



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



July 5, 1967

Uncle Sam's new fiscal year opened last Saturday and only one of the 13 regular appropriation bills providing funds for fiscal 1968 had been signed into law. Consequently the House and the Senate passed the customary "continuing resolution" to permit government departments and agencies to continue existing projects and activities at a restricted level.

So far the House has approved 11 appropriation bills (9 regular and two supplemental) in which the President had requested \$126.9 billion. Of this amount \$83.8 billion was for defense purposes; in this area the House made reductions of \$1.3 billion. Presidential requests for non-defense funds totaled \$43 billion which the House has cut by \$1.6 billion.

But it is obvious that more has to be done in reducing non-essential expenditures if we are to make a real dent in the latest officially-projected 1968 deficit of \$13.5 billion, of \$11.1 billion. The alternative is more taxes for everyone. President Johnson and his advisors already are stepping up the demands for a tax increase and for more than a 6-percent surtax at that.

AUTHORIZATION CUT: The House did cut \$309 million from the President's request for funds for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration when it approved a \$4.7 billion authorization bill last Wednesday. The Committee had reduced the request by \$108 million and the House eliminated an additional \$201 million. Because the Senate passed a similar bill but in different form, the legislation has been sent to conference.

TEACHER CORPS: The House voted last week to retain the Teacher Corps after drastically altering the program to strengthen state and local control as recommended by Republicans. Recruitment, selection, and assignment of teachers and teacher-interns will be by the local school system under state supervision. The U. S. Office of Education will not dictate the terms of their training or employment. There is to be no "elite guard of federal teachers" in any school system. Even the word "National" was removed from the title of the program now to be known as the "Teacher Corps."

The State Departments of Education will supervise the selection and assignment of Teacher Corps "teams" which will be handled by the local school districts working with local or nearby colleges and universities. Students in their third and fourth year of undergraduate study as well as certified teachers will be eligible for participation in the Corps. They are to supplement and help the regular teaching staff.

They will not supplant regular teachers. The Teacher Corps is intended to help strengthen and expand the educational opportunities in depressed urban and rural areas. This program will also act as one means of improving teacher training by giving younger Corps members practical experience in the classroom.

The teacher-interns are to be paid at the lowest rate for full-time teachers in their system, or \$75 per week plus \$15 per dependent, whichever is less. Local school districts will pay at least 10 percent of the cost of services rendered, and more if they can afford to do so.

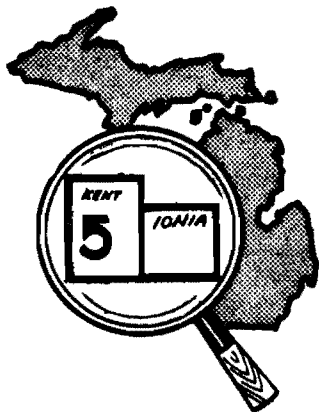
Mr. Johnson had presented quite a different concept of a National Teacher Corps, an "elite guard," operated and controlled by the U. S. Office of Education. The Committee on Education and Labor recommended, and the House approved, a Teacher Corps which would be a local program designed and carried out by local authorities to meet local needs. I supported the bill on final passage and voted against a motion which would have eliminated the Teacher Corps altogether.

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT: In addition to the Teacher Corps, the Higher Education bill provides grants to states for the purpose of attracting and qualifying teachers and teacher aides. Many communities experiencing a severe shortage of teachers have in their midst persons who at one time were qualified to teach. This bill provides grants to states to assist in recruiting and training these potential teachers so they could qualify for work in the classroom. It also makes funds available for the training of teacher aides who could relieve teachers of many non-teaching duties and help increase the effectiveness of the teacher in the classroom.

Teacher fellowships and other in-service training programs are included in the legislation. Because of the increased need of college instructors, especially as the number of junior colleges increases, the bill extends these programs to college teachers and administrators.

RECENT VISITORS: Mr. & Mrs. Fred Rowson, P.N. Hazlett, Mr. & Mrs. W. Carrington and family, Suzanne Lancashire, Mr. & Mrs. Karl Olexia, Russ Chandler, Dick Oele, Mr. & Mrs. D. Blok and family, Mayor C. Sonneveldt, Leonard Anderson, Ivan Zylstra, Carol Apol, Arlene Warsen, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Tipi, Mr. David Lindemulder, Robert Keredig, Jack Wiersma, Richard Silva, Rev. & Mrs. John Schaal, Mr. & Mrs. Jackson Potter and family, Martha Haughey, Mr. & Mrs. J. Boyden and daughters, Dr. & Mrs. J. Beaton and daughters, Mrs. Paul Leven, Wayne Hilliher, Carol Burt, Mrs. Bruce Radder and family, Mr. & Mrs. Wilford Peterson, Mr. & Mrs. Reno Maccardin and family, Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Bryant and family, Mr. & Mrs. Allen Bobroff and family, Mr. & Mrs. Louis DeJonge, Doug, Debbie and Kristie, Stephen Ford, Mr. & Mrs. John Batts and family, Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Boozer.

NEXT NEWSLETTER ON JULY 19: Because of the Independence Day recess there will be no issue of "Your Washington Review" next week. Betty, Susan, Steve, Jack, Mike, and I are taking a six-day family vacation during the recess which is the only time this summer we can all be together.



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July 19, 1967

A bill to make it a federal offense to travel from one state to another with the intent to incite a riot is scheduled for consideration by the House of Representatives today. The bill also prohibits the use of any interstate facilities, including the mail, to organize or promote a riot or other violent civil disturbance. The legislation is aimed at out-of-state agitators who figure in so many of the recent local riots. It will supplement, not supercede, local law enforcement. Republicans have been sponsoring this legislation for over a year; it is fully endorsed by the Republican Policy Committee.

The bill (H.R. 421) will not prohibit legitimate activities by any groups or individuals who organize or participate in lawful public demonstrations. As the Committee Report states: "Obviously, nothing in the bill circumscribes or hinders the objective of organized labor in a bona fide labor dispute in urging strikes."

OTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY: The House last week enacted legislation to extend the life of the U. S. Civil Rights Commission for five years from January 31, 1968 to January 31, 1973. I supported the bill which was passed 283 to 89. The Commission investigates allegations of vote fraud as well as complaints of citizens that they are denied the right to vote because of race, color, religion, or natural origin. It also carries on a continuous study of problems in civil rights and serves as a national clearinghouse for civil rights information.

Another bill approved by the House establishes a seven-man National Water Commission to be appointed from outside the federal government to make a comprehensive study of the use and management of the nation's water supply. It will be expected to establish our future water needs and to present alternate ways to meet these needs.

The House also passed legislation which has the effect of prohibiting most banks and savings and loan associations in New York State from selling on their premises after April 1, 1968 lottery tickets used by the N.Y. State government as a means of raising revenue for the state.

PANAMA CANAL: I share the deep concern of many members of Congress, both Republican and Democrat, with the report that President Johnson has approved a treaty with Panama that would surrender U.S. sovereignty over the Panama Canal Zone. While the House has no jurisdiction in the ratification of treaties, it does have a responsibility to safeguard the best interests of the United States.

Rep. Frances Bolton, senior Republican on the House Committee on Foreign

Affairs, has joined many others in introducing a resolution calling upon our government to "maintain and protect its sovereign rights and jurisdiction over said (Panama) canal and that the United States Government in no way forfeit, cede, negotiate, or transfer any of these sovereign rights or jurisdiction to any other sovereign nation or international organization." I endorse this resolution wholeheartedly. We must protect our own national interest in the Canal Zone and by so doing protect the interests of the entire free world.

The United States has made an aggregate investment in the Canal of over \$4.8 billion. Seventy percent of the Canal Zone traffic either originates or terminates in U. S. ports. The Canal is vital to the security of the United States and to the defense of this hemisphere. Our country must maintain full and adequate control over this essential waterway.

AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS: According to the Department of Agriculture, farmers in Kent and Ionia Counties realized \$5.5 million in income from agricultural exports during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966. Wheat accounted for \$1.5 million of this amount while \$1.1 million worth of feed grains and \$900,000 worth of fruit were exported from 5th District farms. Other leading exports from our District were vegetables, animal products, and dairy products.

The Department also pointed out that Agriculture exports make up and account for one-fourth of all U. S. exports, and that the world market took the output of 78 million U. S. acres, or one acre out of every four harvested.

A TRIBUTE TO LINCOLN: We have in my Grand Rapids office (425 Cherry Street, S.E.) a 16mm film entitled, "A Tribute to Lincoln," available to any group wishing to show it. The film is in color, 15 minutes in length, and was made at the Lincoln Memorial. It is non-partisan in nature and consists of excerpts from the Emancipation proclamation and the Second Inaugural presented by Senator Thruston Morton and Rep. Paul Findley. Senator Everett Dirksen reads the Gettysburg Address. Reservations for use of the film may be made by calling GL 6-9747.

RECENT VISITORS: From Grand Rapids - Mr. & Mrs. Gerrit Schaafsma and four sons, Mr. & Mrs. M. Charnley and family, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Witham and family, Geraldine Masters, Gus Buchholz, Robert Slade, Van Pfetzing, Paul Fallon, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Groening, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Long, Leonard Singer and Susan, Mr. & Mrs. M. Meekhof, Mr. & Mrs. Ray Powell, Clifford Goeree, John Oshinski, Harold Troeger, Kathie Dole, Linda Sparrow, George Savage, Dr. H. Homan, Sally Rypkema, Mr. & Mrs. Jay Bosscher, Mrs. Dick Boogaart, Jack Williams, Mary Tell, Yvonne Houtman, Marba Perrott, Mr. & Mrs. Lester DeKoster, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Ford and family, Mr. & Mrs. Robert LaVene and family, Susan Hamstra, Paul DeKoster, Louis Drake, Adaline Whittier, Clarence Kuiper, Harold Tilma, Everett Thompson family, Dr. & Mrs. Richard Wilcox, Mr. & Mrs. Waldo Kraft, Raymond Sasak, Dr. O. Ricker, Dr. Herb Carpenter, Mrs. Charles Moll, Joel Berman, Mrs. Mary Burns, Mr. & Mrs. Adam Kolenda and James, Mrs. John Vanderveen, Mr. & Mrs. M. Hollebeek, Norbert Grey.



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July 26, 1967

I supported President Johnson's request for legislation to halt the railroad strike. Mr. Johnson told the House of Representatives that "...Every minute and every hour the strike continues will create ever-increasing damage to our economic well being and America's national security....Despite the efforts of...three Boards, the parties to this dispute have been unable to come to an agreement. In each case, the union rejected the recommendations of the Board."

The President then reviewed the action that had been taken to avert a strike and concluded: "We are faced with a national crisis. The public interest must take precedence over private interests....I therefore appeal to you to act swiftly on the proposal overwhelmingly passed by the Senate because of the urgent need to end the work stoppage and to resolve finally the dispute in the interests of the security, health, and safety of America."

After the Senate reaffirmed its approval of the legislation by a vote of 69 to 20, I joined 243 other members of the House last Monday in supporting President Johnson's request. There were 148 opposition votes.

Under this bill the President will appoint a special, five-member mediation board to work with the railroads and unions during a 90-day, no-strike, no-lock-out period. During the first 30 days, the Board will try to get an agreement. If this fails, the Board will hold hearings during the second 30 days on proposals made by previous boards. If no settlement is reached by the 60th day, the Board is to present its recommendations for a settlement to the Congress and the President. If the railroads and the unions have reached no agreement by the end of 90 days, the Board's decision will be binding on both parties until a contract settlement is reached, or until January 1, 1969.

This legislation, therefore, could result in compulsory arbitration. I regret the necessity for this as much as anyone. I never thought that I would ever be voting for any form of governmental interference in the process of free collective bargaining. But the crucial situation which had developed and the declaration of President Johnson that this legislation was necessary, demanded prompt and effective action. And it must also be noted that over 500,000 union members (some 80 percent of the industry) had already agreed with management on a contract.

TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATION AND THE SUPERSONIC TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT: On Tuesday, the House approved the first annual appropriation bill in the amount of \$1.5 billion

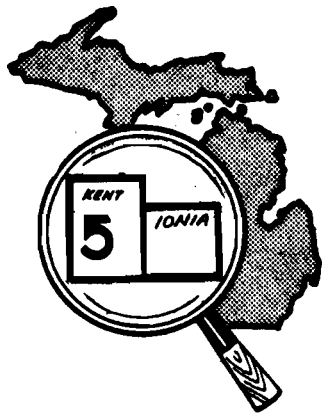
for the new Department of Transportation. The vote was 393 to 5 after the bill had been amended to make a 5-percent across-the-board reduction in expenditures for this fiscal year. Republicans sponsored this economy measure as they did in connection with other appropriation bills. This was the second one which carried; the vote was 213 to 189. All 12 Republicans from Michigan voted for the cut as did one Democrat; five Democrats voted for higher spending, and one was absent.

An attempt was made to cut an additional \$142 million from the bill by eliminating that amount to help develop two prototype supersonic transport aircraft (SST). Those who wanted to eliminate funds for the SST argued that the planes were not economically feasible and that there were proposals for more extensive private financing which would save tax money.

Proponents of the SST pointed out that these planes carrying more than 280 passengers at speeds up to 1,800 miles an hour will be built. England, France, and Russia are constructing them and in all instances with the help of government funds. Our prestige and leadership is therefore an issue. But it was also emphasized that the sale of only 300 SST's (FAA estimates a market for 550 by 1990) will insure recoupment of the government investment and the sale of 500 will return the investment plus interest. Although private industry is contributing millions of dollars in risk capital, the SST is an achievement in the national interest which is simply too expensive for any one company or business to undertake. I felt that those who favored the committee recommendation for a \$142-million contribution for the SST had the stronger argument. But I do believe that full and prompt hearings should be held to determine the feasibility of alternate proposals for financing this project. It would be far better, if feasible, for the financing to be from the private sector rather than from the federal treasury.

ANTI-RIOT BILL: The bill, which I mentioned last week, to make it a federal offense to cross state lines with the intent to incite to riot was approved last Wednesday by a vote of 347 to 70. All Republicans from Michigan supported the bill as did two Democrats. But five Democrats from our state voted "no."

RECENT VISITORS: From Grand Rapids: Harold Dykstra, Thomas Creswell, Bernard Ptak, Jr., Junior Landon, Mr. and Mrs. E. Dykstra, Clayton Farr, Joseph Lords, John Anderson, Elsa Spoelhof, Kathy Haveman, John Stoliecki, Sr. and Jr., Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Waldron and family, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Clark, Kathy and John, Diana Smith, Margaret Przybysz, Shirley Cloud, Kathy Kolenda, Lloyd McConnell, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Seymour and Mike, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Bandyk, Thomas Hauck, Louis Capale, Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Schutz, Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Frieswyk, Sandy and Tom, Paul Lubert, Mr. & Mrs. M. Verwys, Ron and Patti, Mrs. VanderStarre, Mr. & Mrs. Duane Kuik and family, Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Terpstra and daughters. Cedar Springs: Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Geesey and two children. From Belding: Mrs. H. J. Gilbers and Charles. From Alto: Dr. Duncan Littlefair and sons. From Wyoming: Mr. & Mrs. W. VanderZee and family. Comstock Park: Pat Boenheim.



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August 2, 1967

Grand Rapids was and still is an All-America City. The disturbances of the past week were the work of a tiny minority who do not represent the attitudes or the feelings of our citizens. Grand Rapids can be proud of its constructive record in every area of human accomplishment.

Personally, I would like to commend our local officials who handled the situation so well. The policemen, firemen, state police and all others on the front lines deserve our special thanks. And we are grateful for the fine cooperation exhibited by all of our thoughtful citizens.

IN WASHINGTON: The first duty of government is to maintain order and to protect the life and property of its citizens. It was good, therefore, to hear President Johnson say that, "Pillage, looting, murder, and arson have nothing to do with civil rights. They are criminal conduct." I agree with the President thoroughly.

The current riots and widespread disorder demand strong and effective action by all law-enforcement officers. But we must also find out whether new legislation is needed. I have therefore joined a number of other Republicans and some Democrats in both the House and Senate in introducing a Resolution to establish a joint congressional committee to investigate riots, to determine their cause and the means and measures which must be taken to prevent them. The President's Advisory Commission is good but we still need the congressional investigation.

THAT RAT BILL: President Johnson expressed great distress when the House refused to approve the "Rat Extermination Act" authorizing \$20 million each for this year and next (\$40 million total) to help local government destroy rats. But those members of the House who voted against the proposal were motivated by the facts and reason rather than by politics and emotion. They knew that in the first year the Administration anticipated helping only a limited number of communities. The program could at best serve only 2½ percent of our people and only a little better than one-half of 1 percent of the nation's 18,000 communities. HUD agrees that the program would cost \$6 for each citizen served.

Garbage and refuse collection are an integral part of HUD's plans for rat control. Where do we start or stop when Uncle Sam gets into the business of collecting garbage? Furthermore, no funds would go to any community unless it had a "workable program" approved by the Secretary of HUD. When this bill was considered only one out of 12 communities had such programs. And the Secretary could suspend federal assistance if any local community didn't toe the line.

All of us want to get rid of rats but the President's rat bill wouldn't do the job. But it would mean greater federal control from Washington, a larger federal budget, and higher federal tax requirements - all without any assurance of success. We must also remember that the Public Health Service already is making federal funds available to the states which can be used to establish rat control programs. Seven states are already cooperating.

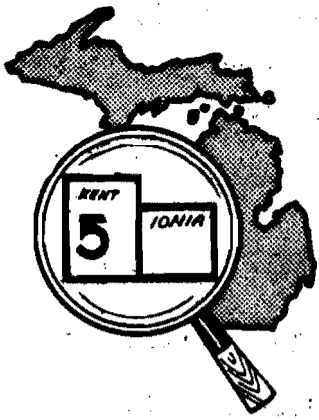
\$4.6 BILLION FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND ATOMIC ENERGY: Although the taxpayers won on two issues when the House approved the appropriation bill for public works and the Atomic Energy Commission last Tuesday, more reductions should have been made and the House specifically rejected a 5-percent cut on each item in the bill.

On a roll call vote, the House deleted from the bill \$1.6 million to continue planning for the controversial Dickey-Lincoln Dam and Reservoir in Maine. The Committee had stated that "the project is economically feasible"...and that it would provide certain customers in Maine with electric power at reasonable rates. Opponents insisted that this project would cost all federal taxpayers \$375 million and at best would contribute two percent of the power needs of New England from now until 1980. Private power plants are now being built and will produce much more power at less cost. Eleven Michigan Republicans and one Democrat voted for the taxpayers; two Democrats voted for greater spending. Five of our delegation were absent and their votes were not recorded.

There were no funds in the bill to continue planning the Lake Erie-Ohio River Canal which many of you read about in the June issue of Reader's Digest. Subcommittee Chairman Mike Kirwan said the Committee dropped the project when "the Governor of Pennsylvania (Republican Raymond Shafer) advised the Corps of Engineers on May 19, 1967 that the State will not provide the local cooperation required for the project." It has been a long-established committee policy not to provide federal funds for projects of this type when there is no assurance of local cooperation. Gov. Shafer's action saved taxpayers millions of dollars which would have gone into this "big ditch." I can mention that I was one of 25 members of the House who voted against this canal when planning money was first provided in 1966.

Republicans attempted to effect further tax savings by proposing a 5-percent reduction in each of the long list of projects scattered throughout the country. This would have meant a further saving this year of \$230 million. But we lost 239 to 166. Ten Republicans from Michigan endorsed the cut. Five Democrats and one Republican supported the Committee's recommendation.

The \$4.6 billion appropriation was then passed by a vote of 375 to 26. I was one of the 26 because I am convinced that a 5-percent reduction could have been made without materially affecting the national welfare or safety. Furthermore, this is one area where even greater tax savings can be made. I do not want to see more taxes levied on our people.



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August 9, 1967

The bad but not unexpected news came from the White House last Thursday. President Johnson is demanding a 10-percent personal surtax as well as other increases in federal taxes. This will mean a 10-percent increase in all personal income taxes beginning October 1. A family of four with an income of \$10,000, now ordinarily paying a tax of about \$1,100 will pay an additional tax of \$111.

The President spoke of a \$143 billion budget and a deficit of \$23.6 billion which could go to \$28 billion. This means he was talking about continued spending at present or expanded levels. I continue to believe that federal spending can be cut back sufficiently to avoid a tax increase. Mr. Johnson stated that the new surcharges, personal and corporate, will yield \$6.3 billion this fiscal year, and somewhat more in fiscal 1969. The way to avoid the President's 10-percent surtax is to reduce expenditures by \$6.3 billion this year. With determination and a sincere concern for those who foot the bill, Mr. Johnson could effect this saving without materially weakening essential federal services. Certainly at this point, the President has not made a case for an income tax increase.

THE CRIME BILL: The House debated the "Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Assistance Act" for two days last week but put off the final decision until this week. The bill would provide federal assistance to state and local governments for training law-enforcement officers and developing methods of crime prevention and control. Republicans proposed amendments which will strengthen the authority of the states in the administration of the program, will guarantee that some funds go to each state, and will establish a formula for an equitable allocation of funds. In short, these amendments would mean less federal dictation by the U.S. Attorney General and at the same time effectively attack crime in every state. As the bill itself said, "Crime is essentially a local problem that must be dealt with by state and local governments. Our Amendments will maintain this principle. The Democratic leadership postponed the vote last Thursday when it appeared we would win.

AFTER THE RIOTS: We know that the destruction, looting, and murder in the recent riots was the work of a tiny minority of irresponsible persons. We also know that thousands of innocent and responsible citizens suffered because of the riots. I therefore joined the Michigan delegation in Congress in asking President Johnson and Secretary Freeman to declare Detroit a major disaster area and to authorize the emergency distribution of food there.

A number of us have introduced a resolution calling upon the President to promote voluntary Neighborhood Action Crusades in our cities. This "crusade" enlists the aid of volunteers and the cooperation of local governments in coordinating efforts to promote goodwill, to de-fuse tensions, and to work for solutions of neighborhood problems. This is not a cure-all by any means, but I do think it could be the beginning of a united front aimed at creating a workable tool to ease tensions.

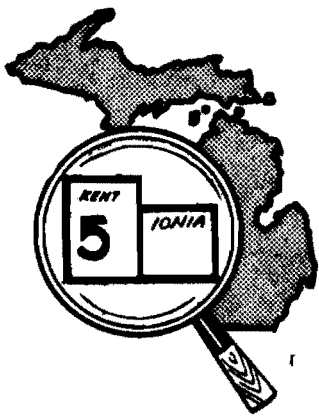
I joined thirteen other Republicans in introducing a bill to extend federal disaster relief to victims of riots and other civil disorders. This legislation may be necessary because of the question of the legality of providing "disaster" aid as a result of destruction by rioting. Emergency assistance may lawfully be provided following a natural disaster. Our bill permits such aid after a major riot. We do not in any way condone mob violence but we cannot condemn the innocent victims of this violence to a future more poverty-stricken and hopeless than their past.

This bill would make available emergency help in the form of food, clothing, shelter, and medical supplies, also, repairs and replacement of public facilities and services. Loans and grants would then be more readily available from HUD, the VA, FHA, and the Small Business Administration. At this writing, emergency food distribution is under way in Detroit, SBA is making some low-interest disaster loans, and FHA has arranged to rent 70 homes to refugees from the burned-out area.

NOT BY MONEY ALONE: "I say, Mr. Speaker, that there are some calculating individuals who would undertake to take advantage of the disgrace and shame into which our nation has been led by launching a campaign for a big splurge in federal spending. Spending is not the answer to these problems. But this does not mean that we should abandon our efforts or scuttle worthwhile programs. They should be improved, but the problem is not one of dollars but of discipline. Discipline, self-respect, and some degree of law and order enforced on the local level by the local people is vital."

That quotation is not from a Republican. It was said on the floor of the House last Monday by my good friend, the Democratic Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, Representative George Mahon.

Mr. Mahon had mentioned the billions which the House had appropriated this year for cities and for the poor: \$3 billion for housing and community development (five times the amount available in 1960), \$750 million for urban renewal, \$237 million for model cities, \$165 million for water and sewer grants, \$235 million for maternal and child welfare, \$1.4 billion for medical research and training, \$1.6 billion for elementary and secondary education, \$400 million for school lunches and milk, \$300 million for the food stamp program, over \$4 billion for public assistance (more than twice the amount appropriated in 1960)---to list just a few items. Chairman Mahon then concluded his remarks by saying, "The more we have appropriated for these programs, the more violence we have had. This refutes the idea that money alone is the answer to this problem." To all this I can only say "Amen."



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August 16, 1967

From the beginning of the Vietnam conflict I have insisted that the United States should not get bogged down in a massive land war in the jungles of southeast Asia. On December 13, 1965 I joined in the statement by the Republican Coordinating Committee calling for the "maximum use of American conventional air and sea power against significant military targets" and the imposition of "a Kennedy-type (sea) quarantine on North Vietnam." We said at that time (20 months ago) that "our purpose is...to repel Communist aggression, to minimize American and Vietnamese casualties, and to bring about a swift and secure peace."

Today we have 480,000 men in Vietnam and President Johnson plans to send out 45,000 more this year. There is no quarantine of North Vietnam. Only three out of every 10 significant military targets in North Vietnam have been struck by U. S. air power. Over two-thirds of the North Vietnamese military installations have never been attacked. During 1966 American airmen flew more than 100,000 combat missions over North Vietnam without attacking one of the significant strategic targets. But we have suffered 87,000 casualties (12,000 dead; 75,000 wounded). Under such a policy there is little hope for a swift and secure peace. The Johnson Administration is not making the maximum use of our air and sea power to bring the war to a close.

As I told the House of Representatives last Tuesday evening: "The real issue is whether we really have any hope of winning the Vietnam War in the sense of meaningful and concerted military pressure that could force the enemy to the negotiating table. If not, I can see no justification for sending one more American over there, let alone 45,000." If President Johnson does not make effective use of our conventional air power, he should send no more ground troops to Vietnam.

We in the minority have said repeatedly and we say now: "We will support the President in every legitimate action he may take, militarily, economically, or diplomatically, to achieve a prompt, just, and secure peace in Vietnam." (Newsletter: January 26, 1966) But as Commander-in-Chief of our armed forces and the chief architect of our foreign policy, Mr. Johnson must take the action. This is not a partisan issue. As I told the House, "If bringing peace to Vietnam and bringing half-a-million Americans home alive would ensure President Johnson's re-election by a landslide, I would gladly pay that price."

So there is no misunderstanding let me make this clear: I am not advocating that U. S. aircraft drop one more bomb than has been contemplated by the Johnson-

McNamara strategy. I suggest we strike these significant military targets where the results (on a cost-effectiveness basis) will be meaningful. Under the Johnson-McNamara strategy the war in Vietnam has been escalated by sending more and more U. S. military manpower (approaching 500,000) while restricting our forces in their attacks against the enemy in the north. The Johnson-McNamara strategy is widening the war the wrong way, escalating American casualties and cost.

THE CRIME BILL: The Republican amendments to the "Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Assistance Act," which I mentioned last week, were approved by the House last Tuesday. States were given control over the expenditures of anti-crime funds instead of placing that power in the hands of the Attorney General of the United States. The Administration's bill was also reshaped to place special emphasis on training local police to cope with riots and situations that might lead to riots.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT REORGANIZED: The House last Wednesday approved a plan submitted by the President for reorganizing the government of the District of Columbia. The President's plan did not provide home rule but substituted for the 3-man Board of Commissioners a single Executive Commissioner and a nine-man council.

The House Committee on the District of Columbia had recommended a plan keeping the three commissioners and authorizing the appointment of a Managing Director as the top administrative officer. The Board of Education would be elected rather than appointed as at present.

While both plans were an improvement over the present system, it seemed to me that the House should have followed the normal legislative procedure, debating, amending, and improving the Committee's bill.

This would have enabled the Congress to work its will and come up with its best possible solution, rather than simply saying "yes" or "no" to a plan submitted by the President without having a chance to change one word.

CENSUS EVERY FIVE YEARS: A mid-decade census was approved by the House last Thursday. It will not be as extensive as the decennial census but will provide a complete population count and a limited number of basic questions involving unemployment and housing. Details are to be worked out by the Bureau of the Census. It is specifically provided in the bill that information obtained in the mid-decade census shall not be used for apportionment of the House of Representatives.

The estimated cost of the mid-decade census ranges from \$70 million to \$180 million. While there may be some need for this census, it seemed to me that in view of the cost and the state of the Treasury it was one project we could postpone. I therefore voted "no."

RECENT VISITORS: From Grand Rapids: Mr. & Mrs. James Carpenter and family, Keith Clinton, Mrs. George Herrity, George, Cathy, Jean and Marna; Robert VanAntwerp, Alton Cain, Harry Nuberg, Anthony Gialmo; Tom, Julie and Paul Harvey, Wally Norgrove, Judge & Mrs. John Letts, Mr. & Mrs. Simon Swartz and Mike, Mrs. Tourek and 5 children.



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August 23, 1967

The Social Security bill providing a general benefit increase of 12½ percent was passed by the House of Representatives last Thursday. The minimum benefit was increased from \$44 to \$50 a month and the earning limitation without loss of benefits was raised from \$1500 to \$1680 a year. Effective January 1, 1968 the amount of earnings to be taxed goes from \$6,600 to \$7,600. Presently the rate of the social security tax on both employer and employee is 4.4 percent with a total of 8.8 percent. In 1969 this total will go to ^{9.6} percent, in 1971 to ^{10.4} percent, and in 1973 to ^{11.3} percent. _{5.6} _{4.8} _{5.2}

These are just a few of the major provisions of the 207-page bill prepared by the Committee on Ways and Means which worked on the bill from March 1st until August 3rd. The Committee's Report on the bill, explaining its provisions, runs to 201 pages. The Committee's bill introduced by the Democrat chairman and the senior Republican had bi-partisan support. It was endorsed by the Republican Policy Committee.

The bill gained this support because the Committee had altered or rejected a number of President Johnson's demands. He suggested a 20-percent increase in benefits which would have required a greater increase in social security taxes. The President also recommended changes in the taxation of social security income. The Committee's bill makes no changes in the tax treatment of the aged.

The Committee did make certain necessary changes in the program for Aid to Families with Dependent Children. In the last 10 years this program has grown from 646,000 families that included 2.4 million recipients to 1.2 million families and nearly 5 million recipients. It is estimated that federal funds for this program will increase from \$1.46 billion to \$1.84 billion over the next five years unless constructive action is taken. The Committee's bill altered the present program in order to restore more families to employment and self-reliance. I joined in the support of this social security bill.

A CIVIL RIGHTS BILL: After two days of debate the House approved by a vote of 326 to 93 a bill making it a federal offense to interfere by force or threat of force because of his race with anyone who is exercising his lawful rights as a citizen to vote, use public accommodations, go to school, eat in a restaurant, travel, apply for a job, serve on a jury, or participate in federally assisted programs. I voted for the legislation. This bill is in some respects a complement to the anti-riot bill passed by the House on July 19th. A number of amendments were added on the floor

including one to make it a federal crime to injure or interfere with a policeman enforcing the provisions of this Act or trying to cope with a riot, or a fireman fighting any fire that is the product of a civil disturbance.

COMMISSION ON OBSCENITY AND PORNOGRAPHY: We continue to receive letters of protest from constituents who obtain through the mail obscene and obnoxious advertising material. Last year the U. S. postal service received not less than 200,000 complaints, the overwhelming majority from parents who objected to advertisements received through the mail by their children. Authorities tell us that the traffic in pornographic materials has reached a figure in excess of 20 million pieces annually.

The House has approved the legislation, which I mentioned a few weeks ago, to establish a special commission to study the problem and to recommend appropriate constitutional means to deal with it. One of the current difficulties involves the attitude of the Supreme Court. As was said in debate on the bill: "...the court is fumbling with the problem of discerning that fine line between censorship of illicit materials and freedom of expression." We trust that the Commission will include among its recommendations, proposals to help resolve this constitutional issue.

MORE ON THAT RAT BILL: The nation's chief federal investigator of rats has stated that the "rat extermination program such as Congress recently refused to fund wouldn't work anyway." According to an article in the Los Angeles Times of August 9, Dr. Leo Kartman of the U. S. Public Health Service, whose specialty is rat control, said, "Rat control should be part of a real, long-term community health program." The program should cut or eliminate the rats' food supply and deny them places to live, he said. Dr. Kartman went on to explain that, "It may be easier to get simple rat control programs funded, but in my opinion such programs will not succeed." That was one of the points I stressed in this newsletter two weeks ago.

The facts and developments relating to this bill have been distorted and exaggerated with an element of demagoguery. I believe the Congress should follow the advice of rat extermination experts, not politicians. The experts seek the best and most coordinated way to get rid of rats. The politicians seek a duplication of federal agencies, a more expensive, less effective program but primarily a political issue.

ON MY VIETNAM STATEMENT: Our mail indicates a better than 10 to 1 agreement with my suggestion that no more ground troops be sent to Vietnam until we make more effective use of our conventional sea and air power there. Nearly 1000 letters, cards, and telegrams have been received. Criticism was voiced by less than 10 percent of the writers, some of whom want us simply to withdraw; others fear the war will be "escalated." As I pointed out last week, I am urging no additional bombing. I just want to strike the significant military targets with the weapons we are dropping on relatively minor enemy targets. I object to escalating American casualties and costs.



SOME AVAILABLE MATERIAL

Pictured above are pamphlets and other materials which I will be pleased to send upon request as long as the limited supply lasts. You may call my Grand Rapids office or write me: House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

A: The 39-page booklet on "How Our Laws Are Made" explains in detail the legislative process.

B: By the use of 175 questions and answers, "Our American Government" provides a comprehensive study of the three branches of government.

C: "Infant Care" is one of the most popular government publications. Many helpful hints for new parents.

D: We have about 100 copies of President Kennedy's Inaugural Address printed on a 15x23½ inch poster suitable for framing.

E: This is a list of Department of Agriculture bulletins, many of which are of interest to the housewife and

home owner as well as the farmer.

F: This pamphlet contains the Constitution with an analytical index.

G: "Your Child from 1 to 6" is a continuation of "Infant Care."

H: "Our Flag" is a 32-page pamphlet giving the history and proper usage of the flag of our country.

Over 10,000 copies of "Your Washington Review" are mailed weekly while Congress is in session. Any resident of Kent or Ionia County may have his name added to the mailing list upon request. In our regular issues we discuss current legislation and explain my position on various bills.

1966 YEARBOOK OF AGRICULTURE

We also have on hand 100 copies of the latest Yearbook of Agriculture entitled, "Protecting Our Food." An illustrated book of 385 pages, it includes chapters on insect and disease control, and related subjects.

Your Washington Review

by

Congressman

JERRY FORD

August 30, 1967



Have a problem---

Want to discuss an issue---or just visit?

MEET YOUR CONGRESSMAN

BYRON CENTER Thursday, Sept. 7 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Office Building at 2487 84th St. (next to Bank)	LAKE ODESSA Tuesday, Sept. 5 4:00 to 5:30 P.M. Page Memorial Building
CALEDONIA Thursday, Sept. 7 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. Township-Village Hall	PORTLAND Tuesday, Sept. 5 2:00 to 3:30 P.M. Van Buren Law Office, 242 Kent St.
CEDAR SPRINGS Wed., Sept. 6 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. City Hall: Ch. of Comm. Room	ROCKFORD Wed., Sept. 6 9:30 to 11:30 A.M. Library: "The Meeting Room"
KENT CITY Wed., Sept. 6 4:30 to 6:30 P.M. Township Hall	SARANAC Tuesday, Sept. 5 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. Community Building

REMEMBER WHEN

---Congress adjourned by Labor Day and we toured the Fifth District annually with our "Mobile Office."
---All of us were ten years younger. Picture at left was taken in 1957.

But I'll be back next week (without the trailer) and will be pleased to see you at any of the eight communities mentioned above.





I'LL SEE YOU LABOR DAY

10:00 BELDING at the Parade
 1:00 COMSTOCK PARK at the Parade
 3:30 SPARTA at the Rodeo

LABOR DAY RECESS--CHANCE TO GET HOME

Both the Senate and the House of Representatives will be in recess next week. Because this year's session is expected to run late, I am planning to spend this recess at home, setting up a temporary office in eight communities, speaking to five service clubs, participating in two parades, and attending one rodeo

I hope anyone who would like to visit with me will feel free to do so at any of the places listed on the front page. I will be there to help with problems involving the federal government and to discuss national or international issues. But if you just want to say "Hello," do come by.

My Grand Rapids office at 425 Cherry St., S.E., is open daily the year round. Telephone: GL6-9747.

MY SERVICE CLUB DATES NEXT WEEK

Tuesday Noon- Portland Lions
 Tuesday Evening- Lake Odessa Lions
 Wed. Morning- G.R. Breakfast Club
 Wed. Noon- Cedar Springs Rotary
 Wed. Evening- Kent City Lions



FROM AN E-5 IN BIEN HOA, VIETNAM

Thank you very much for the American flag. I received the flag last week. My unit has been in the process of moving from Camp Martin Cox in Bear-Cat to Bien Hoa.

I'm enclosing a picture of the flag and one of the battery's 175MM guns (Respect). Thank you again for your help in getting this flag for the unit and me.

The flag was one which had been flown over the U.S. Capitol. These are available through my office at a cost of \$2.65 for a 3x5 and \$5.50 for a 5x8. Address request to my Washington office; make check out to me. (The E-5 received his flag free)

THERE ARE THE DUTIES OF OFFICE ----



Addressing the House



In the Office



Joint Leadership Meeting

We
 meet
 Ike



We
 do
 a
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 film

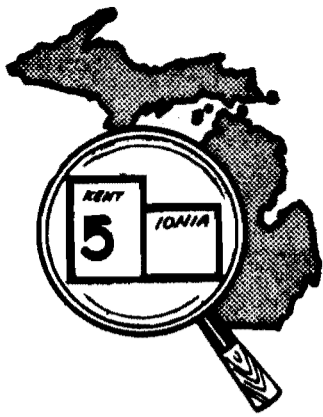


AND SOME FUN, TOO ---



BUT ALWAYS HOMEWORK!





Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



September 6, 1967

A \$2.8 billion foreign aid authorization bill was approved recently by the House of Representatives at a session which lasted until nearly 4 o'clock in the morning. The amount represents a \$562 million reduction in the President's request. The Committee had cut \$219 million and the House sliced off another \$343 million. I voted for every reduction made by the House and then supported the bill as finally approved. The vote on final passage was 202 to 194. This is the closest vote in years on a foreign aid authorization bill. It indicates a growing concern about the administration of the program.

Rep. Robert Taft, Jr. expressed the view of many of us when he said in the Committee Report: "The objective of foreign aid, to strengthen our nation and work toward a free and peaceful world, is clear. But the traceable relationship of present U. S. aid policies to progress, toward or away from the goal, is not particularly discernible. Communism, hate, confusion, ignorance, economic stagnation, and suspicion remain the target to attack. But obfuscations of bureaucracy and unsubstantiated results, plus inconclusive participation of recipient countries and of our supposed allies, seem to multiply rather than to recede. As a result, the entire picture of our participation in foreign aid seems a discouraging one, not unlike that of our foreign military involvements.

"Against such a background, the choice between support or rejection of the program as a whole is not an easy one. My unsatisfied conclusion remains that foreign aid is a potentially valuable tool of our international policy that we cannot afford to abandon."

APPROPRIATIONS TO DATE: The House to date has acted on 12 of the 14 regular appropriation bills which must be approved annually to provide funds to operate the government. In these 12 bills the House has cut the President's request by \$3.8 billion. In contrast, the Senate has approved 6 of these bills and has added \$188 million to the request of the President. It has added \$2.3 billion to the bills as passed by the House. However, after House-Senate conferences, three bills involving over \$9 billion have been sent to the White House with a reduction in the President's request of \$145 million. This is a cut of only 1.6 percent. I'll report later on the reductions made in the total appropriations which will approach \$130 billion for this year.

WAR AGAINST CRIME: In the past six years the population of the United States has increased by 9 percent while crime has risen by 62 percent. The war against

crime is being lost. Senator Dirksen and I discussed this situation at the last session of our Joint Press Conference. At that time I said: "When a Rap Brown and a Stokely Carmichael are allowed to run loose, to threaten law-abiding Americans with injury and death, it's time to slam the door on them and any like them--and slam it hard."

I also mentioned the legislation which we in the minority are sponsoring to provide the Administration with the tools it needs to protect our people in their homes, on the streets, and at their jobs. Republicans have set up a House Task Force on Crime. The Republican Coordinating Committee is likewise working on this problem. The 25 Republican governors are developing an "Action Plan" to provide state leadership to meet the national crisis of social injustice and lawlessness.

But a Report in the Congressional Record for August 29 by a special House Study-Group on Crime states: "...the Administration...has allowed the Kennedy Administration's war on organized crime to grind to a virtual standstill. The record is overwhelming to support this contention." The Report goes on to document the record.

THIS WEEK AT HOME: On Tuesday morning from 9:00 until 11:00 I will be at the Saranac Community Building to visit with anyone from the Fifth District; from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. I'll be at the VanBuren Law Office in Portland, and from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. at the Page Memorial Building in Lake Odessa.

I'll be at the Rockford Library from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday; at the Cedar Springs City Hall from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., and at the Kent City Township Hall from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

On Thursday, I'd be pleased to see you at the Caledonia Township-Village Hall from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. or at Byron Center (2487 84th St.) from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

NO NEWSLETTER NEXT WEEK: Because of the Labor Day Recess, the next issue of "Your Washington Review" will be dated September 20.

RECENT VISITORS: From Portland: Floyd Rice, Jr. From Ionia: Mr. & Mrs. E. Doyle, Ralph Bartlett, William Bartlett. From Grandville: Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Russ and 3 children, Lynda Acton, Sue VanSolkema, Karilyn Frederich, Janice Hoekstra. From Rockford: Mr. & Mrs. Ken Weaver, Annette and Margo. From Kentwood: Mr. & Mrs. Gelmer Bosma and sons, Carol McGillicuddy. From Sparta: Mrs. J. Hoffman and Lynda. From Lowell: Herb Reynolds, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Wittenbach and family, Ron Wittenbach. From Wyoming: Mr. & Mrs. Dirk Stolk and family; Wheeler Witte, Mr. & Mrs. W. VanProoyen and 3 children; Mr. & Mrs. John Dickensheets and family; Mr. & Mrs. H. VanderGalien and family; Mr. & Mrs. Philip Sparacino and family; Mrs. J. Cruel and Kathy, Mrs. Ethel Kerkstra and Pamela, Mrs. Merle Roming and Karen, Mrs. Robert Whip, Diana and LaVonne; Mr. & Mrs. Paul Garvin and family, Mrs. Harold Post and family, Mr. & Mrs. S. Fisher, Susan and Kathy; Barbara Ambrose, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Mulder and 2 daughters; Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Snyder. From Grand Rapids: Mr. & Mrs. Edward Start, Dirk, Nancy, and Tom; Mr. and Mrs. James Glerum, Jim and Charley; Mr. & Mrs. Marve Blandford, Matt, Dave and Brian; Mr. & Mrs. Trauiss and Marcia; Mrs. Kathrine Shutick, Mr. & Mrs. Roger Hoffman and family, Mr. & Mrs. James Hainer and 2 sons, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Friedrich, Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Kuipers and family, Mr. & Mrs. Don Hoolsema and family, Mr. M. Howard Rienstra, Mr. & Mrs. Ray Bogner, Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Bassett, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Afman, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Chaney and family, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Terrell and Roberta, Mr. & Mrs. James VanWingen, Rosemary Good, Gertrude Slingerland, Mr. & Mrs. B. Boersma and 5 daughters, Gordon VanderTill, Mr. & Mrs. Gene Warnke and Mary, Mr. & Mrs. Laurence Bergakker, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Tuenis, Mr. & Mrs. Jack DeVos and family, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Weber, Mr. & Mrs. John VanderWeide, Grace Frost, Mr. & Mrs. Edward DeYoung, Ava Haskins, Helen Bliss, Angeline Antonopoulos, Rev. & Mrs. Alvin Mulder and family; Mr. & Mrs. John Gamble, Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Pearson and children; Anne Kamp, Gertrude Teisman, Mr. & Mrs. Norman Efting and family, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wilcox, Mrs. Minnie Harris, Mrs. Mary Droski, Mrs. Lorraine Skalandis, Miss Pat Murphy, Mrs. Helen Peckham, Mrs. Arlene Groendyk, Jeanette Nunn, Mrs. E. Brouwer, Mrs. Stanley Dole, John Wiarda, Mr. & Mrs. W. Lambert, Sara Davis.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



September 20, 1967

A \$69.9 billion defense appropriation was given final congressional approval last week. This represents a \$1.6 billion cut in the President's request and is \$293 million less than the 1967 appropriation. It illustrates the fact that reductions can be made in the budget recommended by the President. Cuts in federal expenditures can be and should be made in many areas including defense---not just in domestic welfare programs as we are sometimes accused of proposing. We who have been advocating reduced spending as a substitute for a tax increase know that there are ways of saving tax dollars in every department of government.

One of the significant items under discussion was the F-111B, the proposed Navy version of the variable wing aircraft, known as the TFX. The President had asked for \$287 million; the Congress cut this nearly in half, providing \$148 million for eight F-111B aircraft and a continuation of the research and development program. Restrictions were placed on future procurement and for good reason. The aircraft has not met specifications and the cost per plane has skyrocketed.

SHIP CONSTRUCTION ABROAD: A major dispute in consideration of the bill was over the provision that "no funds...shall be used for the construction of any naval vessel in foreign shipyards." Republicans sponsored this restriction which was aimed at the construction of ocean minesweepers in British shipyards. We were concerned with developing a single source of supply outside the borders of the United States. To do so would set a bad precedent---bad for the economy of our country and the health of our shipbuilding industry and for those who are employed in that industry. Fortunately, we received excellent support in the House and our position was sustained by a vote of 233 to 144.

Each of the 12 Republican Congressmen from Michigan voted to protect American industry and workers. We were joined by one Democrat. Three Democrat members from our state voted to build the ships abroad. Three Democrats were absent and did not vote.

TWO BILLS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT: Two bills concerning law enforcement were approved last Monday. The first permits the District Attorney to appeal the decision of a federal judge that certain seized property must be returned or that certain evidence may not be used when that property or evidence forms a substantial part of the D.A.'s case. Presently, a decision made before a criminal trial begins to return seized property or suppress evidence may not be appealed. This often means that

the D.A. must drop the charges. The bill, approved 311 to 1, was designed to make it more difficult for the guilty to go unpunished because of legal technicalities.

The second bill, approved unanimously, provides benefits to state and local law enforcement officers or their survivors when they are disabled or killed while apprehending federal law violators. They would get the same benefits already authorized for federal employees less any amount provided by the state or local government. The House acted out of a spirit of fairness and in the hope that the legislation would help to stimulate police recruitment and act as an incentive to career enlistment.

THE NATIONAL DEBT: As of September 8th, the national debt stood at \$336 billion. One year ago the comparable figure was \$324.5. This means there has been an increase of \$11.5 billion in the public debt in the past year.

APPALACHIAN DEVELOPMENT ACT: A bill to expand the Appalachian public works program by increasing funds beyond those requested by the President and by adding 24 new counties outside Appalachia was approved by the House last Thursday. The House did cut \$50 million from the bill before passing it by a vote of 189 to 168.

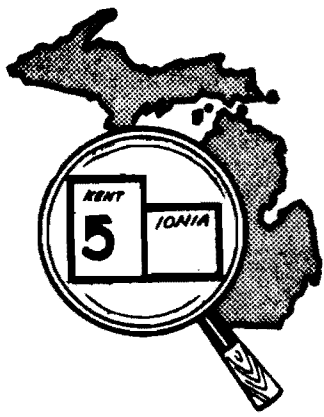
After hearing a review of past performances and knowing what it would do to the federal budget, I voted against this expanded spending program. In the debate, one of our Democratic colleagues who has first-hand knowledge of the situation stated, "Let me say I have six counties in Appalachia, and it is the greatest boondoggle which ever came down the road."

FIVE OPENINGS AT THE SERVICE ACADEMIES: Two appointments to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, two to the Naval Academy at Annapolis, and one to the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs for entrance in July, 1968, are available to young men of Kent and Ionia Counties. Our appointments will be based on the outcome of the open competitive Civil Service examination to be given on Saturday, November 4th.

Anyone interested in applying for an appointment may obtain further information and an application form by calling or writing my Grand Rapids office (GL 6-9747; 425 Cherry Street, S.E.) or by writing me: House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

We also have information for those who are interested in the U.S. Coast Guard Academy at New London, Conn., or the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York. I hope that the opportunities for excellent training, and a career in the national service which are offered by these five academies will be seriously considered by many young men in the Fifth District.

RECENT VISITORS: From Grand Rapids: Jeanne and Patt Kline, Mr.&Mrs. Ken Neitzel and 4 children, Mr.&Mrs. John Babula and 2 children, Mr.&Mrs. Russell Weigle and 2 children, Mr.&Mrs. Jack Warner, Julie and Bruce; Mrs. F. Lisle, Mr.&Mrs. Maynard Engebretsen, Tom and Kim; Mrs. Erwin Goll, Loretta Peretti, Mary Baumgras, Mr.&Mrs. George Kaler, Peter Bylsma, Mr.&Mrs. Stuart Emelander and 2 sons, Mr.&Mrs. Edwin Hibbard and Audrey; Mr.&Mrs. Fred Katsma and Randy; Mr.&Mrs. George VanNetter, Jr. and family; Mr.&Mrs. Bob Mulvey and 3 children, Mr.&Mrs. Jack Passmore and three children, Michael Grass, Mr.&Mrs. Frank Quinn, Nahid Raphael, Philip Buchen, Barbara A. Yared, Rev. and Mrs. Russell McConnell, Mr.&Mrs. H.E. Hunderman and 3 children, Mr.&Mrs. Marve Haveman, Mr.&Mrs. Roger Nederveld and family, Mary Carmody.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



September 27, 1967

The House of Representatives last Wednesday approved legislation extending and expanding the Comprehensive Health Act. A total of \$892 million was authorized over a three-year period to assist the states in combating disease, in training personnel in the health services, and in promoting research in this field. The House eliminated from the bill a section providing "emergency grants to hospitals." This was done largely because the provision was foreign to the main subject-matter of the bill, had not been subjected to public hearings before the committee, and was not provided for in the President's budget. It was felt that the hospital needs of our country could be better met by other means than this hastily conceived proposal.

Hospital needs, however, cannot be ignored. The Hill-Burton Act already provides federal assistance for hospital construction and has done so very well for the past 20 years. Since its inception Hill-Burton has made available over \$3 billion for building local hospitals. This year the federal contribution will be about \$290 million. I have introduced a bill to permit FHA to guarantee loans to non-profit hospitals for construction purposes. As a supplement to the Hill-Burton hospital grant aid program, it would make more private capital available. My bill has been well received. The Chairman of the Committee which handles the legislation has introduced a similar bill. We hope some action will be taken on it during this Congress.

In 1966 on the recommendation of the President, the Congress first approved a Comprehensive Health Services Act. Such legislation was absolutely essential because in the past few years so many new federal health assistance programs and agencies had been established that there was serious duplication and overlapping. In this constructive consolidation effort the Congress provided a program whereby the U. S. Public Health Service could fund state-wide plans for rodent control if the state itself felt such a program was essential and requested federal assistance. Under this program seven states submitted state-wide plans and have been allocated funds for state-proposed rodent control. In addition it should be pointed out that through seven other federal agencies over \$15 million from the federal treasury was spent or authorized to be spent last year on pest and rat control programs.

In the bill approved Wednesday, the Committee had recommended \$70 million to be available this year for cooperative state plans for rodent control. Past experience indicated such a sum was sufficient but the House added \$20 million more in this category even though the Committee and the President thought the \$70 million was adequate.

I agreed. But after the amendment was approved I voted for the extension of the Comprehensive Health Services Act which continued Public Health Service federal assistance in the amount of \$892 million for the current fiscal year.

FOOD COSTS---FARM PRICES: The Committee on Agriculture recently released its latest report on its continuing study of food cost trends. In the foreword, the Democrat Chairman of the Committee said: "From August 1966 to April 1967, agricultural prices suffered their sharpest decline since the late 1920's and early 1930's. Prices received by farmers in the market places dropped to the lowest level in 33 years, in relation to the rest of the economy.... The parity ration dipped in April to 72 percent, the lowest for any month since 1934.

"In other words, the prices received by farmers, in relation to the prices of things they must buy to produce their crops and livestock and to live on the farm, were in April of this year at the lowest point in 33 years.... While the national income shows an increase of 221 percent (in 1967 over 1947), farm income is down 13 percent."

The Democrat Chairman went on to say: "The congestion and trouble in our cities, in my view, can be traced in large measure to the fact that we do not pay farmers enough for what they produce. There simply isn't enough income in the rural areas, and in our Main Street towns that service the rural economy, to hold the people there. They are moving to the cities.... Farmers in some areas...now are desperately in need of labor. But these farmers are so hard pressed they are not able to pay wages that will attract workers off the relief rolls in the cities.... Unless we can find a way to pay fair prices for the production of food, we are headed for a corporate-type, conglomerate agriculture that will dump thousands upon thousands of more rural people into the cities, already beset by riots bordering upon insurrection."

RECENT VISITORS: From Wyoming: Mrs. Neal Veenendall, Tom, Craig and Jim; Phyllis Start, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Hull, Muriel Land, Karen Fleming, Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Couthie, Randy and Darla; Mr. & Mrs. Stewart Hodges, Mr. & Mrs. David Royer, Glenn Stine. From Portland: Janey Shattuck, Eileen Thompson, Edward Leik. From Belding: Mike Kueger, Marty Kreiger, Jean Reinbordt. From Muir: Christina Thompson. From Ionia: Sandy Horrocks, Carole McCord, Janice Hecht, Mrs. Grodi and Karen, Mr. & Mrs. Laurence Levey. From Saranac: Susan White. From Lake Odessa: Rev. & Mrs. Lee Palmer. From Cedar Springs: Mr. & Mrs. R.J. Remer and 2 children. From Rockford: Robert Wills. From Grand Rapids: Linda Boone, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kline, Mr. & Mrs. Felix Budnick, Ben Wilkes, Dan DeBaar, Tim DeVoogd, Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Morrison and four daughters, Mr. & Mrs. J. Pullen, Mr. & Mrs. A.R. Cook, Carie Lanning, Tom Kain, Chris Woodhouse, Peggy Murray, Michael Murray, Jim Kelly, Mr. & Mrs. Robert DeVries, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Parsaca, Mr. & Mrs. M. DeJonge, Sister Amanda, Mrs. Arnold Levandoski, Mr. & Mrs. J. Oosdyke, Rev. & Mrs. Russell Horton and family, Leonard Knapp, Mr. & Mrs. VerBurg and 3 children, Mr. & Mrs. Jos. Ohren, Mr. & Mrs. John VandenBerg, Jeanette Visser, Elsie Jansen, Janice DeLeeuw, Mr. & Mrs. H. Alden Rozema and family, Mrs. Roger Bonga and children, Mr. & Mrs. Albert Offringa, Donald, David, and Pamela, Mr. & Mrs. Victor Katsma, Ruth and Debbie, Mrs. L. A. Landstra, W. J. Johnson, Howard Ziel, Richard Engstrom, Paul Garland, Margaret Dwelle, Mr. & Mrs. Ray Baxter.