

Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



June 1, 1966

The House of Representatives by a vote of 303 to 93 approved the bill increasing the minimum wage and extending coverage to over 7 million additional employees. I supported the bill on final passage after trying to remedy some of the defects of the legislation as reported by the Committee.

Before final passage I voted for an amendment to extend from February 1, 1968 to February 1, 1969 the effective date of the \$1.60 rate for those workers presently covered under the law. This amendment was approved by a vote of 205 to 194.

I also voted for an amendment which would have exempted many small businesses from coverage but this proposal was defeated 200 to 195. As finally approved the bill will ultimately apply to business enterprises doing an annual gross business of \$250,000 or more.

An effort was also made to exempt farm labor from coverage under the law and to give agricultural processing plants (canneries) a 20-week exemption from the overtime provisions of the law instead of 14 weeks as the bill stated. I thought these were desirable concessions but the motion failed 231 to 168.

NARCOTIC ADDICT REHABILITATION: The House is scheduled to consider this week a bill (H.R. 9167) relative to the treatment and rehabilitation of narcotic addicts who have been charged with a federal crime. The bill is designed to give the courts authority to commit a drug addict to a hospital for treatment as an alternative to trying him for his crime and sentencing him to prison.

When it is evident that a person who has committed a federal offense is a drug addict, and if he agrees to "civil commitment," the judge may without first determining his guilt, order him committed to a federal hospital for not more than three years until the authorities there find he is cured and ready to assume normal responsibilities. This consideration under no circumstances could be given to hardened criminals, those charged with violent crimes, or those selling narcotics illegally unless the court finds that the only purpose of the sale was to obtain a drug to support his own addiction. The courts could authorize hospital treatment only where there is good prospect for success.

If the addict is rehabilitated he will not be punished for the crime for which he was originally charged. If, however, upon being committed to the hospital the addict refuses to cooperate or proves that he cannot be rehabilitated, he is to be returned to court for trial and punishment under the criminal laws.



We do have at the present time a plan for voluntary treatment at federal hospitals. But this has not proved too satisfactory. Voluntary patients can leave the hospital at any time and there is no follow-up care or supervision afterwards.

This bill was not unanimously recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary. Some members insist that anyone charged with selling narcotics illegally ought to be tried, and if guilty, punished under current law. They object to the provision of this bill which permits an addict to be committed to the hospital if he claims he sold narcotics only to get money for satisfying his own desire for drugs. They believe that no quarter should be given to any seller of narcotics and insist that it would be most difficult for a judge to determine the real motive of any drug peddler.

A larger number of Committee members were concerned with the provision which would commit a person to the hospital before determining his guilt, and at the same time permit a guilty person to escape those penalties of the law meted out to others. They will offer an amendment to the bill requiring that the guilt or innocence of the individual first be determined by a plea of guilty or a jury verdict. Then if guilty, no criminal sentence would be given if the person goes to the hospital. And the charge would be dismissed if the cure is successful. If not successful, the criminal sentence could be pronounced without further delay.

A second amendment to the bill will also be offered. This would permit the addict to escape prison and enter the hospital only if his addiction was a substantial factor or cause of the crime committed. Addiction could not be used to escape punishment of every crime. In effect, these two amendments would eliminate the pre-trial "civil commitment" provision of the bill.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS IN FIFTH DISTRICT: Over \$3½ million in social security benefits are being paid each month to more than 45,000 persons in Kent and Ionia Counties. As of December, 1965 a total of \$3,242,537 was distributed for the month to 40,120 residents of Kent County. In Ionia County \$397,196 went to 5,357 persons during the same period. Beneficiaries include retired workers and their dependents, survivors of deceased workers, and disabled persons and their dependents.

VA CONTACT OFFICE: The Veterans Administration has announced the establishment of a "contact office" in Grand Rapids to handle questions about educational and other benefits available under the new G.I. bill. The office is located at the Army Reserve Center, 1234 Michigan Avenue, N.E. (Telephone 459-8271). It will be open each Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. as long as the need for the service continues.

CONSUMERS ALL: Because of the great demand for the 1965 Yearbook of Agriculture entitled "Consumers All," a second printing was ordered. We have been able to fill all requests and find that we still have a sizable quantity of the book on hand. If you did not get a copy and would like one, please let me know at H-230, The Capitol, Washington, D. C.



Your Washington Review

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June 8, 1966



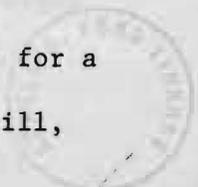
The House of Representatives approved the narcotic addict rehabilitation bill, which I described last week, after adopting a Republican-sponsored amendment by a vote of 198 to 168. This amendment makes any narcotics seller or offender between ages 22 and 26 punishable under the regular criminal laws. You will remember that the bill as recommended would have permitted an addict to be committed to a hospital if he claimed he sold narcotics only to get money for his own addiction. The bill as recommended also would have permitted narcotic offenders between 22 and 26 to be sent to a youth correction camp, to be released when officials felt they had earned it, and eventually to have the conviction removed from the records. This age group accounts for about 25 percent of the offenders. The House overruled its committee in deciding to apply the established law in these instances.

DEFENSE PROCUREMENT AND MILITARY PAY: In a unanimous recommendation, the House Committee on Armed Services increased the authorization for new aircraft, missiles, vessels, and for defense research by more than \$930 million over the Defense Department's request. The largest single item was \$258 million for two nuclear-powered guided missile frigates for the Navy. Not only are these ships authorized but the Secretary of Defense is instructed to utilize the money authorized for this purpose; he is ordered to "proceed with the ...construction of the two nuclear-powered guided missile frigates as soon as practicable."

This strong language stems from the committee's determination that the U. S. Navy should eventually have all-nuclear powered task forces. It is seriously concerned that the Department of Defense has not begun construction of the nuclear-powered frigate authorized last year. In ordering the Department to make a start on building two such ships, the Committee said, "If this language constitutes a test as to whether Congress has the power to so mandate (give an order to the Executive Department), let the test be made and let this important weapons system be the field of trial." The Committee then outlined advantages of a nuclear-powered task force.

The Committee also expressed concern with "the apparent decision ultimately to eliminate manned aircraft from our strategic bomber force." It added \$11.8 million to permit the advanced manned strategic aircraft to go forward. In all, the Committee added \$146 million over the request of the Department for aircraft.

The bill carries a total price tag of \$17.8 billion. It also provides for a 3.2 percent pay raise for members of the armed services. The Report on the bill,



adopted unanimously by the Democrat-dominated Committee, calls upon the Congress to assume a more positive role in determining defense policy. It is critical of the decision-maker who in his dedication to cost effectiveness "knows the price of everything and the value of nothing." Going on, the Committee said, "In a matter of such great moment as our military posture, the very key to our survival, the Congress must not be a who-body: something halfway between a nobody and a somebody. It must call the shots as it sees them."

I am in agreement with the Committee's views on a nuclear-powered navy. I also agree on the need for manned bombers to supplement our missile systems, and on the responsibility of the Congress, the elected representatives of the people, in determining defense policy. Consideration of the Defense Procurement Act, scheduled for last week, was postponed until this week.

BAIL REFORM ACT: This week the House also considered a bill (S.1357) making it easier for a person accused of a federal crime to be released on bail prior to his trial or while he is appealing the verdict. Presently, the accused may be released on his own recognizance or on bail. Commenting on this, the Committee on the Judiciary said: "The present system of monetary bail would be adequate if all could afford it. The facts, however, are to the contrary. The rich man and the professional criminal readily raise bail regardless of the amount. But it is the poor man, lacking sufficient funds, who remains incarcerated prior to trial."

S.1357 makes it mandatory for the judge to consider releasing the accused on his own recognizance or on a "promise to pay" should he not appear. If the judge has good reasons to believe the individual will not appear for trial he may appoint someone to supervise him, or he may restrict his travel and place of abode, may require a down-payment on a bond, may require regular bail, or set any other conditions to assure the return of the accused for trial. The judge is expected to take into consideration family ties, employment, character and mental condition, and his length of residency in the community in making this determination.

LIBRARY SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION ACT: The House passed last Thursday by a vote of 366 to 2 a bill extending the Library Services and Construction Act of 1964 for five years from its scheduled date of expiration on June 30, and authorized \$88 million to finance the programs for next year. Under this act the federal government provides matching funds to be used for books, equipment and operating expenses for public libraries, and for the construction of new or improved library facilities. The bill also includes funds to encourage the states to establish and improve library facilities. The bill also includes funds to encourage the states to establish and improve library facilities for the physically handicapped, including the blind.

Of the \$88 million allocated for next year, Michigan's share will be \$3.4 million. Matching funds to be supplied by the state and local governments will total \$3.1 million.



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June 15, 1966

A year ago the national debt stood at \$319.5 billion; now it is up to \$322.5 billion. A year ago Congress raised the temporary debt limit from \$324 to \$328 billion; last Wednesday the House of Representatives voted to increase this temporary limit to \$330 billion. Action on the debt limit must be completed by June 30th when by law the limitation will revert to the permanent amount of \$285 billion.

On the vote last Wednesday 121 Republicans (out of 122 voting) and 44 Democrats voted against the increase primarily to register their disapproval of President Johnson's fiscal policies. As Republican members of the Committee on Ways and Means pointed out: "Initially, the Johnson administration adopted a cloak of frugality in government expenditures.... Beginning in the fall of 1965, however, the Administration abandoned any pretense of fiscal restraint. As a result, by fiscal 1967, the Administration reported spending will have increased to \$112.8 billion. To this amount, there should be added an additional \$5 or \$6 billion realized from the sale of loan and other government assets, the proceeds of which are reflected in the budget not as "receipts" but as a reduction in expenditures for fiscal 1967. We are thus faced with an expenditure budget of more than \$118 billion for fiscal 1967 - a \$35 billion increase in the federal spending since fiscal 1961. Less than one-third of this increase can be attributed to the war in Vietnam."

Deficit financing and more debt means inflation or higher taxes or both. Because I'm convinced that the American people want stable prices and lower taxes, I voted against the increase in the debt limit and will continue to oppose new or expanded spending schemes.

FOOD FOR FREEDOM: The Food for Freedom bill approved last Thursday was in many respects an excellent bill. The Democratic-controlled Committee on Agriculture had accepted a number of Republican-sponsored amendments which greatly improved the legislation proposed by the President. The Administration fought these amendments, especially the efforts of the Republicans to retain and strengthen the rules against sales to unfriendly countries.

The Food for Freedom program is a continuation of President Eisenhower's Public Law 480 which became the "Food for Peace" program. Under these programs our surplus agricultural commodities are donated or sold to foreign countries. The sales may be "local currency sales." This means that the goods are paid for in the money

of the nation making the purchase and that this money can be used by the U. S. only to buy goods or services in that country. Or the sales can be "long-term dollar credit sales." In these sales, the purchasing government has 40 years to make payment with a 10-year grace period. Interest is 1 percent during the grace period and 2½ percent after the grace period.

In spite of the President's opposition, the Committee agreed with the Republican position that Russia, Red China, or their satellites should be ineligible for either type of sale. Any Communist country would be ineligible for local currency sales. Furthermore, any nation which sells to, or permits its ships to carry goods to, North Vietnam or Cuba would be classified as "not friendly" and thus ineligible for either kind of sale. The same is true of any "aggressor" nation or one with which we do not have diplomatic relations.

The President is also directed to use the authority to make easy "local currency sales" in a manner that will assist friendly countries to be independent of domination or control of either Russia or Red China. In other words, it is the intention of the Congress that the sale of our surplus agricultural products be used to promote our own national interest and that of the free world, and to weaken the influence of the Communist conspirators.

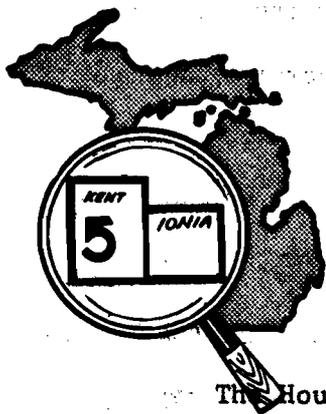
However, this bill continues the provisions of Public Law 480 permitting the donation of food for urgent and extraordinary relief work to avoid starvation or extreme hardship. The President is authorized to supply food to feed "friendly but needy populations regardless of the friendliness of their governments." Procedures are set forth to meet the emergency needs of starving people, no matter where they live or what type of government they have.

Before final passage, Republicans attempted to further improve the bill by cutting from 40 years (with 10 years grace period) to 20 years and a 2-year grace period the time for payment of the credit sales. But this amendment was defeated 193 to 165.

We also proposed in a "motion to recommit" to prohibit long-term credit sales to any Communist country and to prevent the Secretary of Agriculture from dumping grains on the market at a low price, an action which could depress prices received by our farmers. Although 118 (out of 124 voting) Republicans voted for this motion, we lost 200 to 157. I voted for the bill on final passage when it was approved 333 to 20.

SHIPMENTS ABROAD: From July 1, 1954 through December 31, 1965, the U. S. has exported under the Food for Peace programs a total of 155 million tons of agricultural commodities valued at an estimated total cost of over \$18 billion.

The bill passed last Thursday authorized an additional \$3.3 billion for each of the next two years for both types of sales and \$800 million for each year for donation shipments.



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June 22, 1966



The House of Representatives last week approved a \$17.8 billion authorization for defense procurement and research, the largest bill of its kind ever considered by the Congress. Two things account for this: increased costs due to inflation and the high price tags resulting from technological advancements in our weapon systems. For instance, during World War II we spent \$4 million for a submarine; today a Polaris submarine costs \$150 million. A destroyer which cost \$7 million in 1940 is now priced at \$67 million. During World War II an aircraft carrier cost \$55 million; today, without airplanes on board, it comes to a half billion dollars.

The House agreed with the recommendations of the Committee on Armed Services which I discussed two weeks ago. It added \$931 million to the request of the President for equipment including additional funds for the Nike X antiballistic missile, the new F-12 interceptor aircraft, and the CX-2 jet aircraft for evacuation of sick and injured from the battlefield.

The bill also provided for a 3.2 percent increase in pay for members of the armed forces which the Committee felt was necessary and justified by the increase in the cost of living since the last military pay raise.

Because the Committee was concerned with the decision of the Secretary of Defense to cut back on our strategic bombers (B-52s & B-58s), it wrote into the bill a provision requiring the Secretary to give Congress all the facts relative to any decision to abandon a weapon system 90 days before the decision becomes effective. The Committee is then to give the Secretary its views on the matter within 90 days.

The bill as recommended and approved, orders the Department of Defense to proceed with the construction of two nuclear-powered guided missile frigates for the Navy as soon as practicable. The House was deeply concerned with the fact that last year it had authorized the construction of one such frigate but the Department of Defense took no action to begin construction. If the attitude of the Department has not changed, this "order" or "mandate" by the Congress may constitute a test as to whether Congress has the power to require the Secretary of Defense to act. The Committee stated that it welcomed such a test and was pleased to make the nuclear-powered frigate "the field of trial." I voted for the bill on final passage when it was approved 356 to 2.

STANDBY CONSUMER CREDIT CONTROLS: The House on Thursday approved legislation to continue for two years the Defense Production Act of 1950. Under this act the

President has the authority to establish priorities for defense contracts, allocate materials for defense purposes, assist defense contractors who need working capital, etc. There was no disagreement on the need for extending the Act.

But the Democratic-controlled Committee on Banking and Currency, without a request from the Administration, added to the bill a provision giving the President standby authority to impose consumer credit controls. This would mean that the President could limit the amount of credit which an individual could obtain at a retail store, that he could require a certain down payment, and otherwise make credit buying more difficult. The brunt of the controls would fall on those in the lowest income brackets, the families least able to accumulate down payments. Republicans vigorously opposed this unnecessary grant of power to the President. We were able to persuade enough Democrats to go along with us so that the proposal was defeated 275 to 73.

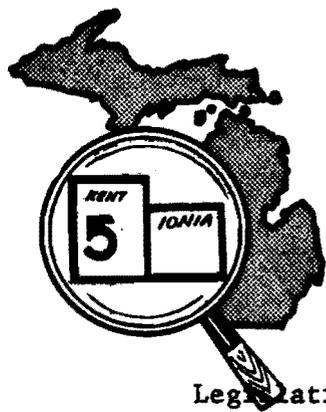
HIGH INTEREST ACT OF 1966: The Johnson Administration has offered for sale its first "participations" under the Sales Participation Act approved a month ago. This is the program under which the federal government refinances mortgages, notes, etc., which it holds. As Republicans predicted when they opposed the plan, it would mean greatly increased interest costs for Uncle Sam and be a real bonanza for the big investor.

But the facts exceed the predictions. The "participations" will pay interest of 5.75 percent, and this on a federal government obligation. The same government which is using your tax dollars to pay this rate to a few large investors has placed a 5½ percent interest ceiling on bank certificates of deposits. But worse, those patriotic citizens who invest in Series E Treasury Savings Bonds receive a yield of only 4.15 percent. If you're wealthy enough to buy "participations" you qualify for high interest rates, but if you're a member of the Bond-a-Month or payroll savings program, you take the low, discriminatory rates. It is for these reasons that President Johnson's participation sales plan can be called the "Higher Interest Act of 1966."

FATHER'S DAY: It's now official; by law the third Sunday in June has been designated as "Father's Day." The House passed and sent to the President a Senate-approved resolution honoring "Dad." In fact, when Mr. Johnson affixes his signature, the law will state that "the service rendered to the United States by the American father is a constant source of intellectual and moral strength which helps to perpetuate the highest values of our civilization and our Nation."

Some of us dads may want to clip the above and post it conspicuously in our homes. If it doesn't help to develop the proper respect of other members of the family, it may at least strengthen our respective egos.

But to keep us humble, I must report that it has taken us just 52 years to catch up with mother. It was on May 18, 1914 that Congress set aside the second Sunday in May as "Mother's Day."



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June 29, 1966



Legislation to make certain changes in the law relative to parcel post mailings may be considered by the House of Representatives this week. If the bill (H.R. 14904) is approved, parcel post users will note two major changes. Charges on all parcel post packages will be increased by eight cents. Parcels now mailed for 20¢ will cost 28¢; those now mailed for \$1.00 will cost \$1.08. The other change will affect only the mailings of packages between first class post offices. Presently the law limits the size of packages between these post offices to 72 inches (girth plus length); the bill raises this to 100 inches. Currently, packages weighing more than 20 pounds cannot be accepted for mailing between first class post offices more than 150 miles apart; the bill raises this limit to 40 pounds. There will be no major changes in mailings between other post offices or on rural routes, or between first class offices and other classes. In fact, one of the purposes of the legislation is to make more uniform the rules on parcel post shipments. The major objection is to the provision relative to weight and size. Some private carriers contend that an expansion of the postal operation will put them as taxpayers out of business and result in the loss of jobs for their employees.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: Early this year we received many letters in opposition to H.R. 8282, President Johnson's proposal to federalize and straitjacket state unemployment insurance programs. Last Wednesday by a vote of 374 to 10 the House approved an unemployment insurance bill, H.R. 15119, which had bipartisan support because it varied greatly from Mr. Johnson's recommendation. Republican members of the Committee on Ways and Means had been able to persuade their Democratic colleagues that the President's radical changes were neither necessary nor desirable. The bill as approved is reasonable and preserves the highly successful system of independent state programs. States are permitted to establish benefits and eligibility standards for unemployment insurance without federal control.

One of the most significant provisions in the bill as approved grants 13 weeks of "extended unemployment compensation" for workers who have exhausted 26 weeks of state benefits, but only during periods of recession, either within the state or nationally. Under Mr. Johnson's proposal, for 20 weeks of work, a worker could receive 52 weeks of unemployment compensation regardless of the economic conditions in his area. This would mean, in effect, a guaranteed annual income to the individual whether he worked or not.

The President had also proposed that a person could receive benefits even though he was unemployed because of misconduct on the job, voluntarily leaving his job, or a refusal to accept suitable work. The maximum penalty the state could impose on such a person was to suspend his benefits for six weeks. This concept was rejected by the House. The 50 states will continue to set eligibility standards.

Under the bill the Secretary of Labor retains authority to review certain aspects of the state plans and invoke penalties if he cannot approve them. However, under this bill, for the first time, a state is permitted to appeal to the courts if it feels that the decision of the federal official is arbitrary or unfair.

The new bill also extends unemployment insurance to about 3.5 million additional workers and increases slightly (much less than the President proposed) the federal unemployment tax paid by employers.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION: Unanimously approved by the House last Monday was a bill, S.1160, to make it easier for our citizens to examine the official records of the Federal Government. For a long time there has been a concern with the mushrooming growth of Government secrecy. Too often information which should have been made available to the public was withheld on the basis that to divulge the information was not "in the public interest," or that the person making the request was not "properly and directly concerned."

S. 1160 makes three major changes in existing law. First, it eliminates the requirement that a person be "properly and directly concerned" before he can obtain information on a federal agency's rules, policies, public procedures, and methods of operation. A great majority of records are to be open under reasonable regulations to "any person."

Second, it replaces such vague phrases as "in the public interest" or "good cause found" with workable standards for exempting certain documents from public disclosure. For example, matters involving national or foreign policy may be kept secret as may personnel and medical records, inter-agency memorandums, investigatory files compiled for law enforcement purposes, etc. The point is that the new law will spell out more specifically the kind of information which may and may not be kept secret by the executive branch of the federal government.

Third, the new law will permit an appeal to the courts by any person who feels that he has been denied access to the government's record illegally. Thus, for the first time in our history a citizen will be able to attack in court a ruling by a bureaucrat which may be simply to cover up an official failure or wrongdoing.

Republicans strongly endorsed this bill as a good start toward protecting the right of the public to essential information. The bill will not solve all problems and will need refining but the new rules will be a great improvement over present policies. President Johnson has been lukewarm, if not opposed, to this legislation but we trust he will sign the bill which has been sent to the White House.



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JERRY FORD



July 6, 1966

The House of Representatives last week approved the bill to raise parcel post rates by about 8¢ a package, and to increase the weight and size that may be mailed between first class post offices more than 150 miles apart. Before approving the bill on a voice vote, the sponsors of the legislation offered an amendment which was accepted by the House. Under this amendment any employee of a private carrier who loses his job because of this bill will be given a position with the Post Office Department with status and seniority rights. According to the Chairman of the subcommittee recommending the legislation, the new employee "will be placed in a position by the Postmaster General at a salary higher than he was receiving from his private employer. He will be granted full civil service status immediately upon appointment. He will receive credit for service with his employer for the purpose of leave, retirement, veterans' preference, group life and health insurance, severance pay, tenure training, promotion, status, and all other rights conferred by law on Government employees."

This promise was made by Postmaster General O'Brien and was written into the bill. While I am gravely concerned with any legislation which will destroy job opportunities in private industry, I am also seriously concerned with this amendment. Although obviously well intentioned it seems to me that it may well create more problems than it seeks to solve. There are involved questions of seniority and employee morale, of fairness to experienced and to new post office personnel, and of the ability of the post office to provide positions near at home for those who lose their jobs. I trust that the Senate will take a good look at the rate, weight, and size changes and at their social and economic effects, and at the same time examine the promises made to displaced workers and the effect which these promises will have on present post office employees. The persuasive argument can be made that the Post Office Department should not compete with a tax-paying business that already provides employment for thousands.

CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH: You will remember that I have discussed the action of the House in ordering the Department of Defense to construct two nuclear-powered frigates. In recent testimony before the subcommittee on defense appropriations, Admiral Rickover said: "The military who should have been the very first to request good weapons -- the latest and best ones -- sat here complacently and told you it was not necessary for these ships to be nuclear powered. They sat and followed the

party line."

He was referring to the fact that top Johnson Administration officials expect subordinates to support the position of their superiors on public issues regardless of the personal views of the experienced and professional subordinate. Admiral Rickover went on to say: "The witnesses you call before your committee must then talk in accordance with the party line....Congress is merely to listen to the official position. This is tantamount to saying that the Department is capable, but members of Congress are not capable of judging the issue; that the Department must do Congress' thinking for it; that the Department can make a better decision than Congress is able to. Now, most members of Congress are lawyers or experienced professional and business people. I am sure you have enough wit and intelligence to judge things for yourself...Isn't it essential, if Congress is to do its job properly that you have presented to you all the relevant information?"

The answer to Admiral Rickover's question is obvious. But he has also made a significant statement in reference to our constitutional "checks and balance system," and in answer to those who delight in a "strong executive." If we are to maintain our representative democracy (a republic), the elected representatives of the people must exercise their constitutional prerogative to determine public policy based on a full and complete knowledge of the facts. We can't afford a rubber-stamp Congress.

THE APPROPRIATION BILLS: Each year the Congress must pass 12 regular appropriation bills to provide funds for the operation of the government in the new fiscal year which begins July 1st. The bills should, therefore, be passed and signed by the President before June 30th. But in fact, while the House has passed six of the bills, congressional action has been completed on only two of them. In a number of instances this is due to the fact that certain authorization bills have not been approved. Before the House can appropriate public funds, it must have authorization in law to do so.

So as of now, for instance, Congress has not appropriated fiscal year 1967 funds to run the Department of Defense and carry on the war in Vietnam; it has not appropriated 1967 funds to operate the State Department, the courts, or the Congress itself.

But money will be available. Each year during the latter part of June, the Congress passes a continuing appropriations resolution. This permits the federal department or agency to continue to operate and to spend public funds at the same rate as last year, at the rate requested by the President for this year, or the most restrictive amount already approved by either House, whichever is the lowest. Such a resolution was approved by the House last Tuesday.

NO NEWSLETTER NEXT WEEK: Because the House is in recess this week, the next "Washington Review" will be dated July 20th.



Your Washington Review

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July 20, 1966

Legislation authorizing the expenditure of \$4.1 billion for foreign aid in each of the next two years was approved by the House of Representatives last Thursday. The President had requested \$3.4 billion plus "such amounts as may be necessary" for certain specified programs. The Committee put a \$4.1 billion limit on all expenditures.

The most controversial issue in the foreign aid bill this year was the two-year authorization. Previous bills carried a one-year authorization for most items. This means that each year those in the executive branch of the government who administer the foreign aid program must come before the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations to explain how they have used the taxpayers' money in the past and how they intend to spend it in the future. Under the two-year authorization, these administrators would appear before the Committee on Foreign Affairs only once in two years; they would still have to meet with the Committee on Appropriations every year.

I feel strongly that those who spend about \$4 billion of the taxpayers' money annually can very appropriately be expected to justify their activities to both committees representing the taxpayers. Furthermore, the foreign aid program as a whole is so complex and the international situation changes so unpredictably that the Committee which specializes in foreign affairs should examine the foreign aid program annually. To neglect to do this can only mean further abdication of congressional responsibility and an unwarranted increase in the bureaucrats' authority. I voted for a motion to keep the one-year authorization and to cut \$250 million from the bill. But we lost by the narrow margin of 193 to 191.

DEFENSE PROCUREMENT: In previous discussions of the bill authorizing the purchase of aircraft, missiles, ships, etc. for the Department of Defense, I mentioned that the House of Representatives "ordered" and "mandated" the Secretary of Defense to proceed with the construction of two nuclear-powered guided missile frigates. But the Senate refused to go along with this demand. The Conferees (delegates from each body appointed to iron out the differences) struggled with this issue for an extended period.

Last Tuesday a compromise was approved by both houses, and the bill was sent to the President. Under the compromise one frigate was authorized at \$130.5 million,

and \$20 million was approved to start work on the second ship. The compromise also provides that the contract for construction of the first frigate "shall be entered into as soon as practicable unless the President fully advises the Congress that its construction is not in the national interest."

This is quite different from the original "order" issued by the House to the Secretary of Defense to build two nuclear-powered ships. The House has backed down, but as one of its conferees stated, "The other body (Senate) was of a different mind. I feel, considering the point of view which they hold, that the language of the Conference report (final version of the bill) as presented to us, is as strong as we could possibly make it." This is a good illustration of the fact that "compromise" must play a major role in the democratic process. None of us can always have what we want personally or as a legislative body. The constitutional principle of "checks and balances" is at work. While personally I preferred the original House version of this bill, I know that in the long run our country is better off because of our system of checks and balances. Only when we lose this system are we in danger of losing our freedoms. No one group in our government should ever become a rubber stamp for another group or person. May I add that there is not involved here any question of partisan politics. The Democratic majority in the House is strongly in favor of building nuclear-powered naval vessels. Democrats took the lead in attempting "to order" the Navy to start construction.

CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1966: The House Committee on the Judiciary has made its recommendations relative to the new civil rights bill proposed by President Johnson. Great concern has been generated over the President's plan in Title IV of the bill to make a person subject to federal action if he refuses to sell, rent, or lease a dwelling to another person because of race, color, religion, or national origin.

The bill as recommended by the Committee exempts from the provisions of the law owner-occupied buildings and structures containing living quarters to be occupied by no more than four families. This means that an owner of a home or of an apartment house with up to four units (one of which the owner occupies) may determine to whom he will rent, lease, or sell his home or apartment. Owners of buildings containing more than four living units would be required to rent, lease, or sell without regard to color, race, religion, or national origin. Moreover, real estate brokers or salesmen could not engage in any discriminatory practices even if so instructed by an exempted owner.

The bill has not as yet been scheduled for House action. At least seven sets of additional or dissenting views have been submitted by various members of the Committee. This indicates that attempts will be made to further alter the bill when it is considered by the House itself.



Your Washington Review

by

Congressman

JERRY FORD



July 27, 1966

President Johnson has finally become concerned about the rising cost of living. Belatedly he has asked the Democratic-dominated Congress to hold down spending, and he has vetoed his first bill this session "because the principle it embodies is inflationary."

All of us know how prices have been going up, but until now Mr. Johnson has been blaming the farmer, the businessman, and the housewife. For more than two years Republicans have been urging restraint in non-essential government spending, especially in view of the cost of the Vietnam War, as the alternative to higher prices and higher taxes. But the President ignored these warnings and has been insisting on the adoption of new spending schemes such as rent subsidies, teachers corps, an ineffective and wasteful attempt to eliminate poverty, and a highway beautification program that could wait. Now the bills are coming in and there isn't enough money to pay. We have deficits, a growing national debt, higher prices, and the threat of higher taxes.

We are pleased that the President has finally recognized the federal government's responsibility for inflation. We trust he can persuade his Democratic colleagues in the Congress to hold back and cut down expenditures. But unfortunately, for too long Mr. Johnson has had a heavy foot on the accelerator; now we hope he has power brakes and that he applies them. The Democrats control both houses by a 2 to 1 majority and are in complete control of the appropriation of tax dollars. Furthermore, the Democratic President is not obligated to spend all the money appropriated. If Congress gives him more than he wants he does not have to spend it. Moreover, if Mr. Johnson is honestly disturbed by the fact that Congress appropriates more money than he requested, he can veto the legislation. Then his Democratic colleagues can either override his veto or reduce spending.

In fact, last week Mr. Johnson did veto a bill, his first this session, "because the principle it embodies is inflationary." We would welcome this as a real step forward -- except when we look at the bill (H.R. 2035) and what it would do. The bill provided that when the cost of living goes up at least one percent, payments to holders of "star route" mail delivery contracts would go up proportionately. Star route contractors carry the mail by truck between cities and may make some collections and deliveries to postal patrons. These contractors are among the smallest of the small business men. More than half of the contracts are for less than \$10,000 a year and most contractors are individuals serving one route. The bill did not apply to a

contractor who had more than two employees, or who had more than one contract. This bill would affect only about 9,600 contracts and its total cost would be less than \$300,000 a year. This is "peanuts" compared to the multi-billion projects demanded by the President and approved by this Congress. Mr. Johnson must do better than this if he is to halt the inflationary spiral which he has set in motion.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND INFLATION: Higher cost of food, clothing, housing, and other necessities create special hardships for the retired and others living on a fixed income. Because of the government's responsibility for inflation, I have joined other Republicans in introducing legislation to give an automatic increase in social security benefits whenever the cost of living goes up three percent or more. During the seven years from 1958 to 1965 the cost of living went up 8 percent and the cost of those things our older citizens need went up 16 percent. Yet until 1965 there was no increase in social security benefits. Our bill would correct this by providing the possibility of an automatic increase in payments every three months. The purchasing power of our retirees would keep pace with the cost of living. Actuaries tell us that to do this would require no increase in social security taxes because of greater revenue derived as a result of economic conditions.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATION: The House has approved a \$58.6 billion defense appropriation bill. This is one of those bills in which the Congress gives the President more than he requested, nearly \$1 billion more. This was to provide, among other things, for a NIKE-X anti-ballistic missile system and additional helicopters and other aircraft. The Defense Department has indicated, and the Committee on Appropriations agrees, that if the Vietnam War continues, several billion dollars more will be required for this year and next.

Because they are concerned about our nation's future ability to maintain a superior defense posture, Republican members of the Committee have called for the establishment of a Blue Ribbon Commission composed of the highest calibre experts, both civilian and military, to make an independent and objective study of our future defense needs and how best to meet these needs. They observed that "only the strength of this nation can keep what peace there is in the world, and prevent what war there is from spreading."

RECENT VISITORS: From Grand Rapids: Mr. and Mrs. Clinton H. Scobey and Sally, Mrs. Geraldine Hoffman, The Edward Kingma family, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Wiersum and family, Mr. and Mrs. A. Nuffesse and family, Mr. and Mrs. E. Allison, Debbie and Diane, Mrs. Alice Sloodmaker and Ann, The H. VanOverloop family, Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Barbour and sons, Rev. and Mrs. A. Barton Brown and family, The Wm. Weeks family, Mr. Glenn Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. George TerHorst, Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord Gill, Jr. and family, and Mrs. Albert Navitskas and Rosemary. From Lowell: Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Nisbet and family. From Sparta: Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Ostman.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman

JERRY FORD

August 3, 1966



The Civil Rights Act of 1966 occupied the attention of the House of Representatives all last week. Further debate and the vote on amendments and final passage is scheduled for this week. Last Monday the House voted 200 to 180 to take up the bill (H.R. 14765) for discussion.

ON THE RULE: Before the House of Representatives considers any major controversial piece of legislation, it adopts a "rule" by which it agrees to take up the matter and by which it sets forth the conditions under which the bill is to be discussed. Generally, the "rule" is recommended by the Committee on Rules. But because this Committee has been accused of delaying the legislative process, it was agreed at the opening of this Congress that the House could vote to take up a bill if the Committee on Rules had not acted upon it within 21 days. That was done in connection with the Civil Rights bill on Monday, July 25th.

The Committee on the Judiciary issued Part One of its Report on the bill on June 30th. But Part Two of the Report, which contained additional views by the Chairman of the Committee and those of 13 other members and the minority views of four more members, was not ready until July 14th. The Committee on Rules, therefore, did not have all the recommendations of the Committee on the Judiciary until 11 days (counting Sundays) before the House voted to discharge it from further consideration of the bill. Furthermore, the Chairman of the Rules Committee had promised to hold hearings and take action on the bill.

Consequently, I voted against taking up the bill last Monday under this extraordinary procedure. To do so was a misuse of the 21-day rule; it was an irregular method of legislating, and it was an undeserved slap at the Rules Committee whose record on handling the 1965 Civil Rights bill was commendable.

THE OTHER PROVISIONS: Most attention has been centered on Title (part) IV of this Civil Rights bill. This Title would restrict discrimination in selling, renting, or leasing of housing. I commented on its provisions *recently* and will discuss final action on this Title in the next newsletter. Now I want to mention briefly the other provisions of the bill as recommended by the Committee.

Title I requires that juries in federal courts be selected from a cross section of the community. Names for jury service are to be taken from the voter registration rolls and selected "at random" without regard to race, religion, sex, national origin, or economic status. The rule that a juror must be able to read and write is retained

But the so-called "keyman system" would be eliminated. Under this system certain individuals (keymen) in various communities are asked to submit names of persons who they think would be suitable for jury service. It is felt that too often the keymen recommend for jury duty "members of the social and economic classes" to which they themselves belong. Those who objected to this Title said that it had been given insufficient study and examination.

Title II provides that no person could be excluded from jury service in a state court because of race, religion, sex, national origin, or economic status. The U. S. Attorney General is authorized to take action to prevent such discrimination where it may exist. If no discrimination is practiced, state laws and procedures may continue. Proponents of this Title argued that "those whose property and personal freedom hang on the decision of a jury...are entitled to the unalloyed impartiality and the equal protection that can only be achieved if the selection process remains untainted by discrimination." Opponents said that this was an unnecessary and unconstitutional interference by the federal government in the affairs of the states, and that it would complicate and delay law enforcement and criminal prosecution.

Title III empowers the U. S. Attorney General to ask a federal court to intervene when it appears that any person because of race, religion, or national origin is preventing, or is about to prevent, another person from exercising or seeking his constitutional rights through lawful means. The affected person may also seek the court's assistance. Opponents insisted that this Title was poorly written, practically unintelligible, and that it would permit anyone who claimed he was about to be denied some right to take his problem into federal court.

Title V makes it a federal crime to interfere with a person because of race or color who is lawfully engaged in activities relative to voting, school attendance, seeking employment, etc. Proponents state that this Title "is intended to strengthen the Government's capability to meet the problem of civil rights violence." It would permit the federal government to punish those who because of race commit crimes against those seeking to enjoy the rights mentioned above. Opponents say this is discriminatory. It makes a certain act a federal crime if committed because of race in a civil rights matter, whereas the same act becomes a state crime if committed for a different reason or while the victim is engaged in a different activity.

Title VI gives the Attorney General power to take action to desegregate public education and public facilities without a written complaint. Under the current 1964 law he must have received a written complaint, must have given sufficient time for voluntary compliance, and must show that segregation continues. The new power would make it easier for the Attorney General to bring desegregation suits. Opponents believe he should act only upon complaint and that the 1964 law is too new to need radical revision.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman

JERRY FORD



AUGUST 10, 1966

The House of Representatives spent its second week in consideration of the civil rights bill and, at this writing, it appears that we will go into a third week before the final decisions are made. A number of amendments have been adopted, and it is certain that further changes will be voted. I expect to give a final rundown on the legislation next week.

REPEAL PARTICIPATION SALES ACT: Last Wednesday I introduced legislation to repeal the Participation Sales Act approved by the President on May 24. This is the High Interest Act of 1966, demanded by Mr. Johnson, which benefits only the big investors. It greatly increases interest costs for Uncle Sam, and discriminates against the folks who purchase Series E Treasury Savings Bonds.

In order to make the federal budget appear to be more nearly in balance, the President persuaded the Democratic Congress to permit him to pool certain financial assets held by governmental agencies and to sell participation certificates or shares in these assets to private investors. Now the first "participations" have been sold and the investors who can afford the \$5,000 minimum are being paid interest at the rate of 5.75 per cent with maturity from one to five years, and of 5.4 per cent for longer terms. In contrast, the small investor who buys an E bond gets only 4.15 per cent if he holds his bond for seven years. This is an unfair discrimination.

Republicans had predicted this situation when the bill was considered in the House. Every Republican voted for a motion to prohibit the government from paying more than 4.75 per cent interest on any participation sold. But the Democratic-controlled House voted down this limit. Now that our fears of high rates for the favored few have been proved, we would welcome support from the Democrats to repeal the Sales Act or at least to establish a limit on the interest rate.

Recently the Treasury announced it was offering \$1,000 notes maturing in four years and nine months and paying 5½ per cent interest. This, too, is discrimination against the family of ordinary means who is complying with his government's request to buy savings bonds.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES: Over 230,000 civilian employees were added to the payroll in the executive branch of the government during the fiscal year ending June 30th. The total number employed at the end of this year was 2,738,248 as compared with 2,508,119 in June, 1965.

SLIP, SLIDE, AND DUCK: Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman has stated the position of the Johnson Administration on inflation. When asked recently at a Democratic candidates' school how to handle questions about the increased cost of living, the Secretary in all seriousness replied: "I've been trying to figure out an answer to that question for six years. Slip, slide and duck any questions on higher consumer prices if you possibly can."

I'm sure the American people are not going to let the Democratic candidates off that easily. Of course, the Democrats will try to duck all questions on the increased cost of living. The people know and the candidates know that it is Democratic fiscal policy that promotes inflation and drives up prices to new records with each succeeding month.

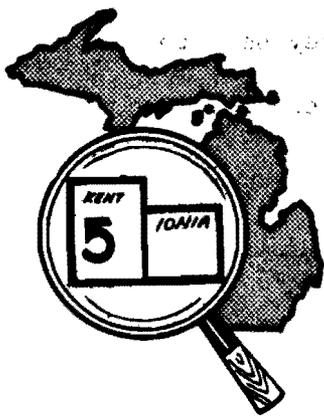
THANK YOU: To all of you who cast your vote for me last Tuesday, although there was no contest, I want to express my sincere appreciation. Your endorsement was encouraging and I trust that I may continue to merit your confidence.

MICHIGAN'S VOTING RECORD: The number of Michigan's citizens going to the polls is better than the national average but falls short of the record or of a desirable goal. I'm sure that all of us will agree that voting is both a privilege and a responsibility. Yet in 1964 only 65.5 per cent of the voting age population in Michigan voted for a U.S. Representative. We did better than the national average of 57.9 per cent but fell well behind the leading state, Utah, where 77.8 per cent of the voting age population cast ballots for Congressmen. At the other extreme was Arkansas with only 11.6 per cent.

Today Michigan has 4,735,000 persons of voting age. Of these 215,000 have reached 21 since the 1964 election. We hope these young folks will help boost our percentage of voter participation this fall.

GEMINI FILM: Any group interested in showing a 28-minute color film of the flights of Gemini 6 and 7 spaceships may call my Grand Rapids office (GL 6-9747) which has the film for scheduling. Shown are the adventures of four astronauts as one spacecraft finds another high above the earth, and Jim Lovell and Frank Borman whirl in orbit for 14 days. Those who have seen the film are enthusiastic about it.

RECENT VISITORS: From Grand Rapids: Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Yakes and family, The Ray Reynolds' family, Kenneth O. Zick, Mr. and Mrs. P.W.H. Hoekstra and family, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Larabee, Mr. and Mrs. Orval Reed, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hondkk, Dr. Winston Prothro and Win, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur DoBosz and Paul. From Cedar Springs: Mr. and Mrs. Al Gust and Jim. From Caledonia: Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Rodgers. From Lyons: Miss Diana Trierweiler, From Ionia: Mr. Max Mason. From Portland: Miss Mary Lou Schneider. From Pewamo: Miss Joan Weber. From Sparta: Mr. and Mrs. Ed Frick.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



August 17, 1966

After twelve days of debate, the House of Representatives arrived at its final decisions on the Civil Rights bill last Tuesday evening. As you know, the bill as amended was approved by a vote of 259 to 157.

Title IV relating to housing was the most controversial part of the bill. President Johnson had urged far-reaching legislation prohibiting anyone from refusing to sell, rent, or lease his home or apartment to another person because of race, color, religion, or national origin. The bill as recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary partially exempted from the provisions of the law individual homes and apartment houses of four units or less, one of which is occupied by the owner. Real estate agents acting for an exempt owner are also exempted from the provisions of the law under an amendment approved by the House.

When a motion was made to delete Title IV from the bill, I voted in favor of the motion. Our own state along with many others has strong legislation in this area. Housing problems can and should be solved locally. The enactment of this provision calls for the establishment of another powerful federal agency with authority to investigate thousands of complaints that are bound to arise under this bill. It could set aside state law and discourage local effort.

Furthermore, the provisions of Title IV are subject to a variety of interpretations. Title IV contains many ambiguities and there is doubt in the minds of many good lawyers as to its constitutionality. Moreover, those who stress the moral aspect are hard put to explain that something which is right once or twice becomes wrong when done three times. Under Title IV a person can discriminate in two sales per year but not on any more.

Having voted for civil rights legislation in 1957, 1960, 1964, and 1965, I am certain everyone knows I believe that racial discrimination is a social and moral wrong. But for the federal government to attempt to prohibit discrimination in the sale or rental of housing raises far-reaching questions relative to the freedom of each American to use and dispose of his home as he sees fit. We may not agree with his viewpoint; we may not approve of his prejudice; we may not like his motives, but we can properly question whether the power of the federal government should be used to deny him the right to make his own decision. I think there are other ways of resolving the problem than those provided in Title IV.

As I pointed out two weeks ago, there are five other significant titles in

this bill. They get at certain important aspects of civil rights. They help to guarantee a fair trial by an impartial jury in both federal and state courts. They help to protect those who use lawful means to achieve lawful privileges. They strengthen the power of the government to secure for all Americans their constitutional rights. These are legitimate objectives and the means provided seem fair.

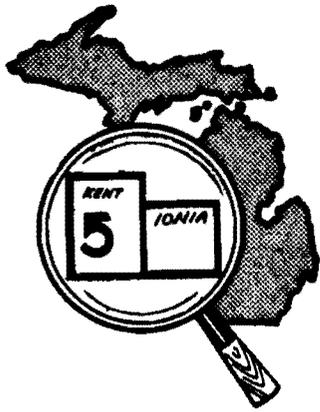
Furthermore, Rep. Cramer (Republican of Florida) offered a constructive anti-riot amendment which was adopted by a vote of 389 to 25. This amendment makes it a federal crime to travel in interstate commerce or use the mails for the purpose of inciting, promoting, or encouraging a riot or other violent civil disturbance, or for the purpose of committing a crime of violence, arson, bombing, etc., or for the purpose of encouraging or assisting any other person to perform such illegal acts. This is intended to get at the rabble rousers including the leaders of the Klu Klux Klan and the other extremists who are making a business out of rioting, and who are capitalizing on the recent preaching of civil disobedience.

Because of the importance of the other parts of the bill including the Cramer amendment, I voted for the Civil Rights Act of 1966 on final passage. In balancing the desirable provisions of the bill against the undesirable ones, I felt that the legislation overall was worthy of support.

SOME STATISTICS ON THE DEBATE: The House devoted nearly 62 hours over a period of 12 days in consideration of this civil rights bill. There were 13 quorum calls (members answer "present") and six yea-and-nay votes. A total of 101 amendments were offered on the floor; of these 31 were adopted, 58 were rejected, and 12 were not considered. In addition to the six recorded votes, Congressmen were required to vote 34 times by rising to be counted and had to walk between tellers to indicate their vote on 21 occasions.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION: Last Wednesday the House considered and passed S. 3105, a bill authorizing \$1,065,973,000 worth of military construction throughout the world. The largest single item was \$510 million for military family housing. None of this will go for new construction. All is for operating, maintaining, and financing present housing and for leasing some additional units. The only expenditure scheduled for Michigan is \$358,000 for operational facilities and troop housing at Wurtsmith A.F.B., Oscoda.

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Your Washington Review

by

Congressman

JERRY FORD



August 24, 1966

The proposal to establish a new cabinet-level "Department of Transportation" is the major legislative item scheduled for consideration by the House of Representatives this week. Included in the proposed new Department would be the Bureau of Public Roads, the Federal Aviation Agency, the Coast Guard, and the Maritime Commission. The responsibilities of the Civil Aeronautics Board and of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Transportation, and certain safety functions of the Interstate Commerce Commission also would be transferred to the new Department. This would increase to 12 the number of members in the President's Cabinet.

In 1961 President Eisenhower recommended such a department as a means for achieving greater efficiency and coordination in federal transportation policy. Republicans in the House have indicated their overall support for the establishment of a Department of Transportation. But they recommend certain changes in the specific bill, H.R. 15963, which may be before the House this week.

The House Republican Policy Committee believes that the aviation accident investigating function of the CAB should remain independent; that the Maritime Administration should not be included in the new department; that the urban mass transportation program should be transferred from HUD to the new department (H.R. 15963 does not do so), and that there should be deleted from the bill that section which appears to give the Secretary of Transportation certain authority to determine exclusively how and where federal money should be spent to aid transportation. This section should be eliminated so that further study can be given to its implications; it is feared that the authority given the Secretary could lead him to favor and help one mode of transportation over the others without any consultation with the Congress.

HIGHWAY SAFETY: Two bills designed to improve safety on the highways were approved by the House last week. One bill (H.R. 13228) sets up federal safety standards for motor vehicles and equipment including tires, and expands the existing national driver register to include the name of almost every person who has been denied a driver's license or had his license revoked or suspended.

The second bill, H.R. 13290, requires each state to have a highway safety program approved by the Secretary of Commerce and authorizes \$215 million for allocation to the states over a three-year period to assist in the programs. The programs are to include improved driver education and testing, accident investigation and reporting, vehicle inspection, highway design and maintenance, and traffic control.

BEAUTY AND THE TAXPAYER: Taxpayers lost by a two-vote margin when the House of Representatives recently refused to eliminate a \$493 million beautification program from the Federal-Aid Highway Act. No one has any objection to beautifying our highways. But certainly this is one of those "non-essential" expenditures of tax money which can be postponed until the war in Vietnam is over and there are less demands for tax dollars. The vote was 175 to 173 with every Republican Congressman from Michigan voting for the taxpayers. All the Democrats from Michigan who voted (five were absent) went along with spending-as-usual.

MASS TRANSPORTATION FUNDS REDUCED: We did succeed in effecting savings in the Urban Mass Transportation bill. The bill as recommended by the Committee on Public Works authorized \$175 million a year on a continuing basis. The House voted 205 to 161 to cut the amount to \$150 million for the fiscal year 1968 only. This not only saved \$25 million but gives the Congress another opportunity to review the success or failure of the program again next year. Furthermore, \$150 million was the amount requested by the President. Three Democratic Congressmen from Michigan voted to increase the expenditure; four were absent while five Democrats joined all Republican members from Michigan to hold the amount at \$150 million.

Funds expended under the Urban Mass Transportation Act go to assist local public agencies in developing and improving bus and rail facilities for public transportation in urban areas.

ON A COLLISION COURSE: A serious constitutional issue developed last week when a federal judge issued an order prohibiting the House Committee on Un-American Activities from holding a hearing to question critics of the Vietnam War. A higher court overruled him but has retained the case for further action. At issue is not the legality or feasibility of the war in Vietnam nor the need for, or justification of, a given congressional committee. The issue is a continuation of our constitutional system of checks and balances which has so long been the security of the people's liberty.

A federal judge has sought to interfere with a function of the Congress. The question is whether the judicial branch of our government can obstruct the legislative branch in carrying out its constitutional function. My good friend, Rep. Richard Poff (Rep., Va.) pointed out to the House the seriousness of this attempt of a federal judge "to trespass upon the domain of the people's elected representatives." Mr. Poff said: "What finally occurs involves the destiny of this Nation. Down one road lies the destination of a continuance of our elective representative democracy operating within the framework of its tripartite form of government. Down the other road lies the destination of an appointive judicial oligarchy where the body of governmental powers is unsubdivided, unseparated, and therefore unchecked."

If we are to preserve our liberties, the elected representatives of the people may neither rubberstamp the demands of the President nor permit the courts to usurp their prerogatives.



Your Washington Review

by

Congressman

JERRY FORD

August 31, 1966



During consideration of the Defense Appropriation Bill last Thursday, the House of Representatives voted 378 to 3 against a Senate amendment authorizing the President to call individual members of the Ready Reserve into active duty. The Senate proposed that a man who had not served on active duty except for training could be called to active duty for not more than 24 months. In selecting individuals the Department of Defense would have been required to take into consideration family responsibilities, the occupation of the person, and the preservation of the various Reserve units.

I joined in opposing the Senate amendment which failed primarily for two reasons: this was legislation in an appropriation bill and was of such serious consequence that the House felt it should give much more attention to it than could be done while approving a conference report on an appropriation bill; second, the House Committee on Armed Services at the moment was working on a comprehensive Reserve bill (H.R. 17195) involving, among other things, the matter contained in the Senate amendment. The House wanted to have more information and to be able to consider this important issue more thoroughly than was possible on Thursday during one hour of debate. I will report on H.R. 17195 when the Committee has completed its work and made its recommendation.

ALL-ASIAN CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM: I have joined other Republican leaders in urging prompt and thorough consideration of an All-Asian Conference to work toward a just and peaceful settlement of the war in Vietnam. We know that neither Red China nor Communist North Vietnam would participate (nor would the U.S. be a participant) but we must encourage every effort to end the fighting in southeast Asia so we can bring our servicemen home. The Asian nations have a major stake in this conflict and can play a major role in working out an honorable settlement. We must use every legitimate means at our disposal, military, economic, diplomatic, to achieve a prompt, just, and secure peace in Vietnam.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION: The House last week took up the proposal to establish a new Department of Transportation but did not complete action. The final decision is expected to be made this week. There is a great deal of opposition to the President's suggestion that the Maritime Administration be included in the new department. I share the view that it should be an independent agency.

AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATION BILL: On Wednesday the House approved the final version of a \$6.99 billion appropriation bill for the Department of Agriculture.

I had supported the bill when it originally passed the House on April 26th carrying a spending figure of \$6.87 billion. But after the Senate had completed action the amount was up to \$7.06 billion which the Conferees cut by \$69 million. But the final appropriation was \$118.5 million more than the amount originally set by the House; it represented an increase of \$613 million over last year's appropriation; it exceeded the budgetary request of the President. For these reasons I was one of those who voted against the appropriation when it passed 325 to 28.

FARMING IN FIFTH DISTRICT: Exactly one-half of the land area of Kent County is being used as farm land according to the latest (1964) U.S. Census of Agriculture. In 1959, the figure was 56.5 percent. In Ionia County over 80 percent of the land is now in farms; down only 3 percent since 1959.

During 1964 the 2,422 Kent County farms sold \$20.5 million worth of products; in 1959 the 2,087 farms produced \$13.9 million worth of agricultural commodities. In Ionia County 1,838 farms sold \$17.6 million worth of goods in 1964; in 1959 the respective figures were 2,087 farms and \$14 million in goods.

Dairying represents the single largest type of farming in both counties with each claiming just over 500 dairy farms. Sixty-four farms in the 5th District report annual sales of \$60,000 or more but the largest number of our farms fall in the bracket of annual sales between \$2,500 and \$4,999.

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE: Michigan continues to be the leading state in the production of pickling cucumbers. According to the 1965 Farm Labor Report (Michigan Employment Security Commission) a total of 79,000 tons were harvested last year with about 13,600 tons left on the vines. Our state in 1965 was the third largest producer of grapes (72,000 tons) and of apples (16 million bushels); and the fourth largest producer of onions (5 million bushels) and of peaches (3 million bushels). Two-thirds of all the sour cherries grown in the U. S. last year came from Michigan.

AT HOME ON LABOR DAY: Next Monday I'm planning to participate in the Fifth Annual Labor Day Parade at Comstock Park at 1:00 and to be at the Sparta Rodeo later in the afternoon.

My District Office at 425 Cherry Street, S.E., Grand Rapids is open daily from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. (telephone: GL 6-9747). If you have any questions or if I can be of any service please let me know.

RECENT VISITORS: From Grand Rapids - Mr. and Mrs. James Kooi and four children; Mrs. Robert Ekkens and Terry; Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Hyatt and family; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Spies; Misses Bea Holben, Pam Paton, Lynn Watson, Deb VanderPloeg, Jan Wynkoop and Mary Hanson; Steve Ward, Bob Newberg, Nels Olson, Art Lilly, Dave and Jim McBryde, Ken Hanson; Mr. and Mrs. John Wilcox and three children; Miss Esther Austin; Mr. and Mrs. William VanLopik and family; Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Inman, Bette and Joyce; Mr. and Mrs. Terry G. Inman and son; Mr. and Mrs. John Zoutendam and family; Mr. John Vredevoogd and two sons; Mr. and Mrs. J. Wagner and three sons.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



September 7, 1966

A new cabinet-level Department of Transportation was approved by the House of Representatives last Wednesday. But the House by a vote of 261 to 117 removed from the legislation any reference to the Maritime Administration. This agency, presently with the Department of Commerce is devoted to the development, promotion, and operation of the U. S. merchant marine. President Johnson had urged its transfer to the new department but Republicans agreed with all those close to the maritime industry that the Maritime Administration should be an independent agency.

The problems of our merchant marine, as a vehicle of foreign commerce, are quite different from other forms of domestic transit to be handled by the new department. In addition, the House is seriously concerned with the deteriorating state of our merchant marine. Republicans have pointed out that today there are only 1000 active U. S. flag ships, compared with 1,955 ships in 1951 and over 3,500 vessels in 1945. The U. S. has dropped to 14th place among the world's major shipbuilding nations while Russia has risen from 12th to 7th place as a maritime nation. Mr. Johnson has done little to remedy this situation.

Rather than bury the Maritime Administration in this new department, we have urged that it be established as an independent agency. It is our feeling that such an agency will more vigorously promote the development of our merchant marine fleet. Legislation (H.R.11696) to establish an independent Maritime Administration was recommended by the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries on August 8th despite strong objections from the Johnson Administration.

The new Secretary of Transportation has been given FAA's responsibilities for establishing regulations relative to aviation safety and CAB's responsibilities for investigating aircraft accidents. Many of us felt that these functions should be separated in order to promote greater safety and to insure an independent review of all aircraft accidents. But we lost on a roll call vote 238 to 143.

PARCEL POST CHANGES: You may remember that I had certain reservations on the bill approved by the House in June raising parcel post rates and increasing the weight and size of packages which could be sent through the mail. Last Tuesday the House approved a compromise worked out by the Senate to which all interested parties have agreed.

There will be a graduated size and weight increase to 40 pounds and 84 inches (now 20 pounds and 72 inches) over a five-year period starting July 1, 1967 between.

those first class post offices where this is now not permitted. There will be an average 10-cent increase in the cost of mailing all parcel post packages beginning next January.

HIGHWAY LEGISLATION: When the House and Senate approve a different version of a given bill, the legislation is often sent to a conference committee (composed of Senators and Representatives) to work out a compromise which is called a conference report. Last week the House approved three conference reports relative to highways.

The taxpayers finally won on the \$493 million highway beautification program which I mentioned two weeks ago. At that time I reported that the taxpayers lost when by a two-vote margin the House voted to keep this proposed expenditure in the bill. The Senate did not agree and this half-billion dollar expenditure of tax funds was not in the conference report. The report did authorize an additional \$7.8 billion for federal aid to highways over the next five years. During the next fiscal year (1968) Michigan is scheduled to receive \$133.8 million out of a total allocation to the states of \$4.4 billion.

Conference reports were also approved on the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act (S.3005) and the Highway Safety Act (S.3052), both of which I have discussed previously and both of which are designed to promote greater safety in automobiles and by drivers.

VIETNAM VETERANS: The House and the Senate approved legislation last Wednesday to amend the federal charters of the American Legion and AMVETS (American Veterans of World War II) to permit those men who served with U. S. forces in the Vietnam hostilities to become members. The bills have gone to the President for signature.

OFFICE INTERNS: During the past few months we have been fortunate to have with us in Washington six college students from home on what is called an "intern program." These young people are interested in a "work experience" in government as part of their education in political science. They have been a big help in the office and we trust that this experience has been valuable to them. This year's interns were Miss Barbara Dean, 1349 Lenox Road, SE; Thomas Demling, 924 Three-Mile Road, NE; William Garrow, 559 Laurel Avenue, SE; Miss Beverly DeGraaf, 3466 Devon Drive, NE; Gregg Johnson, 3630 Glenn Drive, SE; Herbert Sperry, 1561 Groton Road, SE; all Grand Rapids. Two other students from outside the 5th District were with us on a non-paid basis. For valuable volunteer help this summer we are indebted to John Buell (Amherst College) whose home is in Grosse Pointe, and to Miss Elizabeth Martin who comes from Hingham, Massachusetts and attends Connecticut College.

RECENT VISITORS: From Byron Center: Miss Kathy Hust, Miss Mary Zandstra. From Lowell: Miss Lynn Wittenbach. From Cedar Springs: Miss Faith Hawley. From Comstock Park: Miss Pam Hoeksema. From Caledonia: Miss Judy Fairbrother, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Markus. From Ada: Dick VanderWarf. From Sparta: Michael Fales. From Grand Rapids: Misses May Wiering and Jean Rasch; Mr. & Mrs. R.H. Bowles, Jan & Lisa.



Your Washington Review

by

Congressman

JERRY FORD



September 14, 1966

"Tight money" has become a serious problem in most areas of our country and is causing a real hardship for many groups and individuals. Interest rates are at the highest peak in 45 years. Those who want to build or purchase a home may find it impossible to obtain a loan at a reasonable rate of interest. The national average for mortgage money on existing homes is over 6 percent. Personal installment loans call for interest ranging from 5½ to almost 8 percent. Prime business loans are at a 6 percent minimum. The short-sighted fiscal policies of the Johnson Administration, including its sale of governmental agency obligations with a return to investors of up to 6 percent, have been a major cause in this development.

Last week the House considered H.R. 14026, a bill relative to interest rate controls. The House rejected the Committee's recommendations (Patman bill) that no bank by law be permitted to pay more than 4½ percent interest on deposits under \$100,000. President Johnson and his advisors were opposed to the Patman proposal. The House as an alternative approved a proposal granting to federal agencies flexible authority to set the maximum interest rate paid on time deposits. Actually the legislation will not do much more than what can be done under existing law, but on final passage I voted for the bill in the hope that it may help to alleviate the critical situation of high interest rates.

THE MINIMUM WAGE: The final version (Conference report) of the amendments to the minimum wage law was approved by the House last Wednesday. I voted for the bill which extends coverage under the act and increases the minimum wage for those presently under the law to \$1.60 on February 1, 1968.

When the bill was originally passed by the House in May, the effective date for the \$1.60 minimum was set at February 1, 1969. By a vote of 205 to 194 the House specifically set that date. Many of us thought that the conferees did not give sufficient weight to this decision of the House. We felt that they should have insisted upon the original House position. But by a vote of 183 to 163, the House refused to order its conferees to make a further effort to get the Senate to accept the House date.

ON FILING TAX RETURNS: If the legislation approved by the House last Tuesday becomes law, most of us will be sending our 1966 income tax returns to Cincinnati instead of Detroit. The new law would permit the Treasury to require taxpayers to mail the returns to one of the seven IRS regional centers rather than to one of the

58 district offices as at present. Because of the use of an automatic data processing system for handling the returns, the Treasury contends that savings of at least \$4 million a year will be achieved by this change and that refunds would be distributed more promptly.

No services to taxpayers are to be curtailed under the new plan and anyone who wishes to do so may still hand deliver his tax returns to the nearest IRS office. The legislation also legalizes what has been accepted in practice for years that the date of filing tax returns will be determined by the postmark on the envelope rather than the time of receipt in the IRS offices.

ON LAW ENFORCEMENT: The House approved last week a Republican-sponsored bill to establish a National Commission on Reform of Federal Criminal Laws. The Commission is assigned the task of making a comprehensive study of federal criminal laws including decisions of the federal courts relating to criminal justice.

The Congress is deeply concerned with the rising crime rate and with the recent revelation that the rate of convictions in criminal cases is declining. As was stated in debate we must do something about "the obstacles which law enforcement agencies have had thrust upon them;" we must do something "to make the policeman the good guy that he used to be rather than the bad guy that he appears to be in the eyes of many people at the present time;...we must modernize our laws to meet the very real threat of the growing problem of disrespect for law."

The House also approved legislation extending for two years the federal program to assist states in training state and local law enforcement personnel. It authorized \$45 million for this purpose to be spent during this fiscal year and the next.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT THE SERVICE ACADEMIES: Young men who will have graduated from high school by June, 1967, are unmarried, and under 22 years of age are eligible for consideration for appointment to one of the service academies. For the class entering next July, the Fifth District is entitled to one appointment to the Military Academy at West Point, two to the Naval Academy at Annapolis, and one to the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs. My appointments will be based on the results of an open, competitive Civil Service examination taken by those boys who make application. The examination this year will be given on Saturday morning, November 5, and will be open to those who are legal residents of Kent and Ionia Counties. Applications, to be returned by October 20th, may be obtained from my District Office at 425 Cherry Street, S.E., Grand Rapids (telephone GL 6-9747), or by writing me at the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

A Congressman may also nominate ten candidates for the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, N.Y. Final selection is by the Academy on a state-wide basis. The Coast Guard makes its own selection of cadets to attend the Academy at New London, Connecticut. We will be pleased to supply forms and additional information to anyone interested in service as a Coast Guard Officer or in the Merchant Marine.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



September 21, 1966

The President's anti-inflationary proposals were examined at public hearings last week by the Committee on Ways and Means which may make its recommendations this week. These proposals in H.R. 17607 call for the suspension of certain tax incentives to business. It is generally agreed that the effect of such action in curtailing inflation will not be noticeable for a long time, if at all.

The President's promise to cut down on "lower priority" federal spending and to halt the sale of certain high interest government obligations may be some help. But Republicans have been recommending this for months.

However, the President's proposals in his special message to the Congress are as the New York Times said, "a sign that the Administration may have finally realized that it cannot be fiscally responsible so long as it indulges in financial gimmickry."

The Great Society is in deep trouble. Unfortunately, it can be bailed out only by consumers through higher prices and by taxpayers through higher taxes. Higher prices are already here and are going up. Unless every indication is wrong, President Johnson will demand higher taxes on all individuals soon after the election.

TWO MORE APPROPRIATION BILLS: The House last week approved the eighth and ninth of the 12 regular appropriation bills which must be passed each session to supply funds to operate the Government. On Tuesday it approved a \$381 million budget for the District of Columbia. Of this amount the direct federal payment to the District by taxpayers from all over the country totals \$52.4 million. In addition the District's share of federal-state grant programs will amount to \$119 million which is over and above the budget. The amount to be raised by local taxation, fees, charges, etc. is about \$329 million. A Republican effort to make a 5 percent across-the-board reduction in District of Columbia expenditures was defeated 217 to 103 with 112 members absent.

On Wednesday the \$1 billion military construction appropriation bill was approved. The House cut the President's request for funds by \$95 million and the amount approved was \$1.9 billion less than for last year. But when the unspent portion of the money appropriated last year is added to the new appropriations, the Department of Defense will have nearly \$2.3 billion to spend on all types of construction needed by the armed forces. Michigan is scheduled to get \$473,000 of the new money: \$358,000 for Wurtsmith AFB at Oscoda and \$115,000 for the Air Force Station at Sault Ste. Marie.

MORE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT: You will remember that before the House passed the

civil rights bill it adopted the anti-riot amendment proposed by my good friend, Rep. William Cramer, Republican of Florida. Now that the Senate has decided to take no action on the civil rights bill, Rep. Cramer has introduced a separate bill identical to his amendment. This bill would make it a federal offense to travel in or use any facility of interstate commerce (such as the mails) with the intent of inciting to riot or other forms of violent civil disobedience. We hope the House will act promptly on this bill which it has already approved as an amendment by a vote of 389 to 25.

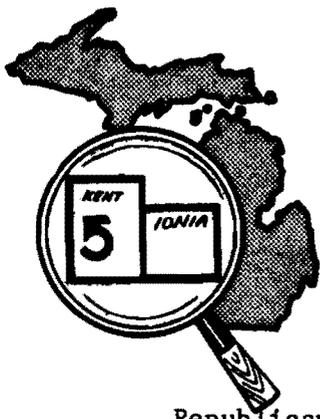
Legislation has been approved by the Committee on Un-American Activities and the Committee on Rules to strengthen the authority of the government to halt the solicitation and collection of money or property in the U. S. for use by the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong, and to deal with those in our country who interfere with the movement of personnel and supplies of our armed forces. Evidence was presented to show that groups in the U. S. have been collecting money and supplies for donation to enemy forces, and we are all familiar with the various attempts to halt troop trains in California. This legislation (H.R. 12047) should be approved.

SEA-GRANT COLLEGES: All of us are familiar with the term "land-grant college" (Michigan State for example), but the expression "sea-grant college" is much newer and less familiar. Last week the House voted to authorize \$15 million for use during the next two years for development of "sea-grant colleges". In effect these will be existing institutions of higher education which institute or expand programs of education, training, and research in marine science and oceanography.

Congress is concerned with the need to accelerate our underseas exploration. We were told that the U. S. has some 700 marine scientists supported by about 2,500 technicians. The Soviet Union has approximately 1,500 such scientists and over 7,500 engineers and technicians. Sponsors of the legislation pointed out that "fish, the cheapest source of protein for the world's rising population, are a prime target for Soviet trawlers. The USSR have made a science out of fishing and have their oceanographers go out with their fishing fleets and give them instructions as to how and where to fish."

Sponsors also stressed the fact that the U. S. now imports 62 percent of its fish products at a cost of \$600 million a year. Of course there are other products from the sea, and other problems of interest to oceanographers. Under this bill federal matching funds will go to educational institutions to train students, to promote research, and to disseminate information in this specialized field. Institutions in the Great Lakes area are eligible to participate.

RECENT VISITORS: From Grand Rapids: Mr. and Mrs. H. Clemens, Curt and Ron; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Huizenga, Mark and Beth; David E. Newton; Mr. and Mrs. D. Baatenburg; Mr. and Mrs. Don Vandertill, Mike and Myrna; Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Peterson; The VanKuiker Family; Blair Murphy; Mr. and Mrs. Sam Koukios, Evans and Leah; Mrs. T. Droste & Family; Rev. and Mrs. Everett F. Ellis & James. From Wyoming: Mrs. Fran Hoag, Jerry & James.



Your Washington Review

by

Congressman
JERRY FORD

September 28, 1966



Republicans succeeded in further cutting the 1967 foreign aid appropriation by \$45 millions before this \$3.6 billion money bill was approved by the House of Representatives last Tuesday. The Committee on Appropriations had reduced President Johnson's request by \$295 million. The vote for the further reduction was 187 to 182. Every Democratic Congressman from Michigan voted for higher spending while all Republicans from our state except one voted to make this modest reduction.

The Democratic-dominated Committee said in its Report: "The foreign assistance program has never ranked high with the American people generally; it seems to enjoy only degrees of unpopularity." But the Committee went on to say that we must agree "that our past aid in defense of the free world has paid dividends by helping to thwart and frustrate the world communist drive. Not only has it foiled aggression; it has brought stability to a number of countries. But no one seriously thinks that foreign aid is a panacea for all the ills at which it is directed. It is only one device, one tool....Despite the dedicated efforts of many, foreign aid over the years has been beset with innumerable mistakes in administration - with too much waste; too many ill-advised or premature project undertakings....But the majority opinion is that these considerations, standing alone, ought not to obscure the objectives of the foreign aid programs and the purposes they have served and the good they have accomplished over the years....Constant review, constant reevaluation, constant but constructive criticism of the aid programs, both in the administrative and legislative branches, are needed." I believe this statement of the Committee is fair. I voted for the bill on final passage when it was approved 234 to 141.

PUBLIC WORKS APPROPRIATION: On the \$4.1 billion appropriation for public works, the second money bill passed last week, I voted "no." This is the bill which includes funds for rivers, harbors, reservoirs, canals, waterways, etc. It is true that the Committee cut \$56 million from the President's request. But when \$4 billion in public works is involved, certainly additional savings can be made. Yet the House beat down every attempt to make any reductions in the dollar amounts. Furthermore it defeated a motion to reduce all items by five percent. And included in the bill is an item for \$500,000 to start construction of the proposed Lake Erie-Ohio Canal, a giant program that will cost the U. S. taxpayers \$1 billion to \$3 billions. There is a question of whether the canal is really needed and whether it is worth the cost. This is something that could have been postponed until the Vietnam War is over. And

with the President expected to demand a tax increase shortly, it seemed to me we should have made greater reductions in this area of federal spending.

PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE: The House last Monday approved a bill establishing the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Alger County between Munising and Grand Marais on Lake Superior. It will border the Lake for about 39 miles and will vary in depth from two to five miles. The park area will include 67,000 acres of land and 6,320 acres of water surface. The purpose of the legislation is to preserve the scenic area including the "pictured rocks" and to provide outdoor recreational facilities. The area contains a half dozen waterfalls, many miles of stream, and 20 or more lakes and ponds. It is heavily forested and abounds in wildlife. This park area is 425 miles from Grand Rapids.

AN INCREASE IN VETERANS' PENSIONS: The House on Monday also approved a new schedule for non-service-connected pensions for veterans, their widows, and children. If the bill becomes law, veterans now drawing pensions will receive an average increase of 4.4 percent. The average increase for all pensioners--veterans, widows, and children--will be 5.4 percent. Since the last increase in pension benefits the cost of living has gone up 4.1 percent.

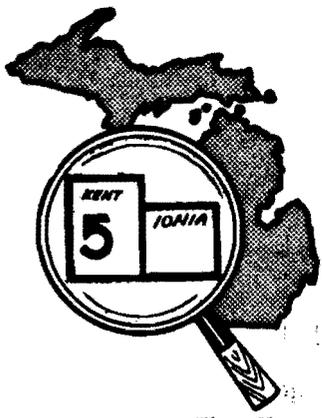
The Veterans Administration spent \$1.9 billion last year on non-service-connected pensions. Under the new bill, 1,830,411 veterans, widows, and children would benefit from the increases which will cost \$101,433,000 the first year. This bill in no way affects compensation paid for service-connected disabilities.

INTERNAL SECURITY: A strange thing happened last Thursday: The Democratic leadership scheduled for consideration a bill to prohibit the collection and delivery of money for helping North Vietnam or the Vietcong, and to prohibit any obstruction of troop trains in our country - but the bill was not called up for a vote because of a threatened filibuster by a group of liberal Democrats.

This is hard to explain. One would expect no serious opposition to such a proposal, regardless of our feelings toward the Vietnam War. We can't condone giving aid to the enemy or interfering in the movement of troop trains. But the extent to which man's thinking can be strained is illustrated by an editorial in a Washington newspaper which said this bill "would penalize protests against the war in Vietnam,... would in short adopt the technique of totalitarianism in place of the American tradition of freedom." I disagree vigorously because the U. S. is engaged in a critical military conflict, and any person accused does have the right of a jury trial.

VIETNAM BOOKLET: Republicans in the House have prepared a 40-page booklet, "The United States and the War in Vietnam." A copy is available upon request to my office.

RECENT VISITORS: From Ionia: Miss Sue Stencel, Paula Ohlrich, Miss Christina Miller, Miss Judy Hankins, Terry Hankins. From Muir: Miss Marilyn Hearld. From Grandville: Miss Myra Rozeboom, Miss Marian Payne. From Grand Rapids: Mr. and Mrs. Gordon L. Campbell, David and Kathleen; Mrs. Robert Siegel and family, Mrs. Don LaJoie.



Your Washington Review

by

Congressman

JERRY FORD

October 5, 1966



The House of Representatives spent four days last week debating the so-called War on Poverty. The story of poor planning, mismanagement, waste, and political shenanigans in this program is well-known and well-documented. True, there have been some exceptions in certain specific projects in certain areas. Fortunately in our own District, we have had excellent leadership and some very successful programs. But the House last week had to pass judgment on the overall program and weigh the benefits against costs. This was not primarily a partisan issue - some Democratic Congressmen have been extremely critical of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Republicans did submit a constructive, alternative proposal called the "Opportunity Crusade Act of 1966." This would have given to existing federal and local agencies additional authority and funds to fight the war on poverty. Instead of a new, bungling bureaucracy, we would use the schools, office of education, the Labor Department, etc., to carry on a constructive, less costly effort to help the poor to help themselves. The OEO would retain only the community action program and the domestic Peace Corps. But the "Opportunity Crusade" was turned down by the Democratic-controlled House.

FOOD FOR PEACE: When the House approved "The Food for Peace Act of 1966" it ruled that none of our surplus farm products should be sold at bargain prices (concessional or subsidized sales) to nations that trade with North Vietnam or Cuba. Republicans insisted on this rule in face of the determined opposition of President Johnson. And the House agreed. The Senate however eliminated this rule and the House-Senate Conference went along with the President and the Senate.

The Republican Policy Committee reiterated Republican insistence that any country which expects to buy our farm goods at bargain prices should in no way help our Communist enemies.

SUSPENSION OF INVESTMENT CREDIT: In 1962 President Kennedy recommended and the Congress approved a 7-percent tax credit for those businesses which invested in certain new plant and equipment. This was to increase investments at a time when the economy needed "pepping up." Now President Johnson wants to suspend this incentive in order to "cool off" the economy. Under current law a business which invests in new plant and equipment may deduct from its annual federal income tax, 7 percent of the cost of any qualified investment. If President Johnson's proposal becomes law this investment credit will be suspended from September 9, 1966 through December 13, 1967.

In the bill as recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, the suspension does not apply to investments up to \$15,000 by a taxpayer or a business made during the suspension period.

Three Republican members of the Committee said they did not feel that the suspension offered any real solution to the serious inflation plaguing the nation under President Johnson. But they said they would support this bill because it was "at least a step by the Administration toward recognition that inflationary pressures in our economy must be restrained." They agreed however, that "no tax changes will be effective unless there is a real reduction and restraint on runaway Government spending." Five Republicans on the Committee in opposing the bill stated: "Let no one be misled. This bill is presented by the Administration to relieve the inflationary pressures confronting our economy. The basic cause of inflation is clear - excessive Government spending....What is needed is a period of restraint - not just on the part of labor or on the part of business - but on the part of Government."

Republicans agree that the only way to hold down taxes is to reduce non-essential spending. We can't escape a tax increase without restraint in spending.

RESERVE FORCES BILL: The House has approved a bill which among other things gives the President authority to call to active duty certain individual reservists in the armed services without declaring a national emergency. If this bill becomes law, the President may order to active duty up to 133,000 members of the Ready Reserve attached to drilling units who had become members before July 1, 1966 but who had not received their minimum training of 4 months or more in the Reserve enlistment program.

The President would also be authorized to call to active duty up to 64,000 members of the Ready Reserve who are not attached to an organized unit in the drilling Reserves and who have neither satisfied their Reserve military obligation nor completed a total of 24 months of active duty or active duty for training.

SUMMER JOBS IN 1967: Anyone interested in a temporary job with the federal government next summer may qualify by taking an examination this fall or winter. The opportunity to be an "Office or Science Assistant" is open to high school graduates or others over 18 for employment from May through September. Salaries will range from \$69 to \$92 per week. The jobs are located in federal agencies and installations throughout the United States, including the Washington, D. C. area.

The examination will be given in Grand Rapids and many other cities on November 26 (applications must be in by October 21), on January 7, and on February 4. Applications for the last two dates must be in by December 9 and January 9, respectively. Those interested should obtain a copy of the Civil Service Commission Announcement No. 401 entitled "Office and Science Assistant Examination for 1967." I will be pleased to send a copy upon a request addressed either to my Grand Rapids or Washington office. A copy also may be obtained at most college placement offices and at civil service information points in some post offices.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



October 12, 1966

Heralded as a great boon to housewives, ridiculed as doing practically nothing, and condemned as a superficial, politically-oriented proposition, the "Fair Packaging and Labeling Act" was approved by the House of Representatives last Monday. This bill, H.R. 15440, is quite different from S. 985, the so-called "Truth in Packaging" bill, which passed the Senate but was rejected by the House Committee after extended public hearings.

The bill as approved by the House is aimed only at those who package or label goods and not at the wholesaler or retailer. The bill's mandatory regulations provide that labels identify the commodity and its maker, that net quantity be mentioned in a uniform place on the principal panel of the label and be expressed in commonly accepted terms, and that this quantity statement show up and be readable without turning the package a number of times to find it.

The bill also gives the Food and Drug Administration and the Federal Trade Commission authority to make certain discretionary regulations. They may set up definitions of "small," "large," or "jumbo" packages; they may attempt to define "servings" when a certain package is labeled as providing four or five "servings." Just how large is a "serving?" These agencies may also work out regulations to insure that when a package is labeled "5 cents off," the consumer actually pays 5 cents less than the normal price.

The federal agencies may take action to insure that packages are properly filled, and to require that the ingredients in non-foods be listed on the package in the order of decreasing predominance. However, they must take into consideration the fact that some packages are too small for listing all ingredients of the product. Furthermore there is nothing in this bill which would mean that special formulas or trade secrets must be divulged.

All of us know that there are already federal, state, and local laws and regulations relative to "truth in packaging." While some feel that additional federal legislation is essential, others contend that much of the propaganda in support of additional strong federal controls is an insult to the intelligence of the American consumer. The bill as rewritten by the House was approved by a vote of 300 to 8. I voted with the majority.

A \$2.3 BILLION BILL: In approving a \$2.3 billion appropriation bill for the Departments of State, Justice, Commerce, and the Judiciary, the House approved the

last of the 12 essential money bills. Republicans again made an effort to cut the overall appropriation by 5 percent (certainly not unreasonable in an expenditure of this size) but we were defeated 201 to 152. All Michigan Republicans voted for the cut and we were joined by one Democrat. But eight Democrats from our state voted for greater spending; three of their members were absent.

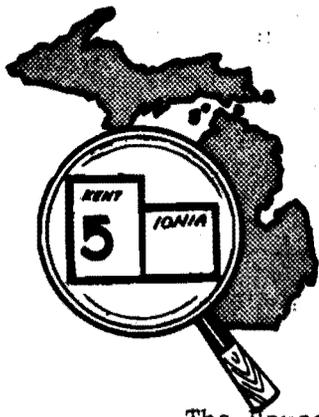
FOOD FOR PEACE - TRADE WITH COMMUNISTS: By a vote of 306 to 61 the House last Wednesday insisted on its position that no surplus farm commodities be sold at bargain prices to countries which carry on trade with Communist North Vietnam or Cuba. You will remember that the "Food for Peace" bill originally passed by the House on June 9th contained this restriction. Under pressure from President Johnson, the Senate eliminated this provision and the House-Senate Conference went along with the President and the Senate. But through the insistence of the Republicans the House has ordered its conferees to take this matter back to conference and to stand firm on the original House position.

Only one Republican joined 60 Democrats in voting to go along with the President and the Senate. All Michigan Republicans voted to deny bargain prices to those who trade with Communist Cuba or North Vietnam. We were joined by two Democrats. But 8 Democratic Representatives from Michigan voted to go along with President Johnson.

We must emphasize that this restriction has nothing to do with cash sales or with donations to relieve suffering. We are talking about long-term easy credit sales and sales to be paid for with the local nation's currency which may be spent by the U. S. only in that country - we call these concessional or bargain sales. If the country buys on credit the interest rate is only $3/4$ of 1 percent for two years and only $2\frac{1}{2}$ percent for the balance of 20 years. These are cut-rate terms which the American taxpayer cannot get for himself. He should not be expected to subsidize interest payments for a nation which assists, through trade, Cuba or North Vietnam. Yugoslavia and Egypt are trading with North Vietnam and getting our food aid. India is trading with Cuba.

THE EDUCATION BILL: After two days of debate last week the House approved the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1966 authorizing \$328 million more for this year than the President requested in his budget. The same day the House passed this bill, Mr. Johnson said, "Each vote to increase the budget is likely a vote for increased revenue later." He was telling the Congress and the people that a vote for expenditures over his budget was a vote for higher taxes.

I am opposed to higher taxes when they can be avoided by holding down federal spending. I therefore supported the President's request and voted to recommit the bill in order to save \$328 million this year and \$1 billion next year. But we were overruled 185 to 150. Michigan's Republicans voted solidly to back the President and protect the taxpayers. All Michigan Democrats (one absent) voted for greater spending and higher federal taxes.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman

JERRY FORD

October 19, 1966



The House of Representatives spent many hours last week debating the "Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act" and the bill to establish the "Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore." Since final action on these issues will be taken after this newsletter is printed, I will discuss them briefly next week. But I do want to point out that of the thousands of cities in our country not more than 50 can expect to participate in the multi-million dollar demonstration cities program. These cities will be selected by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development who will exercise extensive control over all local projects sponsored under this Act.

INTERNAL SECURITY: The House finally approved by a vote of 275 to 64 the bill to make it a federal offense to solicit, collect, and deliver any money or property to, or for the use of, any country with which we are involved in armed conflict such as North Vietnam. This bill also prohibits the obstruction of the movement of personnel or supplies of the armed forces of the U. S.

PUBLIC DEBT UP \$8 BILLION: The national debt now stands at \$324.9 billion compared with \$316.9 billion a year ago. This means an increase of \$8 billion in the twelve months ending Sept. 30 (Daily Statement of the U.S. Treasury). Each billion dollars of debt costs the taxpayers over \$33.3 million a year in interest charges. The debt increase under President Johnson this past year adds more than \$266 million annually to interest charges. This year U.S. taxpayers must give up over \$13 billion just to pay the interest on the national debt. This is equal to all the federal income taxes paid by every taxpayer earning up to \$6,000 a year.

A CHANCE TO SAVE: It only amounted to about \$20 million in a \$4 billion public works appropriation bill, but try as we did, we couldn't save even that much. The \$20 million was the amount by which the Senate had increased the House bill. A motion was made last Tuesday to insist on the House figure and to save the taxpayers \$20 million this year. The motion lost, but every Republican from Michigan voted to help the taxpayers; we were joined by two Democrats. But seven Democrats from our state (three were absent) voted for greater spending which can only mean higher taxes.

We should emphasize that this \$20 million is to initiate projects which will cost additional millions over the next few years. And we must reemphasize that only through restraint in federal spending can we escape higher federal taxes and higher prices. The well-known economist and President of the University of Rochester, Dr. W. Allen Wallis said recently: "Inflation can be generated only by the government.

Business firms, labor unions, or consumers with excessive market power can do many objectionable things that are contrary to the public interests; but one objectionable thing they cannot do is to cause inflation - or, for that matter, prevent it."

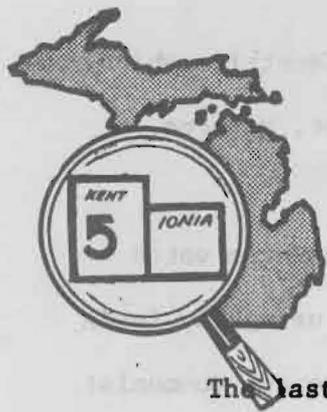
Gardner Ackley, now the President's chief economic advisor said in 1961, "...The important cases of demand inflation result from Government expenditures, especially those associated with war or war preparations."

SOCIAL SECURITY PLANS: Over 12 weeks ago (my newsletter of July 27th) the Republican Party recommended that Social Security benefits be raised to meet the increase in the cost of living. I joined over 75 Republican members of the House in introducing a bill to provide an automatic increase in social security benefits whenever the cost of living went up by 3 percent. This provision was to go into effect immediately to benefit our senior citizens now. Actuaries and tax experts tell us that such a plan could be financed without an increase in social security taxes. But Mr. Johnson did nothing and the Democrat-dominated committee on Ways and Means took no action on this fair and constructive proposal.

President Johnson has finally acknowledged that high prices are hurting our older citizens. Just 27 days before the election he holds out the promise of a 10 percent increase in social security benefits - to begin 15 months from now, on January 1, 1968. He also promises, among other things, an increase in minimum benefits from \$44 to \$100 for everyone who contributed to social security for 25 years, regardless of the amount of his contribution. But Mr. Johnson is vague about how his proposals will be paid for - whether it will be higher rates or an increase in the employee's wage base on which the payroll tax is levied. In any event it will mean more regressive payroll taxes on top of the increase already scheduled to go into effect in January. And don't forget that shortly after this election Mr. Johnson is expected to demand a bigger slice of your pay check through withholding taxes.

ADJOURNMENT: Congress is expected to adjourn at the end of this week and I will be returning to the Grand Rapids office. Jim Bersie from our staff has been home and in the 425 Cherry Street office for the past month. Miss Anne Kamstra returned Saturday. Miss Ruth Mahder and Frank Meyer will be home as soon as Congress adjourns. We can be reached at GL 6-9747.

RECENT VISITORS: From Wyoming: Mr. & Mrs. Gentry Ledbetter and family; Miss Deborah Dok; Chester Rudd. From Caledonia: Mr. & Mrs. Eldon Crumback. From Grandville: Miss Linda J. Goeman. From Ionia: Bill Doty. From Sparta: Wm. Reed; Conrad Larson; Mr. & Mrs. Warren Schut; Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Schut. From Rockford: Mr. & Mrs. Wilfred Paull and Lee. From Portland: Charles Leik. From Lowell: George Mueller. From Grand Rapids: Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Kamstra, Doug and Carol; Howard Reges; Mr. & Mrs. LaVern Fratzke; Mr. & Mrs. C. Jordans; Mr. & Mrs. L. S. Cox, Kathy and Delores; Mr. & Mrs. Roy Murray; Mrs. L. McLaughlin; Mr. & Mrs. R. DeHoek and family; Mr. A. J. Flogg



Your Washington Review

by

Congressman

JERRY FORD

October 26, 1966



The last week of any Congressional session is marked by a vigorous flow of legislation, including innumerable "conference reports." These reports represent the compromise worked out by a joint Senate-House committee on bills which have been passed by both houses but in different form. They are generally approved by both houses without too much difficulty. They are accepted not because members are happy with the final decision but because they recognize that this is the best compromise that can be obtained under the circumstances. Our democratic way of life and our republican system of government rest on a willingness to give and take, to arrange compromises. But I must agree that it would be better if these compromises could be handled in a more orderly way than is possible in the last hours of a legislative session.

AIR LIFT TO SERVICEMEN: One of the conference reports approved will mean faster mail service to and from our servicemen overseas. Under this legislation, letters, voice recordings, and parcels up to five pounds will be air lifted on a space available basis from the point of embarkation -- New York, Seattle, or San Francisco. No additional postage will be required for this service. Local newspapers will enjoy the same fast delivery, but to combat areas only.

The House recognizes that this legislation does not meet the problem of air parcel post or the rapid delivery overseas of parcels in excess of five pounds. There is every indication that the new Congress will do something about this matter after the first of the year.

INSURED SAVINGS: The maximum to which savings in banks and savings and loan associations are insured by the federal government has been increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000. This provision was included in a bill approved by the President recently.

FOOD FOR PEACE: You will remember that the House disagreed with the President and the Senate on the question of permitting subsidized bargain sales of our farm commodities to nations which trade with North Vietnam and Cuba. Our mail indicated considerable interest in this problem. Last week a compromise was worked out which I believe is satisfactory.

It was agreed that there would be an absolute ban on soft currency and dollar credit sales of U.S. food surpluses to nations which carry on any kind of commerce with North Vietnam. Nations which sell or transport food, medicine or fertilizer to Cuba can enjoy our bargain sales but only if the President determines that such action is in our national interest. If they sell any other items to Cuba they will

lose the right to purchase our food products at subsidized prices. Countries which could be affected by this compromise include India and Pakistan, Egypt, Morocco, Ceylon, Yugoslavia, and possibly Greece.

LOANS TO COMMUNIST NATIONS: In another action last Tuesday the House voted 167 to 121 to prohibit the taxpayer-financed Export-Import Bank from using any funds provided it by the supplemental appropriation bill to extend credit to any Communist country. As late as October 7, President Johnson announced that he had signed an application to allow the Export-Import Bank to guarantee commercial credits to four additional Eastern European countries: Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia. I support the position of the House rather than that of the President. I cannot justify the use of U.S. tax money at this time to further assist any Communist regime with its financial burdens.

DEMONSTRATION CITIES: Over 30 amendments to the Demonstration Cities bill were considered by the House before the bill was adopted by a vote of 178 to 141. I voted against the bill primarily because of the enormous power over local affairs to be given to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and because this is another spending plan which could have been postponed until the war in Vietnam is over. I know that most of you do not want an increase in your income taxes. As your Representative, therefore, I must vote to hold down federal spending. All Michigan Republicans voted for you, the taxpayers. The Democratic members from Michigan who were present (ten in all) voted for the President, for more spending, for higher taxes.

One of the problems which received the greatest attention in the discussion of "Demonstration Cities" was whether the bill gave federal officials the authority to compel the bussing of students from the suburbs into the city and vice versa in order to obtain a racial balance in the schools. The House adopted an amendment to make clear that no federal officer would have this authority under this bill.

FINAL ISSUE: This is the final issue of the newsletter for this year. We hope to be back after the Congress reconvenes in January. If you have any questions or if I can be of any service, please do not hesitate to call us at GL 6-9747 or stop in at your Congressional office, 425 Cherry St., S.E., Grand Rapids.

RECENT VISITORS: From Grand Rapids: The Charles Aldrich family; Douglas & Thomas Anderson; Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Byle; Mr. & Mrs. Brent Bierma; Rev. & Mrs. Douglas Bol; Mr. & Mrs. Walter Breuer, Sr.; Fred Baughman; Mr. & Mrs. John Bankston & sons; Mr. & Mrs. Don Botting; Norma Butzer & Kathy Kelbel; Mr. & Mrs. H. Bliss; Ralph Baldwin; Carol Crawford; Mr. & Mrs. J. Cook & family; Tuula Rusla; Ray Conlon; Mrs. Gayle Campbell; Stephen DeVries; Ruth DeVries; Mr. & Mrs. D. Davoust; Mr. & Mrs. Frank Edwards; Mr. & Mrs. A. Froberg; Mr. & Mrs. M. Geisel; Mr. & Mrs. Harold Glupker; Mr. & Mrs. Chas. Graham; Mr. & Mrs. Ed. Groening; Mr. & Mrs. W. Heetderks; Lorene Hilton; Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Huizing; Linda Johnson; Mr. & Mrs. J. Kunnen; the H. Kuizema family; Mr. & Mrs. F. Kladder; Mrs. M. McGavin; Mr. & Mrs. N. Muller & Sandra; Mr. & Mrs. Richard McCarty; Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Mead; Mrs. Rosanna Matik; the Donald Pothoven family; Maj. & Mrs. Kenneth Quinlan & Ken Jr.; Mr. & Mrs. A. Rice; Bill Reed; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rymar; Mr. & Mrs. G. Ruwitch; Mr. & Mrs. J. Smith; Ronald Selvius; Charles Sedam, Jr.; Mr. & Mrs. Henry Sprik; Patricia Velthouse; Mr. & Mrs. J. VanderPloeg; Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Volkers; Robbie Volkers; Mr. & Mrs. Lester Vanderhill; Mr. & Mrs. Andy VanderKlay; Carolyn Woolpert; Mr. & Mrs. Roger Wolhuis; Mayo Zeigler.