



Your Washington Review

by

Congressman

JERRY FORD

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The House of Representatives last week passed 273 to 103 a bill to renew and expand the Appalachian Regional Development Program. I supported this bill which also continues five other economic development regions including the Great Lakes.

WHITE HOUSE SUPPORTS TAX REFORM: The surtax extension bill is presently with the Senate where demands are heard for extensive tax reform to be coupled with the surtax bill. Leaders in the House, including the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, have promised a comprehensive tax reform bill this session, hopefully by the middle of August. President Nixon has pledged his support to such legislation. I strongly favor tax reform.

In a letter to me which I read to the House on June 30, the President said: "As the House nears a decision on the surtax, I want to remove any vestige of doubt as to the commitment of this Administration to prompt and meaningful tax reform.

"I first made this commitment publicly on February 6. I reaffirm it today.

"Clearly the record supports that commitment. On April 21, after less than three months in office, this Administration submitted 16 substantive tax reforms to the Congress. They included a minimum income tax to help insure that people with high incomes will not fail to share the tax burden. We suggested a Low Income Allowance to remove poverty-level people from the tax rolls and reduce the taxes of some eight million others. We also recommended repeal of the seven percent investment credit....

"Important as these...reforms are, much more is needed and will be done. On May 27 the House Ways and Means Committee published a list of tax reform measures which it had tentatively approved. On my direction Treasury officials and staff have been working closely with the Committee. They will continue to do so.

"There is no reason why a far-reaching tax reform bill cannot be put before the House of Representatives this summer. This is the announced goal of the Ways and Means Committee; it is also the goal of this Administration...."

It should be pointed out that President Nixon is the first President in more than 30 years who has recommended and endorsed tax reform. Also some of those now demanding tax reform have controlled the Congress and its committees for better than eight years. What have they been doing for all these years when they had, as now, the power to get results.

WHO IS BLOCKING PEACE IN VIETNAM? Self-examination and self-criticism may be



a healthy exercise but to hear some Americans, one would believe that the failure to achieve peace in Vietnam is the fault of the United States and its South Vietnamese Allies. But let's look at the record:

1. Prior to January 20, we halted the bombing of North Vietnam and agreed to meet at the conference table with the NLF as well as the governments of Hanoi and Saigon.

2. We remained at the table and refrained from resumption of the bombing despite Hanoi's shelling of South Vietnamese cities, its violation of the DMZ and its refusal to deal with the Saigon government.

3. On March 25, Thieu offered to meet with the NLF for private talks without preconditions on a political settlement.

4. On May 14, with Thieu's support, President Nixon put forward an eight-point plan for peace. The President ruled out a military solution, offered withdrawal of U. S. and allied forces within 12 months under international guarantees, and emphasized that our only objective was to secure the right of the South Vietnamese people to determine their own future without outside interference.

5. On June 8, the President announced the withdrawal of 25,000 U. S. combat troops. Subsequently, he expressed the hope that all combat troops could be removed by the end of next year.

6. On Midway, both Mr. Thieu and Mr. Nixon declared their readiness to accept any political outcome arrived at through free elections.

7. Thieu has also offered a concrete program by which free elections can be held and the will of the South Vietnamese people can be determined.

While President Nixon works diligently for peace, what is Hanoi doing? It negates our efforts at Paris, it violates agreements for a demilitarized zone, and it continues an aggressive war against civilians and soldiers in South Vietnam. Let's put the responsibility for war or peace where it belongs---on the communist aggressors of North Vietnam.

CENSUS - 1970 and 1980: A subcommittee of the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service has approved legislation to set up procedures for taking the 1980 census. Because of criticism of some of the questions to be asked next year, the subcommittee is recommending a bill which would give Congress an opportunity to review the questions to be asked in 1980 before they are finalized and the questionnaire is sent to the printers. The bill also reduces the penalties for those who refuse to give answers to certain questions and increases the penalties for any government employee who divulges confidential census information.

Secretary Stans has removed or rewarded some of the more objectionable questions in the 1970 census and has reduced the number of persons who will be asked to respond to the longer census form.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Representative, Gordon Vander Till, will be in the Village Council Room at PORTLAND on Friday, July 25, from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m.