



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE July 7, 1955

On the floor of the House the legislative agenda was extremely heavy . We approved the Military Construction and Mutual Security authorization bills which together legalized about \$5.5 billion in federal expenditures during the fiscal year which started July 1st. Your Congressman is a member of two appropriation subcommittees which are considering the adviseability of putting up the money for both programs. It's more than a little hectic attending both subcommittee hearings and at the same time keep abreast of legislative developments in the House chamber. From the testimony to date it looks as though both appropriation requests can be reduced without impairing our national security. Within the next week the subcommittees will make a final determination as to amount of tax dollars that will be available.

The Mutual Security Program which is primarily military aid and assistance for our allies is an effective and economic weapon for world peace. It is our aim to help our allies expand their military strength. As South Korea, Japan, Germany and the others enlarge their Armed Forces, the burden on our own forces is reduced. The enormous investments Uncle Sam has made in the past few years has begun to show positive results in important foreign policy advantages. I believe Soviet Russia now realizes the United States and its allies are determined to prevent communist aggression.

The Congress has passed a bill to extend for another year the \$6 billion temporary increase in the national debt over the permanent ceiling of \$275 billion.

Last August Congress authorized a temporary increase to \$281 billion expiring on June 30 designed to tide the Treasury over the year's low-collection periods. Now that we have extended this financial elasticity for an additional year, the Treasury has been provided with enough flexibility to again handle seasonal borrowing problems for the coming fiscal year while meeting the new obligations incurred by this session of Congress. Secretary of the Treasury, George Humphrey, assured the Congress in committee testimony that the Treasury can expect to wind up on June 30, 1956, after the insurge of taxes next April, with

the national debt around \$273 1/2 billion. At this writing the public debt stands at \$273,393,905,022.25.

Mr. Humphrey held out hope that this year will be the last time the Treasury will need to request a temporary increase of the debt limit. In fact, he indicated the possibility of a \$2 1/2 billion cut in next year's budget which would go along way toward balancing the government's revenues and outlays. The important thing to remember about this is that today Americans are enjoying new peaks of prosperity while the public debt has been held at approximately an even level and without additional reliance on government spending.

Secretary Humphrey has informally submitted a unique plan to balance the budget each and every year regardless of war or peace. He suggests that Congress hold all appropriations bills following the usual Congressional consideration until near the beginning of the new fiscal year and until after the national revenues for the next year can be most accurately estimated. Then, prior to sending them to the White House for final action, Congress could balance the revenues and expenditures by either reductions in appropriations or increases in taxation. A special subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations has been appointed to study this approach.

The House Public Works Committee favorably reported a bill this week which authorizes the Sanitary District of Chicago to withdraw a total annual average of 2,500 cubic feet of water per second from Lake Michigan for a 3-year period during which the effects on the water level can be evaluated. This is an increase of 1,000 cubic feet per second. It is alleged that this additional diversion will be less than 1 inch on Lake Michigan and the effects won't be realized for several years after the increased drain-off starts.

VISITORS: Mr. Donald W. Magoon, Miss Barbara Damstra, Miss Shirley Williams, Miss Rosilyn Ghycels, Mr. and Mrs. Weldon Brumels, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ryder, Mr. and Mrs. John Wierenga, Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Vanderveen and family, Mr. and Mrs. Harris B. Timmer, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Mol and family, Miss Bertel Buston, Miss Gloria McAdams, Miss Ruth Brinks, Miss Ruth Leonard, Mr. Ralph Kirch, Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Northouse and family, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Vanderhoff and family, Miss Adaline K. Garcia and Mrs. C. Vorenkamp all of Grand Rapids.



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for release July 14, 1955

The President has urgently recommended that Congress, before adjournment, approve the following five bills which are a part of his overall legislative program.

ATOMIC PEACE SHIP: The House may support the construction of an atomic propelled cargo ship even though it was defeated by the Senate Democrats on a straight party vote, 42 to 41. There is some cloakroom talk that House Democrats may abandon partisanship and support Ike's request.

MILITARY RESERVE PROGRAM: The House passed the President's reserve program and if the grapevine stories are accurate this legislation should have smooth sailing in the Senate.

HOUSING LEGISLATION: The Senate has approved new housing legislation but loaded it down with provisions contrary to the President's suggestions. One such provision authorized 135,000 subsidized low rent housing units annually at a terrific annual cost for many years to the federal treasury. Ike recommended 35,000 such units annually for legitimate slum clearance in larger cities like Chicago, Detroit, and New York. I doubt if the House will approve subsidized housing but will approve the extension of F. H. A. and related programs as proposed by the White House.

HIGHWAY LEGISLATION: This has already passed the Senate but not in accord with the Clay Commission Report. The House Committee on Public Works hasn't made up its mind whether to follow Ike's plan for better highways or some other version. Undoubtedly a compromise will be worked out on this legislation prior to adjournment.

FEDERAL AID TO SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION: This is currently tied up in both House and Senate committees. This legislation appears to have the least chance for favorable action this year. The Northern and Southern Democrats are fighting over the issue of segregation and other similar problems. These intraparty fights among the Democrats may indefinitely delay any legislation involving federal funds for school construction.

DIXON - YATES: The Eisenhower philosophy of electric power development won another round this week when the President ordered a review of the Dixon-Yates contract in light of willingness by Memphis, Tennessee to build its own generating plant. Should Memphis construct its own power facilities the need for the Dixon-Yates contract will be eliminated as will the need for the Democrat proposed federally financed steam plant at Fulton, Tennessee.

The President has won a victory for Michigan and U. S. taxpayers whether a plant is built by Dixon-Yates or by the city of Memphis. All of us in Michigan will be spared the cost of footing the power bill for this favored area. The primary responsibility for power needs should be placed upon the area to be served and I'm glad to see Memphis finally assumes its rightful burden instead of seeking unwarranted help from taxpayers throughout the U. S.

WATER DIVERSION: The House has passed a bill which authorized the Army Corps of Engineers to study the effects of allowing the Sanitary District of Chicago to withdraw 2,500 cubic feet of water a second from Lake Michigan over the next three years.

I opposed this legislation. As a result of my recommendation in 1952 the Corps of Engineers is now conducting a comprehensive Great Lakes Basin water level survey. It is my hope that when this survey is completed we will have all the answers that competent engineers can give us on this perplexing problem.

I feel that we should let the Corps of Engineers finish their job before any temporary or ill-advised action is taken. The comprehensive survey by the Army Engineers should be completed within 12 months. I doubt whether Chicago would be willing to give up this two-thirds increase in diversion after becoming accustomed to it for three years, even if the Engineers' report is adverse to the City.

VISITORS IN WASHINGTON: SPRING LAKE - Jane Schroeder, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph W. Cook. ZEELAND - Mr. and Mrs. Alto Snellin. BELMONT - Robert F. Goldonner. HUDSONVILLE - Rev. Jack Van Dyken, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Pohler and family. WEST OLIVE - Rev. G. B. Rozeboom. LOWELL - Thomas Moore. ALLENDALE - Howard Kraker, Ruth Kraker Mrs. Harm Kraker, and Mrs. Johanna Kraker. GRAND HAVEN - Lynne Sims, J. B. Sims, Kay Bronson, Raymond Fisher and family. GRAND RAPIDS - Toby, Louise, Erna, and Louis Weiner, Mrs. Madelyn Sonigul, Loretta Kersjer, Georgene Thomas, T. J. Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hoffman, Alice and Hermine Diephuis, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Johnson and children, Robert and Susan, Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Neesley.



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FOR RELEASE July 21, 1955

Although I am strongly in favor of President Eisenhower's Mutual Security Program, I feel that Congress was justified in reducing the President's request for \$3.3 billion by about \$649 million. As a member of the House Appropriations Sub-committee on Foreign Operations I participated in debate during the week to help justify this cut.

In the past, Congress has appropriated funds for specifically outlined programs only to discover at a later date that by reprogramming the money was to other uses. We have also found that those who administered the funds have committed millions of dollars at the very close of the fiscal year in order to show a minimum of unobligated funds. The administrators on too many occasions have had no firm policy for spending this money at the time the request for funds were made. This isn't good business or sound policy. There has been considerable, in fact much improvement in the management of the foreign aid program under Ike but that doesn't justify Congress giving a "blank check" to any agency for the spending of millions of dollars.

It is the duty of Congress and your Congressman to check upon those who spend our tax dollars and to see that there is no waste or unwise expenditure. When a close look at a program indicates that it can stand trimming, Congress has an obligation to cut the burden on our taxpayers.

MEETING AT THE SUMMIT: A leading Republican member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, recently expressed one fear about the meeting at "the Summit" when he said, "Russia will offer to give up policies which have been unsuccessful in return for which the U. S. and our allies may give up policies which have been successful." President Eisenhower and Secretary Dulles are acutely aware of this fact and are prepared for every eventuality. I have full confidence in both the President and his Secretary of State.

I have learned from a high official in the Administration that the State Department for months has been anticipating and exploring every conceivable move the Soviets may make at this meeting in order to be prepared to meet any situation. The disastrous results at Yalta to a considerable degree stemmed from the lack

of preparation by our negotiators prior to the conference. This error is not being duplicated in 1955. A member of the House in discussing Soviet Russia's new attitude had this to say. "The Soviet wolf in sheep's clothing is no different now than before except for a lately given shampoo."

LABOR IN 1955: On July 1 of this year, George Meany, President of the AF of L, said that American workers have "never had it so good but we would like to look forward to an even better day in the future." The facts bear out Mr. Meany's statement. For instance, employment for June rose to a new high of 64 million, the greatest number in our nation's history. In Michigan, the employment increase of 81,000 achieved between January and May of 1955 was the largest ever registered in the first five months of any year. By mid-May our state's wage and salaried employment had reached 2,334,000 or about 20,000 above the April level and about 142,000 higher than the May 1954 figure. The Grand Rapids area alone registered a gain in employment of 900 during the past month.

From all indications the Congress prior to adjournment will approve an increase in the minimum wage from 75 cents to \$1. I will approve this legislation if and when it comes to the floor of the House. Statements have been made that minimum wage laws are unwise. This point of view is now academic, because the Congress more than a decade ago approved the first Wage-Hour Act. A \$1.00 minimum today will indirectly and perhaps directly benefit Michigan in that the sub-standard wages of southern manufacturers will be raised thereby equalizing to a degree the competitive position of our northern workers and industry.

A. J. T.

ADJOURNMENT: The Democrat leaders in the House and Senate have agreed Congress will adjourn July 30th. This adjournment date may be alright but the Congress has an obligation to complete its job and do it well regardless of the desire of any member or the leadership to adjourn at an early date. Let's be certain the House and Senate get all their legislative responsibilities done before closing up shop.

VISITORS IN WASHINGTON: From Grand Rapids: Mr. and Mrs. Emil Schulz and their two children, Lois and Dick, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steketee, Mr. and Mrs. Harm Spaulding, Alice White Johnson. From Sparta: John, Elaine Karen, and Mike Feichtenbiner. From West Olive: Mr. Richard Radikopf.



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FOR RELEASE July 28, 1955

By July 20 Congress had been in session just about 7 1/2 months. During this period 125 roll call votes and quorum calls were taken in the House of Representatives. Your Congressman's attendance record for these roll calls stands at better than 98 per cent. While answering 123 I was required to miss two. Those missed were the result of absences from the House floor when I was leaving for Michigan to fulfill engagements of long standing.

BACKING THE ADMINISTRATION: Out of these 123 issues, the "Congressional Quarterly" selected 29 key measures in which they considered President Eisenhower's legislative recommendations at stake. Then they figured out the pro-Eisenhower voting record of each Member of Congress. According to the "Congressional Quarterly" my own record of 93 per cent places me in a three-way tie in the House for the highest pro-administration batting average. Only on two issues did my thinking differ from that of the President.

These two pieces of legislation involved the Alaskan-Hawaii Statehood bill and the Customs Simplification proposal which, although rather technical, would change the method of assessing imports for duty. In this latter legislation, I did not feel that there was sufficient reason to alter the present system of determining tariff duties. As for the statehood bill, the President had favored admission of Hawaii but not Alaska. I have consistently advocated the admission of both territories as the 49th and 50th States of the Union and could not see the justification for splitting the issue at this time.

WHY SUPPORT IKE? Against the background of my pro-Eisenhower voting record, just this week I received a letter from a lady who asks, "Why should a prosperous industrialized state like Michigan send a man to Washington, to make laws to please the President instead of the people of his state?"

I support President Eisenhower because I am convinced his legislative program is in the best interests of our Nation and State. In view of Ike's tremendous national and world-wide popularity, and because he is the representative of all the American people, including those in Michigan who gave him

a handsome 320,000 vote majority in 1952, I feel that by supporting the President I am serving the best interests of the people of Michigan and the Fifth Congressional District. Furthermore, President Eisenhower is not only the great leader of our country but he is head of the Republican Party. I believe that much more can be accomplished by a team effort. This doesn't mean members of Congress should be "rubber stamps" for the President, far from it, but in the long run more constructive results can be accomplished if everyone is headed in the same general direction.

CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT: Through the end of June the President had a .260 batting average on the proposals he submitted to Congress. Of 200 legislative requests Ike has made to the Democrat 84th Congress only 52 have been approved. Seventy-nine have met with partial progress and 59 have been tossed aside with no action. Five issues have been set back and another five rejected completely. In the 83rd Republican Congress during 1953 and 1954 Ike had a .659 batting average.

HOOVER COMMISSION PROGRESS "Gobbledegook" is something we run up against in the day-to-day business of government. It may refer to letters over-laden with words and clauses--in fact it may be used to denote any governmental enterprise, however large or small, but done to excess or carried to extremes. Recently an example of "gobbledegook" came into my office. It was a single-spaced one and a half page letter from the Department of the Army to tell me they would not express an opinion on a certain matter because it was a responsibility of the Veterans Administration.

The final report of the Hoover Commission said that red tape is costing the government and industry millions of dollars of unnecessary expense. The Eisenhower Administration has taken more than 50 steps to carry out 145 recommendations of the Commission and the Budget Bureau and Defense Department are setting up units to consider and promote others. As a result we can look forward to great savings in taxpayer dollars.

VISITORS in WASHINGTON From Grand Rapids, Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Miner and daughter Lynn, Mr. Harold R. Van't Hof, Mr. Richard D. Ver Veer, Miss Ruth Cole. From Cedar Springs, Miss Charlene Rayce, Miss Barbara Price. From Belmont, Miss Valerie Lasher. From Zeeland, Miss Marjorie Hoeve. From Hudsonville, Miss Eris Dalman.



Your Washington Review

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FOR RELEASE August 4, 1955

During the past week the House shattered all hope for passage of any new highway legislation for this session of Congress. And in doing so it knocked a big whole in President Eisenhower's list of "must legislation" for the 84th Congress.

Everybody agrees that a safe and efficient interstate highway network is essential to our Nation's welfare. But as so often happens with projects requiring large expenditures of money, the death knell is struck by those who may honestly differ over the method of financing. This was the point in the road construction bill.

The President's Highway Program, based on the Clay Report, was beaten down by a vote of 221 to 193. I favored the President's plan which suffered defeat almost exclusively along partisan lines. The Republicans stood by Ike and the Democrats rejected his solution for better highways at the earliest possible date. The Administration's proposal would have set up a Federal Highway Corporation as an independent agency of the government to issue bonds and administer the highway program. The 30-year bonds would be secured by the U. S. Government, but it was estimated that they could be paid off with the anticipated increase in revenue from the already established federal excise taxes on highway users. President Eisenhower estimated that under his expanded highway construction program traffic would double in 15 years. If that is so, existing federal taxes on highway users would bring in twice as much revenue. This "pay-as-you-go" policy made sense to me.

The alternative to this program of bond financing was a bill sponsored by Rep. Fallon, Democrat of Maryland, and was submitted to the House by a majority of the Committee on Public Works. I voted against this bill which went down to defeat 292 to 123.

Had the Fallon Bill passed, I feel a whole chain of new discriminatory and inequitable taxes on consumers would have resulted. It called for \$12,423 million to be raised in 15 years on increased taxes from gasoline, tires, deisel fuel, inner tubes, and more excise taxes on buses, trucks, and trailers. For instance

Michigan has a 6¢ state gas tax as well as the existing 2¢ federal tax. This adds up to an 8¢ tax presently paid by Michigan car owners on each gallon of gas purchased. The Fallon Bill sponsored by the Democrats as an alternative to Ike's plan would have increased this to 9¢ per gallon.

High Democratic leadership in the House has intimated that new road legislation is killed for the next session of Congress, too. If true, this will be unfortunate for our entire nation. A safe and efficient highway network is essential to America's military and civil defense, and to the future economic prosperity of our Nation. I hope the Democrat party leaders will accept Ike's suggestion that a compromise on highway financing be worked out. It is too important to let partisanship prevail.

THE SUMMIT Newspapers all over the world hailed the success which met the President at the "Summit." London's Liberal News Chronical had this to say about the Geneva meeting. "Twice Eisenhower hoisted the meeting to the true summit. Not a thousand speeches in Congress or the House of Commons, not a hundred inter-governmental notes, could have done what one man did who could be seen and heard as he spoke."

It is especially significant to me that President Eisenhower surrendered nothing: no territory, no established American policies, and no moral or ethical principles. Furthermore, nothing was done in secret; all proposals and discussion are known to the peoples of the world. And genuine progress toward peace has been achieved. An atmosphere has been created in which we can work out some of the more serious international disagreements. This is world statemanship at its best.

IKE'S BUSY SCHEDULE On Friday morning July 29th Ike had breakfast with Republican members of the Congress, his Cabinet and the White House staff. As he spoke informally for 15 minutes I marveled at his ability to do what he has done so ably in the past two weeks. Here is just a part of that schedule: Ike negotiated skillfully and successfully at the "Summit" meeting in Geneva. On his return he reported directly to the American people and in addition fully briefed top Democrats and Republican leaders on what transpired in his conferences with the Soviet leaders and our allies. He kept abreast of legislative developments on Capitol Hill. He earnestly urged Republican legislators at the breakfast to work as a team for an affirmative and dynamic program in the Congress. Yet with all these burdens and responsibilities, Ike looks wonderful and acts healthier than ever.



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FOR RELEASE August 18, 1955

Congress broke through the usual last-minute legislative log jam to adjourn about midnight on Tuesday, August 2nd, and barring a special session, will reconvene on January 3, 1956.

In this session members of the House introduced 7,869 bills, and Senators 2,759. Also sponsored were several hundred resolutions on various subjects. Probably the most outstanding result of this Congress has been the conspicuous lack of any big issues or really crucial legislation emerging from these many bills. Congressional leadership came up with no original or dramatic legislation of its own in the session's seven-month life span.

We concluded on a note of disharmony though, when the Democrat leadership, unable to pass its own scheme to finance a national highway program through increased gas and tire taxes, also defeated President Eisenhower's road-construction program. Now while America's traffic problems grow worse with crowding highways and increasing accident tolls, the highway bill lies dead in the House. I hope this legislation will be one of the very first matters taken up in the next session of Congress. Your Congressman would favor a special Congressional session to get action on the badly needed highway legislation which the country needs NOW.

Congress refused to act on much important legislation which President Eisenhower considered essential to our Nation's progress and welfare. Among these measures were the schoolhouse construction bill, the President's plan for an atomic powered vessel, statehood for Hawaii, the President's health reinsurance program.

ON THE ASSET SIDE Although Congress didn't do as good a job on legislation as the President has done in the field of foreign relations, we can point to a number of noteworthy and positive features of the recent session. Congress passed the \$1 minimum wage which should go far to raise the living standards of many workers throughout the country. The White House program for a modern, balanced military force was accepted, the draft was extended for four years, and Ike's long-sought Armed Forces reserve plan was approved. Except for the public housing feature and several other questionable provisions the housing bill was good legislation.



SPENDTHRIFT CONGRESS In the Republican 83rd Congress on the President's recommendations the House and Senate reduced federal taxes by over \$7 billions annually. This was the largest tax cut made by any Congress during the history of the United States. The reduction was made possible only by the increased economy and efficiency in the federal government under Ike's leadership.

Through pursuing a policy of taking more federal responsibility in additional areas of local responsibility, the current Democrat Congress may rightly be tabbed a "spendthrift" Congress. A careful analysis of the appropriation bills approved by this Congress indicates that many of Ike's proposals for reductions in expenditures have been ignored by the Democrat leadership in Congress. Most of the "claimed" reductions in the President's budget were really only bookkeeping manipulations. Furthermore this Congress has failed to take advantage of the Hoover Commission recommendations which are aimed at making government more economical and efficient.

FOREIGN POLICY ACCOMPLISHMENTS In the field of foreign relations President Eisenhower has met with outstanding success with not only the Russian leaders but the Democrat Congress as well. He started out in January with an overwhelming vote of approval on a resolution to defend Formosa. This has been followed by a three-year extension of Reciprocal Trade, ratification of the Paris Pact, Austrian Peace Treaty, South East Asia Treaty Organization and the Nationalist China Defense Pact.

IKE IN EXCELLENT HEALTH On Tuesday of this week, President Eisenhower held a reception in the Rose Garden of the White House for the staff members of Republican Congressmen. Frank Meyer, my administrative assistant from Grand Haven, Miss Mildred Leonard, who lives in Washington and keeps this office open all the year around, and Barry Brand from Grand Rapids, all members of my staff attended this affair. Miss Irene Schroeder, my other secretary from Grand Rapids was on vacation and therefore unable to attend.

Although the temperature was in the high 90s and the humidity extremely typical of a muggy summer day in Washington, all three reported to me later that Ike was in excellent health when he came out to greet all the Republican staff members. He appeared robust, in fine spirits and rather sun-tanned. They all agreed that the President must be in top physical condition which is responsible in large part for the cheerfulness and enthusiasm by which he tackles his job in the White House.



Your Washington Review

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FOR RELEASE August 26, 1955

A member of Congress after adjournment and before the next session reconvenes has two major government responsibilities. First, and this is undoubtedly foremost, a Congressman should spend as much time as possible among his constituents to get their reactions in connection with executive policies, the previous legislative session, and the session coming up.

I have a full 4-month schedule in Kent and Ottawa Counties starting on September 6th during which time your Congressman looks forward to any "grass-roots" observations, comments, and suggestions about the operation of our federal government. My office in Grand Rapids will be open during August, September, October, November, and December and in addition I plan to visit all communities in the 5th District one or more times in this period. Your views, recommendations, and problems are welcomed.

Second, a member of the House of Representatives or the Senate has an obligation between Congressional sessions to see how government funds are being spent and whether or not policies are being carried out by the executive branch of the government in conformity with legislative intent. This function of the Congress can best be performed by first-hand investigation and analysis. Reading reports in Washington, D. C. on what the Army, Navy, and Air Force are doing in Germany or Korea is not nearly as effective as seeing the operation in the field many miles from the Nation's Capital.

The Committee on Appropriations, and your Congressman has been a member of the group for 5 years, is primarily interested in how U. S. dollars are being spent at home and abroad. My particular subcommittees are directly connected with the Department of Defense and the foreign aid program. For the preservation of world peace and the defense of America the U. S. has many military installations and personnel stationed in practically all Anti-Communist countries. The total dollars spent each year by our government to build up the "Free Nations" and maintain the "peace" are staggering but if the basic policies are successful, the effort and burden is worthwhile.

Certainly another war would be far more costly in lives and dollars.

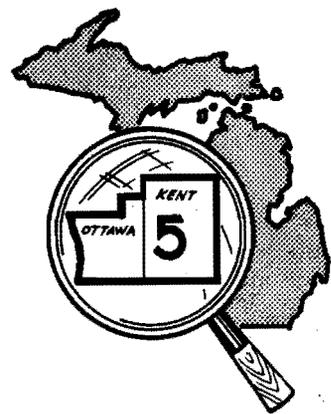
This all leads up to why your Congressman spent 10 days in France, Germany, and the Netherlands between August 8th and 18th. It was a rugged but very worthwhile investigating trip on behalf of my committee. Upon my return to Washington a full report of my findings will be filed with the Chairman of the Committee. For the next several weeks my weekly newsletter will contain my personal observations on the status of our Armed Forces in Europe and my impressions of conditions in the countries visited.

The trip from Washington, D. C. to Paris via Military Air Transport Service along with 45 other U. S. government employees and military personnel was without incident. We left the Nation's Capital just a day or two before Hurricane Connie drenched the eastern seaboard including I'm certain, Betty, Mike, and Jack. I'll hear more about that when I get home with the family.

The first leg of the flight, about 2400 miles from Washington to the Azores took 9 1/2 hours. After a two-hour layover for aircraft refueling and breakfast for the passengers the plane took off for the 1400 mile six-hour flight to Paris.

The first order of business in Europe was a conference with General Alfred Gruenther, the top military man at the North Atlantic Treaty headquarters just outside of Paris. General Gruenther has been Commander of all NATO forces since 1953. President Eisenhower, then General "Ike," was the first military head of the allied forces when the joint defense program was initially organized in 1951.

Ike's problem four years ago was to sell the European nations on the idea of a unified military effort for the common defense of the Free World against Communist aggression. General Gruenther's aim in the past several years has been the implementation of plans from a paper organization to a strong joint allied military force. Substantial progress has been made in this anti-communist build up. NATO's military fibre today is impressive especially to those dictators behind the Iron Curtain. This ever-growing strength in my opinion has convinced the Russians in the Kremlin that a war with the U. S. and its allies now or in the future would likely result in their defeat. The Soviet leaders appreciating the determination of NATO to build up military defenses have now launched their "peace offensive." Our problem today in the Free World, including the U. S., Europe, and Asia, is to seek an enduring peace but to realize peace is attained not from weakness but from strength.



Your Washington Review by Congressman **JERRY FORD**



FOR RELEASE September 2, 1955

What actually happens when a member of Congress appears at NATO headquarters for a conference with General Gruenther and his allied nation staff? After the half-hour drive from Paris you arrive at the area in an American-made car which gets through the well-guarded gate without difficulty. Flags from all the NATO nations are flown on the lawn in front of a functional-type building. Without delay or formality you are whisked directly to General Gruenther's private office which is about the size of a modest American-home living room. Charts and maps of Europe from the Scandinavian countries to Turkey cover much of the wall space.

General Gruenther himself is a friendly, informal person of medium but trim build. He is most anxious to lay before you the full picture, not only the progress which has been made in 4 years, the headaches which exist now, but also the future good and bad. The General has appeared before my committee several times in Washington plus the conference at NATO headquarters. On each occasion I have been impressed with his vast knowledge of not only the military situation but the interrelated economic and political problems involving the U. S. and our European allies. He is candid and factual to the highest degree.

Such a conference lasts about an hour. He points with pride to the progress NATO has made to the defense of the Free World. Among many he mentioned one simple but dramatic case. Four years ago when NATO was in its infancy it took General Gruenther 12 hours to get Oslo, Norway on the telephone from Paris headquarters and part of the telephone lines went through the Soviet Zone of Germany. You can visualize how the Russians could easily tap the wires in those hectic days. Today a phone call from NATO headquarters goes through to Oslo in three minutes with no assistance or rather interference from the Soviets.

In an easy but precise and knowledgeable manner General Gruenther points out that several years ago NATO had 15 impotent, combined Army divisions which were only a token resistance to the mobilized strength of the Soviet Army and its satellites. This preponderance of military power in the hands of the Kremlin

provided no incentive to Bulganin or Khrushchev to talk peace.

Referring to one of the many charts in his office the General points out that in 1952 NATO had less than 20 airfields adequate to handle jet aircraft. In 1955 NATO has 160 jet airbases in the defense zone which starts in northern Norway, covers western Europe and terminates in eastern Turkey. This potent retaliatory airpower which the U. S. and its allies possess, in my opinion, has contributed significantly to the peace overtures from the Reds.

After an hour of information-seeking questions and fully responsive answers, the General suggested that perhaps I might like to talk with General Norstad, who heads up all NATO air operations. This gave me an excellent opportunity to probe into the aircraft and airfield details of the allied forces.

Over the years from 1942 I have heard a great deal about this young and highly competent combat strategist in our U. S. Air Force. In many ways he reminded me of the late General Vandenberg, former Chief of Staff of the Air Force, who had well-known family roots in Western Michigan.

We discussed a particular program which General Norstad has sponsored among several NATO countries whereby they would develop and produce new jet military aircraft so the burden would be less and less on the U. S. I asked him specifically about the potency of the Soviet Airforce. His reply was reassuring, emphasizing that the NATO air staff was not "surprised" by the alleged Soviet aircraft developments of the past 12 months. Unquestionably the Red Airforce has improved in recent months but there is no doubt in the minds of those who should know that the U. S. Air Force and its allies are far better equipped and trained than the Soviets and satellite air contingents.

These conferences with NATO commanders didn't end my day. For four hours I had several conferences and briefings on strictly U. S. Armed Forces matters in the European Theater. Personnel, fiscal and accounting problems rather than strategic military matters took up most of my time in these meetings. Needless to say the day, a full one, was both interesting and productive.



Your Washington Review
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JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE September 8, 1955

In five days one can hardly see and fully appraise today's West Germany but in travelling to and from Heidelberg, Stuttgart, Bayreuth, Hof, and Berlin a vivid impression remains with me that the recent resurgence of the Germans has made the Soviet rulers greatly worried. My committee trip was primarily aimed at inspecting U. S. Army personnel and financial management but I also had the mission of analyzing West German readiness to receive U. S. military equipment as a partner in the defense of the anti-communist family of nations.

The West German economy today is bursting with production and prosperity. Apparently the German people want to prove to the world that they can join the U. S. and others as a democratic, free-enterprise nation. The disgrace of Hitler and the Nazi they want the world to forget. Most informed sources with whom I talked indicate Germans intend in the future to erect definite safeguards against Naziism and a resurgence of Prussian military rule.

Heidelberg, my first stop, was hardly touched by World War II. I had lunch with General McAuliffe, who heads up U. S Army forces in Europe. He was the troop commander in W. W. II who replied "nuts" when the Germans demanded he surrender his forces at Bastogne. A detailed briefing on overall Army policy in the area was followed by a flight to Stuttgart for a conference with various field commanders.

Stuttgart was badly bombed during the last war and much evidence of U. S. Air Force attacks still exists. Nevertheless the rebuilding job has moved ahead to an amazing degree. Today as one stands in areas destroyed 10 years ago you are inevitably impressed with the necessity of keeping America strong militarily.

The next day I inspected the arrival of a new U. S. Army unit at Bayreuth and the departure of a similar group for the U. S. It was a part of our Army's program to rotate divisions intact with the one from the "States" replacing the "old hands" right in the field. Under this personnel rotation plan the new unit takes over the equipment, the quarters, and the deployment assignment with a minimum of effort and expense. To find out for myself I discussed the details of this operation with privates, sergeants, and lower ranking officers in both outfits. All were enthusiastic.

Incidentally when I was in Bayreuth the annual Wagnerian Festival was in progress. We drove around the grounds and walked in the opera house which Wagner designed himself. Unfortunately there wasn't time to see and hear one of the festival events but it was tremendously impressive to get just a bit of the local atmosphere.

From Bayreuth I flew in a small Army plane to Hof, Germany which is within a few miles of the Iron Curtain between Czechoslovakia and free Germany. Here I inspected an Army unit with a particularly important military mission. We were still several miles from the Soviet border so I flew in a helicopter, up to but not over the Iron Curtain.

From the air you look down to see how the Soviets have plowed about a 20-yard strip all along their side of the line. This freshly plowed strip apparently makes it easier for them to track down Austrian, German, Czech, and other satellite defectors who want freedom from the iron fist of communism.

The helicopter with the pilot and your Congressman landed at one of the very small U. S. Army outposts not many yards from the border. I talked with the G.I.s who are manning 24-hours a day the very rim of our defenses. These American boys in these vital posts have a serious responsibility as they watch the Soviet and satellite forces across a few fields and the plowed strip. This small unit and others like them are our "eyes and ears" in the front line of defense against any Soviet aggression. Their morale is high and they get the best the Army can provide under these difficult conditions. Believe me, they appreciate their responsibility and are doing the job well.

While at the border outpost and at Hof I interviewed several of the German border patrol. These native German police units assist the NATO forces in their homeland in the detection and apprehension of Soviet agents who seek to slip behind our lines. The German border patrolmen with highly trained dogs and tommyguns make it tough for Soviet and satellite spies.

Again it was a long day for we flew back from Hof, to Nuremberg and then to Berlin. Next week's newsletter will include my observations on Berlin which as you all know is a free island in the center of the Soviet backyard.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Republican Fifth Congressional District family picnic on September 10th at Kollen Park, in Holland. The picnic will begin at 2:30. A pot luck supper and prizes will highlight the affair.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE September 15, 1955

Flying into Berlin over Russian occupied Germany gives one a very strange feeling. During the flight up the 20-mile wide air corridor from Western Germany to Berlin I chatted with the plane crew and as we flew the pilot pointed out several Red airfields lined with jet fighters, and a couple of Soviet Army bases with well-used infantry and tank training areas. Paradoxically, just that day the Kremlin had announced the Soviet Armed Forces would be slashed 640,000 by December 1955. Do they mean it? What is the overall significance?

First and foremost the peoples of the world should emphatically understand that in the past two years the United States has reduced its Armed Forces by 450,000 and cut the annual military expenditures by \$7 to \$10 billion. In the same period the Soviets have openly admitted increased military budgets and greater numbers in the Red Army, Navy, and Air Force. In other words, the Kremlin in 1955 is only doing (if they actually do it) what the U. S. has done in the previous 2 years.

The Berlin airport is Templehof, Hitler's fabulous air terminal in the center of the city with a population of 3 million. Despite the tremendous U. S. Air Force bombings of Berlin itself, Templehof was not too badly damaged.

For the next two and a half days I inspected the U. S. Troops, their barracks and their mission in this city with 4 separate geographical sectors under the domination of the British, French, Russians, and the U. S. This lack of a really unified municipal government is an undesirable situation in many ways, but the U. S. with substantial German cooperation has been able in its sector to expedite economic recovery and war damage reconstruction. This is in vivid contrast with the lack of similar progress in the Russian zone. One can hardly visualize without seeing it first hand the untouched rubble and half destroyed walls that still haunt the Russian-dominated portion of Berlin.

It is most difficult to comprehend why the Reds have made only a minimum effort to rebuild their Berlin zone. It is contended by Berliners that Russia

leaves the many blocks of war ruin as a bitter reminder to the Germans of their folly in invading Russia in 1941. This attitude to say the least is sadistic. It is in direct contrast to America's policy which is aimed at political and economic reconstruction. No Naziism or Prussianism in the political-military field but at the same time a strong, free enterprise, democratically controlled nation with sufficient military strength tied in with the anti-communist world.

In Berlin I met several G. I.s from Western Michigan, saw their quarters, ate lunch in their unit mess and talked with their officers. The U. S. military forces in Berlin are excellent American emissaries from top to bottom and are making a substantial contribution to favorable German-American post-war relations.

One evening an official in the U. S. Department of State stationed in Berlin had a small dinner party with a prominent German elected official as a guest. It was interesting and enlightening to discuss with him local German, European, and world politics. He was well informed on the U. S., having spent some time in America after the war. Furthermore he expressed the firm conviction that Germany, whatever her international and internal problems might be, was adamantly opposed to the Communist philosophy and deeply appreciative of and attached to the United States.

Before leaving Berlin I spent a few hours driving around the Russian Zone of Berlin. The people who unfortunately must live in that area look grim and discouraged when you see them on the streets. The shop windows are not filled with usable goods for the civilian population and I'm told the quality of the merchandise is vastly inferior to that produced in Western Germany.

I asked the German driver of the car what he thought about the difference between the Russian and American Zones of Berlin and our economic philosophies. His practical, down-to-earth reply made sense and is worth remembering. According to him a Russian Zone German must work 4 times as long as the German in the Allied or free sector of Berlin to earn sufficient money to buy a pair of shoes unequal in quality. This was his simple but effective way of saying he and practically all Germans want no part of Communism with its failing economic and political philosophy.

Next week, my comments on a three-day visit to the Netherlands.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE September 22, 1955

The last leg of the European Committee trip from Berlin to Amsterdam was mostly in soupy flying weather, but as we approached the City of Amsterdam the skies cleared and for the next three days we had ideal climate. The Dutch themselves complained it was much too hot (80 degrees) but compared to August in Washington or Michigan it was delightful.

Amsterdam from the air or on the ground makes several distinct impressions, order and cleanliness. The more one travels about in Holland other characteristics appear. They are businesslike but friendly and mighty proud of the terrific economic recovery made in Holland since the end of World War II. Today in the Netherlands there is virtually no unemployment. For the past several years the Dutch government has been extremely farsighted in seeking new industries sponsored by foreign capital including the U. S.

The first day I spent talking with the U. S. Army, Air Force, and Navy attaches who are on the staff of the American Ambassador at the Hague. Over the years there has been considerable criticism of the military attache system. The main contention has been that too many military people have been tied up in this non-combatant field. In addition many have argued that instead of each service, (Army, Navy, and Air) having a separate attache staff there should be just one under a single officer.

I went into this specific problem in some detail in our Embassy in the Netherlands. Analysis indicated no overstaffing in this post. There is logic to the policy of an officer from each branch of the service being assigned to a country. The military attaches have the exclusive mission to collect Army, Navy and Air Force intelligence in the country where assigned. An Air Force officer wouldn't be too well equipped to collect military intelligence on Dutch naval ships and policies or vice versa.

Also talked at length with our U. S. military advisory officials who are working with the Dutch Army. Over the years the Netherlands has had an exceptionally fine Navy but the Air Force is new and the Army has traditionally played

"second fiddle." Now under her NATO commitments the Dutch are expanding and improving the Army and Air Force. The U. S. is helping by making equipment and training officers available. Progress is probably slower than most authorities would like but the Dutch are part of NATO's backbone and will unquestionably increase their potency in the contest to prevent Soviet encroachments on the Free World. Incidentally, the Dutch are rightfully proud of their contribution of an Army battalion to the U. N. Forces in the Korean War.

In driving around the Dutch countryside while travelling from Amsterdam, to Rotterdam, to the Hague and to other areas where conferences were held I learned to admire the fine highway network that covers all of Holland. They not only build excellent roads but in conjunction construct paralleling and comparable bicycle paths. It is almost unbelievable the number of Dutch of all ages who use the bike as the main source of transportation.

One of the highlights of my entire committee trip was an hour's visit with Prince Bernhard at the Royal Palace at Soestdijk. I had met him in 1952 when the Queen and the Prince visited America and specifically Western Michigan. Protocol probably precludes me from repeating our conversation but I can certainly indicate my tremendous admiration for his intense and constructive interest in world-wide problems affecting not only his own people but all nations.

Prince Bernhard recalled the warm reception given the Royal Family in Grand Rapids, along the highway and in the City of Holland. His memory of incidents and local people was astounding.

From Soestdijk to Amsterdam, to the airport and then the long flight back. Aside from mechanical trouble in one engine, it conked out between Newfoundland and New York, the return to Washington was uneventful.

A lot of territory was covered in 10 days and in my opinion with worthwhile results. A comprehensive report will be filed with my Committee Chairman and in the next session of the Congress, which starts January 3, 1956, your Congressman will be better prepared to do his committee job.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE September 29, 1955

Now after two weeks of visiting the smaller communities in Ottawa County in my "mobile office" I feel a growing understanding of local attitudes and feeling toward many matters of public concern. On Monday, October 3, when I go to Marne from 2:30 until 8:00 p.m. I will have visited 10 communities in Ottawa County. Then on Tuesday, October 4, I will move into Kent County starting at Cedar Springs followed by Kent City, Wednesday, Sand Lake, Thursday, and Sparta on Monday, October 10.

I am finding a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction in meeting local residents in this informal manner. I want to emphasize that you and your neighbors are most welcome to drop by either to exchange greetings or discuss any personal or national problem which may be troubling you. Or if you wish to question me about my voting record, which is available in the trailer, I will be happy to discuss it with you.

So far the two main problems brought to my attention concern social security and the farm situation. Many elderly persons have asked me questions about their eligibility to receive benefits under the social security law. Also, a great deal of interest is shown toward future legislation in this important field.

Farmers of the Fifth District are concerned about present conditions in our agricultural economy. However, most agree there is improvement this year compared to 1954. I am sounding out as many farmers as possible to help discover specifically their problems and their recommendations for programs to improve our agricultural economy. Also, I am explaining positive plans being worked out by the Republican Administration to help the farmer. Distinct progress has been made and more can be expected.

The third subject most generally brought to my attention was the military. Young men soon to face military service questioned me as to the best time and way to fulfill this obligation. A large number of veterans have asked me to find answers to specific questions about their individual status with regard to the reserve or veteran benefits. But interest in the military goes beyond those who will or have participated actively in our national defense. Our citizens appear

to support President Eisenhower's military policies and question the experience and judgment of his critics.

My "mobile office" is a 31-foot house trailer with two rooms. One of these is a reception room and the other an office for private and individual discussions. I have placed in the reception room a number of government publications which are of interest to many people. One of these, entitled "Family Fare," is a cookbook published by the Department of Agriculture which has attracted the most interest. Some of the other publications available include "Infant Care," my voting record, social security information, military academy catalogues, and budget information.

I will conclude my "mobile office" tour on November 2nd at Standale. By this time I hope to have detailed and constructive impressions about the attitudes and opinions of the citizens in Kent and Ottawa counties.

The fine work being done by the 850 residents of Kent and Ottawa Counties who comprise the Ground Observer Corps has become more and more obvious to me since my return home from Washington. These people are unselfishly devoting time and effort to filling the gaps left by radar in our air defense system.

Volunteers serve two-hour periods with one other person perched in elevated observation posts at eight-mile intervals throughout the countryside. Naturally this "first line of civilian defense" is national in scope. However, broken down to our own Fifth District it adds up to 23 required observation posts. Of these, 15 are in Kent County and eight are in Ottawa County.

The importance of the work done by the Ground Observer Corps cannot be over-emphasized. Yet an adequate job is not being done in Kent and Ottawa Counties because of too few volunteers. Only two posts are manned 24-hours a day. This means 168 persons have volunteered to keep each of these on a full-time alert. Out of the 15 posts in Kent County six are inactive as are three posts in Ottawa County. Those remaining posts on part-time duty are averaging 16 operational hours per day.

I hope you can see the acute need for additional volunteers to complete the splendid work already being done in the Ground Observer Corps. This work contributes greatly to our national safety.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE October 6, 1955

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S ILLNESS

At the time of this writing it is still a little premature to draw any definite conclusions with regard to President Eisenhower's illness and his future in public life. Of one thing we can be sure however, that is, Mr. Eisenhower always has been a team player in running our national and international affairs. Therefore, under his Administration we can be sure his policies and our affairs of state will continue to function smoothly and efficiently during the President's convalescence with the team organization he has set up.

In the meantime let us all pray for his full and speedy recovery to a complete and useful life.

The greatest advantage for me in taking my "mobile office" into the 27 smaller communities of Kent and Ottawa Counties is the opportunity to discover just what the people I represent in Washington are thinking about. It gives to the people I am meeting a chance to also meet at first hand their Congressman who represents them in the Nation's Capital.

The reasons which are bringing people to my "mobile office" vary a great deal. But in all I am greatly impressed by how well informed the people of the Fifth District I have met are on many matters of national importance. I am learning much from talking with them.

MILITARY RESERVE TRAINING

It is apparent that the Reserve Forces Act of 1955, signed into law by the President on August 9th, is becoming a more real force in the maintenance of our national security. The primary purpose of this act is to provide the trained manpower required by the reserve forces should the need for mobilization ever arise.

This Reserve Act creates three categories of possible reservist training. One plan is designed for young men under 18 1/2 years of age who wish to perform six months of active duty training at \$50 a month in the grade of private. This is followed by participation in reserve unit training for the remainder of eight

years. Another way to perform a reserve obligation would be to serve two years' active duty followed by service as a member of the ready reserve for a period which, when added to active-duty time, totals five years.

The third category applies to persons who were serving on active duty when the act became law and are released from active duty prior to July 1, 1957. These persons may join a reserve unit and participate for 1 year which fulfills their Ready Reserve obligation. The remainder of the eight years may be spent in the Standby Reserve.

POST OFFICE ECONOMY

With its 40,000 outlets and one-half million employees our Post Office Department is actually the world's largest business. It handles on an average 175 million pieces of mail each day and as a side line it operates the world's largest savings bank. In past years the Post Office Department has shown annual deficits of about \$500 million. This deficit has had to be made up out of the general tax receipts.

This year the situation is encouragingly different. Policies adopted by Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield and put into operation this year will reduce this usual deficit to \$360 million, saving the American taxpayer \$140 million. And according to Summerfield new methods and policies are being worked out which will bring additional savings in the future with promises of improving service.

DEFENSE AND SMALL BUSINESS

During the first six months of this year defense contract awards to small businesses totalled 23 per cent of all those made by the Department of Defense. This compares most favorably with an average of 18.8 per cent for the preceding four and one-half years. It is gratifying to see small firms getting a larger share of defense procurement. In June alone these small business concerns received \$632,000,000 in net defense contract awards.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE October 14, 1955

Much is being said about agriculture, present farm prosperity, and its possible impact at election time. Before we make up our minds about the farm question, first we should attempt to pinpoint the problem in realistic terms, and then find the causes so as to eliminate them.

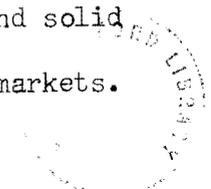
Is farm income declining and are we in a so-called "agriculture depression?" Per capita net income of farm people was \$930 in 1952, \$904 in 1953, and \$907 in 1954. Farm real estate valuations jumped by two per cent from 1954 to 1955. Farm debts are only 11 per cent of farm assets, as compared with 19 per cent in 1940 and 21 per cent in 1930.

On the other hand, the parity ratio, which describes prices received by farmers against those paid for goods and services, dropped from 113 in February, 1951 to 94 in January 1953. Now it stands at 84. So almost two-thirds of the drop in farm prices took place between 1951 and January 1953, and this was under a Democrat Administration. One-third of the drop in farm prices has taken place under Ike's Administration.

A REAL SOLUTION

During World War II the United States placed agriculture on an emergency war-time footing geared to increase food production. This war footing was based on rigid price supports for corn, cotton, wheat, tobacco, rice, and peanuts and the program was in effect until the 1955 harvest. The Republican 83rd Congress enacted a flexible price support plan to apply for the first time to this fall's crops. Under the Democrat rigid price support policy farm prices not only started to decline but some \$7.5 billion worth of surpluses were accumulated and it does cost the federal treasury a million dollars per day for storage fees on these surpluses. This year total agriculture production may break all records.

Now Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson's efforts to shrink the government-held surpluses and to modify the role of government in "managed Agriculture" are piling up illogical, inaccurate, and distorted political charges against him. Yet it seems that in order to place our agricultural economy on a permanent and solid footing, we need (1) to reduce our surpluses and (2), equate production with markets.



The Republican farm policies are working toward these goals. The flexible support program was legislated with this goal. Secretary Benson is making vigorous and imaginative efforts to discover new outlets at home and abroad for our farm produce. Agriculture exports were increased in the past 12 months by almost 10 per cent. Research is being conducted with many types of products to find new and expanded uses for them. Likewise, in the field of marketing research much effort is being directed to holding down costs and improving marketing efficiency.

I don't want to oversimplify or explain away the plight of our farmers. As I am talking to farmers of the Fifth District in my "mobile office" I learn of their attitudes and problems. At the conclusion of my comprehensive tour of Kent and Ottawa Counties I will undoubtedly know the general point of view of our Fifth District farmers. At that time I will give a full report.

STRENGTHENING FREE ENTERPRISE

American businessmen, encouraged by the prosperous economic outlook, plan to spend about four per cent more for new buildings and equipment this year than they spent last year. The Office of Business Economics says business will spend about \$27.8 billion for expansion in 1955 compared to \$26.8 billion last year.

And while prosperity continues the Republican Administration has been trimming many government costs and cutting unnecessary personnel off the payrolls. When President Eisenhower took office there were 2,365,862 persons on the federal civilian payrolls. The latest comparable figure, for July 31, 1955, places the total at 2,187,021---- 178,841 less than when President Eisenhower took office.

This means an annual saving of \$743,263,196 in salaries. It also means less bureaucratic red tape and less federal tampering with local and individual areas of initiative.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The armed forces increased their consumption of milk by nearly 100 million pints from November 1954 through June 1955 under a special program to stimulate expanded use of milk for troop feeding and hospital messes. And the Department of Defense is practically finished in writing a new joint-services supply catalog. Already over 100,000 duplicated supply items have been pruned with a \$7 1/2 million saving to the taxpayers.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE October 20, 1955

Often considered the most outstanding printing job done anywhere, when Congress is in session the "Congressional Record" prints daily the proceedings of the Senate and House of Representatives.

The debate and discussion entered in the "Congressional Record" provides valuable day-to-day information on crucial issues before the Congress. And as its name indicates, the pages from the "Congressional Record" offer a lasting record of what Congress has done and considered. Experts in shorthand take down every word uttered in each Chamber which at the close of the day are consolidated, indexed, printed, and distributed by early the following morning.

Approximately 38,000 copies are printed for each day's session at a cost of \$1,206,107 in 1954. These are mailed to libraries, newspapers, schools, and key individuals throughout the nation. Also, each Congressional Office receives two copies of the preceding day's "Record" every morning for its own use and 4,000 copies are distributed among government agencies in Washington.

If you would like to have a copy of the "Congressional Record" from the last session to see what is it like, drop me a line and I will be happy to see that one is sent to you.

FEDERAL FLAG PURCHASING

The Federal Government is a big flag purchaser, and until recently even manufactured some. In 1952 the Navy, for instance, made 5,300 and bought 6,000 flags. In 1953, however, the Navy bought all of its ensigns, 22,100, for \$145,000. This year the Navy is purchasing even more flags.

Flags that fly over Government buildings are bought and distributed by the General Services Administration. It orders 8,000 a year, and supplies them to buildings other than the Post Office and Defense Departments.

CIVIL RIGHTS AND CONGRESS

In the last session of Congress, 111 bills and resolutions affecting civil rights were introduced. But civil rights legislation made virtually no progress whatsoever under the Democrat majority in the Congress.

Only one measure, a non-controversial bill to permit federal employment of Mongolians, was passed by the House; the Senate acted on no civil rights legislation.

SPEAKING ACTIVITY

My schedule has been a full one since I returned to Michigan from Washington early in September. Presently a typical day for your Congressman may include two or three morning hours in the office followed by a late morning speaking engagement usually at a high school, then lunch with a speech before a service club. At 2:30 I have been arriving at my "mobile office" remaining there until after 8:00 p.m. Usually another speaking engagement or TV appearance will follow this taking me into the late evening hours.

I have been most fortunate to have had these opportunities to talk and speak before school and civic groups, church clubs, service clubs, and military organizations.

SERVICE MAIL AND SUBSIDY

A report by the Civil Aeronautics Board shows the trend in subsidizing airlines which carry United States mail is decreasing. Government subsidies paid to this industry for the fiscal years of 1956 and 1957 will be reduced to \$48,500,000. This figure represents a decrease of \$23,500,000 or 33 per cent less than the subsidy for fiscal year 1954 and \$7,200,000 or 13 per cent less than the subsidy for the 12 months in fiscal 1955.

A number of reasons are accountable for this decreasing need for subsidy for airlines which carry the mail. These include: (1) The high level of economic activity enjoyed by the industry; (2) Expanded and low-cost transportation by air coach; (3) The increased volume of military mail moving by commercial air carriers; and (4) Increased efficiency on the part of the air lines.

This reduction in airline subsidies is definitely an accomplishment of the Eisenhower Administration.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE October 27, 1955

Little known, yet a vital element of our democratic process! I am referring to the consent calendar in the consideration of which your Congressman participated during the last session of Congress.

Three Republicans and three Democrat Members of Congress are selected by their respective House party leaders to serve as "official objectors" on the consent calendar. In 1950 your Congressman was first appointed an "official objector" by the Republican leadership in the House. I have continued in that capacity during the 84th Congress.

The consent calendar is adapted only to legislation which is not expected to become controversial or draw political lines. After legislation of this kind has been reported from a committee, the chairman may request that it be placed on the consent calendar. I was on the consent calendar dealing with public bills. There is also a consent calendar for private bills. On the first and third Mondays of each month these bills come up before the House for unanimous approval. But prior to this, I would receive, along with the other members of the objectors of the consent calendar, the legislation recommended by the various committees with an analysis of each bill.

When this legislation would come up for House approval any member might register his objection. But it is the duty of the "official objector" to have sifted the bills and resolutions to prevent the unwitting passage of any measures which may possibly prove controversial or political in nature.

Should someone object to the passage of any legislation brought up in this manner, the bill is held over for the next consent calendar. If three persons object the second time, the measure is taken off the calendar to follow the same procedure as any other bill in the House.

MOBILE OFFICE REPORT

Now after visiting 22 communities of Kent and Ottawa Counties in my "Mobile Office" I feel this project has been extremely successful. With only two exceptions, and those very brief, I have been occupied constantly by local residents coming to this "office." So far I have met and talked privately with approximately 800 persons

in this manner. Later I will report to you more fully on the results from my "Mobile Office" tour.

STREAMLINING GOVERNMENT

During the first three years of the present Administration, the Federal government spent \$36 billion less than it would have, had the "spendthrift" policies of the preceding Administration been continued. This sum represents a saving of nearly \$1,000 for every family of four in the United States.

The Republican trend toward streamlining government has been apparent in all branches and agencies. For instance, the Army's standardization of tank parts will save taxpayers \$560,000,000 during the next 10 years. And the Bureau of Engraving has cut operating expenses by an estimated \$1,350,000 a year starting this November 1 through improving methods and modernizing equipment. The Department of Defense recently announced that through the sale of surplus, obsolete and worn-out materials in the fiscal year 1955, it was able to collect \$143 million. This represents the highest percentage return on these sales in four years.

REMODELING THE CAPITOL

Last year Congress appropriated \$5 million in the first move to give our United States Capitol Building a face-lifting. And each successive session of Congress can be expected to make additional appropriations until the work is completed.

The last major construction work on the Capitol was completed in 1865. Ever since then Capitol architects have recognized the need to correct the architectural defect which has placed the Dome off center and too near the Capitol's front side. Present plans call for a 40-foot extension of the front or east side to correct this long-standing architectural fault.

These same plans make provision for a more substantial central portion to reface the sandstone structure which has been there since the cornerstone was laid in 1793. Also, the addition will make space available for much needed office quarters, committee rooms and restaurant facilities.



Your Washington Review

by
**Congressman
JERRY FORD**



FOR RELEASE November 3, 1955

Americans can be extremely thankful for President Eisenhower's rapid recovery from his illness. It also seems as though we can be grateful to Dick Nixon and the manner in which he has measured up to his responsibilities under the Constitution as "first in command" during Ike's absence.

Dick Nixon has been a sincere, conscientious and constructive Vice President, who through tireless effort and with President Eisenhower's wholehearted approval, molded his office into an active and dynamic force for carrying out Administration policy. Now the whole country is profiting from these qualities the Vice President is exhibiting as the temporary leader of the Eisenhower team during the President's convalescence.

HOOVER COMMISSION PROGRESS

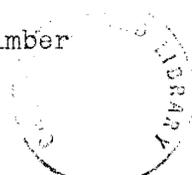
The second Hoover Commission, a bi-partisan group, has made 314 recommendations designed to modernize and make our government perform more economically and efficiently. Many of the Hoover Commission Reports are now being put into effect within the Executive Branch of Government and the Administration has set up machinery to take action on more of these proposals to streamline the executive branch of the federal government.

Of the Hoover Commission recommendations 46 per cent do not require the approval of Congress for action. The dollar savings which can be attained through these proposals are substantial and according to the Commission should be reflected in lower taxes.

For instance, the Commission's Task Forces estimated that \$360 million a year could be saved on overseas economic activities, \$340 million on food and clothing for the armed forces and \$151 million on transportation.

TIMBER FOR THE FUTURE

The Department of Agriculture issued a report recently containing some vital information about future timber requirements for our Nation. It pointed out that our timber requirements are expected to be so high by the end of the 20th century timber growth will need to be from 70 to 120 per cent greater than it now is.



The United States including Alaska, controls 8 per cent of the forested area of the world and 15 per cent of the timber under exploitation. Yet the country has no prospect for an excess of forest land because of increasing industrial uses for timber, as well as the downward trend resulting from land cleared for agriculture, highways, and urbanization.

The Secretary of Agriculture has directed that several important programs be intensified immediately to help increase and preserve United States timber resources. These steps include improved forest management to minimize the dangers of loss from fire, disease, and insects; research to improve forest quality and increase production; and the search for new locations for planting.

PENSION FUNDS

Our elderly citizens have growing assurance of financial security if the vast pension funds built up by private industry and the government are any indication. Corporation pension funds have passed the \$11-billion mark. This figure represents an increase of 77 per cent during the past three years. And pension funds maintained by state and local governments had jumped from \$6.4 billion in 1952 to \$8.7 billion in 1954. These increases were made possible by the present high level of national prosperity.

TRUE TO THE TEST

In 1949 a 12-year-old girl, Helen Liu Kalsbeek came to the United States from China on a six-month visitor's visa. At the date her visa expired I was privileged to assist in obtaining for Helen a stay of deportation which extended her visa indefinitely and made her eligible for citizenship.

At this time a number of people had faith in Helen who as a child had endured many trials during the several wars in China. After World War II an American missionary in China adopted Helen and brought her to Grand Rapids.

Last week those who had faith in Helen as a 12-year-old immigrant girl were shown that, now as a 17-year-old senior at Christian High School in Grand Rapids and a U. S. citizen, Helen has lived up to this faith. For Tuesday night, October 26, Helen Liu Kalsbeek tied for top honors in the 1955 high school essay contest sponsored by the Grand Rapids Real Estate Board. Topic of the essay: "What The Bill of Rights Means to Me."



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE November 10, 1955

My "mobile office" tour is now history but many memories remain of the experiences gained from meeting the people living in and around the 27 small communities I visited.

I believe that there are actually two different sides to a tour such as I took of the Fifth District. One side concerns the educational aspect that comes through meeting people and listening to their comments and observations on matters of importance to them. Then there is the less serious side which involves the personalities and compatibilities of people of all ages, occupations and interests. Next week I will report on my observations of what the residents of the Fifth District are thinking about national and world issues. But this week I want to tell you something about the people I met and a few interesting events arising through becoming better acquainted with them.

TALKING TO SCHOOL GROUPS

In all I had 863 private discussions with individuals in the "mobile office" between the regular hours of 2:30 and 8:00 p.m. But this doesn't tell the whole story of my visits to these communities. In 15 areas I spoke to local high and junior high school classes. At Borculo 28 seventh and eighth graders took time out from their classes to ride their bicycles to the "mobile office" where I spoke briefly while they gathered around the trailer.

In Allendale I spoke to students from the local consolidated school as they changed buses enroute home and in Cascade a school bus brought 50 seventh and eighth graders to the trailer. At Lowell 70 members of the eighth grade civics classes (and in Jamestown 7 members) came to the office and questioned me as a group about the functioning of our government.

OTHER GROUP MEETINGS

Also, in 15 communities I was privileged to speak to local service groups before my office hours and attend suppers or coffee hours after leaving the trailer office. At Belmont I met the Township Board and a number of local citizens in the Township Hall from 8:00 until 9:00 p.m. A similar informal evening affair was staged by the Chamber of Commerce at Cedar Springs; there was a luncheon at Hudsonville and a meeting with civic leaders in Byron Center.



I attended a jointly sponsored pot-luck supper at Alto; while at Harvard I was honored with an invitation to have dinner with a family in their home. At Caledonia and Cascade, as in other communities, I met Township and village officials. Eighty residents of Allendale came to a dinner in their new Township Hall for the largest single gathering of my tour.

SOME SIDELIGHTS

As I have indicated, I had the privilege of sampling the excellent home-style cooking of many housewives throughout Kent and Ottawa Counties. These included home-made pies and a number of excellent hot dishes which would often arrive around the dinner hour.

At Borculo the local businessmen presented me with a simulated American flag made from red, white, and blue gladioli. In Zeeland a farmer gave me a dozen double-yoked eggs which were not only unusual but the Ford family found them to be of excellent quality. At Sparta and Marne I was again reminded of the delicious apples grown in our vicinity with presentations of several half bushels by individual growers. On several occasions folks gave me flower bouquets for Betty.

Experiences such as these represent a sort of special heart-warming compensation for being your Representative. I am very grateful to each and all for this thoughtful hospitality. Another such incident occurred at Marne when two children of about eight years brought a bouquet of garden flowers, saying "We picked the best we could find." And at Nunica a group of Boy Scouts on a scavenger hunt had to obtain the signature of your Congressman as one item in their assignment.

MAKING ARRANGEMENTS.

At times there seemed to be endless details involved in making my "mobile office" tour. I had to depend largely upon local people in the communities visited, and on Tom Boss who with his father efficiently hauled the trailer from community to community.

Prior to visiting a town we needed a satisfactory location, an electrical outlet, and somehow to get the word around that we were coming. Ted Olmstead, who sells house trailers on Plainfield Avenue just outside of Grand Rapids, provided the trailer. But before we could move into the first community the detail of location, insurance, and adequately equipping the 31-foot "office" needed to be met. All this never could have been accomplished without the kind assistance and response from people throughout Kent and Ottawa Counties.

It has been a wonderful experience for me. Thanks to everyone for all the help.

1955



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



YOU ARE INVITED TO A CITIZENS' MEETING WITH
CONGRESSMAN GERALD R. FORD, JR.
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14 7:00 P. M.
ROBART SCHOOL

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. The disposal of federally owned land in Ottawa County.
(Should it be returned to private ownership? If so, how?)
2. Fighting the European Pine Shoot Moth.
3. Tariff duties on Christmas trees.
4. Some problems of blueberry growers.

Dear Friend:

You are invited to meet with other citizens of the West Olive area to discuss the above topics with your Congressman at the Robart School on Monday evening, November 14, at 7:00 P. M. I do not plan to make a speech but rather to participate in a general discussion of those topics in which you are interested.

Mr. Clarence Reenders, Chairman of the West Ottawa Soil Conservation Board and Chairman of the Conservation Committee of the Ottawa County Board of Supervisors has kindly consented to accompany me to this meeting. We are especially interested in determining what you, as citizens of the area, believe should be done with the federally owned land in your community.

We hope that many of you will meet with us so that we may have the benefit of your thinking.

Sincerely,





Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE November 17, 1955

This week I am presenting a few of the major problems and suggestions that came to my attention during the two-month tour with the "mobile office." Almost 70 per cent of the visitors to the trailer had either a personal problem involving an agency or department of the federal government or a suggestion for changes in existing federal laws. Approximately 30 per cent of those who stopped in while we covered 27 communities of Kent and Ottawa Counties wanted to say hello and extend a friendly welcome.

Social Security legislation seemed to prompt the most questions with the exception of queries about agriculture. In a subsequent newsletter I will summarize what appear to be views of Fifth District farmers on the complicated and controversial farm issue.

SOCIAL SECURITY QUESTIONS

In 1954 the Congress extended the coverage of Social Security to include farmers and several other occupational groups. Many older farmers are apparently anxious to retire under this new pension in the law which went into effect January 1, 1955. To qualify as a beneficiary the farmer must be extremely careful that his business arrangement for the operation of the farm fits the requirement of the law. In addition, during 1955 the farm proprietor must earn at least \$400 in net income and during the first six months of 1956 he must have a minimum of \$800 in gross income if he intends to retire at that time.

For the past year various farm organizations and the Social Security Administration, the latter with local offices in the McKay Tower in Grand Rapids, have sought to explain these problems in detail but still legitimate questions pop up. This difficulty appears inevitable where there is new legislation and "big government" invades a previously uncharted field. As a word of caution, may I suggest that anyone who is in doubt about his rights under Social Security should immediately contact the Social Security officials in Grand Rapids. Such action might prevent future difficulties.

AMENDING THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

One visitor came up with a very sound suggestion for change in the existing Social Security Act. If the "breadwinner" in the family passes on while covered

by Social Security, the widow and minor children receive survivorship benefits. The existing law states that the widow may not earn more than \$1,200 per year without losing these survivorship benefits. This so-called earning limitation is bad enough in its application to those over 65, but it is especially harmful when it prevents a widow from earning sufficient wages to raise her minor children. It is my intention to sponsor a bill to remove this unsound and illogical earning restriction.

Other problems involving Social Security related to the amount of monthly benefits, the soundness of the reserves and the need for increasing the tax on both employer and employee. Several suggested that it was wrong to permit those who were not American citizens to be Social Security beneficiaries, particularly those who live overseas. This suggestion has merit.

PROBLEMS FROM THE MILITARY

A number of visitors to the "mobile office" had problems with the Veterans Administration. There were several G.I.s who were having trouble getting prompt VA medical exams. Others wondered why it was taking so long for the VA to process their pension, disability, or educational applications. One visitor stopped in to tell us what excellent medical and surgical treatment her father, a World War I veteran, had received at the VA hospital at Dearborn.

Also, a number of parents and young men stopped in to inquire about military service problems. I was able to point out the various alternatives for service in the Army, Navy, and Air Force including the new volunteer program which requires only six months' active duty.

RAILROAD CAR REFLECTORS

Three callers urged that Congress pass legislation to require the railroads to place reflectors on the sides of their cars. During the past several months in Western Michigan there have been fatal accidents when the driver of an automobile neglected to see a train passing a rural crossing at night. Apparently it is often impossible to detect a train at such a crossing. During the last session of Congress a bill was sponsored by a member of the House of Representatives from Iowa to require the railroads to install reflectors on the sides of all cars.

Our office contacted the Interstate Commerce Commission to get their reaction to such a requirement. The ICC's response was not encouraging. I intend to investigate this problem further when Congress reconvenes.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE November 23, 1955

Since President Eisenhower's inauguration and the changing of government reins from Democrat to Republican on January 20, 1953, great progress has been made toward government economy. In these weekly reports I have presented numerous examples of economy measures put into effect by Ike's Administration through streamlining government operations, elimination of red tape, and the abolishment of unnecessary agencies.

Mainly as a result of these and other steps which have led to less federal spending the prospect for a balanced budget for fiscal year 1956 are excellent provided: 1) Federal spending does not rise above current levels, and 2) the present high levels of business activity and consequent federal revenues are sustained.

DEFICIT TREND DECLINING

In fiscal 1955, which ended June 30th, the government had a deficit of approximately four billion dollars, that is total spending of all kinds out-ran receipts of all kinds by this much. Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey in August estimated a deficit for fiscal 1956, ending next June 30th, of \$1.7 billion. However, this picture according to more recent forecasts, is likely to be brightened because of government revenues collected by virtue of a continued and expanded prosperity of most of our people, combined with additional economies by the Administration.

If there is a balanced budget should Congress cut taxes or apply the potential surplus to a partial reduction of the federal debt? At the present time it costs the taxpayers of the United States over \$6 billion annually in interest on the federal debt of approximately \$275 billion. It might be wise to forego a tax cut in 1956 and apply the surplus to a reduction of the annual interest payments.

CONTINUING FEDERAL OPERATIONS

The United States Government has become the biggest factor in the life of our country. It is the largest employer, the biggest owner of capital assets, and the biggest spender of money. This year alone your federal government will buy about 25 million pencils and 150 thousand erasers. Just in Washington, D. C. the government owns 155 buildings and leases another 86.

With its many agencies and bureaus the federal government has grown proportionately seven times faster than the nation's population in the past three decades.

The General Services Administration (GSA) is the "housekeeping" agency of the federal government which manages this vast organizational bureaucracy. GSA buys the supplies, cleans the buildings, and stores the records. It is a governmental housewife, of sorts!

Through sound business practices GSA has saved your federal government vast sums of money. For instance, recently when the Civil Defense Administration needed a half-million blankets, instead of going out and buying them---as the government used to do---GSA was able to find enough surplus blankets belonging to the Veterans Administration and the Navy to fill CDA requirements. This resulted in a \$4.25 million saving. This incident indicates very definite progress in the effort to eliminate waste and extravagance in the civilian agencies of the government.

NEWS ABOUT IKE

President Eisenhower has been making steady progress in recuperating from his illness. As in the past when a President was ill, the questions arose of just how to handle an accurate and honest flow of public information about a presidential disability. When Presidents Cleveland and Franklin Roosevelt fell ill, the public was denied any accurate report of their conditions; when Woodrow Wilson became disabled the public received only piecemeal information.

We are in agreement with James Russell Wiggins, Vice President and Executive Editor of the Washington Post and Times Herald, who said recently that Press Secretary James Hagerty's handling of facts about President Eisenhower's illness is "an example of open dealing that should not be lost upon others in government."

PRESIDENTIAL STATISTICS

Theodore Roosevelt at 42 was the youngest President; while William Henry Harrison at 68 was the oldest. Abraham Lincoln's 6'4" made him the tallest and James Madison at 5'4" was shortest. William Howard Taft's 300 pounds gave him the top weight. John Tyler with 14 had the most children of any President. James Buchanan was the only one who never married.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE December 1, 1955

The NATO Status of Forces Treaty was severely criticized during the past session of Congress and a number of persons have asked me about it recently. It is often stated that this treaty gives foreign nations the privilege of punishing American servicemen stationed abroad, and that the rights of these U. S. citizens are endangered.

The best explanation of this problem I have seen comes from Deputy Under Secretary of State Robert Murphy in a statement before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Murphy points out that troops stationed in a friendly foreign nation are, and always have been, subject to the criminal laws of that nation. In the absence of the Status of Forces Treaty, the foreign governments would have the right to arrest and try any American accused of a criminal offense. But because our government believes that our troops stationed abroad deserve special protection, the NATO Status of Forces Treaty was approved.

CONTENTS OF THE TREATY

By this Treaty, foreign governments agreed that they should have jurisdiction only over criminal offenses committed while the American serviceman was off duty. Those offenses committed while the man is on military duty are to be handled by the U. S. Military authorities.

Secondly, the Treaty gives the U. S. authorities the prerogative to request local officials to waive jurisdiction and turn the man over to U. S. military commanders for trial. It is significant to note that of the many servicemen, employees, and dependents sent abroad where the Treaty applies, there have been about 6,000 criminal cases which fell within the jurisdiction of the local courts. In 70 per cent of these cases the local authorities have either dropped the charges entirely or voluntarily turned the accused person over to his military commander.

Finally, the NATO Status of Forces Treaty guarantees certain basic rights to those American servicemen who are tried in foreign courts. These are comparable to the safeguards which the serviceman would enjoy in a U. S. military court martial, including the right to counsel and the American right of being

confronted by witnesses. Out of the total of 6,000 cases mentioned above, only 85 persons have been imprisoned by local authorities in NATO countries, and as of May 31, 1955 only 22 were actually in prison in these countries. Most of the sentences have been very short. The maximum sentence thus far imposed is 5 years, for highway robbery with violence at night by two men against an old taxi driver.

Secretary Murphy contends that our agreements with foreign governments outside the NATO group are just as favorable to our servicemen. This would appear to be the case from the testimony before the Congressional Committee.

TREATY MAKING

The formulation of treaties, as well as the complete conduct of our foreign relations, is the responsibility of the President and his Secretary of State. Their diplomatic representatives negotiate a treaty, making every effort to obtain the most favorable conditions for this country. The document which they eventually present to the President must be approved by him.

However, under our Constitution, a treaty must pass one more hurdle, ratification by the U. S. Senate. Generally, the Committee on Foreign Relations studies a treaty thoroughly, and holds public hearings on it. The Committee may then recommend to the Senate that it ratify the treaty. The treaty will be noneffective unless ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Senate. The Senate approved the NATO Status of Forces Treaty by a 72-15 vote. Among its supporters were Senators Taft and Knowland, and Senators George and Johnson.

LATEST POPULATION FIGURES

Michigan shared substantially in the 10 1/2 million growth in U. S. population between April 1, 1950 and July 1, 1954. According to a report just issued by the Bureau of the Census, Michigan grew 10.3 per cent between these dates. Our State's population stood at 7,028,000 on July 1st. Migrations into Michigan which totaled 151,000 in this four-year period added a great stimulus to our 656,000 increase.

Michigan is one of 10 states whose populations have swelled over 10 per cent since 1950. If this trend continues, our State of Michigan following the nation-wide census of 1960 should have 20 rather than 18 Members of the House of Representatives.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE December 9, 1955

This past week the Ford family made the 680 mile return trip to our Nation's Capitol. We left Grand Rapids on Monday morning, December 5th, and now Betty, Mike, Jack, and I are busily engaged in unpacking and settling down again for the next session of Congress which convenes on January 3rd.

My Grand Rapids office in the Michigan Trust Building will keep hours until shortly after Christmas when the rest of my staff rejoins me in Washington. But from then on I suggest that, if you wish to contact me about any problem or legislative matter, you address your letter to the House of Representatives, D. C. It will reach me much quicker in this way.

THE COMING SESSION

Next week I expect to start getting my desk in order for the coming session. A number of highly controversial issues can be expected to come up which include: the expanded highway-construction program, changes in social security legislation, Hoover Commission Recommendations, fiscal problems including any tax changes, private versus public power, and agricultural programs. These issues require important background research and study. I hope to do some of this in December before the mad rush of next session gets underway. Also, some committee work has piled up between sessions which demands attention prior to the first meeting of the Appropriations Committee. I expect to devote a goodly share of my time to these matters during the next few weeks.

VARIETY OF INFORMATION

Despite some politically inspired criticism, the Anti-Trust Division of the Department of Justice has been extremely active lately. For the year ending September 30, 1955, for example, 52 new cases were filed--34 civil and 18 criminal. These 52 new cases represent a sharp increase over the recent past. Thus in fiscal year 1952, 30 new cases were filed; in fiscal year 1953, 33 new proceedings were brought; and in fiscal 1954, 32 new anti-trust cases were launched. The bulk of these 52 new cases involved traditional hardcore Sherman Act violations, such as price-fixing and allocation of territories. In other words, Ike's Department of Justice has cracked down on anti-trust violations.

Government officials report that, in contrast to former years, the question

most frequently asked by farmers who are plagued by too little or too much and industries seeking new plant locations is about the availability of water. Symbolizing the intensified interest in water is the Department of Agriculture's 1955 Yearbook entitled "Water." This 752-page book is devoted to drought, floods, normal sources, and uses of water. The book's 95 chapters are authored by 149 top-notch specialists on the varied aspects of the problem. A copy may be obtained from either the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, 25, D. C. for \$2.00 or Members of Congress have a limited supply for free distribution on a first-come-first-serve basis.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue has made a new addition to this year's taxpayer information. In recognition of the growing need for a publication dealing exclusively with income tax law and regulations applicable to farmers and ranchers, the "Farmers' Tax Guide, Income and Self-Employment Taxes" is available from your County Agricultural Agent, the District Director of Internal Revenue, or if you wish, by writing your Congressman.

In August of this year I spent three days in Berlin checking on U. S. Army expenditures and policies. While there I saw first-hand evidence of the 10,000 refugees a month who are fleeing Communist oppression by seeking haven in the Western Zone. This continuous flow of refugees has had an amazing result. Communist-controlled East Germany has become the only area in continental Europe with a declining population losing almost two and three-quarters million of its inhabitants in the past ten years. More than 2,704,680 Germans have fled from the Soviet Zone into West Germany. This amounts to more than 15 per cent of East Germany's 1946 population of 17,314,000. East Germany's population today is 16,840,000.

The number of post offices as of July 1, 1955 was about half those of 1900, a total of 38,316 as against 76,688 at the turn of the century. However, in 1900 nearly 95 per cent, or 72,455, of the offices were fourth-class, while only 194 were first class. Out of today's total of 38,316 offices there are but 14,942 fourth-class or slightly less than 50 per cent while nearly 10 per cent or 3,613 are currently first class.

This class differentiation is based on receipts, that is, amount of stamp sales plus several other smaller types of revenues. This reduction in post offices stems largely from population shifts, better roads with the corresponding extension of Rural Free Delivery service, and faster means of delivery.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE December 15, 1955

Talking with about 400 Western Michigan farmers individually and many more in groups in 1955 gives one a rather good insight into what our agricultural problems are. A limited few farmer visitors to our "mobile office" were bitterly angry and you can imagine what they said. In contrast most of the others were conscientiously concerned with the present "price-squeeze" and naturally wondered what the future had to offer.

Here's a listing of some farmer complaints: 1) Since January 1951 to the present, prices received by farmers have generally gone down while prices paid by farmers for the things they use have increased. 2) The price support legislation whether it be the rigid 90 per cent of parity on the so-called six basic crops (corn, cotton, wheat, tobacco, rice, and peanuts) or the new flexible program is discriminatory against our type of farmers in Kent and Ottawa Counties. 3) The full-time farmers are concerned about the competition from the part-time farmer who works up to 40 hours a week in a factory or at other employment but at the same time milks a few cows, has several hundred chickens, and plants, harvests, and sells wheat, corn, or other crops.

The full-time farmer also looks with misgivings at the so-called hobby farmer who is a city fellow that bought a farm without expecting to make a livelihood from his investment. 5) The wheat support program is most irritating because of its acreage controls and the disenfranchisement of many farmers by the 15-acre limitation on the vote referendum.

DIFFERENCES IN MICHIGAN

The record shows that Michigan agriculture is quite different from farming in other areas, particularly when compared with the big wheat farms in the Kansas, South Dakota, and Montana regions. Their farms of 1,000 or more acres dwarf ours, and with such large acreage they can mechanize their operations to the maximum. Their weather and soil vary from that in Michigan. In addition, wheat and the amount they produce for the market place differs from that of the West Michigan farmer. Wheat in the plain states is a "big" crop while here its importance is minor compared to dairy and poultry production. Despite these basic contrasts a Michigan farmer is in effect bound by the same agricultural legislation including acreage allowances, cutback penalties, and price supports.

The red tape and regimentation of the price support laws irritate our farmers, and particularly so, when they get so little, if any benefit. Kent and Ottawa County farmers see whatever benefits there are from these programs accruing to the big plain state wheat farmers, the North Carolina tobacco grower, the Mississippi, Texas, and California cotton farmer and the Georgia peanut grower. Simultaneously they hear the city folks complaining about Uncle Sam owning \$7 billion in farm surpluses with relatively little of it coming from their Michigan farms. They know that Michigan farmers as a whole get less than 15 percent of their income from price supported commodities. Yet when an uninformed city fellow condemns the farmer for his alleged dependence on Uncle Sam, the Michigan farmer is chastised with the rest. This blanket criticism rubs the wrong way our enterprising farmers who work long hours with a big investment in land and equipment.

ALTERNATIVES IN THE OFFERING

What's the answer? The Democrat leaders including Stevenson, Harriman, and Williams favor the re-enactment of the 90 per cent of parity on the six basic crops. Under such a law which was in effect until the 1955 harvest season the Federal Government had accumulated, directly or indirectly, surpluses valued at over \$7 billion. In addition, while this law was in effect farm income dropped about 22 per cent and the parity ratio slumped from the January 1951 high of 113 to the September, 1955 figure of 84.

In other words, under the Democrat-sponsored legislation as a cure for the current farm ills, recent history shows that farm prices dropped and surpluses zoomed upward. Furthermore, it is admitted by the advocates of this policy that there must be further acreage cutbacks and increased penalties. It is also agreed that 90 per cent rigid supports on wheat and corn kept feed costs high to the detriment of the dairy and poultry producers. It should be noted that about a dozen Democrat Senators out of 49, including former Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson, voted against 90 per cent supports last year. They were in the minority in the Democrat Party but they are the admitted agriculture authorities in their party. They might well do so again on the ground that higher subsidies stimulate surpluses and aid the big farmer more than the little fellow.

But what have the Republicans to offer? In next week's newsletter, I'll indicate the G. O. P. approach and several personal suggestions.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE December 22, 1955

Last week I listed some complaints farmers of Western Michigan expressed to me between the sessions of Congress. Farmers are deeply concerned over the effects of the current "price-squeeze," national farm legislation discriminating against Michigan agriculture, government controls, and irritation caused by part-time and hobby farmers.

This week I will indicate the Republican approach as well as a few personal suggestions to solve this perplexing and most serious problem.

FARM INCOME

Farm prices and total income are down, but the big drop came under rigid 90 per cent supports. That is, the parity ratio of 113 in February of 1951 dropped to 94 under the Truman Administration. Under the Eisenhower Administration, which operated with the same rigid price support law until last fall's harvest, the parity ratio dropped from 94 to 84 where it stood last September when the Republican flexible support law came into effect. Per capita net income of farm people was \$930 in 1952, \$904 in 1953, and \$907 in 1954, and 15 per cent higher than in 1947. Under the rigid support legislation vast market glutting surpluses were created totalling \$7 billion and stored by the government at a cost of about \$1 million a day.

There is wide agreement that the farmer is not sharing fairly in our present high level of national prosperity. But the real issue boils down to "farm income," and not necessarily the level of price supports. Farm income must be raised, the question remaining is "how?" The record proves rigid supports on a limited number of crops are not the answer in either the short pull or the long haul.

SLIDING PRICE SCALE

The Administration as well as the majority of the Republican Members of Congress favor the flexible support program for the six basic crops. Republican policy opposes rigid supports because the record clearly indicates they created a distorted market with zooming surpluses, declining incomes, and excessive federal regulations. Rigid price supports were designed and legislated for a wartime economy when peak production was encouraged and essential.

The huge surpluses built up under rigid price supports have a very adverse effect on the market. For instance, when the September crop report estimated the soybean crop down 8 per cent from August the market jumped 20 cents a bushel. The same September report estimated corn production down 10 per cent, but the corn market

didn't budge. The soybean market was not clogged by a surplus; the corn market was.

The flexible support program on the six basic crops was legislated with two objects in mind which seem necessary if we are to place our agricultural economy on a permanent and solid peacetime footing. These are: 1) to reduce our surpluses and 2) equate production with markets. Republican farm policies are working toward these goals.

REFINEMENTS DESIRED

To gain the maximum benefits for our farmers through the flexible support program the following minimum revisions in the law should be considered by the Congress. To better meet the needs of the diverse national farm pattern, including Michigan agriculture, a regional or individual state basis for legislation is highly desirable. In other words farm legislation which is helpful to Kansas agriculture is not necessarily sound for a Michigan farmer. Consequently federal agricultural legislation should have exceptions or provisions which are specifically designed to apply to agriculture in states like Michigan.

Second, to maintain and encourage the family type farm, provisions of law must insure that the small farmer shares in the benefits of the law to the same degree as the large, commercial type farmer. This applies particularly to the 1,500,000 farm families of the country which struggle along on a cash income of \$1,000 a year or less. Unfortunately in the last session in the Democrat-controlled House and Senate the Congress cut down the amount requested by Ike and Secretary Benson for aid to these low-income farmers.

BENSON'S PROGRAM

Secretary of Agriculture Benson recently outlined a program to supplement the flexible support law and help equalize farm income with that of other segments of the national economy. It includes: (1) A stepped-up program of surplus disposal and expansion of exports. Substantial progress is being made on this part of the program. Everyone is familiar with Secretary Benson's decision to make surplus commodities available to religious groups for distribution to the needy overseas. (2) A vigorous purchase program to remove market gluts. (3) An enlarged program of soil conservation and incentive payments to divert cropland into grass, trees, and forage and (4) Expansion of the rural development program for low-income farmers with additional credit and management assistance. (5) Expanded research to emphasize lower production costs and new uses for farm crops.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE

December 29
January 5, 1956

Another yuletide season is upon us and bringing with it Christmas and the New Year. Let's hope and pray that through the lessons of 1955 we have learned to live more constructive lives in 1956.

First and foremost, the Fords extend to all our very best wishes for a happy, healthy, and successful 1956. The spirit of Christmas is very conspicuous in Washington as I know it is back home in Michigan. It would be a much better world if this joyous holiday spirit could continually be present in the affairs of the coming year. With this personal note should be added the hope that Peace on Earth may be more certain and secure with the well-being and prosperity of the past expanded and enlarged for the benefit of all, now and forever more.

OUR RELIGIOUS NATION

Religious principles are deeply rooted in our American way of life. History traces the religious roots of our Nation back to its founding and early settlement by humble people seeking religious freedom. Our Constitution guarantees "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights..." And at this time each year we are reminded of Him whose perfect life taught us the principles by which we try to guide our actions.

The strong feeling toward matters of a spiritual nature has not been lost in our government through the years. If anything, it has grown stronger with our government officials dedicated to the preservation of values upon which the United States was founded.

EVIDENCE OF RELIGIOUS INTEREST

A number of national practices have been maintained and encouraged through the years which reflect the basic religious nature of Americans. Not only does this include Christmas, but Easter and Thanksgiving as well. Also, ours is one of two countries in the world whose national legislature opens each daily session with a prayer by a chaplain. President Eisenhower directed when he became Chief Executive that his Cabinet meetings commence with a prayer. This practice has been faithfully followed during the past three years.

In accordance with a Congressional Resolution of April 17, 1952, President Eisenhower proclaimed October 26th as "National Prayer Day." In the Spring of 1954, a Director of Religious Policy was appointed in the United States Information Agency to help show to the world "the way in which our Biblical ideology is the basis for our democracy" and to show that we are a "mature, intellectual, and religious" nation.

Last Spring a Prayer or Meditation Room for Members of Congress was opened just off the rotunda in the Capitol. And the phrase "under God" has been added to the pledge to the flag, indicating our dependence upon Him. Also, in the recent session Congress voted to place in the future the phrase "In God We Trust" on our paper money as well as on our coins. It may take at least five years to do this, however, as the phrase will only be added to new plates as they are prepared by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

All this national symbolism and form is not sufficient though unless each of us, as public officials and private citizens, live our religion and practice its precepts.

The new session of the Congress opens at noon on Tuesday, January 3rd but that morning at 8:00 A.M. the National Council of Churches and the Washington Federation of Churches will again sponsor the traditional service for all government officials and their families. This annual interdenominational service is intended for all among the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches of the Government who desire to pray for the nation, for peace and justice, and to make a fresh dedication at the opening of the new legislative season. This fitting and proper service is always well attended.

The Fords, Mike, Jack, Betty, Sugar (family dog), and Dad made the trip back to the Nation's Capital without incident. We are looking forward to the forthcoming session and hope visitors to Washington will stop in to see us.

Recent visitors to Washington include Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Emery and Mr. Robert James of Grand Rapids.