

# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**



January 10, 1957

## 85TH CONGRESS: FIRST SESSION

At exactly 12 noon, Thursday, January 3rd, the House of Representatives of the 85th Congress was called to order by the clerk, Ralph R. Roberts. The invocation was given by the House Chaplain, Reverend Bernard Braskamp. Doctor Braskamp asked for guidance in the approach to governmental affairs, and that we be humble before God in our application of Democracy and in the spirit of peace. When this was finished, all members of the House joined Doctor Braskamp in saying The Lord's Prayer. Then the roll was called to certify the newly elected members, 428 of whom (out of a total of 435) were present, including your Congressman.

The next order of business was the election of Speaker for the House. Party caucuses had been held the day before, and, as was expected, the Democratic Party nominated and elected Sam Rayburn for his eighth term, an all-time record in US history. The Republican nominee was Joe Martin of Massachusetts who was Speaker in the 80th and 82nd Congresses.

The speaker reported to the House that for the Democrats John W. Mc Cormack of Massachusetts had been selected as Majority Leader; and the Republicans announced that Joseph W. Martin was their choice for Minority Leader. Other first day business included the election of House officers.

## REACTION TO IKE'S MIDDLE EAST PROPOSALS

On Saturday, January 5th, President Eisenhower appeared before a joint session of Congress to deliver his proposals on the Middle East Problem. The President recommended that Congress authorize the use of US military forces and economic aid in the Middle East to prevent the outbreak of a limited war which would undoubtedly kick off a global conflict. What was Congressional reaction? One interesting comment came in a personal conversation I had with Representative Vinson, Democrat of Georgia, chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services and now serving his 23rd term. He said, "We've got to support the President. We got into two World Wars and Korea because our enemies didn't know we meant business. If America vacillates, it's an invitation to Soviet aggression; if we take the leadership and courageously define our policies World War III will be prevented." This is sound advice from a member of



Congress who has seen us drift into three previous wars during his 44 years of service.

#### TOUR OF EUROPE

During the period between November 12 and December 16 of last year I visited five European countries: Spain, Italy, Austria, Germany, and France. I would like to mention briefly to you some of my observations.

In 1957 the US will have in operation in Spain two airforce and one naval base which will lessen the Soviet threat from our point of view, and added to that these bases will be built at a minimum cost to the American **taxpayer**. Allied with us one hundred per cent against Communism, Spain has armed forces of a growing high calibre.

In Italy also I found splendid military, naval, and air progress to prove that this country is a strong partner in NATO. During the Suez Crisis Italian troop carriers flew UN troops to the Middle East area with great efficiency, and without them the United Nations could not have been at the Canal in as great a number, or in as quick a time, as was required to stop the total-war threat. Communism is losing ground in Italy because of Soviet aggression in Hungary. US Army forces here, armed with strong atomic weapons, give tremendous strength to Western Europe's southern front.

Since the new West German army has been added to NATO, Communist aggression in Europe will be, even as viewed from Moscow, dangerous, and therefore now less likely to occur than ever. However, Germany, until she catches up in her time-lag from contributing to NATO defense, should continue to pay part of the cost for keeping what US forces are needed there to maintain the balance. The West German government, because its economy is strong and expanding, will be able to finance its full share of the essential military forces for the defense of Europe. I noticed that from many contacts with German people there is a very definite pro-American, anti-Soviet feeling. Our own military forces here, too, are well accomodated as to living conditions, and our defense-readiness is in excellent shape.

France has fallen behind in her contribution to NATO because of her difficulties in North Africa, but with the proper support, which must come from the French people, France's future can be favorable. Housing for our troops in France is not good. Therefore, our own forces there are faced with the problem of morale. Improvements are on the way, but they are slow. Congress should keep after the officials in charge of these improvements. Even in view of differences over the Suez Canal, I saw no marked evidence of anti-Americanism.



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**

January 17, 1957



## THE INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK AND YOU

If you have a son or relative in the service, perhaps you are wondering how Mr. Eisenhower's Mid-East Doctrine is going to affect him. I would like to point out that what The President is suggesting is a stand-by authority for sending troops there to be used: (1) only in case of actual invasion by the Soviet Union or its satellites; (2) only when requested by an invaded country; and (3) only in accord with recommendations of the UN. Therefore, this does not mean that American boys are going to be shipped off to the Middle East as of tomorrow, or, necessarily, at any time in the future. But if the threat of US armed intervention were not present, Russia could engage in aggressive action which would be disastrous for all the world. Your Congressman feels that the Eisenhower policy with the above three points makes sense for the preservation of the peace. Mr. Eisenhower has asserted our interest in the Middle East to serve notice to Russia that she has us to deal with if she cares to try one more plunge down the alley of aggression. And the Soviet Union knows it is a twice-thinking matter to try to cross Dwight D. Eisenhower.

## GRAND RAPIDS MARKET AUTHORITIES COME TO WASHINGTON

Last week four officials from the Grand Rapids Food Market Authority came here for a conference with Secretary of Agriculture Benson, seeking his support for legislation benefitting the farmers and consumers of Western Michigan. The Secretary gave indication that he would fully review the problems involved in this legislation which would authorize the Federal Government to guarantee a part of the needed financing for wholesale markets such as that desired in the Grand Rapids area. I was present at the conference, and I can assure the farmers and consumers of Western Michigan that I support wholeheartedly this type of legislation to greatly improve our marketing facilities.

## STATE OF THE UNION

At 12:15, January 10th, a joint assembly of the Congress rose applauding Mrs. Dwight Eisenhower as she entered the House balcony and took her seat with Mrs. Nixon. Following this, the doorkeeper of the House, William "Fishbait" Miller, announced the entrance of members of the Senate, the Supreme Court Justices, and the President's Cabinet. When these were seated, the doorkeeper called out, to the great applause of

the entire body, that the President was coming into the Chamber.

In his annual State of the Union speech, The President made clear to Congress that his desire was to work with it and not to tell it what to do. Two domestic problems seemed to receive special attention in the message: Credit and Water. Mr. Eisenhower asserted that water, a precious natural resource, can be an agent for floods and "a destroyer of wealth." Ike wants to see it used productively and harnessed rather than wasted. Therefore, he announced, a special cabinet report regarding all the aspects of water conservation and utilization would shortly be made available to the Congress.

Mr. Eisenhower's main concern about the Nation internally seemed to focus itself on guarding against the insidious ravages of inflation. Our economy is strong and it is growing, the President said; but in the midst of even a sound economy, there is the constant danger of inflation if government and private spending were not to be held in check. In his own words, we must "discipline ourselves" in the responsibility of being a free people, so that our enjoyment of that freedom will not be taken from us by selfish demands at the expense of others and the Nation's welfare.

The President continued his address by emphasizing that though Communism is for the first time in history being deeply uprooted from its iron entrenchment of Eastern Europe, it is our task to fill the vacuum with the voice of truth. Ike recommended that the Voice of America be expanded so that freedom's story can be told more effectively and more often to the neutralists and behind the Iron Curtain.

I thought it particularly fine that The President, at one point in his speech, took time to remind us of the basic principles on which our American Republic was founded: regard for human liberty, concern for the welfare of humanity, and an unending effort for human progress.

It is perhaps worthwhile noting the reaction of someone who has seen Ike in person for the first time. Bob Rice, who is new here in our office, remarked to me when he had come back from hearing the President speak: "The warmth with which that man bestows his manner on everybody and the amazing sincerity of what he says is something I wish every American could have a chance to witness first hand, as I did."

#### INAUGURATION

Betty and I extend a welcome to all who may be coming to the Nation's Capitol for the Inauguration. My office, which is across from the Capitol Plaza where Ike will be sworn in, will be open during the ceremonies. Coffee and sandwiches will be available for any visitors from home.



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**



January 24, 1957

## YOUR BUDGET

In his annual Budget message last week Mr. Eisenhower presented to the Congress his actual budget proposals for the next fiscal year. This sheaf of unbound copy, weighing more than six pounds, containing over 1200 pages, involves all of us, for it's our taxes that will be expended. The President forecast for the fiscal year beginning July 1, a surplus in the federal treasury of about \$1.8 billion, which is a \$100 million increase over the predicted 1957 surplus of \$1.7 billion. This forecast for the current year was based on the fact that in the last five to six months tax receipts were up \$800 million and expenditures down \$200 million.

In the five budgets of the Eisenhower administration two have carried deficits (those being the first two with carryover obligations from the previous administration) while three have shown a surplus: a good indication of Ike's sense of fiscal responsibility.

The President has proposed the expenditure of \$43 billion (or about 2/3 of the money collected in taxes) for the National Security Program. If this sum is agreed upon, it will go to the support of Atomic Energy, foreign military aid, the stockpiling of strategic and critical materials, and to our Army, Navy, and Air Force, with the Department of Defense getting \$38 billion.

### How do we justify so large a budget?

To begin with, the Budget for fiscal 1958 had to be drawn up with an eye to the fact that our economy faces a peace-threatened world. Security calls for a strong national defense and a strong defense calls for money: this is necessary if America is to have the best planes, ships, guided missiles, and electronic equipment. A single B-52, our newest intercontinental bomber, costs \$8 million and it is paid for by our taxes. If we are to have quality and performance from the Army, Navy, and Air Force, they must be given the tools to do the job. Let's remember the second best military outfit never prevented or won a war. Also we shouldn't forget it is better to spend a little more to preserve peace than to spend a lot more to win a war. I don't subscribe to the view that our military leaders should be given a "blank check," and Ike doesn't either. In fact, some contend that he's too tough on his old friends in the Armed Forces; but neither should the Armed Forces be deprived of funds that can be justified for the national security.

In view of the fact that 10 per cent of all expenditures is going for interest on the Public Debt (now totalling \$275.6 billion) we have another argument for a substantial re-

duction in this debt before attempting large tax cuts. Incidentally, at the end of fiscal year 1958 the President predicts that the national debt will be trimmed to \$269 billion.

The President also asserted that in constructing the new Budget he has not discarded the idea of progress toward balancing and conserving natural resources and toward equal opportunities "for all our people." He then said we must continue emphasizing the promotion of our economy's development and productivity through the principle of private enterprise.

In concluding his message, Ike said he felt that the Budget was "well adapted to the needs of the present and future."

You may be sure that your Congressman, a member of the Committee on Appropriations, will give the closest scrutiny to all requests by the President, government agencies, or pressure groups for the expenditure of your taxes.

#### SOIL BANK IN KENT AND OTTAWA COUNTIES

During the past week the House Committee on Agriculture held hearings in regard to the Soil Bank Program. It is interesting to note that Ottawa and Kent Counties are taking an active part in this, which is aimed at reducing the burdensome and expensive surpluses that have ruined the farmer's market and that costs the US Treasury a million dollars a day in storage fees.

Under the 1957 Wheat Acreage Reserve Plan, 292 Ottawa County farmers are participating in the Soil Bank Program, involving one-fifth of the land allocated to wheat, or 3,282 acres.

In Kent County 316 farmers, rather than planting wheat for next summer's harvest, are setting aside 3615 acres of land (20.5 per cent of the wheat allotment) in contribution to the Acreage Reserve, which is 99.8 per cent of the total allotment to the county.

Under the 1956 "Corn Allotment" Program, 358 Kent County farmers agreed to reserve 2,655 of their corn-planting acres. For 1956 Wheat Reserves in Kent County 39 farmers took part; 286 acres were involved. The Soil Bank got off to a slow start in 1956 because Congress hinged and hawed too long before taking affirmative action. Evidence to date indicates it is a sound program for farmers, consumers, and taxpayers.

#### CONSTITUENTS VISIT WASHINGTON

Since January 7th I have been pleased to receive here in my office 17 visitors from Kent and Ottawa Counties. Fourteen of these: John Martin, Don O'Keefe, Arthur Hannah, Garrit Gritter, Henry De Wit, Reverend James Gollner, John Vander Wal, Mrs. Silas F. Albert, Mrs. Walter Perschbacher, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Huisenga, William Broensma, Richard De Vries, and Floyd A. Thornton--were from Grand Rapids. The other three visitors, who were from Holland, included: Dudley Towe, Betty Heidema, and Robert Van Ark. I will be happy to see more of you at any time during the year should you be in Washington.



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**



January 31, 1957

## YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

For the past 10 days the federal budget has had top priority by the President, the Congress, and the public. This is as it should be because whatever Uncle Sam spends comes only from the American taxpayers.

Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey has urged Congress to reduce the budget. The President said he hoped the House and Senate would improve on his budget by finding ways to cut appropriations.

Secretary Humphrey kicked off the controversy by urging economy and by pointing out the danger of large government expenditures over a long period of time. The Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations immediately asked the Secretary of the Treasury to appear and pinpoint where the budget should be reduced. As a member of this committee I participated in this interesting and important five-hour hearing.

At times the questions and answers were sharp. Most of the Democratic members of the Committee and all of the Republicans praised Mr. Humphrey and complimented him on his work for the past 4 years. Secretary Humphrey did not itemize where cuts could be made but indicated that Congress should be able to improve the budget by making reductions. I personally believe the House and Senate can and should do this job. That's why our committee holds long and detailed hearings. Frankly, under our system of government the Congress does have an equal responsibility with the President to hold back expenditures. If we in the Congress do our share of the job, the President and the Secretary of the Treasury will applaud our efforts.

Mr. Humphrey, in reply to a question, pointed out something that is often forgotten --namely, that "the federal treasury is not a great flowing well where money can be obtained for individuals or communities without any cost to taxpayers." In other words, he said there is no reservoir of free money in Washington. It is trite but true: it all comes out of the taxpayers' pockets. He suggested that this should be remembered by everybody when new spending programs are initiated.

What was the purpose of these hearings called by the Democratic Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations? The Chairman obviously wanted to gain "political advantage" by pointing out the size of the budget even though the last three Eisenhower federal budgets have been balanced with surpluses totalling over \$5 billion.

What was accomplished by the hearings? The controversy has emphasized that fiscal

responsibility falls jointly on the shoulders of the Congress and the President--plus restraint by our citizens and communities. For myself I feel Congress should keep better control over expenditures. Once the appropriation bills are passed by Congress I am confident that Ike and his aides will continue their proven diligence in not spending all the funds made available and in balancing our federal budget.

#### IKE BEGINS SECOND TERM

In greeting an Inaugural crowd of 25 thousand a week ago Monday, including all members of the 3 branches of government and his fellow Americans, President Eisenhower was alert to add ".....and friends of my country wherever they may be": thereby setting the tone of the new administration as one of international harmony in the quest for total peace.

Of course, the parade, the crowd, and Monday's ceremony in itself had no force of official endorsement, since that, by Constitutional provision, had already taken place on the previous Sunday. Had it not, we would have been 24 hours without a President.

Though it was a non-working day here, my staff and I were pleased to be on hand in the office, which from morning to late afternoon was filled steadily with friends from Kent and Ottawa Counties.

#### VISITOR FROM SAMOA

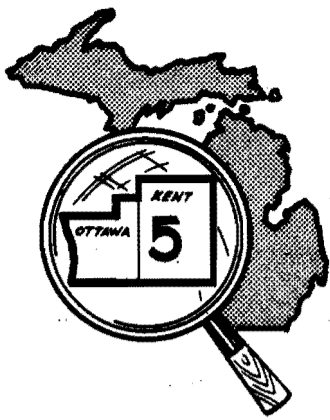
A week ago Wednesday we had an unusual visit here in our office: Mr. Edward William Johnson, formerly of Grand Rapids but now of Pago Pago, which is one of the 7 tiny islands 4600 miles south of San Francisco known as the American Samoas. Mr. Johnson, a graduate of Union High School, spent about 21 years in the Navy. Since 1948 he has been in Samoa, at first teaching, then as administrative assistant to the Samoan governor, and finally as budget officer there. He appeared in Washington with Governor Peter Coleman (who, appointed by Ike, is the first native-born governor of Samoa) to attend a hearing of the Department of Interior sub-Committee on Appropriations, testifying on items in the Budget that concern Samoa.

It might be interesting to know about this tiny island group, since someone from our territory seems to have found his way there. There are 48 state-side employees in the Samoan government itself--as against 1200 Samoan employees. Out of a total population of 20,130 the non-natives number only 150. Mr. Johnson has taken a great deal of interest in education there; and he explained that the American objective was to teach the natives our language, thus advancing them to American standards.

Mr. Johnson has two relatives living in Grand Rapids today: his brother, Oscar Johnson, and sister-in-law Florence. They reside at 151 Delony Avenue.

Last week was Mr. Johnson's first time back in Michigan since 1943.





# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**



February 7, 1957

We pause here now between the pillars of the House Office Balcony to view the tearing away of the Inaugural stands--a dull sight if ever there was one--and begin to roll up our sleeves. Now that the ceremonies are over, now that the consecration of Dwight D. Eisenhower has been solemnly witnessed by the American Republic, again we are mindful of being here to transact the business for which we were sent. The nation, along with the world, moves on in its hope of peace. To reflect back on such great days as January 21st is nice; it is American; and it is right. But the forces that propel this world--whether good or evil--do not honor these things forever. And so, in compliance, your Congressman and his staff are, as said, "rolling up their sleeves." The time draws near to legislate.

.....Well, that is, it's almost time, because your Congressman is abashed to say that for a short while he was flat on his back in the Naval Hospital at Bethesda, Maryland.....(with a "slipped disc" or some muscular problem that hasn't been completely diagnosed. I incurred this a week ago last Thursday when my back just wouldn't give from its sitting position in my office chair.) However, by the time you read this, I expect to have come out of my "State of Suspension" and to have returned to my desk. The hospital in Bethesda is a fine, towering structure, well-suited to the "enjoyment of poor health." Being literally a skyscraper with several other units on its adjacent grounds, it is the Naval counterpart to Walter Reed in Washington; magnificent strides in the advancement of medical research are being made here. Incidentally, Congressmen pay for their hospital service, including all telephone calls made to their offices.

#### THE PRESIDENT ON EDUCATION

In our public schools today the enrollment of young people amounts to 2/1/4 million over the space available to hold them. To surmount this difficulty, the President has submitted to Congress a two-billion dollar program to be effective for four years. Ike has said that within the next 5 years the school population will be six million more than it is now. Therefore, we have to draft some means of meeting the demands resulting from such a growth. The Eisenhower program would provide: (1) \$1.3 billion for school construction grants to be distributed by a formula which takes into account the needs of the various states; and (2) \$750 million for the Federal purchase of construction bonds for schools if the local districts of those schools cannot market them at reasonable rates of interest.

I personally stand beside the President in his desire for the passage of these proposals. He feels, as he did last year when he presented a similar program, that Federal Aid to schools should be rendered on the basis of need, as well as in proportion to school-age population; and, after all, this need is the basic justification on which such aid should be granted. Furthermore, Ike feels, these needs must be met with Federal funds as an "emergency measure" only, and consequently has limited this to a four year program. I am of the opinion that this is the most effective way to focus aid on the areas that must have it--that have demonstrated efforts to combat classroom shortages to the best of their state and local ability--and on other areas accordingly. For the President has said that the control of education is, as an American precept, in a sphere belonging to the state and local governments.

The view that pervades the President's entire proposal is, in his own words, this: "The Federal role should be merely to facilitate--never to control--education."

Last year the Kelley Bill, for which the Eisenhower educational proposals were abandoned, based its provisions for aid on school-age population only. In regard to this I would like to endorse what a Washington Post editorial said last week:

"We hope Congress this time will see that the Kelley formula's simplicity really amounts to extravagance and would, if adopted, be likely to increase the total Federal cost, extend the period of assistance, or both. Surely a program based upon relative need is the fairest--and most economical--device for focusing drastically needed school construction aid."

#### AGRICULTURAL YEARBOOKS

I have on hand here in my office a large inventory of Agricultural Yearbooks for the years: 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, and some of years previous to 1953. I would be happy to accomodate you at any time with as many of these as you would like sent. Please write me if you need them.

#### RECENT VISITORS

From Grand Rapids: Mrs. M. Thomas Ward, Mrs. J. W. Eby, Mrs. Marion C. Steketee, Miss Minnie Haven, Mrs. Katherine Van Steenberg, Mrs. Carol Josephson, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Richardson, Mr. Albert Van Dyke, Mr. Edward W. Johnson, Mrs. James C. Parker, Mr. Gasper Ancona, Mr. and Mrs. W. Van Eenenaam, Reverend and Mrs. Henry Kik, Mr. and Mrs. William Kuiper, Sr., and Thomas R. Peretti. From Holland: Paul Kragt, Ray Kickintveld, and Dr. and Mrs. Henry Bast. From Spring Lake: Mrs. E. J. Hoek and Mrs. C. R. Wagener. From Zeeland: Miss Yvonne De Jonge. From Hudsonville: Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Vander Laan. From Grand Haven: Frank Kuntz.



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**

February 14, 1957



## DEFENSE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

As you know your Congressman is a member of the 13-man committee that passes judgment on all national defense expenditures, which now average about \$35 billion annually. We have many military and civilian witnesses before us over a 4-month period. Last week the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Development testified on this important aspect of our defense program. As an example he pointed out that in the upkeep of our defense not only the costs of labor and materials will increase for Fiscal Year 1958 but that, due to our more complicated weapons system, there will be need for a slightly greater outlay for research and engineering.

Here are some statistics that show an increase in the number of engineering man-hours required since 1943 on the development of 4 different aircraft:

B 29 (bomber)	Started in	1943	2.7 million engineering man hours		
B 47 (bomber)	" "	1947	3.5 million	"	" "
B 52 (bomber)	" "	1952	4.0 million	"	" "
B 58 (bomber)	(will require)		9.0 million	"	" "

The development cost of the B 52 bomber is 2 1/2 times that of its predecessor, the B 56. For the jet fighter F-102, its research and development cost is more than twice that of the earlier F-86.

All this adds up to the fact that though R and D is not the only phase of our defense, we must fund it adequately if we are to have the best national defense program.

Today, private industry is spending for its own research and development programs \$2.5 billion annually. In many cases what is obtained from this can also be used to supplement military R and D. Vice-versa, much military research will benefit our civilian progress.

Presently military research and development is utilizing 35 to 40% of our nation's engineers and scientists in furthering defense efforts. Though civilian industry has been willing to transfer its technical personnel from civilian to military research, the demand for more engineers for defense projects still exists.

\$1,566,000,000 has been requested for the support of defense R and D for fiscal 1958. This, as has been stated by competent authorities, will support only the minimum acceptable research and development program; anything less will be a gamble in the long-range defense of America.

We cannot permit the Russians to overcome our defense supremacy by neglecting research and development. It should be pointed out, however, that too much money for R and D could be wasteful. Because of our current shortage of engineers, research costs could become badly inflated through competition for technical personnel to work on the many projects. I suspect that Congress, after scrutinizing the Army, Navy, and Air Force Research and Development programs will appropriate about what President Eisenhower has recommended on his budget.

#### THE HUNGARIANS, IMMIGRATION, AND IKE'S NEW PROPOSALS

In the past few months--dating from the Hungarian revolt--citizens who have been forced for a decade to live under Communism now seek asylum in many free countries. In view of this, President Eisenhower feels that the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 ought to be revised to provide more equitable regulations, in turn to provide more opportunity for the increasing number of people who may desire to immigrate here. To this I would like to add that Congress is not going to swallow whole what Ike proposes; there will be extensive hearings on the matter. What I hope will evolve, of course, is a fair and equitable solution. The whole problem is not one to be taken lightly, and the Judiciary Committee will give it much thought before any proposal reaches the House floor.

Let me say that I have every confidence, based on what I saw in Austria myself last December and on what the Vice President saw when he was there, that the Hungarian refugees who have already come to the United States will, in the words of Herbert Hoover, be "the traditional sort of persons who make Americans."

The President, by his proposals, does not intend simply to glad-hand every refugee desiring immigration into this country. He realizes that conceivably "inappropriate" citizens could result from an inadequate screening of all the individuals concerned. However, I believe along with the President, that we cannot clamp down the lid of our melting pot, shutting out people who seek freedom from tyranny, which is home plate for all of us.

#### ARMED SERVICES INFORMATION

I have several copies in my office of a booklet entitled "It's Your Choice," containing helpful information on how to choose the military service program that will serve you best. You may want this for yourself or any relative eligible for service as a guide to Armed Services opportunities. If so, please write me: 351 House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

The "aching back" is definitely on the mend. Your Congressman is again on the job--full time!



# Your Washington Review

by  
**Congressman  
JERRY FORD**



February 21, 1957

Last week legislative activity in both the House and Senate idled, as is traditional during the week of Lincoln's birthday. However, there continued to cross my desk many letters from Kent and Ottawa counties regarding problems to be met by the 85th Congress. Matters about which we are getting the most correspondence are: the Eisenhower Budget, the Middle East situation, and an amendment to the Robinson-Patman Act, H. R. 11.

Though it is admitted that the Budget for Fiscal Year 1958 is a high one, it is still almost \$7 billion lower than the original budget requests made to the President by the various departments, agencies, and commissions. In other words, Ike had already cut the requests for federal funds by this amount before submitting it to the Congress. It is now up to Congress to examine carefully these requests further and to determine whether additional reductions can be made. Cutting is a legislative as well as an executive responsibility--especially when it is your tax dollar that is involved.

Many letters have dealt with the situation in the Middle East, the Eisenhower Doctrine, and UN moves to ease the tension there. While only a few have questioned the necessity and wisdom of the President's request for standby powers to preserve the peace, a number have objected to some proposed action by the United Nations. At this writing it appears that the Secretary General of the UN, backed by firm assurances from Secretary of State Dulles, has resolved the main points in question.

H. R. 11 is entitled "a bill to strengthen the Robinson-Patman Act and amend the anti-trust law prohibiting price discrimination." The author states that his amendment is "intended to guarantee to that man who buys his goods for resale that he will get the same price from the supplier that this supplier grants to his competitors under the same terms and conditions." H. R. 11 is now with the Committee on the Judiciary, which will hold extensive hearings before taking further action on the bill. It appears from letters received in the office that there is a vast difference of opinion as to the need and desirability of this legislation. Committee hearings and floor debate should bring forth in detail all the facts.

In addition to these problems of major interest, we have had inquiries about Representative Hale's bill to restrict the use of billboards and other outdoor advertising displays along the National System of Interstate Highways. This bill (H. R. 3977) is being considered by the Committee on Public Works which has requested the views of the interested governmental departments and will hold public hearings later.

### FEDERAL HIGHWAY APPORTIONMENTS TO MICHIGAN

During the last session, on Ike's recommendation, the Congress approved a Federal Highway program to expand road construction throughout the country.

The Federal Aid primary system for highways in Michigan consists of 6,621 miles. There are 21,401 miles in the secondary system; and urban extensions include 517 miles.

As of June 30, 1956, the Michigan Interstate System included 895 miles in rural areas and 203 miles of urban highways. The Federal Bureau of Public Roads has apportioned and made available \$111 million for Michigan's Interstate System.

For Federal Aid to Michigan's Primary System (of main highways) in Fiscal 1958, \$95 million has been apportioned; for secondary highways (the farm-to-market roads) \$58 million; and for urban roads \$78 million.

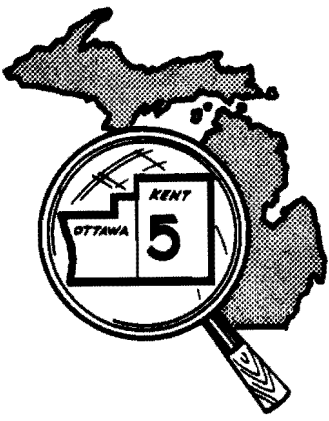
### WASHINGTON MONUMENT

Standing about midway between the Lincoln Memorial and the U. S. Capitol the Washington Monument is of special significance this week since we are celebrating the 225th Anniversary of the birth of the man whose name it bears. During 1956, a total of 1,013,406 people visited the monument, which was built at intervals between the years 1848, when the cornerstone was laid, and 1885, when the monument was dedicated. This memorial was paid for by public subscriptions and Federal appropriations. The Civil War and other difficulties halted construction at the height of 153 feet for almost 25 years. In 1876 Ulysses Grant, then President, approved an act providing that the Federal Government complete the monument. Upon this completion, the total cost stood at \$1,187,710.31. In October of 1888 the monument, which rises 555 feet-5 1/2 inches above its floor, was opened to the public. While its steps number to 898, there is an elevator which requires only a minute to reach the observation floor at the top.

If such a monument as this were to stand in memory of a single man, that in itself would be fitting. But since the man to whom this monument is erected embodies more than the events for which he was famous, and since so many people visit it each year--this is good testimony to its function as a symbol of the oneness of all our people and to the principles for which the name George Washington stands.

### PERSONAL

During last week's Congressional lull, I was back home attending several functions. On Monday I was a guest of the Grand Haven Community Round Table to discuss national affairs. On Tuesday noon I met with a political science seminar at MSU and in the evening MC'd the Ottawa County Lincoln Day Banquet in Zeeland. Wednesday I addressed the Lincoln Day Banquet in Baldwin.



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**



February 28, 1957

## BUDGET ACTION

Your Congressman, as a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, would like to give you an up-to-date summary of committee action on the several appropriation bills that have been considered since Congress convened in January. I am glad to report that my committee so far, in considering three budget submissions, has made reductions totaling \$188,144,500. The House of Representatives as a whole has confirmed the spending cut-backs initiated by the Committee. The Senate Committee on Appropriations and the Senate itself now have the responsibility, and, needless to say, I personally hope "the Upper Body" will at least confirm our reductions in spending.

Unfortunately, past and even present history indicates that the Senate "ups" appropriation bills. For example, the first "money bill" this year the House cut almost \$47 million, but the Senate Committee on Appropriations restored about \$16 million of the reduction. The House conferees in the conference committee between the Senate and House expect to be adamant in standing for the lower figure.

About a week ago the House had quite a hassle over proposed reductions, totalling about \$80 million, in the budget proposals for the Treasury and Post Office Departments. Incidentally, even with these cuts the two departments would have slightly more money to operate with in the next fiscal year than during the current year. When the House Committee first approved these reductions, which were only about 1 1/2 per cent below the amounts requested by the departments, pressure groups from all over the Nation immediately flooded Congressmen with letters and telegrams condemning the proposed economy. Despite this attempted pressure the House confirmed the committee action in reducing the budget estimates.

Last Friday the appropriations bill for the Department of Interior was before the House Committee on Appropriations. In this instance reductions approximating \$64 million were approved and from my observations the "cuts" were fully justified.

While this Congress is in session in 1957 there will be 13 regular appropriation bills plus several supplemental and deficiency bills.

The economy effort to date in the House is encouraging but so far we have not tackled the area where the big dollar budgets exist, such as in the Army, Navy, and Air Force. As a member of the Defense Department subcommittee on appropriations I can assure you that the total military budget request of \$38 billion will be most carefully scrutinized. Our 13-

member committee has already held daily hearings for a month, and these will be continued for at least the next 8 weeks. Although we have been told so far by the top military officials that we should not make any reductions I am hopeful by the end of the 3 or 4 month hearings that legitimate economies in the Army, Navy, and Air Force can be proposed without jeopardizing our national security.

I believe that economy in the federal Budget is most essential now and in the future. I have consistently favored reductions in Federal spending in the past.

The Congress as a whole has a most serious responsibility to eliminate every dollar of unjustified expenditure. If the House and Senate will reject propaganda drives by pressure groups that want more and more spending, then the federal Budget can have a better surplus than the \$1.8 billion forecast by President Eisenhower. I know you will support me when your Congressman rejects the recommendations from those who want Uncle Sam to spend unjustified funds.

The overall Federal Budget as submitted by the President approximated \$72 billion. It should be pointed out that before Ike made his Budget recommendations to Congress, \$17.5 billion was eliminated from the initial requests by the numerous agencies, commissions, and departments. President Eisenhower cut non-defense spending by \$7.5 billion and reduced the budgets of the Army, Navy, and Air Force by \$10 billion. In other words, before Congress had its crack at economizing, Ike had already done some sizeable cutting himself in order to submit a balanced budget with a surplus. Congress can and must **make** further economies in the months ahead.

#### HOME LOANS TO VETERANS

The present rate of 4 1/2 % interest on GI home loans has been primarily responsible for the lack of mortgage loans for veterans. A big question mark looms over Congress today as to whether the interest rate will be upped to 5 %, thereby making it possible for Veterans to obtain loans under the GI Bill for a home. It seems to me that this is the nub of the problem: with a 4 1/2 % interest rate virtually no GI loans are made, while with a 5 % interest rate there is a good prospect that the veteran can borrow money for his home.

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs so far has opposed this step; but the Congress as a whole may decide differently on the premise that it is preferable to up the interest rate one-half per cent and get homes for GIs. The record shows that since the FHA interest rate was increased in December 1956 by one-half per cent, more loans have been made under this program. The Administration has urged Congress to enact the necessary legislation to help veterans.





# Your Washington Review

by

Congressman

## JERRY FORD



March 7, 1957

### HOOVER COMMISSION

Since the beginning of the session, I have received many letters from people who are interested in what progress is being made to carry out the recommendations of the Hoover Commission to facilitate efficiency and economy in the Federal Government.

Twenty reports from the Second Hoover Commission, which was organized in September of 1953 and completed its work in June, 1955, were filed with the 84th Congress and contained 314 recommendations with a number of sub-sections for a total of 479 specific items. About 1/3 of the recommendations where Congressional action is necessary has been adopted by the House and Senate.

The 84th Congress enacted 36 public laws, 2 House resolutions, and 1 Senate resolution, which implement 55 of the 167 legislative recommendations that the Second Hoover Commission made. This represents only the start of congressional action taken on the Commission's recommendations, since such action does not include many major recommendations, several of which are controversial in nature. The Executive Branch of the government has implemented wholly, or as a basic objective, or partially, 313 of the 479 recommendations, which, overall, is a 65 % batting average.

It is worth noting that while the First Hoover Commission (created by the 80th Congress) was concerned primarily with the "structural reorganization" of government departments, agencies, and bureaus, and with their relations to each other, the Second Commission went much deeper into questions of policy, as related to government operations, seeking to weed out unnecessary government functions, plus making recommendations concerning such government activities as power policy, housing programs, and Federal lending set-ups.

If implemented, many of these recommendations would effect a basic change in the purposes and functions of many major government programs, particularly in the three areas mentioned above. They will require thorough analysis, however, by Congress before any action is taken upon them.

It should be added that I have consistently supported the Hoover Commission (both first and second) in its efforts to curtail unnecessary government procedures and make more efficient those which are vital.

### REORGANIZATION OF THE PASSPORT PROGRAM

The Passport Office here in the Capital has presently brought all its operations

up to date, whereas at one time it was severely behind in its services to the public. A "reorganization team" has seen to it that most recommendations made by a special Senate committee on this matter (during the 84th Congress) have been pursued. Backlogs that once existed in filing and correspondence have been eliminated; supervision of the office has been tightened to a more effective degree; and employees here are being trained while on the job, preparing them to cope with all phases of passport service.

Today the time-lapse for the issuance of a passport after application has been received is on an average of three days, the lowest in Passport Office history. It has been noted that public approval has registered widely as a result of the Passport Office's "new look"--both in Washington and in field agencies about the country.

I am all for further studies on improvements in this Office, which would continue to meet the demands of those applying for passports, during both slim and heavy seasons of travel abroad.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR: APPROPRIATIONS CUTS

An example of what our Committee on Appropriations is doing to lessen Budget demands where they can be lessened, may be seen in its actions on the appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior and related agencies.

In 1957, \$458,135,000 were appropriated for the Department. For 1958 the Administration requested an amount of \$515,189,000. The Committee cut this by \$60,794,000, and the House approved, granting to the Department \$454,395,700.

The Appropriations Committee has held exhaustive hearings to arrive at this reduced figure, realizing that the weight of the Budget, as the President has proposed it, must be lessened to the relief of the taxpayer.

The responsible agencies, provided for in the new Appropriations bill, must, within the Department, conserve and assure the most effective use of our national resources. The Committee feels strongly that it is of paramount importance to grant essential funds for the development and protection of our resources in forestry, land management, geological surveys, fish and wildlife--for the benefit of the entire nation. However, the Committee and the Congress must be exceedingly careful to weed out non-essential items.

With further regard to conservation, a year ago I requested on the recommendation of the West Ottawa Soil Conservation District, \$25,000 to be appropriated for research in the control of the European shoot-moth. It is now evident that a successful beginning has been made in this research. In Ike's Budget estimates for Fiscal '58 continued work on the shoot-moth problem was provided for; the House approved this as a part of the appropriations bill passed on February 26th. I am hopeful that this research will greatly benefit Michigan pine-tree growers in combatting this destructive insect.



# Your Washington Review

by  
**Congressman  
JERRY FORD**

March 14, 1957



## CORN AND FEED GRAIN PROGRAM

The House last week worked on but did not complete legislation to set up a new corn program. The final answer comes this week. A majority of the Committee on Agriculture (on which there is no member from Michigan) recommended a bill which would allow corn farmers to plant 43 million acres, participate in the Soil Bank, and receive price-support payments of \$1.36 a bushel. Under this bill similar Soil Bank aid would go to the feed-grain producers in the South and Southwest. Some have estimated that this program could cost an additional \$700 million to \$1 billion a year and bring no significant reduction in production. Unless production is cut back and surpluses reduced, this legislation is an attempt to raid the Treasury and discredit the entire Soil Bank program. I voted with the minority (187-180) to substitute the Andreasen Bill, which would set the base acreage to 51 million, require 15 % participation in the Soil Bank, and maintain the level of price supports at a point from 75 to 90 % through 1959. The Andreasen Bill in effect would cut back production and reduce the cost to the Federal Treasury.

In the corn-farmer referendum held last December, 75 per cent of the Michigan farmers voting approved the proposal for a larger acreage (51 million) and lower price supports (\$1.31). The Harrison Bill, sponsored by the Farm Bureau, which I also supported as the best alternative, would give to the corn farmers the soundest solution and at the same time lower the total cost to the taxpayers generally.

## BUDGET RESOLUTION

The House Republican Policy Committee has recently called for cuts in the Budget, having as its objective the reduction of Federal spending. By so doing, the Committee believes that we can make more stable the cost of living, lower taxes and thus provide industries with enough funds to finance the expansion needed in securing annually the 1,500,000 new jobs vital to prosperity and progress.

The Committee's resolution states that since (1) it is the duty of the Congress and Administration to save the dollars of taxpayers and that since (2) the President has asked Congress to employ responsibility in reducing the Budget where possible, it has recommended substantial reductions in the 1958 Budget as it now stands. The Committee, in adopting this, has called upon all members of Congress for support on the measure.

As an example of Administrative cooperation in cutting the Budget, Treasury Secretary Humphrey has refused to ask a Senate Committee to restore funds (\$22 million) cut from the Treasury Department's budget by the House of Representatives.

## IKE'S BATTING AVERAGE ON LEGISLATION

In the past three years Ike has made at least 200 requests to the Congress for various legislation. At least 50 more requests are expected from the President in the next few months. As of February 25th, the Congress had received 156 legislative requests from him, 77 of which were repeats not having been granted by Congress in previous years.

The President's requests and the number and percent granted since he took office are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Requests</u>	<u>Requests Granted</u>	<u>Percent Granted</u>
1953	44	32	72.7%
1954	232	150	64.7
1955	207	96	46.3
1956	225	103	45.7

## CONSERVATION

The conservation of our natural resources demands discretion, not waste. As custodian of our resource program the Department of the Interior has pursued this concept in carrying out its responsibilities to extract "the greatest good for the greatest number." Both you and I are interested in how the government is using our natural resources. The increasing demand on natural resources from all corners of the United States has given a clear indication that their supply cannot be considered limitless. I believe that it is the obligation of today's administration to see that resources are used to our own present benefit, but also to assure the future that it will not be left short.

At a recent conference on North American Wildlife, Ira N. Gabrielson, president of the Wildlife Management Institute said that the past year was a "good one for conservation." As evidence of this, Mr. Gabrielson cited a new and more forceful pollution act, forestry and wildlife provisions in the Soil Bank Act, reorganization of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the defeat of a bill to convert part of the Witchita National Wildlife Refuge into Army property.

The Federal Government owns 409.5 million acres, or 21.5 % of the total land area in the United States. Other than what it owns on the U. S. continent, the Government holds 365.1 million acres in U. S. territories and possessions, and 5,000 acres in foreign countries. Of the territorial holdings, about 364 acres are in Alaska.

The following shows to what use Federally owned continental land is being put:

182.0 million acres	( 47.0 % )	Grazing
172.0 million acres	( 44.0 % )	Forest and Wildlife
15.4 million acres	( 4.0 % )	Parks
8.1 million acres	( 2.0 % )	Reclamation and irrigation
2.8 million acres	( .7 % )	Industrials
2.4 million acres	( .6 % )	Air fields



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**



March 21, 1957

## BUDGET: ROUND FIVE

A week ago last Tuesday saw most members of the House in a longer than usual session. The lengthy debate involved a controversial hassle (mostly politics) over the Federal Budget. The big question: Whose responsibility is it to make further cuts in Federal spending? The Democrats seem to think it is the President's job. The Republicans feel that the President has done his work and that the responsibility for additional economies rests with the Congress.

In drafting the original Budget the President already made cuts amounting to \$10 billion in the national defense program (Army, Navy, and Air Force) and \$7 1/2 billion in civilian services, a total slice of \$17.5 billion from the requests made by the various departments and agencies before sending the budget to Capitol Hill. Moreover, in the first half of this fiscal year, the Eisenhower Administration, by money-saving practices, cut \$200 million from anticipated expenditures to increase this year's surplus by that amount. Furthermore, Ike and his Budget Director are continually prodding every department to reduce spending. Now it is up to Congress to tackle the job and incidentally to set an example by trimming its own legislative budget. In the final analysis, the Constitution puts the burden of determining Federal expenditures upon the Congress. Section 9, Article I of the Constitution states: "No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of Appropriations made by Law." The Administration can't spend a nickel of your tax money without Congressional approval.

Can the House make reductions in the President's Budget? The answer is yes. Already the Committee on Appropriations, of which I am a member, has reported five appropriations bills and has cut the requests by 709.7 million or 6.5 %. The House has approved the following reductions recommended by the Committee:

\$46.9 million	Urgent deficiency bill
\$80.3 million	Treasury and Post Office Departments
\$60.7 million	Department of Interior and related agencies
\$ 4.9 million	General government matters (Office of the President, etc.)
\$516.9 million	Independent Offices (VA, Civil Defense, Housing, etc.)
<hr/> \$709.7 million	

That the Public is aroused by the size of the 1958 Budget has not gone unheeded in Congress, I can assure you. For this reason my Committee on Appropriations has approved

reductions thus far totalling over three-quarters of a billion dollars, the biggest slice coming in the Independent Offices appropriations bill involving 18 Federal agencies. There may be some protests from a few whose pet projects and programs are slowed down but the taxpayers as a whole should applaud the action.

In this particular appropriations bill the Committee accomplished the cuts by (1) allowing no additional employees for any one of the 18 agencies, (2) by vetoing any additional travel for employees on government business above the present authorized level, and (3) by disapproving the procurement of about 300 new automobiles requested by the 18 agencies.

Let me cite several examples of reductions in the bill. The Committee cut the procurement of strategic and critical materials by \$110 million. The amount of \$19 million was allowed plus a carryover of \$145 million in unused funds for further stockpiling of these war reserves. The following is a paragraph from the Committee report which justifies this \$110 million cut in the budget:

"The value of all strategic materials of stockpile grade in United States Government inventories on June 30, 1957, is estimated at \$7.2 billion. An additional \$265 million of non-stockpile grade materials is in the strategic and critical material stockpile and Defense Production Act program inventories, and materials valued at \$970 million are on order, or a total stockpile of over \$8.4 billion at the beginning of fiscal year 1958. On June 30, 1958, it is estimated that the minimum objective will be obtained on 51 commodities out of 72 stockpile materials. These 51 materials are the basic items. Eighty-one percent of the minimum stockpile requirement is in the warehouse or on order."

Another example of committee economy involved the Civil Defense Program. The Bureau of the Budget recommended that for the next year Congress appropriate \$130 million, including \$75 million for the stockpiling of disaster supplies and equipment. The Committee slashed \$90.7 million from the Civil Defense program and allowed only \$3.3 million for the stockpile procurement of these emergency supplies and equipment. Again, a quote from the Committee report:

"The Committee recommends that funding of additional stockpile material which adds to supplies already on hand can be safely deferred, as we have on hand and on order \$219.5 million in supplies, some of which are six years old."

Let's look at both sides of the problem. In any consideration of the Budget, I think it is fair to compare Federal spending with the National Income. For example, during the peak war year, 1945, Federal expenditures represented 53 % of our National Income. By 1953 this had fallen to 25 %. During the past two years the Federal Budget has equalled 20 % of our national income. The significant point is that even with the Budget of \$71.8 billion for 1958 (actually, it will be less), the percentage of National Income to be spent will remain at the same 20 % or less. Federal spending per capita under the proposed budget will be about \$416, or \$10 more this year; but our per capita income rose almost \$69 last year from \$1,637 to \$1,706.



# Your Washington Review

by  
**Congressman**  
**JERRY FORD**



March 28, 1957

## YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND CURRENT LEGISLATION

Action has been taken recently on four bills which Your Congressman introduced this session.

H. R. 3623, seeking to encourage the development of wholesale food markets would, if passed, make it easier for the Grand Rapids Food Market Authority to borrow money from private interests to finance marketing facilities for handling perishable agricultural goods. No Federal money would be involved, but there would be provided the same kind of mortgage insurance now in use by the FHA. I testified before the Committee on Agriculture last Tuesday, and on Thursday H. R. 4504, a similar bill but with slight modification, was reported favorably by the Committee.

In January I introduced H. R. 1933, "to prohibit trading in onion futures in commodity exchanges," as the result of a great demand for such a bill by onion growers and dealers from Kent and Ottawa Counties. This has been referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and it and similar bills have been promised committee hearings shortly after the Easter recess. Incidentally, I understand that the Department of Agriculture does not object to this bill.

H. R. 4315 would give Congressional approval to a Great Lakes Basin Compact. The Compact will enable the states around the Great Lakes to cooperate in protecting and regulating fisheries, pollution, shore erosion, and among other things, the diversion of water into and from the lakes. It would set up a commission to study these problems and make recommendations to the States. The State Department has reported to the Committee on Foreign Affairs that it favors the approval of this Compact.

H. R. 3484, which would require that railroad cars be equipped with reflectors visible at night, was referred to the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. The Interstate Commerce Commission has reported that it favors the passage of this safety measure; and the Committee will hold hearings on it this week. The purpose of the reflectors is to make passing railroad cars visible at unguarded crossings during the night.

## SERVICE ACADEMIES

Residents of the Fifth Congressional District will be pleased to learn that two of the Cadets at West Point from our District are reported on the Dean's List at the end of the first term of this school year. Major General Garrison H. Davidson, Superintendent of the United States Military Academy, forwarded the term-end reports to my office last week. All four of the appointees from our District are doing a very creditable job, and

I know you will join me in extending to them our continued best wishes. Kent and Ottawa County midshipmen at Annapolis are likewise doing exceptionally well.

From time to time my office receives inquiries on how young men may obtain an appointment to one of the military academies. In the first place appointments are allotted to a Congressional District on the following basis: West Point--each district may have four cadets at the academy at any one time; Annapolis--each district has an allocation of five midshipmen on board; Air Force Academy--until the school facilities are completed (estimated in 1959) the cadet allocation is by state rather than by Congressional district. Each Senator and Representative nominates ten young men who then participate in a statewide competitive examination conducted by the Air Force for the vacancies allocated to the individual state. In 1958 Michigan will have an Air Academy allotment of 14.

Our Fifth Congressional District always has more candidates for the military academies than we have vacancies. In order to be fair and impartial in the selection I ask that each candidate take an examination conducted every November by the Civil Service Commission. This 3 1/2 hour exam covers three subjects, vocabulary and reading, spatial relations, and algebra. Tests of this type from long experience are known to be highly related to the degree of success the candidate will likely have in the actual courses studied at the military academies. The Civil Service Commission grades the examinations and submits the data to your Congressman.

From the comparative results on this exam, the high school records, and extra-curricular activities, the appointments are made. Because this system is impartial, our boys at West Point, Annapolis, and the Air Academy have done very well and we should be proud of them.

The appointments for 1957 were made in January of this year. Applications are now being received for 1958. Based on present enrollment our district will have the following vacancies at Annapolis: one in 1958, one in 1959, and 3 in 1960. It appears we will have one vacancy at West point in 1958, two in 1959, and one in 1960. In 1958 ten candidates to the Air Force Academy will be nominated for the statewide competition. Perhaps by 1959, each Congressional District will have an Air Academy vacancy.

#### RECENT VISITORS

From Grand Rapids: Laurel Paasche, David Dethmers, Hattie Hoogenslag, W. H. Vance, Philip F. Day, Mrs. Paul Goebel, Dr. and Mrs. Roy G. Bubeck, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Gast, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schellenberg, Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Schellenberg, Mr. and Mrs. Claude L. Barkley, John C. Dexter, Mr. and Mrs. Allen B. Anderson, Robert J. Stark, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Upton, Sherman Coryell, Robert Fry, Roy E. Halladay, Chester F. Droog, Mr. and Mrs. Silas F. Albert and their daughter and son-in-law Jill and Harold Cogan, E. M. Wixon, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Drongowski, W. B. Williams, Keith Clinton, Leonard Zimmerman. From Holland: James E. Townsend, Paul G. Fried. From Coopersville: Russell F. Conran. From Grandville: Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Qualls. From Spring Lake: Mr. Paul Boyink.





# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**

April 4, 1957



## GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT CUTS

On March 19th Defense Secretary Wilson ordered a 6,414 employment cut in the Washington headquarters staffs of the three military departments. Mr. Wilson stated that by not filling jobs that become vacant, this cutback in civilian and military employment can be accomplished without hurting national defense. This job-reduction could amount to a \$12 to \$15 million annual saving.

This is in line with efforts made by the Eisenhower Administration to eliminate government jobs which merely "take up space" and cost the taxpayer money to fill them.

The Joint Committee on Reduction of Nonessential Federal Expenditures reported that from July of 1956 to January of 1957, there was a decrease in employment by government executive agencies of 11,658.

Total civilian employment in civilian agencies during the month of January was 1,212,929, a decrease of 863 as compared with the December total of 1,213,792. Total civilian employment in the military agencies in January was 1,174,086, a decrease of 1,910, as compared with 1,175,996 in December.

## SOIL BANK CONSERVATION RESERVE

More than 3.5 million acres of land had been put into the Conservation Reserve of the Soil Bank through February 15th, according to reports from State Conservation Committees, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced.

This acreage was covered in 38,636 contracts signed by farmers with the Department of Agriculture through the above-mentioned State Committees. These farmers are pledged to carry out soil and water conservation practices or wildlife habitat improvement measures on their land.

In Michigan, 905 contracts are in effect, involving 36,247 total acres. The number of Michigan farms with all eligible acreage in the Conservation Reserve totals to 252.

## H. R. 2 VS. THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

Recently the House Subcommittee on Rivers and Harbors continued hearings on H. R. 2 and related bills, which would authorize an additional withdrawal from Lake Michigan of an annual average of 2,500 cubic feet of water per second for flow into the Illinois Waterway during the three-year period beginning with its enactment. On two previous

occasions, your Congressman has voted against this legislation on the basis that the Army Engineers were preparing a comprehensive survey of the water levels of the Great Lakes, including the impact of artificial diversion. This Army Engineer survey will also tie in the effect such diversion might have on the St. Lawrence Seaway project. Until Congress has these facts, it would be unwise to authorize any additional diversion down the Chicago drainage canal.

#### SMALL BUSINESS

The outstanding business fact of today is that since World War II there has been a vast increase in the number of American businesses--from 2,995,000 at the beginning of 1945 to 4,252,000 at the beginning of 1956. This is the statement of Wendell Barnes, Small Business Administrator. Since the Small Business Administration went into operation in September of 1953, this Eisenhower program, up through February of this year, approved 5,605 business loans totaling \$253,432,000 and 5,069 disaster loans totaling \$57,575,000. It has worked out agreements with 7 federal agencies under which some \$1.5 billion worth of government contracts has been set aside exclusively for award to small firms on a competitive basis.

The Small Business Administration's business loan program reached record levels in 1956 when the agency processed close to 6,000 loan applications, or nearly half the total it had received since it started operations in 1953.

S. B. A. has held business opportunity meetings throughout the country for small business owners; it has sponsored administrative management courses in cooperation with 89 educational institutions and organizations; and it has aided some 13,500 small firms with the research and development of new products and the improvement of old ones.

#### OF INTEREST BACK HOME

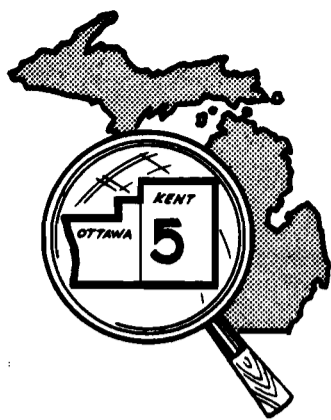
One of the featured speakers at the national photographers' convention Monday, March 25th, at the amphitheatre of the Park Sheraton Hotel here in Washington was the Grand Rapids photographer Maurice La Claire. Mr. La Claire, assisted by his son Dave, talked for an hour on colored portraiture for photographic studios. He had driven 7,000 miles from Portland, Oregon to be present at the program.

Mr. La Claire began his work in photography at the Harris-Ewing Studio here in Washington and later moved to Grand Rapids.

At the Park Sheraton amphitheatre, Mr. La Claire was introduced by Lou Garcia, President of the Photographer's Association of America, as photography's "Mr. Color."

#### MORE VISITORS

Grand Rapids: Mr. and Mrs. Dan Vaughan, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Monsma, Mr. Robert Vect, Mr. Thomas Reges, Miss Carla Schaafsma, Mr. John Vander Woude, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Spielmacher, Mr. Athur V. Young, Mr. Dale De Haan, and Mr. Harris H. Ball and Miss Luie Ball.



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**



April 11, 1957

**PRESIDENTIAL INABILITY:** As remarkable a document as it is, our Constitution contains certain ambiguous provisions which after 168 years are still unexplained. One such ambiguity is the question of who should stand at the helm of state were the President himself unable to carry on. Twice before, during the illnesses of Presidents Garfield and Wilson, the matter presented itself but was not resolved. Considerable study has been given recently to this constitutional riddle.

Early last year the House Committee on the Judiciary sent a questionnaire to eminent jurists and political scientists throughout the country asking these experts to present their views and recommendations regarding the problem of Presidential inability. Naturally enough the answers received were extremely varied, but they did provide the committee with some essential building blocks.

Last April the committee held hearings in which testimony by various professors of law and political science and by a few Congressmen was received. There is no doubt that the sooner we arrive at some final solution to the problem of Presidential inability, the better; however, there are many legal factors to be considered. Some of the questions with which the committee is now faced are: (1) Just who (or what body) should be permitted to term the President "unable" to execute the duties of his office? (2) Under what circumstances of inability should he be disqualified? - that is, how sick is "too sick," and (3) What sort of constitutional measure can be installed that will insure us against abuse of the office of the President by the official acting for him?

Attorney General Brownell last week presented to a House Judiciary subcommittee a plan, approved by Mr. Eisenhower, which proposes that the Constitution be amended to clarify the role of the Executive in crises due to Presidential inability. This amendment would specify that the Vice President, in the event of such crises, would be "Acting President," and this only during the time in which the President is incapacitated. The President's inability would be asserted in a written statement signed by him. The President could declare when he is again able to act by signing a statement to this effect and would then resume his duties. But the proposal also provides that if the President is unable or unwilling to declare his inability, the Vice President with the approval of a majority of the President's Cabinet would make the decision. This plan, if approved by the Congress, would probably not become effective for some time, since as a constitutional

amendment it will have to be ratified by 36 states.

Some leaders of the Committee on the Judiciary prefer the establishment of a special commission composed of leaders of the three branches of government to determine when the President is unable to fulfil his duties. They feel that the Cabinet is too closely associated with the President to take an impersonal view of the situation.

What I hope for, and what the committee is working toward, is a solution that will bring this matter out of its "twilight zone" in our constitutional system, that will safeguard the presidency, and that will be workable.

**REDUCING THE BUDGET:** Last Thursday the House of Representatives came within one roll call of tying the all-time record for yea and nay votes in one day's session when it passed the appropriations bill for the Department of Labor, and of Health, Education and Welfare. After a week's debate, 14 roll call votes were taken in one afternoon, and \$134,446,000 was cut from the budget request.

The Committee on Appropriations and the House of Representatives are continuing their efforts to reduce federal expenditures by careful study of specific budgetary items and judicious elimination of unnecessary expenses.

Here is a tabulation of what has been done so far -

<u>Appropriation Bill</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Reduction</u>	<u>% Reduced</u>
Urgent Deficiency, 1957	\$ 382.0 million	\$ 46.9 million	12.3
Treasury - Post Office	3,965.2 "	80.3 "	2.0
Interior	515.1 "	60.7 "	11.8
General Government	20.9 "	4.9 "	23.4
Independent Offices	5,923.1 "	537.9 "	9.0
Labor - H.E.W.	2,981.2 "	134.4 "	4.5
* District of Columbia	25.5 "	3.0 "	11.7
* Commerce	871.5 "	217.8 "	25.0

(\* to be acted upon by the House this week)

This means that \$1,039,325,740 (over one billion dollars) has been cut thus far from the 1958 budget, an amount which represents a reduction of 7.2 percent. Of course the Senate must act on these same appropriation bills, but it is hoped the "Upper Body" will hold the line and not increase the proposed expenditures.

In addition there are six other appropriation bills to be considered before adjournment, including those for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Department of Agriculture and Public Works. I'll keep you posted on the economy results in each case.



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**



April 18, 1957

The House of Representatives last week considered two issues which possessed more than casual interest for the American citizen and taxpayer. The Post Office Department's request for supplemental funds coupled with proposed curtailment in postal services focused the attention of every citizen on Washington. The action of the Congress in altering a financial agreement with Great Britain caused some wonder if our taxpayers weren't being neglected again.

POST OFFICE APPROPRIATION: When Postmaster General Summerfield prepared his budget for the fiscal year 1957 some 18 months ago, he estimated his needs to be \$3,030,557,000. The Bureau of the Budget cut \$30,557,000 from this amount leaving an even \$3 billion. The Congress further reduced the Postmaster General's request by \$15.6 million. Thus a total of \$46.2 million had been cut from the estimated needs. Subsequent events indicate that Mr. Summerfield's original request was extremely accurate as he has shown a need of \$47 million to complete the present fiscal year.

Last July the Postmaster General told the Senate Committee on Appropriations what the situation was, and was asked to wait until the new session of Congress convened in January. Then, on January 15th this year, Mr. Summerfield notified the Post Office Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations that his Department would need supplemental funds of about \$47 million during the last quarter of the present fiscal year.

Again, on March 12th, he officially notified the Chairman of the Subcommittee of these needs, and justified them on the basis that: (1) The mail volume is far larger than anticipated when the budget was formulated (up at least one billion pieces of mail) (2) the Department has extended letter carrier service to 1,300,000 new homes, the residents of which deserve the same mail service as anyone else, and (3) the Department is now paying \$17 million more to its employees in accordance with the requirements of Public Law 68, passed by the previous Congress.

Knowing of these needs for some months, the Democratic leadership on the Committee on Appropriations refused to appreciate the seriousness of the situation. They refused to act until last Friday when the Committee approved a supplemental appropriation of \$41 million.

Some have thought that Mr. Summerfield was trying to bludgeon Congress and to inconvenience the public when he proposed curtailment of postal services. The Post-

master General is, as is every other officer of the government, subject to the anti-deficiency act. Title 31, Section 665 of the United States Code states: "No officer... of the United States shall make...an expenditure...under any appropriation or fund in excess of the amount available therein; nor shall any such officer involve the Government...in any...obligation...in advance of appropriations made for such purpose unless ...authorized by law." When it became apparent that the Department lacked sufficient funds to carry out all its services through June 30th, the Postmaster General was obligated to curtail postal services in order to stretch his operating funds over the last three months of the fiscal year. Unfortunately the House Committee on Appropriations did not act until Friday, April 12th and no final action by the Congress can come until the following week. In the meantime I hope Congress will complete its action expeditiously and the Department can render the necessary service.

ANGLO-AMERICAN FINANCIAL AGREEMENT: On March 6th the President transmitted to the House of Representatives a message requesting Congressional approval of the Secretary of the Treasury's action in signing an amendment to the Anglo-American Financial Agreement of December 6, 1945.

The original agreement between the United States and Great Britain approved by the Truman Administration provided that there be a waiver (forgiveness) of interest on Great Britain's debt to us, "in the event that certain economic conditions were met." To put it simply, under this provision, Britain was relieved of her payment of interest on the American loan whenever she found herself in certain financial difficulties.

The new amendment provides that the British give up all right to claim a waiver which conceivably could amount to a loss of as much as \$2 billion to the United States if England were to qualify for complete forgiveness on the remaining years of the agreement. This amendment, instead, would merely postpone the interest payment due last December 31st and would also permit the British to postpone future annual payments of principal and interest, but for no more than seven times during the life of the agreement. The British would, moreover, be called upon to make these payments after the end of a 50-year period (the year 2000) and would be required to pay interest on the deferred payments.

There is no doubt that the new amendment is to the long-term advantage of the United States. For instance, Representative Clare Hoffman of Michigan reported that while he had twice voted against the original loan agreement, he would support the new amendment as a decided improvement. The House adopted the revised agreement by a vote of 218 to 167.



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**



April 25, 1957

**PUBLIC ASSISTANCE COSTS:** For a few hours last week it appeared as though the Congress would not be able to take its scheduled Easter recess. The House and Senate were deadlocked over three items in the Urgent Deficiency Bill, one of these being a supplemental appropriation for the Public Assistance Program of the Social Security Administration. If this appropriation were not approved it would have meant that public assistance checks due to be distributed during the first week of May could have been delayed. Under present law 50 % of the cost of the Public Assistance Program is being borne by the Federal Government with the states putting up the remainder.

The House of Representatives was convinced, as a result of hearings before a subcommittee on Appropriations, that the cost of administering the program in some states had become excessive. As a national average we find that for every \$100 distributed to needy persons, the cost of state and local administration is \$7.90. Yet in New York this cost is \$16 and in the District of Columbia \$11. On the other hand, a number of states have kept administrative costs at between \$3 and \$5. In Michigan, for every \$100 going to the needy under this program, administration takes an additional \$7.20, a little below the national averages.

In addition, the subcommittee found that since 1950 the case-load under the Public Assistance Program had increased less than 3 per cent but the cost of administration had gone up 75 per cent.

In order to halt this trend and limit administrative costs, the House wrote into the \$275 million appropriation bill a provision limiting to \$15,728,000 the amount that could be spent for other than actual assistance to the needy. At first the Senate raised this by \$2 million and the House split the difference and accepted \$16,728,000. However, the Senate continued to balk and when the supplemental appropriation was finally approved Thursday afternoon, it contained no limitation or restriction whatever.

This was not a partisan fight but rather a strong disagreement between the two bodies of Congress. However, the Conference Committee handling the dispute was controlled by the majority party. Representative Taber in commenting on the "Compromise" said, "They made enormous increases in the administrative expenses and salaries....It is a procedure whereby the welfare business and old-age pension business is being run into a racket....I believe we have to take care of the needs of the aged, but I think we ought to be able to do it on a more economical, intelligent, and thorough basis than seems to be the case."

Although the Senate prevailed in this instance, it is only the first round in a battle where I hope the House will finally prevail. Excessive administrative costs will ultimately harm and may destroy public assistance for those in need.

NEW LOOK FOR FOREIGN SERVICE: Your Congressman is one of ten members of the House of Representatives who have recently proposed a Commission to probe the possibilities of modernizing the United States Foreign Service. This proposal has come about—and rightfully so—in response to the fact that many candidates have shied away from following through on their applications for Foreign Service because they have the impression that it is "reserved for a special group in our society." This is not true, but the impression is the result of a situation wherein several ambassadorships have not been able to operate effectively without people of much personal wealth to fill them. The Foreign Service itself is not happy over this, and feels that the Government should provide better allowances for the functions that some of our foreign diplomatic posts require.

Aside from these ambassadorships, there are smaller U. S. posts that have not been sufficiently provided for by our Government, and this should be righted if these posts are to fulfill their tasks adequately.

The Foreign Service deserves as high a calibre of personnel as do our armed forces or any other organization working to protect our national prestige and security. I feel that such a Commission as we have proposed should seriously undertake to strengthen this important but too-neglected sphere of U. S. influence, and have as its objective the realization of what has been described as a "massive transfusion of Main Street into the arteries of the Foreign Service." True enough, recruits are drawn into the Service on a competitive basis. But in the past it has also been staffed by people with money enough of their own to meet the high expenses of maintaining an embassy, and owing to the lack of sufficient funds from the government, perfectly capable but "poorer" people could not have taken the job on their own merit.

Columnist Roscoe Drummond has recently written:

"Anytime a speaker wants to get an easy laugh from an audience all he has to do is make some 'unwise' crack about our 'tea-drinking, striped-pants diplomatic set.' This is unfair, unfortunate, mostly untrue. It weakens our government. Something ought to be done about it."

Your Congressman agrees.





# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**



May 2, 1957

The Hoover Commissions have made many excellent recommendations aimed at efficiency and economy in the federal government. The President and his aides and the Congress have accepted and implemented most of these proposals and as a result there has been an improvement in service and corresponding savings. However, on occasion inaccurate charges are made against government procedures and policies allegedly based on Hoover Commission proposals. Such an instance recently occurred before my subcommittee on Army, Navy, and Air Force appropriations where a witness testified that \$200 million, according to the Subsistence Task Force of the Hoover Commission, could be saved annually by a more realistic count of GI's eating at military mess halls.

Several members of the subcommittee immediately indicated to the witness that the Army, Navy, and the Air Force do not buy and prepare food on the basis of the total number of personnel in a unit, but rather procure and serve food predicted on an established absentee rate, in some cases in the past as high as 15 per cent. In other words, the Army in all posts, camps, and stations within the United States prepares meals on the basis that 14.3 per cent of the complement will be absent.

The witness asked and was given permission to check the facts and subsequently wrote the committee chairman as follows:

"Since testifying before your Committee on March 22, I have reviewed carefully both the Commission's Report and the Task Force Report on Food and Clothing (Subsistence). Nowhere in these reports is there any reference to a \$200 million savings or for that matter any savings being made by a more realistic count of the people attending the service messes."

It is most commendable to have a witness correct the record. Incorrect accusations against government policies and practices are most harmful in the serious task of cutting expenditures and achieving efficiency.

## ONION FUTURES TRADING

This week hearings are being held by the Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing (of the House Committee on Agriculture) regarding bills to prohibit futures trading in onions. Your Congressman, prompted by the interest of onion growers in our area, is the author of one such bill.

Since legislation was enacted in the 84th Congress, placing onion futures trading under the jurisdiction of the Commodity Exchange Authority, there have been reports

that this practice has been detrimental to onion producers and "that unless steps can be taken to improve trading conditions from the growers' standpoint, such trading..... should be prohibited."

There are now five "onion bills" in the House and two in the Senate, all worded identically.

The National Onion Association takes the stand that the continuance of futures trading in onions "poses a great threat to the future of fruit and vegetable agriculture, and presents very real hidden dangers."

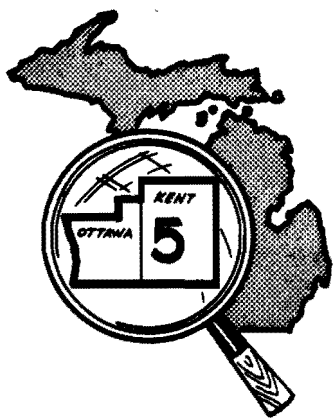
The Association feels that: (1) Onions, because of their small volume and perishability, are not suited to futures trading....these characteristics make regulation and control impossible; (2) Onion futures trading contributes nothing of economic value to the industry; and (3) Onion futures trading has a definite disrupting effect on cash onion markets, onion movement, and the entire onion industry.

I believe that if there is any truth to the argument that futures trading in onions permits unwarranted speculative action, affecting prices to the detriment of producers, then the Committee should report sound legislation against it.

#### GLIMPSE INTO THE SENATE

At this time I would like to report briefly on Senate action so far this session --but through the medium of a Senator's own words. Senator Norris Cotton of New Hampshire has recently written:

"Ordinarily Easter recess is the half-way point in a session of Congress and time to take 'count of stock.' Although the Senate has met longer, talked more, and introduced more bills than usual, it has accomplished little. Everything is 'waiting' on something else. The Senate is waiting for the House to send over appropriations and tax bills. Aid for School Construction is waiting on Civil Rights. Civil Rights seems to be waiting for the millenium. It is still buttoned up in the Judiciary Committee so the marathon filibuster which is bound to come when it hits the Floor hasn't even 'started to begin to commence.' In an earlier report I compared the legislative process with the chewing and digesting functions of a cow. Maybe this cow should be sold for beefsteak. After four months of cud chewing, it has produced more moo than milk. Some Senators criticize Ike for speeding, perhaps because the mere thought of doing anything fast shocks a senator."



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**

May 8, 1957



## IKE IN RESPONSE TO RESOLUTION 190:

In response to House Resolution 190, requesting the President to make his suggestions where the Budget might be cut, Mr. Eisenhower has recently presented a practical 10-point program whereby the Congress may act to brighten several aspects of the 1958 budget. Incidentally, he pointed out where the budget might be reduced by \$1.8 billion.

By introduction, the President reasserted his pledge that the Executive Branch would cooperate fully with the Congress in working "for sensible control of Federal spending."

He then cited what he termed "general guidelines" that were applied in drafting the Budget for this coming fiscal year: (1) the Federal government should undertake only essential activities that the people cannot sufficiently provide for themselves or obtain adequately through private voluntary action or local or state government; (2) in such times as we are now living, government spending should be held below income in order to lead the way to further reductions in taxes and public debt; and (3) all government expenditures should remain under close scrutiny in the interest of strict economy.

According to Ike such guidelines as these, in the past several years, have proved their practical worth. The President, in his response to the House of Representatives, said: "Today Federal civilian employees are almost a quarter of a million fewer than in January 1953. The \$7.4 billion tax cut in 1954 has already saved our people almost \$25 billion in taxes. For the first time in a quarter of a century we have in prospect three balanced budgets in a row. In fiscal year 1956 the surplus was \$1.6 billion. It promises this fiscal year to be about the same size, and next year perhaps as much as \$1.8 billion. If we hold to this course, we should have paid in these three years about \$5 billion on the public debt, and the annual necessity to raise the statutory debt limit should have become a thing of the past."

In addition, here are Mr. Eisenhower's suggestions for further improvement of the long-range budget picture: (1) adjust postal rates to eliminate the postal deficit; (2) raise interest rates on government loans

where they could cover federal borrowing costs; (3) require user charges for federal services; (4) require the participation of the states in federal disaster assistance programs; (5) encourage partnership development of water resources; (6) check the "pork-barreling" of rivers and harbors projects; (7) firmly enact recommendations of the Hoover Commission; (8) facilitate the return of surplus federal property to federal, state, or private use; (9) determine the cost of new programs before enacting them; and (10) give the Administration item veto power on appropriation bills.

#### DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS:

Last week your Congressman was one of 13 members of the House Committee on Appropriations seeking to determine the right amount of funds for the Army, Navy, and Air Force for next year. Our subcommittee has held almost daily hearings since January on the \$36 billion dollar budget for the Armed Forces.

I can honestly say the 13 member group (8 Democrats and 5 Republicans) tackled the problem without partisanship and with a sincere desire to protect the American taxpayer and at the same time provide sufficient funds for the defense of America. It is no easy task and no inconsequential responsibility, for if we recommend reductions which are too great, cutting the meat and bone, rather than the fat, our national defense could be jeopardized in an emergency. At the same time the Committee must scrupulously remove funds for nonessential equipment, installations, and manpower, both civilian and military.

The subcommittee has made its decisions and a report will be made shortly to the House membership. I will keep you fully informed of the progress of this most important appropriation bill which involves the future security of our nation and over fifty per cent of the federal tax dollar.

#### VISITORS:

From Grand Rapids: Mr. A. C. Dykema and Mary Jane Dykema, Jr. and Mrs. Paul Mickel, Jr. and Mrs. Norman Loham, Mr. Gerald E. White, Mr. Ed Frey, Christie and Linda Millsom with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. D. Millsom, Mr. Edward J. Hekman, Mr. G. W. Richel. From Grand Haven: Mr. G. H. Schember and Doris Schember and Janie Schember, Mr. Art Wheeler, Jr. J. Scott, Mr. H. Leigh Nygren, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Singerling and their daughter, Judy, Brice Maddox, and Joseph Swartz. From Holland: Mr. and Mrs. J. Pleeves. From Spring Lake: W. Preston Bilz, Clare Broman.



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**

May 16, 1957



## NINTH ROUND IN THE BATTLE OF THE BUDGET

The House Committee on Appropriations acted on the budget for the Department of Agriculture last week and reduced the funds by over \$272 million, which is a 6.9 per cent cut below the amount recommended by the Bureau of the Budget. The committee decided that next year all programs within the Department of Agriculture should be held at the current level. Even with the \$272 million reduction the Agriculture Department will receive for the next twelve months beginning July 1st over \$3.6 billion. It is the strong feeling of the Committee that adequate funds within this amount will be available for research, soil conservation, school lunches, extension, soil bank, price-supports, and the multitude of other programs aimed at a sound agricultural economy.

## OVERALL BUDGET DEVELOPMENTS

Since January the House of Representatives has considered nine regular appropriation bills involving almost \$19 billion in budget requests. Thus far the total reductions amount to \$1.4 billion or a 7.4 per cent cutback in funds for next year. This is definitely progress in the right direction.

Other recent developments indicate the "economy drive" is taking hold in the Nation's Capital. First, President Eisenhower in the last week reduced the foreign aid request by \$500 million. Second, the Senate Committee on Appropriations concurred in reductions made by the House of Representatives in the Treasury and Post Office Department appropriation bill. If the Senate will hold the line in the future, real savings will materialize.

## STATUS OF NATIONAL DEBT

On May 6th, 1956 the national debt was \$275.3 billion, while on May 6th, 1957, twelve months later, it was \$273.4 billion. In other words, because the federal government had a surplus, the national debt in the last year was reduced almost \$2 billion.

## VOICE OF A NEW REPUBLIC

One day last week a solemn, shy, yet determined guest of the President and the American people spoke to a joint session of Congress. The members of the House and Senate listened with deep interest to the remarks of President Ngo Dinh Diem of Free Viet Nam, a new republic in faraway Indo China. Whether one calls himself an isolationist or internationalist, there is understandable admiration for President Diem--for he has forthrightly and effectively fought Communist ideology and Communist military forces in keeping his country on the side of the Free World.

In August of 1953 your Congressman spent five days in Viet Nam at a time when the French were still trying to wipe out the Red Chinese military forces that were seeking to take over the country and its 11 million citizens. In those days, almost 4 years ago, it was rather obvious from my conference with U. S. officials that the French faced a hopeless task, primarily because the Viet Nameese were almost as opposed to a continuation of French colonialism as they were to Communism. This then existing native indifference plus French military errors resulted in the disaster at Dien Bien Phu.

From this chaos in 1954 President Diem arose as the savior of his people. Secretary Dulles recognized Diem's leadership because of his rigorous anti-Communist views and long-standing anti-colonialist background, and since then the United States has supported his country's dramatic and successful struggle against the mighty threats of Red China.

How has America helped this youngest republic in Asia, a nation barely two years old? The United States Armed Forces have military advisory groups in Viet Nam showing them how to build up an adequate national defense force to protect their country from Communist military aggression. In addition, there are American technical experts in many civilian fields in Viet Nam teaching the natives how to use U. S.-manufactured equipment to raise their standard of living.

According to President Diem his country is making a substantial effort to help itself in the fight against Communist domination. To build up their armed forces a draft or selective service law is now in effect. The Viet Nameese legislators have raised new taxes to support their government. In addition efforts are being made to encourage foreign private investment.

In his concluding remarks to Congress, President Diem expressed his country's appreciation for our unselfish assistance and renewed his pledge that as our ally his people will continue to fight Communism.



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**

May 23, 1957



## JUNE FOURTH VOTE

On June 4th the voters in a substantial part of our Congressional District will be called upon to make vital decisions concerning the future growth and betterment of our communities. Your Congressman has read the Grand Rapids and other community newspapers most carefully in reference to the civic improvement program in Grand Rapids and the area water pipeline project. A YES vote across the board seems sound. We all want our part of Western Michigan to be a better place in which to live. We must keep it up-to-date and affirmative action at your local voting booth on June 4th is the way to do the job.

## SOIL BANK

Last week the House of Representatives pulled the rug out from under the Soil Bank Program by knocking out acreage allotment funds for fiscal 1958, rendering that part of the Soil Bank Program virtually lifeless-- unless the Senate reverses the House decision. The House action will deprive American farmers of a program which was a serious attempt to reduce the expensive burden of farm surpluses that have beset the farmers' market for years.

The House Committee on Appropriations in commenting on the acreage controls reported:

"Part of the trouble lies with the agricultural laws passed in 1933, which except as to price support levels, largely govern present farm programs. At that time the United States produced such a large share of the world's supply of basic commercial crops that it was felt that regulation of United States production would regulate world production. At that time it was believed that cutting United States acreage would control United States production. Provisions for such actions were included in that law. Time and experience have shown that these provisions have not been effective since, as United States acreage has been reduced each year, the American farmer has increased his yield per acre through more intensive cultivation and increased use of machinery, fertilizer, and insecticides."

Secretary Benson in his May 2nd letter to the Senate Committee on Agriculture made three points: (1) Controls are not effective in reduc-

ing over-all agricultural production, despite the severe restrictions they impose on farmers' freedom to produce and market; (2) Agricultural products are likely to continue to be abundant; under such conditions they cannot be successfully priced as if they were scarce; and (3) The present legal formulas governing acreage allotments and price supports are proving obsolete.

While all of this may be true, it seemed unwise to me for the House in effect to repeal the Soil Bank by denying funds for its operation. It would seem best, first of all, to give the acreage reserve program a fair trial which should be for a greater duration than the few months of its present operation. Officials of the Department of Agriculture feel that the 1957 program will show better results than that of 1956. Secondly, if the law is to be repealed, it should be done in the regular manner through hearings and action by the proper legislative committee.

#### POLAND AND U. S. ASSISTANCE

Between April 25th and 28th of this year Representative Alvin D. Bentley (8th district, Michigan) visited Warsaw, the Polish capital, as part of a special study mission to Europe, sponsored by the Congress.

Mr. Bentley, upon his return, submitted the following recommendations to the House of Representatives:

"To the question, should there be economic aid for Poland, the answer must be: certainly, to a limited degree. This opinion comes from one who has generally opposed foreign aid in any and all forms."

"The desired aid is in two general forms: credit for the purchase of our surplus agricultural commodities, specifically wheat and cotton, and a transfer to the Export-Import Bank of sufficient funds to enable the extension of a line of credit for the purchase of modern mining machinery and other articles intended for increasing industrial and agricultural production."

"The important thing to remember is that we are not necessarily trying to bail the present government out of difficulties and problems caused by the practices of its predecessors but rather to show the Polish people themselves that they are not forgotten by the West and that they can count on us for a limited amount of economic assistance."

"We can do little or nothing to assist liberation by revolution. We do have an opportunity, in Poland, to assist in a policy of liberation by evolution. We may gamble and lose but it is worth the risk. If we remain passive....we might as well accept the idea of co-existence between the free and slave worlds,"





# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**

May 30, 1957



This week's newsletter is being written on the floor of the House during the debate on the appropriation bill for the Department of Defense. Obviously, this is not the best time or place to write this report, but as a member of the Committee that worked on this \$36 billion national defense budget it was essential to be on the job constantly. Furthermore, in this way I can give you the latest developments on this crucial debate.

In January this year Ike submitted to the Congress the military budget for the next year and recommended a total of \$36 billion for the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Our committee immediately undertook comprehensive hearings with all the top civilian and military leaders as witnesses. Secretary Wilson was the lead-off proponent for the Armed Forces and commented as follows on the threat to the security of the United States:

"However, the danger is still there, because the dictatorial, totalitarian-type government which exists in Russia has great military power, and there is some danger that in the effort to perpetuate their positions internally they might precipitate some external wars. So my overall appraisal is that the threat is still of a high order and about like it has been ever since World War II. My conception of it is that it is a very long political-social trend that has to run its course and during that time our country must maintain great military strength in order to be secure."

In order to get all the facts on this multi-million dollar Army, Navy, and Air Force budget our committee held 78 days of hearings, usually 4 to 6 hours per day. The exhaustive and detailed interrogations of Generals, Admirals, Colonels, Captains, and civilian employees resulted in six printed volumes totalling over 6,000 pages. In addition there was much testimony "off the record" which could not be printed as it involved our top secret military programs and plans. This background is given to assure our citizens that the military budget was seriously, not haphazardly, scrutinized by the 13 members of the Committee.

When the job was done the Committee recommended cuts approximating on the surface \$2.5 billion. However, it is admitted at the outset about half the reductions are purely book-keeping transactions. In other words

the real cutbacks amount to \$1.1 billion or 3 per cent of the amount Ike proposed.

The question immediately arises: Will the national security, our defense against Soviet attack, be impaired by the reductions? President Eisenhower, a great military leader in his own right, questions the wisdom of the downward revisions. Secretary of Defense Wilson, a down-to-earth production and management expert, and one who has been top man in the Pentagon for over 4 years, says the Congress would be unwisely gambling with the nation's security to cut the money requested for the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Both Ike and Secretary Wilson validly point out that the military funds were slashed over \$10 billion before the budget was submitted to Congress.

My own views on this controversy are predicated on five years' experience on the military subcommittee on appropriations plus extensive on-the-spot investigations of military posts, camps, and stations worldwide. It is my opinion that the committee made a few unsound and unjustified reductions. My differences with my committee colleagues fall roughly about midway between Ike's and the committee's recommendations.

For example, it would be harmful to slash the missile procurement program or the training of personnel to operate these new weapons. The committee bill as submitted might have this result and could slow down our necessary transition from conventional to modern weapons. These possibilities bother me and as a result I will do what is practical to make the bill closer to Ike's views.

No one should condone duplication, extravagance, and waste in the Armed Forces. The President, Secretary Wilson, and the Congress are constantly hammering away at the eradication of this evil. Tremendous progress has been made in the past four years in all branches of the Armed Forces, but in any vast organization where there are 4 million persons involved, some errors are bound to take place. Let's concentrate on better management, more efficiency, less waste but in the process don't lower our guard for a Russian knockout punch. I have often said but at this point it bears repeating, it is better to spend a little more to preserve the peace than to spend a lot more to win a war. A final word: One should not forget the horrible cost in lives and dollars of World War II and Korea as we discuss the adequacy of a military budget to preserve the peace. If we must gamble let us be on the side of strength rather than on the side of weakness.