readiness.

THE PUBLIC AND THE ARMY: Frequently we hear criticism of how the Army places its draftees and/or enlistees. The popular picture is of a highly talented individual, that would unmistakably find success in the civilian world, pushing a broom in his barracks as permanent detail man.

I was pleased, therefore, to receive a letter last week from a father in the Fifth District complimenting the Army in this regard. The father wrote: "Incidentally, I suspect that you receive considerable complaints and criticisms on the Army's handling and assigning of draftees. In (his son's) case, both he and I feel that the Army has done a good job for him. His M. S. U. degree is in Sociology, Psychology, Personnel Counseling, and the Army has him working in a psychiatric clinic, doing exactly what he studied for. He feels that he is doing a worthwhile job for the Army and getting excellent training for his future civilian job, both at the same time. In short, this is a compliment rather than a criticism of the Army." We sent the letter to the Secretary of the Army, Wilbur Brucker of Michigan.

RECENT VISITORS: From Holland: Wendell Miles; from Spring Lake: Charles E. Hiker; from Grand Haven: Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Stearns; from Grand Rapids: Grant Harrison, Henry Greene, Ralph Johnson, John Carlson, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Gentry, Thomas K. Cushman, John Vander Ark, Robert Howlett, Major F. B. Clark, and Mrs. and Mrs. Hugo B. Hammerslag; from Grandville: Jane Mac Eachron.



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February 6, 1958



During the past week my committee on Defense Department appropriations has been meeting 4 to 5 hours each day with an imposing array of witnesses on behalf of Ike's \$40 billion budget for the Armed Forces. The list of those urging Congress to support adequate funds for the Army, Navy, and Air Force was headed by Secretary of Defense Mc Elroy, General Twining, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mr. Allen Dulles, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the heads of Army, Navy, and Air Force intelligence, and Mr. Nelson Rockefeller, chief author of the Rockefeller Report on "International Security: the Military Aspect."

THE OFFICE: Since reporting to you a week ago there have come to my office copies of three special Presidential messages, approximately 280 letters, and one box of Louisiana Yams. The Presidential messages are a challenge for constructive legislative action; the letters provide an opportunity to assist and explain, while the yams represent a bit of Louisiana boasting made real in a material way.

Rep. T. A. Thompson of Louisiana, who had these sweetpotatoes distributed to each office reported in the Congressional Record that "our Louisiana yam is a sweetpotato, but the appellation of yam is applied to the scientifically developed sweetpotato which can be grown to perfection only in certain soil-rich areas of our state." The Ford family enjoyed the treat so we won't quarrel with the speech -- especially since we grow no sweetpotatoes in Michigan.

In speaking of potatoes I should report that on Tuesday of this week free potato soup was served in the House restaurant through arrangements by Rep. Carroll Kearns of New Jersey who wants to make this delicacy a permanent item on the menu along with our famous Michigan bean soup.

EDUCATION: The President's message on Education emphasized the national security requirements of our educational system and called for an expansion of the activities of the National Science Foundation and of the programs of the Department. The Keynote of the Administration's approach is a method of cooperative action with state and local governments, and private enterprise aimed at improving instruction and encouraging more students to specialize especially in science, mathematics, and foreign languages. President Eisenhower made clear that this is an emergency program in which the Federal Government is to assist, not control or supplant, present efforts in this direction. The Congress will analyze the specific proposals, but it is too early to predict what final action will result.

LABOR - MANAGEMENT: In order to curb some of the abuses brought to light by the Mc

Clellan Senate Committee, the President sent to Congress his recommendations for remedial legislation in the area of labor-management relations. These recommendations have been turned over to the respective House and Senate Committees and some action may be expected this session.

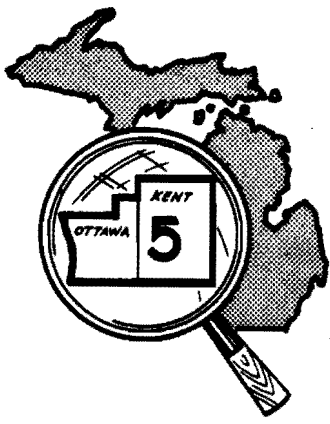
RECIPROCAL TRADE: The Trade Agreements Act expires on June 30th and the President has asked for a five-year extension. If our own domestic economy is to remain healthy we must continue to expand our world markets, reduce international trade barriers, and meet the threat of Soviet economic penetration. It goes without saying that our domestic industries must be protected by "peril point" and "escape clause" provisions.

CORRESPONDENCE: Our correspondence last week covered a wide range of subject-matter with a number of letters on H. R. 8002 (the accrued expenditures budget bill) and H. R. 8308 (to provide for humane slaughtering of livestock), and H. R. 4662 (to make some educational expenses of teachers a deductible item for income tax purposes). We have also heard from some dairy farmers on the proposed reduction in dairy price supports.

IN OTHER COMMITTEES: The Committee on the Judiciary tabled bills to designate 15 special days on the calendar. Included were "Friendship Day," "Indian Day," and "Shut-In's Day".....The same committee is holding hearings on bills to strengthen Federal laws against the dissemination of obscene literature.....The Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries is studying legislation to require a qualified pilot on larger merchant vessels on the Great Lakes and to clarify the regulations on preventing collisions on the Great Lakes and connecting waters to be sure that the rules apply to foreign vessels -- both bills are looking to the completion of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

ON THE FLOOR: The House voted approval of a \$1.26 billion supplemental appropriations bill for national defense and agreed to raising the public debt limit from \$275 billion to \$280 billion.....H. R. 8381 was passed to correct unintended benefits and hardships and to make technical amendments in the Internal Revenue Code.....The Reverend Dr. Bernard Braskamp, Chaplain of the House, was complimented for initiating a practice of prefacing his prayers at the opening of each session of the House with some words from the Scripture.

AGRICULTURAL YEARBOOKS: I have on hand about 175 copies of the Agricultural Yearbook for 1957 entitled "Soils," along with limited supplies of the 1956 book ("Diseases of Animals"), the 1955 book ("Water"), and the 1954 Yearbook entitled "Marketing." If you can use one or more of these, please let me know at: 351 House Office Building, Washington, D. C.



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February 13, 1958



"Explorer is now circling the globe at 18,000 mph and it is reported that there may be as many as two dozen American satellites in space before this year is over. While at this writing "Vanguard" is yet to be launched, our situation is strengthened and encouraging. Scientific information of vital significance is being gathered and the propaganda value of the Soviet satellites has been materially decreased.

Public officials and news commentators have pointed out many of the implications of this success. I want to add but one comment: We have heard much criticism of rivalry among the military services, the duplication of effort, **and the lack of cooperation** between the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Without condoning any unjustifiable examples of these, I think that in the field of research and development it becomes obvious that healthy competition may be highly productive. When we are breaking into a new and untested area of development there are often a number of avenues of approach. With the Army, Navy, and Air Force each attacking the problem in a different manner we may get at the answer more quickly. If one approach proves fruitless, another may be successful. "Explorer" came out of just this sort of situation. How would we feel today if all our "eggs" had been in the "Vanguard basket?" In this instance, America is far better off that there was competition between the Army and Navy.

But once the answer has been found or the best solution determined, one would expect a totally coordinated effort to carry the program forward for the best interests of the country as a whole.

PAID TELEVISION: Recently we received a number of letters opposing subscription television. A neighboring office of a Congressman from a southern state had over 5,000 letters on this in the past two weeks. This present interest is generated by the announcement that the Federal Communications Commission is considering the authorization of a three-year trial of subscription television in about 20 metropolitan areas that have at least four TV stations. In each of these communities only one station would be experimenting with paid TV, however.

Many objections have been raised to this proposal and legislation has been introduced to prohibit paid TV in the home.

The House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce has held extensive hearings on the subject to determine whether FCC has the power to authorize paid TV, whether the law is broad enough to control such a system, and whether paid TV should be prohibited.

The prospects of subscription TV point out that there is no truth to the charge that every set owner will be required to pay for the programs he now sees free. FCC has stated that it does not intend to permit, during the trial period or any other time, anything which would destroy the free programs sponsored by advertisers. Subscription programs would be available to those who are willing to pay for the type of special programs to be offered by the new system.

In an executive session last Thursday the House Committee adopted a resolution stating that the "public interest would not be served by the granting of authorizations for subscription television operations as contemplated by the FCC," and that the Commission should not act until the Congress has specifically empowered it to permit paid TV.

In reply to the letters we have received I have stated that I am opposed to any plan which will eliminate free television in the home, and that I will support any legislation recommended by the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce which will insure to all TV owners and viewers the system of free television we now enjoy.

HUMANE SLAUGHTERING: The House took action last Tuesday on an issue which has been on the legislative shelf for some years, humane slaughtering of livestock. The bill as passed is a compromise developed by the Committee on Agriculture which stated that it had adopted "a middle course between a number of irreconcilable points of views" and that the bill "is probably not entirely satisfactory to any of the protagonists in this matter."

The bill, H. R. 8308, establishes a national policy that livestock should be slaughtered in the most humane practicable manner. Under its terms, beginning on January 1, 1960, the Federal Government will buy its meat and livestock products only from processors whose methods of slaughter are found by the Secretary of Agriculture to be the most humane practicable. The bill is now before the Senate for action.

WOOL IMPORT DUTY SUSPENDED: The second major legislative item of the past week was a bill to suspend for three years the import duty (tax) on certain coarse wools used in the manufacture of rugs and carpets. The bill, H. R. 2151, was designed to provide our domestic carpet industry with sources of raw supplies so that it may compete on an equal basis with the increasing imports of foreign-made carpets. The Committee on Ways and Means pointed out that the domestic carpet industry is faced with a squeeze which has placed it in an adverse position competitively because it cannot obtain economically the raw wool which it needs to compete, and, on the other hand, it is faced with mounting competition from imported carpets. The bill was adopted by a vote of 250 to 129 with Your Congressman voting in the affirmative.



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February 20, 1958



While back home last week I was not surprised to find a general deep concern over the unemployment situation and the shortened work week. A year ago we heard much about "economy in Government" and the \$72 billion budget. Today our people are raising questions about the economy of the country and what can be done to meet the hardships which result when family income is temporarily lessened or stopped.

On Lincoln's birthday, President Eisenhower issued a statement on this problem and said that "all of us are deeply concerned, ...but from the best advice I can get...I believe that we have had most of our bad news on the unemployment front. I am convinced that we are not facing a prolonged downswing in activity. Every indication is that March will commence to see the start of a pickup in job opportunities."

Mr. Eisenhower also stated it is the firm policy of the Government to foster economic recovery in every sound way. Ike's policy has been high-lighted by a number of specific programs which have produced and will continue to produce widely beneficial effects on our economy.

Various steps have been taken or recommended to stimulate the housing industry. While new housing units are currently being started at the rate of nearly 1 million per year, the FHA has lowered its minimum required downpayments and rescinded its rule that closing costs be paid in cash. Additional funds amounting to \$177 million have been released for military housing and other Federal programs.

The Federal Reserve authorities have reduced the discount rates and have increased the availability of credit, steps which should help promote a higher level of home construction and building generally. Any increase in the rate of home construction will especially have encouraging results in western Michigan's furniture and appliance industries.

HIGHWAYS: The Federal-aid highway program is providing jobs throughout the United States in construction and the supplying of material. Federal expenditures for highway construction in this fiscal year will equal \$1,771 million with the amount increasing to \$2,382 million in the fiscal year which begins July 1st. The funds apportioned to the State of Michigan in fiscal year 1957 were \$70.4 million with an increase to \$90.3 million in 1958, and \$102 million earmarked to our State for fiscal '59. By December 31, 1957 Michigan had obligated 54 percent of its fiscal '58 federal funds for use on the interstate highway system (90 - 10 matching) and 51 percent of the Federal money for the primary, secondary, and urban road system (50 - 50 matching).

At this writing there is available for Michigan 70.9 million in Federal highway money for new projects not yet selected by the State and submitted to the Federal Highway Administrator for initial approval. There is an additional amount of \$61.8 million available for Michigan highway projects which have had initial approval and for which the State is presently preparing plans, cost estimates, and acquiring rights of way for final authorization. This makes a total of \$139 million of Federal money apportioned to Michigan but not yet obligated for expenditure. While there is no danger that Michigan will lose this allotment of Federal money, it does appear that this is one area in which the State could accelerate its activity to increase employment.

URBAN RENEWAL: At the end of fiscal year 1957 there were 178 projects underway to eliminate slums and blighted areas. By June 30 of this year that number will be 258, and on June 30, 1959 it is estimated that 353 projects will be underway or completed. Your Congressman is working to expedite approval of the Grand Rapids plan.

DEFENSE CONTRACTS: The Department of Defense will increase its expenditures for goods, materials, and construction by \$5.8 billion in the calendar year 1958 over 1957. Contracts placed in 1957 totaled 17.8 billion while those in 1958 will amount to \$23.6 billion. These new defense contracts will result in increased employment in the industrial plants of Kent and Ottawa counties.

OTHER HELPS: Federal expenditures for other public works will increase from \$1,290 million in fiscal 1957 to \$1,970 million in 1959. These will include money for hospitals, schools, and other government buildings.

It is evident that the Federal Government is assuming a major responsibility in the recovery of our economy. As your Representative in the Congress, I will continue to do all I can to support these sound programs and to encourage such new ones as may appear desirable.

SWEET POTATOES: One can never be too careful with his facts when he has such discerning readers as the "Washington Review" enjoys. While I double-checked with the Department of Agriculture before writing recently that "we grow no sweet potatoes in Michigan," I was taken to task by two readers. One in Zeeland wrote, "I have raised sweet potatoes in my garden for about 4 or 5 years -- about a bushel a year." Another from Nunica reported, "Please do not say we don't grow sweet potatoes in your district because I grew enough for a couple of meals in our garden last year. However, the plants came from Virginia...P. S. They didn't get very big."



Your Washington Review

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Congressman
JERRY FORD

February 27, 1958



The really big news out of Washington at this writing is not politics but the weather. We shared in the snow (up to 18 inches around the Ford home) and the cold (0° early Monday morning).

To add to the difficulties (and all a Congressman's problems are not legislative) the thermostat on our furnace at home went out-of-order and the temperature indoors also fell rapidly. We did get that fixed eventually and then found that the battery in the car was dead and that snow plows just don't come by the house. To top it off little Steve (21 months) developed a high fever and an upset stomach, and the Doctor thought possibly he had appendicitis. (He didn't.)

A breakdown in transportation kept thousands of government employees home for two days and closed the Washington schools for three. By Thursday, however, the sun shown brightly, the snow shrunk, and the Government was again in full operation.

PINE SHOOT MOTH: In adopting the 1959 Appropriation bill for the Department of Interior and related agencies last week, the House of Representatives approved the expenditure of approximately \$25,000 for continuing the research in control and eradication of the European Pine Shoot Moth. This amount was included in the budget for forest insect research and will be spent largely in the experimental work which has been going on since April 1956 in Ottawa County. Two years ago I was successful in my plea to the Congress for funds to undertake the essential task of determining a method for controlling an insect which was causing irreparable damage to thousands of pine trees in Michigan. The forestry entomologists have had appreciable success in the past two years, but the work must continue if the data already accumulated is to bear practical results.

OTTAWA'S SOIL BANK PROBLEM: Because Ottawa County was declared a "commercial corn area" after the closing date for signing wheat acreage contracts, many farmers find themselves in a position of having to restrict their corn acreage to 60 percent of their normal crop in order to draw benefits under the Soil Bank Act. This restriction on corn was not a part of the contract. It appears, therefore, that the Government has "changed the rules after the game started."

I have tried to convince the Department of Agriculture that it should straighten this out within the framework of the law. Having been informed that this was legally impossible, I introduced two bills to correct the situation. One bill applies only to Ottawa County while the other covers 38 counties in the country which find themselves in a similar predicament.

Last week I appeared twice before the House Committee on Agriculture in support of these bills to point out the necessity of prompt action to eliminate an obvious injustice. The Committee was most receptive and cooperative. I'm confident it will report some remedial legislation and I hope we can obtain House and Senate action in time to be of practical value to the farmers of Ottawa County.

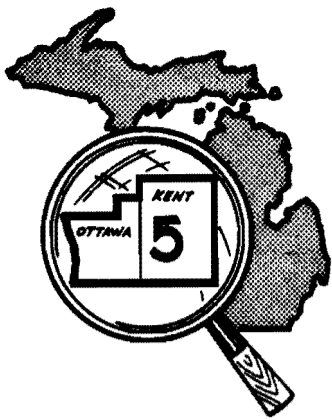
VETERANS' LAW: The House has approved H. R. 9700 which consolidates into one act all of the laws administered by the Veterans' Administration. Containing 421 pages with a 41-page comprehensive index, this is the first complete codification of Veterans' laws in our history. The enactment of this bill will be of great assistance to all veterans and to those who advise them on their rights, privileges, and benefits.

WITH THE COMMITTEES: Education and Labor is receiving testimony on scholarships, loans, work-study programs, and various other aids to education...Post Office and Civil Service continues its hearings on bills relating to salary increases for postal workers and classified employees...Ways and Means is holding hearings on the reciprocal trade agreements...Veterans' Affairs continued its inquiry into fund-raising campaigns by or in behalf of veterans' organizations...The Committee on Foreign Affairs is receiving reports on the military assistance program.

OUR NATION'S ECONOMY: I have tremendous faith in America as a strong, prosperous, and productive nation. The prophets of doom and gloom who would steer us into a recession, are undercutting America's future. For it is certainly true that psychological factors play a major part in economic fluctuations. Our economic way of life is based on a mutual trust at the present and a strong confidence in the future. It is possible to talk and think ourselves into a slump. Personally, I'm impressed by a 9 percent increase in our population since January 1, 1953 and a 26 percent increase in personal income between 1952 and 1957.

The national average family income in 1952 was \$3,890; today it is \$4,800, an increase of 23 percent. The average weekly earnings of manufacturing workers in 1957 was \$82.46, an increase of 21 percent over 1952. Sixty percent of American homes are now owner-occupied. This is a huge increase over 1950.

The United States has made tremendous economic and material progress. We are now on the threshold of the greatest era of scientific advancement in our history and I don't want to "sell America short." With work, understanding, ingenuity, and faith we will continue to make progress. Every segment of our economy, including the Federal Government, must share in the responsibility and our leaders in business, labor and politics must approach the problems today and in the future affirmatively.



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March 6, 1958



In consideration of the Second Supplemental Appropriations bill last week I was able to make one small but successful move for reduction in Federal expenditures. The General Services Administration wanted to pay four consultants \$100 per day plus expenses to represent the Federal Government at hearings before the Federal Communications Commission and various State regulatory agencies on matters involving public utility rates for services rendered Uncle Sam. The Department of Defense has been employing outstanding consultants on missiles and satellites for some time at \$50 per day plus expenses, which amount seems fully adequate and satisfactory.

My motion in the Committee on Appropriations to cut the figure from \$100 to \$50 lost by a vote of 19 to 19. However, when I offered the amendment on the floor of the House it was accepted unanimously after the spokesman for the Committee agreed to accept it. I hope the Senate will agree with my amendment to cut in half the per diem rates for these consultants. It is difficult to see why public utility experts should be paid twice as much as top missile and satellite scientists.

EXCISE TAX ON AUTOMOBILES: Your Congressman has joined the 11 other Republican Representatives from Michigan in requesting a meeting with Secretary of the Treasury Robert B. Anderson to discuss economic conditions in our State. Among the subjects to be considered is a proposal to repeal or reduce the 10 percent federal excise tax on automotive products. According to some authorities the total (state and federal) tax on a new \$2500 car in 1956 - 57 amounted to \$599.

In the letter to Secretary Anderson we pointed out that an estimated 320,000 persons are out of work, largely because of a 25 percent decline in automotive production. We asked for this conference after receiving a Resolution adopted by the State Legislature urging repeal of the excise tax on automobiles.

ONION FUTURES: The Committee on Rules has approved for floor debate, and at this date the House may have acted on, legislation to prohibit trading in onion futures. Although the bill considered was H. R. 376 (Mrs. Pfost of Idaho) it was identical to my bill, H. R. 1933.

For the past few years the onion growers, shippers, and processors in Ottawa County and western Michigan have been complaining that there should be legislation to control the manipulations and wild fluctuations in onion futures. Many have demonstrated that the onion market was weakened and that they suffered severe monetary loss because of



activities of speculators on the mercantile exchange.

Through my efforts and those of others representing the onion-producing areas this legislation has moved along. It is my hope that I can soon report that we have been successful in the House and that things look encouraging in the Senate. We want to protect our onion growers and do away with any benefits which may be going to the speculators.

SOIL BANK: Legislation to help the farmers in Ottawa County who signed a wheat acreage agreement only to find that added restrictions were later placed on their corn acreage has moved to the floor of the House. I hope that we will be able to get a bill to the President in time to correct the error which affects quite a number of Ottawa farmers.

I was somewhat surprised to learn recently that 368 farmers in Ottawa County have signed up for the wheat acreage reserve in an amount of \$123,000. The corn acreage reserve program has attracted 568 farmers who are eligible to receive \$272,000 in Soil Bank payments.

The House of Representatives in passing the Second Supplemental Appropriation bill last week granted an additional \$250 million to the Department of Agriculture. This added to the \$500 million already approved for the 1958 Soil Bank payments will enable the Department to meet all its obligations under the Soil Bank program. The bill, which supplies funds to meet payments on agreements already made, now goes to the Senate.

WHOLESALE MARKETING FACILITIES: Another legislative item of special interest to the Fifth District is scheduled for House consideration this week. H. R. 4504 (similar to my bill, H. R. 3623) would provide the same kind of mortgage insurance now in use by the FHA for financing the construction of public market facilities. The Grand Rapids Food Market Authority has indicated that this legislation is urgently needed if it is to complete its plans for a modern and adequate public market for the Grand Rapids area. The passage of H. R. 4504 and the construction of the market facility will benefit farmers and consumers alike and is in keeping with our free enterprise system in that it involves no direct loans or grants by the Federal Government.

OBSCENE LITERATURE: Three bills have recently been reported out of the House Committee on the Judiciary regarding the distribution of obscene material in the mails. One of these, H. R. 3033, is aimed specifically at penalizing those engaged in the mailing of obscene literature to minors by imposing a \$5,000 fine or 5 years imprisonment (with a second offense punishable by \$10,000 or 10 years).

From time to time I have had letters from constituents--and back home even visitors to my office--who were deeply concerned over this matter, both for the sake of their own children and children everywhere. I will support 100 percent any legislation that has as its direct purpose the curtailment of the distribution of obscene literature.



Your Washington Review

by
**Congressman
JERRY FORD**

March 13, 1958



Your Congressman recently was appointed one of 13 members of a newly established "Select Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration" of the House of Representatives. Parenthetically and ironically, the day on which the Speaker announced his appointments, the Army launched its second satellite which at this writing has gone off into the wild blue yonder, alone and unknown. This, I hope, is not to be taken as an evil omen for the "Select Committee."

The Committee will be delving into all aspects and problems relating to the exploration of outer space and will consider all legislation having to do with that subject, including the decision as to whether the civilian or military officials in the federal government should guide and direct "outer space" programs for Uncle Sam.

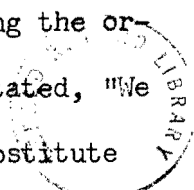
Your Congressman was one of two selected for this new committee from the House Committee on Appropriations. Having worked on budget problems and programs for missiles and satellites for the past six years as a member of the Defense Department subcommittee on appropriations I will have considerable background experience which should be helpful in this new and additional assignment. Fortunately I am familiar with some of the technical terms and problems connected with astronautics which, according to Webster is "the science which treats of the possibility of traveling through interplanetary space."

H. R. 8002: The House of Representatives spent more than two days last week debating a bill as technical as it is controversial. This bill, known as H. R. 8002, would change the method by which about one third of the Federal budget is presented and approved.

During the debate such terms as "accrued expenditure," "contract authority," and "unexpended balances" were tossed about as were "obligational authority," and "carryover balances." The point at issue was whether a bookkeeping system recommended by the Hoover Commission and the House Committee on Governmental Operations should be adopted for use by the Federal Government.

Forty of the 50 members of the Committee on Appropriations, both Democrats and Republicans, announced their opposition to the proposal and argued for the existing procedures plus greater authority to rescind and transfer unneeded funds.

In view of this opposition and in spite of the fact that strong support had been built up throughout the country for the plan outlined in the bill, its proponents accepted an amendment substituting for the original bill entirely new language, but retaining the original number, H. R. 8002. As one of the most respected members of the House stated, "We have nothing left now but a naked number." No hearings had been held on the substitute



amendment nor was it shown that the original bill or the substitute would result in any savings or any greater efficiency. In fact there was more evidence produced to indicate the proposed legislation would hamstring the national defense program and add to the cost of running the government.

Very simply, the original proposal would legalize "installment buying" by the Federal Government. Instead of appropriating at one time the total amount needed for a major project, the Congress would appropriate only such an amount as could be expended in one year. The results would be confusing, would not indicate the true nature of the cost of major projects, and would delude our citizens into thinking that the Government was saving the tax payers' money.

The substitute proposal eliminated the "installment buying" provisions but is tragically weak in that it will give the Congress less, not more, control over spending by the Department of Defense.

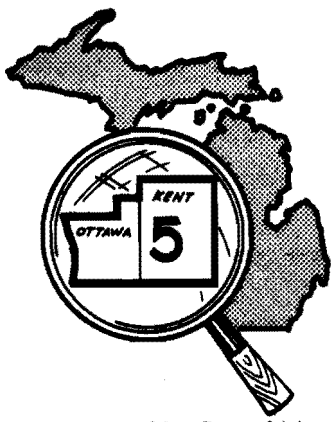
While I have consistently supported the recommendations of the Hoover Commission, I can only conclude that either proposal will result in a budgetary hodge-podge. Furthermore, the enactment of either will prevent the Army, Navy, and Air Force from meeting emergency problems in research and the procurement of military hardware.

THE CAPITOL BUILDING: The building which houses the Congress is now in the news along with the Congress. Shall we or shall we not extend the central portion of the East front of the Capitol by adding 32 feet for office space, expanded restaurant facilities, and corridors?

For many years some highly respected architects have insisted that the East Front must be extended to complete the design of the building which was altered when the dome was added in Lincoln's time. They have said that while the dome is structurally sound it appears to rest partially on the front portico. In addition to the practical needs for more working space in the Capitol it is alleged that an extension is needed to satisfy "eye appeal."

Furthermore, while the Senate and House wings are of marble, the older central portion of the building is faced with sandstone and has to be painted periodically. During its lifetime the interior has received over 30 coats of paint and some think that one of these days, due to its own weight, the paint may all fall off. The proposed addition will provide a marble exterior.

In the Legislative Appropriation bill for 1956 funds were provided for this work. Plans have now been completed, but as the day to begin work approaches vigorous opposition to the project mounts. Opponents want no alteration which will change the view of the building whose cornerstone was laid by George Washington in 1793 and whose forecourt has been the setting of the inaugurations of Presidents since Andrew Jackson. They also point to the price-tag, and present competent architects who maintain that the Capitol does not need an architectural face-lifting.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD

March 20, 1958



My Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration has held its initial or organizational meetings and will soon move into hearings on the many problems facing the Congress and our Nation in this New Age. In the months ahead all of us will be seeing more and more evidence of U. S. satellites, but with these technical developments come a multitude of problems. It is certain before too long that U. S. scientists will have us probing and probably hitting the moon. It is the responsibility of this committee and the Congress to analyze the effects of such advancements from a long-range and overall point of view.

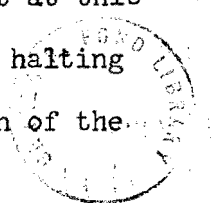
EMPLOYMENT AND GOVERNMENT: We in government are concerned that unemployment in mid-February stood at 5,173,000. This number represents 7.7 percent of the nation's labor forces or about the same percentage as were unemployed during the winter of 1949-50. While Michigan followed the national average in 1949-50, today about 11.4 percent of our people are out of work. This is largely due to the fact that our State is closely associated with the automotive industry.

Some leaders, both in and out of government, are advocating a "crash program" of public works and increased defense spending. Others recommend a \$5 billion cut in Federal taxes as the means for reviving the economy.

It is true that Uncle Sam can go on a wild spending spree, and at the same time the Congress could slash Federal taxes recklessly. But we know, from our experience in the Great Depression of the 1930's, that uncontrolled increase in government spending is no road to a stable and prosperous economy. In 1938, after years of unbalanced budgets and increased Federal spending, there were still 10 million people unemployed. And at that time the labor force totaled 54.6 million while today the figure stands at 67 million. Moreover, a huge reduction in Federal revenue can only lead to deficit financing, a greater public debt, and a strong tendency to fiscal irresponsibility.

I do think that we should speed up activity on those public works projects, including the highway program, for which the planning is about complete, the need well-established, and which could be under way in a comparatively short time. This would be a sound approach and would give that temporary boost which the economy appears to need right now.

I also feel that any tax reduction should be on a selective basis, and that at this particular time any tax legislation should be considered largely with a view to halting the economic recession. As an example, I am urging the elimination or reduction of the



excise tax on automobiles. Such action would give the automotive industry a necessary "shot-in-the-arm" and go a long way in relieving the unemployment situation in Michigan. It is important to realize that by a selective approach to tax reduction the immediate loss of revenue to the federal treasury would be relatively small but the benefits to the economy could be significant.

A sound and responsible approach to remedies for the recession must recognize the problem of limiting the stimulus to what is needed and retaining a tax structure that can quickly restore a balanced budget when business recovers.

WHAT ABOUT STATE AND LOCAL TAXES: Will a Federal tax reduction be of any benefit as a "pump-priming" device if State and local governments continue to increase their tax levies? This question was raised recently by one of my constituents and must be seriously considered if the purpose of tax reduction is to stimulate business by putting more purchasing power in the hands of consumers. As you know, the Michigan State Legislature is wrestling with its budget and a state income tax has been mentioned. The State of Maryland just last week increased the state income tax and the sales tax by 50 percent. Numerous local governmental units are increasing their taxes. If this continues it would appear to destroy any advantage that might result from a Federal tax reduction. If a Federal tax cut is to stimulate business it must be accompanied by a successful effort by state and local governments in holding the line on taxes or likewise making reductions.

SADLAK-HERLONG BILL: Rep. Sadlak of Connecticut and Rep. Herlong of Florida have introduced a fairly detailed bill outlining one approach to a reduction in the Federal income tax. I have received many letters endorsing the Sadlak-Herlong bill but none of them have indicated the fervor and pessimism of a friend who last week wrote, "The Sadlak-Herlong Bill is aptly named. It is sadly lacking and will be herlong time in passing."

CHERRY BLOSSOMS: Washington's Cherry Blossom Festival this year is scheduled for March 25 - 30, but whether the 600 cherry trees around the Tidal Basin will cooperate by being in full bloom at that time is problematical. At this writing Washington is again covered with a blanket of snow but we know that with Spring, Easter, and the cherry blossoms thousands of visitors will be in the Capital. We extend to all from the Fifth District a sincere invitation to write, telephone, or personally call at our office (351 House Office Building; telephone # Capitol 4-3121, extension 3831) so we may be helpful in every possible way.

SENIOR CLASSES: We are especially eager to know when our high school senior classes or other school groups are going to be in Washington. It is always a real pleasure to meet the students, and if it is desired we are in a good position to help plan their activities in the Nation's Capital.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD

March 27, 1958



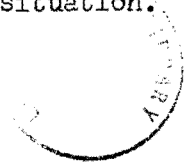
The House of Representatives by two overwhelming roll call votes (375 - 20 and 377 - 16) last Wednesday commended President Eisenhower and the executive agencies for the action which they have taken in accelerating the military and civil construction programs as a means of stimulating employment. In adopting Senate Concurrent Resolutions 68 and 69, recommended by Majority Leader John McCormack and reported by the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Public Works, the House recognized the sound and constructive steps already taken by the Administration to move forward rapidly with the needed construction projects for which substantial appropriations had previously been made. The House also recommended that all military and civil construction projects for which funds have been appropriated should be developed speedily in order to help reduce unemployment and to make available those projects which are vital to our national defense.

I supported these Resolutions wholeheartedly. They are specifically in line with my statement of last week that "we should speed up activity on those public works projects...for which the planning is about complete, the need well-established, and which could be under way in a comparatively short time."

The Department of Defense is planning to spend between February 1 and June 30, 1958 the sum of \$1,715 million for general military construction plus \$57 million for the construction of Reserve facilities. About \$500 million worth of military housing will be constructed during that period making a total expenditure of \$2,272 million for the five months.

The Army is going ahead with the production in Michigan of the Jupiter and Redstone missiles. While the Chrysler plant near Detroit has the prime contract there are about 1625 sub-contracts for the Redstone missile and 738 of these went to Michigan. Out of the 350 sub-contracts on the Jupiter, 215 will directly benefit Michigan labor and industry.

On the same day the House complimented the Administration, Secretary of the Army Brucker announced that the Army would let contracts for approximately \$100,000,000 worth of military trucks and trailers within the next 30 days. Nearly all of this work will be placed in the states of Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. The purchase of these critically needed vehicles is in line with the good and sound program of modernizing the Army and will at the same time help to relieve the unemployment situation.



FARM PRICE SUPPORTS: The House of Representatives by a record vote of 210 to 172 adopted a Joint Resolution to postpone for a marketing year or season any reduction in all farm support prices or acreage allotments. On final passage I opposed this measure but prior to final passage I supported a motion to prevent reductions in support prices for dairy products for a period of not more than one year. During that period Congress would have an opportunity to correct any inequities now existing in the law and could provide a new and improved program that will more adequately solve the problem of surpluses and supports. Furthermore, the announced price support reduction would have a greater effect on dairy supports than on any other commodity.

But I do not think that it is sound to freeze arbitrarily the support price at last year's level for cotton, tobacco, peanuts, wheat, corn, rice, and other commodities. The Secretary of Agriculture should have some flexibility in setting the support price in order to help control surpluses. For example, by this Resolution the government must support the production of grain sorghum at the same level as last year when production doubled. Should production triple this year the same price support must be maintained, and that would drain millions from the Federal Treasury. If this Resolution becomes law agricultural surpluses and taxpayer costs will be substantially increased.

LET'S SPEED UP TAX REFUNDS: A speed-up in getting to income taxpayers the refunds to which they are entitled is one certain method of expanding consumer purchasing and stimulating business. I have written the Secretary of the Treasury urging that the Internal Revenue Bureau be authorized and instructed to accelerate the payment of these refunds. Last year over \$3,315,000,000 was refunded to 34,125,607 individual income taxpayers. The average refund for that year amounted to \$94.

We have no reason to believe that the number or the amount will be less for this year. I am sure that the expeditious funneling back into the economy at this time of over \$3 billion would have a healthy and stimulating effect on present conditions. The Internal Revenue Service could do this by assigning additional personnel to the task temporarily, by postponing certain elements in the processing, and by cutting the red tape generally.

VANGUARD AND ST. PATRICK: I so much enjoyed Rep. Hugh Scott's remarks on the House floor March 17th that I'm quoting in full his message: "I know that Secretary of the Navy Tom Gates, a fellow Pennsylvanian, must be enormously gratified today, and I extend my congratulations to him and to all of the Navy on the successful orbiting of the Vanguard. The day on which we commemorate the driving of the snakes out of Ireland by St. Patrick we have succeeded in driving the bugs out of Vanguard.

"Russia now has one satellite in the air, the only one which is loyal to her; we have two. Russia has 13 satellites, all on the ground, all disloyal, all striving for freedom. She has one dead dog in the air, and that is not the only thing that is dead in Russia; freedom, too, is dead in Russia."



Your Washington Review

by
**Congressman
JERRY FORD**

April 3, 1958



The House of Representatives has approved the \$4 billion Department of Agriculture appropriation bill for the fiscal year beginning July 1st which contains a number of items of interest such as the funds for Agricultural Research Service. This organization which has the job of finding more uses for our farm products and more economical methods of commodity production, will have a budget of over \$58 million. It is interesting to point out that research funds for the Department of Agriculture have increased 77 percent since 1952. Research in agriculture will pay big dividends just as it has on satellites and missiles.

The Soil Conservation Service is another excellent program which has many enthusiastic friends in Kent and Ottawa Counties. The SCS conservation operations budget for next year will be almost \$75 million. The House Committee on Appropriations increased funds for this program to assure sufficient soil conservation technicians to staff existing SCS districts properly and provide technical assistance to the 70 new districts which will be established in 1958 and 1959. All our citizens benefit when constructive conservation practices are followed on our farms.

AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATION: The Senate Committee on Agriculture has concluded a week of hearings on the House-approved bill to prohibit trading in onion futures on the Commodity exchanges. Nearly a score of onion growers from western Michigan testified at the hearings.

On March 27th the Congress concluded action on a conference report on H. R. 10843 which will correct the unfair situation involving certain Ottawa County farmers and resulting from the designation of that county as a commercial corn area. When this legislation becomes law those farmers who signed wheat acreage agreements will not be required to comply with the 1958 corn allotments in order to collect soil bank payments. The designation of Ottawa as the "new corn county" came after such wheat contracts had been signed. I have written the White House urging Presidential approval of this bill. It will correct an inequity but not cut out those farmers who have signed the corn acreage agreement.

OBSCENE MATERIAL: Recent mail has indicated a marked interest in H. R. 6239, a bill to provide fines or imprisonment for those who use the mails for delivering obscene or crime-inciting matter. This bill has been approved by a subcommittee and is awaiting action by the full Committee on the Judiciary.

I recently wrote Chairman Emanuel Celler to say that this legislation had not only

my personal endorsement but also the support of the people of the Fifth District. In my letter I urged that the bill's provisions be enlarged to include shipments in interstate commerce by other means than through the mails. If the power of the Federal Government is to be most effective in halting the flow of obscene and crime-inciting publications, the shipment in interstate commerce by any means of transportation must be regulated.

In his reply, Chairman Celler stated that the full Committee will consider an amendment along that line. He also expressed the hope that the Committee would act on this bill before the Easter recess. This is good news and you may be certain that I will continue to give 100 percent support to this needed and worthwhile legislation.

SCHOLASTIC RECOGNITION: I was extremely pleased to learn that two of the four boys from the Fifth District at the U. S. Military Academy at West Point were "on the Dean's list" for the first semester just concluded. This means that these cadets ranked within the upper 30 percent of their class in all academic subjects and had no subject average less than 2.200 out of a possible 3.000. The honored cadets are David Mac Aulay of Grand Rapids and Rodney A. Bartholomew of Munica.

The announcement of the National Science Foundation issued in March revealed that four men from Kent and Ottawa Counties had received Foundation fellowships for the next academic year. Two will take advanced work in mathematics, one in chemistry, and the other in physics. They are Ward Bouwsma, Alex Dragt, and Frederic Nelson of Grand Rapids, and Ronald Hamelink of Holland. Congratulations!

WITH THE COMMITTEES: The Committee on Foreign Affairs continues its hearings on the Mutual Security Program....Post Office and Civil Service resumed hearings on legislation providing for recognition of organizations of postal and other Federal employees.... Ways and Means has just concluded public hearings on the bill to extend for five years the President's authority to enter into reciprocal trade agreements....Banking and Currency has been preparing its recommendations on S. 1451, the Financial Institutions Act.... The Committee on Education and Labor has been receiving testimony on a Federal scholarship loan program and other proposals relating to Federal aid to education.

IN PASSING: It was interesting for me to note that last Thursday the House of Representatives filled only 24 pages of the Congressional Record in a discussion of the bill appropriating nearly \$3 billion for the Departments of Labor and Health, Education, and Welfare, but then used 19 pages to debate a bill to authorize the erection of a "Freedom Hall" monument near Arlington National Cemetery. Incidentally, the appropriation bill was approved by a voice vote while it took a roll call to defeat the authorization of the monument.

EASTER RECESS: Congress will be in recess from Good Friday through the week following Easter. I will be in the District from April 8th to the 11th.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD

April 10, 1958



President Eisenhower has submitted a bold and surprisingly far-reaching proposal for the reorganization of the Department of Defense. Ike has definitely "grabbed the ball" and assumed the leadership in suggesting ways and means to improve the operations of the Defense establishment.

The President's reorganization plan, because it is so comprehensive, naturally steps on a good many well-established prerogatives of the Congress and the three branches of the Armed Forces. As a result the proposed legislation may have some rough sledding both in the House and Senate and in its implementation in the Pentagon.

In my opinion the President has responded to the demand of our citizens for an improvement in the effectiveness of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The burden is now on the Congress and the Armed Forces to respond. No one expects 100 percent concurrence with the White House proposal (I have several reservations myself) but it is a good blueprint from which the Congress can build a stronger, more economical and efficient Department of Defense.

TO THE MOON: Our program for outer space exploration definitely includes a trip to the moon. While it will be some time before we can land a man on the moon, an instrument-carrying rocket may make the journey much sooner than most of us expect, possibly before the end of the year.

The most difficult type of shot at the moon involves a safe landing and a safe return to earth. Before this happens, however, we will undoubtedly complete a good landing with no return planned and do some "probing" of the moon by circling around it or crash-landing on it.

There are those who raise serious questions as to the necessity and wisdom of this type of exploration and ask whether the results will be worth the costs. I suppose this work is a simple continuation and extension of man's search into the unknown which began centuries ago. But more important, our national defense and security is being tied more and more closely to space weapons, and we must be prepared to use space to defend ourselves. Scientific investigations must always go forward and space offers one more area for expanded research. And whether we like it or not, our national prestige is involved and this becomes extremely significant in a time of "cold war."

The President has recommended the establishment of a new National Aeronautics and Space Agency to conduct research projects and to coordinate our program of scientific earth satellites and space exploration. The Agency will cooperate with the Department of Defense

which will retain its responsibility for activities associated with military operations. Legislation to authorize the Agency is presently before my Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration. I'm confident the Congress will approve this sound proposal.

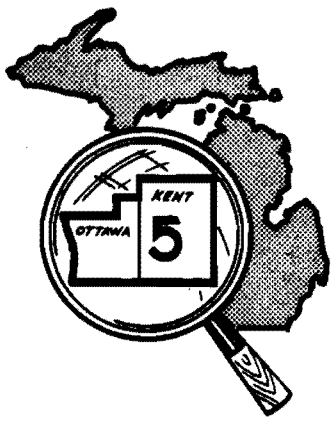
HIGHWAY BILLBOARDS: The Highway Act of 1958 including a provision for the regulation of outdoor advertising on new interstate highways was approved by the House of Representatives last Thursday. The Congress declared it "to be in the public interest to encourage and assist the states to control the use of and to improve areas" along the Interstate System "by controlling the erection and maintenance of outdoor advertising signs." The adoption and enforcement of such a policy is left to the separate states. Those states which agree to regulate such signs within 660 feet of the new highway will receive an additional 1/2 of 1 percent of Federal aid funds for constructing the highway or a total of 90 1/2 percent.

PROCUREMENT CONFERENCE: Representatives of the Department of Defense and Commerce will be in Grand Rapids on Friday, April 18 to meet with labor, industrial, and civic leaders to discuss procurement requirements of the Federal government. Special attention will be given to the government needs in the area of missiles, and to the ways and means of bringing additional work into the Grand Rapids area. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 11:00 A. M. at the Manger (Rowe) Hotel and is open to any interested person.

FOLKS FROM HOME: While the cherry blossoms have been disappointingly late this Spring, we are happy to report that there has been no dearth of visitors from home during the past week. Last Monday 40 persons signed our guest book in the office, a record for one day's activity.

Byron Center Community School's senior class was the first high school group to greet us here this Spring and we have also met the senior class from Rockford. Two groups of college students representing both Hope and Calvin were in the office for extended conferences. These college students were in Washington attending a conference of the Association of International Relations Clubs.

AFTER THE EASTER RECESS: The House and Senate reconvene April 14th. The legislative agenda will be jammed with the remaining appropriation bills and a number of important controversial legislative proposals. So far the House has approved 6 out of 13 appropriation bills. The remainder must be finished and sent to the Senate by June if final action is to be taken before the start of the new fiscal year which begins July 1st. Also on the schedule is Statehood for Alaska and Hawaii, tax revision, unemployment benefit extension, Defense Department reorganization and "space" legislation.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD

April 17, 1958



During the Easter recess while your Congressman was in Kent and Ottawa counties, my Washington office remained opened as usual to handle correspondence, and telephone and personal calls. We received a great number of cards urging legislation to end job discrimination against workers over 40 years of age, and a comparable number in opposition to any appropriation which would enable the Federal government to take over the property of the National Grange headquarters in Washington for a new public building.

In an appropriation bill approved March 27 the House of Representatives denied the use of any Federal funds to prepare plans and specifications for any Federal building to be located on the Grange property.

To those urging "Jobs After 40" I pointed out that because of Congressional action a year or so ago there is no maximum age limit for persons taking Civil Service examinations for Federal employment. In addition my replies stated that to refuse employment to competent workers simply because they are over 40 is wasteful and unsound indeed.

The House Committee on the Judiciary has before it a number of bills which would prohibit a Government contractor or supplier from imposing any maximum age requirement in the hiring of employees. I feel that the Committee should schedule hearings and take affirmative action on this legislation.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE: President Eisenhower has signed into law the bill which corrects the injustice which certain Ottawa County farmers suffered when that County was designated a commercial corn area. Under the provisions of the new law, farmers who signed a wheat acreage agreement last fall will not be obligated to restrict their 1958 corn acreage in order to draw soil bank payments on their wheat contract. The injustice arose when the operations of the Soil Bank Act added a new requirement for eligibility for these payments after the contracts had been signed. This problem was originally brought to my attention by a visitor to my Mobile Office at Borculo and I have been working toward a solution since last October. Fortunately the remedial legislation was enacted in time to be of practical benefit this Spring.

IN MEMORIAM: An unknown serviceman of World War II and another of the Korean conflict will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day, May 31, in special ceremonies in which it is contemplated the President of the United States will participate. Recent visitors to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier have seen the two crypts being constructed in the plaza floor between the present tomb and the amphitheatre. These will contain the remains of two Unknowns now being selected. By an act of Congress the service men and women

of World War II and of the Korean Conflict are to share honors with those of World War I in the national memorial at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

On May 28th a U. S. Destroyer, accompanied by a coast guard cutter, will come up the Potomac River to the Naval Gun Factory in Washington where the Navy will turn over to the Army in a brief ceremony the remains of the two unknown servicemen. These will be taken by automobile to the Rotunda of the U. S. Capitol where the two Unknowns will lie in state from Wednesday noon until Friday noon.

This will be the first double funeral ever to be held in the Capitol and for the event the Army is constructing a catafalque, identical to the one which has been used on 13 occasions since it was built for the funeral of President Lincoln. Incidentally, the original catafalque, which will also be used, is stored two floors directly below the Rotunda in a room intended as the tomb of George and Martha Washington.

The public will be able to pay its respects in the Rotunda and to present floral tributes there.

Shortly after noon on Memorial Day a procession will leave the Capitol and travel down Constitution Avenue to Arlington Cemetery. Guns on the Washington monument grounds will fire a salute every minute and a uniformed guard will be stationed along the Avenue. The Unknowns will be transported on horse-drawn caissons and teams of horses are now being trained for this responsibility.

Admission to the Amphitheatre for the burial service at 3:00 will be by ticket only.

In order to represent all combat areas of World War II there will be two pre-selections. The Commanding General of the U. S. Army in Europe will select one Unknown from the 13 American military cemeteries in Europe and North Africa to represent the trans-Atlantic phase of the War. The Commander, Far East Air Forces, will select a representative for the trans-Pacific area from two cemeteries, one in Hawaii and the other in the Philippines.

The Navy will bring these selections to a point off the coast of Norfolk along with the representative of the Korean conflict, who will have been chosen by the Commanding General, U. S. Army, Pacific.

The choice between the two Unknowns of World War II will be made on May 26 aboard the cruiser, USS Canberra. The one not selected will be buried at sea in the time-honored tradition of the Navy.

FOR DISTRIBUTION: I have in my office a limited supply of a Committee Report entitled "International Cooperation Administration Replies to Criticism of the Foreign Aid Program," and also a small supply of a pamphlet entitled "Introduction to Outer Space," prepared by the President's Science Advisory Committee. Let me know if you would like a copy, and I will be glad to send it to you.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD

April 24, 1958



Congressmen have returned from the hinterlands; the Tidal Basin is outlined with Japanese cherry blossoms in full bloom, and my Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration has been holding extensive public hearings.

The Fifth District of Michigan is the subject of special attention in the April 21st issue of Newsweek magazine which carries a comprehensive report on the activities of Your Congressman during the Easter recess. I found a sober and serious concern among our people about the economic situation but no indications of panic or hysteria. Surprisingly, too, I found no strong support among a majority of the folks I talked with for a substantial tax cut. There seemed to be approval for certain selective types of tax reduction, specifically in the area of excise taxes.

The brilliant forsythia, and the magnificent magnolia have joined the delicate cherry blossoms as harbingers of summer which seems to have burst upon us, driving away an extraordinary winter-spring. This year the Cherry Blossoms did not appear as scheduled by Festival officials (March 25 - 30), and the National Park Service warns that "it is impossible to make an accurate prediction on the blooming date of the cherry trees, earlier than 10 days prior to their bursting into full bloom" (April 16).

The first of these Japanese Cherry trees was planted on March 27, 1912 by Mrs. William Howard Taft, wife of the President, who with Dr. Jokichi Takamine, the Japanese chemist, famous as the discoverer of Adrenalin, was most instrumental in having the city of Tokyo make a gift of trees to the United States. Today about 600 cherry trees are maintained around the Tidal Basin, and their beauty in the Spring is cherished by thousands.

Dr. Wernher von Braun, the Army's missile expert, was the first of a number of brilliant scientists, and military and civilian leaders to appear before the special House Committee on Space in the course of its initial hearings. Among many other things, von Braun defended a certain amount of inter-service competition in research and development. He said it was wise to develop both the Army Jupiter and the Air Force Thor IRBII's. The missiles are not identical as to guidance systems, nose cone, and ground control systems. In fact they are quite different in these respects, and it is good insurance to develop both in case we run into trouble on one of them in actual field deployment. Even at the present stage of development it is impossible

to say which missile is better, he reported.

Other witnesses before the Space Committee have been General Gavin, Dr. Dryden, head of NACA, General Putt of Air Force research, Dr. York of the Department of Defense, Dr. Herkle of the Atomic Energy Commission, and Admiral Rickover.

The Committee's most important responsibility at the moment is to act on the request of President Eisenhower for the establishment of a new National Aeronautics and Space Agency to carry on research and to coordinate our "space" activities. Legislation to accomplish this has been introduced by the Chairman of the Select Committee, Rep. John H. Carmack, majority leader of the House, and seems to have general bi-partisan support.

The new Agency would supercede and take over the responsibilities of the present National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics. The authorization of this new agency along with the establishment in the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Select Committees on Astronautics and Space Exploration points up the significance of the new problems which the dawn of the Space Age brings. The Administration and the Congress are joining in their efforts to gather the benefits of this new Age for the service of mankind in the future.

LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENCE: Recently we have received a number of letters urging consideration of Rep. Forand's bill, H. R. 9467. This would amend the Social Security Act to increase the benefits under the old-age and survivor's insurance program and extend the earning ceiling for social security taxes from \$4200 to \$6000 a year. It would also provide insurance against the cost of hospital, nursing home, and surgical care for those covered by Social Security, and otherwise liberalize the program. The bill has been pending with the Committee on Ways and Means since August 27, 1957. No action has been taken on the measure and as yet none has been scheduled.

We have also had correspondence from teachers and others interested in Federal aid to education in support of H. R. 10763, a bill introduced by Rep. Lee Metcalf. Under the terms of this proposal the United States government would make direct grants to the States based on a contribution of \$25 for each school-age child in the first year, and rising to \$100 for each child in the fourth year and each year thereafter. The first-year cost to the U. S. Treasury would be slightly over \$1 billion and the Federal support could be used for teachers' salaries, classroom construction, and basic equipment. This bill is with the Committee on Education and Labor which has taken no direct action on it. I am informed, however, that the proposal may be considered along with other federal-aid-to-education measures.