



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE April 7, 1955

For ten years the Yalta Conference has been denounced by many as a "capitulation" to Russia. Others have defended the decisions by President Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin on the basis that Mr. Roosevelt made what appeared in 1945 to be a fair compromise. Unfortunately F. D. R. assumed Soviet Russia would live up to the agreements made. In the last ten days the publication of Yalta Papers has reopened the entire controversy.

A copy of the published Yalta Papers was delivered to my office as it was to all members of the Congress. It is a massive two-volume edition comprising 829 pages. At this point I haven't read every word of every page, but I have studied the documents, read reams of comments by authorities on the subject. My own views can be summarized as follows:

The decision to make the Yalta Papers public was entirely proper because the American public has the right to know what actually transpired at this meeting. Any and all previous secret deals between diplomats should be made known. The last Congress, by providing the funds for the publication of the Yalta Papers, expressed the view that the public was entitled to the record of this conference, good or bad. The release of those papers will not jeopardize our relations with foreign countries. Even if it does, saving the "face" of a diplomat is less important than saving the life of an American G. I.

It has been claimed that there is nothing in the Yalta Papers to indicate that Alger Hiss advocated pro-Communist positions. It is interesting to note that at no time in his career did Hiss publicly take decidedly pro-Communist positions, despite the fact that we all know he was convicted of lying when he said he did not turn government documents over to an espionage agent. It is also to be recalled that Whittaker Chambers testified that men like Hiss in the Soviet apparatus were strictly prohibited from publicly taking a pro-Communist line.



The important question concerning Hiss is not whether he took a pro-Communist position, but what documents he had access to. On Galley 91 of the Yalta Papers it states: "...All memoranda for the President on topics to be discussed at the Meeting of the Big Three should be in the hands of Mr. Alger Hiss not later than Monday, January 15....."

In other words, Hiss had access to the secret briefing papers which were used by our side during the Conference. If he was an espionage agent at that time, this vital information was made available to the Communists. At a conference table a negotiator can have no greater advantage than to know what moves his opponents are going to make.

I agree with President Eisenhower's statement that we should look to the future rather than the past, but in order to prepare us for any new international conferences we must be fully aware of the long record of Communist duplicity and double talk in order to avoid the mistakes of the past.

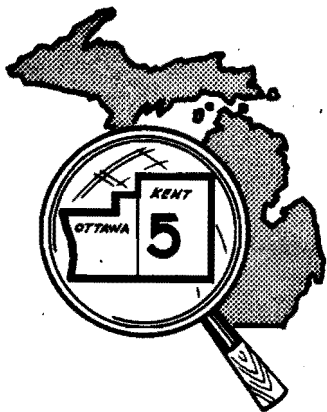
ABOUT THE PRESIDENT

President Eisenhower pointed up an important fact during the recent tax struggle in Congress when he said: "In the past two years, the cost of living has varied less than one half of one per cent. From 1939 to 1953, the dollar went from 100 cents to 53 cents. It is that kind of thing that must be stopped. A free economy is based on a stable dollar, which is more important to all low-income groups than it is to rich people."

President Eisenhower's pastor, the Rev. Edward L. R. Elson, recently rose to the defense of our Chief Executive in the wake of a low-level, below-the-belt barrage of insinuations and accusations against the President. Rev. Elson's remarks came in answer to a speech made by West Virginia's Senator Matthew Neely accusing the President of "hypocrisy" in making capital out of his church attendance. The Pastor said in part, "The religious life of the President is so transparently sincere as to be self-validating."

VISITORS

Mr. Floyd A. Thornton, Mr. William A. Van Zytveld, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Carpenter, Pvt. James Monsma, Mr. and Mrs. James Lanting, and Mr. Benjamin J. Woznick, all of Grand Rapids. Mr. George Copeland and Mr. Paul Winchester of Holland; Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Hager and family of Hudsonville, Mr. Alvin F. Reister, Mr. Walter Reister, and Miss Nancy Miller of Sparta.



Your Washington Review

by
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FOR RELEASE April 14, 1955

Official legislative business halted from April 4th to 13th as Congress took its annual Easter recess. For your Congressman this meant that the usual legislative activities such as committee meetings and sessions of Congress gave way to the pleasant informality of the tourist season, and with it an opportunity to catch up on correspondence and make some advanced excursions into legislation scheduled to come up soon. Spending a full day at the office, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to chat with many folks from home who were vacationing in Washington and dropped by to see their Congressman. On Tuesday I met the Senior class of Rockford High School on their annual jaunt to the Capitol. Later I met a group of young people from the Fountain Street Baptist Church of Grand Rapids.

It seems that the tempo of the last half of this session of Congress will gain momentum. But this is not to mean Congress has not already kept busy. For instance, five of the dozen appropriations bills which have gone through committee have passed the House. They now await Senate action. These are important measures because they allocate the spending of public funds and have great influence in determining governmental policy.

Congress has passed pay increase bills for its own members, the judiciary and for career personal in the armed forces. Two other pay bills, for postal employees and civilian government employees, still await action but approval is expected shortly. Your Congressman voted in favor of the President's foreign trade program which to date has met some rough going in the Senate Finance Committee. I also voted to extend the Selective Service Act for four additional years.

Still in the mill are 5,400 House bills of which I introduced sixteen. Some of the more controversial measures we may hear more about are the highway and education programs, health reinsurance and farm supports. Last year's flexible farm price support legislation has not yet had a try-out because its first applicability is to this year's crops. The House Agriculture Committee has, however, approved a bill, which is bound for sharp debate, for a return to 90 per cent on basic crops.

On the 46 days the House has been in session since January 5th your Congressman has answered 33 of the 34 roll call votes. I missed one when fulfilling a speech commitment in Michigan.

One of the five appropriations bills the House passed is the agriculture appropriations bill for fiscal 1956. This bill allocates \$200 million for our price support program along with an additional \$30 million for agricultural research. Although this latter figure only represents 10 per cent of that spent for price supports, it seems more than likely that proper research can eventually aid in the solution of some of the current ills of agriculture by helping the farmer adjust to changing times and relieving growing surpluses.

Recently I came across examples of how these funds earmarked for research will be used for finding new ways to use common farm products. For instance, apple growers in and around Sparta will be interested to learn that a method has been developed for producing a concentrated apple juice with the aroma, flavor and taste of fresh apple cider. McIntosh apples are considered especially fine for producing this new full-flavored juice.

Oats can be an excellent crop replacement for wheat. Consequently, work is being done to produce new varieties of oats with the aim of finding more attractive feeding outlets and uses. New demands for rice will follow newly discovered ways of providing it in a flaky form which may make it more attractive to housewives. A new form of dehydrated potatoes, potato flakes by name, which make delicious fluffy mashed potatoes as quickly as you can mix with hot water has been devised. This added convenience and ease of preparation will make housewives, restaurants, armed forces and public institutions more desirous of using potatoes, hence help reduce any market surpluses.

A new tomato powder has been added to the growing family of fruit-juice powders. This powder can be converted into tomato juice when mixed with water, even ice water. The powder is equally good for tomato pastes or purees and other recipes.

We should all recognize the value of this research to find new and better ways of using our farm products and farmer initiative. So in answer to the question, can we develop new uses for farm products, especially those in surplus? The only answer is a growing yes.

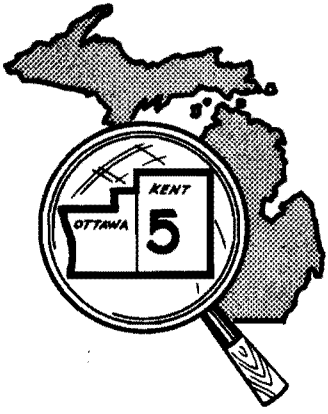
RECENT VISITORS

Mr. and Mrs. Stan Coates, Suzanne Frost, Adrian W. Verspoor and Anne, Wayne, and Carl, Dr. H. J. Walkotten, Robert A. Winter, Timothy C. Richard, Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Searl and Fred M., Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bergsma and family, Vicki, Carol, Judy, Alice Littlefield, Mrs. Frederick Vogt and Charlotte and Fred, Blake Beaudrias, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Krucke and Rosemary, all from Grand Rapids; Mr. and Mrs. Randall C. Bosch, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Dalman and family, Junia, John, Jane and Jeaney, Mr. and Mrs. John DeWilde of Holland; Mr. and Mrs. Jay Poel of Grand Haven.

ROCKFORD HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR CLASS

CHAPERONES - Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Fox and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley McBride

STUDENTS: Carroll Graves; Charlene Pfeiffer; James Padden Vredenburg; Stephen Manzee; Paul Coykendall; Vincent Richard Otterbasher; Janet Cooper; Bill Oldenkamp; Sally Wright; Judy Johnson; Carole Birman; Donna Anderson; Darline Dagley; Susie Beintum; Barb May; Sharon Bye; Judy Berinan; Louis Wood; Karen Fosbury; Marcella Gedritis; Robert Gedritis; Marian Mardin; Gloria Zarback; Norma Ryan; Elizabeth Gedritis; Hal Spinner; R. K. Spriggel; Novia Muir; Frank Hoekstra; Gerald Hoekstra; Barbara Wilson; Kent Graves; Jack Randall; Joyce Powell; Dudley Alden Cox; Sue Baribeau;



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FOR RELEASE April 21, 1955

The House Appropriations Committee is presently considering a combined budget totalling approximately \$35 billion for the Army, Navy, and Air Force in fiscal 1956. Another phase of our national security tied just as closely with our national objectives as the military is the United State Information Agency which was allocated \$80.5 million for its work in the coming fiscal year.

These funds will be used by the Information Agency for continuing to contact people in the free world as well as those persons living behind the "Iron Curtain" to disprove the false claims of communism and to stimulate the captive peoples to associate their hopes and aspirations with our own in the common cause for freedom. This crusade for truth is designed to replace the theoretical and deceptive picture painted by communist propagandists. (Incidentally, the Kremlin spends at least \$1.5 billion on propaganda annually.) To do this the U.S. Information Agency including the Voice of America calls upon victims of communist rule to give eye-witness accounts of communist brutality and duplicity. These accounts are broadcast abroad on both sides of the Iron Curtain and widely distributed throughout the world via pamphlets in many languages.

The source of much of this information beamed abroad is the hearings of a select committee established by the 83rd Congress to study communism. This information which exposes communism for what it actually is may be found in any of the Information Agency's 600 libraries maintained in foreign countries, in reports issued by the Agency, or heard over the Voice of America.

Several distinct results are traceable to the work done by the United States Information Agency in outselling and exposing communism on both sides of the "Iron Curtain." During the last two years Communist Party membership in France and Italy has decreased by about one-third. Also, evidence strongly indicates that recent agricultural slowdowns in communist countries may be traced in considerable measure to dissatisfaction sown by the Information Agency.

Two bills, both passed by the Senate and awaiting House action, would strengthen and extend the coverage of our laws which deal with obscene literature.

These bills are a result of a report by the Senate subcommittee which investigated juvenile delinquency. The subcommittee found that the nationwide traffic in obscene matter is increasing year by year and that a large part of that traffic is being channeled into the hands of children. The subcommittee recommended implementation of the present law to completely prohibit use of the mail for carrying obscene matter. By only applying to specific classes of literature the subcommittee discovered that there was a loophole in the law which exploitators were using to their advantage to sell such material harmful to juveniles.

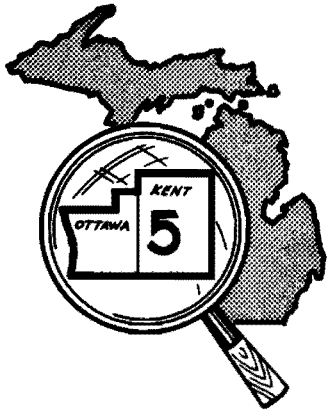
S. 599 extends the law to make carrying obscene matter in interstate or foreign commerce by any private conveyance unlawful. As the present law stands it is only illegal to transport such literature by common carrier or through the mail. S. 600 is designed to avoid legal loopholes in the postal laws by substituting general words for the special classes now in the criminal code. This broader legislation will enable enforcement officers to more easily crack down on the transportation of obscene literature.

Your Congressman is in complete agreement with the intent of this legislation and will actively support it in the House.

Your Congressman attended the opening day baseball game in Washington and watched "Ike" pull out at the opportune moment from Washington's point of view his famous good luck "rabbits foot." The President, a real baseball fan, obviously enjoyed an afternoon of relaxation from the difficult international problems and decisions which he faces each and every day.

Recent visitors to Washington included the following:

Marijane Barr, Sheila McGee, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas De Fouw, Jim and Tom Pantlind, George C. Thomson, Mrs. Beatrice Annin, all of Grand Rapids; and Captain Robert F. Soule of Spring Lake.



Your Washington Review

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FOR RELEASE April 28, 1955

Stimulated by anti-administration charges, a black cloud of skepticism and controversy hung over the Dixon-Yates contract which was blown into into a campaign issue last November. It was often repeated that should the American voter change the political mainspring of Congress, his reward would be a thorough re-examination of this contract between the AEC and the Mississippi Valley Generating Company with proper action taken in the public interest.

Last November the Congress did change hands and today, nearly four months after taking office, these same anti-administration forces who so eagerly pounced upon and viciously condemned Dixon-Yates have been with few exceptions conspicuously inactive and silent. Why have these politically inspired attacks and insinuations ceased and a strange long silence pervaded the anti-administration forces? It is because the myths and misconceptions about Dixon-Yates have given way to the facts which reveal the contract for what it actually is--a soundly negotiated contract serving the public interest.

For instance, one charge leveled against the Dixon-Yates contract was that it violated the spirit of competitive bidding. Yet it followed the same procedure used by the previous administration in negotiating AEC contracts with two private utility companies--Electric Energy Inc., and the Ohio Valley Electric Corporation. The reason why previous administrations established this precedent is because the power business is operated in areas allocated by state-controlled franchise. The utilities represented by Dixon-Yates are the only ones serving the area near Memphis, Tennessee. The alternative would have been an initial outlay of \$107 million in federal tax money to construct a government-owned and operated plant.

The contract does not assure Dixon-Yates any guaranteed profit. Estimates place the maximum return to Dixon-Yates on their over-all investment at less than four per cent. The private companies here are taking the major risks. They do not have the taxpayer's dollar behind them in the event their judgment

is wrong. And, in addition, savings from efficient management and lower costs are passed along to the taxpayer and the consumer.

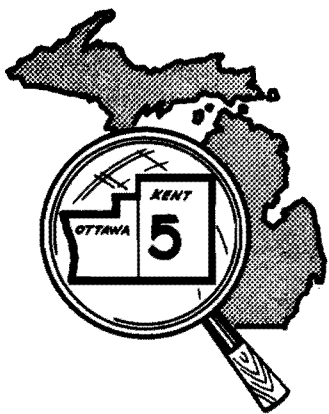
Everything concerning the Dixon-Yates contract has been periodically released for the public record. Nothing is hidden. The administration conducted negotiations for this contract in the same manner that previous administrations did for similar AEC contracts and incidentally at a greater saving in dollars to the federal treasury.

These and other facts, once brought out into the open, prove that the Eisenhower Administration selected the soundest and most efficient method for satisfying the growing demands for electricity in the Tennessee Valley, including the natural defense requirements of the Atomic Energy Commission. Anti-administration charges against the Dixon-Yates contract have evaporated and the facts prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that opponents have no better alternatives to offer the country than the one already selected.

Hollis Baker of our own 5th District is now in Tokyo as one of four American representatives at the First International Trade Fair in Japan. Mr. Baker was sent to Tokyo by the Office of International Trade Fairs which is a new division of the Department of Commerce.

Although the U. S. has a larger volume of world trade than any other nation, until recently we have neglected to take advantage of this age-old and time-honored fair custom to display American products and sell the world on the quality of our wares made by our skilled Yankee workers. The Communists have been using these fairs in Europe and Asia for some time as a propaganda vehicle and now the U. S. is taking advantage of an opportunity to beat them at their own game. American participation in these fairs should definitely help to increase the volume of our foreign trade. This is another forward step by President Eisenhower to aid and assist American labor and industry.

I have on hand a number of most informative government publications for free distribution. There is a publication entitled "Infant Care," a booklet on "How Our Laws are Made," and some excellent cookbooks called "Family Fare." If you care to have any of these, drop me a line specifying which ones you wish.



Your Washington Review

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FOR RELEASE May 5, 1955

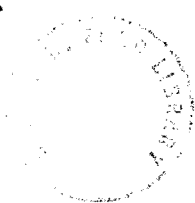
Besides current legislative matters, your Congressman's attention has recently focused on three important questions. Large quantities of mail from home have helped direct my thoughts to the distribution of surplus foods stored by our government as well as the proposed world calendar reform. Also, many Washington conversations are flowing in the wake of the Bandung Conference which ended on April 24th at Bandung, Indonesia.

The Bandung Conference, between 29 nations of the African-Asian block commenced on April 18th amidst great speculation that the week-long talks would result in condemnations of the West and of our Asian policy while serving as a propaganda sounding board for the Reds. What actually occurred was a favorable response by many of these nations to the United States' Far Eastern policy. Great pro-Western support emerged from countries in the African-Asian block where it had not been expected. And the firm stand taken by our nation in this section of the world has given these smaller countries the moral courage to stand up and be counted among free nations opposed to colonialism of any kind.

At the very beginning of the Conference an anti-communist indictment was sparked by Iraq whose delegate reviewed communist aggression in Europe and Asia denouncing it as a "subversive religion," and a "new form of colonialism much deadlier than the old."

These and other statements originating at Bandung offer vivid demonstrations that the free democratic spirit, so avidly and effectively expressed in U. S. foreign policy, has actively sparked the aspirations of the leaders in these nations. Also, the Bandung Conference bears convincing evidence that the technical and economic assistance we have provided to these countries has brought rewards to the Western world by helping us to win new friendships and raise our hopes for peace.

Closely allied with this assistance are the steps being taken by the United States to distribute the huge stores of surplus foods at home and abroad.



But instead of using an impersonal government-to-government approach in the distribution of huge farm surpluses, the United States donates the food which is distributed by American relief agencies. In all, 43 countries have received free food donated by our government through 17 American Relief Agencies. The food packages clearly indicate that they are from American citizens to the people in a particular country. This people-to-people approach can be highly commended because it promotes friendships directly between people, bypassing the impersonal protocol of governments.

Not all food donated by our Government goes abroad. Since July 1, 1954 over 392 million pounds have gone to school children and to 4,000,000 needy and institutionalized Americans. During that same 10 months, 457 million pounds of surplus commodities have been sent to 43 countries. Goods shipped abroad through these private relief agencies include butter, cheese, dried milk, cottonseed oil, shortening, and butter oil.

Many churches and other organizations in the Fifth District have shown interest in this food distribution. If your group should be interested in this project, you may write to the Church World Services, Inc., 215 Fourth Avenue, New York 3, New York.

I have received numerous letters in opposition to the proposed world calendar change. I am in complete agreement with the opinions expressed in these letters and I will oppose any calendar change.

The Department of State advises me that the United Nations may set up a study group on calendar reform. Secretary John Foster Dulles and our representatives at the U. N. are not in favor of this action and the United States will officially oppose setting up this U.N. study group on calendar reform. I have also been informed that our State Department will hold to that position until there is Congressional authorization for the calendar study. From my observations it seems that Congress is in no mood to tamper with the calendar.



Your Washington Review

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FOR RELEASE May 12, 1955

Agriculture contributes a large share to the prosperity of our entire country. When hard times are felt among the 145,000 farm families in Michigan, it doesn't take long for city manufacturers of such things as cars, washing machines and many other consumer products to feel the economic squeeze through the loss in purchasing power of these valued customers.

Republicans and Democrats, both recognizing this, have chosen different courses in hopes of steering the best route for our large and productive agricultural industry. H. R. 12 provided the latest battlefield. This bill, which was passed by the House of Representatives last week, nullifies the present farm legislation and rigid price supports for the six basic commodities which are: peanuts, tobacco, corn, wheat, cotton, and rice.

I, with most other Republicans, oppose H.R. 12. In 1954 Congress voted out the rigid price support program which had been operating for many years. The flexible support plan passed last year provided that this new program begin with the 1955 harvest which is still some months away. During a period of rigid price supports from 1947 to 1954 net farm incomes have dropped by 25 per cent. In other words, 90 per cent of parity does not guarantee stability in farm income. Should H.R. 12 become law we would still be laboring under this same uneconomic, expensive program leaving the flexible system totally untested.

I feel that our experience with the rigid price supports plan has proved that it is totally impractical. Not only has it failed to stop farm incomes from declining but huge surpluses have resulted with the high storage costs they impose. The storage cost to the federal treasury on these surpluses is one million dollars each day or \$365 million annually. We have in storage \$7.5 billion worth of farm commodities, all the result of high price supports.

Quota controls and restrictions accompany rigid supports and these deprive the farmer of much of his freedom and independence. And in violation of the free competitive spirit, rigid supports offer no solution whatsoever to the adjustment



of production to consumer demand. Moreover, large corporate farmers reap the greatest benefits from rigid supports leaving the smaller family-type farmers out in the cold.

Michigan farmers, especially, should realize that only 13 per cent of their cash receipts come from the six basic crops which would receive 90 per cent parity under H. R. 12. Of the total cash receipts of Michigan farms, 53 per cent comes from crops which are entirely without support such as meat animals, poultry, and eggs, vegetables, fruits, nuts, and other miscellaneous items.

It is interesting to note that during consideration of H.R. 12 every Democrat from Michigan voted for amendments to support peanut prices at 90 per cent of parity and every Democrat from Michigan on the House Floor voted against an amendment which would give 90 per cent price supports for dairy products. Therefore, Michigan Democrats supported southern peanut growers but wouldn't give the same consideration to Michigan milk producers.

The peanut price support program supported by Michigan Democrat Congressmen has cost the American taxpayer \$116 million in direct losses. In addition, under this price support program the price of peanuts to Michigan consumers has increased by at least 50 per cent. So according to Democrat action, peanuts and tobacco are more basic than dairy products which account for 46 per cent of Michigan's agricultural income.

SOME COMPARISONS:

An hour's take home pay of 30 years ago would buy five and one-half loaves of bread or three and one-half quarts of milk or one dozen oranges. Today's take home pay for an hour's labor will buy for you 10 loaves of bread or seven quarts of milk or three dozen oranges. This can be partially explained by improved farming methods which 30 years ago restricted each farm worker's production to enough food for himself and seven other people. Now he produces enough for himself and 18 others.

One of the little "fringe" duties of a Congressman is to answer requests for American flags which have flown over the Capitol Building in Washington. Any person or organization wishing a 5 X 8 foot "Old Glory" with a certificate to the fact that it has flown over the Capitol Building should send me \$6.50 to pay for it and I will see that one is promptly forwarded.



Your Washington Review

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FOR RELEASE May 19, 1955

This past week the House of Representatives approved the forthcoming fiscal year budget for the Army, Navy and Air Force. It amounted to the whopping total of \$31.5 billion which incidentally is considerably more than half of the whole federal budget for the 12 month period beginning July 1st.

In effect the House concurred in the judgment of the President on how much money should be spent on the national defense program. Reductions totaling \$744 million were recommended by my committee plus the cancellation of a \$1.6 billion in working capital funds. All of the savings, and they are substantial, were recommended by the committee after three long months of daily hearings. The printed testimony of numerous witnesses embraced 5,100 pages and a large part of the testimony was "off the record" for security reasons and therefore not printed.

The statement has been made that our top military leaders did not support the President's military budget. This accusation is not true. Admiral Radford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, categorically endorsed "Ike's" program as did General Twining of the Air Force, Admiral Carney of the Navy and General Shepherd of the Marines. Only General Ridgeway of the Army had reservations about the adequacy of this multi-billion dollar appropriation.

It must be remembered that our national defense program places the accent on a powerful air striking force with the newest and most potent weapons plus a big build-up in our continental defense. During the next twelve months the United States will be spending substantially greater sums than ever before for defense against enemy air attack.

Some Democrats have objected because Ike recommended a cutback of 77,000 men for the Army. Even with this minor reduction, the Army will have over a million men on active duty which is about twice the number available at the time former President Truman ordered our GIs to defend South Korea.

The Army cutback is justified because the combat efficiency of the active duty forces has been greatly increased since 1953. No longer under Ike's program is the Army encumbered with too many non-combat soldiers. In 1956 the



ratio of combat troops to total forces will be the best in the history of the Nation.

Furthermore, and this is important, the firepower of the Army has increased over 80 per cent in the past 10 years and prospects for the future, because of new technological developments are far more promising. The record also shows that our Army nowadays is infinitely more mobile than ever before and the ability to move rapidly is most important in modern warfare. The helicopter is the newest element in Army plans for a fast moving outfit. In any atomic war good communications equipment will be a necessity. Since the end of World War II the Army has developed equipment so it can communicate twice as far without any increase in weight. Or it might be put this way. The Army can communicate the same distance with equipment weighing half as much. Yes, because of better firepower, mobility, and communications the number of GIs in the Army can be legitimately reduced.

Also in the next year the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve forces will be expanded in numbers and effectiveness. General Ridgeway went on record endorsing the greater potency of the reserve forces which are an integral part of national defense.

For the past five years Uncle Sam has spent about \$10 billion in military aid for our allies so that the total military strength of the anti-communist forces throughout the world would be stronger. This vast investment in U. S. dollars was predicated on the basis that as our allies got stronger the ground forces of the United States could be reduced. In the next year this plan will bring real dividends. South Korea will have over 20 divisions or a military strength of about 500,000, practically all financed by the U. S. The new German and Japanese military forces of about 600,000 average will be a reality shortly and again Uncle Sam has provided most of the guns, tanks, and ammunition. With the new anti-communist forces recruited from the "Free World," the reduction in our Army appears completely justified.

One fails to see how the Democrats can substantiate spending an additional \$500 million in one year for 75,000 more U. S. Army troops which would require doubling the monthly draft call from 10,000 to about 20,000. Yes, I'll stick with Ike's military judgment and his recommendations on how much money we need for a strong national defense program!



Your Washington Review

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JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE May 26, 1955

Despite the better atmosphere for world peace let no one underestimate the need for our nation to remain militarily powerful. Our military tools must be ready and yet ever subject to reappraisal if we are to keep pace with those who are attempting to stack world power against us. This past week the House considered the National Reserve Plan, which concerns an important aspect of our national defense, that of building the maximum military strength through the most effective reserve organizations.

As the National Reserve Plan was reported out of committee it would provide for a 2,900,000 reserve force to accompany the regular military establishment with personnel totalling 2,850,000.

Many persons have the misconception that the National Reserve Plan is identical to UMT. The National Reserve Plan is not UMT nor is it intended to fulfill the same functions as Universal Military Training. Representative Dewey Short of Missouri, an outspoken opponent of such legislation stated during debate on the House floor, "This present bill is not UMT, granted."

One major difference is that this reserve plan has none of the compulsory features of a Europeanized UMT program. The new reserve plan simply recognizes the need for a trained pool of manpower to back up the regular armed forces in case of an emergency. No youth would be forced to enter any particular reserve program against his will. In fact, if anything, this proposed legislation widens the scope of individual choice by providing several alternatives to the present two-year draft.

In the National Reserve Plan, the six-month trainees receive training as members of the armed forces and then revert to civilian-reservist status for a seven and one-half year period. This would involve weekly drills and yearly two-week concentrated training periods. Furthermore the proposal offers several alternatives to fit special individual cases such as for young men who live in remote areas some distance from an organized reserve unit.



Should a young man not wish to fulfill his military obligation in this manner he may chose to enlist for a regular hitch in any branch of the armed forces. Or he may take the selective service route for two years of active duty as a draftee.

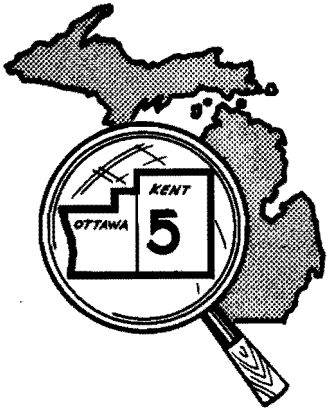
It is unfortunate that our young men are faced with problems such as these. Although I have always doubted the advisability of the European type UMT legislation, I do favor the provisions of the National Reserve Plan. It seems to offer the best solution to a difficult and costly problem involving our national security. By allowing each young man to make his own choice as to several alternatives, he is thereby able to select that plan which will mean the least disruption to his life. And still the National Reserve Plan guarantees a strong standing force which provides a manpower pool of men reasonably ready, trained and callable.

I earnestly hope that this plan does not have to become a permanent element in our national way of life. However, we must maintain an adequate national defense in light of present world conditions. Right now we seem to be at a very meaningful point in world relations with Austrian freedom a reality, a big power conference in the making and the fruitful rewards we hope will materialize from Harold Stassen's work as newly appointed "Secretary of Peace." But to make peace a reality we must work toward it from a position of strength of which the National Reserve Plan is a crucial part.

Since this issue has not been fully resolved in the Congress, if you have any specific questions about this National Reserve Plan and the many complications concerned, I would be happy to answer them.

Last week I was on the short end of a 218-170 House vote which once again smothered any chance of statehood for Alaska or Hawaii in the 84th Congress.

Beneath the surface of the pro and con statements on this question, I believe two facts are essentially responsible for holding up favorable action on statehood for these territories. For one thing, the Southern voting block in Congress fears that these new states might, not only send an oriental representative to Washington, but will eventually produce new strength for civil rights legislation which Southerners so violently oppose. Secondly, representatives from the more populace states such as New York fear that their relative voting strength, particularly in the Senate will be diminished should these lightly populated areas be admitted.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE June 2, 1955

At this time each year, high school and college graduating seniors begin to cast their conquering glances about a new world opening up before them.

These new graduates are entering this new era of their lives in a period of national prosperity and the most peaceful world conditions probably enjoyed in their entire lives. The career prospects for the class of 1955 are excellent and are of supreme importance to the future of our nation in the race for technological superiority. In a recent address Secretary of Labor Mitchell pointed out that one of the most challenging problems of our day "is the urgent need to raise the level of the skills of the American work force." To the graduating seniors this means that there are not only growing job opportunities in the field of technology and the skilled trades, but also great service may be rendered to our country by preparing for such work.

President Eisenhower was on hand last week to greet the Annual Meeting of the President's Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped. The principle objective of this meeting made up of persons from throughout the country was "to create a climate for the handicapped to find employment." The President has indicated a lively interest in this problem.

I was privileged to attend portions of this conference and to gain some insight into the problems of the large group of potentially productive Americans who unfortunately have some physical handicap. The committee, which has its offices within the Department of Labor, is composed of volunteer citizen groups representing segments of our society which may have some impact on finding gainful employment for this group of persons. These may include people from industry, labor, education and government.

Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Oveta Culp Hobby has emphasized that any distribution plan for the anti-polio serum must embrace the principle that the "safety of the vaccine be the paramount consideration." All of us will agree with that point of view for the health of our children is vital.

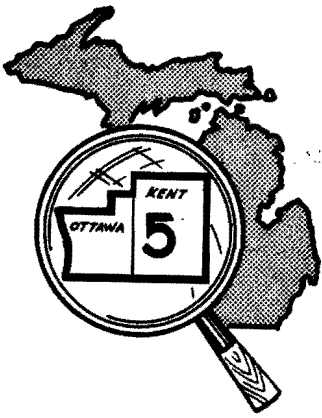
Mrs. Hobby also emphasized that the vaccine must be distributed on an equitable basis among the states and individuals within the state. She stresses that children should be able to receive the vaccine regardless of the ability of their parents to pay for it and that the distribution system be as practical, fast, and effective as possible. It is my earnest hope that politics do not enter into the distribution of this crucial Salk vaccine because if it does our young children will be the ones to suffer.

On May 3rd I was one of three members of the House whose pro-Eisenhower voting record stood at 100 per cent on 19 domestic and foreign issues upon which there was a roll call and the President had taken a stand. However, my pro-Ike batting average has dropped a bit since the time of this tally. Very recently I voted in favor of statehood for Alaska and Hawaii although President Eisenhower only favored admission of Hawaii. In 1953-1954 sessions of the Congress your Congressman supported Ike's legislative program 92 per cent on the Congressional scorecard.

IN A SENTENCE OR TWO --

In response to a large quantity of mail, I have stated that I do not consider the Harris Bill a proper solution to the natural gas problem in MichiganI now have my quota of a pamphlet entitled "Our American Government" available for free distribution upon request. This pamphlet offers a series of 291 informative questions and answers about the operation of the government...American citizens who were prisoners of war for any time after December 7, 1941 are now eligible for prisoner of war benefits. All claims must be filed on or before August 31, 1955.

VISITORS: David Noorthoek, Mrs. Harry Bowles, Dorothy S. Blake, Dr. and Mrs. Leonard Greenway, Mr. Ben Vink, Patricia Liddle, Martha H. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. John P. Houk, Mr. and Mrs. John Young, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hoekstra, Dr. and Mrs. W. J. Cary, Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Crawford, Mr. Dred S. Madison, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Vander Vennen, Mr. John Salatka, Charles, A. Meconis, Catherine Hoogenboom, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond DeBree all of Grand Rapids; Joan Martinka, Anne Lisor, Frank Drabezyk, Jr., C. W. Walton of Grand Haven, Mr. and Mrs. Avery Baker of Holland, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne VanDenenaam of Zeeland.



Your Washington Review
by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



For Release June 9, 1955

At long last it appears as though a postal pay bill has been introduced in the Congress which wipes away the inequities of previous legislation opposed by the Administration. Last week the Senate passed this new bill which provides for an 8.1 per cent pay increase by a vote of 78 to 0, and I earnestly hope that by the time this is read a similar bill will have passed the House.

Until a few days ago political maneuvering dominated sound judgment on pay increase legislation for postal employees. Your Congressman in the past ten months on several occasions has voted for pay bills that would have given well deserved raises, but he would not support legislation which could not become law because of discriminatory provisions. Now a substantial bill has administration support. It not only gives a fair raise but does so with an equitable re-classification system.

I will wholeheartedly support this bill which makes the pay raise retroactive to March 1st. I will also vote for a similar pay increase bill for all other federal employees and this should be on the statute books within the next several weeks.

* * * * *

Last week the United States Supreme Court implemented its ruling on school integration made on May 17, 1954. Last year's decision declared that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional. On the basis of our democratic principles and Christian faith, the court could do nothing else. This recent court ruling recognizes that because the transition from segregation to integration in public schools involves different local conditions, the process should be progressive but yet gradual enough to meet local situations. I approved of last year's decision, and I believe the court has taken a sound position in its latest order.

The reaction from Southern Democrats to the integration plan presented by the Supreme Court has carried the spirit of stern opposition. A late outburst came from Senator Eastland, Democrat of Mississippi, who is second ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. In his statement on the floor of the United States Senate, Mr. Eastland said -

"I know that southern people will not surrender their dual school system and their racial heritage at the command of this crowd of racial politicians in judicial robes."

This attitude toward our highest court on the part of a member of a coordinate branch of our government is more dangerous, I fear, than the opposition to integration itself.

* * * * *

Former President Truman recently paid President Eisenhower one of the finest tributes that has come Ike's way. In the TV program "Family Reunion," Mr. Truman said according to a newspaper story that the "world is approaching a peace settlement and the end of the cold war." This, he pointed out "appeared to be the most important development in world affairs since he left the White House." We agree 100 per cent. As Secretary Dulles stated in his latest report to the nation, "We are going to prevail (because) we have been standing for good, sound, moral principle - - with firmness, determination, with strength in the right."

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ABOUT PROSPERITY -

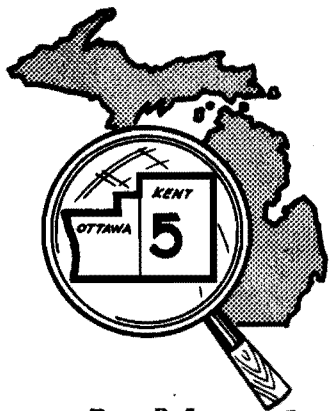
The average weekly earnings in all manufacturing plants is up \$8.90 today over the average wage in April 1952, which means an increase of 13.7 per cent. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics average hourly earnings have risen 21 cents, or an increase of 12.12 per cent over April 1952. In this same three year period the consumer price index, which represents the cost of living, rose only 1.1 per cent. Moreover, the cost of living index remained constant from December 1954 through March 1955, and dropped one-tenth of a point in April. Economic stability has been achieved.

In addition, the index on home construction rose 57 per cent between April 1952 and the present; this means 57 per cent more homes are being built today than were in April three years ago. Today more people are gainfully employed than ever before in our nation's history. This current total of 61,685,000 represents an increase of 2.5 per cent in three years. We are in a period of an economically-sound prosperity without war or a huge governmental public works program.

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I was most fortunate to be able to spend the Memorial Day weekend home in Michigan, and to have the opportunity of speaking in Grand Haven on Memorial Day. - Something additional was added to my trip back to Washington when I carried along a little six month old Golden Retriever puppy for my boys, Mike who is five and Jack now age 3.

Boys and pup have taken to each other very well and Jack and Mike have named their new friend, Brown Sugar.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



For Release June 16, 1955

It was gratifying to learn last week that the Senate passed a bill which extends the Small Business Administration for an additional two years. Soon the House will consider similar legislation which is designed to serve the Nation's small businesses. The Small Business Administration set up under President Eisenhower has been in existence about two years. It is a 100 per cent service agency with no regulatory duties whatsoever.

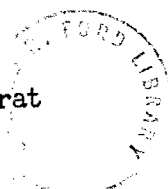
The agency has four major programs which by serving small firms bring greater benefits to the economy as a whole. The first concerns the loan program including counseling and help in obtaining credit, preferably from private lenders. In fact, to be eligible for help a small business wishing a loan must first be refused by two banks. A second aspect of this financial assistance includes disaster loans for small businesses in need of help. Further aid to small firms comes by way of help in obtaining a fair share of government contracts and assistance in solving management and production problems.

In less than two years as an independent agency, the SBA has negotiated a total of 863 business loans, of which 8 were made in Kent and Ottawa counties. The total amount loaned was \$41,996,811. It has also approved 1146 applications for disaster loans amounting to about \$7,000,000. In addition to this the Small Business Administration has received over 130,000 inquiries from small business men who wish advice, information and counseling.

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Annually Republicans and Democrats from the Congress don big league uniforms and play a baseball game in Washington's American League stadium for the benefit of underprivileged children who attend a summer camp. Proceeds from the game provide fine recreational opportunities for kids who otherwise would never get to a summer camp.

This year a Republican landslide snowed under the Democrat politicians by a score of 12 to 4. In the 5 inning clash which was G.O.P. all the way, your Congressman played first base, and with the help of the official scorer registered a hit and no errors. My main contribution was getting on base twice and scoring two of the dozen G.O.P. runs. It was a Republican youth (?) victory over the creaking Democrat oldsters.



While more and more wage-earners are now paying social security taxes, and no one likes taxes, it is worthy to note that more and more of our relatives, neighbors and friends are drawing social security benefits. As of December 31, 1954, \$1,026,708 was being added to the purchasing power of the residents of Kent and Ottawa counties each month through payments to beneficiaries of social security. A total of 19,544 persons in the two counties were collecting old-age and survivor insurance (social security) at that date. This represents an increase of 2,484 beneficiaries over the previous year.

Of this number, 10,772 old-age benefits were paid from the social security taxes collected from the gainfully employed. 2,525 children received payments as survivors, and 597 were drawing benefits as mothers of minor children. In fact at the present time nine out of every 10 mothers and children in the Nation are assured of monthly payment under social security if the insured breadwinner of the family passes on.

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Interesting -

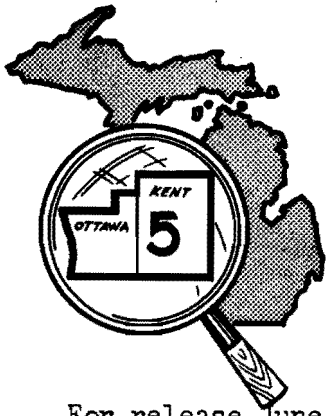
My work on the Appropriations Committee has shifted from the Army Subcommittee hearings to those of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee on Appropriations. For the next month I will be attending daily hearings on the Mutual Security and Foreign Aid bill. General Grunther, head of Allied Forces in Europe, appeared before the committee in a closed session last week where he outlined the latest military plans for the anti-communist forces of Europe.... On June 2, I made the Commencement Address before the graduation class at the Fort Belvoir Command Management School. On June 17th, I will give the graduation speech before the third class to graduate from the Fort Lee Army Supply Management Course.

At each of these occasions my main purpose is to explain to these young officers how Congress and the military can cooperate to do a better job with a more satisfying relationship existing between the military and the legislature.

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A bill passed by the House on June 7th takes full advantage of the new dies being prepared for the Treasury Department which will increase the capacity and the efficiency of the presses used by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The new dies will include as a matter of law the inscription "In God We Trust" which shall thereafter appear on all U. S. coins and currency.

I have just received a number of pamphlets prepared by the Marine Corps called "How to Respect and Display Our Flag." If you would like to have a copy of this interesting little booklet, drop me a line. It is interesting to note that there are only three places in the country where the U.S. Flag is flown 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Above the east and west entrances to the Capitol and over Francis Scott Key's grave at Frederick, Maryland.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



For release June 23, 1955

On June 9th General Alfred M. Gruenther, United States Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, stated, "I am satisfied that our long-range air power is better and more effective than the comparable Soviet military organization. I believe that the edge which we have now will remain with us for some time into the future if we determine that it should be that way."

As a member of the Department of Defense Appropriations Subcommittee the financing of our national defense is of special day-to-day concern to me. My job on this committee is to help determine the funds made available to our military establishment.

Our committee recommended \$14,401,904,000 for the Air Force for the next fiscal year which is nearly one-third more than the amount appropriated for the current year. This sum includes an additional \$141,930,000 for the area of research and development, this being one of the more important phases for a continuing strong Air Force.

Today our Air Force is comprised of 121 wings with 22,427 planes. We also have a large number of powerful guided missiles of various designs which remain classified as top secret. To maintain this force there are currently 970,000 personnel on active duty. By June of next year the number will reach 975,000. Two years from now we will have 137 wings with better quality all the way around, probably 1,000,000 men and much greater missile striking power.

It is clear that our Air Force's build-up program over the next two years will occur against a backdrop which clearly recognizes realities of the world's balance of power and has as its purpose the preservation of peace.

* * * * *

Clearly aware of the great benefits which our country can derive from TVA, President Eisenhower said recently in his weekly news conference that "we will never wreck the Tennessee Valley Authority." When TVA was undertaken over 20 years ago, its primary purpose was to tame the rough Tennessee River by stopping floods and making the river navigable. Now, as we all are keenly aware, TVA has become an important symbol in the struggle to determine whether the government, with its taxing power, or private industry, which pays taxes, will continue to construct additional power projects where private capital is available.

A House Subcommittee on Appropriations brought the TVA struggle back in the limelight when subcommittee Democrats failed to approve the money for Uncle Sam to carry through on his contract with private industry for a steam power plant, and assigned six and one-half million dollars to begin construction of a government owned steam plant at Fulton, Tennessee with an ultimate total cost of over \$100 million from the federal treasury.

If the government takes over the responsibility of expanding the steam power plants for TVA, it will mean more taxes from persons living in Michigan and the other states whose power and resource developments are not subsidized by Uncle Sam. Three times already the Congress has refused to approve this steam plant at Fulton, Tennessee. And if the government were to continue to appropriate money to build generators for TVA, each year, on the present rate of repayment, the cost over 40 years would be \$1.6 billion to the residents of Michigan, and about \$9 million on a per capita basis to the people of Kent and Ottawa counties based on the 1950 census.

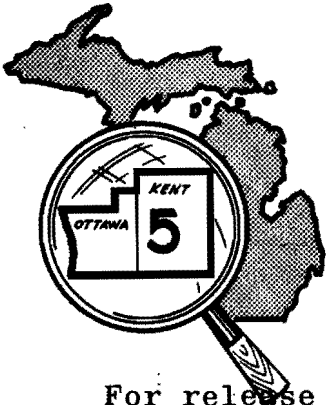
And what would we receive in return? Nothing but the satisfaction of helping to foot the power bill for one particular region of the Nation. For instance, in 1954 TVA had a load, exclusive of AEC demands, of 3,879,000 kw. Of this total, over 700,000 kw were used by home owners to heat their houses. Nearly 1,000,000 kw were sold that year to industrial plants. This is subsidized power, inexpensively sold and having the effect of attracting Northern industry to this Southern region. We are taxed to heat the homes of others with electricity, and to encourage our own tax-paying industry to move south. TVA needed help 20 years ago when it was in its infancy, but it is high time TVA, the people in the area and their industry be weaned. They should be prepared in the future to stand on their own feet without further subsidy from taxpayers in Michigan and elsewhere.

* * * * *

CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

From January 5th to May 31st the current session of Congress has accumulated the following statistics. The House has met on 74 days and the Senate 65 days. This has added up to a total of 312 hours and one minute of time in session for the Senate, while in 74 days the House has been in session a total of 258 hours and 59 minutes.

Out of this combined activity both Houses have filled 6,228 pages of proceedings, enacted 48 public laws into being, 62 private laws and made 78 roll call votes.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



For release June 30, 1955

Often called "the most unique and powerful legislative institution in America" a Conference Committee of the Congress forms a vital link in the chain of events leading up to the passage of legislation into law.

During the coming week I'll again have the opportunity of participating in the actual operation of a Conference Committee. Designated members of the House and Senate will meet to compromise their versions of the controversial Department of Defense Appropriations bill which each chamber passed in a somewhat different form. I was appointed with 16 other Members of the House by Speaker Sam Rayburn while Vice President Dick Nixon, who presides over the Senate, also selected a bipartisan group from that body to represent their views in ironing out the differences in this specific appropriation bill. The majority party always has a majority of the conferees from the respective Houses of the Congress.

These meetings of a Conference Committee have often been compared to collective bargaining sessions and to top-level, international diplomatic parleys. House and Senate conferees are each trying to win concessions for their particular point of view. The Conference Committee usually works in an informal manner behind closed doors attracting little publicity and attention. No minutes are kept of the committee proceedings, and discussions are kept confidential to prevent outside pressures from playing a part in the final decision. Its hard to tell just how long we may have to meet in our Conference Committee. Several years ago I was a member of a conference that was in session most of a 24 hour period. Deadlocks on many occasions have delayed final legislative action for weeks. Other times agreement and compromise may come in a matter of minutes.

The conferees are strictly limited in their consideration to matters of disagreement, either language or dollar amounts, between the two Houses. When the difference involves a figure or an amount, the conferees may not increase the greater nor decrease the smaller figure.

The final figure within the upper and lower limit must be acceptable to both Houses of the Congress.

Although the conferees from the Senate and House meet together, each group votes separately. In our case, for instance, a majority of members appointed by the Speaker can bind the group for the House of Representatives.

When agreement has been achieved, a conference report is submitted to each House of Congress. Conference reports may be brought up for passage at practically any time the House is in session. Debate on the measure is limited to one hour, and the report must be accepted or rejected in its entirety. If the conference report is rejected by either the House or Senate as a whole, the process must be started anew. Incidentally, most conference reports are usually concurred in by a majority of the House and Senate.

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With about 50 per cent of the Army's \$7.5 billion budget for fiscal 1956 earmarked as pay for personnel, it is interesting to note how the Army makes use of the men upon whom the money is spent. At the present time 71.9 per cent of the Army's manpower is deployed in its operation forces. The operating forces of the Army are those whose primary mission is to participate in combat or directly support fighting units. Training forces receive 11.5 per cent of the manpower, logistics and administration 7.9 per cent, transients and patients make up 4 per cent, and special activities draw the remaining 4.7 per cent.

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INTERESTING TO NOTE

At 108 years of age Albert Woolson, of Duluth, Minnesota, is the last surviving member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Recently a bill was favorably reported out of committee which would provide funds to pay for hospitalization and medical expenses incurred by Mr. Woolson during his recent illness and any subsequent illness he may suffer.

Congress is currently studying possible plans which could remedy our Nation's diminishing underground water supply. To counteract increasing demands upon the water level, a plan to tap the ocean's salt water and apply saline treatment to make it practical for everyday use is under consideration.