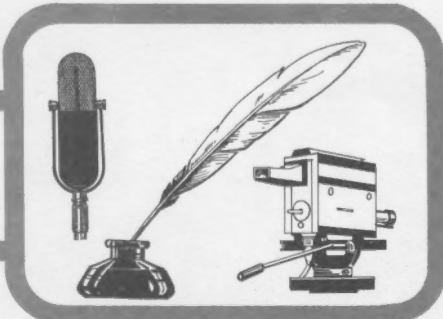


The original documents are located in Box D7, folder “Ford Press Releases - Fifth District, 1966-1968” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Re: Ionia & D.R. TAR



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1966

WASHINGTON--Kent and Ionia County high school leaders are receiving invitations from Rep. Gerald R. Ford (R-Michigan) to attend a Teen Age Republican (TAR) Leadership Conference on Saturday, September 24.

The House Republican Leader is sending personal letters to some 300 high school students inviting them to take part in the conferences, one of which will be held in Grand Rapids at the Pantlind Hotel, and the other in Ionia at the Ionia High School. Ford will give the keynote address at both meetings.

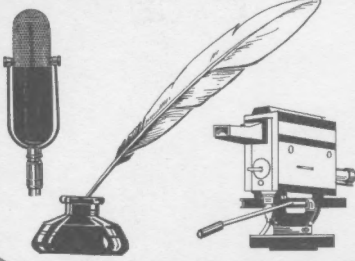
The conference in Grand Rapids, held for Kent County students, will begin at 1:00 p.m. The Ionia Conference, for Ionia County Students, will begin at 3:00 p.m. A reception attended by County officials, State legislators, and GOP officials will follow both conferences.

In his letter of invitation Ford said, "The Republican Party, nationwide, is placing increased emphasis on programs that involve young people. We believe that a high school student who becomes active in a major political party takes a giant step toward accepting his responsibilities as a citizen in our nation."

The conferences are organized by the Fifth District Teen Age Republican Advisory Council. Paul Yhouse, a senior at East Grand Rapids High School is Chairman.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, JAN. 26, 1967

A young man from Portland with a yen to enter the Foreign Service is absorbing some political savvy while working in the office of Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich.

Charles A. Leik, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Leik of 9338 Keefer Highway, has joined Ford's staff while studying for a Master's degree in Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, D. C.

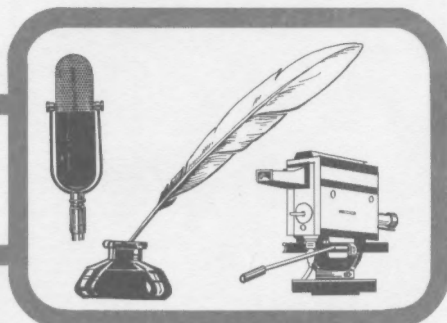
A quiet, industrious chap, Leik took the job with Ford to obtain "experience in government" while piling up points toward his future goal.

Leik, 23, was graduated from Aquinas College, Grand Rapids in May 1965 with a major in economics and minors in history and accounting. He was active in the Social Science Forum and People-to-People group and was elected secretary of Michigan's College Young Republicans in 1963.

He taught economics and bookkeeping at St. Mary's High School in Jackson for a year before traveling in Europe last summer and taking intensive German language courses there.

A veteran of a hosteling trip in Europe in 1963, Leik is more than a carefree "Wanderjunge." He is a serious young man with a mission-- world service for his country--and is the first person from Ionia County to serve on Rep. Ford's staff.





CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, JAN. 26, 1967

A shotgun blast through the window of a Grand Rapids bar, and a policeman's wife and six children are left grieving, alone and bewildered.

The people of Grand Rapids have opened their hearts to the family of Police Sgt. Stanley Van Tuinen and have established a trust fund for them.

In the view of Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Sgt. Van Tuinen's tragic death last December 3 dramatizes the urgent need to permit Social Security coverage for Michigan police and firemen.

Ford has introduced a bill to make possible police-firemen Social Security benefits in Michigan. It was one of the first pieces of legislation he dropped into the hopper in the 90th Congress.

Sgt. Van Tuinen died in line of duty at age 35. Although he had attained sergeant's rank and therefore was earning \$6,864 a year, he was forced to "moonlight" to provide adequately for his wife and youngsters.

Because of his part-time job, Sgt. Van Tuinen's family may be entitled to the minimum Social Security survivor benefits of \$150 monthly. But had Sgt. Van Tuinen been covered by Social Security as a policeman, his wife and children would now receive the maximum family payment of \$368 a month--more than twice as much.

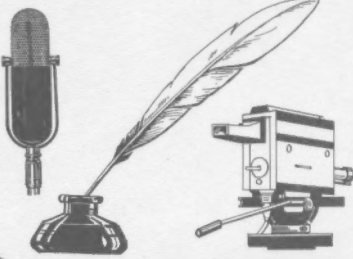
Ford today said he will make a concerted effort this year to win congressional approval of his police-firemen's Social Security bill.

"The Van Tuinen case points up clearly the need to permit Social Security coverage for Michigan's policemen and firefighters," Ford said. "Most city and village officials in the Fifth District of Michigan are behind my bill. Their firemen and policemen support it. It's time we wrote this legislation into the statute books."

Contacted by Ford in a current check on home sentiment for the bill, Grand Rapids City Manager Henry Nabers said: "I think it would be great if your Social Security bill were enacted."

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#

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

Today I'd like to talk with you about a topic which is very much in the news--the

Selective Service System, or as we call it, the draft.

The Congress must act by July 1 to extend the present draft law in some form. The present law will expire at midnight June 30.

To help Congress decide what to do about the draft, President Johnson has sent us recommendations based on a study by a presidential commission. The House Armed Services Committee, which will handle the draft legislation, also has received the advice of a study group headed by former Gen. Mark Clark of World War II fame.

There seems to be little disagreement that the draft should be changed so that 19-year-olds are called first. In fact, the President plans to put this change into effect by his own order without waiting for any kind of action by Congress.

The President's draft law proposals are arousing controversy in Congress, however. Most of the argument involves Mr. Johnson's plan to start using a lottery system to pick draftees.

What's wrong with using a lottery system? The President knows it's going to be hard to sell and so he has hung a special name tag on it. He calls it FAIR...

F-A-I-R...for "fair and impartial random," a blind system of selecting young American men for military duty.

Maybe that's just what's wrong with a lottery system of compulsory military service. It's a blind kind of justice that dehumanizes the draft. It's been tried before and it just hasn't worked.



A lottery would blindly take some of the best young brains in the country.

It would take some of the best young farmers in the country. It would take some of the best young workers in the defense industries of the Nation.

The President passed over the question of eliminating local draft boards, as recommended by his presidential commission. But if you have a national lottery system for picking draftees, what will local draft boards have to do?

I think our friends and neighbors have been doing a real good job of handling their draft board chores. They have been performing a very important service. I like the idea of giving a local board the discretion to grant deferments in deserving cases. They know each case because they are familiar with local situations. This is important. It preserves what I call "the human element"

in the draft. I'd hate to see the draft made a purely mechanical, computerized kind of operation. Blind justice can lead to much injustice, it seems to me.

The President also skipped over the subject of deferments for college students.

There is no question the present system of deferments needs tightening up.

College should not become a haven for draft dodgers. For this reason I agree with the President that graduate students should not be deferred unless they are studying

medicine or dentistry. However, many of these prospective doctors and dentists under deferment should be required to serve in the Armed Forces after completing their medical and dental training.

I would like to see the day when our Armed Forces are made up entirely of volunteers. Unfortunately, we must keep 3 million 300 thousand men under arms today to carry out our mission in Vietnam and guard the rest of our defense line

around the world. Experience indicates that an entirely volunteer force of men would total no more than about 2 million.

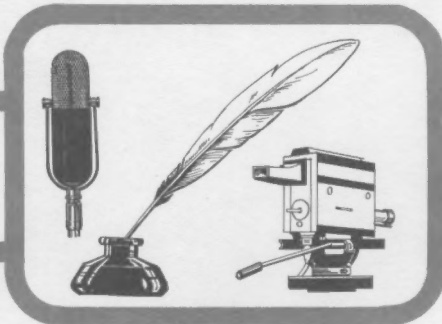
Let us, then, see to it that we are as fair and as sensible as possible in imposing on our young men the military obligation which is required of them as the price of our Nation's freedom. I believe Congress will act in that spirit in revising our draft law in the months ahead.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

I'll be talking with you again next week over this same station.

###





CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR USE THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1967

Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., today had high praise for the nationwide Jaycee program aimed at honoring outstanding young American educators.

"It is civic programs of this kind that help build America by focusing attention on the tremendous contribution made by good teachers," Ford said in a statement issued by his Washington office.

"I have always maintained," Ford said, "that a great teacher is great whether he is sitting on a log talking to his pupils in an open field or is standing behind a desk in a new classroom." "We must have enough classrooms to accommodate our young people, but it is imperative that we have teachers who are dedicated and well-trained."

Ford said the Jaycee program serves to upgrade the teaching profession and make it more attractive to capable young men and women who are needed for teaching duties in the Nation's schools.

"We should constantly be striving to improve the quality of education in America," Ford said. "The best way to do that is to keep the school curriculum abreast of the times and try to bring the best talent we can into the teaching profession. One means of doing this is to honor the outstanding people now teaching in our Nation's classrooms. I congratulate the Jaycees, those teachers to be honored and the teaching profession."

The Jaycees in Kent and Ionia communities and elsewhere in the country presently are selecting elementary and secondary school teachers to be honored for their achievements.

#

For Release on Thursday, July 25, 1968.

Rep. Gerald R. Ford of Grand Rapids is not about to hang an Employment Service shingle above the door of his office in the U.S. Capitol but he is glowing with pleasure over his latest job assist.

The story begins with graduation ceremonies at Gallaudet College, famous school for the deaf in Washington, D.C., where David Othal Riker of 1948 Burlingame Avenue S.W., Wyoming, proudly received a bachelor of arts degree in mathematics in June. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Othal N. Riker of Wyoming were equally proud.

Nobody who has full possession of all his faculties can appreciate the trepidation with which Dave began his quest for a position as a mathematician with a Federal agency. Fortunately, it occurred to him to ask Congressman Ford's help.

When Dave walked into Ford's office a few days after his graduation, Ford immediately promised to do everything in his power to help him line up a position.

Since Dave cannot hear and can lip-read only a little, he and Ford staff members carried on extensive "conversations" on sheets of note paper. Together they tackled the task of contacting the various Federal agencies through their coordinators for employment of the handicapped.

Dave and Rep. Ford were discouraged at first. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration people were "working on something" for Dave but it didn't look promising. The Department of the Navy, the Department of Commerce and the Goddard Space Flight Center were among the "possibles" on Dave's list.

Ford staff members spent many hours making inquiries and setting up appointments.

The Department of Commerce prospect fell through. Dave twice visited the Goddard Space Flight Center but that did not prove out. Then happiness hit. Dave received word from Earl L. Payne, coordinator for employment of the handicapped at the Defense Department, that a job was waiting for him at the Pentagon. He reported for work the very next day.

Dave now is working as a mathematician in the Office of the Comptroller for the Assistant Secretary of Defense.

"I have no problems," he wrote confidently. "I am enjoying the job very much."

(more)

As for Ford, he was delighted that he could help. He was especially pleased when Dave's sister, Mrs. Kenneth Gager of Rockford (11181 - 13 Mile Rd. NE, RD 3), wrote and thanked him for the assistance given to Dave.

"I was talking to my mother yesterday, " Mrs. Gager wrote, "and she was telling me about the phone calls and other services performed for Dave and I must say it is wonderful to know there are people around who will help other people."

"Dave has had a hard time of it, all through his life, "Mrs. Gager continued, "not only because of his hearing handicap but because of other circumstances. Therefore, to think that he has come this far is really an accomplishment, and we all hope and pray that he will continue to progress as he has the last several years. He deserves every good thing that comes his way and I'm sure he appreciates all that you are doing for him. Again, many thanks to you all for your kindness and thoughtfulness."

Dave does indeed deserve all good things. A thumbnail biographical sketch shows that he was one of the top 10 students in his graduating class at Lee High School in Wyoming and won the Top Salesman Award and Best Achiever Award in the Junior Achievement of Grand Rapids Program. Since that time he has worked as a printer and pressman in Grand Rapids and in Maryland, worked on the Gallaudet College newspaper as business manager and was also business manager of the college's Student Body Government and its ice hockey team.

A fine, clean-looking chap, Dave has a secret and unusual hobby. He's something of a judo expert. Maybe he'll give mathematics at the Pentagon a new twist.

#

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford re: Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968

For Fifth District News Media

A greater opportunity to meet hospital construction needs has opened up for Kent and Ionia County communities as a result of legislation I sponsored in the 90th Congress.

A bill I introduced in April 1967 has been enacted as part of the 1968 Housing and Urban Development Act, just approved by Congress. This legislation makes FHA-type loans available for hospital construction by insuring the mortgages of nonprofit hospitals.

The federally-insured mortgage also may be used to cover the cost of major items of equipment needed to operate the hospital.

Community leaders in Grand Rapids tell me that hospital construction needs there will total an estimated \$35 million over the next 10 years. It was at their urging that I drafted and sponsored the FHA-loans hospital construction bill. I managed to keep it in the omnibus housing bill only by exerting every possible effort.

This new program of FHA-type loans for hospital construction will not supplant the familiar Hill-Burton program of federal grants for such projects. It will supplement Hill-Burton. It recognizes the fact that funds for hospital construction are in constantly short supply and that, nationwide, there is a minimum need for an estimated \$3.7 billion worth of hospital facilities.

My program fills an unmet need. Nonprofit hospitals have found mortgage lenders reluctant to provide construction loans on such terms that the loan could be paid back without an undue increase in hospital charges and fees. My program will make longterm mortgage financing possible for nonprofit hospitals.

I believe communities in Michigan and throughout the United States will benefit in improved health care as a result of this new program.

The new Housing Act also contains another provision of special interest in Kent and Ionia Counties. It establishes a national flood insurance program which will make flood insurance available to families and small businessmen in areas frequently troubled with flooding.

(more)

The people of Grandville may be among the first to become eligible for this new flood insurance because the Army Corps of Engineers has already completed a study of Grandville as a "flood-prone area."

The flood insurance coverage will be limited to one-to-four family residential properties and to smaller businesses such as the typical neighborhood family enterprise.

The insurance will be a joint venture between the Federal Government and the private insurance industry. The Government will make payments to the participating insurance companies in high flood-loss years, and the companies in turn will pay the Government a premium in low flood-loss years.

The Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 is landmark legislation. There are some features I do not like, but on balance the pluses outweigh the minuses.

The main thrust of the bill is a new Republican concept which enlists private resources to help provide decent homes for more than six million American families now living in slums or dilapidated rural dwellings.

The measure will establish the National Home Ownership Foundation which was conceived by Sen. Charles Percy, R-Ill., and supported by me. Eventually it should attract many billions in private funds into low-cost housing and rehabilitation.

There are 13 million American families with incomes under \$5,000 a year. They represent 28 per cent of all the families in the country. Not all of them live in unsatisfactory quarters, but the latest housing survey shows that 6,353,000 housing units in America are substandard. These units should be replaced or renovated.

I think we should help those who cannot decently house themselves, making certain that housing produced with Government assistance be devoted only to low-income families. And the major emphasis must be on federal guarantees, guidance and support rather than on big federal outlays.

But we must help slum dwellers and the rural poor obtain decent housing. We must act if we are to build a sound future for all Americans.

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford

For Release the Week of August 18-24, 1968
and thereafter

New Law
Bars Age
Job Bias

BY JERRY FORD

In this time when so many Americans worry so much about growing old, it seems appropriate to report that a new Federal law prohibits employers and labor unions from discriminating against workers on account of age.

Although the law is very new, the U.S. Labor Department states that already there are workers in the age bracket covered--40 to 65--who have been hired for jobs that were closed to them before the law against age discrimination went into effect.

I am pleased to say that I strongly supported this legislation when it was before the Congress.

The new law does not mean that an employer must hire a person in the 40 to 65 age group regardless of any and all circumstances. But an employer may only refuse to fill a vacancy with an otherwise qualified older worker in cases where age is "a bona fide occupational qualification necessary to the normal operation of the particular business."

Labor unions may no longer shut out workers in the 40-65 age bracket from membership or refuse to refer older members to employers simply because of their age. Employment agencies also are barred from discriminating against older job seekers.

The Age Discrimination in Employment Act applies to some 350,000 employers, employment agencies which serve them, and to labor organizations across the country. It involves employers with 25 or more workers and labor organizations with 25 or more members in industries affecting interstate commerce.

The U.S. Labor Department anticipates investigating 20,000 to 25,000 complaints regarding age discrimination in employment in the 12 months ending next June 30.

Following guidelines laid down by Congress, the department will seek to

(more)

remedy all justifiable complaints through mediation. Cases will be taken to court only where all other attempts to settle the issue fail.

The new law against age bias in hiring and firing is aimed at promoting the employment of older Americans.

There are 37 million Americans in the age 40-65 age bracket. An average of 850,000 persons in this group are unemployed. These 850,000 account for 27 per cent of all the unemployed in this country and 40 per cent of the longterm unemployed.

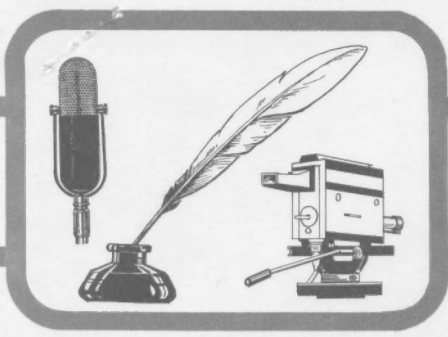
The fact that these people are jobless results in an unemployment compensation bill of \$750 million a year.

For years some employers have been shunning the older worker on the ground that he or she is physically weaker, has a high rate of absenteeism and is not adaptable to change. But study after study has shown that older workers generally have lower absenteeism rates, change jobs less frequently, and do their jobs more enthusiastically than younger workers.

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Office Copy

August 22, 1968



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT--

Rep. Jerry Ford Plays Cupid
In Trans-Atlantic Romance

The fellow who first remarked that the course of true love seldom runs smooth might have added: If you have a problem, take it to your congressman.

That's what sweet young Maureen Szymczak of Grand Rapids did when she ran into bad luck with love last Spring. With the help of Rep. Gerald R. Ford, wedding bells will ring for her in October.

For Maureen, love was a grand adventure that happened to her in Europe in the summer of 1967. It budded and bloomed in Munich when she remained on the continent after a three-week Grand Rapids Junior College tour in 1966.

She lived in Europe for a year and a half, first visiting with a sister married to a U.S. serviceman stationed in Bremerhaven and then working in Copenhagen. She vacationed in Greece and Spain during the summer of 1967 and then found work at a hotel in Munich, Germany when she ran out of money.

It was at the hotel that she met Giancarlo Vanin, an Italian who was an on-the-job trainee in hotel administration.

"I was working as a chambermaid," she said, "and I literally met Giancarlo over my mop and pail."

They fell madly in love, and when Maureen returned to Grand Rapids last Christmas and then enrolled at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo it was with plans for a Fall, 1968 wedding.

Maureen and Giancarlo agreed that he should come to Grand Rapids on a visitor's visa in August so he could meet her family and they could be married in September at St. James Catholic Church. After their marriage, they would travel to Munich where Giancarlo would resume his training in hotel administration.

But then the blow fell. Giancarlo was turned down cold when he went to the American consulate in Munich and applied for a visitor's visa so he could go to Grand Rapids to marry Maureen. The official at the consulate told him he would have to apply for an immigrant visa under the quota system, a procedure which would take years because of the long waiting list.

(more)



Maureen wrote to the Immigration and Naturalization Service Office in Detroit but received no help.

Then she appealed to Congressman Ford, detailing how the American consulate official in Munich insisted there was no assurance that Giancarlo would marry during his visit to the United States and that he would return to Europe with his bride.

Ford went to work on the case. Four months, seventeen letters, three telephone calls and one notarized statement later, the American consulate informed Ford that a visitor's visa had been granted to Giancarlo. With Ford's assistance, Maureen and Giancarlo had finally satisfied the consul that they would in fact be married in Grand Rapids and would then leave for Europe.

Bubbling over with happiness, Maureen wrote Congressman Ford:

"I would like to sincerely thank you for your assistance in helping my fiance obtain the visa. We are so thrilled and excited. It's hard to believe he actually has it! It's a nice feeling to know that when you have a problem you can take it to your congressman--and get results!"

Expressing his gratitude, Giancarlo wrote Ford: "I want you to know that all my life I will never forget you. I will never forget what you did for me. I will never forget the man who with his help gave me the opportunity to go to America and marry the girl I love so much."

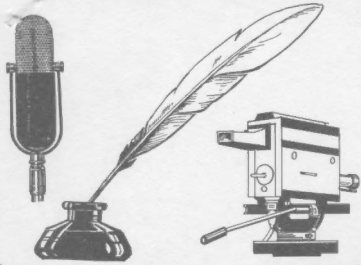
A daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Szymczak, 731 Stocking, N.W., Maureen will be married to Giancarlo Vanin at 6 p.m. Oct. 17 at St. James Catholic Church with Msgr. Walter Grill reading the Nuptial Mass. There will be a reception at St. Hyacinth's Club.

True to the word given the American consul in Munich, Germany, Maureen and Giancarlo will make their home there for four months after the wedding and then will live for two or three years in Rome where Carlo will complete his hotel management training. They plan ultimately to live in America.

Mrs. Szymczak hasn't met her future son-in-law yet but already she is proud of him.

"He speaks five languages," she said. "I am very happy for Maureen although I am sad at losing her." "You should have seen all the letters they wrote to each other after she came home last Christmas. This just has to be the real thing."

And that is how the course of true love was made smooth by a congressman.



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Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford

For Release by Kent and Ionia County News Media on Oct. 17, 1968.

Extent of flooding hazards in the Grand Rapids area will be studied intensively by the Army Corps of Engineers, Rep. Gerald R. Ford reported today.

Ford said the Corps will gather data which then will be available to the public and to State and local agencies. It is expected the study will be completed within 12 months and will cost about \$24,000.

Information to be put together by the Corps will describe basic flood hazards in the Grand Rapids area -- frequency of flooding, the areas involved, relative height of the flooding, measurements of water velocity.

"This will be an important study," Ford said. "The information to be assembled by the Corps of Engineers will be useful as a basis for all kinds of planning decisions. The extent to which flooding hazards in Kent County have increased has not been fully recognized."

Funds for the study were contained in the Federal Government's fiscal 1969 budget, Ford said.

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NEWS RELEASE

AMERICANS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL ACTION

20 E STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON 1, D.C. • 737-0937

Charles A. McManus, Executive Director

Box 7

FOR RELEASE: October 24, 1968

WASHINGTON, D. C. - Representative Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, was endorsed for re-election today by ACA (Americans for Constitutional Action). The non-partisan National organization, headquartered here, said it was endorsing Michigan's Fifth District Congressman because of his consistent voting record for constitutional principles.

Charles A. McManus, Executive Director of ACA, stated, "Representative Ford is best judged by his performance during the 20 years he has served in the House. His legislative record gives factual evidence of his valuable service to our Nation. He stands firm against the liberal pressures in Washington, the wild spending schemes, and the permissive society offered by the proponents of the Great Society."

"Congressman Ford has repeatedly stood for fiscal responsibility; firm responsible opposition to the Communists; and for law and order for our Nation."

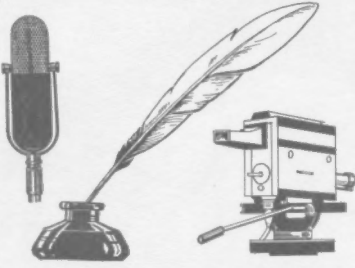
Americans for Constitutional Action (ACA) periodically rates all members of Congress on issues which are of major National importance and adherence to constitutional principles. ACA's Executive Director stated, "If every member of Congress voted like Congressman Ford, there would be no Federal debt, inflation would not be a problem, our National military strength would not be in question, Americans would be paying lower taxes, and our wives and children would not be in constant fear for their safety."

Mr. McManus cited Congressman Ford's voting record as outstanding and asserted that he is the kind of Congressman of which we need more. "He puts the interest of the United States first and works continually for the preservation of constitutional government."

The endorsement by ACA brings to the Congressman the support of highly distinguished citizens, Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, who are members of ACA's Board of Trustees.

Congressman Ford is now serving his 10th term in Congress. He is married to the former Elizabeth Bloomer and has four children.





CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
November 14, 1968

Veterans and their dependents in the Grand Rapids area soon will be as close to the Veterans Administration Regional Office in Detroit as they are to their telephone, Congressman Gerald R. Ford announced today.

Congressman Ford said, effective November 22, 1968, a new VA FX telephone system linking the Grand Rapids area with the Detroit Regional Office will be put into operation.

He emphasized that the cost of such calls will be no more than the cost of a call to their next door neighbor -- there is no long distance charge.

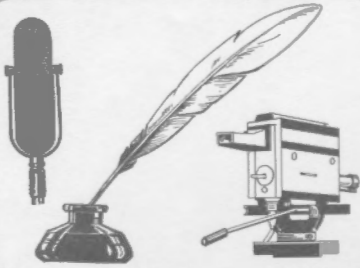
Under the FX system, Congressman Ford explained, a veteran can pick up the telephone in his home, shop, or office, dial a local Grand Rapids number, 456-8511, and talk with a VA representative in the Detroit Regional Office where files for Grand Rapids veterans are located.

Calls may be made Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

VA representatives in Detroit will provide assistance on all VA programs, including education and training, insurance, compensation and pension, vocational rehabilitation, medical care, and G.I. loans, as well as on veterans benefits administered by other Federal agencies, the Congressman said.

Congressman Ford noted that the telephone company information service will carry the Veterans Administration FX number as a local listing and it will appear in future telephone directories.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT--
November 15, 1968

The Ionia Recreation Area will swell to more than 3,000 acres as the result of a fresh Federal grant, Rep. Gerald R. Ford of Grand Rapids announced today.

Ford said the Michigan Conservation Department will receive \$169,477.50 in Federal funds to add 941 acres of land to the existing 2,115-acre area.

Ford noted that this will bring the total Ionia Recreation Area acreage to 3,056.

He said the ultimate goal is to expand the area to perhaps 3,500 acres, according to the U.S. Department of Interior.

With the new grant, the Federal Government has put \$520,049 of matching money into the recreation area, Ford said. Since this money is matched by the State, total investment in Ionia Recreation Area land to date is \$1,040,098, Ford noted.

He said the Interior Department indicated there will be one final allocation of funds to the State Conservation Department for purchase of still more Ionia Recreation Area land.

The original Ionia project was approved in April 1967.

The area is used for hunting, hiking, camping, nature study, canoeing and winter sports.

The federal funds for the project come from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. That Fund is built up from sale of the annual \$7 Golden Eagle Permit which admits a carload of people to all Federal areas, other Federal outdoor recreation entrance and user fees, the sale of Federal surplus real property, and the Federal motorboat fuels tax.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT--
November 21, 1968

A surveillance radar system estimated to cost \$270,000 will be installed at Kent County Airport by the Federal Aviation Agency, Rep. Gerald R. Ford of Grand Rapids announced today.

It will be two years before the system is in operation, he said.

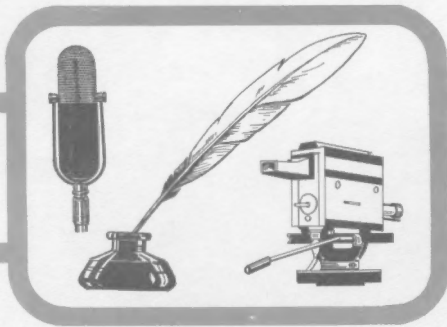
Ford said FAA Administrator David D. Thomas notified him that funds had been earmarked for the project. The FAA now will prepare the specifications and seek bids. The contract will be awarded about next June, the FAA told Ford.

It then will take about 18 months for delivery of the equipment and another 90 to 180 days for FAA to install it, Ford said.

The surveillance radar system will be a big safety plus for Kent County Airport, Ford declared. He noted that it is used by air traffic controllers to separate aircraft approaching the Grand Rapids area. It is particularly useful in bad weather.

The FAA approves an airport for surveillance radar when a survey shows at least 20,000 annual instrument approaches by aircraft landing at the airport and at least 1,000 itinerant operations.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT--
November 22, 1968

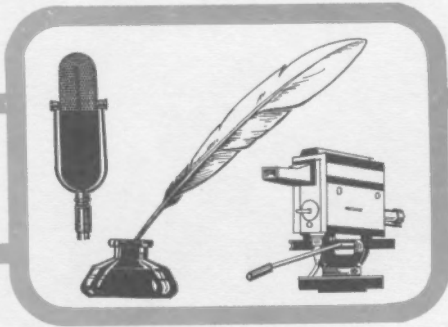
A new bathhouse estimated to cost roughly \$66,750 will be built in Long Lake Park with the help of federal funds, Rep. Gerald R. Ford of Grand Rapids announced today.

Ford said the Kent County Road and Park Commission will receive a \$33,378.48 Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant from the Interior Department. The federal funds are to be matched by Kent County.

The new bathhouse will replace an old Long Lake Park bathhouse building. The park is due north of Grand Rapids between 16 and 17-Mile Roads.

The federal grant for the project comes from a fund built up with revenues from sale of the \$7 Golden Eagle permit which admits a carload of people to Federal recreation areas, other Federal outdoor recreation entrance and user fees, the sale of Federal surplus real property, and the Federal motorboat fuels tax.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

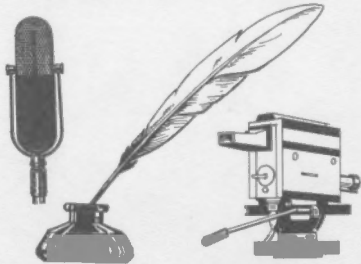
--FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT--
November 26, 1968

Pine Rest Christian Hospital and Sheltered Workshop will receive a Federal grant of \$86,622 to expand a building serving retarded and mentally ill persons and to augment other services and programs, Rep. Gerald R. Ford of Grand Rapids announced today.

Pine Rest, located at 6850 South Division in Grand Rapids, will put \$28,874 of its own funds into the project for a total investment of \$115,496 in the expansion program, Ford said. The federal funds come from the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the Health-Education-Welfare Department.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT--
November 27, 1968

Davenport College of Business in Grand Rapids will launch a \$526,000 college housing program with the aid of a \$500,000 Federal loan, Rep. Gerald R. Ford of Grand Rapids said today.

Ford reported approval by the Housing and Urban Development Department of a \$500,000 loan to Davenport College to be repaid over a 30-year period at 3 per cent interest.

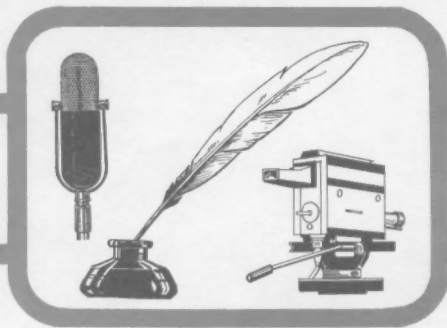
The Federal loan, supplemented with \$26,000 of the college's own funds, will be used to buy two apartment buildings and convert them into student housing, Ford said.

The converted buildings will provide housing for 94 men and 36 women students.

Architectural work for the conversion project will be done by Wold, Bowers, De Shane & Covert of Grand Rapids.

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Note to Editors: If any further information is desired, it is suggested you contact Robert E. Schmiedicke, Vice-President, Davenport College of Business, 415 East Fulton Street, Grand Rapids.



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT--
December 5, 1968

The Grand Rapids Housing Commission will be handed nearly \$2 million in federal loan funds to buy 100 row-style homes for rental to low-income families, Rep. Gerald R. Ford announced today.

Ford said the Housing and Urban Development Department has just earmarked loan funds for purchase of the housing. The homes will be located in an area bounded by Barnett, Lafayette, Clancy and Cedar Streets.

Tempo Construction, Inc., of Grand Rapids will build the homes. The Grand Rapids Housing Commission then will buy them, using up to \$1,911,047 in federal money. That is the amount of the financial assistance contract approved by HUD.

This new-style public housing project is part of a HUD program called Turnkey.

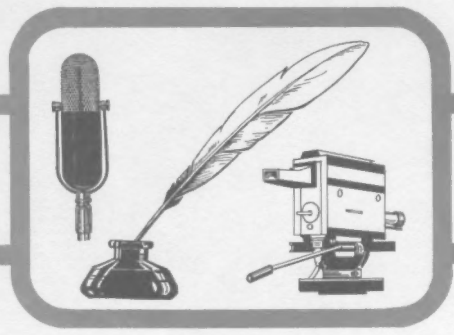
The new program permits a local housing authority to buy housing produced by private developers on their own land.

Under the Grand Rapids contract approved by HUD, the \$1.9 million loan will cover land, construction and equipment, utilities, planning and design, space for management and maintenance and for tenant or neighborhood services and activities, contingencies, and administrative costs.

The Grand Rapids Housing Commission will sell long-term bonds to private investors and use the proceeds to repay the \$1.9 million loan to the Federal Government.

This is taxpayer-subsidized housing. The financial assistance contract provides for annual federal contributions to the Grand Rapids Housing Commission to keep the rent low on the row-style homes.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT
December 20, 1968

When Mrs. Florence Kent thought of her teenage soldier sons, Arthur and Darcy, spending their first away-from-home Christmas in faroff Vietnam, she felt heartsick.

Then she hit on an idea. Art was at Chu Lai; Dart, at Phu Bai. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the military authorities would bring them together on Christmas Day!

With that in mind, Mrs. Kent, of 3900 Flamingo, S.W., Wyoming, wrote to Congressman Gerald R. Ford and asked if he could help.

Ford promptly fired off a request to the Commanding General of the U.S. Army in Vietnam asking if the two young men could possibly be reunited for Christmas. Ford noted that the two boys, 18 and 19, had not only enlisted in the Army but had volunteered for duty in Vietnam.

In passing along Mrs. Kent's request, Ford noted that she is "a fine, courageous woman who raised her children (seven of them) alone, without outside help of any kind, since these two soldiers were nine and 10 years old respectively."

Days passed. Then came a wire from the commanding general informing Ford that Pfc. Darcy Kent would be transported on December 23 to the spot where his brother, Pfc. Arthur Kent, is stationed.

"The two brothers will be together for the Christmas holidays," the general promised.

In a letter to Mrs. Kent, Ford said: "Having two teenage sons who not only enlisted but volunteered for Vietnam duty as well is almost unbelievable in this time when so many are doing everything they can to avoid their military obligation. When you tell me that you raised your seven children from early childhood alone, without any outside help, I am filled with tremendous admiration for you. The fine spirit of your sons in Vietnam is a reflection of the wonderful courage and spirit of you, their mother."

Ford figures that the reuniting of Art and Dart in Vietnam at Christmastime is perhaps the best present Mrs. Kent could receive, short of having her sons back home with her.

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