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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

With the delivery of his State of the Union Message, the President has laid before the Congress an agenda for the year...a list of national priorities.

The word, "agenda," suggests a work load that is dry and unexciting. The challenge the President has placed before the Congress is anything but that. His program is bold, imaginative, innovative.

The President has set forth six great goals--full prosperity in peacetime, welfare reform, the restoration of our environment, the best possible health care for all Americans, new attacks on our social problems through sharing of Federal revenue with state and local governments, and complete reform of the Federal Government.

About some of these goals there is no controversy. We all want to achieve prosperity in peacetime, restore our environment and realize the best possible health care for all Americans. Where the arguments will come is in how we are to achieve those goals.

The President has already moved vigorously to strengthen the economy, provide jobs and boost home buying. New jobs will be created by faster tax writeoffs for investments in new plant and equipment. The Administration has cut the interest rate ceilings on FHA and VA home mortgages. Housing appears headed for a banner year in 1971.

There will be arguments over the President's latest move to stimulate the economy--a Federal budget based on a full employment concept. A full employment budget is a spending plan drafted with the idea of spending the kind of revenue you would have if the economy were running at full speed. The theory is that this is the way to get the economy rolling.



So this is one way in which the President's 1971 program is innovative--  
revolutionary, if you will.

His other revolutionary proposals are welfare reform, Federal revenue sharing  
and a complete overhaul of the Federal cabinet departments.

There will be plenty of fights over these proposals. And, in the final analysis,  
the verdict will depend on what the American people want.

Welfare reform ~~probably will not have much trouble~~ passed the House easily last  
year, and it probably will not have much trouble this year. The Senate--where  
welfare reform ~~foundered~~ last year--is ~~the~~ the big question mark.

The first bill introduced in the House this year is one which includes  
President Nixon's welfare reform proposal, improvements in the Medicare and Medicaid  
programs, and a 10 per cent Social Security increase.

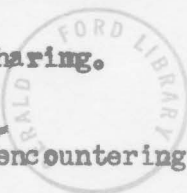
Speaking of Medicare and Medicaid, let me say at this point that I hope the  
92nd Congress will be a "Health Congress." I look for the enactment of legislation  
which will put ~~adequate~~ proper health care within the reach of all Americans,  
and will step up the fight against such dread diseases as cancer.

Those parts of the President's program which will run into the ~~the~~ greatest  
difficulty are revenue sharing and overhaul of the Federal cabinets.

All of the polls indicate ~~the~~ the American people ~~would~~ would like to see the  
Federal Government share its income tax revenues with the ~~states and cities.~~ states and cities.  
The idea is revolutionary only because the Federal Government has never done this before  
without tying all kinds of strings to the money. And yet a number of states, including  
Michigan, share tax revenue with local units of government and the system works fine.

I think there will ~~be~~ be a groundswell in favor of Federal revenue sharing.

I am counting on this to counteract the built-in opposition that we ~~are~~ already encountering



in the Congress.

The question posed by the President's program is whether the American people want more ~~money~~ Federal money pumped into the same old programs, operated under the same old system, or ~~whether we want to build~~ whether we want to build a new ~~America~~ America through a return of power to the ~~people~~ people.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington. I'll be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from [redacted] Washington.

Congress [redacted] is [redacted] getting organized for a two-year stretch of work.

Members of both parties--in the House and in the Senate--have met in caucus and have changed the rules under which they operate to give the younger fellows more of a chance to rise to positions of power. The old seniority system has been shaken.

Under the setup adopted by House Republicans, a [redacted] GOP congressman is not assured the top spot on a committee just because he has been around longer than any one else. Seniority is only one of the criteria for the ranking a man gets on the committee ladder. I supported this change. I think it is very much a change for the better.

I personally have begun my fourth two-year term as Republican leader of the House. I was unopposed for that position and was elected unanimously by other Republican members of the House. The job of [redacted] Republican House leader carries many responsibilities with it, but I want you to know that my responsibilities to the Fifth Congressional District of Michigan come first. I invite your letters. I want to know about your problems, and I want to help you with them.

One of our great national problems right now is unemployment. We must expand the economy and bring the rate of unemployment down. That is why I am pleased to support President Nixon's fiscal 1972 budget, which is [redacted] drawn with the idea of helping to promote full employment in this country.

I fully support the concept of [redacted] using the Federal budget to help bring about full prosperity in peacetime, in combination with an expansion [redacted] of the money supply by the Federal Reserve Board. It is far better to plan a deficit with a view to achieving prosperity than to stumble into a deficit with a blindfold on.



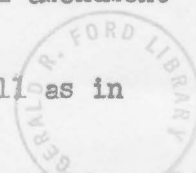
It is time for an expansionary budget and an easier monetary policy. We have turned the corner on inflation. We will continue to make progress on this problem while at the same time moving the economy ahead. We cannot afford to keep a halter on the economy. Instead we must prescribe the medicine of stimulation for it. A headline in the New York Times a few days ago stated: "Price Rise Slows As Economy Gains." I think that is the pattern for the immediate future.

Something else that impressed me about President Nixon's fiscal 1972 budget was its emphasis on ~~sharing~~ sharing--sharing our burdens and sharing our It's a "Fair Share" budget. blessings. It would provide proper health care for our citizens regardless of economic circumstance. It would place an income floor under every family in America. It would ~~strengthen~~ strengthen our efforts to ~~protect~~ protect the civil rights of every American.

I was glad the President called for an extraordinary effort to find a cure for cancer. We must provide all the funds that can be profitably spent in fighting this dread disease.

I was pleased, too, by the budget's emphasis on additional funding to restore and preserve our environment. I am much encouraged by the work done thus far by the new Environmental Protection Agency, set up ~~late~~ late last year on the President's initiative. I look for real progress on our environmental problems under this new agency, and I hope Congress this year will ~~enact~~ enact new legislation to aid in the fight against pollution.

Now I would like to call your attention to some legislation I am personally sponsoring in the new 92nd Congress. I have co-sponsored a constitutional amendment giving 18-year-olds the right to vote in state and local elections, as well as in Federal elections. I have also co-sponsored a ~~resolution~~ resolution which would



set up a Joint (House-Senate) Committee on the Environment. I have personally introduced a bill to permit suits by citizens against polluters. I call this "The Environmental Rights Act of 1971." I have also introduced ~~two~~ bills to increase from \$140 to \$400 a month the amount ~~that~~ a widow with children can earn without losing Social Security benefits, / to provide a \$25,000 Distinguished Citizens Award for Americans coming up with a working solution to ~~a~~ a major national problem, / to require reflectors on railroad cars, / and to change the tariff duty on certain leather work gloves.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

The House of Representatives will be buckling down to work now after getting organized and recessing over Lincoln's Birthday. The Lincoln's Birthday recess is a period when Republican members of the Congress are busy giving speeches--because it so happens that Lincoln was the first Republican President.

It was Abe Lincoln who said, in a time "piled high with difficulty," that we must "think anew and act anew."

So it is today, and so it is that President Nixon has sent the Congress a bold Federal budget designed to help promote full employment in peacetime and a plan that would return government to the people by letting more Federal money be used to make local decisions. He calls his plan "revenue sharing," but that is a mild title for what really is a revolutionary idea.

It would reverse the tide of power that has been flowing to Washington ever since the days of the New Deal. It would give the power of decision on <sup>major</sup> programs back to people at the local level.

The President would do that in two ways--by returning \$5 billion in Federal income tax revenue to the cities and states to use for local needs, without any Federal strings attached, and by taking roughly one-third of the present Federal programs and turning them over to the state and local governments, along with \$11 billion to pay the bills. The second half of this plan is called special revenue sharing. The \$11 billion would go to the cities and states for big problem solving connected with present programs, but the cities and states would decide how to spend the money on those problems.

*Grand Rapids,* ~~Model Cities program~~, for instance, would continue to get as much Model Cities money.

But the City Commission would decide how much to spend on the Model Cities program.





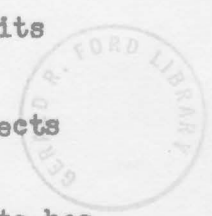
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
So that is how the special revenue sharing program would work. Every community would get as much special revenue as it is getting now under programs run from Washington ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~--but under ~~the~~ the President's plan the local governing body would decide how to spend the Federal money it got for urban development, rural development, education, manpower training, law enforcement and transportation.

I strongly support both this special revenue sharing and a general sharing of Federal revenue without any strings. I support it because I firmly believe we should return to the time when the bulk of government decisions in America were made in town meetings across the land. I believe we should return to government by the people.

Revenue sharing was one of the six great goals set forth by the President in his recent State of the Union Message. Another of his great goals is to restore the environment.

President Nixon wants the Congress to appropriate nearly twice as much for environmental protection in the next fiscal year as in the current year--\$2.5 billion, as against \$1.3 billion. The increase comes mostly because the Administration wants to double Federal grants for municipal sewage plants--boost them from \$1 billion to \$2 billion.

Not all of the Federal money would be for new projects. Twenty-five per cent would be set aside to pay back ~~the~~ states and cities for the Federal share of <sup>sewage treatment</sup> plants already finished. This fits in with what the State of Michigan has been doing under its Clean Waters Bonding Program--going ahead with sewage plant construction projects despite the fact ~~that~~ all the Federal funds haven't been forthcoming. The State has



advanced roughly \$100 million to cover Federal costs, and Michigan local communities have advanced \$80 million. The Federal Government has to reimburse Michigan for this \$180 million if Michigan's progressive water pollution control program is to continue. So I am very happy that the Nixon Budget provides for such reimbursements.

This is your Congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from the Nation's Capital. I'll be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

Congress is in recess over the Lincoln and Washington's Birthday period. This gives me an opportunity to talk with you about a subject which is not in the news right now but is high on my list of important goals. That goal is prison reform.

Why should we be concerned about conditions in our prisons? The primary answers are...for humanitarian reasons and also because our prisons are supposed to be correctional institutions. When we send men to prison, theoretically it is for them to do penance there--that's where the name penitentiary comes from--and then to have them come out as rehabilitated individuals.

Nineteen out of every 20 persons sent to U.S. prisons eventually return to society. What happens to them while they are in prison? Are they rehabilitated? In some cases, the answer is yes. But in far too many instances, our correctional institutions fail to correct. Far too many of our jails and prisons corrupt rather than correct. All too often these institutions are breeding grounds for continued criminal careers instead of being places where convicts are prepared for return to a useful role in society.

Studies show that today at least 40 per cent of all offenders released from custody eventually are re-arrested and return to prison. That's two out of five--and it is far too many. Small wonder that it is so difficult to bring the crime rate down!

As long as we permit this backsliding ~~to continue without improvement, crime will continue to increase.~~ Improving our correctional system is one sure way of ~~reducing~~ the crime rate over a period of time.



Correcting criminal behavior should be the primary goal of our prison system. Confining men under conditions which encourage idleness and brutality can only serve to foster criminal behavior.

Unless we change the offender while he is in prison, the prospects of his returning to society as a law-abiding citizen are remote indeed. Instead we have an endless cycle of arrest, imprisonment, release and rearrest. This cycle must be ended.

Congress has taken two very important steps to try to accomplish this goal, and I have supported this action most strongly.

In 1968 the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act made limited resources available to the states for the improvement of prison facilities.

Last year Congress approved the Omnibus Crime Control Act of 1970 which added a new section to the 1968 Act and authorized greater emphasis for corrections work.

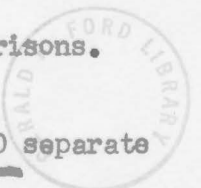
Under this new section, the Nixon Administration is seeking a supplemental grant of correctional institutions \$52.5 million for the rest of this fiscal year and is asking for \$97.5 million for fiscal 1972.

These figures will increase over the coming years as the overall appropriation for the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration increases. Fifty per cent of these funds are to be used as block grants to State planning agencies, and 50 per cent are for LEAA discretionary grants.

The National Council on Crime and Delinquency reports that there are 358 State penal and correctional facilities for adults in the United States. Of these, 61 were opened before 1900. Twenty-five of these are more than 100 years old.

Less than 10 per cent of our prison population is housed in Federal prisons.

The great need is at the State and Local levels, where an estimated 10,000 separate



custodial institutions exist.

Congress will continue to help. But State and local officials must become aware of the Shame of Our Prisons and see to it that constructive action is taken. For the sake of justice, ~~the~~ decency and ~~the~~ humanity, this Nation must find a solution to its ~~shameful~~ shameful prison conditions. We must bring our prisons and their rehabilitation programs into the 20th century.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington. I'll be talking with you ~~again~~ again next week--same time, same station.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

I'd like to talk with you today about health care. Let me begin by noting what we all have recognized--our health care system is inadequate. We have severe shortages of doctors and other medical personnel, skyrocketing hospital costs, instances of obsolete equipment, and problems caused by the high cost of medicines. All of this has put suitable medical attention beyond the reach of many who need it the most--especially the poor, our rural population, and the elderly on fixed incomes. And the threat of a catastrophic illness hangs over us all.

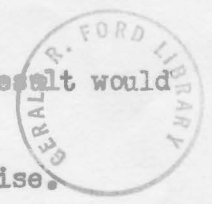
The Grand Rapids Area ~~Michigan~~ has a well-deserved reputation for fine medical care. But even in our area ~~Michigan~~ the problems are serious.

There are those who insist the present system is sound and should be left alone. There are others who demand that we throw out the baby with the bath water and replace the present system with some scheme in which the Federal Government controls everything.

Both of these points of view are wrong. We must act. We must institute a program of thorough-going change and ~~the~~ reform. But ~~that~~ it makes no sense at all to destroy the system we now have and to start all over ~~again~~ with a program that is government-controlled from the ground up.

Sen. Kennedy and ~~others~~ others have proposed a ~~new~~ system of compulsory national health insurance which would cover every person in the nation with benefits including the payment of ~~the~~ hospital bills and physicians' fees. Sounds great, doesn't it?...

... Until you consider that this ~~is~~ radical ~~new~~ new program would cost anywhere from \$70 to \$77 billion a year, just to start with, and would impose tremendous new demands on medical manpower that already is in short supply. The result would ~~be~~ certainly be a sharp escalation of costs that already are in a steep rise.



The Kennedy Plan would be supported 50 per cent by general tax revenue. I personally think the Federal income tax is too high now. The plan also would involve a payroll tax of 3.5 per cent on employers and a tax on employees' wages of 1 per cent for those earning up to \$15,000 a year and 2.5 per cent for those earning more.

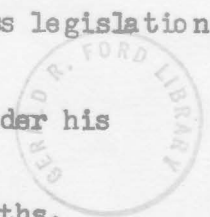
In coming months there will be a great national debate involving the Kennedy Plan and the health partnership plan advanced by President Nixon. The Kennedy Plan would substitute a massive Federal program for all of the private health insurance plans now in existence. The Nixon plan offers a partnership between Government and the private sector. It would provide better health care for all Americans but it would be paid by the private economy instead of the taxpayer.

The Nixon Plan would require all employers to provide minimum health insurance coverage for their workers, beginning July 1, 1973. The employers would pay 65 per cent of the cost of the premiums initially and 75 per cent after 1976. Employees would pay the remainder.

For the most part, the benefits would be far higher than they are today. The Nixon Plan would cover all maternity care with no deductions, for example. Children's health services would be covered, including vaccinations and periodic checkups.

Most significantly, the Nixon Plan would provide total payments as high as \$50,000 for catastrophic illness.

Some members of Congress have criticized the Nixon Plan, declaring it would be a windfall for the health insurance industry. They are ignoring the fact that the President wants to regulate the health insurance industry as part of his plan. He has said he will send Congress legislation to make sure that the premiums to be charged by the insurance industry under his health partnership plan are reasonable. He will do this within three months.



This national health insurance program is only one part of a five-part Nixon Health Package. The rest includes a <sup>Government-supported</sup> family health insurance plan for low income families with children not covered by the employer plan; continuation of the Medicaid program for the aged, blind and ~~disabled~~ disabled; prepaid employer-employee contributions for ~~Medicare~~ Medicare to provide one-half the cost, with general revenues providing the other half; and establishment of private insurance pools for risk-sharing for employers with small numbers of workers, the self-employed and people outside the labor force.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

The U.S. Capitol Building is still buzzing over the bombing that took place in the early morning March 1 on the Senate side of the Capitol. It is shocking that any individual in this country would even entertain the idea of blowing up the National Capitol Building. The guilty must be tracked down and punished. Anarchistic actions of ~~any kind~~ this kind cannot be permitted to continue.

I would like to turn now to one of the messages President Nixon has sent to the Congress, laying out an urgent course of action.

In one of his ~~most~~ most significant moves to date, the President has urged tough new policies and proposals to improve this Nation's environment.

He has pointed up the need for measures which would strengthen present pollution control programs, control emerging problems and promote environmental quality in land-use decisions.

The President is asking ~~\$2.45~~ \$2.45 billion for the programs of the new Environmental Protection Agency. This is <sup>nearly</sup> ~~more than~~ double the amounts appropriated for these programs in fiscal 1971.

The requested funds will provide for the expansion of air and water pollution control, solid waste disposal research, radiation and pesticide control programs.

The Administration also requests that \$6 billion be authorized and appropriated over the next three years as the Federal share of a \$12 billion Federal-state-and-local program of building waste treatment facilities. Part of this Federal money would be used to reimburse States like Michigan which have gone ahead to build waste treatment plants in the absence of Federal funding.

In the area of enforcement, the President would like the Environmental Protection



Agency to be empowered to ~~impose~~ impose fines of up to \$25,000 per day for violation of water quality standards--and double that amount for repeated violations.

It is also proposed that \$25 million be appropriated to develop better techniques for preventing and ~~cleaning~~ cleaning up oil spills and providing more effective surveillance.

Other Presidential proposals deal with pesticide control, the recycling of wastes, toxic substances, ocean dumping, and noise control.

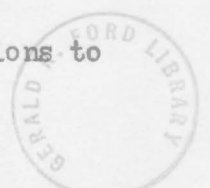
One of the President's major proposals has to do with developing a ~~national~~ national land use policy.

The President recognizes that most land use decisions will continue to be made at the local level. His proposed legislation would establish a national land use policy which would encourage the states, in cooperation with local governments, to plan for and regulate major developments affecting growth and the use of critical land areas.

To do this, the President has budgeted \$10 million a year for the next five years.

The solutions to environmental problems are often complex and costly. To help come up with solutions, the President has proposed that the Federal Government ~~join~~ join in establishing an Environmental Institute. This Institute would have the responsibility for ~~providing~~ providing new ~~strategies~~ strategies for dealing with the whole spectrum of environmental problems.

It is interesting and significant that Grand Rapids already has--locally--an organization which is ~~studying~~ studying and coming up with ~~alternate~~ alternate solutions to ~~environmental~~ environmental problems.



This is a ~~an~~ <sup>non-profit</sup> organization called the Center for Environmental Study. Peter Wege of Grand Rapids is ~~the~~ President of the Center. Pete recently visited with me in my Grand Rapids office and discussed the work of the Center with me.

I was so impressed with the work the Center ~~is~~ has been doing that I sent its reports on solid waste disposal and the systems approach to environmental problems to Russell Train, head of the President's Council on Environmental Quality.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

The House of Representatives shortly will be voting on whether to continue ~~subsidizing~~ development of the supersonic transport plane, known as the SST.

Congress must make this decision before March 30. All indications are that

the vote in both the House and Senate will be close.

*The SST program was started by Pres. John Kennedy. It has been fully supported by Presidents Johnson + Nixon*

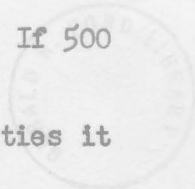
My personal position is that we should complete the developmental phase of the project. We should build the two prototypes which are contemplated and then decide whether to go ahead with production. I will oppose production of the plane unless I am satisfied that all ~~the~~ objections raised by environmentalists have been satisfactorily answered.

Why should we go ahead with development of an SST? The Russians, and the French and English, jointly, are already building supersonic transports. The Russians test-flew their plane, the TU-144, on Dec. 31, 1968, and are now planning *commercial flights from* to institute Moscow to Calcutta ~~service~~ on Oct. 23, 1971. The British and French are already testing their Concorde *at super-sonic speeds + plan commercial service in 1972*.

This ~~disadvantage~~ means we are behind but it does not mean it is ~~pointless~~ to build an American SST. The U.S.-SST would be a better plane than either the TU-144 or the Concorde and would cost about 20 per cent less to operate than the Concorde.

~~The Russians have already started with their TU-144 in the supersonic transport market, and will not be satisfied until they have sold their planes to other countries until 1972.~~

Although we are behind the Russians and the British and the French in point of time, there ~~already~~ *are* 129 of our SST's *and from U.S. + foreign orders* on order. If 300 are sold, the Government will recover its entire ~~investment~~ investment in the development ~~of~~ of the plane. If 500 are sold, the Government would make \$1 billion net profit through the royalties it will receive. So the SST program is ~~unusual~~ unusual among Government programs. It



is expected to make money for the Government, not take money from it.

The program calls for the Government to invest \$1.3 billion to build two prototypes of the SST and to pay for the research and development required for their design. Of that amount, roughly \$900 million has already been spent. If Congress ordered the program cancelled, the Government would pay up to \$161 million in contract penalties.

So the choice the Congress faces is the expenditure of nearly \$1.1 billion, with nothing to show for it, or the expenditure of an additional \$200 million with development of ~~the~~ the world's finest airplane as the result.

Let me touch just briefly on a few of the environmental questions involved in building the SST.

First, noise. This problem no longer exists. ~~It does not~~ <sup>would</sup> The SST produce half as much noise for airport neighbors ~~as~~ <sup>as</sup> present jets because the SST can approach or leave an airport ~~at~~ at a steep angle rather than linger over a community.

Sideline or airport noise was a problem until ~~the~~ General Electric redesigned the SST engine ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> reduced sideline noise ~~to~~ to a level under the Federal Aviation Administration's limit and considerably under that of presently <sup>operating</sup> jets.

Will the SST pollute the atmosphere? There is no valid evidence that SST operations will be environmentally offensive. ~~There are~~ <sup>There are</sup> theories the SST may alter the weather or disrupt the stratospheric ozone layer which shields us from harmful solar ultraviolet rays. The weight of scientific opinion refutes such theories. To conclusively settle this question, a research program is ~~being~~ under way in the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Dr. William W. Kellogg, who headed up an M.I.T. Study on ~~the~~ Critical Environmental Problems, says that "nowhere have we ~~indicated~~ indicated that we believe SST development should be held up pending the results" of studies like that now under way.



There are those who ~~claim~~ claim that SST operations will use up vast amounts of the world's ~~oil~~ oil. The truth is that ~~in 1990~~ in 1990, all commercial aviation together ~~account for~~ account for will ~~consume~~ some 2 per cent of the world's fuel consumption--and the world's SST's will consume only a fraction of this 2 per cent.

I can only conclude that the case for an SST presently is much stronger than the case against it. I would like to keep the U.S. aviation industry preeminent in the America need world, ~~generate~~ the 150,000 jobs that are expected in connection with SST production, we need 6.5/10 the ~~additional~~ billions in taxes that would result from production the SST, and the U.S. needs \$50 billion favorable trade balance that would ensue.

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One of the least-noticed but most noteworthy accomplishments of the Nixon Administration has been its crackdown on the deadly narcotics racket.

Just recently, in a well-coordinated series of raids, the Justice Department seized 56 of the nation's top dope peddlers and \$50 million worth of narcotics, as well as \$81,000 in cash.

In another promising action, the United States and France signed a narcotics control agreement which Attorney General John Mitchell called "a blow for liberty." This is no exaggeration when you ~~consider~~ <sup>drug</sup> consider that addiction is genuine slavery.

Under this agreement, seven U.S. agents will serve in France, and two French agents will be ~~working~~ working in this country. France has long been known as the "crossroads of the world drug trade."

Also, ~~in~~ due to President Nixon's emphasis on the drug menace, Turkey has announced that the number of its provinces allowed to ~~grow~~ grow opium poppies has been reduced. The Turkish government is stepping up its efforts to keep ~~these~~ <sup>these</sup> poppies out of the illegal market.

All of these actions ~~point~~ point up the fact that the Nixon Administration is doing everything possible to stop the merchants of hypodermic death.

The Administration has shown that it means business in its war against illegal drugs--but it needs help from all Americans.

The nation must launch a crackdown against those who ~~purchase~~ purchase stolen goods... because the war against drug abuse cannot succeed unless the ~~market~~ market for so-called "hot" merchandise is dried up.

The drug business in the United States ~~operates~~ <sup>#</sup> operates an underground economy that runs



into the billions.

A money-making byproduct of the illegal drug business is the growing number of people dealing in stolen goods.

A team of doctors from Johns Hopkins Drug Abuse Center in Baltimore has outlined this problem, and the figures are absolutely astounding.

In Baltimore alone, the doctors reported, hard-drug dealers are doing an \$84 million-a-year business in drug sales. The addicts to whom they sell drugs steal \$313 million worth of goods a year and sell these goods for about one-third of their retail value.

Citing specific cases, the team of doctors reports that one addict averages \$150 a night by robbing pedestrians. Another young drug user stole equipment off parked cars to support his \$65-a-day drug habit.

Still another user told the team of doctors that in a short period he had stolen 50 leather coats, 50 television sets, 40 radios, a mink stole and hundreds of dollars in cash from private homes.

The Johns Hopkins team said the traffic in stolen merchandise must be halted if drug traffic is to be stopped.

The doctors' report reminds us that someone is buying this stolen merchandise. Without such buyers, there would be no money for the user to buy his drugs.

We are making headway against the drug traffic in this country, but there is much yet to be done.

The Administration bill ~~strengthening the~~ <sup>laws</sup> narcotics passed Congress last October.

It provides ~~for~~ <sup>and for</sup> expanded programs of rehabilitation stepped-up

~~enforcement~~...with 300 agents added to the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs.





But perhaps most important, the new Drug Abuse Control ~~Act~~ Act provides for educational programs ~~aimed at~~ ~~discussing~~ dissuading potential users from becoming involved with drugs. This is the crying need today--to convince our young people that fooling with drugs is being a fool, nothing less.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington. I'll be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

I have chosen this time to discuss foreign policy with you--although I could have picked a time when there were rosy developments abroad.

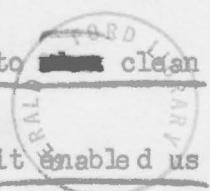
What I want to point out to you is that there are positive developments on the foreign affairs front despite the continued tension in the Middle East and the pounding taken by some South Vietnamese troops as the Laotian incursion comes to an end.

The points I want to make are these: We are getting out of the war in Vietnam; we have succeeded in averting a new war in the Mideast, and a de facto cease fire is continuing; we have made a solid beginning in the U.S.-Soviet talks aimed at cutting back the arms race.

We are getting out of the Vietnam War. Two years ago, there were almost 550,000 Americans in Vietnam. Today there are little more than 300,000, and by May 1 the figure will drop to 284,000. This spring the President will announce a new schedule of withdrawals. I repeat: We are getting out of Vietnam while giving our friends in Southeast Asia the time and the means to defend themselves. ~~The~~ prospects <sup>now</sup> are that the South Vietnamese will retain their independence and that the rest of Southeast Asia will remain free of Communist domination.

Our eventual goal is a total withdrawal of all U.S. forces. But as long as North Vietnam continues to hold a single American prisoner, we shall have forces in South Vietnam. This past week, on Capitol Hill, we observed a Week of Concern for our American Prisoners of War. Every week must be a week of concern for our POW's. <sup>will</sup> They will never be forgotten by the American people or by their Government.

Much of the progress in Indochina has been due to the success of the allied operations against the Communist sanctuaries in Cambodia. Our decision to clean out the sanctuaries in Cambodia saved thousands of American lives. And it enabled us to keep on withdrawing our men on schedule.



The purpose of the South Vietnamese incursion into Laos, supported by the U.S. from the air, was the same as the Cambodian incursion--to save lives and insure the success of our withdrawal program next year.

There is no question that the flow of supplies along the Ho Chi Minh Trail has been massively disrupted by the Laotian operation. The intensity of the fighting in Laos is evidence of the importance of that supply line to the Communists.

I think we will see dividends from the Laotian Operation just as we did from the Cambodian incursion. After Cambodia, our casualties dropped to half the rate they were before Cambodia.

What is happening is that thanks to the disruption of so much of the enemy's supplies, Americans are leaving Vietnam in safety.

In the Middle East, the United States took the initiative to stop the fighting and start the two sides talking--through Gunnar Jarring of the United Nations.

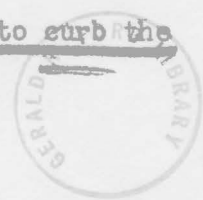
A year ago there was daily combat along the Suez Canal. There was growing danger that the United States and the Soviet Union would be drawn into direct confrontation.

America took the lead in arranging a ceasefire and getting negotiations started.

We know that centuries of ~~animosity~~ hatred and decades of hostility cannot be ended overnight. There must be painful compromise on both sides before any kind of viable agreement will be reached in the Mideast. But at least the two parties are talking about the possibility of a peace agreement--as difficult as agreement may be.

In the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks--the so-called SALT Talks--the United States and the Soviet Union are carefully examining the strategic competition that has grown apace in recent years--despite tremendous capacities for overkill on both sides.

There is reason to hope that specific agreements can be reached to curb the arms race.



We may well be inching toward a magnificent turning point in history--an agreement  
which will add to the security of both of the world's superpowers while adding to the  
world's peace of mind.

One bit of truth remains despite all efforts in the SALT Talks. We--the United  
States-- must remain strong until we have the kind of  strategic arms  
control agreement we can rely upon.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you  from the Nation's Capital.  
I'll be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

A drive is now under way to give youth full participation in the nation's political processes--and it has my full support.

The Congress has almost unanimously approved a Constitutional Amendment to lower the voting age to 18 in state and local, as well as federal, elections.

The Constitutional Amendment states: "The right to vote, of citizens in the United States who are 18 years of age or older, shall not be abridged by the United States or by any State thereof on account of age." I was a cosponsor of that amendment.

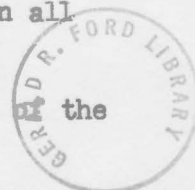
Enactment of the proposed Constitutional Amendment now requires ratification by three-fourths of the states--38 of the 50 states.

The Voting Rights Act of 1970, passed during the last session of Congress, lowered the voting age to 18 but the United States Supreme Court ruled the Act invalid as it applied to state and local elections.

Our present lopsided voting law letting 18-year-olds vote only in federal elections makes no sense at all. How can we say to our young people...you're old enough to vote for the highest offices in our land but too young to vote for governor of your state or mayor of your city?

The states now must act to give our young people the full measure of participation they deserve in our nation's electoral process. Only by correcting the injustice in the present electoral system can we give back to millions of America's younger citizens the faith many of them have lost in the responsiveness of government.

Congress has affirmed the fitness of 18, 19 and 20-year-olds to vote in all elections. Now the states should join in to give these young people a piece of the action--where they live. They can say...yes, we welcome your participation in our system.



If the states don't do this, we will have a mess on our hands. We will have to set up dual registration and balloting systems in all states not allowing 18-year-olds to vote in state and local elections. Apart from the confusion involved, the cost is estimated at \$20 million. This makes the need to give our 18-year-old citizens the full franchise ~~even~~ more pressing.

Again on the subject of our young people, I would like to turn now to another critical subject--the need to overcome the difficulty young people are having in financing their higher education.

We need to help more students afford college. We must reform present programs of financial assistance to students.

I am supporting legislation which would ~~provide~~ provide federal assistance so that an additional one million students could complete their education.

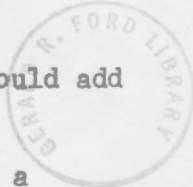
This bill is called the Higher Education Act of 1971. It would make it possible for every qualified student, regardless of economic status, to get the kind of help he needs to go to college.

I believe it is the fundamental right of every American to receive an education--including a college education--if he has the aptitude and the intelligence it takes.

No qualified student should fail to go to college for lack of funds. If we accept that statement--and I think every member of Congress does--then the Congress should not fail to act this year on proposals to expand funding opportunities for prospective college students.

Federal funds should go first and in the largest amount to the neediest students. But loan money should be readily available to students from higher income families.

So ~~that~~ we ~~should~~ <sup>should</sup> create a National Student Loan Association. This would add \$1 billion for student loans. At the present time, it is almost impossible for a



prospective college student to get a loan from a bank. This situation must be remedied, and the proposed National Student Loan Association appears to be the answer.

In addition to supporting this college aid legislation, I am getting ready to send out scholarship and loan assistance information to high schools in both Kent and Ionia Counties. I am sure this information will be helpful to our students.

This is Congressman Jerry Ford, reporting to you from the Nation's capital.

I'll be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

#####



This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

~~Congress has begun its Easter recess after a most important action by the~~

*The House of Representatives <sup>last week</sup> approved a*  
~~House approval of a bill which paves the way for establishment of an all-volunteer~~  
 armed forces ~~while~~ while extending the draft for two years.

I know there is some alarm over one of the provisions of the draft bill--the  
~~eliminating of ~~some~~ college deferments.~~ *2 was <sup>also</sup> until I carefully read all of the testimony before the committee* Actually, it would be more accurate to

~~talk about a phasing out of college deferments, because that is what will happen~~  
 if the Senate also approves the provision.

The deferment-ending provision would be retroactive to April 23, 1970. ~~The~~  
~~President has ~~just~~ pledged that~~ All young men who were enrolled in ~~a~~ a college or  
 university on April 22, 1970, would be eligible to retain deferments or apply for  
 them. These deferments would continue until the student graduates or fails to  
 pursue a full ~~course~~ course of study.

A young man who enrolled ~~in~~ in college after April 22, 1970, would be eligible  
 for call when his local draft board reaches his random selection number. If  
 he is called, ~~his~~ induction could be postponed until the student finishes up a  
 semester, term or quarter.

*had previously*  
 The President on April 23, 1970, ordered all occupational and paternity  
 deferments ended.

Dr. Curtis Tarr, director of the Selective Service, regards student deferments  
 as ~~the major inequity remaining~~ the major inequity remaining ~~in~~ in the Selective Service Law. He says giving  
 college students preferential status discriminates against those young men who  
 lack the financial resources, the parental encouragement or the academic preparation  
 to go to college.

*Under this legislation*  
 I expect that we will gradually get to the point ~~of~~ of zero draft calls.





Unless there is some new and unexpected international threat to our security, draft calls ~~it~~ should diminish steadily, and this major ~~source~~ source of irritation to our young people will disappear from the national scene.

Meantime, I am hopeful that <sup>military</sup> the pay increases and fringe benefits in the House-approved draft bill will bring about an all-volunteer force.

While I don't think we can "buy" an all-volunteer army, the fact ~~is~~ is that present military pay is nothing short of ridiculous for the lowest grades of enlisted men. It is ~~an~~ absolutely shameful.

Present military pay scales discourage our young men from choosing the military as a career.

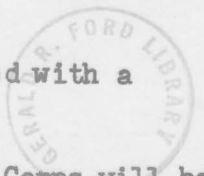
This is why the House took a giant leap toward an all-volunteer armed force by raising military pay and allowances \$2.7 billion in one fell ~~stroke~~ swoop.

The Administration had recommended a two-phase increase of \$987 million the first year and \$1.7 billion the next. But the House Armed Services Committee lumped it all together into one huge increase beginning July 1, 1971.

The pay plan results in an average increase in basic pay of ~~an~~ 68.6 per cent for enlisted men with less than two years of service.

In addition, the basic allowance for quarters would be made more realistic. At present, it is \$45 a month for the first four enlisted grades, with or without dependents. The new rate would raise the figure to \$60 for those without dependents in the first three grades and \$105 for ~~an~~ those with dependents.

Besides these outright raises, the Defense Department will improve the living environment of enlisted personnel by partitioning the present barracks into rooms housing two or three men. These semi-private rooms are to be furnished with a rug, desk, chair, and lamp. The cost of this for the Army and Marine Corps will be



\$68 million, but it is expected to pay off in reenlistments.

To ~~the young men~~ men who served in World War II, as I did, ~~and~~  
 this seems a bit far out ~~or~~ or even revolutionary. But this is 1971, and spartan  
 living conditions just aren't conducive to attracting <sup>young</sup> people to a career in the  
 military. So the open bay barracks is going the way of the <sup>Navy's</sup> hammock and the salt water  
 showers. *of W.W. II & before*

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reprting to you from the Nation's capital.

~~For the young men who served in World War II, as I did, and~~

####



This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

Cities, counties and states are running out of money--and so the overwhelming majority of the public servants representing these units ~~of~~ of government favor the President's plan to share \$5 billion in Federal revenue with the states and local units of government.

However, ~~some~~ opposition to the President's proposal is formidable. It is opposed by House Ways <sup>and</sup> Means Chairman Wilbur Mills, Democrat of Arkansas, and by the Democratic Speaker of the House, Carl Albert of Oklahoma, ~~for~~ for instance.

These opponents need an answer for local ~~units of government~~ units of government desperate for more funds and so they are coming up with their own alternative to Federal revenue sharing.

In my view, this opposition and the alternatives being offered spell just one thing--a commitment to the status quo, opposition to change.

The most talked-about alternative to revenue sharing is a Federal takeover of welfare costs. But if you explore this alternative, you find it falls far short of accomplishing what revenue sharing would do and is a mighty poor substitute.

We need to overhaul our welfare system from top to bottom--and we also need revenue sharing. But Federal takeover of welfare costs is not a substitute for revenue sharing.

Kent County commissioners recently ~~were~~ came to Washington and did some missionary work among the Michigan congressional delegation on behalf of revenue sharing. Their position is the same as mine. We need revenue sharing and welfare reform, both, not a Federal takeover of ~~all~~ all welfare costs.

The federalization of all welfare costs is a proposal that has significant weaknesses in providing across-the-board fiscal relief to state and local governments.



It would give no recognition ~~to~~ to non-welfare needs and would be distributed only on the basis of welfare population, regardless of a state's other problems and the state's revenue raising ability and effort.

Compared with the formula for \$5 billion in Federal revenue sharing, 41 states would be penalized under federalized welfare, with 57 per cent of the total ~~the~~ funds going to the 10 richest states and only 6 per cent going to the 10 poorest.

Michigan, for instance, would get \$229 million the first year under general revenue sharing, and would receive ~~only~~ only \$210 million if the same \$5 billion were used to pay welfare costs.

~~And~~ while general revenue sharing would provide for an average of 48 per cent of the funds to be passed on to local governments nationwide, only 10 per cent of federalized welfare funds would go directly to local governments.

Of that 10 per cent, three-fourths would wind up in the coffers of local governments in New York and California.

There is another compelling reason why Federal revenue sharing is much to be preferred to a complete federalization of welfare.

The House Ways and Means Committee is considering full federal takeover of welfare costs over an eight to 10-year period. Federal ~~the~~ revenue sharing would provide massive relief to the states and local units ~~of~~ of government the first year it goes into operation.

Under ~~the~~ <sup>a</sup> welfare bill now being considered by Ways and Means, Michigan's welfare cost saving would be \$91.1 million. Under Federal revenue sharing, Michigan would receive \$229 million the first year.

The states, cities and counties need help now--not eight or 10 years from now.

Ways and Means Committee  
Over all, the ~~immediate~~ welfare bill calls for spending \$17.6 billion in fiscal



1971-72--\$5.3 billion more than under present law and \$1.7 billion more than President Nixon's family assistance plan.

all told, the states would save \$2.1 billion. This falls far short of the \$5 billion in relief they would get under the President's general revenue sharing plan.

Federalization of welfare is not the answer to the fiscal plight of the states and local units of government. We need Federal revenue sharing.

This is ~~my~~ your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

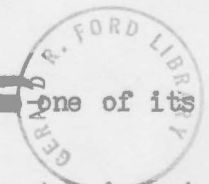
This past week we all joined in observing Earth Week. Earth Week 1971 stands in contrast with Earth Day 1970, which was ~~an~~ <sup>simply</sup> an outpouring of concern over the environment. Earth Week 1971 focused on grass roots action to improve the environment. ~~It~~ <sup>had</sup> certainly ~~my~~ my vote of approval.

As the Michigan Student Environmental Confederation puts it, "It is our challenge this year to not only educate the public on local environmental issues but to start to enact change to correct those problems."

I am delighted with that attitude on the part of our young people. I would suggest, however, that not enough of our ~~people~~ people--young and not so young--are thoroughly aware of what is now being done to improve our environment. Much more can and will be done, but we have made an excellent start with the creation of the Federal Environmental Quality Council and the Federal ~~Environmental Protection~~ Environmental Protection Agency. That these ~~agencies~~ agencies are firmly determined to take giant steps toward improving our environment was demonstrated by the reaction of William D. Ruckelshaus, administrator of the new Environmental Protection Agency, to criticism voiced recently by consumer advocate Ralph ~~Nader~~ Nader. Ruckelshaus welcomed the criticism and said ~~it~~ ~~pointed~~ it ~~pointed~~ pointed the way to remedial action.

What about the Environmental Quality Council? Some people think of it as just another presidentially-appointed advisory group--just so much window dressing. But this is not the case at all. The truth is that the Environmental Quality Council has what amounts to veto power over every public development that could have an adverse effect on our environment.

Every federal agency now must prepare a report on the effect every ~~one~~ one of its public works projects might have on the environment. This, and environmental impact



reports from the cities and states, then go to the Environmental Quality Council.

The projects do not go forward without the Council's okay.

Take the proposed <sup>Alaskan</sup> oil pipeline, [redacted] for instance. Under the new procedure, whatever decision the Interior Department may reach on the pipeline is subject to review by the Environmental Quality Council. It is certain the pipeline will not go ahead without Council support.

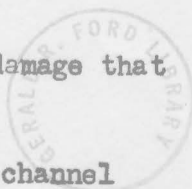
The Environmental Protection Agency is a new departure, a fresh start in meeting the challenge to reclaim the environment, to restore the delicate balance which supports life on this planet. It is a new, integrating approach to the environmental crisis.

EPA is a coordinated attack on some of the most persistent manifestations of a deteriorating environment.

Beyond restoring the quality of our air and water, EPA is concerned as well with the use of pesticides which threaten both man and animal. EPA is concerned with the disposal of solid wastes which blight our countryside, contaminate both air and water, and befoul our oceans. EPA is concerned, too, with the hazard to human health and water ecology which the increased production of radiation from man-made sources represents.

In creating the Environmental Protection Agency, the Administration has gathered together in a single agency the responsibility for research, standard-setting, monitoring and enforcement with regard to all of these threats to man and nature. EPA exercises these responsibilities as an independent agency, an agency that has no obligation to promote commerce or agriculture, but rather the awesome obligation to protect and improve our environment.

There is no one source [redacted] which EPA can control that will undo the damage that all of us have done to the environment. Our country is awakened. We must channel



this new-found awareness to constructive action for a better and cleaner America--as Earth Week spokesmen have urged over the past seven days.

It is EPA's job to be an advocate for the environment wherever decisions about our common future are made. But only the efforts of every one of us will insure that the world our children inherit will be cleaner and healthier than the one we know now.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington. I'll be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

#####





This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

Washington this week is literally under seige by militant end-the-war demonstrators, led by radicals Rennie Davis and David Dellenger. *These leaders are much different from the War Veterans who were here last week.* Unlike the peaceful demonstrators who paraded along Pennsylvania Avenue nearly 200,000 strong on Saturday, April 24, the Davis-Dellenger ~~are~~ <sup>radicals</sup> are of the shut-the-government-down variety.

*Although there are some fine and very concerned young in Washington at this time with this group*  
There is no question that the leaders of the current Washington demonstrations are Marxist-oriented radicals who are doing everything possible to promote a Communist takeover of South Vietnam. These same individuals ~~are~~ <sup>have been</sup> traveling about the country preaching violent overthrow of the United States government.

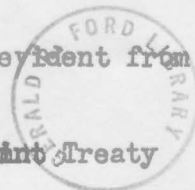
The right of the people to peacefully petition the government for the ~~redress~~ redress of grievances is guaranteed Americans in the Constitution.

But I do not believe this right of peaceful petition includes such tactics as blocking traffic arteries or disrupting the conduct of government business.

Those who would block main thoroughfares, for instance, are nothing but law breakers. They are simply violating the law. Such action was certainly not contemplated by the framers of the Constitution, in any form.

To put it another way: The end does not justify the means. Whatever the motivation of those who engage in so-called civil disobedience, a violation of the law is a violation of the law...and such transgressors ~~should~~ should be dealt with firmly. They have no right to disrupt the lives of others simply to underscore their beliefs.

The fact that these demonstrators want peace on the enemy's terms is evident from a leaflet they have been distributing. This leaflet is entitled: "A Joint Treaty



of Peace between the People of the United States, [redacted] South Vietnam and North Vietnam."

*title,*  
Appealing, isn't it?

The so-called Treaty then goes on to [redacted] demand immediate and [redacted] total withdrawal of U.S. forces from Vietnam but says nothing about withdrawal of North Vietnamese forces from South Vietnam, [redacted] Laos and [redacted] Cambodia.

The so-called Treaty also:

Obligates the United States to remove the government of South Vietnam, a government which was constitutionally elected to office by the people of South Vietnam.

Places the Communist side under no obligation to release American [redacted] prisoners of war and requires Hanoi only to enter into discussions about the POW question.

Contains no provision for ending the fighting in Laos and Cambodia, other than a reiteration of [redacted] intentions to respect the Geneva Accords of 1954 and 1962, which have been violated by North Vietnam ever since.

Contains no provision for international supervision of the implementation of any of the treaty's terms.

The provisions of this [redacted] so-called "People's Treaty" are [redacted] essentially the same as those put forward repeatedly over the past two years by the Communist delegation in Paris. They have not proved acceptable to any political group in South Vietnam except the Viet Cong.

The United States and South Vietnam have proposed a peace program which includes an immediate ceasefire throughout Indochina under effective international supervision; withdrawal of all outside forces; a political settlement in South Vietnam which reflects the existing relationship of political forces; and immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of war held by both sides.

The Communist response has been [redacted] an adamant refusal to engage in peace discussions.

AND WE ARE ENDING U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE WAR.

I want to end the war in Vietnam as much as do the demonstrators. But I want [redacted]



*We can &*

~~to end the war in~~

~~to find a way that will not sow the seeds of future wars. I want South Vietnam to have a chance to survive as an independent nation. I do not want to see a~~

*we will get a generation of Peace, not only in Asia but throughout the World*

~~Communist government imposed on the South Vietnamese people. I want the people of~~

~~South Vietnam to determine their own future. Through a gradual withdrawal of U.S. forces we can accomplish that objective.~~

~~the Vietnam people should be able to determine their own future.~~

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from the Nation's

capital. I'll be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

#####



This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

Here in the Nation's capital we have survived in good shape the onslaught

by ~~thousands~~ of radical ~~[redacted]~~ demonstrators who tried to shut the government down. In their mistaken zeal, they committed a wide variety of despicable acts--

*Their actions were in contrast to the VN veterans & others who preceded them who acted in a responsible manner in petition their gov't. This night I feel much*

pushing dozens of Volkswagens into the paths of other cars, smashing car windows, puncturing tires, scattering nails on roadways, overturning vehicles, throwing rocks

at cars. Small wonder that they clashed with the police. These are acts of anarchy.

These are criminal acts. ~~[redacted]~~ Fortunately, Washington police did a magnificent

job of handling the trouble. *Can you imagine individuals putting the Viet Cong flag over your capital. This is what some of the radicals tried to do.*

As for Federal employees, they are to be congratulated. Last Monday, for instance, attendance on the job was even higher than usual for a Monday morning.

So, as the President ~~[redacted]~~ told the Nation, the radicals intimidated no one.

I would like to turn now to a far pleasanter topic--the observance of Senior Citizens Month across the length and breadth of America. May is Senior Citizens Month, and State conferences will be held throughout the country, including one at Lansing on May 25.

I have had many fine meetings with ~~[redacted]~~ senior citizens in the Fifth Congressional District lately. It is time we all recognized that our senior citizens are "assets, not liabilities," as one of the senior citizens attending a recent forum for the aged remarked.

The Administration is working to make ~~[redacted]~~ it possible for the Nation to utilize the skills and wisdom of our older citizens, while making life better for them in their retirement years.

Like the weather, everyone talks about the problems of the aged, but until now



little has been done. This year marks the beginning of [redacted] a turnaround--the recognition of a national conscience about the plight of many of the aged and a determination to establish a national policy with workable, practical programs.

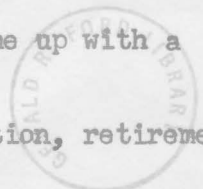
Right now an intensive information-gathering operation is under way. It started at the local level last fall with a series of forums across the Nation where the aged got together to outline their problems. "Not being wanted" was one. Not being able to earn money without losing some of their Social Security benefits was another. Poor housing, lack of transportation and fear of major medical costs were others.

Then in February, March and [redacted] April a series of community conferences were set up--at the grass roots level--in the hometowns of many of the 20 million persons 65 or older. These conferences were aimed at bringing the complaints together and formulating suggestions for remedies.

The State conferences scheduled for this month throughout the country are aimed at making solid recommendations for solutions to the problems of the aged. Task forces composed of ~~the~~ aged from all walks of life, nursing home administrators, research scientists, teachers, health and welfare officials, doctors, social workers, volunteers, and young people working with the elderly will be reporting and hashing out [redacted] practical answers.

This massive effort to obtain the views and find out the needs of our senior citizens will culminate in the 1971 White House Conference on Aging. [redacted] This conference will begin the week of Nov. 28 under the direction of John B. Martin of Grand Rapids, [redacted] commissioner of the Administration on Aging. Some 400 organizations will take part.

President Nixon has ordered those arranging the Conference to come up with a national policy on aging. Topics to be taken up include income, nutrition, retirement



roles and activity, housing, education, spiritual well-being, health, transportation, employment and retirement, services, facilities and programs now in effect and ~~the~~ those needed, training of workers, research, and the role of Government and non-government organizations.

It's a big job ~~is~~ <sup>to come</sup> up with the answers needed to help our senior citizens.

But for the first time, something is being done in an orderly, practical way to solve the ~~the~~ problems of the aged.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington. I'll be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

#####



This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

Today I would like to talk with you about two of my greatest concerns--employee pensions and citizen health.

Retirement is a time ~~when~~<sup>most</sup> Americans look forward to. Workers taking their first job ask about the firm's retirement plan. People under pension plans feel secure. But unfortunately for some of these people this is false security.

Labor Department figures show that about one-third of those who work under pension plans will never draw a pension. Congress now is looking into this problem--and it is my hope that Congress can pass legislation which will ~~make~~ make it certain that pension plans will operate as they are supposed to. We must make sure there will be money in the pension ~~fund~~<sup>plan</sup> to pay the worker.

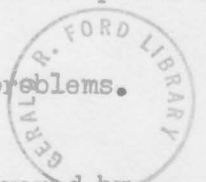
Between 1955 and 1965, 4,259 pension plans were terminated because of business failures. A Senate committee survey of 87 pension plans covering 9.8 million workers revealed that only one million would draw any benefits.

In our economy, most workers ~~do~~<sup>at some time during</sup> change jobs ~~in~~ their 40 to 45-year working life ~~span~~. Often, they lose all pension rights when they quit.

Congress will have to look at several possible solutions. One is a Federal insurance program under which firms will pay into a government corporation which will guarantee the funding of pension programs. One problem with this plan is that smaller firms would find it financially difficult to pay the premiums and would have to cut back on already modest pension payments.

Another suggestion is to develop a program which would allow workers to transfer pension rights when they change jobs. This is the so-called portable pension. This ~~program~~ poses a host of bookkeeping and technical problems.

With the prospect that nine million of the 26 million workers now covered by



private pension plans may lose out on their pension benefits, Congress has an obligation to straighten out the situation. We cannot allow pension plans to become a delusion for some workers who believe they are working toward retirement but actually are earning nothing toward their non-working years.

Now I would like to tell you about a health bill I have cosponsored with the aim of bringing better health protection to all of our citizens.

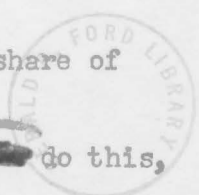
This bill is called the National Health Insurance Partnership Act of 1971. It is designed to provide full-scale national health protection by building on the successes of the present system. It would correct the inequities and deficiencies in the health care protection our people now have.

This is a bill that calls for a partnership between government, the private sector, and all of our people to improve the quality of our health care, expand health insurance coverage, control escalating costs, and increase the efficiency of our health care system.

My bill would require that all employers--exclusive of government and religious organizations--provide their employees with a health insurance plan. This plan would include inpatient hospital services; physicians' and other health services; well-baby care; and annual eye examinations to the age of 12. It would also cover catastrophic illness to the extent of \$50,000.

During the first 2½ years of the plan, employers would pay 65 per cent of the premiums and employees 35 per cent. Thereafter, employers would pay 75 per cent and employees 25 per cent.

The bill I have introduced is different from the Administration's bill. My bill would assist small employers in paying their share of the health insurance costs. It is my feeling that if government did not do this,





*might be forced*

~~\_\_\_\_\_ would \_\_\_\_\_~~ small employers <sup>to</sup> lay off some of their workers.

Congress must act to expand and improve health care for our people. I feel that my bill is the best way ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ to do the job.

This is ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from the Nation's capital. I'll be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

#####



This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

Today I want to talk with you about cancer and what is being done to fight it.

Cancer is a killer. It does not <sup>differentiate</sup> ~~discriminate~~. It kills people of all colors. It

kills the wealthy, ~~the rich, the middle class and~~ the poor, the strong and the weak. Each year cancer is among the leading causes of death in the United States. It is second only to heart disease as a ~~major~~ killer.

There are few families in our Nation who have not lost some relative or a close ~~personal~~ friend as a result of cancer. My one-time press secretary, Jim Mudge, died of cancer. His wife, Annie, died not long afterward--also of cancer.

Sixteen per cent of all deaths in the United States--the deaths of some 329,000 persons--were caused by cancer in 1970. This year--the American Cancer Society estimates--the death toll from cancer will climb even higher--to 335,000. This is about 920 persons dying from cancer each day--~~more~~ more than one every two minutes.

The U.S. ranks 18th in cancer deaths among the 40 nations of the world reporting mortality statistics.

If the present incidence of cancer continues, some 52 million Americans who are alive today will contract this disease. This means that cancer will strike one out of every four individuals in this country--and two out of every three American families. It means that in the next 10 years alone, three and a half million Americans will die from cancer--unless we find a cure.

In the 1970s it is estimated there will be 6.5 million new cancer cases and 10 million persons under treatment for the disease.

It has been projected that in the State of Michigan alone, there will be 13,000 deaths from cancer this year, and 26,000 new cases reported.



As shocking as all of these figures are, some progress has been made in the fight against cancer. Back in 1930, the hope of survival for a person ~~stricken~~ stricken with cancer was less than 1 in 5. Today the odds have risen to 1 in 3.

Whatever success has been achieved in fighting cancer traces primarily to early detection of the disease, as opposed to any new "cure" or breakthrough in treatment.

But ~~there~~ there is new hope. The President, the Administration, and the Congress are committed to conquering this dreadful disease. They are committed to adequate funding of the fight against cancer--and this cannot ~~be~~ but help in the battle to save lives.

The President is ~~is~~ heading up a crusade against cancer in the hope of achieving a cure ~~for and control~~ for and control of cancer within this decade. In this the President has my wholehearted support.

I vigorously supported, for instance, the President's recent request for an additional \$100 million in cancer-fighting funds for ~~the~~ the rest of this fiscal year. This *fringe* ~~brings~~ the total of cancer research funds for the current fiscal year to some \$330 million. The House has approved the Presidential request.

In submitting his request, President Nixon noted that new vistas are now opening for further research into the treatment and prevention of cancer.

We have made some remarkable advances during the past 10 years in terms of our fundamental knowledge in the cancer field. Virus research, for example, has demonstrated that cancer can be produced in animals by ~~more~~ more than 110 of the nearly 1,000 viruses that science has identified. We have also learned that animal cancers can be induced by over 1,000 chemical substances. Effective measures for preventing cancer have been developed in animals, and scientists have even ~~even~~ demonstrated that human cancers can be prevented by avoiding ~~exposure~~ exposure to certain chemicals. ~~There~~



Other advances include new surgical procedures, more effective radiation therapy, and techniques for treating cancer with improved combinations of known drugs.

So there have been some new developments in the cancer research field--and there is reason to hope for further advances in the months and years ahead.

You may be sure that I will strongly support every sound effort to further the crusade against cancer. This is an enemy that we must defeat.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

I am getting the first returns from my 1971 questionnaire, and the ~~early~~ early response is tremendous. The returns are pouring in.

I sent my questionnaire to ~~to~~ every household in the Fifth Congressional District--roughly 147,000. This gives me a chance to learn the views of ~~every~~ every voter in the district who is interested enough in the issues to express an opinion and mail back my questionnaire card.

The views expressed in answer to my questionnaire provide me with valuable guidance. I--and I alone--am responsible for my votes on the bills that come before the Congress. But it is very helpful to know what the people at home are thinking.

The results of the poll are processed by a computer firm--and every ballot is counted, not just a sampling. So believe me when I tell you that your opinion counts with me.

Speaking of polls, there ~~is~~ has been some debate going on in the House of Representatives concerning polls taken on the Vietnam War. Much has been made of the fact that ~~in~~ a recent Gallup Poll indicated 73 per cent of the American people want all of our troops out of Vietnam by Dec. 31 of this year. *I want to end the war even more quickly and real progress is being made.*

More recently the Opinion Research Corporation of Princeton, New Jersey, asked the same question but with some qualifications. Opinion Research wanted to know whether people supported the Dec. 31 withdrawal if this would result in a Communist takeover of South Vietnam. Only 27 per cent said "yes." Fifty-seven per cent said "no." The rest were undecided.

Moreover, on this same poll 72 per ~~cent~~ cent said they "support President Nixon in his plan to end the war in Southeast Asia"--although 73 per cent had answered "yes" on the Gallup Poll to an unqualified withdrawal.



I think what these two polls tell us is that the American people want to end the Vietnam War as quickly as possible but not on the enemy's terms. And that is the position taken by the ~~President~~ President of the United States. Therefore his answer is to continue attempts at negotiation but meantime to ~~strengthen~~ strengthen the South Vietnamese while withdrawing U.S. ~~our~~ forces. We are withdrawing from ~~Vietnam~~ Vietnam; we are ending the U.S. involvement ~~there~~ there. But we are doing so in a way that gives South Vietnam a chance to survive as an independent, non-Communist nation.

The problems of ending the Vietnam War cannot be solved by the pollsters any more than they can be solved by demonstrations or debates or legislation. We can end our involvement in Vietnam only by disengaging our forces as rapidly as circumstances permit.

This we are doing. *Pres. Nixon is committed to total withdrawal.*

As we wind down the Vietnam War, one million veterans of that war are coming home each year. These veterans need a job, and we must do everything possible to provide them either with a job or with job training or schooling.

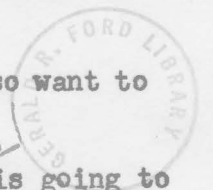
Labor statistics indicate how tough the situation is. 320,000 Vietnam veterans are without jobs. Their rate of unemployment is double the national ~~rate~~ average.

Part of the difficulty is that today's veteran is younger and not as well trained as his predecessor of World War II or even Korea. When these men were released from duty they more often than not had a place in life to return to. Such is not the case with the Vietnam veterans--and so the need for help is greater than before.

President Nixon has launched a Jobs for Veterans Program nationally--and I and others have ~~initiated~~ initiated a Jobs for Veterans Program in the ~~the~~ Greater Grand

Rapids Area. We ~~know~~ know that <sup>now</sup> jobs are practically non-existent right now, but we want to give the veteran an edge as the economy improves and jobs open up. We also want to

*In that connection*  
~~steer~~ steer him ~~to~~ into on-the-job training or advanced schooling. Congress is going to



have to take a look at G.I. Bill benefits to see ~~what~~ if they should maybe be increased.

We have an obligation to make certain that these young men <sup>who were</sup> sent to fight in a strange land halfway around the world are given every opportunity to make a decent life for themselves now that they are civilians.

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#####



This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

One of the big dividends from my annual questionnaire is the mail it generates, because this mail gives me a good idea what problems are most on people's minds.

For instances, the subjects most frequently mentioned in the letters I now am receiving are Vietnam, welfare and taxes.

It's clear that people in Kent and Ionia Counties most ardently want the United States to end its involvement in Vietnam. I want this, too. The ~~only~~ only question over which there is disagreement is how we end our involvement in Vietnam. Do we end it while ~~saying~~ saying we don't care what ~~happens~~ happens to ~~South~~ South Vietnam. Or do we end it in a careful way, doing our best to give South Vietnam a chance to survive as an independent, non-Communist nation?

It's true that seven out of 10 Americans want us out of Vietnam by Dec. 31 of this year. But when the Opinion Research Corporation of Princeton, New Jersey, asked ~~whether~~ <sup>whether</sup> they favored a pullout by Dec. 31 ~~if~~ if this meant a Communist takeover in Saigon, only 27 per cent said "yes." 55 per cent said "no," and the rest were undecided. So there is a difference when you consider the consequences.

On the welfare question, there is deep feeling. Every one of my constituents who comments on welfare says it is unfair for anyone who is able-bodied--able to work--to be collecting public assistance checks while others who are willing to work earn their money.

I agree with these complainants that anyone who is ~~able~~ able to work should work or, if a job is ~~not~~ not available, take job training.

That is ~~one~~ one reason I am so strongly in favor of President Nixon's welfare reform program--because it requires that ~~recipients~~ assistance recipients who are employable must register for work or training or forego all benefits.





I am pleased that the House Ways and Means Committee has reported out a bill which substantially carries out the Administration's welfare reform program.

This bill is H.R. 1. Besides the work or training requirement, it provides coverage for the working poor, so that no longer will it pay somebody to be on welfare instead of working. It also provides increased child care and job training opportunities in a way which ensures that work and training opportunities are related to the recipients' needs. ~~But~~ The bill further provides a basic payment of \$130 a month for ~~the adult~~ assistance ~~programs which~~ to the needy aged, ~~the~~ the blind, and ~~the~~ the disabled. This increases to \$150 a month after two years.

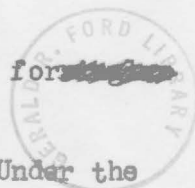
The new welfare reform program also would have the Federal Government take over a larger share of welfare costs. This will ease the pressure of mounting welfare costs on State budgets and relieve the pressure for higher local ~~the~~ taxes.

Speaking of taxes, I find there are many Americans who are unaware that the Tax Reform Act of ~~1969~~ 1969 provided Federal income tax relief which carries forward into 1971 and beyond.

In 1969, for instance, the personal exemption was \$600 for each taxpayer and each of his dependents. In 1970 this became \$625. For 1971, the ~~personal~~ personal exemption is \$650. In 1972 it will become \$700; and in 1973, \$750.

In 1969, the standard deduction for those who do not itemize deductions on their Federal income tax return was 10 per cent. In 1970, ~~this~~ the standard deduction became 13 per cent with a ceiling of \$1,400. In 1971, it becomes 14 per cent with a \$1,500 ceiling; in 1972, 14 per cent with a \$2,000 ceiling; and in 1973 and thereafter, 15 per cent with a \$2,000 ceiling.

Single persons also get a big tax break in 1971. In fact, the relief for ~~single~~ single persons will take a lot of the tax profit out of getting married. Under the



old rules, the tax ~~is~~ gain from marriage was especially big for persons with large incomes.

The discrimination against single persons ~~is~~<sup>arises</sup> from the fact that a married couple can avoid the full impact of the progressively higher tax rates. A married couple filing jointly ~~is~~<sup>are</sup> allowed to compute ~~the~~<sup>their</sup> income tax on one-half of their income and then double the result.

Under the new rule, starting this year, single persons ~~is~~ will not ~~be~~ have to pay in Federal income taxes more than 120 per cent of the amount paid by married couples with the same taxable income.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

It's official now. The new agency, Action, which brings together seven or more Federally-sponsored volunteer agencies, has come into being under President Nixon's first reorganization plan of the year.

Action is headed by Joseph Blatchford, the man who has done such a magnificent job of running the Peace Corps.

The Peace Corps now is just one of seven organizations under Joe Blatchford's direction.

The others are Volunteers in Service to America, which had been in the Office of Economic Opportunity, the Service Corps of Retired Executives and the Active Corps of Executives, which had been in the Small Business Administration, Foster Grandparents and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, which had been in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and the Office of Volunteer Action, which had been in the Housing and Urban Development Department.

A reorganization plan proposed by the President goes into effect unless either House of the Congress votes ~~within 60 days~~ to reject it. In the case of the new volunteer agency, Action, moves were made in both the House and Senate to sidetrack the reorganization, and both attempts were defeated.

I supported the reorganization because I believe it will bring about a great improvement in the operation of the various volunteer organizations. It should lead to a more effective use of volunteers and permit easier movement of volunteers from one organization to another.

I believe Action will provide fresh impetus for voluntary activities throughout the Nation and overseas. Action will work through existing programs and will also seek to develop innovative new programs aimed at helping to solve America's problems.



In the current Federal budget the volunteer agencies now consolidated under Action are funded at roughly \$169 million--actually higher than their previous combined total budget--and comprise an active volunteer force of about 276,000 persons.

To help assure the success of Action, the President is seeking an additional \$20 million for the new agency in the fiscal 1972 budget. If these funds can help Americans find new and better ways to help themselves through increased volunteer efforts, it will amount to some of the best spent money in the budget.

The President also has another reorganization plan, which is pending in the Congress. This plan would reorganize the <sup>nearly the entire</sup> Federal government. It would coordinate seven of the existing cabinet departments plus a host of assorted agencies into four new departments. This, hopefully, would ease the citizen's task in dealing with his government.

The proposed new Department of Natural Resources would deal with our physical environment and accommodate the demands of a growing population, increased per capita consumption, and the need for restoring and protecting our environment. The present Department of Interior and segments of the Department of Agriculture would be absorbed into the Department of Natural Resources.

The proposed Department of Community Development would encompass the present Department of Housing and Urban Development and various agencies such as the Rural Electrification Program. This new department would offer a broad range of programs--transportation, housing, rural and urban community facilities and services aimed at total community needs.

The proposed Department of Economic Affairs is designed to deal with the health and growth of our economy--with our jobs, our businesses and our farms. It would include the present Departments of Commerce, Labor, Agriculture and Transportation.



And the proposed new Department of Human Resources would bring together all programs directed at the development and well-being of individuals and families--income security, health and human development. This would consolidate the present Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and major programs from the Departments of Labor and Agriculture and the Office of Economic Opportunity.

This is a plan which will <sup>bring</sup> ~~do~~ about meaningful changes and move us toward better government. It is worthy of the most careful study.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

President Nixon is following up with appropriate caution on the crack in the door with Red China which was opened up by the American table tennis team. *One of the American team was from G.I.R.* This followup is a delicate balancing act in American diplomacy. The right moves must be made if genuine progress is to be made toward world peace through ~~the~~ improvements in Sino-American relations.

The President stated the need for an improved relationship in his "State of the World" Message when he said: "It is a truism that an international order cannot be secure if one of the major powers remains largely outside it and ~~is~~ hostile toward it. In this decade, therefore, there will be no more important challenge than that of drawing the People's Republic of China into a constructive relationship with the world community, and particularly with the rest of Asia."

*we should be realistic*

At the same time ~~the President~~ warned that no headlong rush toward detente should *be*

~~it would be~~ undertaken that could undermine our own security or that of our allies.

*The President stated*

"The evolution of our dialogue with Peking cannot be at the expense of international

*The President*

order or our own commitments," ~~he~~ said. "Our attitude is public and clear. We will

continue to honor our treaty commitments to the security of our Asian allies. An

honorable relationship with Peking cannot be constructed at their expense."

The U.S. Defense Pact of 1954 with the Republic of China on Taiwan and the American program for winding down ~~the~~ the war in Indochina must be taken into account in the thawing relations between this country and Red China. Certainly the policy adjustments the United States makes in these areas should not jeopardize the goals for which America has sacrificed so much.

Hope for better relations with Red China is real and is justifiable. But there are clearly potential pitfalls--and so we must be most careful. The important thing is



not to go so ~~fast~~ fast that our options are foreclosed.

*The U.S. has*

The President acted, I think, with appropriate caution in his recent announcement relaxing restrictions on trade with Red China. The removal of most ~~of~~ barriers to trade with Red China was a move which should reduce tensions between the United States and Red China and is therefore most welcome. It will, I believe, lead to improved Sino-American relations. It ~~is~~ will be helpful in achieving an improved relationship between the U.S. and Red China.

But at the same time we must not forget that Red China has been the only major outside power to consistently and openly oppose any efforts for a negotiated settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East and to urge Egypt to engage in protracted struggle. Peking hopes to turn the Middle East into the second great theater of a revolutionary people's war of liberation after Vietnam--and in the process to embarrass both the United States and the Soviet Union.

*We must walk a tight rope, a narrow path but if we do so, world peace can be enhanced.*

I would like to turn now to another matter--a ~~question~~ question completely unrelated to foreign affairs. I speak of the recent rise in the number of police killings in our Nation. Some of these killings seem to be the work of organized groups determined to use terror for political purposes.

I am greatly concerned about these recent occurrences. I believe they must be strongly condemned by all Americans as repugnant to our principles of decency and the ideals of a democratic society.

The law enforcement officials of this nation need the support of all Americans. Without officers to enforce the laws, there eventually would be no laws and our Republic would be destroyed.

There are proposals pending before Congress which would take ~~action~~ meaningful action against police killers. I have cosponsored a bill which would make it a



Federal offense for anyone traveling in interstate commerce or using a facility of interstate commerce to conspire, attempt or solicit to assault, injure or kill any law enforcement officer, fireman or judicial officer because of his official position.

The passage of this legislation would allow the full force of Federal law enforcement agencies to be brought to bear to ~~help~~ help prevent and solve organized attacks on local police officers.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from the Nation's capital.

I'll be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

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SCRIPT TAPED FOR USE BY FIFTH DISTRICT RADIO STATIONS THE WEEKEND OF  
JUNE 26-27, 1973.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

In roughly a week's time we will all be celebrating the Fourth of July, the birthday of our nation, the day that in a sense is the birthday of every one of us in the United States—for we, the people, make up this wonderful nation of ours.

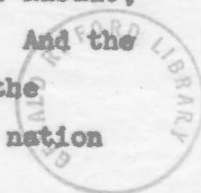
We'll be shooting off some fireworks, of course, and maybe engaging in some patriotic talk. But it just seems to me most natural, since the Fourth of July this year falls on a Sunday, that we take time off from our fun-making to think about the religious sources of this great country in which we live.

America didn't grow strong just because of material wealth alone. It was faith in a Supreme Being that gave early Americans the courage to fight the wilderness and all of the terrors it held for mortal man and to eke a living out of the soil.

Throughout our country's history, most of our leaders have been influenced by Judaic-Christian ethics, the source of the Ten Commandments. Anyone familiar with American tradition knows that the concept of divine guidance was never far from the minds of those who have played significant roles in shaping the destiny of the United States.

But let us go back to the very beginning of this nation. On the day of this country's birth, our Founding Fathers spoke in the preamble to the Declaration of Independence of how men were "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights." In other words, these Rights came from God. In concluding the Declaration of Independence, our forefathers affirmed their "reliance on the protection of Divine Providence." They looked to God for the strength to carry them through the ordeal that separation of the colonies from England would subject them to.

We speak also of our divine heritage when we recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. It was a Michigan congressman, the late Louis Rabaut, who proposed that the phrase, "under God," be inserted in the pledge. And the Congress agreed. So now we say, "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God."



We have seen the motto, "In God We Trust," so frequently on our money that we have virtually forgotten it exists.

On the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from this National Capital in which I am speaking to you, there is carved the inscription, "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God."

So the idea of a religious observance on the Fourth of July weekend is a natural one.

Both Church and State today are confronted with new perplexities that the Founding Fathers never dreamed of. Consequently, religious groups today are assuming increasingly activist roles.

The questions leap out at us. What can we do about peace in Vietnam and the world? What about threats to our environment? What about drug addiction and disillusioned youth? What about disadvantaged minorities? What about unemployment, poor housing, hunger, educational problems?

These problems cry out for innovative approaches and for hard work directed toward a solution. Maybe you hold the magic key to some of the solutions.

There is an ironic footnote to current religious activism. Communism claims to be the wave of the future and the answer to all problems for peoples of the earth.

Karl Marx contended that religion was "the opiate of the masses"...that it diverted man's attention from the problems at hand. Yet today in America we find the churches injecting themselves increasingly into national problems. The churches are concerned with priorities, just as the national administration is.

And on this matter of priorities, let's make a list of our own. Putting first things first, allotting some time for religious contemplation on Fourth of July weekend ought to be tops on the schedule.

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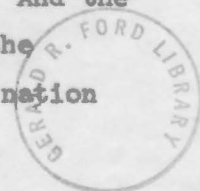
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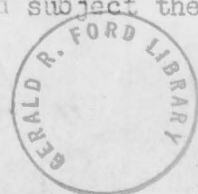
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Throughout our country's history, most of our leaders have been influenced by Judaeo-Christian ethics, the source of the Ten Commandments. Anyone familiar with American tradition knows that the concept of divine guidance was never far from the minds of those who have played significant roles in shaping the destiny of the United States.

But let us go back to the very beginning of this nation. On the day of this country's birth, our Founding Fathers ~~spoke~~ spoke in ~~to~~ to the preamble ~~of~~ of the Declaration of Independence, how men were "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights." In other words, these Rights came from God. In concluding the Declaration of Independence, our forefathers ~~also~~ affirmed their "reliance on the protection ~~of~~ of Divine ~~Providence.~~ Providence." They looked to God for the strength to ~~carry~~ carry them through the ordeal that separation ~~of~~ of the colonies from England would subject them to.



We speak also of our divine heritage when we recite the Pledge of ~~the~~ Allegiance to the Flag. It was a Michigan congressman, the ~~late~~ ~~in~~ Louis Rabaut, who proposed that the phrase, "under God," be inserted in the pledge. And the Congress of the United States of America agreed. So ~~now~~ we say, "I pledge allegiance ~~to~~ to the Flag and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God."

We have seen the motto, "In God We Trust," so ~~common~~ frequently on our money that we have virtually forgotten it exists.

On the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from this National Capital in which I am speaking to you, there is carved the inscription, "Here rests in honored ~~in~~ glory an American soldier known but to God."

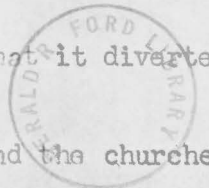
So the idea ~~of~~ of a religious observance on the Fourth of July weekend is a natural one.

Both Church and State today are confronted with new perplexities that the Founding Fathers never dreamed of. Consequently, religious groups today are assuming increasingly activist ~~in~~ roles.

The questions leap out at us. What can we do about peace in Vietnam and the world? What about threats to our environment? What about drug addiction and disillusioned youth? What about disadvantaged minorities? What about unemployment, poor housing, hunger, educational problems?

These problems cry out for innovative approaches and for hard work directed toward a solution. Maybe you hold the magic key to some of the solutions.

There is an ironic footnote to current religious activism. Communism claims to be the wave of the future and the answer to all problems for peoples of the earth. ~~the~~ Karl Marx contended that religion was "the opiate of the masses... that it diverted man's attention from the problems at hand. Yet today in America we find the churches



injecting themselves increasingly into national problems. The churches are concerned with priorities, just as the national administration is.

And on this matter of priorities, let's make a list of our own. Putting first things first, ~~that~~ allotting some time for religious contemplation on Fourth of July weekend ought to be tops on the schedule.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from the nation's capital. I'll be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

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