

For Release January 1, 1953

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

With the new, 83rd Congress only a few days from their oath of office it might be interesting to see what the statisticians say about the group. The average member of the House of Representatives will be 52 years old, more than twice the minimum age of 25 required for Membership to the lower chamber. The average Senator will be going on 57, nearly twice the 30 years of age required for Senate Membership. Congressional ages range from 26 to 85.

With almost 20 million American veterans of our various wars there is always an interest in how members of the Congress served in the Armed Forces. Of the 96 Senators, there are 61 veterans. Senator Edward Martin, Republican of Pennsylvania served in the Spanish American War and both World Wars. He retired as a Major General. Quite a record. In the House of Representatives there are 243 veterans out of the presently elected membership of 434. Obviously the interests of former soldiers, sailors and airmen will be properly protected.

Attorneys again seem to dominate both the House and Senate. Since the major job of the Congress is writing and considering proposed laws, maybe a legal background is desirable although at times I wonder if too many lawyer lawmakers make everything too legalistic for the layman. Right or wrong the new Senate will have 56 attorneys or 58 per cent of its total membership. The House will be well lawyerized by 249 attorneys.

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I should like to remind you who have contacted me concerning legislation during the 83rd Congress, that our legislative calendar, even at this early date, is prospectively filled to overloading. The complicated work accompanying a change in administration extends, of necessity, into the legislative schedule. But I do assure you that every suggestion which has been brought to my attention will receive full consideration and complete investigation. I fully realize that many, many changes are demanded by changing conditions. It is my duty as your Congressman to work for all necessary and desirable changes in our laws and let me assure you I will give the problem my best



attention whether it be personal, local or nationwide in its effect.

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Ike is to be inaugurated January 20th but it was not too many years ago that our Presidents took the oath of office on March 4th - four months after their election. F. D. R., following his election in 1936 was the first Chief Executive to be sworn in on a January 20th. The date was changed by a Constitutional Amendment in order that a new administration could take over more quickly after its election. It is my impression there is nothing more futile than a "lame-duck" administration.

Washington, D. C. was not the place of the first Inaugural. George Washington took his first oath of office in New York City and his second at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The first Inauguration in Washington occurred in 1801 when Thomas Jefferson became Chief Executive, and it has been held in the Nation's Capitol ever since.

From my observations to date President-elect Eisenhower is doing all he can to make the change from the old regime to the new as smooth as possible. He has appointed his top aides and advisors quickly and they are already in conference with those they will succeed. Except for Mr. Truman's unnecessary and ill-founded statements about Ike's trip to Europe, H. S. T. has apparently cooperated with Ike. World conditions being so critical it is vital that all go as smooth as possible in the period of transition.

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A further reminder: Until further notice, I may be contacted by calling my Washington office directly or by writing me at 321 House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

Happy New Year, everybody!



For Release January 6, 1953

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

The end of an old Congress and the beginning of a new always means bidding adieu to some colleagues and welcoming others. In a two year period a Republican Congressman makes good friends with Democrats and G.O.P.ers alike. There may be vast and insurmountable differences on political philosophy but that doesn't necessarily mean disliking a colleague on a personal basis. I've seen some pretty bitter, in fact acrimonious, debate on the floor of the House between a Republican and Democrat and shortly thereafter the same two Congressmen chatting amiably in the cloak room. To a layman perhaps this situation is difficult to visualize. Actually it is further evidence of the outstanding system of government we have in America. Can any of us imagine a minority party with its rights and its members protected behind the Iron Curtain? In the United States with a strong two party system all our citizens, and particularly minorities, are assured of fair and equitable protection against the encroachments of the majority.

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Organizing a new Congress is no simple responsibility, particularly when control of the House and Senate passes from one political party to another. New chairmen for each committee must take over. Membership ratios on the various committees are revised. For example on my committee, Appropriations, in the 82nd Congress there were 50 members, 30 Democrats and 20 Republicans. In the new 83rd Congress this ratio will be reversed. Your Congressman's seniority on this committee will be upped considerably by the changeover in Administration. Instead of the 16th ranking Republican out of 20 members on the Appropriations Committee I will be 16th out of 30. In addition, instead of being on only 1 subcommittee there is a distinct possibility I will serve on 2. It necessarily means more work and responsibility, but that's what the Republicans asked for in the recent campaign so we're ready and anxious to get going.

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On Saturday, January 3rd at 12:00 noon the Members of the 83rd Congress were sworn in. Five new Republican Congressmen from Michigan took the oath of office just as our representative had done four years earlier. This question has been asked many times. How do these new members get their committee assignments? It's an important but rather informal process. The committee assignments are made by the Committee on Committees which has a member from each state. Representative Jesse Wolcott of Port Huron is the G.O.P. member on the Committee on Committees, and he votes as a bloc Michigan's 13 votes, one for each Republican Congressman.

When a new member of the House comes to Washington he always talks over the committee assignment he would like with the member from his state who is on the Committee on Committees. Four years ago I expressed my views to Representative Woodruff of Bay City who was then the dean of the Michigan Republican delegation. I can well remember the excellent advice passed on to me by this veteran of the Congress and I shall forever be indebted to him for his counsel and help. The new members from Michigan in the 83rd Congress undoubtedly have had similar conferences with Congressman Wolcott who will now proceed to do all that he possibly can to see that they get topnotch beginning assignments. Because Michigan in the Committee on Committees has 13 votes, one of the largest delegations, and because Congressman Wolcott is a highly respected member, the new Representatives from our State will undoubtedly get the best possible breaks and that means something in the long run to a Congressional District and a member.

Within a week or so after the members are sworn in all committees will be set and the Congress ready for action. When General Eisenhower and Senator Nixon on January 20th are inaugurated the new Administration on the legislative level will be set to begin a new era in American history.

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YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

President Truman on Friday, January 9th sent his last federal budget to the Congress. It is practically as gigantic as its predecessors and those were so impractical and backbreaking to the American taxpayers the voters on November 4th decided a change was in order. The new Truman budget proposes spending that totals \$78.6 billion, income of \$68.7 billion and a deficit for the next twelve months of \$9.9 billion. The five largest items in the new budget are: military services \$46.2 billion; foreign aid \$7.8 billion; interest on the public debt \$6.4 billion; veterans' benefits and services \$4.5 billion; and natural resource development including the atomic energy program \$4 billion.

Will such a fantastically high budget be approved by President-elect Eisenhower and the new Congress? The answer is definitely no. The American citizens in the last election demanded a slash in federal expenditures. A 5 to 10 billion dollar reduction in the budget proposed by Mr. Truman is definitely in the cards. When Ike and his staff in the Executive Branch of the government take over, there will be a thoroughgoing re-analysis of the Truman requests and it is expected that the figures will be lowered in a resubmitted budget. The Congress will then have its crack at the budget. Further slashes in proposed expenditures can and will be expected.

Let's take just one big item for comparison and analysis. Mr. Truman proposed \$7.8 billion for all foreign aid programs for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1953. This is over a billion dollars more than Congress appropriated last year for the aid and assistance of our allies throughout the world. Mr. Truman in his budget message specifically mentioned the need for additional economic aid to Great Britain and France.

The outgoing President in this instance as in others is somewhat optimistic if he believes this Congress will appropriate such a sum of money for foreign aid. I assume Mr. Truman and his advisors failed to read the various investigations of recent date indicating that the State Department, the Mutual Security Administration and other overseas agencies were so overstaffed the whole gang were falling all over each other. Actually this waste was harmful to American prestige in Europe and elsewhere. One of the reports condemning this situation came from a member of Mr. Truman's own cabinet, while the other was authored by one of the Senate Committees.

The new Secretary of State, Mr. Dulles, can be expected to straighten out this horrible mess. Undoubtedly the Congress will help him by appropriating \$2 to \$4 billion less than Mr. Truman demanded.

With the Congress ready to wield the axe on expenditures there will be squawks by some that certain agencies cannot be cut. Here is what Mr. Lindsay Warren, Comptroller General says on that score, "I have said on a number of occasions, and I have no hesitancy in repeating it at this time of intense discussion of budgets and expenditures, there is not a department or agency in the government that cannot reduce the number of its employees, providing there is a will to do so. It is not an easy job, even if you have the will, but I think the results we have achieved in the General Accounting Office without any mandate from the Congress furnish ample proof that it can be done. In April 1946, the number of our employees reached a peak of 14,904. There were 6,204 employees on January 1, 1953. This is a reduction of 8,700 or nearly 60 per cent in the last seven years." Obviously the government needs more executives like Mr. Warren and I believe that will be the case in the new Administration,

VISITORS - Mrs. Mary E. Fuller, Maryon E. Osterhous and Roman W. Lapinski all of Grand Rapids.



For release January 22, 1953

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

House committee assignments, reassignments and additional assignments have just been made. The State of Michigan fared mightily well. Much credit is due Congressman Jesse Walcott from Port Huron who served on the inner circle of the Committee on Committees. Our five new Michigan Republicans picked up choice spots for themselves and their constituents. Congressman Al Cederburg of Bay City joined me on the Committee on Appropriations which is a top assignment for a freshman in the House. Representative Vic Knox, former speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives and Senator Potter's successor in the House from the 11th District, was selected to be a member of the important Ways and Means Committee. This committee has a big job in this Congress in determining future taxation policies.

Kit Clardy of Lansing, another freshman, landed two assignments, the Committee on Un-American Activities and the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. The new Congressman from the 8th Michigan District, Al Bentley, becomes a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Representative Bentley formerly served in the State Department but resigned in disgust because he felt the department under the old Administration was not strongly anti-communist. In his new role he should have an opportunity to scrutinize carefully both past and present foreign policy decisions. The new Republican Congressman from Detroit, Charles Oakman, is a member of the Committee on Banking and Currency where he will have the immediate job of helping to determine the fate of price and wage controls.

The House Committee on Appropriations has been reorganized and in the process your Congressman ended up with an excellent assignment as third ranking member of the Department of Defense subcommittee. Had to give up my old subcommittee job where I worked on the appropriations for river, harbor and flood control but the new assignment involving all the funds for the Army, Navy and Air Force will keep me plenty busy. The



subcommittee is composed of six Republicans and three Democrats. After the nine of us listen to the testimony of the Secretary of Defense and his top budget advisors on over-all military policy and problems, we will probably break up into three smaller groups (2 Republicans and 1 Democrat) with each concentrating on one branch of the military. It is the only practical way the complicated details can be adequately screened in the multi-billion dollar budget requests for the Army, Navy and Air Force. In all likelihood I will be the Chairman of one of the three subcommittees with my nose to the grindstone for the next few months.

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The Congress and the American people have heard the State of the Union and the Budget messages of former President Truman. Both were anti-climaxes for the public generally is obviously more interested in what Ike will say when he shortly appears in person before the Joint Sessions of the Congress. It is understood that the new President, shortly after Inauguration, will resubmit a less expensive budget and discuss the future policies of the new Administration. Already there is ample evidence that costly social experiments in government are to be discarded in favor of more businesslike and practical proposals.

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The Inauguration brought to Washington thirty or more friends from Kent and Ottawa Counties. It was mighty rough trying to get them all tickets for the various events but from various reports everyone seemed reasonably satisfied. My office was open to visitors and the guest book indicates practically everybody stopped in to say hello, enjoy a cup of coffee and pick up their tickets. Legislative and committee work was at a standstill during the three-day Inaugural period but it will be full steam ahead from now on.

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Last week I spent most of one day in a briefing session by top federal Civil Defense officials. The demonstration dramatically illustrated that Civil Defense is an integral part of the plan for the protection of our citizens. It was terrifying to see what could happen to a large community hit by an atomic bomb. The federal civil defense set-up need not be a bureaucratic monstrosity to do the job providing our local programs are effective. Western Michigan because of its industrial development is a target area. Let's protect ourselves in the future by volunteering now for civil defense training.

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For release January 29th

With the Democrats moving out and Republicans and Inauguration visitors moving in, confusion reigned supreme in the Nation's Capitol for a few days around January 20th. It was as though New York City's Grand Central Station had been enlarged to extend over the ten square miles of the District of Columbia.

As everyone knows, the new President's swearing in and Inaugural speech went along without a slip. Not all inaugurations have gone as smoothly. History books tell us Lincoln lost his speech which he had prepared for the ceremony. President Grant's term of office expired on a Saturday and with the Inauguration scheduled for the following Monday, it was realized that our country would be without a President for a whole day. So in a private chamber, in the presence of a few close associates, President Hayes received the oath from the Chief Justice a full day and a half before the formal ceremony.

Undoubtedly every member of Congress had various reactions to Ike's Inauguration. One of my good friends is Congressman Lloyd Bentsen, of Texas. His weekly column had the following appropos comments:

"The promotion from five stars to 48, from General to President was accomplished with the solemnity that the times portend."

"If ever a President needed the nation's prayers for counsel and guidance to steer the atomic-powered ship of state through agitated waters ahead, your Congressman believes it's now. He is a man assailed not only with his own people's problems, but with the troubles of the world's free people."

"No matter what happens he takes the credit--and the blame."

"The magnitude of the man's burden is almost beyond comprehension. Everyone expects everything of him. There are those who demand miracles. Like those who, during the two months before he took office, bitterly upbraided the new President because he had not stopped the war in Korea. Being President of the United States is a lonely, terrible responsibility. It's typified by the high iron fence around the White House. Your Congressman always has the feeling that the fence doesn't say "Keep out" but rather "He's in," residing here is the prisoner of the votes and hopes of the American electorate."



"As a people who face facts with a President who has an intimate knowledge of war, the United States can't dodge playing a leading role toward making the splitting of the atom man's arrival on a newer and higher plateau of better living rather than the curtain falling on man's destruction. So, as a people who face facts, we know the Russians haven't been sitting idly by, letting the atom blow where it will."

"With this facing us we don't have a choice, except to strengthen ourselves...if we want to survive. If we don't want to make the sacrifice, if we become discouraged and let down, then we and the other free people will get slapped down, we'll come apart at the seams to be absorbed into the Communist maw, one by one.

The Kremlin thinks the free world is populated by weaklings. Its leaders freely prophesied that we cannot make the necessary sacrifices over a long period of time. They said all they have to wait on is our despair, self-pity and internal collapse.

"This is just a little of what this Texan thinks is bound to be harrassing the new President. The wealthiest, most powerful nation of the world has chosen him to provide the leadership to meet these challenges. Each of us must help the President with our assistance when we think he's right and with constructive criticism when we think he's wrong."

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One of the human interest stories of the Inauguration involves Major John Eisenhower, the President's son who is with the Army's fighting forces in Korea. He was home for a 15-day leave to see his father become the 34th President of the United States. Apparently neither Ike nor his son knew who issued the Army orders bringing the boy to Washington for the ceremonies. The riddle was solved as Ike and Harry Truman travelled up Pennsylvania Avenue together for the new President's swearing in.

Ike asked Harry what he knew about the situation. Mr. Truman said, "Tell your son a contrary old man in the White House ordered him home to see his father take the oath of office." Everyone seems to agree it was a mighty fine parting gesture by the then Commander in Chief, Harry S. Truman.

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
by Gerald R. Ford, Jr.

For release February 5, 1953

There has been a great deal of comment to the effect that the President and the Congress are already split wide open because of certain committee action on the Government Reorganization bill. The facts indicate there is no difference of opinion, not even a minor controversy, on this issue. Actually the President, his party leaders in the Congress and the G.O.P. members of the House and Senate agree that the legislative branch must have some control over the right of the executive branch to overhaul the various departments. President Eisenhower firmly believes in our tripartite form of government with the separation of powers and the placing of direct responsibilities. The new Chief Executive does not have to rely on short cuts to achieve proper reorganization in the federal government.

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Headlines were made when the Netherlands Government informed the United States it did not need any more American foreign aid. Tentatively the Dutch had been allocated \$15 million for this year. Economic aid and assistance from the United States to Holland since the beginning of the Marshall Plan, in 1948, has totaled approximately \$966 million. Of this amount, about \$150 million has been in the form of loans and the remainder as grants.

Two comments on this announcement seem appropriate. First, the Dutch deserve our heartiest congratulations for voluntarily rejecting more financial assistance from Uncle Sam. Second, the Netherlands is an example of what a nation although ravaged by war and occupation can do to rehabilitate itself. Our other allies who have been beneficiaries of American dollars for their own good and ours might try treading the same path pursued by the Dutch.

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Will Alaska and Hawaii become states of the Union? Prospects look excellent for Hawaii while Alaska may have to wait a session or two. In the past I have voted to admit both and will do the same again if the enabling legislation comes before the House.



How long has it been since Congress exercised its Constitutional right of admitting new states into the union? The 47th and 48th states, New Mexico and Arizona, were admitted 41 years ago. Both of the youngest states were territories prior to their admittance, New Mexico for 62 years, Arizona for 49 years.

On every score Hawaii and Alaska meet the test for statehood. The time for Congressional action is now.

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The first bill before the House was legislation authorizing an Under Secretary of State for Administration. The proposal provides for a business administrator in the Department of State who in addition to other duties would be responsible for guarding against subversive infiltration in the U. S. foreign service. Some of the opponents to the measure objected because it provided a new job at around \$18 thousand annually. The objectors failed to realize that the new Secretary of State when he took over from Mr. Acheson abolished a \$25 thousand a year job as Ambassador-at-Large formerly held by Mr. Philip Jessup. That's a small but nevertheless worthwhile saving in the over-all picture and in addition other economies will result in the State Department budget with a top flight business executive straightening out the concusion left by the last Administration.

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As Chairman of the House committee to pass on the Army's request for funds for the next fiscal year I will have the help of two fine members of the Congress. Congressman Ted Miller of Maryland is my Republican committee colleague and Representative Bob Sikes of Florida is the Democratic member. The three of us will work as a team in scrutinizing the Army's budget request of about \$12 billion. We have some topnotch outside talent who will do some special investigating and analyzing of the Army's procurement policies and operations. Mr. James S. Egan, a retired F.B.I. official, Mr. E.Z. Deadrich, organization counsel for Standard Oil of California, and Mr. George E. Shipway, an official with U. S. Steel Corporation are the group that will work with our committee in trying to cut the Army's budget. Our aim is more national defense for the tax dollars.

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VISITORS: From Grand Rapids - Dick Oele, Burt C. Phillips, Vera Hall and Barbara Zamierowski.

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

Because of my new responsibility as a member of the Military sub-committee of the Committee on Appropriations and particularly as chairman of the Army section, I recently had first hand contacts with two of America's top flight military leaders. First, General Lawton Collins, Chief of Staff for the Army, stopped in my office for a "get acquainted" conference. He and the members of his staff will be testifying shortly before my subcommittee on the Army's budget of 12 billion dollars for the next fiscal year. It was a very friendly confab but laid the groundwork for the hard work ahead when the subcommittee will be carefully probing every tax dollar requested by the Department of the Army. We agreed it was our joint responsibility to make the United States Army the best in the world at the least cost in American manpower and dollars.

On the same day while the subcommittee on the Military budget was quizzing Vice Admiral Holloway on Navy personnel problems, Congressman Taber, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations brought Admiral Radford into the committee room for an informal report on the Korean-Formosan situation. Admiral Radford is in charge of the U.S. Naval forces in the Pacific. In a completely "off the record" discussion he answered straightforwardly the numerous questions put to him about the new Formosa responsibilities of the 7th Fleet, the possibilities of a Naval blockade of Communist China, the potentialities of Chiang Kai Chek's forces and whether Russia and her Chinese satellite will enlarge the scope of the Korean War. After listening to this first hand report by the top Navy authority on the Pacific area one can readily see why President Eisenhower has been greatly impressed with Admiral Radford's recommendations as to what should be done to end the Korean stalemate.

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All of us are deeply concerned about the tragedy that has befallen the stalwart people of the Netherlands. It is most encouraging

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to see the citizens of Western Michigan come to the front with unlimited generosity for the flood victims. You might be interested to know that your Congressman appeared on a Washington, D.C. radio program soliciting funds for the relief of Dutch citizens who have lost their homes and loved ones.

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The final report of one of the most publicized committees of the 82nd Congress has at long last been released. The Katyn Massacre Committee issued its last complete report at the conclusion of investigations which had carried them to all parts of the United States and Europe.

By this time the conclusions can hardly be called news since they follow logically from the various testimonies which were given throughout the hearings and which received considerable publicity at the time.

The report states that the Committee unanimously finds, beyond any question of reasonable doubt, that the Soviet NKVD (Peoples' Commissariat of Internal Affairs) committed the mass murder of the Polish officers and intellectual leaders in the Katyn Forest near Smolensk, Russia." Furthermore, the committee asserts that testimony indicates the existence of "other Katyns".

The committee is to be complimented on its thorough and efficient management of its investigations. Although the investigations may not result in any immediate legislation, the facts have been clearly set forth in the committee records for the whole world to see. The time may come in the future when the responsible persons will be put on trial for these crimes. It is then that the exhaustive and detailed research of the committee will be most valuable. Meanwhile, as the truth of the massacre is brought to the full light of day it gives us all much to think about...not only about the crimes which have been perpetrated, but also the type of people we have to deal with on the level of world wide diplomacy. It is all of these things which must be taken into consideration in establishing our policies at home and abroad.

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YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

My recent trip across the continent and back again proved both interesting and useful. The chief purpose of the trip was to give me an opportunity to live up to my part of a bargain made a year ago. At that time, Congressman Don Jackson spoke at a Republican Lincoln Day dinner in Holland. A reciprocal agreement found me this year speaking a G.O.P. Lincoln dinners in Santa Monica and Beverly Hills, California, both communities in Rep. Jackson's district. Maybe I'm a bit naive about this fast moving age, but flying by commercial planes from California to Washington, D.C. (2371 air miles) in nine hours and thirty minutes makes one do a little serious thinking about our nation's absolute immunity from enemy air attack.

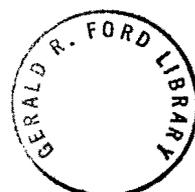
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On the transcontinental trip I lugged along some three volumes of last year's committee hearings (1468 pages) on the Army's budget. In 1952 the then Secretary of the Army, Mr. Frank Pace, made the opening for \$14,200,000,000. Sec. Pace has now been succeeded by Robert T. Stevens of the new Eisenhower administration who this year will represent the Army before my committee. Along with the change of faces has come a reduced budget for the Department of the Army. A year ago the Army requested \$14.2 billion. This year in even the Truman budget the figure was pared to \$12.4 billion. The new "team" in the White House, the Pentagon and the Congress should result in even larger savings. By careful review of the many pages of the 1952 testimony, your Congressman will be prepared to make his contribution in trimming the fat from the Army's budget.

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President Eisenhower has affixed his signature to the first major law enacted under his administration. It was a bill giving the new President the same powers to reorganize the Executive branches of the Federal Government that President Truman had. Both the House and the Senate rejected amendments which would have enabled either house of the Congress to stop a Presidential reorganization plan by the vote of a simple majority of the voting members. Under the measure as approved, either the House or Senate can block a Presi-

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decisional plan only by a majority vote of the total membership (regardless of the number voting).

Reliable sources report the President is ready to present to Congress several reorganization plans effecting Federal agencies, bureaus and commissions. Without a doubt, when these plans are announced, the folks who believe in the status quo regardless of its inefficiency and cost will raise a hew and cry. If the proposed changes make sense by cutting cost and improving service to the public then Congress should okay them without delay regardless of protests of vested interests.

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The legislative mill is really grinding with all of the House and Senate committees acting on the many proposals dumped in the Congressional hoppers: --The Senate Judiciary Committee reported a bill broadening present laws to stop the interstate transportation of filthy and obscene material; --The Senate Committee on Banking and Currency favorably reported a change to increase the amount available to housing officials for loan insurance on home repairs and improvements.

House investigation showed the Bureau of Internal Revenue's Alcohol Tax Division under President Truman to be filled with dishonest and unethical politicians hacks. The chief of the agency admitted in public testimony before the committee that "the wrong kind of politics" had led to inefficiency and "trouble" in his agency. A mere sample of what went on under the Truman regime is the evidence that the former head of the Alcohol Tax Unit had spent at least \$40,000 more than he reported in income taxes during 1946-51.

In another Congressional probe, State Department officials admitted that the personnel files were sloppily handled and that individual files were in a deplorable condition. No wonder some disloyal persons were able to slip in and out of government employment under Truman, Acheson and the rest.

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With our Federal income tax returns due very shortly it was encouraging to hear this statement by the new Commissioner of Internal Revenue: "All justifiable amounts, however small, should be collected, but any harassment of taxpayers should be halted." This is good news indeed to those who in the past have been unduly pestered by tax collectors for payment of "piddling" claims.

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Visitors: Douglas Metz, Rev. J. VandeKieft, Joe Mann, Maurice P. Clifford ... all of Grand Rapids.



For release February 26, 1953

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

The excitement caused by the House Armed Services Procurement sub-committee "chamber of horrors" last year has just about died away. After reading the first report of the Defense Supply Management Agency, established by Public Law 436, I'm not too certain that this calm after the storm is completely justified.

In the seven ~~month~~ period since the passage of the law providing for a single catalog and standardization of all supply items used throughout the Armed Services, surprisingly little has been accomplished. We realize that in view of the confused and disordered status of military catalogs previously used, the problem of resolving them into a single, logically correlated system is an extremely formidable one. And yet, the revelation that some three hundred-odd experts at the Pentagon have been able to complete only one small catalog of food items, comes as quite a disappointment.

For twenty-three years the Federal Government has sought to establish a single catalog system, but every attempt has been met with failure. In past years, Congress authorized a system of standardization; two Presidents directed executive orders for this purpose. But still no positive results were forthcoming. During the 82nd Congress, my colleague Rep. Jack Anderson sponsored the bill which has now been enacted into law. It would be unfortunate indeed if this excellent and well-thought-out piece of legislation should go the way of its predecessors.

In a letter to Chairman Carl Vinson of the Procurement sub-committee, Admiral J.W. Fowler, who now heads the Agency set up under the provisions of Public Law 436, wrote "the standardization of inspection procedures and streamlining of those functions... would result in approximate annual savings of four billion dollars." In other words, by eliminating waste, duplication, over-purchasing, four billion of your tax dollars could be saved annually.



This is to be accomplished by the following methods: A single supply agency is to be established. This has already been done. The variety of catalogs are to be unified into a single system to be used by all branches of the military. As I have stated above, only one of these has been produced. It would seem that in a period of seven months other catalogs on such items as clothing and hardware could have been produced. There is to be standardization of all items used by the military. To date this has been too slow and painful a process. At this rate it would take a lifetime to complete the catalog series.

The same law also requires that a semi-annual progress report be submitted to Congress for inspection. Here, too, I have noted serious discrepancies. The report states that it covers a period from July 1, 1952 to December 31, 1952. I am told by well-informed individuals that some improvements in procurement had actually been achieved from two to three years ago, although the report would lead us to believe they took place in this six month period. In any event, it is quite evident that major speed-up changes must be made if the program is to be effective.

The new Defense Secretary has been at his post about one month and is slowly but surely orientating himself to his new job. I am confident that as soon as this sluggishness in the procurement agency has been brought to his attention he will take steps to accelerate the process. You may be sure that I, too, will keep an eye on this program so vital to defense and so closely linked to your tax dollars.

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Visitors this week were: Mr. and Mrs. G.J. Vander Broek, E.H. Glaettli, Mrs. Katherine VanSteenberg, Capt. and Mrs. H.M. Oren, Peter Waalkes, Lloyd E. Fry, and Mrs. Paul Goebel of Grand Rapids - B.J. Staal of Holland - M. E. Papanoli, W.A. Morse, Paul A. Johnson, Jr. of Grand Haven.



FOR RELEASE MARCH 5, 1953

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

For the past week there has been no time for any extra-curricular activities. A very heavy committee schedule has made me look a little wild without a haircut and a little round and flabby without my regular exercise at the gymnasium.

The new Secretary of the Department of Defense testified for a full day before the six Republicans and three Democrats on our Military sub-committee. Because these hearings are temporarily closed to all but the witnesses, the committeemen and the staff, nothing can be related at this time concerning Mr. Wilson's answers to our questions. I can only say that he talks and acts like a top-notch Defense administrator even though he's hardly had time to find his way around the Pentagon or even learn the ropes on Congressional hearings.

The committee also had a number of other high echelon visitors including the new Secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Having dispensed with the preliminary ceremonies we are now ready to begin in earnest to hammer out the new budget. By mid-May the next year's military budget should be ready for consideration on the floor of the House of Representatives.

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The Armed Services caucus room just down the hall from our office is once again the scene of crowded hearings complete with newsmen, movie men, photographers and the rest of the publicity crew. The big attraction this year is the hearings of the House Un-American Activities committee investigating communism in education.

Teachers of every description, some curious and some downright concerned, make up the largest



part of the audience at these hearings. It's only natural that they should be interested in something which touches so closely their very own profession. However, it must be remembered, and I know the committee will agree with me to a man, that these investigations are directed not against teachers or text books but against communism and communists.

The teaching profession is a very highly respected although admittedly extremely underpaid one. And I think I reflect the opinion of the majority of teachers by saying that in weeding out all subversive elements (and it is a very limited group) we are guaranteeing teachers the high esteem they so richly deserve.

* * *

Recent visitors to my Washington office have remarked about the attractively decorated wooden shoes which have been placed at the entrance to our office in connection with our "Dimes for Dikes" campaign. My staff has been diligent as beavers in collecting contributions for the Netherlands flood victims, and in about a week's time we have collected over \$30.00. I was most impressed by the willingness with which most people will contribute to a fund for the good people of Holland. The general remarks as individuals dropped their dimes and dollars into the wooden shoes ran something like this: "Sure I'll give something for the Dutch people. They're wonderful." "They'd help us if they could. Here's my money." "Those folks really need help at this time and it's up to us to give it to them."

Most noticeable, however, was the overall attitude that their contributions were going to help friends. And I'm certain that it was this friendly spirit which prompted the help which came from all over the nation.

* * *

Visitors and contributors this week were:
Ila Arthur, A.L. Rinvelt, G. Rinvelt of Grand Rapids; Harry Starr, formerly of Grand Rapids now of New York City.



YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

Members of Congress frequently receive letters from men in the Armed Services. From my own personal point of view I feel this is a very healthy situation for many reasons. As a matter of fact, I have urged G.I.s overseas, both directly and through their friends and relatives, to keep me posted on front line conditions. This direct contact with men in active combat really pays off...and here's why:

Bob Olson of Grand Haven, now serving with the army in Korea, at my suggestion, sent me his observations on the situation at the front. This is what he said in a letter dated February 26:

"The Army has taken good care of its men here, from all I've been able to see in and of my own unit. The clothing issued against the winter temperatures is more than adequate. The food, at least in this unit is outstanding - much better, strangely, than I received in the States..."

I received Bob's letter two days before General Collins, Chief of Staff for the Army, appeared before the Military sub-committee on Appropriations. General Collins in his testimony before the committee brought along samples of the Army's winter clothing which is used in Korea. The Army in illustrating the clothing stated it was adequate and practical for the troops fighting in Korea. This was confirmed, as far as I was concerned by Bob Olson's letter.

At the same time the Army demonstrated our own winter clothing used in Korea, they presented samples of the gear worn by the Chinese communists. The contrast was amazing. American research has certainly paid off. The money invested in perfecting items of clothing for use by our Armed forces has gone a long way in giving more comfort to our fighting men. The improvements made by way of streamlining showed up to excellent advantage in comparison to the garments worn by communist troops.



Neither the quality nor protective ability of clothes worn by communist soldiers can compare with those worn by our U.S. soldiers/ Both this graphic presentation in our committee hearings and the letter from Bob Olson re-assured me that our American soldiers are receiving the best of care while they fight to protect our freedom.

* * *

The news which rocked the nation this past week has left most government officials more than slightly concerned. The death of Premier Stalin necessarily raises many critical questions and the appointment of a new leader is bound to have a major effect on the world situation. How much hope we can have that the new leader will join with the free nations working toward a peaceful world is purely a matter of speculation. For the most part, the decision rests with God and the handful of men who will choose Stalin's successor. We have but to watch and wait.

Unfortunately, the situation is not as cut and dried as we would like to believe. Stalin alone did not epitomize the communist party. His death does not immediately eliminate the threat of this communist dictatorship. We have still to deal with the many underlings who are in reality the policy-makers. In my judgement, the death of Stalin merely gives us hope for a change in Russian policy, but certainly no reason to feel confident that our troubles are over.

* * *

Statehood for Hawaii should be over one big hurdle this week. The House of Representatives is scheduled to okay the legislation unless plans are stymied by some individuals who insist: "No action on Hawaii if Alaska isn't included." To me, this seems to be a rather short-sighted attitude. Nothing can be accomplished if this attitude persists. I, for one, want to see both territories admitted, but let's be practical and get one job done at a time.

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Visitors: W.R. Lontil, and U.S. Grant of Spring Lake.
J.W. Comminskey of Grand Rapids.



FOR RELEASE MARCH 19

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

Luncheon with the President marked the high spot of the week's activities for me.

First, there came the telephone call from the Chief Executive's private secretary at which time I was able to either accept or decline the invitation. I need not tell you there was no question about my accepting. There's not many Congressmen who would turn down an invitation to the White House.

Early the next morning a special messenger arrived with the formal invitation beautifully engraved with the President's own seal. This invitation is very important, I might mention here, for without it one just does not get past the White House guards.

I was one of twenty-two members of the House invited to this particular luncheon (eleven Republicans and eleven Democrats). Our group assembled at 1 p.m. in the Blue Room. Moments later, the President himself entered, chatted briefly with each and every Congressman, then led the way into the State Dining Room where the lunch was to be served.

The menu consisted of consommé, chicken, corn souffle, string beans, rolls, fruit salad, orange ice, cup cakes and, of course, coffee. As this was a very special occasion, most of us ate much more than our customary lunch and did full justice to each and every dish. The President, it was noted, passed up the dessert course, and there was a tacit agreement among all present that this is how he manages to keep trim and fit.

Table conversation moved along very general lines with President Eisenhower capturing everyone's interest with his exciting wartime experiences. With the Russian communists ready to precipitate World War III at any moment, all the guests listened eagerly to every word concerning his knowledge of Russian generals and their military tactics. I had the feeling then, that the United States was more than fortunate having a man of President



Eisenhower's background and training for its leader.

After lunch, the President personally conducted us through the White House. I could not help but recall my last trip through the Executive mansion in 1949 when the former President convinced Congress that the house needed much repair. It is truly a place to be proud of now.

The most interesting room on the upper floor was Ike's own trophy room. During past years many nations have conferred honors on him and decorated him for his achievements. Ike pointed with special pride to a magnificent sword encased in glass which was given him by the royal family of the Netherlands. The words inscribed on the sword read: "In grateful memory of the glorious liberation."

Later, in our final chat with the President before departing to return to the prosaic business awaiting us back at our offices, the President mentioned, jokingly: "We have to have our pictures taken as you leave, but if any Democrats want to skip this part of the proceedings, I'll understand." But, naturally, everyone joined in with much good nature. And this, I believe, indicates the general attitude of most members of Congress within the reasonable limits of party loyalty. The Congress has a firm belief in President Eisenhower's sincere desire to work for the best interests of all America.

* * *

The War Claims Commission has issued a statement advising American prisoners of World War II, or their survivors, to file claims for their compensation before the deadline, April 9, 1953. The Commission reminds us to remind you that all persons who during World War II suffered inhumane treatment and/or forced labor at the hands of the enemy and who apply for compensation, are entitled to \$1.50 per day for each day they were subjected to such treatment.

Therefore, if you come under this category I urge you to take advantage of this compensation.

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Visitors: Roger Keeney, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Dyk, of Grand Rapids. Wm. Swart, Sr. of Springs Lake and Mr. and Mrs. Wes Hessler of Rockford.



YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

The House of Representatives has approved President Eisenhower's government reorganization Plan No. 1. It makes the director of the Federal Security Agency a cabinet member as head of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. It should lead to efficiency and economy in this vast area where Oscar Ewing formerly held sway. I voted for the reorganization plan because under the new Administration there will be no attempt made to use the new department to lead the United States to socialism.

* * *

Government employees may recall with some pangs the abolishment of accumulated terminal leave pay by the 82nd Congress. This practice was costing the Federal Government much more money than seemed reasonable. Lump sum payments for accumulated annual leave had quite an impact on the Federal treasury.

Unfortunately, Harry Truman's team who recently evacuated their Federal positions, by some means or other was able to leave with thousands of dollars in severance pay. For example, Dean Acheson made off with \$4,421 in separation pay; John Snyder of the Treasury received over \$5,000 and Walter Donnelly, U.S. High Commissioner to Germany was paid \$12,560. These are only a few of the Truman appointees who departed from the Federal payroll with a sizeable sum of pin money.

Now, however, the General Accounting Office has been called upon by the House Appropriations committee to compile a list of those with salaries of over \$10,000 who received these payments after their employment had ended. The committee intends to investigate the peculiarities of this situation which cost the Federal Treasury over \$700,000. In any event someone is going to explain why and how these large sums were made available to the departing officials all of whom were cabinet officers or top ranking appointees under former President Truman.



One of the high spots of my official activities recently was a trip to the Army's Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland, just a short distance from the Capital. (This trip was arranged in connection with my duties as a member of the military sub-committee of the Appropriations committee.* We were to witness the Army's "Research and Development Day" ceremonies.

Our excursion began early Saturday morning when a number of other Congressmen and I boarded a special train for the inspection trip. Despite the fact that we were greeted at the Army base with the utmost dignity we still felt for all the world like green rookies reporting for the first day in the Army. This is the invariable effect military efficiency has upon the layman.

Nevertheless following short preliminary remarks by the Secretary of the Army the demonstration began. From this moment on, we observed every conceivable military operation and saw demonstrated countless military weapons as well as the techniques of using them. Needless to say, we gaped and stared as any civilian might at the new technical developments of our military forces.

Except for a short time out for lunch which appropriately enough consisted of the latest experimental field ration served to our boys in combat, we spent the entire day in the midst of 2½ ton trucks towing 105 mm. howitzers, light tanks, medium tanks and heavy tanks... in short, war equipment of every description. We watched special demonstration groups detect mines and remove them. We saw a bridge built before our eyes. We were amazed by the untold number of mobile units which are a soldier's every need...on wheels.

One could go on telling of the impressive sights seen during our visit, but never do justice to the fine exhibition. I can only say that a group of inspired and tired Congressmen late in the day departed from the Proving Ground convinced that our field forces are being supplied with the newest and finest military equipment and supplies. I only wish every American citizen could have the opportunity to see the exceptional combination of training and equipment which go to make ours the finest military force in the world.

