

Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD

January 11, 1961



The first session of the 87th Congress has opened and we greet you with the first issue of "Your Washington Review" for 1961. Every member of the House of Representatives, new and old alike, was sworn into office at an impressive ceremony on the opening day, January 3rd. This is a new Congress, the eighty-seventh since the first Congress under the Constitution convened in New York in 1789. The life of each Congress is two years, that being the length of the term of a member of the House of Representatives.

Since my last report to you on September 7, 1960, we have completed our sixth annual Mobile Office tour of Kent and Ottawa Counties, have had an election; Betty and I have been to India, and the Ford family enjoyed its annual skiing session in Michigan's Winter Wonderland.

I was again impressed with the deep interest in public affairs of so many of our citizens as we visited individually at one of the 20 stops of the Mobile Office or as I met with various groups throughout the District. Approximately 1,100 persons signed the guest list at the Mobile Office, nearly half of whom were visiting us for the first time.

Following the election I returned to Washington to rejoin the family and to get caught up at the office. Late in November Betty and I were invited by one of the airlines to participate in its inaugural jet flight to Bombay. This 24,000-mile, eight-day trip gave us an opportunity to view at first hand the life and problems of the 400 million people of India. I visited the Indian Parliament at Delhi and talked with a number of governmental officials. We had an 860-mile train trip and a 450-mile auto journey into the interior of the country and saw some of the past glory and existing poverty of many, and discussed with responsible officials plans for better days in the future.

Between the holidays Betty and I took Mike and Jack skiing at Boyne Mountain in Charlevoix County. This whole area in Michigan is a skier's paradise, especially this year when conditions were ideal. All went well with the Fords except for Mike who twisted his knee and tore some ligaments in one of the spills that are certain to occur to all of us on occasion on the slopes.

COMMITTEE ON RULES: Considerable publicity has been given to the demands of some House members that the composition and/or power of the Committee on Rules be altered. This Committee, often referred to as the "traffic cop of the House," is responsible for scheduling for House debate most major bills which have been approved and reported by

one of the legislative committees. With its power to recommend a "rule" by which a bill is to be considered the committee decides whether a bill should be open to amendments, what kind of changes may be made, and how long debate should last. By refusing a "rule" or neglecting to take any action this Committee of 12 persons (8 Democrats, 4 Republicans in the 86th Congress) can make it difficult to get a bill to the floor of the House for debate and a vote.

Some criticism is directed at the Committee on the basis that it holds up legislation desired by a majority of the members by interjecting its own judgment on the merits of the legislation rather than simply deciding when and how a bill will be considered.

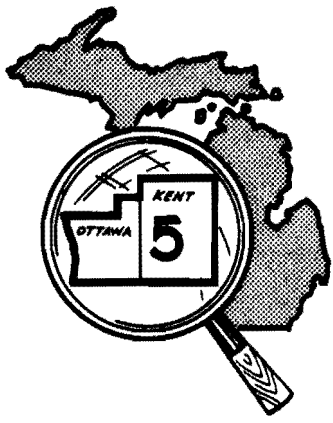
In answer, the Chairman, Rep. Howard Smith, (Democrat of Virginia) points out that there are three other ways of bringing legislation to the floor: suspension of the rules, requiring a two-thirds vote; a discharge petition signed by a majority of members, and the use of a method known as "Calendar Wednesday." Concerning the latter Chairman Smith has said, "If a bill languishes in the Rules Committee or any other Committee, on that day the Committee can bring that bill up and have it considered in the House. If a majority wants to consider it, they can consider it." It has been my observation that very little if any legislation desired by a majority of the House membership is actually tied up permanently in the Committee on Rules.

An enlargement of the Committee has been suggested as has a change in membership and procedure. A revival of the 21-day rule has been recommended. This would permit consideration by the House of any bill which had been before the Rules Committee for 21 days or more. The first yea-and-nay vote which I cast as a freshman legislator in 1949 was in support of such a rule. Two years later when it was repealed I voted to retain it. However, in light of additional experience and observation, I believe the Committee is generally responsive to majority wishes. If it is not, adequate parliamentary remedies exist to work the will of the majority.

COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES: Rep. James Roosevelt (Democrat of California) has again recommended that the House Committee on Un-American Activities be abolished or its activities drastically reduced. Two years ago when he made a similar proposal I stated in the WASHINGTON REVIEW: "This Committee was established to carry on a continual investigation of subversion in our country and to recommend legislation against the Communist conspiracy..."

"Until a better plan for doing so is presented to the Congress, I will vote to continue the Committee on Un-American Activities."

I reiterate this today. It seems to me the Committee serves a very useful purpose as one means of alerting the public to the ways of the international Communist conspiracy.



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January 18, 1961

The selection of a President and Vice President which began at the national conventions in July was completed at a joint session of the House and Senate on January 6th. Shortly after 1:00 in the afternoon, boxes containing the certificates of election from each state were opened, the certificates were examined, and the electoral votes were announced. Because the results were a foregone conclusion there was little suspense in the chamber, but the procedure did highlight the criticisms which are made of our electoral system.

generally the candidate who receives the greatest number of popular votes in each state receives all the electoral votes of that state. In Michigan, for instance, while the Kennedy-Johnson ticket obtained 1,687,269 votes and Nixon and Lodge team got 1,620,428 votes, Mr. Kennedy received all 20 electoral votes for President. This has been criticized as unfair, undemocratic, and as containing a potential danger to majority rule.

Since November 8th we have received a number of letters recommending modification or abolition of the electoral system. One proposal would give to each state a number of electoral votes in proportion to its popular vote. Thus a candidate receiving 60 percent of the popular vote in Michigan would get 60 percent or 12 of the electoral votes while his opponent would get 8 votes to correspond to his 40 percent of the popular vote. This revision was included in the Lodge-Gossett Amendment to the Constitution proposed in 1950. I endorsed the Lodge-Gossett Amendment at that time and believe that it would be a fair and equitable solution to the problem at the present time.

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS: The most impressive moment at the joint session came during Vice-President Nixon's short address preceding his formal declaration that John F. Kennedy had been elected President. Dick Nixon said: "This is the first time in 100 years that a candidate for the Presidency announced the result of an election in which he was defeated and announced the victory of his opponent. I do not think we could have a more striking and eloquent example of the stability of our constitutional system and of the proud tradition of the American people of developing, respecting, and honoring institutions of self-government. In our campaigns, no matter how hard fought they may be, no matter how close the election may turn out to be, those who lose accept the verdict, and support those who win." Then he extended his best wishes to "all of

you (who) work in a cause that is bigger than any man's ambition, greater than any party. It is the cause of freedom, of justice, and peace of all mankind."

In these words Dick Nixon portrayed the strength of our American way of life and set the basic goals for all our political and social activities. We endorse his words and wish him well.

YOUR NATIONAL DEBT TODAY: Our total gross public debt and guaranteed obligations now stand at \$290.2 billion, a reduction of \$2.5 billion from a year ago. This year's budget calls for interest payments of \$9.6 billions. This is for interest only and will not be used to reduce the principal indebtedness.

On the opening day of this Congress a bill was introduced to provide for the reduction of the public debt by at least 10 percent of the estimated overall Federal receipts for each fiscal year. Another bill would require that Federal expenditures not exceed revenue except in time of grave emergency, and that the public debt be systematically reduced. I'm sure that most of the citizens of the Fifth District endorse the aims and objectives of these bills.

While many proposals requiring the expenditure of billions of dollars are being considered, it is imperative that we continue our efforts to insure a stable dollar and a sound economy. Inflation and fiscal irresponsibility remain potential enemies of every American citizen. The Congress must retain the responsibility of examining carefully and critically every new spending proposal, especially those which call for the expenditure of millions or billions without specifically supplying the required revenue.

You may be interested to know that since the publication of the anonymous letter addressed to me and donating \$5 for the reduction of the national debt, the Treasury Department has received other contributions for this purpose. A Grand Rapids citizen sent the \$5 shortly after the election with the suggestion that I send it to the Treasury or buy a steak. Promptly I matched the \$5 contribution and so an additional ten dollars are in the Treasury account marked "for reduction of the public debt."

OUR LEGISLATION IN 87TH CONGRESS: Any bill on which action was not completed in the last Congress has to be reintroduced if it is to be considered during the present session. Among the bills which I have reintroduced is one to permit a widow with children to earn up to \$3,600 a year (rather than \$1,200 as at present) without forfeiting her social security benefits; another would require railroad cars to be equipped with reflectors or luminous material so they can be readily seen at night at grade crossings. A third bill would permit recipients of Old Age Assistance benefits to continue to receive payments while a patient in a private mental hospital.

These bills and all others have been referred to the appropriate committees for study and possible consideration. We have requested that the interested departments and agencies in the executive branch of the government be asked to submit their views and recommendations on these bills. This is in line with regular procedure.



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January 25, 1961

President Eisenhower submitted his eighth and final Federal budget to the Congress last week. It calls for an expenditure of \$80.9 billion and anticipates a surplus in funds of \$1.5 billion on June 30, 1962. This surplus would be available for cutting the national debt which on that date is expected to be reduced to \$283.4 billion from today's \$290 billion.

The Eisenhower 1962 budget is a sound and constructive approach to continued fiscal responsibility. At the same time it will provide adequate funding for our nation's strength and growth.

The Congress has the constitutional responsibility to examine this presidential fiscal plan to determine whether any additional revenues are needed or reductions in expenditures can be accomplished. I sincerely hope the Congress can make reductions in appropriations and total expenditures.

The new Administration is going to be under tremendous pressure to sponsor new and/or additional spending programs. I hope that President Kennedy will not submit new or supplemental requests which will upset the balanced Eisenhower budget. During the past eight years the Eisenhower Administration has demonstrated that deficit financing is not necessary for a good program for national progress and security. In his message to the Congress Ike stated that "we have sought to keep the role of the Federal Government within its proper sphere, resisting the ever-present pressures to initiate or expand activities which could be more appropriately carried out by others...By applying the test of necessity rather than desirability to the expenditures of government, we have made significant progress in both public and private affairs during the past eight years."

The "test of necessity" should be maintained. When we realize that 11¢ out of every federal tax dollar goes for interest on the national debt, we know how essential it is to reduce rather than increase the national debt. I am going to continue to resist any spending measure which will upset our economic stability, restrict our national growth, or burden us and our children with greater interest costs.

ARMY ENGINEERING IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT: Included in the Eisenhower budget are recommendations for work on the Grand River and the harbors at Grand Haven and Holland in the amount of \$533,000. The Army Chief of Engineers is requesting \$35,000 to carry on the study to determine what type of flood-control work is necessary and justified in the Grand River Valley. He is suggesting the expenditure of \$85,000 at Grand Haven and \$45,000 at Holland for harbor maintenance which consists largely of dredging

operations. An additional \$300,000 is to be used for repairs to the revetment (retaining wall) at Grand Haven and \$68,000 to prepare plans and designs for rehabilitating the north and south breakwaters, and the south pier and revetment at Holland.

COMMITTEE ON RULES: At a recent party caucus the Democratic members of the House of Representatives agreed to enlarge the Committee on Rules by adding two Democrats to make a total of 10 and one Republican to make a total of 5. They want to increase Democratic membership in order to be able to appoint two additional liberal (to the left) members in an effort to make the Committee more receptive to various pet proposals involving greater Federal spending and centralized control. Many Democratic members have resented the fact that this Committee has delayed or stopped action on these proposals. They are especially disturbed because two of their members often have voted with the minority party members on the Committee resulting in a tie which under House rules is equivalent to a "no" vote. By adding two "liberals" they expect to have an 8 to 7 margin of control in most instances.

As I stated in YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW two weeks ago, I believe the Committee on Rules is generally responsive to majority wishes, and if in a given case it is not, adequate parliamentary remedies already exist to work the will of the majority. I do not think that the public good will be served by packing the Committee at this time.

One additional fact must be pointed out concerning the Committee on Rules which schedules legislation for consideration by the House. It is the instrument of the party in control of the House of Representatives. Today the Democrats have a 262-174 majority or 60 percent of the membership. With a 12-member Committee on Rules (8 Democrats; 4 Republicans) or a 15-member Committee (10 Democrats; 5 Republicans) they hold 66.6 percent of the power on the Committee.

TO THE NEW PRESIDENT AND HIS ADMINISTRATION: A majority of the voters in Kent and Ottawa Counties preferred Mr. Nixon to Mr. Kennedy on November 8, 1960. Now that all of us have seen or heard Mr. Kennedy take the constitutional oath of office on January 20, 1961, we accept him as our President. I know that every citizen of the Fifth District would want me publically to express to him as President of the United States our loyalty and support. We pray that he may have such wisdom, discretion, and insight that he may lead the nation aright. We reserve however, the privilege to criticize specific proposals and to oppose unsound policies when in our judgment these are not in the best interest of all the people. This is in line with the best traditions of our American way of life.

YEARBOOK OF AGRICULTURE: The 1960 Yearbook of Agriculture is entitled, "Power to Produce." I have a limited number of copies which will be sent upon a request addressed to my Washington office: 351 House Office Building.



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February 1, 1961

While 4831 measures have, at this writing, been introduced in the House of Representatives, action has been taken on only 35. A total of 3410 bills (indicated by an H.R. before the number) have been dropped into the hopper but only one, H. R. 1723, has been approved. This was passed on the second day of the session and extends to June 28th the time in which a committee is to report on plans for celebrating the 175th anniversary of the writing of the U. S. Constitution.

One hundred and seventy-two House Joint Resolutions, identified as "H.R. Res." and handled in a manner similar to that of bills, have been introduced but only two have been approved. One of these establishes a George Washington Carver Centennial Commission while the other exempts from Federal excise tax the admission fee charged for official inaugural functions and the sale of official inaugural medallions.

I opposed the tax relief resolution on the basis that it was not shown that the Inaugural Committee would run into a deficit, that no such relief was requested in 1952 and 1956, and that it is not good public policy to grant special tax privileges for political fund-raising purposes.

Of the 118 introduced, the House has acted on two House Concurrent Resolutions which require approval by the Senate but, unlike bills and joint resolutions, are not presented to the President for signature. H. Con. Res. 1 concerned arrangements for the inauguration and H. Con. Res. 109 authorized a joint session of Congress to hear President Kennedy.

Thirty House Resolutions (out of 131 introduced) have been approved. A House Resolution is passed upon only by the House and concerns such issues as setting the hour for meeting, electing members to committees, establishing salaries of employees, and expressing the sympathy of the House upon the death of a member.

But one of these simple resolutions (H. Res. 127) has become the most controversial issue before the House during the first month of the 87th Congress. It would increase the membership of the Committee on Rules from 12 to 15. The majority party wants to pack the Committee to insure more "liberal" control of the flow of legislation. The vote on this proposal was to have come last Thursday but was postponed until this week. As I have previously stated, I can find no good reason for packing the Committee. But four weeks have elapsed and the widely divergent elements in the majority party continue to jockey for strength.

All of this illustrates, I believe, that there is no great sense of urgency on the

part of the Democratic Party leaders in the Congress. Having marked time for about a month they show no indication of any compulsion legislatively to break boldly into the new frontier.

NATIONAL AERONAUTIC AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION: I must acknowledge that the transition from one administration to another has gone very well. With Ike's cooperation, the Kennedy team has put forth a maximum effort to affect a smooth transfer of authority. For this bi-partisan cooperation every citizen is grateful.

It is regrettable, however, that our civilian space agency has not been included in this harmonious transfer. I pointed out on the floor of the House last week that while ten weeks had elapsed since the election, and a task force on space problems had reported to Mr. Kennedy, a successor to NASA Administrator, Dr. T. Keith Glennan, had not been named. The evidence will also show that no representative of Mr. Kennedy or Mr. Johnson consulted Dr. Glennan or any official of NASA or worked with them for an effective transition. I have urged the immediate appointment of a new administrator. A reduction in lead time is extremely important if we are to make desired progress in our space program. We cannot reduce lead time if NASA is without a responsible head. A ship without a rudder is in trouble. A rudderless space program is one in desperate straits.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S INAUGURAL SPEECH: Mr. Kennedy's Inaugural Address was well written and well delivered. The new President informed the world and especially the Communist bloc of nations that we, Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, will continue an effective opposition to the atheistic Communist conspiracy.

Many of us were impressed by one of his statements which received spontaneous applause. We were glad to hear him say: "And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." If this is to be the basic tenet of his domestic policy, we too applaud him. We hope that all his specific legislative proposals will be tested on the touchstone of this inaugural statement.

THE SUPREME COURT AND THE FIRST AMENDMENT: The Supreme Court recently upheld by a 5 to 4 decision the power of states and cities to censor motion pictures. The Court insisted that well-defined standards for evaluating the pictures be established and indicated that it might disagree with the censors in a specific case. The decision was immediately criticized by some as an infringement upon the right of freedom of expression and a violation of the First Amendment. While I am as dedicated to freedom as anyone, it does seem to me that there are occasions when individual privilege must be subjugated to the broader rights of the community. The control of motion picture showings I believe, falls in this category. I approve the majority opinion in this case.



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February 8, 1961

By a close margin a reluctant House of Representatives has decided to enlarge its Committee on Rules from 12 to 15 members. The vote was 217 to 212. That the House was reluctant is demonstrated by statements from the first four speakers who presented the case last Tuesday. The first speaker, who asked for consideration of the necessary resolution, said "this is an assignment that I did not seek." The second, also of the majority party, stated, "I know of no one who wanted this conflict to come to the floor of the House." The third mentioned that he had "not been too happy...over the mis-information, misrepresentation, falsehoods, and slander which have been directed against the Committee..." The fourth said, "I believe that this is an unnecessary resolution to bring matters to the floor of the House."

The majority leadership insisted upon this change as a means of insuring more "liberal" control of the flow of legislation. By being able to add two liberal Democrats to the Committee they expect to have at least an 8 to 7 margin of control over highly controversial measures reported by legislative committees.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES: The work of the Congress is done primarily through its committees. The House has 20 standing committees ranging in size from 50 members (Appropriations) to 9 (Un-American Activities). Now that the "big decision" has been made concerning the Committee on Rules, the House is proceeding to the selection and organization of its committees. Little has been accomplished legislatively to date because most committees have not been organized. In fact some committee staff members who had worked all month were not paid on January 31st (pay day) because officially there was no House Administration Committee to certify the payroll.

Bills are referred to committees for study which may include extensive hearings and other research. Only when the committee having jurisdiction of a bill reports it to the House may congressmen not on the committee have an opportunity to vote on it. Membership on committees therefore is significant not only to each congressman but to the House and to the country.

Membership on House committees is divided between the political parties generally in the same ratio as exists in the total membership. Because Republicans have 40 percent of the House membership in this Congress they are to be given 40 percent of the seats on most committees. With 44 new Republican members this session, certain re-shuffling is necessary. The majority leadership decided to enlarge four committees by

one member each in order to give the Republicans the proper representation without eliminating a Democrat from these committees. These committees (in addition to Rules) are Agriculture, enlarged to 35 members; Education and Labor to 31; and Foreign Affairs and Judiciary to 33 each.

APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES: The initial decisions on which congressman is placed on which committee is made by each party's Committee on Committees. The Republicans have a special committee for this purpose consisting of one member selected by each state delegation having one or more Republican congressmen. Each member of this Committee has a total number of votes equal to the number of Republican congressmen from his state. Michigan's representative on the committee is Rep. Clare Hoffman, Dean of our delegation, who has 11 votes because there are 11 Republican congressmen from Michigan. Rep. Katherine St. George of New York has 21 votes while there are 11 states with only one vote each. Rep. Charles Halleck, the minority leader, is an ex officio member of the committee without a vote.

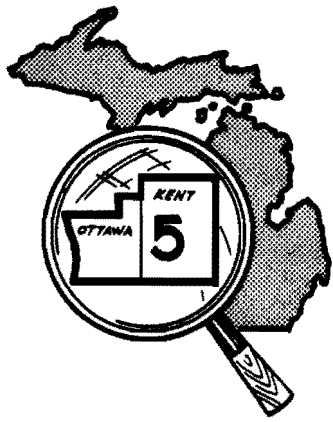
Men who have served on a committee in the previous Congress usually remain on the same committee unless they request a transfer. The Committee on Committees is now considering many requests for transfer by members who want a better committee assignment. The Committees on Ways and Means (taxation) and Appropriations are always looked upon as choice assignments while the Committees on District of Columbia, House Administration, and Post Office and Civil Service are thought by many to be less significant.

In making its selections the Committee on Committees takes into account such factors as personal preference, the education and experience of the individual, the effect on party strength in the committee and in the House, geographical relationships, and whether an individual can withstand the pressures which may be exerted upon a given committee.

A Subcommittee makes its suggestions to the full Committee on Committees which in turn sends its recommendations to the Republican Conference composed of all Republican congressmen. The final action occurs when a resolution is approved by the House of Representatives officially naming the members to the House Committees.

The Democrats' Committee on Committees is composed of the Democratic members on the Committee on Ways and Means. Because every state is not represented in this group, it is organized and operates somewhat differently than its Republican counterpart but its purpose is the same.

At this writing only members who served during the last Congress on the Committees on Appropriations, Rules, and Ways and Means have been officially reappointed. As a hold-over member of the Committee on Appropriations, I was included in these appointments.



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February 15, 1961

While legislative activity remains at a slow pace, the President has sent to the Congress messages and legislative proposals charting the "new frontier." None of these contain any surprises. Most of them are similar to Democratic proposals of a year ago and some were rejected by the Democratic 86th Congress.

Both friend and foe during the late campaign may have been surprised to hear Mr. Kennedy, as President, say, "This Administration will not distort the value of the dollar in any fashion. That is a pledge." They must have had the same reaction when he told the Congress, "I have already stated my intention of creating an Advisory Committee on Labor and Management Policy to encourage productivity gains, advance automation, and encourage sound wage policies and price stability."

If Mr. Kennedy's specific legislative measures were consistent with these stated principles, few could take exception to Senator Morton's observation that "President Kennedy has preempted the center." Available evidence creates doubt, however, that the President has been able to resist the pressure from his liberal friends, the spenders and those who would concentrate more and more authority in Washington. We in the minority will not be obstructionists but we will examine carefully all proposals to see if they are consistent with sound principles. We reserve the right not only to criticize but to submit constructive alternate proposals.

SURPLUS FOOD FOR THE NEEDY: Most Americans endorse the President's proposal to use our surplus agricultural commodities to aid the needy at home or abroad. This, of course, is not a new program and some may be surprised to learn that nearly \$2 billion worth of surplus was disposed of in the last six months of the Eisenhower Administration. From July 1 to December 31, 1960 over \$1.4 billion worth of price-supported farm commodities were moved to consumers within the country and an additional \$410 million worth was exported.

As of December 31 over \$9.2 billion worth of farm commodities were pledged on loans or held in inventory by the Department of Agriculture. However, \$7.8 billion represented an investment in the so-called six basic crops: wheat, corn, cotton, tobacco, rice, and peanuts. It is not surprising therefore that the expanded food disposal program recently announced must be delayed until some food stuffs are processed and other commodities are purchased on the open market by the Department of Agriculture.

The Department has in inventory for distribution butter, dried milk, peanuts, and rice. Only rice which is stored in 100-pound bags is ready for shipment. The butter

which is in 64-pound blocks and the dried milk have to be packaged for family use. The peanuts must be made into peanut butter.

Lard, pork and gravy, eggs, and beans will be purchased on the open market as none are presently a part of the \$9.2 billion government-held supply. The Department is also buying flour and corn meal on the market rather than removing wheat and corn from inventory and having it processed.

As of this writing the disposition program is limited to the items mentioned. It is obvious that not much of a dent will be made in our government-owned surpluses. Under this program the taxpayers will pay and consumer prices will not be reduced. The only happy factor is that we will continue to supply some of the needs of our less fortunate individuals and families at home and abroad.

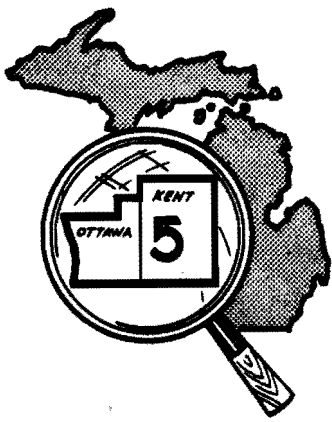
REAPPORTIONMENT AND HOUSE MEMBERSHIP: The official population count of the State of Michigan as of April 1, 1960 was 7,823,194. This is a gain of 22.8 percent over 1950 and means that under the law our State is entitled to one more member of the House of Representatives. The Legislature is responsible for redistricting the State to provide a home base for this new member. If it takes no action by mid-1962, the additional congressman will be chosen by the State at large.

Under present law which provides for a House of Representatives of 435 members (temporarily increased to 437 by the admission of Alaska and Hawaii), six states besides Michigan will gain a congressman in 1963. Florida will get four additional seats and California eight.

On the other hand 12 states will lose one seat each; Arkansas, Massachusetts, and New York will lose two each, and Pennsylvania three. The legislatures of these states are under greater compulsion to act promptly on redistricting. If adjustments of districts are not made by mid-1962, all congressmen from the state involved must be elected at large.

Interest has been expressed in some quarters in changing the present law enacted in 1910 and enlarging the House of Representatives to possibly 450 members. Under that arrangement no state would lose any seats presently held and the constitutional adjustment would be made by increasing the representation of the relatively more populous states.

A House consisting of 435 members seems to me to be large enough to properly represent the American people in a national legislature. Such a number means, on the average, one representative for 412,000 people. If we increase the number of representatives now we will be establishing an indefensible precedent as our nation continues to grow. To create more memberships after each census would only result in an unwieldy House with too many members whose individual responsibility would be seriously diluted.



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February 22, 1961

The House Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Education and Labor have initiated action on three issues in which there is very special interest. Hearings have been held by the Committee on Ways and Means on H. R. 3864 concerning unemployment compensation and on H. R. 3865 which would provide aid to dependent children who are in need because of unemployment of a parent. The Committee on Education and Labor has opened hearings on H. R. 3935, an administration bill to amend the Wage-Hour Law.

The other committees have been organized and are getting under way. The Committee on Veterans' Affairs has heard spokesmen for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled American Veterans outline their legislative objectives for 1961. The Committee on Foreign Affairs met with Secretary of State Rusk who reviewed world affairs and has had a special briefing on the Congo. The Committee on Agriculture listened to testimony on watershed projects while that on Interior and Insular Affairs has heard persons interested in western reclamation projects and Secretary of Interior Udall. The Committee on Science and Astronautics received a report from the Deputy Administrator for NASA on the Russian Venus rocket and on the effectiveness of the U. S. satellite-tracking network. It also was interested in the research and development activities of the Department of Defense.

My own subcommittee on defense appropriations has met with Secretary of Defense McNamara and General L. L. Lemnitzer, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. They were the first of many witnesses, civilian and military, who will appear before our subcommittee while we consider the \$43 billion budget for the defense and security of our country and the free world.

UNEMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION: As introduced, H. R. 3864 would permit the states to enter into an agreement with the federal government to provide a temporary and limited amount of unemployment compensation to those who exhausted their regular benefits between October 31, 1960 and April 1, 1962. Benefits would continue to be paid to the unemployed for a period equal to one-half of the maximum authorized under state law but not to exceed a total of 39 weeks. Secretary of Labor Goldberg has proposed that the program be financed through an increase in the federal unemployment tax on employers by placing the maximum wage subject to tax at \$4800 instead of the present \$3000. There is a strong possibility that the Committee will substitute a temporary increase in the tax rate for the proposed broadened tax base. This change in financing should eliminate

most of the objection to passage of the bill. The legislation has the same purpose as the Eisenhower proposal which became law in 1958. The Department of Labor estimates that under this bill about 3 million workers would benefit to the extent of \$950 million.

H. R. 3865, as introduced, would include children of an unemployed parent among those eligible for "aid to dependent children." Currently, financial assistance under this federal-state program may go only to children deprived of care and support because of death, continued absence, or incapacity of a parent. The assistance under this bill would become effective April 1, 1961 and expire June 30, 1962. The additional cost to the federal treasury will be about \$300 million if all states participate. Help under this program could go to families covered or not covered by unemployment compensation as well as to those who have exhausted their unemployment benefits. Local authorities would determine when a family should receive assistance.

Following its hearings the Committee on Ways and Means went into executive session to determine the final form of the bills to be presented to the House of Representatives. We who are not on the committee must await the committee reports before passing final judgment on these proposals.

WAGE-HOUR AMENDMENTS: The House Committee on Education and Labor is holding hearings on H. R. 3935, a bill to amend the federal wage and hour law. The present minimum wage of \$1 for employees presently covered by the law would be increased to \$1.15 the first year, to \$1.20 the second year, and to \$1.25 thereafter. However, for workers to be brought under the law for the first time the schedule will be \$1.00 during the first year, \$1.05 the second year, \$1.15 for the third year, and \$1.25 thereafter.

It is this extension of coverage to certain new categories of "enterprises engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce" that will be the subject of considerable study and discussion. The bill, as introduced, includes under the provisions of the law for the first time: (1) any enterprise (single proprietorship, partnership, or corporation) with one or more retail or service establishments (store, shop, service station) if the annual sales of the entire enterprise are at least \$1 million including specifically laundering, cleaning, and clothes repairing businesses; (2) any enterprise engaged in a local transit business regardless of volume of sales; (3) any establishment including a gasoline service station, not included in (1) or (2) if the annual sales of the establishment is at least \$250,000. Employees of motion picture theaters and of hotels, motels, or restaurants will continue to be exempted from federal regulation under the provisions of H. R. 3935 as introduced.

Information presently available would indicate that the committee will report the bill about as introduced. The House of Representatives will be concerned therefore with a basic decision on the interpretation of the "interstate commerce" clause of the constitution. The fundamental questions will be: DOES "INTERSTATE COMMERCE" INCLUDE ANY "ENTERPRISE ENGAGED IN COMMERCE" or HOW FAR MAY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GO IN REGULATING LOCAL BUSINESS? These are intricate and controversial areas which the House and Senate will legitimately consider in the days ahead.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



March 1, 1961

Our mail of the past two weeks indicates there is considerable interest in the question of whether private and parochial schools on the primary and secondary levels should share in any program of federal aid to education. There is no agreement among our correspondents on how this question should be answered.

The new Administration however, has given its answer. In his special message to the Congress, President Kennedy said, "I recommend to the Congress a 3-year program of general federal assistance for public elementary and secondary classroom construction and teachers' salaries....This program would assure every State of no less than \$15 for every public school student in average daily attendance." Under the President's proposal federal funds will go only to public schools and will be distributed to each State on the basis of the number of students attending the public schools.

Spokesmen for the House Committee on Education and Labor state that the committee agrees that benefits cannot be extended to non-public institutions. Many State constitutions and laws prohibit the use of public funds for a non-public purpose and these federal education funds will be distributed through and in cooperation with the various state educational offices. It is certain, therefore, that any bill reported to the House as a whole by the committee will restrict federal aid for school construction or teachers' salaries to public institutions.

A few other points in President Kennedy's education proposals should be noted. While he recommends a "3-year program," his Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, Mr. Ribicoff, stated on a nationwide TV program last week that, if once enacted, federal aid to education will become a permanent policy....While some provision is made for greater aid to needy states, those wealthy states which are capable of meeting all their educational needs are to share bountifully in this new distribution from the Federal Treasury.

While the proposed assistance to elementary and secondary schools will add over \$2.3 billion in three years to Uncle Sam's budget, no suggestion was made for raising the additional revenue. With the Kennedy Administration predicting a \$1 billion deficit for this year and with the national debt presently at \$290 billion, it is clear that the "new frontier" is inflationary, rough on the taxpayers, and unsafe for all those living on a fixed income.

The President also made certain recommendations to extend the current college housing loan program and to establish a similar loan program for new academic facilities. He would extend the National Defense Education Act which provides among other things scholarship loans for capable needy students. On these aspects of his program there will be less controversy.

I supported the 1958 National Defense Education Act and believe that it serves the public good. In addition I have stated repeatedly that under a tightly drawn formula I will vote for a limited amount of federal aid for school construction in those specific areas of our country which have demonstrated a sincere interest in education but do not have the necessary local tax base to provide adequate school facilities. But there is no evidence that a majority of citizens of the Fifth District want me to endorse a new program involving federal subsidies for school construction and teachers' salaries in every public school district in the 50 states.

ENLARGED COMMITTEE ON RULES BLOCKS HELPFUL RESOLUTION: The newly enlarged Committee on Rules refused to permit the House of Representatives to vote on House Resolution 115, a measure which could save the taxpayers millions of dollars. The new "liberal" majority were the "obstructionists," using their entire eight votes to kill the Resolution and preventing the House membership as a whole from expressing its will on this measure.

H. Res. 115 provides that no money could be spent by the Government that had not been approved in an appropriation bill. Funds for most authorized government spending are provided in annual appropriation bills. These bills originate with the House Committee on Appropriations which holds extensive hearings to determine exactly how much of the authorized amount is actually needed in a given fiscal year. In recent years the Congress at the instigation of the Executive Branch has found a new means of tapping the Federal till without an appropriation. It simply authorizes a department or agency to obtain funds directly from the Treasury without further action by the Committee on Appropriations and the Congress. This means that no administrator must give an accounting for last year's activity nor a justification for next year's proposals. He can go on spending until the authorized amount is gone. I contend that this invites waste, encourages fiscal irresponsibility, and is an abrogation of Congressional authority. Both Democrat and Republican members of the Committee on Appropriations agree that the practice should be stopped.

If H. Res. 115 were adopted as a rule of the House, the Committee on Appropriations would have sole jurisdiction over expenditures, could coordinate these expenditures, and be held fully responsible for them. We who believe in economy in government and a balanced budget will find our task more difficult until there is central authority in the House of Representatives for control of federal spending by the appropriation process. But the "new frontiersmen" on the Committee on Rules have decided not to permit the House to debate and vote on this crucial issue.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



March 8, 1961

On the same afternoon that the House of Representatives passed its first major legislative measure, President Kennedy signed into law his first bill. This first law of 1961 bridged the gap between the old frontier and the new. By affixing his signature to the enrolled copy of H.R. 155 the Chief of the "new frontier" established a commission to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln, a chief of the old frontier and our first Republican president. We trust that this is a good omen.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ACT: On the same afternoon, I joined 391 Republicans and Democrats in the House of Representatives to pass H. R. 4806, the bill to establish a temporary program of extended unemployment compensation. There were only 30 votes in opposition. The bill was similar, but not identical, to a bill approved by the House on May 1, 1958 to meet the unemployment situation at that time. The vote on the final passage on President Eisenhower's similar program was 372 to 17.

Secretary Goldberg had recommended that this program be financed by permanently increasing the maximum wage subject to the tax on employers from \$3000 to \$4800. The Democratic-controlled Committee on Ways and Means agreed with Republican leaders that a temporary increase in the federal unemployment tax rate was preferable to an increase of the base. The bill as passed by the House increases the tax on all employers in all states in 1962 and 1963 by 0.4 percent but does not extend the tax base. The estimated cost of the program to the federal government is \$1 billion.

The Michigan State unemployment tax rate in 1960 on the \$3000 base ranged from 0.5 percent to a maximum of 4.5 percent with an estimated average tax on employers of 2.9 percent. The rate for each employer varies in accordance with his unemployment record. In 1960 Michigan collected \$159.2 million in unemployment insurance taxes, paid out \$147.4 million in benefits, and as of December 31, 1960 had \$220.1 million in reserve which included an advance from the Federal Unemployment Account of \$113 million in August 1959.

Michigan was one of the 17 states which made use of available federal funds in 1958 and is in debt to the federal government because of this participation to the extent of \$76.2 million. This amount plus other indebtedness making a total of \$113 million is scheduled to be repaid in 1963-66 by a reduction in credit allowed Michigan from the Federal Unemployment Tax Account.

Between 290,000 to 300,000 unemployed persons in Michigan are expected to benefit from this legislation. This is a temporary answer to one aspect of the employment

situation. The Congress has always responded whenever the need has arisen. If we are to solve the overall problem, responsible people in business, labor, and government must talk up the plus-factors in our economy to build confidence in a positive program. Any down-grading of our economy destroys confidence and has a negative effect.

AUTOMOBILE EXCISE TAX: Republican Congressmen from Michigan recently wrote Chairman Wilbur Mills of the Committee on Ways and Means urging the repeal of the 10 percent excise tax on motor vehicles. We said, "In the State of Michigan...well over 300,000 persons are out of work largely because of the decline in automotive production....It is felt that repeal of the tax would not only be helpful in stimulating the automotive industry which, in turn, would give impetus to other economic areas, but is a fair and equitable course of action." We requested that the Committee schedule hearings to repeal a tax which we believe is "unfairly borne by Michigan."

COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES: By a vote of 412 to 6 the House of Representatives last week approved a resolution allocating not more than \$331,000 for the work of the Committee on Un-American Activities during the current year. Rep. James Roosevelt, Democrat of California, had demanded that the activities of the Committee be curtailed and in a statement to the House said, "I consider it (Committee on Un-American Activities) a bad institution which has tended to grow worse in its depredations of our liberties as well as our democratic reputation in the world today." The lop-sided vote indicates emphatically that members of the House see more danger to our liberties from the atheistic communist conspiracy than they do from the Committee on Un-American Activities.

Mail arriving in my office has demonstrated a widespread and vital interest in the work of this Committee. This winter I have received more letters expressing concern over the Communistic conspiracy and endorsing the Committee on Un-American Activities than any other time in the past five years. The House of Representatives was sufficiently concerned with the problem to fill 24 pages of the Congressional Record with debate and evidence in its support of the Resolution to allocate \$331,000 for Committee expenses. A comparison of this amount with that allotted to some other committees is another proof of this general concern. The Committee for Armed Services received \$150,000; Science and Astronautics \$300,000; Small Business, \$580,000; Education and Labor \$633,000; Interior and Insular Affairs, \$60,000, and Judiciary, \$200,000.

It seems to me that the Committee on Un-American Activities serves a useful purpose as one means of keeping the Communist conspiracy under constant surveillance and as one means of alerting the public to the dangers of the conspiracy. Until a better means of performing these two services for the House of Representatives is recommended, I will continue to support the work of the Committee on Un-American Activities.



Your Washington Review
by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



March 15, 1961

The United States is far ahead of the Soviet Union in space science and research according to a scholarly report of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) recently presented to the House Committee on Science and Astronautics. NASA agrees that "the average quality of Soviet scientific research is the same as that of the United States," and that "the range of ability of soviet scientists is also approximately the same as that of U. S. scientists." But NASA points out "nearly all the highly original work in space research has come out of the U. S. program."

Those in a position to evaluate the space research of both nations find that "the USSR has done relatively little in space science, considering the resources at its command in payload capability." At the same time we are told that "because the U. S. has tremendous scientific resources at its command it has been able to develop a vigorous program in atmospheric physics, auroral phenomena, geophysics, sun-earth relationships and trapped particle research without appreciably reducing its level of effort in other fields of research."

NASA went on to warn, however, that the ability of the Russian scientists equals that of our own and that "there is no reason why they cannot overtake us (in the next several years) if we do not continue to develop and to strengthen our program."

The Congress must support, therefore, NASA's 10-year program to continue our leadership in space science and to overtake the Russians in that technological area where they now excel; namely, rocket thrust power. This 10-year program will be costly with expenditures estimated to run between 12 and 15 billion dollars but it envisions at least 260 major experiments in space between now and 1970.

NASA's report entitled "Evaluation of USSR vs U. S. Output in Space Science" is rather technical, but for those interested, a limited number of copies are available from my office.

THIRD SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION BILL FOR 1961: Having previously explained to you my position on the four yea-and-nay votes in the House this session, we come to the fifth which involved appropriating nearly \$30 million for the 4,000 so-called "federally impacted school districts." The Third Supplemental Appropriation bill as reported by the Committee on Appropriations carried no additional funds for this purpose. Neither the Kennedy nor the Eisenhower Administrations had recommended this expenditure and the Committee held no hearings on the question. Yet the House adopted an amendment proposed

from the floor to increase the supplemental appropriation by \$29,990,000.

This amount, if approved by the Senate, will increase federal grants to those school districts affected by the presence of children of federal employees, servicemen, or others associated with a federal installation. No one will quarrel with the basic purpose of the law which authorizes these federal payments. If for example, the government takes over taxable property to construct an air base and brings to the community hundreds of families whose children enter the local schools, it should provide grants to those schools in lieu of taxes.

But under the amendment offered from the floor much of the federal money will not go to such areas. For instance about \$1.5 million is earmarked for school districts around Washington, D. C. The City of Alexandria, Virginia will collect \$97,350. Montgomery County, Maryland, bordering the District of Columbia will receive \$340,000. Residents of such areas are able to and should pay for their own schools. Montgomery County is one of the wealthiest areas in the state and shouldn't expect this kind of hand-out.

I opposed the additional \$30 million expenditure because it had not been requested by the President, (either Ike or JFK) nor justified before a Committee and because it was unnecessary in most areas. But we lost 336 to 62.

FEED GRAINS PROGRAM FOR 1961: We must be on the "new frontier." Nothing like this happened in the real, the genuine "wide open spaces." Under Administration-sponsored legislation approved by the House by a vote of 209 to 202 the federal treasury may for one year support the price of corn without limit above 65 percent of parity for those farmers who reduce their production. At the same time the Department of Agriculture will sell on the open market government-held corn at 20¢ a bushel less than the support price. The Secretary of Agriculture has stated he will set the support price at \$1.20 a bushel (compared with \$1.06 for 1960) provided the farmer cooperates by reducing his acreage by 20 percent or 20 acres, whichever is greater. As a reward for such reduction the farmer will receive the higher support-price and cash or payments in kind for the acres put into a special conservation program. While this seems to make compliance optional, Section 3 of the bill is intended to keep the price of corn and grain sorghums from rising to a level where it would encourage farmers not to cooperate and to engage in unlimited planting. Section 3 permits the Secretary of Agriculture to sell government-held corn for \$1 a bushel while supporting the price to the farmer at \$1.20 a bushel. Never on the real frontier was such a plan conceived. There is little doubt where 3 billion bushels of 1961 corn will flow--right into government storage. I voted to remove Section 3 from the bill but when this failed (214 to 196) I voted against the bill, H. R. 4510, on final passage. The American Farm Bureau and farmers from home vigorously opposed this legislation on the basis it would increase regimentation and make farmers more dependent on a government "hand out."



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



March 22, 1961

Quantitatively the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has been the most productive committee of the House of Representatives so far this session. It has reported 13 bills, seven of which have passed the House. The Committee on the Judiciary has sent 69 measures to the House but all of these are private bills for the relief of individuals.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS: The veterans' bills were not controversial and were all approved by unanimous consent or under suspension of the rules. One bill permits the counting of two or more separate periods of service in satisfying the 90-day requirement for payment of non-service connected disability pension; another increases from \$10 to \$100 the monthly pension payable to holders of the Congressional Medal of Honor. In December there were about 297 recipients of this Medal still living.

Another bill passed by the House grants improved outpatient care for veterans of the Indian Wars. On November 30, 1960 there were still living 37 veterans of the Indian Wars whose ages ranged between 79 and 99 years. During the fiscal year 1960 the Veterans' Administration paid over \$80,000 in benefits to veterans of the Indian Wars. It also paid over \$529,000 to 684 dependents of veterans of these wars. It is interesting to note that three dependents of veterans of the Mexican War (1846-1848) were paid \$1,507.38 by the VA in 1960.

During fiscal year 1960 the VA paid over \$2.4 billions to 3,008,935 veterans in the form of compensation, pension, disability allowance, or retirement pay. In addition 950,802 dependents were paid over \$823 million in benefits. According to the proposed budget six cents out of each federal tax dollar to be spent in fiscal 1962 will go to our veterans for a total expenditure of over \$5.2 billion.

This does not include refunds paid on National Service Life Insurance. These "refunds" are in fact "dividends" similar to those of many private insurance concerns. Incidentally, the early payment of these dividends, recently announced, in no way alters the total amount of money distributed this year.

Last week the Committee completed hearings on H. R. 4848, a bill authorizing direct loans for eligible veterans who are unable to obtain a guaranteed home loan from a private lender. It expects to hold hearings on a service-connected compensation bill designed to bring disability payments into line with the increased cost of living since the bill was last revised in 1957. There have been referred to the Committee about 30 bills providing for a pension of \$100 a month for veterans of World War I with incomes of less than \$2,400 (or \$3,600 with dependents) exclusive of any benefits from social security,

civil service or railroad retirement. These bills may be considered in the Committee's general review of pensions and compensation.

AID TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN: By a voice vote the House recently approved H. R. 4884, a bill to enable the states to provide "aid to dependent children" for those families where "unemployment" is the cause of hardship. Under present law, aid may be extended only to children deprived of care and support because of death, continued absence, or incapacity of a parent.

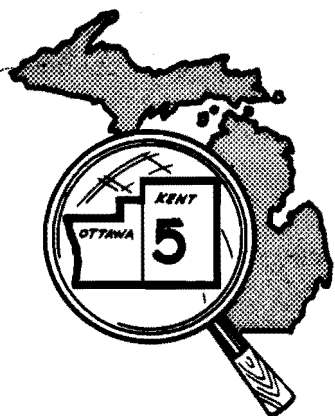
The bill as passed by the House will deny aid to a family if the unemployed parent refuses without good cause to accept employment in which he is able to engage. State and local officials are to determine which families are eligible for help and whether a parent has "good cause" to refuse an offer of employment.

POLISH GOVERNMENT TO PAY CLAIMS TO U. S. CITIZENS: The Polish Government has made its first payment of \$2 million to the U. S. toward the settlement of the claims of U.S. citizens for property lost in Poland after World War II. By an agreement signed July 16, 1960 the government of Poland will pay \$2 million annually for 20 years to reimburse American citizens for their losses in Poland as (1) a result of the nationalization of their property, (2) the loss of use of their property under decrees restricting rights to property, and (3) for debts owned by enterprises which have been nationalized or appropriated.

Any American citizen who may have a claim against the government of Poland is urged to write at once the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, Washington 25, D.C. requesting the proper form for submitting a claim. The deadline for filing is September 30, 1961. The Commission is asking prompt action as only 1,200 applications have been received out of a potential 19,000. These claims will not include war damage nor seizure by the Germans or Russians. But some real property confiscated by the Germans or Russians may very well have later been taken over by the Polish Government. Anyone who was a citizen of the U. S. when the Polish Government acted may be eligible under the agreement, if he held property there.

Because this is part of a negotiated agreement with the present government of Poland, prospective claimants can obtain from local authorities in Poland information relative to the present status of property in which they are interested. But claims should be filed immediately; evidence may be submitted later.

ELECTION OF APRIL 3: I want to remind every Michigan citizen of the election of Monday, April 3rd and of its great importance in the judicial, educational, and highway developments in our state. **PLAN TO VOTE APRIL 3rd!!!!**



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



March 29, 1961

NEXT MONDAY, APRIL 3, IS ELECTION DAY IN MICHIGAN. BE SURE TO VOTE!!

PRESIDENTIAL "COFFEES:" Several weeks ago President Kennedy initiated a series of White House "coffees" with about 50 members of Congress invited on each occasion. The Tuesday afternoon "get-togethers" will eventually include all Senators and Representatives from both political parties. Your Congressman believes this is a fine, friendly gesture and when invited was pleased to accept. The "coffees" run from 5:30 to 6:30 and are held in the White House State Dining Room. As the guests chat in small groups the President moves around the room conversing with everyone. It is a most informal atmosphere. The conversations run the gamut from legislative problems, to politics, to family chit-chat.

At our family dinner on the Monday night before I was to attend this White House coffee I was telling Betty and our four children about the invitation. Mike and Jack were definitely interested as most boys would be at ages 9 and 11. I felt that little or none of this was getting through to Steve (4½) or to Susan, our three year old. So you can understand our surprise when the morning after my White House visit Susan interrupted my shaving with the womanly question, "How was Mr. Kennedy's house?"

THE SUGAR BILL: To insure that Fidel Castro would not be able to ship Cuban sugar into the United States after midnight, March 31, the House last week passed H. R. 5436 which I supported. This bill extends the Sugar Act, due to expire this Friday, for 21 months. The purpose of the Act is to stabilize the price of sugar, assist domestic production, and to set quotas on the importation of sugar.

The United States currently uses about 10 million tons of sugar annually. One-third of this is produced on the American mainland; one-sixth comes from Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. So domestically we grow 53 to 54 percent of our sugar leaving 46 to 47 percent to be imported from foreign sources.

The law sets up the quota for imports to be allowed each sugar-producing nation. Last year the Congress authorized the President to cut Cuba's quota and reallocate its normal quota of about 3.5 million tons of sugar to other sources according to a set formula. President Eisenhower reduced the Cuban quota to zero and allotted its share to other countries according to law.

The Dominican Republic which has a normal quota of 111,000 tons for 1961 benefited from this "windfall" and has already in the first quarter of 1961 shipped 251,000 tons of sugar into the United States. But as in the case of Cuba, the United States has broken off diplomatic relations with the Dominican Republic. Its government dominated

by Mr. Trujillo was found by the Organization of American States on August 26, 1960 to have been involved in the attempted assassination of the President of Venezuela. As a consequence the U. S. and 19 Latin American nations have severed diplomatic relations with Mr. Trujillo.

The new sugar bill passed by the House authorizes the President to by-pass the Dominican Republic in reallocating Cuba's share of sugar requirements. The bill extends the Sugar Act for 21 months during which time the Committee on Agriculture has promised to conduct extensive public hearings on the enactment of more permanent sugar legislation.

There was some opposition to the bill on the basis that the Congress should not write foreign policy in an agricultural bill, that permanent legislation should be written more promptly, and that more incentives should be offered for increasing our domestic sugar production. However, over two thirds of the members of the House agreed that immediate action was vital and these problems can be fully explored in Committee hearings later this session.

REFLECTORS ON RAILROAD CARS: Every once in a while someone inquires whether I am sponsoring a given bill and if so, what is its status. Recently I was asked about the legislation to require railroad freight cars to be equipped with reflectors or luminous material so they can be readily seen at night. This measure was reintroduced on January 3rd and is H. R. 1153 in this Congress. It is presently with the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. I hope the Committee and the Congress will take action because the installation of such reflectors will prevent accidents and save lives.

The Interstate Commerce Commission, our specialist in this field, has said that "provisions for this type of protection at unguarded grade crossings would be well worth the expense involved, and would be considerably less costly than grade crossing eliminations or the installation of most other types of protective devices at highway crossings."

OFFICE MAIL: Mail has been extremely heavy the past few weeks with special interest being indicated in federal aid to education, President Kennedy's proposals for new highway taxes, the minimum wage amendments, and the proposals relative to hospitalization and medical care for the aged under the social security program.

I have already expressed my views on the Kennedy federal-aid-to-education proposal. Next week we will be able to report the action of the House on the minimum-wage amendments. The Committee on Ways and Means has completed its public hearings on the President's highway tax proposals and will consider them in executive session as soon as the Committee on Public Works completes its work on the authorization bill for highway construction. When this is done, Ways and Means will be in a better position to know how much, if any, additional revenue is needed.

The medical care bill is also in the Committee on Ways and Means which as yet has scheduled no action on it. There is speculation that this issue will be deferred until 1962.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



April 5, 1961

The really big news as far as our office is concerned can be stated in one word, "Visitors." During the four days preceeding Good Friday 105 friends greeted us in the office and signed our guest book. It was a beautiful and crowded week in Washington. Visitors were able to see the Supreme Court as well as both Houses of Congress in session. The weather was ideal and the cherry blossoms cooperated by bursting into full bloom.

A trip to the Nation's Capital at any time of year is an inspiration. Here at the seat of the government history made combines with history in the making to provide an unforgettable experience for every citizen. We are especially pleased to see the large number of young people who are able to come to Washington. Any subsequent study of civics or government in school or college will be much more meaningful because of this experience. I hope that more and more of you will be seeing us here. If my office can be of any assistance in planning your trip or making it more enjoyable, please let me know.

AREA REDEVELOPMENT: The House of Representatives has joined the Senate in passing S. 1, the Area Redevelopment Act or the so-called "Depressed Areas Bill." Because I felt that a substitute measure, H. R. 5943, was a more effective means of assisting the hard-core depressed areas suffering from chronic and persistent unemployment because of loss of their industrial base, I supported the substitute bill, H. R. 5943 would have authorized \$150 million (compared with \$100 million in S. 1) for loan assistance for constructing plants in truly depressed areas. It provided \$10 million for occupation training (only \$4.5 million in S. 1) to retrain those for whom a new skill could mean job opportunities. H. R. 5943 would bring greater help more directly to where it is most urgently needed than would S. 1.

Both bills before the House provided \$10 million to help unemployed persons while they are being retrained in a new skill, and \$4.5 million for technical studies to determine the best solution of the economic problems of various depressed areas.

The substitute bill which I supported authorized the same dollar amount for public facility loans (\$100 million) to assist in the improvement of local water and sewer systems often required for the expansion of industry. But there was a fatal difference in the bills as far as interest rates are concerned. S. 1 provides that municipalities obtaining loans for public works shall pay Uncle Sam interest at the rate of 3½ percent. Last week the federal government had to pay 3.98 to 4.09 percent interest on certain money it borrowed. Thus S. 1 provides for lending money at a lower rate than it is borrowed. This means that citizens of our Fifth District whose local communities have

borrowed money at the going rate of interest will now be called upon for additional taxes to subsidize the interest of certain other communities. I don't think it makes good sense for Uncle Sam to lend money at a lower rate than it costs him to borrow it. H. R. 5943 set the interest rate on these loans at 4 1/8 percent.

Other major differences in S. 1 and H. R. 5943 centered around loans for rural redevelopment areas and grants for public facilities. S. 1 as recommended by the Committee on Banking and Currency authorized \$100 million for use in rural areas while H. R. 5943 authorized no funds in this category. It was evident that little was known on how this aspect of the program would work or what areas would be eligible for assistance. The minority report of the Committee stated that "only about 1 out of 37 underemployed workers in rural areas could get jobs out of this bill."

The substitute bill, H. R. 5943, eliminated completely the \$75 million earmarked in S. 1 for public facility grants. This money will go for a "WPA-type" program as a grant (not loan) for public works within a redevelopment area which may under the language of S. 1 include an entire state. The subsidy would not be limited to hard-core depressed areas.

For these reasons I voted for the substitute measure and when that lost (291-125) I voted against S. 1. One other factor is especially important to us in Michigan who have seen other states successfully entice industry out of Michigan. While both bills included provisions aimed at discouraging the "piracy of industry" from one state by another Secretaries Hodges, Freeman, and Goldberg confessed at the Committee hearings that it was impossible to enforce any restrictions of this nature. The adoption of S. 1 therefore, may mean that Michigan taxpayers will help to develop out-of-state areas to compete for Michigan industry. According to the Committee Report the only areas in Michigan to qualify for help under S. 1 are Detroit, Flint, Adrian, Bay City, Marquette, Monroe, and Port Huron.

FINANCING THE POST OFFICE: The House has passed a \$4 billion appropriation bill to operate the Post Office Department for the next fiscal year. In his testimony before the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, the Postmaster General, Mr. J. Edward Day, said, "the deficiency in income facing the Post Office Department is indeed a serious one, one that we are determined to solve. Each day's operation adds about a \$2 million burden to the Treasury."

The new Postmaster General added that "we are developing an overall proposal for rate increases. We expect our program to provide needed revenues and to adjust certain inequities in the present rate structure."

AVAILABLE: We have available for the asking a 40-page booklet containing 175 questions and answers on "Our American Government." It is an easy-to-read explanation of the history and functions of the federal government. Address me at 351 House Office Building, Washington, D. C.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



April 12, 1961

Having experienced over 80 days on the "new frontier" we now can make a preliminary analysis of the present administration and list certain observations on its character and accomplishments.

1. President Kennedy's inaugural address was worthy of any Chief Executive. It was well written, well delivered, and set high standards for the government and for all citizens. We were deeply impressed by his challenge to his fellow Americans, "Ask not what your country can do for you: Ask what you can do for your country."

2. According to the pollsters the President's personal popularity has increased since January 20th. Personally he has conducted himself in a responsible and diligent manner. He is no longer down-grading the United States nor insisting that our nation is a second-rate power.

3. Mr. Kennedy has made effective use of the televised news conference, opening up the traditional press conference to viewers and listeners throughout the country. He has used this medium to announce national policy, to present the Administration's position on many vital questions, and to plead his side of the case in certain controversial issues. We have no objection to such use of television and radio by the President of the United States. But we do raise the question of whether the networks and local stations should not make available equal and comparable time for the opposition to state its case on controversial issues.

4. We hope and trust that the Administration will be as firm in actions as it is in words in dealing with the worldwide atheistic communist conspiracy. The President has spoken out vigorously against the communist aggression in Laos. But some have alleged recently that the Administration is permitting the military situation there to deteriorate while we try to negotiate with the Kremlin. The free world can expect to gain little at the bargaining session if it has already lost on the battlefield. We must not only talk vigorously but act promptly and decisively in order to strengthen our hand at the conference table.

5. The other foreign policy issue which may be the small dark cloud on the horizon involves the admission of Red China to the United Nations. There are indications that groundwork is being laid for the acceptance of U. N. membership for Communist China. Some are rationalizing that we have done our best but must now accept the inevitable and agree to U. N. membership for the Chinese aggressors. This makes a mockery of the U. N. which by its charter is an association of peace-loving nations. The U. N. itself has condemned

Red China as the aggressor in Korea, and its activities in Laos and Tibet are well known. The admission of a condemned aggressor to the councils of the United Nations will gravely weaken, if not destroy, the UN.

6. I agree with the conclusion reached by President Kennedy in his message on the defense budget that "our military position today is strong." This is reassuring and is consistent with the position maintained by President Eisenhower. The changes in the defense budget recommended by Mr. Kennedy reflect a revision in emphasis prompted generally by changes in technological developments and in the world situation.

7. Since his inauguration the President has sent 14 major messages to Congress but has been able to sign only 16 bills or resolutions into law, many of which are of minor importance. Words are in abundance; deeds are less in evidence. The Democratic-controlled Congress has shown no great enthusiasm for plunging boldly into the new frontier. The Democrats have the leadership and the numbers in each House to control all legislative activity. The Republicans are not guilty of, nor can they be charged with, obstructionism. We campaigned on and were elected to support a particular political philosophy. We must forthrightly vote for that philosophy. To capitulate to Presidential demands would be "me-tooism."

8. Domestically the new frontiersmen are enamored with the thought that every need and every problem of every group can be met and solved in Washington by greater federal expenditures. Each new proposal sent to the Congress would concentrate more power in the federal bureaucracy, remove governmental control farther from the citizens involved, and add millions or billions to the tax bill. I have great respect for the responsible bureaucrats and great sympathy for the tax payers; I don't want to see either saddled with additional burdens if this can at all be avoided.

9. But the new frontier has one blind spot: It can't see that a tax dollar spent must be a tax dollar earned and collected. It would be helpful if each new spending proposal were accompanied by a revenue-raising proposal. Some who want Uncle Sam to take on enormous new and permanent expenditures would be less enthusiastic if they knew that their personal exemptions for income tax purposes were to be lowered from \$600 to \$500 or that their income tax rate was to be increased from 22 to 28 percent.

10. This brings us to the "forgotten man" on the new frontier, your child and mine and all those yet unborn. We have forgotten him but he will remember us. The national debt and the interest payments will be his inheritance. Unless we increase federal revenue to meet the new expenditures we can only add to the anticipated deficit and the present debt. Interest charges for fiscal 1962 will be \$8.6 billion. To add to these annual interest charges in order to more easily meet our "needs," raises not only social-economic-political questions but a grave problem of morality. Is it morally right to require future generations to pay for the satisfaction of our "needs?" Would it not be better to "ask not what our country can do for us" but rather to ask, "what we can do for our country."



Your Washington Review

by
**Congressman
JERRY FORD**



April 19, 1961

Although the session lasted only an hour and thirty-five minutes, the House of Representatives last Tuesday passed 90 bills for a legislative record during the 87th Congress. One public bill was approved under suspension of the rules (2/3 vote required) while 12 others were adopted unanimously under "consent calendar" procedure. But 77 private bills comprised the bulk of the legislative production for the day. These too, were passed unanimously.

Private bills are designed to assist or grant relief to individuals but do not change public law. They are introduced when the normal operation of the law has caused injury to an individual because of unique circumstances. For example, during the last Congress I introduced a private bill to authorize the issuance of an immigrant visa to the oldest of three fatherless Polish girls who was ineligible for a visa under the law only because she had recently passed her 14th birthday. Through no fault of her own and only because of a delay by the Polish Government in granting an exit permit, this girl would have been separated from her sisters who were coming to America. She was denied admission to the United States because under the law affecting her case visas go only to children under 14. While waiting for the Polish exit permit she had a birthday. Equity and good conscience dictated that an exception should be made under these circumstances. A private bill which became a private law was the means for achieving a fair and just solution to the problem.

One of the bills passed last week refunds to a taxpayer an amount of income tax which in error was paid twice, once in each of two consecutive years. Because the 3-year period of limitations for requesting a refund had expired before the error was discovered the Internal Revenue Service could not by law refund the second payment. A private bill aims to remedy this obviously unfair situation.

During the 86th Congress 492 private bills were enacted into law. Except for two which came from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, the 77 bills adopted by the House last week represent the work since January of two subcommittees of the House Committee on the Judiciary.

SOCIAL SECURITY AMENDMENTS. Scheduled for consideration by the House this week is H. R. 6027, a bill to amend the Social Security Act. As reported by the Committee on Ways and Means, the major provisions of the bill: (1) increase from \$33 to \$40 the minimum monthly retirement benefits at age 65; (2) permit men to draw reduced benefits at 62 in a manner similar to that now permitted women; (3) increase aged widows',

widowers', and parents' benefits from 75 to 82½ percent of the worker's retirement benefit; (4) increase the social security tax beginning in 1962 to 3 1/8 percent each for employees and employers and to 4 11/16 percent for the self-employed. For an employee earning \$4,800 or more per year, this means a tax of \$150 annually each for him and his employer; for the self-employed person the yearly tax will be \$225. Beginning in 1969, under H. R. 6007, the tax will be \$222 each for employees and employers and \$333 for self-employed persons.

The Committee estimates that the passage of H. R. 6007 will add \$780 million to the benefits paid social security beneficiaries during its first year of operation.

ADDITIONAL FEDERAL JUDGES: A bill (S. 912) providing for the appointment of 70 additional federal judges is also scheduled for consideration by the House of Representatives this week. The Report submitted on March 30, 1961 by the House Committee on the Judiciary recommending this expansion of the federal judiciary runs to 359 pages. It attempts to justify the designation of 10 more circuit (appeals) judges and 60 additional district (trial) judges.

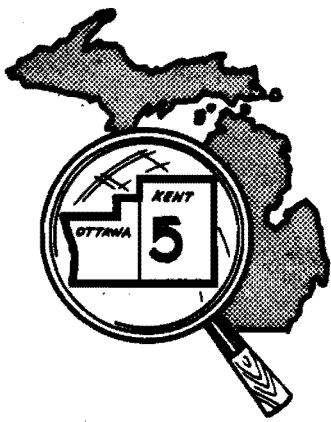
Yet less than a year ago, on June 15, 1960, the same House Committee on the Judiciary after extensive hearings and thoughtful discussions found a need for and recommended the creation of only 3 additional circuit judgeships and 32 new district judgeships. This is exactly one-half of the number now found to be necessary.

Democratic Chairman Smith of the Committee on Rules last week asked Democratic Chairman Celler of the Committee on the Judiciary what had happened to double the need for new judges in less than a year. Rep. Celler replied that "the political situation had changed." Democratic President Kennedy rather than Republican President Eisenhower would make the appointments. Democratic Senators and Representatives rather than Republican would make recommendations. Yet it is well known that President Eisenhower had promised to appoint qualified Democrats to half of the newly created judgeships. But no judgeship bill was passed last year; November 8th was an election day.

All of this led Democratic Chairman Smith to remark wryly, "I feel badly that it will require twice as many Democratic judges to do the work of half as many Republican judges." Chairman Celler assured Mr. Smith that President Kennedy would appoint some Republicans.

Republican members of the Committee on the Judiciary acknowledge the need for more judges but feel that the 35 new judgeships recommended by the Democratic-controlled Committee a year ago is still ample. They insist that to double the number "will be extravagant and wasteful."

Under the House version of S. 912 our western Michigan judicial district would continue with two judges but the eastern district's six judgeships would be increased by one permanent and one temporary judge. The first subsequent vacancy caused by death or resignation would not be filled and the temporary judgeship would terminate leaving seven permanent judges.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



April 26, 1961

In discussing the free world's struggle against the communist conspiracy two weeks ago, I stated that we must act promptly, decisively, and firmly in order to be able to negotiate from a position of strength. I expressed the fear that while the free world talks, the communist conspiracy acts. This now appears especially to be true in Cuba.

President Monroe announced a sound American policy over 130 years ago. In 1961 we cannot permit the subversion of the Monroe Doctrine by Soviet tactics. We can't afford to lose the Caribbean or any part of Latin America to the Kremlin. To prevent such a loss may require direct unilateral U. S. intervention. We hope this will not be necessary but we know we are dealing with a treacherous and sinister foe who respects only firmness. In the past 96 days President Kennedy has made some vigorous speeches on foreign policy. To date, action and success have not materialized. The U. S. needs more than words to win.

THE UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE AND SAN FRANCISCO RIOTS: My mail during the past three weeks has indicated a renewed and deep interest in the rioting which occurred during the hearings conducted by the House Committee on Un-American Activities at San Francisco in May 1960.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, FBI Director, has discussed these riots in detail in a Report entitled, "Communist Target-Youth." Following are excerpts from this report by the seasoned and persistent foe of all crime and subversion: "The Communist attack on the House Committee on Un-American Activities was in line with a longstanding party aim to destroy not only the HCUA, but...every other 'enemy' seeking to expose the threat which Communist activities represent to the internal security of this nation...With this setting, it is possible to reveal how the Communist Party plan of attack unfolded (in San Francisco)...The first objective of the party was to fill the hearings with demonstrators. The second was to incite them to action through the use of mob psychology... As soon as the hearings began, party members began playing their predetermined roles. The belligerent and insulting behavior of some of the 36 uncooperative witnesses was so aggravating it became necessary to order their forcible removal from the hearing room to preserve order and decorum...The Communist Party, USA, is elated with the success it enjoyed in attempting to make a fiasco of the HCUA San Francisco hearings...Immediately after the affair ended, the party's national leader, Gus Hall, congratulated the West Coast comrades for the initiative and leadership they displayed at all stages of the demonstrations."

We have on hand a limited supply of the complete report, "Communist Target-Youth" by J. Edgar Hoover and will be pleased to send a copy to those who submit a request.

MAJOR LEGISLATION OF THE WEEK: Both the Omnibus Judgeship bill and the Social Security Amendments described in last week's YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW have been approved by the House of Representatives. I voted against the judgeship bill on the basis that it is wasteful and extravagant, creating more judgeships than were actually found necessary by the Judicial Conference composed of senior federal judges and by the Democratic-controlled Committee on the Judiciary in its Report of 1960. But the final vote was 336 to 76.

The Social Security Amendments were approved 400 to 14. In this instance I voted with the majority.

THE NEW OBSTRUCTIONISTS: You will remember that the organization of the House of Representatives was delayed at the opening of this session while the majority leadership struggled with the question of how to control the Committee on Rules. The so-called "liberals" insisted that the Committee membership be changed or that the Committee be enlarged. They wanted to eliminate the "obstructionist tactics" of the Committee and stop it from "bottling up" legislation thus preventing the House "from working its will." The Committee was enlarged to give the liberals an 8 to 7 control of the Committee.

Last week the Committee voted 8 to 7 to "bottle up" a House Resolution aimed at eliminating the "backdoor financing" of any federal program by requiring an annual review of proposed expenditures from the Treasury by the Committee on Appropriations. The adoption of this resolution would have been one constructive step toward economy and greater fiscal responsibility. But the liberals, the "new obstructionists" on the Committee on Rules "bottled up" the resolution preventing the House from "working its will." As one of my colleagues has remarked the "liberals" are less concerned with the "bottling process" than they are with "what's in the bottle."

BACKDOOR SPENDING AND AREA REDEVELOPMENT: A "backdoor spending" provision was accepted by the conferees designated to iron out the differences in the House and Senate versions of S. 1, the area redevelopment or depressed areas bill. The bill as passed by the House requires annual appropriations for the program. This means that the Administrators of the program annually must explain to the Committee on Appropriations the past year's activities and defend expenditures proposed for the new year. Representatives of the taxpayers then appropriate necessary funds within the authorized limits.

The Senate version of the bill, backed by President Kennedy would authorize funds to be withdrawn directly from the Treasury without further congressional review or action. This is "backdoor financing" and is not the way to protect your tax dollars or mine. The conferees accepted the Senate provision. This week the House will have an opportunity to approve more "backdoor spending" or demand greater fiscal responsibility.