

Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



June 8, 1970

The House of Representatives has strengthened its rules relative to financial disclosures by its members and top employees. Beginning next year Congressmen must report the source of any honorariums of \$300 or more as well as the identity of any creditors to whom \$10,000 or more was owed for 90 days or longer on an unsecured loan. Honorariums are received for speeches, magazine or newspaper articles, or for other services on which no fee is set or legally obtainable. For an elective official it is neither an outright gift nor a campaign contribution.

Two theories exist as to the purpose of financial disclosure. One is that there is a simple obligation on any person in public office to disclose every detail of his financial affairs. The other is that there should be disclosure of only those matters which conceivably could affect the performance of his official duties. The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct feels (and most House members agree) that the latter is the only justifiable reason for invading the privacy of any office holder.

With the knowledge of these honorariums, voters may be able to determine whether the actions of their Congressman are in any way affected by the payment of these fees. They can judge whether a conflict-of-interest is involved. The same reasoning applies to the disclosure of debts. It seems to me that this reasoning is sound and I supported the adoption of the more stringent rule.

CAMBODIAN FACTS UPDATED: In the newsletter 3 weeks ago, I listed the amount of enemy war materiel captured in Cambodia. Here is a report as of 8:00 A.M., June 4 showing also the change from May 14, the date of the previous report:

	<u>June 4</u>	<u>Increase over May 14</u>
Rifles	15,260	7,720
Machine Guns	2,126	1,055
Rounds Small Arms Ammunition	11,214,722	2,740,297
Anti-Aircraft Rounds	137,831	133,759
Mortar Rounds	49,640	36,256
Grenades	39,851	27,008
Large Rocket Rounds	1,761	892
Smaller Rocket Rounds	26,191	17,655
Recoilless Rifle Rounds	22,292	12,874
Vehicles	359	181
Boats	40	unchanged
Rice (lbs.)	11,146,000	6,148,000
Man Months	245,212	135,256

In addition 8,387 bunkers and other structures have been destroyed. The rice captured would have fed a Communist Army of over 245,000 for a month, or an army of 81,600 for three months.

As of May 28 President Nixon had reduced the number of American troops in Vietnam by 104,450. When he took office we had 532,500 men there; the number now is 428,050. In his address to the nation Wednesday evening, Mr. Nixon reiterated his promise to withdraw 260,000 troops by next April. He also pointed out that 17,000 of the 31,000 Americans who entered Cambodia had already returned to Vietnam and that all would be out by the end of this month.

PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT: The House has also voted to increase the permanent national debt limit from \$365 to \$380 billion, with a temporary increase from \$377 to \$395 billion for the next fiscal year.

In February the Administration estimated a unified budget surplus of \$1.5 billion for this fiscal year. By May 19 this surplus had become an estimated deficit of \$1.8 billion. By May 19 a February estimated surplus of \$1.3 billion for fiscal year 1971 had turned into a deficit of \$1.3 billion. One may well ask, why?

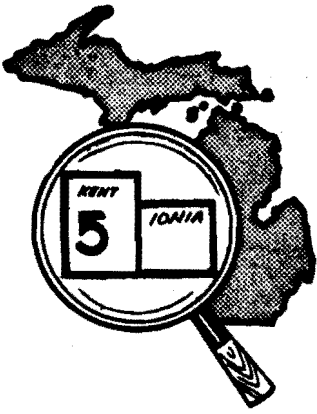
First, estimated income for this year is down \$3 billion due primarily to a decline in corporate income tax collections. The estimated income for next year rose by \$2.2 billion but the estimated expenditures went up \$4.8 billion.

It is significant that \$2.3 billion of this increase in estimated expenditures for next year are for items over which the President has no control: interest on the public debt (\$1 billion), unemployment insurance benefits (\$500 million), farm price supports (\$300 million), veterans compensation and pension (\$200 million), cash assistance grants, medicaid and medicare (\$200 million), and disaster relief (\$100 million). The single highest increase of \$1.4 billion results from the postal and other federal pay increases. Anti-pollution programs added \$200 million to the expense estimate.

One may also ask: Why such a huge increase in the debt limit when the estimated deficit for next year is only \$1.3 billion? That gets us into the question of what budget we are talking about. The 1971 deficit for the unified budget is \$1.3 billion but the deficit in the federal funds budget is estimated at from \$10 to \$13 billion. The unified budget, generally presented to the public, takes into account the various trust funds held by the federal government. But the debt limitation, in most respects, is based on the federal funds budget. With a potential deficit in this budget of \$13.2 billion at one or two times next year, the limit must be high enough to cover any contingency. Government expenditures may be spread relatively evenly over the year but receipts vary with tax payments. So the debt ceiling must be high enough to permit flexibility to the Treasury at all times.

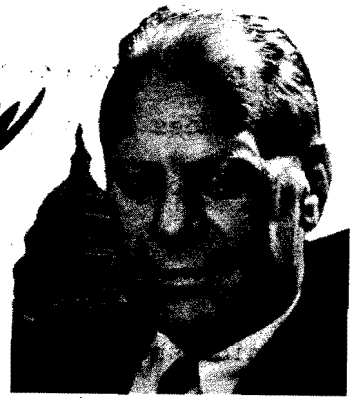
To not increase the debt limit could mean that the Treasury might not be able to sell its bonds or pay its bills on time. I supported this increase as I have done before under both Republican and Democratic administrations.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant will be at the Cascade Township Administration Building on Friday, June 12, from 2:30 to 5:00.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



June 15, 1970

The Postal Reform bill is the most significant legislation scheduled for consideration by the House of Representatives this week. Designed to take the Post Office out of politics, the bill establishes a United States Postal Service to be governed by an 11-man Commission on Postal Costs and Revenues. Nine Members (not more than five from each political party) will be appointed by the President; they in turn will appoint the tenth member who would be the full time Postmaster General. He selects the 11th member to be a full-time Deputy Postmaster General.

The Commission would be required to provide efficient postal service at fair and reasonable rates. It would set the rates for each class of mail and be under mandate to eliminate the postal deficit by January 1, 1978. Wages, salaries, and working conditions will be set through collective bargaining between postal management and postal unions. Strikes are prohibited but binding arbitration is provided for in the event of a bargaining impasse between the parties.

Each class of mail will be expected to pay its own way, and rates will be so adjusted. But the Postal Service is and must remain a public service giving particular attention to the needs and desires of its customers. Rates are to be increased gradually to ease the financial impact on affected users. Mail which now goes free or at reduced rates (books, films, material for the blind, mailings of certain non-profit organizations, etc.) shall continue to enjoy preferential rates until changed by Congress or until Congress fails to appropriate funds sufficient to cover the lost revenue.

The demand for a change in the operation of the present postal system comes largely because of four basic weaknesses: with an enormous increase in the volume of mail, the system operates the same as it did decades ago; working conditions are often poor, career prospects bleak, and morale unacceptably low; the Department chronically operates at a high deficit, expected to exceed \$1.4 billion this year; postal rates and salaries are set by Congress where too often political considerations rather than good management and economics are a deciding factor.

The postal reform bill, H.R. 17070, is not without its critics. Some fear that service to postal patrons will be forgotten in the effort to promote efficiency and eliminate the deficit. Others feel that Congress and the President are giving away too much authority. The single most controversial issue is the provision which

permits management and the union to bargain over a union shop. The bill authorizes, but does not require, a management-union contract which could force all employees to be members of the union or pay an equivalent of union dues, except in those states having "right-to-work" laws. In other words, the new Postal Service management would be in the same position as a private employer in regard to union membership. The union shop would be a negotiable issue to be resolved between the parties at the bargaining table.

AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATION: Last Tuesday the House approved a \$7.4 billion money bill for the Department of Agriculture and related agencies in 1971. This is a net reduction of \$631 million under the appropriations for the current year. The bill provides \$2.4 billion for food assistance programs to the needy, including the special milk program, the food stamp program, and the child nutrition program. Over \$690 million in the bill will go for pollution control.

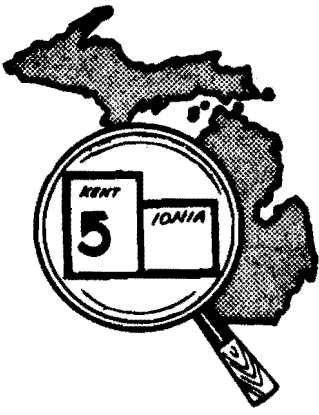
It is interesting to note that today only about five percent of our people produce the food and fiber for the remaining 95 percent. Fewer and fewer of our people are remaining on the farm. An average of nearly 800,000 people have left the farms in each of the last five years. Farm population has decreased to about 10 million today (5 percent of the total) as compared with more than 25 million in 1950.

The total land in farms in 1950 was 1.2 billion acres as compared with 1.1 billion acres in 1965, a reduction of 100 million acres. The average size of a farm increased from 213 acres to 377 acres in that same period. As a business venture farming is becoming less attractive. The average farm investment has increased from \$6,158 in 1940 to \$85,402 in 1969. But the average return on farm equities has dropped more than 50 percent during this period, from 7.1 percent in 1945-49 to 3.1 percent in 1968. As I am sure we all recognize, the farmer or agricultural producer can afford to quit, but the consumer cannot afford to have him do so.

FOREIGN AID APPROPRIATION: The House approved recently the smallest foreign aid spending bill since the program began. The amount approved for 1971 is \$1.6 billion compared with \$3.7 billion in 1961 and \$1.6 billion this year. While I have supported our mutual security program under Democrat and Republican Presidents, I endorse the reduction in our dollar contribution. Developing nations must assume more responsibility for their own welfare and our wealthy allies can be expected to do more in our mutual support of the free world.

Through June 30, 1970, it is estimated that the U. S. will have provided economic and military assistance, in one form or other, amounting to a net total of \$131.5 billion of which only \$28 billion is in the form of loans. The balance of \$103.5 billion is in the form of grant aid.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant will be in the Council Room at BELDING on Friday, June 19, from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m.



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June 22, 1970

The House of Representatives has accepted the Senate amendment to the Voting Rights Act lowering the voting age to 18. On a crucial procedural motion the vote was 224 to 183.

I vigorously opposed the motion because I believe the result is unconstitutional. (I favor establishing a lower voting age by state action or a federal constitutional amendment.) We know if the President signs the bill that the matter will go to the Supreme Court for final determination. This will take from five to ten months after the effective date of the amendment, January 1, 1971. So from January 1 until the Supreme Court renders its verdict, any election will be of doubtful legality. This is particularly serious in the case of school and municipal revenue bond proposals, and special millage votes.

The Senate amendment permits 18 year-olds to vote not only in federal but also in all state and local elections. Many authorities insist that the Constitution does not authorize the Congress by legislative action to set the voting age for federal elections, to say nothing of state and local elections. A leading firm of bond attorneys in Detroit states that school or municipal bonds cannot be issued or taxes levied on the basis of the results of an election in which those under 21 have voted until the constitutionality of the congressional action has been settled by the Supreme Court. This could mean a long delay on essential local water pollution and school projects. These bond attorneys, who serve many communities in Michigan, will not approve a bond or millage proposition unless the votes of those over 21 and under 21 are kept separate and the bonding or millage is approved by both groups. All of this, combined with the fact that the citizens of Kent and Ionia Counties in 1966 (referendum) and 1969 (questionnaire) demonstrated their opposition to lowering the voting age, influenced my vote against the Senate Amendment.

After losing on the procedural motion we who opposed lowering the voting age by a federal law as opposed to a constitutional amendment had to vote "yes" or "no" on the Voting Rights Act as amended. It seemed to me on balance that the benefits and advantages of the Voting Rights Act outweighed the weaknesses of the Senate amendment lowering the voting age. I, therefore, voted for the bill on final passage when it was approved 272 to 132.

I had supported the Voting Rights bill when it originally passed the House on

December 11. Briefly, the legislation extends the Voting Rights Act of 1965 for five more years. The purpose of that Act was to banish racial discrimination in voting. The law has been effective during the past five years but it is apparent that its provisions must be continued for an additional five years in order to safeguard the gains in Negro voter registration thus far achieved, and to prevent future infringements of voting rights based on race or color. To have voted against the bill because of objections to one provision would not, it seemed to me, have properly reflected the views and desires of the citizens of the Fifth District of Michigan.

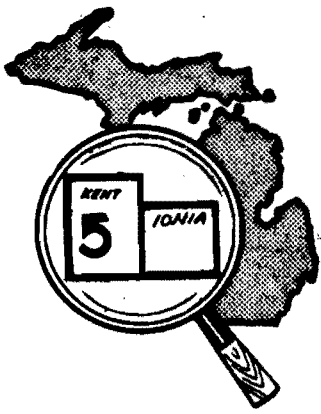
POSTAL REFORM: Last week I mentioned that the single most controversial issue in the postal reform bill permitted management and the union to bargain over a union shop. If an agreement were reached between the managers of the new postal service and the union negotiators to establish the union shop, postal employees would have been required to join the union or pay an equivalent of union dues, except in those states having "right-to-work" laws. Last Wednesday the House voted 179 to 95 to strike out this provision. The House approved an amendment guaranteeing each employee of the postal service the right to join or refrain from joining a labor organization. This amendment simply carries out the Executive Order issued by President Kennedy and continued by both Presidents Johnson and Nixon. I voted for the amendment. I do not believe that a federal employee, found qualified by the Civil Service Commission, and prohibited by law from striking, should be forced to join a union in order to keep his job with Uncle Sam.

The postal reform bill with this and other amendments was approved by a vote of 359 to 24.

SERVICEMEN'S LIFE INSURANCE: Last Monday the House sent to the President a bill increasing from \$10,000 to \$15,000 the top amount of Servicemen's Group Life Insurance available to men in the armed forces. For \$3 a month a serviceman will automatically be insured for \$15,000. He may, however, request no insurance, or \$5,000 at \$1 per month, or \$10,000 at \$2 per month. The low cost is possibly because most servicemen are covered under the group plan and the government makes a contribution toward the "extra hazard cost." In 1969 servicemen's premiums amounted to \$83 million with the government contributing \$112 million. Proceeds are paid either in a lump sum or in 36 equal monthly installments.

AVAILABLE: We have in the Grand Rapids office about 500 copies of a 68-page pamphlet entitled, "Environmental Health Problems." It contains information on the effects of many types of pollution on human health and welfare. Copies may be requested by calling 456-9747 or dropping a note to 425 Cherry Street, S.E.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant will be in the City Hall at IONIA on Friday, June 26, from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m.



Your Washington Review

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June 29, 1970

I am deeply grateful to the 34,500 folks in Kent and Ionia Counties who answered my annual questionnaire which was sent to all postal patrons in both counties. The response was significantly above the average on similar questionnaires distributed by other Congressmen. This indicates the deep concern our citizens have for current issues. These responses are extremely helpful to me in analyzing and voting on legislation. I'm sure you will be interested in the results which follow:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unanswered</u>
1. Should the Post Office Department be placed on a pay-as-you-go basis?	73%	16%	11%
2. Do you believe the U. S. can rely on agreements reached with the Soviet Union?	20	75	5
3. Should the U. S. gradually expand its diplomatic and trade relations with Red China?	41	50	9
4. Do you favor President Nixon's multi-billion-dollar program to fight water pollution?	80	15	5
5. President Nixon has recommended strong anti-crime legislation. Do you favor:			
a. Allowing federal officers with a warrant issued by a federal court to enter private premises without knocking if drugs and other evidence of illegal narcotics traffic might otherwise be destroyed?	79	19	2
b. Keeping a criminal defendant in "preventive detention" if his record indicates he might commit a serious crime if freed on bond while awaiting trial?	90	8	2
6. Do you favor busing school children out of their neighborhood school areas to achieve better racial balance in classrooms?	7	91	2
7. Should balancing the federal budget to curb inflation be given priority over greater spending on government programs?	82	12	6
8. Should undergraduate college students be given temporary draft deferments?	43	52	5
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX			
9. Federal farm controls and subsidies should be:			
a. Phased out within five years, or		70%	
b. Continued as is, or		9	
c. Made permanent, with the subsidies reduced		9	
d. Others		12	
10. What is the single most important problem in the country today? Pick one.			
a. Air and water pollution		9	
b. Crime and violence		45	
c. The Vietnam War		25	
d. Inflation (rise in the cost of living)		13	
e. Others		8	

GOLDEN EAGLE PASSPORT: The Golden Eagle passport is an annual permit which admits tourists to all national recreational areas. Instituted five years ago, the program expired on March 31. Last Monday the House approved a bill to extend the program until Dec. 31, 1971 and authorize the Secretary of the Interior to increase the cost of the permit from \$7 to \$10 per year. The permit allows the purchaser and anyone in his automobile to enter federal recreational areas without additional fees.

The program although strongly endorsed by many has not been as popular as anticipated. It was hoped that about 36 million annual permits would be issued. But sales leveled off at between 600,000 and 700,000 per year. Revenue is exclusively used to expand the nation's outdoor recreational opportunities; this earmarked money is needed to improve our national parks. During the extended life of the program, it is to be completely reviewed and revamped to see how it can be made more popular.

RESOURCES RECOVERY ACT OF 1970: This is a good title given to a constructive bill on trash disposal. I was an original sponsor of a similar proposal. Each year this nation is generating about 360 million tons of solid waste (trash). We spend \$4.5 billion annually to have it collected and hauled to where it can be dumped or burned. Most of the time these dumps are among the worst blights in our environment.

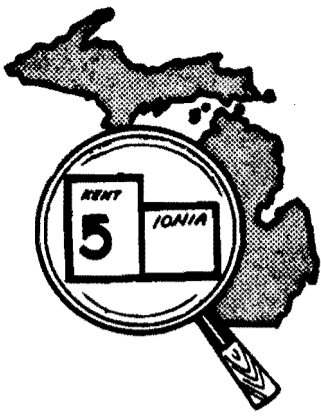
Practically every community is experiencing difficulties in disposing of its trash and garbage. The bill approved by the House last Tuesday provides funds to assist in the construction of solid waste disposal facilities and to carry on research to improve the means for such disposal. One technology which holds the greatest promise is the generating of electric power from solid wastes.

A recent analysis of city dumps showed that paper products, food wastes, and glass and metal products in that order are the most common items among our solid wastes. Rubber and leather goods were the least common items.

PUBLIC WORKS AND ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION APPROPRIATION: Also approved last week was a \$5.2 billion public works and AEC appropriation bill for 1971. The amount is \$467 million above this year's spending. Included in the bill is \$1 billion for the construction of waste treatment facilities. With \$440 million left over from this year, there will be available for local water pollution control in fiscal 1971 about \$1.44 billion. Since the inception of this program 13 years ago, more than 10,000 grants have been made to local communities serving about 78 million persons. The total federal cost has been \$1.6 billion with state and local investments totaling over \$5.5 billion.

AT HOME: On Saturday, July 4, I plan to participate in the Hollyhock Lane and American Legion parades in Grand Rapids. Later in the day I will be in Portland to take part in the celebration there. Last Tuesday afternoon I met with the Kent County Farm Bureau at Fallasburg Park and addressed the Michigan Sheriffs Association in Grand Rapids in the evening.

INDEPENDENCE DAY RECESS - No newsletter next week.



Your Washington Review

by

Congressman

JERRY FORD

July 13, 1970



Since our last report the House has approved a three-year \$3.1 billion program for continuing law enforcement assistance to the state and local governments. The purpose is to assist these governments in the control of crime and violence and to improve the quality of criminal justice. This is the program under which Kent County recently received \$35,000 for jail improvement and the Grand Rapids Police Department obtained \$5100 for improving recruitment and training.

During the next three years there will be an emphasis through this program to improve correctional facilities. Many experts feel that of all the activities within the criminal justice process, corrections appear to contain the greatest potential for reducing crime.

PEACE CORPS: The House of Representatives last week authorized \$98.8 million to operate the Peace Corps for another year. Greater use is to be made of volunteers who are experienced in farming, industry and other fields, the services of which are required by less developed countries. During 1969 about half of the Peace Corps activity was in education, 11 percent in agriculture, 10 percent in health, and 22 percent in community development.

The size of the Peace Corps has declined from an average overseas strength of 10,229 in 1969 to 7,703 for the current fiscal year. The Peace Corps is not trying to expand. It is redirecting its program to give greater emphasis to volunteers with practical experience and technical skills. I endorse this policy and supported the bill as recommended by the Committee on Foreign Affairs. In all likelihood there will be some cutback in the actual appropriations because of the financial problems facing the federal government.

TO CONFERENCE: By a vote of 237-153 the House last Thursday refused to instruct its conferees to support the Cooper-Church amendment. This means that when its conferees meet with those from the Senate on the Military Sales Act, they will insist on reversing or dropping from the bill the Senate's amendment restricting the President's authority as Commander-in-Chief.

By a vote of 225-160 the House reiterated its support of the amendment to the Postal Reform bill which would prohibit a union shop in the new postal system. Its conferees will insist on this position in its discussion with the Senate. I supported the House position on both of these votes.

LEGISLATIVE REORGANIZATION: I have long favored a reform and modernization of procedures in the House of Representatives. The House is scheduled to take up today the bill designed to update the legislative process and to reform committee and House procedures. The bill would open more committee meetings to the public, more severely limit proxy voting in committees, provide free tours of the Capitol through a new Capitol Guide Service, require that pages be of college age, and change a number of parliamentary rules under which the House now conducts its business.

A number of amendments are expected to be offered from the floor which will make further changes. These may include making available to the public votes taken in committee and a record of how members vote on the presently unrecorded teller votes. If the bill is passed this week I will report its principal provisions in the next newsletter.

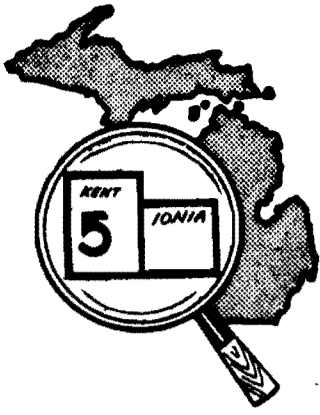
Last week the House unanimously authorized a study of lobbying practices and political campaign contributions.

CREDIT CARD MAILINGS: The House is also scheduled to act on a bill requiring any unsolicited credit card to be sent registered mail with delivery restricted to the addressee and a return receipt requested. This would mean that a credit card mailed to you, which you had not requested, may only be accepted and signed for personally by you. The Postmaster General may require that a notice be placed on the envelope that an unsolicited credit card is inside. Credit cards which have been requested or which replace expired cards may be sent by regular mail under this bill.

SERVICE ACADEMY EXAMINATION: The Civil Service examination for young men interested in entering the military, air force, or merchant marine academies next July will be held on Saturday, October 3. Interested persons should request an application from my office before September 15. As of now Kent and Ionia Counties will have one opening at West Point and one at Colorado Springs with none at Annapolis, but this may change. Competition for the Merchant Marine Academy is on a state-wide basis.

AT HOME: This Friday evening I will be speaking at the Grand Rapids Police Officers graduation. I have appointments at the Cherry Street office Saturday morning and will then attend the Republican picnic at Ideal Park, the Travelers Protective Association picnic and the Michigan Angus Breeders Field Day, both at Caledonia. Last Saturday I was also in the office for appointments, met with the Michigan Hereford Association at Cannonsburg, and discussed pollution problems with a group of teenagers who presented a petition on that subject.

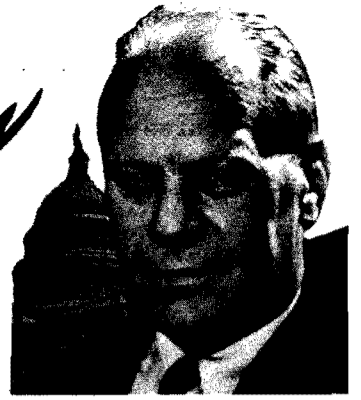
DISTRICT OFFICE: On Friday, July 17, my District Assistant, Gordon VanderTill, will be at the City Hall in ROCKFORD from 12:00 until 2:00 and in the City Hall at CEDAR SPRINGS from 2:30 until 5:00.



Your Washington Review

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JERRY FORD

July 27, 1970



Debate on the Legislative Reorganization bill still continues in the House of Representatives. No final decision has been reached so I can't report on how much congressional reform will be accomplished. I do want to reiterate, however, my endorsement of the proposals in the bill recommended by the Committee on Rules. I also support many of the amendments being submitted during floor consideration. May I specifically say that I favor those proposals which will eliminate secret voting by requiring the recording of votes taken in Committee and on the House floor. Constituents do have the right to know how their representatives vote. I would like to point out that at the conclusion of every session of the Congress I insert in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a complete report on my "Yea" and "Nay" votes during the year.

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN: The House will consider soon a constitutional amendment guaranteeing equal rights for women. A majority of House members (218) have signed a discharge petition to take the proposal away from the Committee on the Judiciary to which it had been referred. Soon it will be in order for the House to vote to discharge the Committee, to debate the issue, and to take a vote. Because this is a constitutional amendment a two-third vote is necessary for final passage. If the matter does come before the House I intend to vote to discharge the Committee and to support the constitutional amendment.

THE CONGRESS, THE PRESIDENT, AND THE BUDGET: President Nixon has called upon the Congress to exercise restraint and a greater degree of responsibility in enacting and funding federal spending programs. He criticized the persistent and growing tendency of the Congress to increase expenditures without providing additional revenue to pay the costs. This is a legitimate complaint.

House action to July 9 on all spending bills, appropriations and authorizations has added a net of \$2.9 billion to the President's recommendations for this fiscal year. Similar Senate action has added a net of \$2.5 billion. Bills, appropriations and authorizations enacted by July 9 have added \$192 million to the President's total estimated outlays for fiscal year 1971.

As the President stated: "The Congress must examine with special care those spending programs which benefit some of the people but which really raise taxes and prices for all the people...(And) except in emergency conditions, expenditures must never be allowed to outrun the revenues that the tax system would produce at reasonably full employment."

I support the request that the Congress establish a firm ceiling on total expenditures which would apply to the Congress as well as to the President. This will protect the taxpayer and the consumer and require both the legislative and executive branches of government to determine priorities and live within the established ceiling.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO? In President Nixon's 1971 budget, for the first time in 20 years, spending for human resources (health, education, welfare, retirement programs, etc.) will exceed defense spending. In 1962 under President Kennedy the federal government spent 48 percent of its budget for defense and only 29 percent for human resources. By 1968, the comparison was 45 percent to 32 percent. This fiscal year only 37 percent goes for defense and 41 percent for human resources.

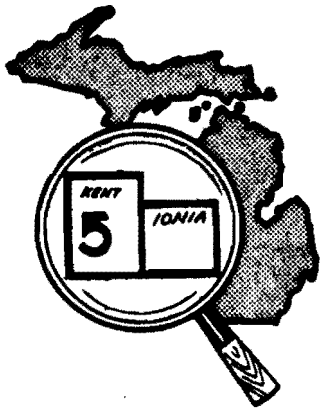
President Nixon's 1971 budget calls for more than \$83 billion to be spent for domestic social programs while defense spending is moving down to \$73 billion. The budget includes \$3 billion for elementary and secondary schools, \$1.5 billion for higher education, \$1.2 billion for vocational and other special education, and \$2.7 billion for manpower training. Health programs in the federal budget add up to \$14.9 billion. And initial cuts of \$12 billion in defense spending already have been made.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: The House on Thursday approved the final version of the unemployment compensation bill. This bill extends unemployment compensation to more than four million workers nationally, of which about 168,000 reside in Michigan.

But of equal significance is the fact that the bill provides for an extended benefit period for 62,000 unemployed workers in Michigan who already have exhausted their benefits. An effort was made to delay passage by insisting upon a further conference with the Senate. The House voted down this delaying proposal 219 to 170 because it was generally agreed that further conferences with the Senate would certainly delay and perhaps kill this important legislation which is badly needed now not only to solve the immediate problem but to greatly improve our overall unemployment compensation program. The legislation was then approved 388 to 3. I voted with the majority in both instances.

AMERICANS IN VIETNAM: On July 16 there were 408,600 American troops in Vietnam. This is 123,900 less than when Mr. Nixon took office. It is 134,800 less than the greatest number sent abroad under the program of the previous Administration. The total number of Americans in Vietnam is decreasing weekly under President Nixon's plan to de-Americanize the war and turn over to the South Vietnamese a greater responsibility for their own defense and welfare.

AT HOME: I am planning to be in Grand Rapids today for office appointments and a session with students and teachers in the Upward Bound program at Calvin College. I will also address the Peach Ridge Fruit Growers Association and participate in the "Meet Your Candidate" workshop at Woodland Mall. If the legislative schedule permits I expect to be at the Lowell Showboat on Friday evening.



Your Washington Review

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JERRY FORD



August 3, 1970

While the legislative reform bill has not yet been finally approved, the House of Representatives has agreed tentatively to record teller votes. I support such a change in the House rules. Under current rules on the teller votes, members pass up the center aisle between two members who do the counting. Their colleagues and anyone in the gallery, including newsmen, can observe how a member votes. But presently his vote is not recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD or any official report. Under the new rule the vote will be recorded by name (yes or no) in the RECORD. Incidentally in 22 sessions of the House from January 3, 1949 through July 30, 1970 I have been recorded on 5389 Yea or Nay votes and quorum calls out of a total of 5943 for a 90.7% attendance.

EMERGENCY HOUSING ACT: The Emergency Home Finance Act, designed to provide 512,000 mortgage loans for low, moderate, and middle-income family homes, has been signed by President Nixon. The Act will enable savings and loan associations and other lending institutions to make additional loans at a more reasonable rate of interest. One of the unique results of the shortage and high cost of mortgage credit in recent months is the nearly "death blow" given to housing for middle-income families. Shortage of mortgage credit has resulted in such high interest costs that a middle-income family is squeezed out of the opportunity of acquiring new housing. In many places, the only housing being built is high-price housing - above \$30,000 - which only the upper-income families can afford, and low-cost subsidized housing for low-income families. This Act is aimed at taking care of the folks caught in the middle.

Among the provisions of the Act is one which will reduce to a minimum of seven percent the going interest rate paid by families whose total income is at or below the "median" level in their localities. For the first time, the government will be assisting average income families in the purchase of a home. I supported the bill when it passed the House and was present at the White House when the President signed it into law.

Right now new housing is being constructed at the rate of 1.3 million units a year. Another 512,000 units encouraged by this Act will bring us close to the two million mark, something the nation has not approached since 1950.

RAILROAD RETIREMENT: On Thursday the House agreed to the final version of the

bill to provide a 15 percent increase in railroad retirement benefits to bring them up proportionately with Social Security. The increase is retroactive to January 1, 1970 when the larger Social Security benefits became available.

The bill also calls for a study on how to handle the subsequent financing of the railroad retirement system to make it actuarially sound.

ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES: Between 1950 and 1967, the number of workers in the allied health professions and occupations (technicians, therapists, dietitians, medical and dental assistants) almost tripled from about 290,000 to more than 800,000. The problem of training persons to qualify for these positions has become acute.

Last week the House approved a bill to extend and expand legislation first passed in 1966 to assist in training individuals for these occupations. This bill provides federal funds to assist in the construction and operation of teaching facilities, and in the development of new methods. The program also supplies funds to aid students in these fields, especially those who plan to become teachers or supervisors.

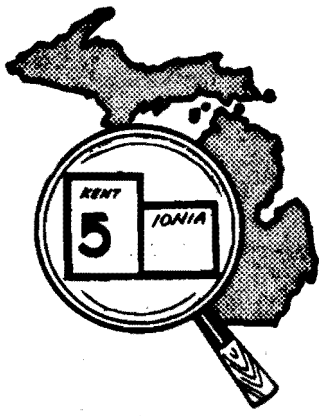
FACILITIES FOR MENTALLY RETARDED: The House also approved last week a bill to continue federal assistance for the care of the mentally retarded. The legislation authorized will provide a total of \$362 million to be spent over a three-year period. During the current year \$60 million would go for the construction and staffing of community facilities to care for the retarded, \$20 million for the construction of university-affiliated facilities, and \$15 million for demonstration and training grants.

ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS: Nine young men from the Fifth District entered the service academies on July 1. Six are at the Naval Academy in Annapolis: Robert Smith, Ada; Terry Mulder, Wyoming; Robert Thome, Ionia; Richard Terpstra, Dutton; Martin Everse and William Kloppe, Grand Rapids. William Maddox of Grand Rapids is at West Point. Steven Forberg and Kreigh Tomaszewski, Grand Rapids, have accepted appointments to the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs.

MARIHUANA REPORT: We have available a limited number of copies of a 100-page booklet on "Marihuana." This is the first report of the Select Committee on Crime of the House of Representatives. Copies may be requested by contacting my Grand Rapids office at 425 Cherry Street, S.E. where the telephone number is 456-9747. Or you may drop a note to me in Washington. "House of Representatives" is a sufficient address.

RECESS AND MOBILE OFFICE: The House has agreed to a recess for three weeks beginning August 14. I am planning a Mobile Office tour of Kent and Ionia Counties during the last part of August and the first week in September. Office hours will be maintained in the morning and afternoon at various communities. A detailed schedule will soon be announced. You are invited to come in for a visit.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant will be at the City Hall in LOWELL on Friday, August 7, from 2:30 to 5:00.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



August 10, 1970

The bi-partisan, compromise farm bill was approved by the House of Representatives last Wednesday. The bill had the support of the Administration, the Democratic-controlled Committee on Agriculture including the Chairman and senior Republican, and the Democratic and Republican leaders in the House. I voted for the bill on final passage when it was approved 212 to 171.

Because it is a compromise, the bill contains some provisions I do not personally support and it left out some provisions I would have included. But when the final vote comes we have to pass judgment on the legislation as a whole. In this instance I thought the compromise worked out by the Administration and the Committee was far better than no bill at all. The bill extends the federal farm program for three years. It maintains the supplemental income to farmers at about the current level of \$3.5 billion a year. One of the major technical changes involves the method of determining how certain crops are to be taken out of production. It grants farmers a greater flexibility in the management of their farms.

The bill does continue government financial assistance to farmers. In a joint statement the Democratic Chairman and the senior Republican on the Committee said: "Inasmuch as the farmer gets only about one out of three dollars which the consumer spends on food, it seems logical that if this aid is withheld from farmers then consumers are going to have to pay some \$9 billion to \$10 billion more for the same food because neither agriculture nor any other great business undertaking can continue year after year to put more money into production than the income it receives. As a matter of self-interest consumers must be concerned with the source of this necessary income. The method provided in this bill is clearly the least expensive in terms of retail food prices."

So the bill does attempt to protect the consumer from unreasonably high prices and the farmer from completely inadequate income. I supported the bill because it was the best we could get at the time. It is by no means a perfect bill nor the answer to "the farm problem." But "politics is the art of the possible." I believe we must continue to work toward a more satisfactory, workable, and economical farm policy.

The most controversial issue in the bill did result in a step forward. The bill as passed by the House limits government payments for any one crop to one farmer at \$55,000. Last year about 1100 farmers in the U. S. received more than this amount.

It is estimated that this limitation will save the American taxpayer about \$48 million a year.

I supported an effort to lower this ceiling on payments to \$20,000. This would have meant an annual savings of \$170 million. It seems to me that the basic objectives of the farm program could be achieved with a \$20,000 limitation and that higher payments only benefit large corporate farms at the taxpayers' expense. But on a teller (non-recorded) vote, the lower ceiling was rejected 161 to 134. The Committee on Agriculture, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the House Democratic leadership had announced its opposition to the \$20,000 limitation and their support for the \$55,000 payment limitation.

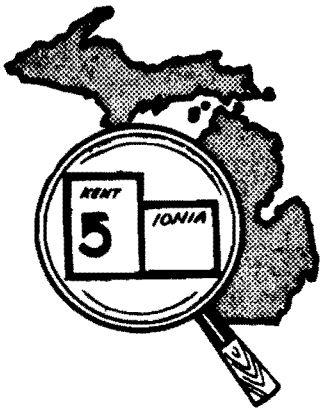
ANTI-OBSCENITY MEASURE: The House last Monday approved the third of President Nixon's anti-obscenity proposals, all of which I have co-sponsored. The bill passed by the House prohibits the mailing, or transportation in interstate commerce, of any unsolicited advertising matter of a salacious nature. The bill carefully defines "salacious" advertising to meet the Supreme Court's interpretation of the First Amendment. But its primary purpose is to stop the mailing of offensive sexually-oriented advertising material. The bill provides a maximum penalty of five years in prison and \$50,000 fine for the first offense.

POSTAL REFORM: On Thursday the House gave final approval to the postal reform bill to take the post office out of politics. Earlier in this Congress I was a sponsor of similar legislation. This action will not solve all our postal problems but it does provide the means for making substantial progress. One very specific objective is to eliminate the enormous annual postal deficit. The new postal authority may make some drastic changes in mail handling in order to effect economies. Partisan political influence in the post office which has dominated this \$8-billion-a-year business will be ended. Efficient business-type management will be instituted and economies in operation should result along with better service to patrons. The bill approved by the House calls for an eight percent increase in postal pay retroactive to April 18.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS: The proposed Women's Rights amendment to the U.S. Constitution is scheduled for a vote in the House today. There will be two votes: the first to discharge the proposal from the Committee on the Judiciary; the second, which requires a 2/3 vote, to approve the amendment. I plan to vote affirmatively on both measures.

THANK YOU: I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to all of you who voted for me in the Primary Election last Tuesday. Although I had no primary opposition, it was most gratifying to know that so many of you registered a vote of confidence in me and my efficient and loyal staff.

INAUGURAL FILM: My Grand Rapids office (456-9747) has available a 40-minute sound film on the 1969 Presidential Inaugural Ceremony. It is available to any group interested in this documentary.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman

JERRY FORD

August 17, 1970



Last Thursday I voted to save the taxpayers nearly a billion dollars. That is the significance of my vote to sustain presidential vetoes of the Office of Education and Housing and Urban Development-Independent Offices appropriations bills. The two vetoed bills provided \$994 million more than the President asked for, although the presidential requests met education and housing needs at a level generously above that of the previous Administration. This is a time when not only American families but the federal government should live within a sensible budget. It is a time which is critical in the fight against inflation. It is not a time for budget-busting actions by the Congress. I voted in favor of fiscal responsibility.

WOMENS' RIGHTS: By a vote of 350 to 15 the House of Representatives sent to the Senate a constitutional amendment stating that: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." If approved by a 2/3 vote in the Senate, it must be ratified by at least 38 states to become effective.

If the amendment is adopted it could affect any laws specifically protecting employed women and any state or federal laws affecting property rights of women or inheritance rights of widows if they differ from those relating to men. Laws relating to marriage and divorce, child custody and alimony would have to be the same for men and women. The sponsor of the amendment, Rep. Martha Griffiths (Mich-Dem), pointed out that women would be equally subject to jury service and to military service, "but women would not be required to serve in the armed services where they are not fitted any more than men are required to so serve." Both men and women would be permitted to volunteer on an equal basis. The separation of the sexes would be forbidden except where necessary because of overriding public interest and in a manner as not to deny individual rights and liberties. In summary, the amendment would not change existing laws, except those which restrict and deny women equal opportunities with men.

SLEEPING BEAR DUNES: The bill to establish the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Benzie and Leelanau Counties in Michigan is nearing consideration by the House. The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs has approved a bipartisan bill (H.R. 18776) sponsored by 17 of the 19 members of the Michigan delegation. The Committee on Rules has agreed that the legislation may go to the floor of the House

for two hours of debate and the consideration of amendments.

I joined with Congressman Vander Jagt, who represents the area involved, and my other colleagues from Michigan in sponsoring the proposal. The reported bill was worked out by the Committee after extensive hearings and careful evaluation. We trust that it will accomplish the purpose of preserving this area in its natural setting and at the same time adequately protect local and private interests.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA REPRESENTATION: The House passed two bills last Monday to give the people of Washington, D.C. the right to elect a non-voting delegate to Congress. The first provided for such a delegate in both the Senate and the House. The second calls only for a House delegate and would have a "little Hoover Commission" to examine the operation of the D.C. government. I voted against the first bill and for the second. I felt we should make a choice; it is historical and proper that the delegate from the District of Columbia be a House member, and it is evident that the Senate will not accept a non-voting delegate.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY: I have joined a number of House members in sponsoring a bill to set a \$205.6 billion ceiling on federal expenditures this year. That figure represents the latest revision of the President's budget outlays of fiscal 1971. If the Congress would adopt such a ceiling, to apply to both the Congress and the President, we would be on the way to fiscal responsibility.

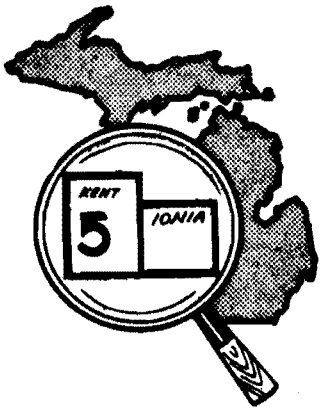
HEALTH PLANNING AND SERVICES: The House approved last week a bill authorizing (but not appropriating) \$1.3 billion over the next three years for improving health care. The money will go for public health facilities and services, for training of personnel, and for planning more efficient health care.

MOBILE OFFICE SCHEDULE: During the last week in August and the first week in September I am planning 18 Mobile Office stops in Kent and Ionia counties. The morning office hours will be from 9:00 to 11:30; in the afternoon from 2:30 to 5:00. Everyone is welcome. No appointment is necessary. We hope that anyone with a problem involving the federal government will come to see us. But I am looking forward also to visiting with those who want to discuss issues or who just desire to say, "Hello."

		MORNING	AFTERNOON
Monday,	August 24	Comstock Park	Rogers Plaza
Tuesday,	August 25	Sparta	Byron Center
Wednesday,	August 26	Rockford	Caledonia
Thursday,	August 27	Cedar Springs	*****
Friday,	August 28	Kent City	*****
Monday,	August 31	Belding	Lowell
Tuesday,	September 1	Ionia	Lyons-Muir
Wednesday,	September 2	Lake Odessa	Saranac
Thursday,	September 3	Portland	Grandville
Friday,	September 4	Ada	Standale

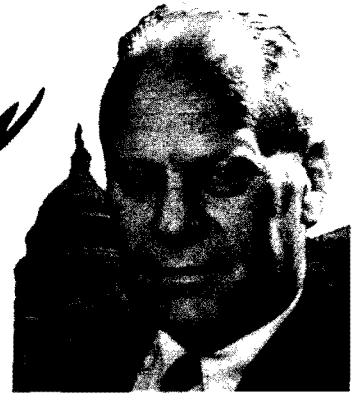
WASHINGTON REVIEW: Because of the House recess our next newsletter will be dated September 21.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant will be at the City Council Room in PORTLAND on Friday, August 21 from 2:30 to 5:00.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



September 21, 1970

President Nixon has announced a program to get at the menace of air piracy. He has taken action to protect American lives and aircraft. This week the House Committee on Foreign Affairs is continuing hearings on a large number of resolutions on this subject. The resolutions call for the establishment of agreements with all nations to provide for the mandatory extradition of a hijacker, and the imposition of international sanctions against any nation which protects or shelters a hijacker.

Today the Committee on Ways and Means opens hearings on Mr. Nixon's anti-hijacking measure. It will be concerned with the proposal to increase from 8 to 8½ percent the tax on domestic air tickets and to increase from \$3 to \$5 the tax on overseas air travelers. These revenue increases will be earmarked to pay for the security guards which will be accompanying all overseas and some domestic flights. In the same bill, President Nixon is requesting statutory authority to provide the guards who are already on the job under executive order. At a meeting at the White House with the Democratic and Republican leadership and the President it was agreed there would be bi-partisan support for this legislation.

VETERANS PENSIONS AND SOCIAL SECURITY: The House is expected to approve today a bill which will assure veterans that they will not lose any of their VA pension because of the 15 percent increase in social security effective January 1, 1970. We have had numerous inquiries on this subject during the year. Many veterans with a VA pension find that the social security increase puts them in an income bracket ineligible for the veterans pension. In other words, the social security increase results in a decrease in their total annual income. The bill, unanimously approved by the Committee, will prevent this. No veteran will lose his pension because of the social security cost-of-living adjustment.

CREDIT CARDS: The House has approved the bill requiring unsolicited credit cards be sent by registered mail to assure personal delivery. To further protect the individuals a notice explaining the contents must be printed on the envelope.

Credit cards which have been requested or are renewals or replacements may, under this bill, be sent regular mail. The Senate which has taken a different approach to the problem must still approve the House bill.

AN ANTI-POLLUTION MEASURE: During the past week I introduced two bills, one relating to air and water pollution; the other would revise the handling of the

federal tax on commercial airline tickets.

The anti-pollution bill is modeled after Michigan's so-called "Sax bill" signed into law recently by Governor Milliken. This Michigan legislation gives our citizens the right to bring legal action in our state courts against those whom they believe to be polluting the environment. Michigan is the first state to enact this concept into law.

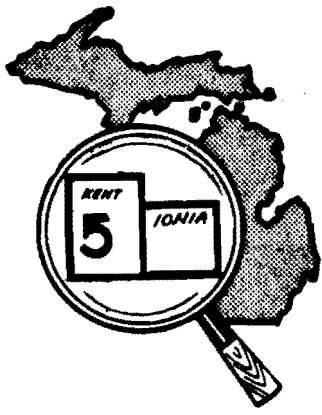
It seems to me this right should be extended to all of the 50 states and that remedy should be available also through the federal courts, otherwise Michigan could be discriminated against. My bill adapts Michigan's law to make its provisions applicable to the entire country. This bill is not expected to be a substitute for governmental regulation but is aimed at giving the individual or a group another weapon in the fight against pollution. However, any action under the bill involves a judicial proceeding to protect the interests of the defendant as well as those of the plaintiff. The bill, titled the "Environmental Rights Act of 1970," has been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

AIRLINE TICKET TAX: Earlier this year Congress raised the tax on domestic airline tickets from 5 to 8 percent. The Act also states that the ticket shall show only the total cost to the passenger without indicating the amount of the federal tax. Furthermore, any agent of the airlines who states the specific amount of the tax on the ticket or in any advertising of flight fares is subject to a fine of \$100. My bill eliminates this requirement and penalty. There is no sound reason for hiding the tax and certainly no reason at all for the \$100 fine for a clerk who puts the amount of tax on a ticket.

This provision was not in the bill when it passed the House. It was added by the Senate which argued that it was simpler for the passenger to be given a set price including tax. This, it was said, would also speed up the issuance of tickets and prevent deceptive advertising. I agree with those who insist that passengers have the right to know exactly how much federal tax they are paying and that no one should be fined for putting the tax on the ticket.

SLEEPING BEAR: The House was scheduled to consider last week, H.R. 18776, the bi-partisan bill to establish the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Seashore in Michigan. However, action was postponed and the bill is on the agenda for this week.

PRELIMINARY CENSUS REPORT: Figures recently released by the Bureau of the Census puts Michigan's population at 8,778,187, an increase of 12.2 percent over 1960. Kent County is up 12.4 percent to 408,234. Ionia County's population is 45,632 representing an increase of 5.8 percent. Grand Rapids has 195,892 people, up 10.5 percent over ten years ago. Ionia City showed a 7 percent increase to 6,284. I am co-sponsoring legislation to postpone the final announcement of the population count until some of our cities can be satisfied that the census enumeration was accurate.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



September 28, 1970

Legislation to establish the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, which has been a controversial issue before the House of Representatives for more than a decade, was approved last Tuesday. The bill was a thorough revision of previous measures and had the support of every member of Congress from Michigan, our Governor, and the state legislature. It resolved two fundamental objections to previous proposals: the lack of reimbursement to local governmental units of local tax revenues, and unacceptable provisions for the condemnation of unimproved property. The State has agreed to reimburse local units of government so they will not lose one cent of tax money. A fair system has been developed to obtain and pay for unimproved (no buildings) property. It is important to note that any longstanding cottage owner on the land will continue to own his cottage outright and in perpetuity.

The 61,000 acre park will be located in Benzie and Leelanau Counties on Lake Michigan and will include South and North Manitou Islands. It is estimated that the land can be acquired for not more than \$19.8 million and that improvements will cost less than \$19 million. The purpose is to preserve this part of Michigan as a recreational area for present and future generations. Sleeping Bear lies within an easy day's automobile drive of well over 10 million people.

There are some who feel for various reasons that this park should not be established. The issue was controversial down to the last word and final vote. But I felt the arguments in support of this conservation measure outweighed the objections. As a co-sponsor I participated in the debate on behalf of the Sleeping Bear and voted "yes" on final passage.

LEGISLATIVE REFORM: After debate extending over a period of weeks the House has approved a 155-page legislative reform bill. It alters many of the practices and procedures of the House. A large number are technical and of a housekeeping nature. But some are of general interest. No longer will visitors to the Capitol pay a 25¢ fee for guide service. Capitol guides will be put on the payroll and conducted tours of the Capitol will be free. Depending on the results of a study authorized by the bill, a soundproof plexiglass barrier may separate the galleries from the rest of the Chamber. If this is done loudspeakers will be installed in the galleries so visitors can hear better and they will also receive a commentary of what is transpiring on the floor. Reading and note-taking will then be permitted in the galleries.

All Committee meetings will be open to the public unless the Committee by a majority vote decides otherwise. Committee meetings may be televised if the major networks are interested and the Committee has no objection. Today the House does not permit Committee sessions to be televised.

The teller vote which heretofore has been a non-recorded procedure is eliminated. The RECORD will in the future show how each Member voted. A voice vote and standing vote may still be used. Both procedures are unrecorded. But 20 percent of the House members present can demand a recorded teller or yea-and-nay vote.

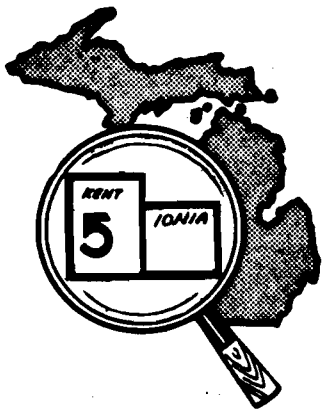
Before final passage I supported an amendment to the bill which would have outlawed all proxy voting in any Committee. It seems to me that members should be present and personally voting if their vote is to count. This stringent proposal was defeated 187 to 156. The bill does prohibit a general blanket proxy which may be used on any and all measures. It restricts proxies to a specific bill before the Committee.

I voted for the legislative reform bill on final passage when it was approved 326 to 19. It is now with the Senate for further consideration.

ANTI-AIRLINE HIJACKING LEGISLATION: The Committee on Ways and Means has approved the increase of 1/2 percent in the tax on airline tickets to provide funds for maintaining security guards on all overseas and some domestic flights. The new funds will also expand the use of electronic devices to detect hijacking weapons. Incorporated in the bill is a provision to authorize airline tickets to show the amount of the federal tax as well as the overall fare. This would accomplish the objective of my own bill which I described last week.

UNORDERED MERCHANDISE: Have you ever wondered what you should do with unordered merchandise which comes through the mail? The older common law concept was that one should pay for it if he made use of it. But more than half of our states have ruled that these items can be considered a gift. Now the Congress has stated officially in the postal reorganization bill that unordered merchandise received through the mail "may be treated as a gift by the recipient, who shall have the right to retain, use, discard or dispose of it in any manner he sees fit without any obligation whatsoever to the sender." The law makes this apply also to charitable organizations soliciting contributions. Moreover, any such items sent through the mail must inform the recipient that he may treat the merchandise as a gift.

SPACE REPORT: We have 100 copies of a report on a survey of the practical returns from space investment. It is entitled, "For the Benefit of all Mankind," and discusses the tangible benefits which have been received from our space exploration. Requests for the 59-page pamphlet will be honored as long as the supply lasts. Drop me a note at the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515, or call my Grand Rapids office: 456-9747.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



October 5, 1970

Severe criminal penalties for those who engage in the illegal drug business are provided in the comprehensive drug act recently passed by the House of Representatives. Persons engaged in "continuing criminal enterprises" which provide substantial profits from illicit drug traffic can be sent to prison for a term of 10 years to life and be fined up to \$100,000. A second conviction carries a mandatory sentence of not less than 20 years, a fine up to \$200,000, and forfeiture of all profits from the business.

On the other hand the bill stipulates that the illegal possession of drugs by an individual for his own use is a misdemeanor with a sentence of up to one year imprisonment and a fine of not more than \$5,000 or both. The quantity of a drug found in possession of a person will determine whether the drug is for his own use or for the purpose of illicit transactions involving others. The bill aims to severely punish those in the professional drug rings (peddlers and pushers) while giving the personal user a "second chance."

For a first offense by a personal user, the judge may grant probation. If after one year there has been no further use of drugs, the proceedings against the offender may be dismissed and his record wiped clean. This is designed to protect the youngster who may experiment once with drugs. It may not be used in any second offense cases.

The bill provides other penalties depending on the nature of the drug and the extent of the criminal activities. It grants considerable discretion to the courts, eliminating most of the mandatory sentences in current law. This will permit judges to consider the circumstances involved in each case. But second offenses carry double the penalty for first offenses. And when a person over 18 sells drugs to a person below 21, the first offense punishment is twice that otherwise provided.

The bill does more than penalize. It authorizes \$165 million over a 3-year period for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers and drug dependent persons. These funds will be used for treatment and education at community health centers and public health facilities. The aim here is to prevent and treat. Included in the preventive measures is the required registration of manufacturers and all those involved in distribution. Complete records on all controlled drugs must be kept.

One of the more controversial items in the bill was the "no knock" provision.

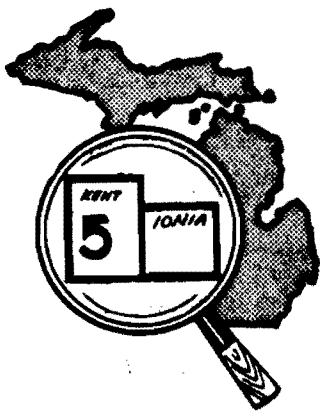
This permits an officer to enter without notice if he has a "no knock" search warrant. The warrant can only be obtained from a judge who has been convinced that evidence would be destroyed or the life of the officer endangered without such a search warrant. Such warrants are now used in 29 states to combat illicit traffic in drugs. I supported the "no knock" provision when it was endorsed on a teller vote. I voted for the bill on final passage when it was approved 341 to 6.

ILLEGAL FISHING IN U. S. WATERS: The House has also enacted legislation aimed at halting illegal fishing in our territorial waters by foreign fishermen. It is estimated that less than 10 percent of foreign vessels illegally fishing within our 12-mile fishing zone off the coast of Alaska last year were actually apprehended. The bill as approved authorizes the government to pay up to \$5000 to informers whose information leads to a conviction. The maximum penalty for illegal fishing in our waters is increased from \$10,000 to \$100,000. In addition all fish on the seized vessel is forfeited. Furthermore, the Coast Guard is authorized to use aircraft and vessels of any federal agency in enforcing the law and in more effectively halting the poaching now going on.

EXECUTIVE REORGANIZATION APPROVED: The House has given its approval to two proposals submitted by President Nixon to promote greater efficiency in the executive branch. One reorganization plan puts most of the bureaus and agencies concerned with pollution in a single new "Environmental Protection Agency." The other places several federal programs dealing with the oceans and the atmosphere in a new "National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration" within the Department of Commerce. President Nixon's purpose in both instances is to coordinate related governmental activity and to eliminate duplication of effort.

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION: On Thursday the House approved a \$3.1 billion authorization bill for loans and grants to assist local areas in improving their public transportation facilities. This was the amount requested by the President. The Committee had recommended \$5 billion but the House voted 200 - 145 for the lower figure. I supported the reduction of \$1.9 billion and voted for the bill on final passage.

AT HOME: I am planning to meet with the Grand Rapids Junior Chamber of Commerce Thursday evening and to speak to the Grand Rapids Kiwanis Club next Monday. Last Saturday I participated in the Red Flannel Day festivities at Cedar Springs and on Friday spoke to an assembly of township officials in Grand Rapids. On the previous Tuesday I left the Capitol at 5:00 p.m. to fly home in order to address the Sparta Republican Women's Club in the evening. Wednesday morning I participated in a flag-raising ceremony at the Adams Park Apartments, spoke to an assembly of Catholic Central Senior and Junior High School students, and addressed a noon meeting of the Grand Rapids Optimist Club. Congress is expected to recess within a week or two so I can be home for a more extended period.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



October 12, 1970

A \$66.6 billion defense appropriation bill was approved by the House of Representatives last week. This represents a \$6 billion reduction over last year's military appropriation and a \$2 billion cut in the Administration's request. Over \$48 million was saved by reductions in civilian employment. In June 1968 there were 1,287,000 civilian employees in the Defense Department. By June 1971 this number will be reduced to 1,145,000, a cut of 142,000. \$95.2 million was cut from the travel allowance account in order to encourage greater stability in military assignments; more than \$203 million was saved by a decision of the Department of Defense to reduce the strength of our military personnel.

The Congress and the President, ever mindful of our tax burden, nevertheless cannot play down the legitimate needs of our national defense and security. The Committee pointed out that "the Soviet Union continues to increase its inventory of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles and sea-based submarine launched ballistic missiles. Soviet naval forces are being augmented steadily and modernized both in surface ships and in submarines.... Competition with the Soviet Union is becoming keener every day and there is no room for American bungling in the field of defense."

Military personnel strength as of June 30, 1971 will be down to 2.9 million, a reduction of 500 thousand in two years. The Navy will have 757 commissioned ships in the active fleet including 41 Polaris and Poseidon submarines carrying 656 ballistic missiles. The Air Force will have 1,054 ICBMs on launchers and an active inventory of 13,352 aircraft.

A breakdown in this year's bill indicates that each of the three services get about one-third of the total with slightly more going to the Air Force and slightly less to the Army. Military personnel account for \$20.6 billion in expenditures, operation and maintenance \$19.2 billion, and procurement \$16.2 billion.

Retirement pay to military personnel has risen to \$3.2 billion this year. In 1969 there were 692,000 retirees and survivors on the rolls; this year the number will be 825,000. By 1980 it is estimated that the number will increase to 1.2 million and the cost to over \$5 billion annually.

"TORA, TORA, TORA": One item in the Committee's report is different and of special interest. It seems the producers of the movie, "Tora, Tora, Tora," paid the

Navy \$319,091 for its services in assisting in the production of the film. A review of costs suggests that the company should pay an additional \$196,000, including \$136,500 for operating the USS Yorktown for 2½ days. The Committee recommends that the Navy proceed to collect.

VIETNAM: When President Nixon assumed office there were 532,500 Americans in Vietnam. As of October 1 he had reduced this number to 390,200. By next spring we plan to have no more than 284,000 men there. Spending for the year in southeast Asia is expected to decline from a high of almost \$30 billion per year to a rate of \$14.5 billion by the end of this fiscal year.

If President Nixon's reasonable and constructive peace proposals are accepted by North Vietnam, there will be more drastic reductions in manpower and expenditures in southeast Asia.

ORGANIZED CRIME CONTROL ACT: I gave my full support to S. 30, the organized crime control bill, when it was approved by the House last Wednesday. The threat of organized crime cannot be ignored or longer tolerated. This bill embodies President Nixon's proposals and will be a major tool in the government and the people's fight against the hierarchy and the sources of revenue of the criminal syndicate.

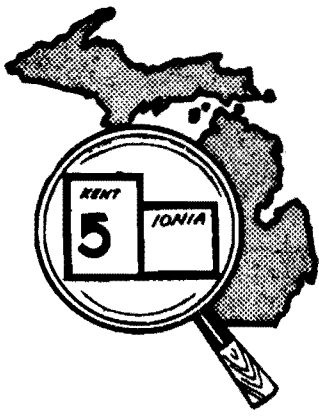
Many of the provisions are technical but all are designed to make it easier to apprehend and convict the professional criminal. One section establishes federal control over the interstate shipment of explosives. It sets up a license and permit system and prohibits the distribution of explosives to those under 21, drug addicts, mental defectives, fugitives from justice, and felons.

The bill is also concerned with individual rights and establishes a Commission to study federal law and practices relative to wiretapping, bail, preventive detention, no-knock search warrants, and the collection of information on individuals by federal agencies.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ACT: The House may consider this week a bill to continue and expand federal aid for highway construction. The authorizations for fiscal year 1974 are increased from \$2.2 billion to \$4 billion with a similar amount for each of the following three years.

Next year Michigan is expected to receive \$147.5 million for interstate highway construction, \$36.5 million for primary-secondary-urban roads, \$10 million in federal aid for special urban systems, and \$3.6 million for rural highway improvement. This legislation could accelerate the construction of U.S. 131 north of Grand Rapids to Cadillac and beyond.

Financing of this assistance comes from the Highway Trust Fund into which user excise taxes are funneled. Because the Trust Fund is scheduled to expire in September of 1972, this bill extends the Fund and the user excise taxes for five years. This is necessary if we are to continue our highway program in an orderly fashion.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



October 19, 1970

Congress has recessed until November 16. I preferred an adjournment before election with no "lame duck" session afterwards. But the majority leadership decided that such a session was necessary. There is still much to do but it is unfortunate that decisions on important issues will be made by some members who will have been replaced at the November 3 election.

Final action has to be taken on seven of the 14 regular appropriation bills which must be passed to provide funds to operate the government this fiscal year. Also awaiting further consideration is legislation on social security, welfare, import controls, industrial safety standards, and the federal highway system.

A VETO: Mr. Nixon has vetoed the bill limiting political campaign spending for radio and TV. I voted for the bill when it passed the House. I believe it is a fair solution to a difficult problem. I understand the President's position but I intend to vote to override the veto.

LEGISLATION APPROVED: During this Congress I have sponsored or co-sponsored numerous bills. Those relating to the following subjects have become law or have been passed by both houses: postal reform, airport-airways program, solid waste disposal, organized crime, illegal gambling, emergency home financing, coal mine safety act, commission on population growth, clean air, our maritime system, District of Columbia crime and a D.C. non-voting delegate in the House of Representatives.

In addition legislation which I have introduced on the following subjects has passed one house: obscenity and prurient advertising regulation, welfare reform, and social security improvements.

STUDENT INTERNS: Ten college students from the Fifth District served in my Washington office during 1970. We valued their contributions and trust that their experience was both enjoyable and valuable. From Grand Rapids: Richard Ball, 1051 12th N.W; James Benjamin, 2560 Elmwood Drive S.E; Chris Gulve, 547 Kenthills Road; Deborah Hammerlind, 1341 College N.E; Thomas Vander Molen, 1725 Westlane Drive N.E; David Verdier, 3111 Hall S.E; Michael Walton, 1545 Eastlawn S,E; and Mary Jane Zinn, 1943 Linden S.E.

Also with us were Robert Branyan III of 48 Friendship Drive, Sparta; and Harry Collis, 6084 Meadowlark N.E., Rockford.

Any student with a legal residence in Kent or Ionia County should write me if

he is interested in working for a limited time in my Washington office during 1971.

ACADEMY OPPORTUNITIES: Applications will be accepted until October 30 from young men in the Fifth District who are interested in attending the Military Academy at West Point or the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs. Presently we have one vacancy at each college for the class entering July 1971. The Civil Service designation examination will be given at the Grand Rapids Post Office and elsewhere on Tuesday, November 3.

SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITIES: The federal government offers a large number of summer jobs in various parts of the country to students and other young people. Applications should be submitted early as a civil service examination is required. These will be given on January 9, February 13, and March 13. Applications must be submitted about a month in advance.

Civil Service Announcement No. 414, giving all the details and providing an application form, will soon be available at most post offices. If you can't obtain one, please drop me a line and I will forward the announcement to you.

YEARBOOK OF AGRICULTURE, 1970: "Contours of Change," the 1970 Yearbook of Agriculture has just been published. It is a book about rural America--where a third of all Americans live--and the forces constantly reshaping it.

Our supply of 400 copies will be coming to us during the next few weeks. Requests to my Grand Rapids office (456-9747) or to Washington (H-230, The Capitol, 20515) will be honored as long as the supply lasts.

AT HOME: Now that the House is in recess, I am planning a number of meetings with local groups during the next two weeks. Tomorrow I will be with the Grand Rapids Lions, Davenport College, and Temple Emanuel. Wednesday: Grand Rapids Breakfast Club, Grand Valley State College and the American Business Club of Grand Rapids. Thursday: Aquinas College, Civitan Club and the West Michigan Data Processing Management Chapter. Friday: The Y's Mens Club and True Light Baptist Church.

Next Monday I expect to attend the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, to meet with the Grand Rapids Exchange Club, and speak at Calvin College. Tuesday: Grandville Jaycees. Thursday: public meeting at East Grand Rapids High School. Friday, a TV program, and on November 2nd I am scheduled to be with the Grand Rapids Council of World Affairs.

There will be some time for personal interviews at our 425 Cherry Street office. Please call 456-9747 for an appointment.

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW: This is the last issue of our newsletter for this session of Congress. If your address has been changed, if you are receiving more than one copy, or if you would like to have your name added to the mailing list, please let me know at either office mentioned above.