

Your Washington Review

by

Congressman

JERRY FORD

May 1, 1958



President Eisenhower's proposals for revamping the Department of Defense have begun their journey through the Congressional maze. They will encounter powerful opposition. Influential leaders on the Committee on Armed Services in both House and Senate have indicated disapproval of one or more of the specific items in the overall proposal.

President Eisenhower's experience both as Commander-in-Chief and as a 5-star general has convinced him of the need for reorganization to promote efficiency and economy, and to give us the most effective military machine to insure peace and security.

The President's basic proposals are sound. The specific legislation which has been introduced along with recent explanations by Ike and Secretary of Defense Mc Elroy have clarified some of the questions which I had originally.

The Secretary of Defense will be given greater responsibility and authority for organizing our fighting forces on a uniform basis to meet most effectively any emergency anywhere in the world. Interservice rivalry and jealousy must give way to cooperative thinking and singleness of action.

With two thirds of the Federal Budget being administered by the Department of Defense it is imperative that we get a dollar's worth of protection for every dollar spent. The President's proposals give the Secretary of Defense a stronger control over these expenditures, running currently at about \$40 billion a year.

Ike is going to fight for his program and it will be interesting to see how Congress responds to his overall sound and constructive recommendations.

RECOVERY AND BANKRUPTCY: Wild spending and a reckless reduction in taxes will not put men back to work. This has been tried and it has failed. Yet we have otherwise responsible men recommending brand new additional Federal expenditures over the next five years of about \$77 billion. And at the same time they call for annual tax cuts totaling over \$10 billion.

I am confident that the citizens of the Fifth District cannot be fooled by this kind of economics which amounts to talking out of both sides of one's mouth. Deficit financing brings greater interest payments and encourages that insidious inflation which eats away at everyone's wages and savings. Any temporary advantage we may gain is outweighed by the burden we place on our own economy and by the load we pass on to our children.

That something must be done to revive the automotive industry in Michigan goes without saying. I have joined other Representatives from Michigan in urging the Committee

on Ways and Means to report legislation reducing the excise tax on automobiles and trucks. If such a reduction were coupled with action by the industry in lowering prices on its product and by labor in stabilizing its wage demands, I'm sure we would see great improvement in the automotive industry.

The Federal Government cannot meet our economic problems alone. There must be cooperation by consumers, business, labor, and farmers with all the units of government if we are going to lick the acute unemployment situation found in various areas of the nation.

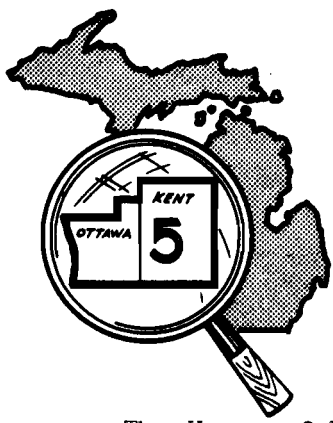
INTO SPACE: For the past two weeks the Space Committee has had before it about 15 top U. S. scientists, men with the highest degrees in their respective specialties. Not one was a "long-haired" person with impractical views. In contrast each, in addition to his superb scientific qualifications, had a very broad and fluent approach to the overall problems of government and the world. These scientific geniuses who are planning and operating our missile and satellite programs are doing a first class job in keeping our National Defense program the best. In addition, these men, including Dr. Von Braun, Dr. Clifford Furnas, Chancellor, University of Buffalo; Dr. William Pickering, California Institute of Technology, make a fine contribution to our overall socio-political-economic life.

Hearings before the Committee continue to surpass anything Buck Rogers ever thought of doing. Among other things we were shown a model of a satellite within a satellite. Folded in a small package within the first explorer-type satellite is an aluminum foil balloon. When the satellite is in orbit the balloon is ejected and filled by means of a compressed air device. This balloon weighing nine pounds and measuring 12 feet in diameter becomes a second satellite encircling the earth at 17,000 mph. Because of its unique size and weight it will be affected by a minute amount of air and will enable our scientists to measure the density of the air at great altitude. The knowledge obtained will be useful in determining how long more conventional satellites will remain in orbit. This 12-foot satellite will be readily seen with the naked eye at dawn or twilight.

Another exhibit was a model of a four-man space station. The station would be 106 feet long and weigh about 15,000 pounds. It would be used as a base for research, for observation of the weather, and for further space exploration. Requiring five years to build and some \$500 million, its construction has merely been proposed.

MICHIGAN WEEK: May 4 - 10 has been designated as Michigan Week, and Your Congressman has been asked to act as chairman of a committee to plan activities in the nation's Capital. We hope to draw some national attention to the special significance of Michigan as a state.

Free bean soup, made from Michigan beans, will be served to members of the House, Senate, and the press one day during the week.



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May 8, 1958



The House of Representatives has passed legislation to provide for the extension of unemployment insurance to those who exhaust their benefits under existing law. I voted for this extension which was adopted on final passage by a vote of 370 to 17.

The bill as passed and which I supported was offered by Democratic Rep. A. S. Herlong, Jr. as a substitute for a measure reported by the Committee on Ways and Means. The Committee's proposal was rejected by a vote of 223 to 165 largely because it would have destroyed the long-tested insurance principle underlying unemployment insurance. It would have altered the existing and sound programs in the states to include direct relief payment. In my opinion the Congress should promptly appropriate funds for those in need and not covered by unemployment compensation on a matching basis with the states and local governing bodies.

Authorities in the field testified before the Committee that "the distinction between unemployment insurance and unemployment relief is a vital element in American public policy. One arises out of contract. The other out of need." The House accepted this basic principle in adopting the Herlong substitute.

Under the bill as passed, Federal funds may be loaned to the states for the additional benefits that a state may provide for those persons who have exhausted their normal unemployment benefits. Benefits are to be at the same rate as previously established and for an extra period equal to half the time provided by state law.

Among the significant evidence presented to the House in the course of debate was the fact that in 1956 Michigan paid the highest average weekly wages in jobs covered by unemployment insurance of any state in the Union. With the national average at \$81, Michigan workers averaged \$97 a week. Only Alaska at \$138 was greater. The states of California, Delaware, and Illinois followed at \$90.

Michigan employers averaged an unemployment tax rate in 1957 of 2 percent, and shared this rate with those of two other states. Only two states, Washington with 2.3 percent and Rhode Island with 2.7, had higher unemployment tax rates.

MUTUAL SECURITY: Secretary of State Dulles recently made a masterful presentation in support of our Mutual Security System before my Subcommittee on Appropriations for Foreign Operations. He hit most effectively at the contention that our Mutual Security program is a "giveaway." I would like to quote two paragraphs from his testimony:

"The 'giveaway' so often complained of would have occurred if we had not had this program or if we should slacken it now. Without a Mutual Security Program we would indeed have 'given away' half of Europe to chaos or Communism. We would have 'given away' Greece and

Turkey and the Eastern Mediterranean to Soviet control. We would have 'given away' Iran, and Russian access to the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean -- and the economic strength of Europe which depends heavily on Middle Eastern oil. We would have 'given away' Korea, and the Republic of China and Vietnam -- and in all likelihood the rest of Southeast Asia. The 'Giveaway' would reach or come dangerously close to Pakistan and India -- the great Asian subcontinent with a fifth of the entire human race."

"If we now weaken in our determination and slacken in our pace, we will indeed 'give away' to Communism in the next few years the control of a dozen or more nations with enough people and resources to change the balance of power irretrievably against us. We would indeed 'give away' bases and allied forces essential to our own strategic defense system. We would indeed 'give away' the access which we and other free nations have to resources essential to our own industry and to trade essential to our own welfare and prosperity."

In any evaluation of our foreign policy it is essential that we take into consideration the extent to which the United States is dependent upon other free nations of the world for essential raw materials. Of the 39 strategic materials that are necessary for production in the United States, we are self-sufficient in only 9. For example, we import 96% of our nickel, 86% of our manganese, 91% of our chrome, 100% of our tin, industrial diamonds, and natural rubber, 98% of our platinum, and 80% of the cobalt we use in industry and defense. It is to our own national interests to protect our sources of supply.

The Soviet Union is engaged in a vigorous effort to increase its trade with nations in all parts of the free world. Imperial Communism is actively striving to cut into our sources of supply. Russia and its satellites have already entered into agreements with 16 non-Communist nations for lines of credit or grants totalling nearly \$1.6 billion in economic assistance and an additional \$400 million for military assistance. They are sending trained technicians (as many as 2,000 at one time) to work in newly independent countries to increase Communist influence and to shut us out. One of the purposes of our mutual security program is to counteract this influence.

Some have insisted that we should reduce our mutual security expenditures because of our own unemployment problem. But 78 percent of the funds appropriated for this program are spent right in the United States in the very first instance. The jobs of over 600,000 American farmers and industrial workers can be directly attributed to these expenditures. It is estimated that in Michigan alone over 33,000 jobs are dependent upon the operation of the mutual security program. This would not in itself justify an unsound program, but coupled with all the other benefits it strengthens the case for "foreign aid" at the present time. Without the Mutual Security Program we would be spending more money for national defense, we would be drafting more men into the Army, and we would face the prospect of losing our allies in Europe and southeast Asia.



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May 15, 1958



The bill to strengthen the power of the Federal Government in dealing with the shipment of obscene or crime-inciting matter throughout the country would have passed the House of Representatives last Monday but for an objection raised by a Democratic Congressman from New York City. At the request of Rep. Alfred Santangelo, H. R. 6239, which was on the Consent Calendar, was not approved by the House. Bills on the Consent Calendar may be passed only by unanimous consent and an objection by any one member prevents approval.

Citizens of the Fifth District have indicated a great interest in H. R. 6239 which was recommended for passage by the House Committee on the Judiciary on April 17th. Under the terms of this bill, prosecution for the distribution of obscene or crime-inciting material could take place not only where the objectionable matter is mailed, but also at the place of delivery, or in any Federal Judicial District through which it is carried.

While the language of present law seems to be clear in this respect, the courts have held that the act made illegal by present law "is the deposit for mailing and not a use of the mails which may follow such deposit. That (unlawful) act is complete when the deposit is made and is not a continuing act." The importance of such an interpretation rests in the fact that it is sometimes difficult to obtain a conviction for the mailing of obscene matter in certain jurisdictions which may include those where the material is mailed.

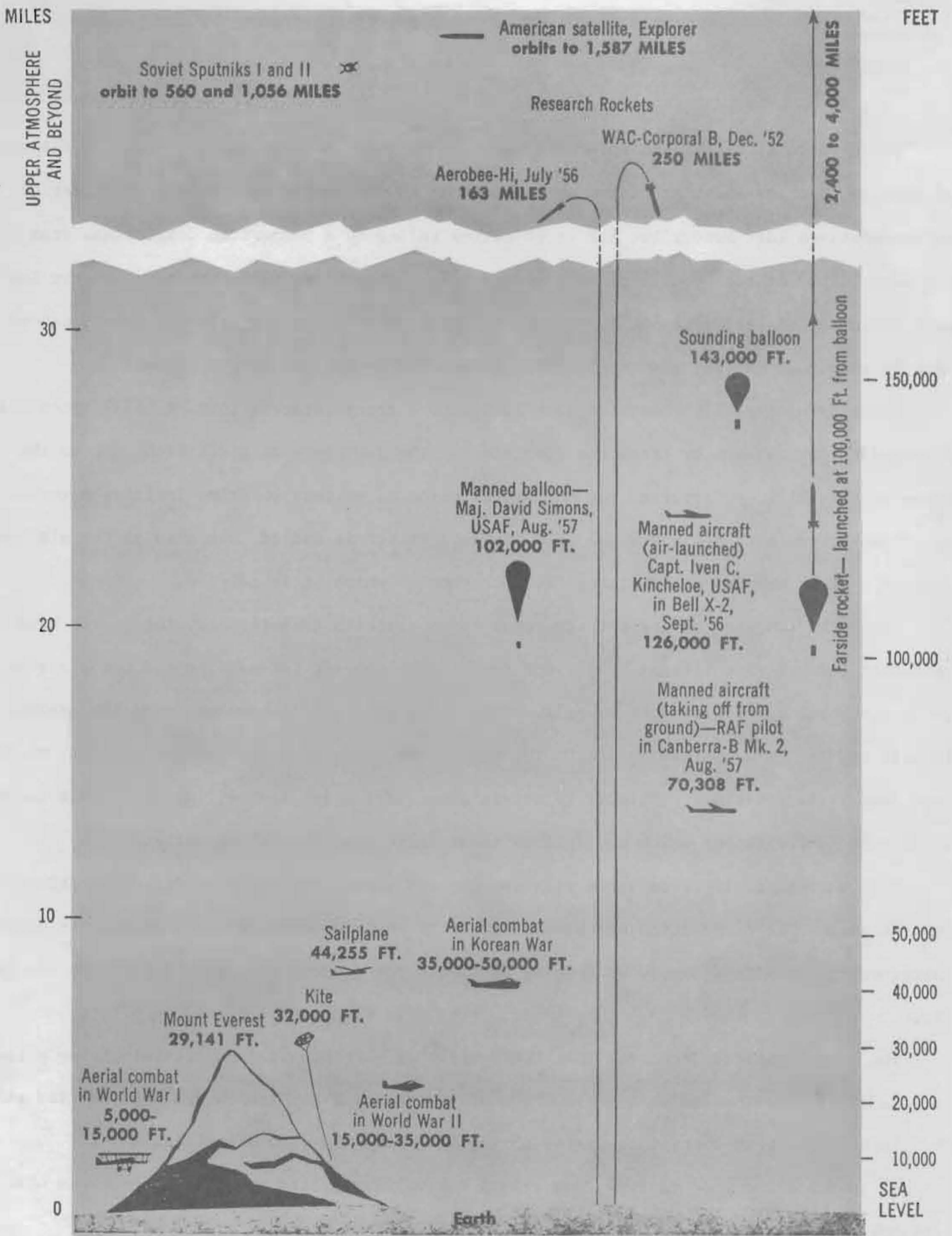
I am sure that all of us agree with the General Counsel of the Post Office Department when he said, "The circulation of obscene matter in any community tends to debase its morals. Therefore, its citizens should be free to prosecute the persons responsible for such obscenity."

The House Committee reported that the traffic of pornographic and crime-inciting matter is steadily increasing and that prosecution of violators of the law should be permitted at the place of delivery where the effects of the violation are primarily felt.

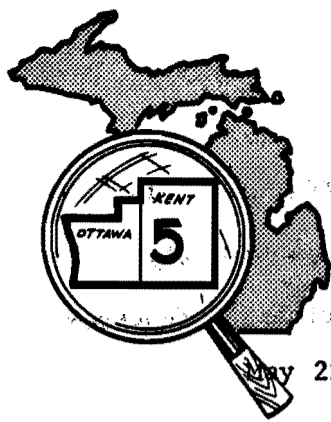
It is for these good reasons that I have actively supported this legislation and will continue to do so.

SPACE LEGISLATION AND DEVELOPMENTS: The House Committee on Space Exploration has concluded its extensive hearings and is now considering legislation to establish a National Aeronautics and Space Agency. The bill as reported will probably coincide pretty much with the general recommendations of President Eisenhower.

On the other side of this sheet we have reproduced a chart which gives a graphic picture of our progress in space exploration to date. In the months ahead, let me assure you, the United States' missile and satellite program will go even higher, faster, and farther into space.



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MAY 22, 1958

The Nation's Capital gave Vice President and Mrs. Nixon an enthusiastic and highly deserved welcome on their return from South America. Unfortunately because of an important Appropriation Committee meeting where General Norstad, head of allied forces in Europe was testifying, I could not be at the airport to greet Pat and Dick. However, several of my staff did see President Eisenhower personally welcome the Nixons home. In my judgment the Communist -inspired actions in South America are evidence of the fundamental weakness of the atheistic dictator-type philosophy of the Kremlin. In the long run the United States will benefit by the courageous and responsible conduct of the Vice President and his wife.

MUTUAL SECURITY. The House of Representatives has passed an amendment to the Mutual Security Act of 1954 approving \$8.9 billion in new spending authority for the Mutual Security Program for fiscal 1959. This is a reduction of 8.6 per cent from the amount requested by President Eisenhower.

While I believe the Mutual Security Program is an essential element in a sound foreign policy and absolutely necessary to our own national defense, I doubt that the reduction made by the House will materially weaken its effectiveness. In fact, my Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations is presently hearing and evaluating testimony of officials associated with the Mutual Security Program preparatory to recommending the actual appropriations for the 1959 budget. We are carefully scrutinizing projects and programs along with general policy and administration to ascertain if there are additional ways of saving dollars without weakening our overall security.

The Mutual Security Program is basically sound and necessary because:

1. It enables the United States to have over 250 military bases on foreign territory.
2. It cuts the costs of our own direct expenditures for defense and reduces the draft calls by Selective Service.
3. It helps protect the sources of our supply of many strategic materials.
4. It helps U. S. farms, business, and labor when nearly 80¢ of every dollar of mutual security funds are spent in the first instance in the United States.
5. It is a major United States weapon in the cold war against Communist imperialism.
6. It strengthens our allies and friends, militarily and economically.
7. It is our best insurance against Communist penetration of the neutral nations.

Andrew Biemiller, Director of the Department of Legislation, AFL-CIO, recently wrote all Congressmen to say: "The American economic recession is being used by some

as a pretext for scuttling or substantially reducing the foreign aid program. This would be, in our judgment, a serious error. Curtailment of the program would only worsen, not ameliorate, the recession since 600,000 American jobs are directly dependent upon our mutual security expenditures."

SPACE FOR PEACE: The Committee on Space Exploration, of which I am a member, has approved a concurrent resolution calling for the peaceful use of outer space. The resolution affirms "that the Congress...believes that the nations of the world should join in the establishment of plans for the peaceful exploration of outer space, should ban the use of outer space for military aggrandizement, and should strive to reach the moon and the planets in the years ahead with the purpose of advancing the good of all mankind rather than the expropriation of other worlds for the benefit of one nation or group of nations."

The resolution calls for an international agreement, possibly through the UN, for joint explorations and for the peaceful settlement of disputes involving outer space. Fantastic? No, merely practical preparedness.

OTTAWA COUNTY FEDERAL LAND: The U. S. Forest Service is now inviting bids on six tracts of federally owned, EU land in Park and Port Sheldon Townships, Ottawa County. The transaction which will follow the opening of the bids on June 18th will mark the first instance of sale to private parties of land acquired in depression days under the Bankhead-Jones Act. This was made possible by the enactment of my bill, H. R. 7600, into Public Law 314 by the 85th Congress. The new law authorizes the sale of this land in Ottawa County and thus permits it to be put back on the local tax rolls.

Five tracts of about 2 ½ acres each are being offered along with one tract of about 40 acres. The latter is suitable for blueberry production while the smaller tracts are intended for use as residential sites. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Forest Supervisor, U. S. Forest Service, Cadillac, Michigan.

RAILROAD CENTENNIAL: A student of history and railroads residing in Washington sent me the following note taken from an 1870 book entitled "History and Directory of Kent County!"

"The first train of cars entered Grand Rapids on the tenth day of July, 1858, at 4:30 pm; the Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad having that day completed their road to the long expectant and previously isolated city. This was one of the most important events, as touching the development of the town, that we have to record, and let in at once a new tide of enterprise and capital."



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May 29, 1958

Testimony before the House Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration supports the contention of the Committee's first report that in time the advance into space, like other discoveries, will easily pay for itself in hard-cash terms of revenues against expenditures. The savings to agriculture and industry that will come from developments in weather forecasting are beyond comprehension. The Director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory predicted that weather forecasting will become an exact science when accurate, vital information can be gathered daily from the satellites circling the globe. He stated that this "alone in its value to the country will outweigh the cost of the entire program."

An Air Force General pointed out that "if the space age is entered by the United States with the boldness it deserves, the next five years should see all talk of unemployment in this country replaced by the greatest labor shortage in our experience.... The benefits of the space age will be spread directly through an ever-widening circle of subcontractors and specialty manufacturers, both large and small." The United States cannot ignore or postpone the entrance into the space age. Our survival, prestige, and economic progress demand that we face its problem forthrightly.

ALASKAN STATEHOOD: The debate over statehood for Alaska had members of the House of Representatives on the run last week. On Wednesday there were five quorum calls and one yea and nay vote on the motion to take up for consideration the Alaskan bill. On Thursday there were four more quorum calls. Comparing these nine in two days with the total of 28 quorum calls from January 7 through May 20, we see that there was great concern with attendance on the floor for this debate.

However, when we realize that it takes about 25 minutes to complete the call of the roll of 435 House members, we may speculate that someone was more eager to delay discussion than to complete it.

Personally, I have consistently favored statehood for Alaska and was ready to vote anytime.

IN MEMORY: Your Congressman was requested to act as one of the 28 official delegates to represent the House of Representatives at the special services to be held on Memorial Day for the burial of two additional Unknowns at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. One of these will symbolize the servicemen and women of World War II and the other will represent those who served in the Korean Conflict. Internment will be at Arlington National Cemetery with appropriate ceremonies in the Amphitheater at 3:00 on May 30th.

The American Battle Monuments Commission announced recently that it was prepared to

furnish to the Next-of-Kin of those servicemen who are buried or memorialized overseas, an aerial photograph of the cemetery in which the individual is buried with a photograph of the individual headstone mounted thereon. In the case of the Missing, a photograph of the section of the memorial wall where the name is recorded will be shown.

Pictures are available of the cemeteries in Cambridge, England; Normandy, Brittany, Epinal and Rhone, France; Margraten, Holland; Nettuno-Anzio, Italy; and Tunisia, in North Africa. Next-of Kin may make a request to the Commission at Constitution Avenue and 18th Street, N. W., Washington 25, D. C.

ONION FUTURES: The Senate Committee on Agriculture has favorably reported with amendments, H. R. 376, the bill passed by the House to prohibit trading in onion futures on the commodity exchanges. One amendment removes the trading in onion futures from jurisdiction of the Commodity Exchange Authority while the other provides penalties for those who engage in such trading on any board of trade or in an organized market.

If the Senate approves the bill as amended, it will go to a Conference Committee, composed of representatives of both Houses for adjustment of the differences in the Senate and the House versions. The bill in its final form must be approved by both bodies of the Congress. Onion growers and shippers in Western Michigan are vitally concerned with this legislation.

OBSCENE LITERATURE: No objection was made in the House last week to the passage of H.R. 6239, the bill to strengthen the power of the Federal Government in combating the interstate shipment of obscene or crime-inciting material. The bill is now with the Senate where we trust it will receive prompt and favorable consideration.

The enactment of H. R. 6239 will authorize the prosecution of those who mail or ship obscene or crime-inciting matter from one state to another not only at the place where the material originates, but also at the place to which it is sent.

STAR-SPANGLED BANNER: Our National Anthem, both its words and music, was the subject of consideration by a House Judiciary Subcommittee last week. It is surprising to learn that we have no single, standard, authorized version of "The Star-Spangled Banner!" The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has reported that "many versions of "The Star-Spangled Banner" are being used at the present time and ... there is a need for a simple, direct, and unadorned version of our national anthem which would be recognized as an official version."

To accomplish this, a number of bills and resolutions have been introduced, and the Subcommittee may soon find itself involved in some delicate poetic and musical conflicts in an attempt to establish by law an official version of words and music.

The "Star-Spangled Banner" was 116 years old before it became our national anthem on March 3, 1931 when President Hoover signed Public Law 823 of the 71st Congress.



Your Washington Review

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June 5, 1958

My committee which handles all of the funds for the Army, Navy, and Air Force has recommended to the House as a whole the President's budget for the Armed Forces with increases totalling slightly over \$11.3 billion. The bill for next year is \$38.3 billion, an increase of almost \$4 billion over the funds available during the current fiscal year.

The biggest jump in spending will come in research and development. This year the Army, Navy, and Air Force had \$1.6 billion for research and development. In the twelve months beginning July 1st, these funds will increase almost a billion dollars to \$2.5 billion. Most of the emphasis in next year's research will be on missiles of all kinds (surface to surface, surface to air, air to air, and air to surface) and the military application of satellites.

A year ago your Congressman led the fight in the House of Representatives to get adequate funds for badly needed research for our national defense. Fortunately in 1958 there is a different attitude in the Congress and in the Nation and as a result my committee has recommended a good program and has properly funded it.

ALASKAN STATEHOOD. Your Congressman supported the recent action of the House of Representatives in voting statehood for Alaska. The preponderance of evidence was definitely in favor of statehood. Here is another example of the extension of our frontiers and the advancement and growth of our nation. The United States can't stand still or be satisfied with the status quo in an era of progress.

This action by the House was in the best traditions of our country. The residents of Alaska would assume all the privileges and obligations of American citizens if the legislation is enacted into law. We will not continue to deny to them the equal rights which had previously been granted to 35 other states by those who originally established this Union.

The 166 members of the House who opposed Alaskan statehood did so for various reasons. With a population of 161,000, some felt that this new state would have a disproportionate amount of power in the Congress (especially in the Senate) and in the election of the President. Others feared that the Alaskan economy could not support statehood while a number felt too much federal land and its resources were being allocated to the new state. Noncontiguity bothered others while the political and social philosophy of prospective Senators and Representatives was a factor in deciding the vote of a few. While I recognize these problems, I am confident that the admission of Alaska is to our best national interest.

If the Senate will agree to consider this bill on its merits without amending it to include Hawaii, I believe we will see a 49th state this year. While I also favor statehood of Hawaii, I think this question should be considered and passed upon separately.

LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENCE: An inflow of letters from constituents during the past week indicated special interest in three current legislative items.

Many are concerned that S. 2888, the Welfare and Pensions Plans Disclosure Act, passed by the Senate on April 28th, will result in duplication of reports and unnecessary costs to both the government and industry. This bill is presently with the House Committee on Education and Labor. The Chairman has appointed a special subcommittee to consider S. 2888 and related legislation and has indicated that all the objections will be carefully analyzed.

Last Monday the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce favorably reported S. 3778, the Transportation Act of 1958 which aims at improving the financial and competitive position of the railroads in our economy. While several provisions in the measure are controversial there appears to be considerable public opinion in favor of some helpful legislation. The bill is now before the Senate and has to run quite a gamut before it comes to a vote in the House.

Certain vicious bombings or attempted bombings in various areas of the country have stimulated letters demanding enactment of H. R. 11806 and calling for legislation to broaden the power of the FBI in coping with these outbreaks of lawlessness. Investigations by the Department of Justice reveal that while the damage from these bombings has been extensive, no Federal Statutes have been violated. Although there is evidence of conspiracies operating across state lines, existing law does not authorize intervention by the FBI.

The Committee on the Judiciary has before it, however, proposed legislation, (H. R. 258) which would permit the FBI to step in whenever interstate conspiracies are working to break state felony laws. It is our hope that the Committee will take action on this measure as well as on H. R. 11806 which would make it a crime to transport in interstate commerce any explosive with the knowledge that it will be used in violation of a federal or state law.

MACKINAC BRIDGE STAMP: Philatelists will be interested to know that the Post Office Department is issuing a Mackinac Bridge commemorative stamp in connection with the dedication ceremonies in June. The new bluish-green 3¢ stamp will be first placed on sale at Mackinaw and St. Ignace on June 25. Cancellations issued from both cities will bear the identical designation: "Mackinac Bridge, Michigan."



Your Washington Review

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June 12, 1958

With Defense Appropriations, "space" legislation, and action on extension of the corporate and excise taxes, the House of Representatives put in some busy and productive days last week. Your Congressman was active on the floor during the several debates, speaking about an hour on space legislation and an hour and a half on the military appropriations bill.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS: An appropriations bill of \$38.4 billion for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 1959 has been approved by the House. While last year's budget was considered in an atmosphere charged with "the spirit of economy," this year there was a feeling of concern, of urgency, and of a more intense determination to meet any challenge to our national security. Last year the House slashed \$2.5 billion from the President's request. As you will recall I vigorously opposed these reductions as detrimental to our National Defense. This year it added \$212.6 million. I voted for the bill.

In its report to the House my Committee pointed out that in this year's increased expenditure "the emphasis is on technological and scientific advances rather than increasing conventional arms,...(and that) we are still strong and getting stronger, especially in the area of our massive retaliation capability."

The Committee also stated that "in dealing with our defense program we must be concerned with two kinds of war: the cold war in which we are now actively engaged and the possible hot war on a large or small scale which could develop at a future date. The Soviet successes in rocketry have demonstrated that there is a definite relationship between preparation for a possible hot war and progress in the current cold war. Our successes in the future in retaining world leadership will undoubtedly depend in considerable measure upon our accomplishments of what may be termed the spectacular....It is accomplishment of the spectacular that could help put us ahead and keep us ahead in the cold war."

While the 1959 budget carries an increase of \$4 billion over 1958, it is most important that each branch of the armed services realizes that Congress and the country demand that all funds be used productively, economically, and efficiently.

A large portion of the funds added by the House are to go for additional REGULUS submarines and speeding work on certain POLARIS missile submarines which may become the most potent weapons in our defense arsenal; to accelerate work on the MINUTEMAN, a solid-propellant ICBM; and for equipping our B-52 forces with the HOUND-DOG, an air to ground missile.

The increase voted by the House includes \$99 million not recommended by the Appropriations Committee and which in my judgment cannot be justified. This amount was included for the purpose of maintaining the strength of the Army at 900,000 men through fiscal 1959. The President and the Department of Defense had recommended that Army personnel be permitted to drop to 870,000 during the next fiscal year. After hearing the testimony from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who are our top military strategists, my Committee agreed with Ike on an issue where he is an expert himself.

Mere numbers in and of themselves do not make a strong fighting organization. It is the quality of personnel from top to bottom and the quality and effectiveness of the equipment combined with mobility and efficient communications that make a good army. We are getting better people in the army; the army's firepower is increasing tremendously, and the budget contains about \$800 million for modernization of equipment. My Committee added funds to keep the National Guard at a strength of 400,000 and the Army Reserve forces at 300,000. I'm convinced that the Army has enough troops to fulfill its missions without this additional expenditure of \$99 million. And unfortunately this is just the initial cost. To properly maintain and equip this additional 30,000 men will cost at least \$800 million in the next three or four years.

TAX RATE EXTENSION: The House also voted last week to extend for one year the existing corporate income tax rate and certain excise taxes. Without this action by the Congress the present 52 percent income tax rate on corporations would revert to 47 percent as of July 1. The excise taxes which would be decreased are those on distilled spirits, beer, wine, cigarettes, passenger automobiles, and automobile parts and accessories.

This action by the House in general supports the sound and responsible fiscal policy of the Administration which is strongly opposed to deficit financing. Experience has proved that deficit financing creates far more problems than it solves. It is inflationary, increases interest costs, and transfers more of our burdens to the shoulders of our children.

It is regrettable, however, that the House did not have an opportunity to pass on the question of eliminating or reducing the excise tax on automobiles. The Committee on Ways and Means refused to recommend this; a closed rule precluded an amendment from the floor, and a motion to recommit the bill to Committee lost on a voice vote.

Your Congressman had joined others from Michigan in urging a tax cut on automobiles. I am convinced that such a selective tax reduction coupled with action by the industry in lowering prices and by labor in stabilizing its wage demands would have been a major factor in reviving the automotive industry and in reducing unemployment.

THIS WEEK: Equally important legislation including the President's recommendations for reorganization of the Department of Defense and the extension of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act will be considered by the House this week.



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June 19, 1958



House action on two major issues highlighted the legislative program last week.

Passed and sent to the Senate were the Defense Reorganization bill and the Reciprocal Trade legislation.

REORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE: At least 90 per cent of President Eisenhower's recommendations for a more efficient organization of the Department of Defense were approved by the House by a vote of 402 to 1. Three additional improvements in the bill which he requested were not adopted but it is our hope that the Senate will accept them and that further compromises may then be worked out in conference.

The defeated amendments would have modified or eliminated provisions that the Secretary of Defense must exercise his authority through the service secretaries; that any single service chief or secretary may appeal to Congress to block a change in combatant functions; and that a service secretary or chief could present recommendations to Congress on his own initiative.

It was my privilege to offer the amendment to modify the second provision listed above. My proposal would have required that at least two members rather than one of the Joint Chiefs of Staff must express disagreement over a proposed change in combatant functions before Congressional review may be demanded. This amendment of the three was called the "most significant" by the Washington Post, because "parochialism in a single service could prevent the more efficient assignment of functions in the larger interest."

The President's reorganization plan for the Defense Department fundamentally seeks to modernize the administrative tools to meet the threats to the U. S. security in the missile and satellite age.

RECIPROCAL TRADE: By a vote of 317 to 98 the House of Representatives adopted the Trade Agreements Extension Act of 1958 to continue our reciprocal trade program with some modifications to June 30, 1963. Without legislation of some type the present authority of the President to enter into international trade agreements adjusting tariff rates would expire on June 30.

Since 1934 the President has been authorized to obtain reductions in foreign tariffs against our exports in return for the reciprocal lowering of our tariffs. The bill passed by the House extends this authority five years, makes certain changes in negotiating procedures, and provides that the Congress may review recommendations of the Tariff Commission which are disapproved by the President. This last provision will strengthen the power of the Congress to further protect domestic industry from dangerous foreign competition.

Under the escape-clause of our present law the President may disapprove a recommendation of the Tariff Commission that certain duties be raised or import quotas be imposed to prevent or remedy serious injury to domestic industry. While technically the Congress can over-rule the President by legislation (which undoubtedly would require over-riding a veto), no such action has been taken since the escape-clause provision was first enacted in 1951.

The new legislation provides that if the President disapproves a recommendation of the Tariff Commission calling for an upward revision of import duties to remedy the serious injury to American industry and labor, the Congress can over-ride the President. This would have to be done within 60 days and by a two-thirds vote on a concurrent resolution which is not subject to a presidential veto.

The new bill recognizes that the President must have discretion in escape-clause cases to over-rule the Commission because of the effect of our tariff policies on our foreign policy and on international relations. There may be occasions when the national interests may outweigh the interest of a particular industry, and the findings of the Tariff Commission in behalf of a certain industry must be subjugated to the findings of the President in favor of the nation as a whole. However, I do think it is logical and sound that the Congress which grants this authority to the President may reject any specific decision made by him, especially when a two-thirds vote in each House is required. This insures additional protection to American industry and labor.

A healthy expansion of international trade is an essential factor in our own domestic prosperity. I have consistently supported the reciprocal trade program because it contributes to this domestic prosperity and is a valuable asset and effective weapon in the cold war. The following facts support these contentions:

1. In 1957 our foreign trade reached a record high when exports (exclusive of military aid) totaled \$19.5 billion while imports were \$13 billion. Exports of goods and services currently represent about 6 per cent of our gross national product.
2. In 1957 the 43 countries with which we have trade agreements absorbed 80 per cent of our exports and supplied 80 per cent of our imports.
3. The U.S. is the world's largest exporter of farm products, selling abroad the output of 1 acre out of 5 of American cropland. In 1957 agricultural exports amounted to \$4.7 billion with nearly four-fifths going to countries with which we have trade agreements.
4. According to the Department of Labor, the jobs of about 4.5 million workers, or 1 out of every 14, are attributable to the activity created by foreign trade.

Here is a partial list of responsible organizations that endorsed this legislation:

United States Chamber of Commerce

AFL-CIO

American Farm Bureau

National Grange



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



June 26, 1958

The legislative schedule of the Congress was interrupted last week for an address by President Carlos Garcia of the Philippines who spoke to a joint session in the House Chamber. I was impressed with the content and the delivery of the speech which was presented in excellent English. Incidentally Garcia pointed out that English is the official language of the Philippines "and will remain so indefinitely."

He also stressed the close cultural and social bonds which unite our countries and reported that "the biggest market for our foreign trade is the United States to which we sell 52 per cent of our exports and from which we buy 55 per cent of our imports."

Garcia frankly explained the economic needs of his country which, he said, could not be financed with their own resources alone. He said his country needs foreign capital and credit to tap the great natural resources of the Islands and to finance the projects in the industrialization program now going on. Garcia insisted he is seeking development loans on a business basis; he does not want a gratuitous handout.

RIVERS AND HARBORS BILL: Following Garcia's address the House took up and passed H. R. 12955, a bill authorizing a number of river and harbor projects. Earlier this session President Eisenhower had vetoed a similar bill, S. 497, because it contained 18 projects to which the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of the Budget had objected on the basis that they were unsound from an economic or engineering point of view. On March 11th your Congressman voted to recommit S. 497 to Committee in order to delete or modify these 18 projects, but the motion to recommit failed.

The new bill is a compromise which attempts to conform substantially with the recommendations of the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of the Budget. In effect the unjustified "pork-barrel" projects were deleted. The President's firm stand for a sound program prevailed. The final vote was 374 to 17.

WHOLESALE MARKET FACILITIES: Producers and consumers in Western Michigan have had considerable interest in legislation which would provide federal assistance in the development of wholesale marketing facilities. The Grand Rapids Wholesale Food Market Authority is waiting for action in order to proceed with the development of a market on the land already acquired at the southwestern city limits.

On April 2, 1957 the House Committee on Agriculture approved H. R. 4504, a bill to authorize FHA-type loans for the development of these facilities for handling perishable agricultural commodities. The bill remained on the House calendar and the Committee on Rules cleared it for House action in April, 1958.

On June 17th a Resolution providing for consideration of the proposal was called up on the floor of the House. The absence of a quorum was suggested; a roll call was ordered, and immediately thereafter the Resolution was withdrawn. Further action on the bill, however, is scheduled for this week. Its passage would involve no direct loans or grants from the federal Treasury.

Another approach to the problem of financing the Grand Rapids market may be possible if an amendment approved by the House Committee on Banking and Currency is retained in the Community Facilities Act of 1958. This bill, S. 3497, approved by the Senate, is now before the House. Under its provisions, made certain by the amendment, such agencies as the Grand Rapids Food Market Authority could borrow funds directly from the Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency to construct a wholesale food market with repayment and interest spread over a maximum 50-year period.

AUTOMOBILE PRICING: The House took the first step last week toward passage of the Senate-approved bill to require the posting of the manufacturer's suggested retail price on new automobiles when a subcommittee of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce ordered S3500 favorably reported to the full Committee. This bill would require the manufacturer to list on a windshield label the retail price of the new automobile suggested by the manufacturer, the retail price of each accessory or item of optional equipment attached to the car but not included in the basic price, and any transportation costs charged to the dealer.

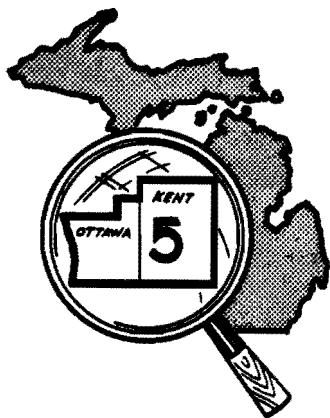
There is nothing in the bill to prevent free bargaining between dealer and buyer; the dealer may sell the car for any price he wishes; he may permit any trade-in allowance he desires. But each potential purchaser would have certain essential facts upon which to base his negotiations.

This proposed legislation has been endorsed by the majority of the automobile manufacturers, the National Automobile Dealers Association, and numerous consumer groups.

VOTING RECORDS: Your Congressman scored 100 per cent attendance on the roll call votes in the House during the current session according to a report in the Congressional Quarterly for June 13th. The average for the House as a whole was 88 per cent.

In addition to yea-and-nay roll calls the House also has quorum calls at which a member answers "present." Since I entered Congress on January 3, 1949 and through June 20, 1958 there have been 1781 quorum or roll calls. My ten-year batting average on attendance is 97.36 per cent.

HUNGARIAN REVOLT: The Congress unanimously and emphatically has condemned the actions of the Soviet Union in destroying the independence of Hungary. In adopting a concurrent resolution last week it expressed the sympathy of the people of this country for those of Hungary on the occasion of a new expression of terror in the execution of Imre Nagy and others.



Your Washington Review

by
**Congressman
JERRY FORD**



July 3, 1958

President Eisenhower and the American people, including farmers, won a decisive victory last Wednesday when the House of Representatives refused to take up for consideration a Committee-sponsored "Agricultural Act of 1958." Common sense prevailed and "politics" suffered a set-back as the House rejected the omnibus farm bill which Secretary Benson has called "an economic monstrosity and a political hodgepodge."

Leading farm organizations also opposed the bill, H. R. 12954, which contains eight major titles and numerous subtitles. The President of the American Farm Bureau stated that the bill "offers farmers more quotas, more taxes, more government regulations;... this can only mean less opportunity and lower net incomes for farmers." It would have also meant higher prices for consumers and greater costs to the Federal Treasury. Needless to say, your Congressman was one of the 214 members of the House to vote against further consideration of the bill.

Included in the omnibus bill, however, were some highly desirable provisions which must be approved if the established programs for disposal of surplus agricultural commodities is to continue. The present law providing for the School Milk Program and the sale of government-owned surplus products abroad expired June 30. Unless extended by the Congress, Federal payments to schools and child-care institutions for reimbursement to increase the consumption of milk will cease. During fiscal year 1957 this worthwhile program was utilized by 71,239 schools and child-care institutions where 1.75 billion half pints of milk were consumed at a cost of \$60.5 million to the Federal Government.

Public Law 480, under which the Secretary of Agriculture may dispose of surplus products abroad, must also be extended.

It is regrettable that these necessary measures were tied in with so much indefensible legislation. It is imperative now that the Committee and the Congress take action to salvage the good provisions of the omnibus bill.

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS: The farm products which by law the Department of Agriculture is required to purchase are disposed of domestically or abroad in a number of ways.

More than 620 million pounds of food was donated through the direct distribution program of the Department for use in school lunch programs, in institutions, and to needy persons in this country in the nine months from July, 1957 through March, 1958.

Recipients of this food included 13,600,000 children taking part in school lunch

programs, 1,400,000 needy persons in charitable institutions, and as of March this year 4,370,027 needy persons in family units. Of this last number, 284,043 were residents of Michigan.

During this same nine-month period, distribution to needy persons overseas expanded and 1,627,900,000 pounds of food was sent abroad. This was 26 per cent more than in the same period a year ago. The major portion of the increase was in flour and corn meal; the only other commodities currently available for foreign distribution are cheese and non-fat dry milk.

Combining domestic and foreign donations, total distribution out of surplus agriculture products in storage amounted to 2,249,000 pounds for the nine-month period, 4 per cent more than in the same period a year ago.

During the calendar year 1957 the total agricultural exports of the United States amounted to \$4.5 billion. Of this amount the government programs of donation or sale of surplus products abroad amounted to \$1.5 billion.

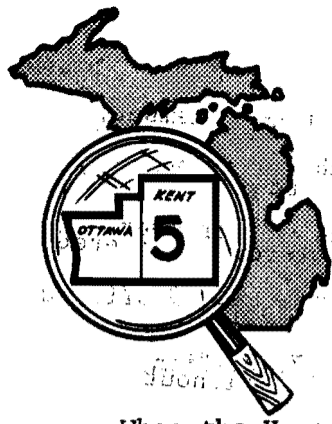
This includes disposal under Public Law 480 and is a part of Uncle Sam's program to aid the needy at home and abroad and to make constructive use of the farm products acquired under the price support legislation to implement United States foreign policy.

SWITCHBLADE KNIVES: Legislation to prohibit the manufacture for and the transportation in interstate commerce of switchblade and gravity knives passed the House last week. The House learned that over 1 million such knives are sold each year in this country, principally to juveniles at prices ranging only from 95 cents to \$1.29. Its action was an obvious attempt to help control the distribution of one of the favorite weapons of the criminal element. The Senate should take prompt and affirmative action.

SOCIAL SECURITY: The House Committee on Ways and Means has held two weeks of hearings on various proposals to increase Social Security benefits. Scores of suggested amendments have been received by the Committee. Some would make technical corrections; others would remedy obvious inequities; but many would add greatly to the cost of the program.

According to the testimony these costs borne by the Social Security Trust Fund would necessitate an increase in social security taxes on both employers and employees and the self-employed covered by the law. Obviously whatever is paid out of the Social Security Trust Fund must first be paid into the fund.

HELPFUL MATERIAL: We have on hand a limited supply of the following publications to be distributed to those who send their request to 351 House Office Building, Washington, D. C: "What is behind the Soviet Proposal for a Summit Conference?" and "Communist Encroachment in the Far East" prepared by the Committee on Un-American Activities; "Summary of Veterans' Legislation Reported in the 85th Congress" by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.



Your Washington Review

by
**Congressman
JERRY FORD**



July 10, 1958

When the House approved Statehood for Alaska on May 28th, it was the third time that your Congressman had voted to grant this authority to our northern territory. I first voted for Alaskan statehood in 1950, and again in 1955, and a third time in 1958 when the legislation finally broke through the Senate roadblock which in the past has always hamstrung any additions to the Union. Let me add I have also consistently supported the admission of Hawaii and hope that we can add the 50th star to our flag in the near future.

Much discussion has taken place in the offices and corridors here concerning the design of the new flag and the effective date for adding the 49th star. According to the U. S. Code, "On the admission of a new State into the Union one star shall be added to the union of the flag; and such addition shall take effect on the fourth day of July then next succeeding such admission."

Although President Eisenhower has signed the bill making Alaska eligible for statehood a number of events must transpire before Alaska is actually admitted to the Union. The voters of the territory must approve statehood in a formal plebiscite and senators and a representative must be elected. When this is done, the President will issue a proclamation formally admitting the new state. It is assumed all this will be done before July 4, 1959 and on that date all new U. S. flags will contain 49 stars.

Because of other provisions of present law it appears that an act of Congress will be necessary to officially authorize the change in the design of the flag. We understand that this will be done and that a Commission will be established to recommend the nature of these changes.

MUTUAL SECURITY: The Mutual Security Appropriation Bill was a major item of business for the House of Representatives last week. The President had recommended the appropriation of \$3.9 billion for the entire program, including military assistance (\$1.8 billion), defense support (\$835 million), the Development Loan Fund, and Technical Cooperation. In 1952 former President Truman requested \$7.9 billion for the same program. In other words Ike has recommended \$3 billion less this year than Mr. Truman in his last year as President.

The Mutual Security Act of 1958, finally approved by both Houses on June 27th, authorized a total of \$3,656,400,000 for the program.

The Committee on Appropriations, however, in reporting the money bill reduced the appropriation to \$3,078,092,500. This was a reduction of \$872 million below the budget request and \$357.7 million less than was available for Mutual Security in the past fiscal year.

It seemed to me that the reductions made by the Committee, of which I am a member, in military assistance and defense support were too severe, and that the cut of over 50 per cent in the Development Loan Corporation funds was of a serious nature. I offered an amendment on the floor to increase the funds for defense support by \$75 million.

I can assure you that this action on my part was not taken lightly nor without benefit of weeks of testimony received by my subcommittees on military appropriations and foreign aid appropriations. I am not in favor of any "give-away;" I concede that this country cannot buy friends. I am in favor of eliminating waste and duplication of effort wherever found in the Federal Government. But, I am also desperately concerned with our own national security, for the United States and its allies face a serious threat from the atheistic dictators behind the Iron Curtain.

We must not undercut our staunch and steadfast allies, who stand on the periphery of the Soviet Union, in our efforts to contain the Communist conspiracy. We must not jeopardize the terrific advantage which we have in holding over 250 military bases located on the soil of our allies. From these worldwide air bases our bombers are a potent deterrent to any Soviet attack. This deterrent force has and will preserve the peace which the U. S. has had for five years since the end of the Korean War.

I am convinced that any substantial impairment of our program of mutual defense will necessitate increased direct expenditures for our own defense, a greater demand by Selective Service for draftees, and an overall weakening of our national security.

The House rejected our efforts to restore the committee cuts. Any remedial action is now up to the Senate.

WEATHER MODIFICATION: Congress has accepted Mark Twain's challenge and is going to do something more about the weather than just talk about it.

The House has passed a bill, already approved by the Senate in slightly different form, directing the National Science Foundation to continue research in the field of weather modification. This would continue the work of the Advisory Committee of Weather Control which went out of existence on January 1st, but whose experiments indicated that man can modify clouds and cause precipitation by various means and under certain conditions. The Congress was told that in some of the mountainous regions on the west coast under selected conditions, cloud seeding has produced an average increase of 10 to 15 per cent in the precipitation from seeded storms.

Presently, no Federal agency has specific legislative authority or funds to carry out a program of basic and applied research in this field. The Congress is authorizing work which may get answers to many questions in matters of weather control.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



July 17, 1958

By practically a straight party vote of 202 to 179 the House of Representatives last Thursday voted to waste up to \$44 million of the tax-payers' money. Only 7 Republicans and 11 Democrats broke ranks. The issue was whether the Army should be specifically directed by law to move the San Jacinto Ordnance Depot from its present location on the Houston (Texas) ship channel to an isolated area known as Point-Aux-Pins in Alabama. Republicans strongly opposed this indefensible action wasting our tax dollars.

The bill authorizing certain military construction contains a provision requiring and directing the Army to sell its present depot comprising 5,000 acres, 281 permanent buildings, 18 miles of railroads, and access to the Gulf and the Ocean. No discretion is permitted the Army. It is not to consider military needs, national security, nor costs to the taxpayer. It must sell and move.

The Democratic Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services stated that "this depot should be moved on two bases: the first of these is that the facility constitutes a danger to the area surrounding it and second, it is now located on land so valuable for industrial development as to make it wholly unfair and improper to let it remain in its present location."

Army authorities have testified that this depot is not only safe but that it is the safest facility of its kind in the whole United States. It is located 15 miles from the city limits of Houston; it is a permanent installation in excellent repair, and strategically well located to perform its mission.

Of course, the second reason given by Chairman Vinson for directing its sale is the real and true one. Texan industrialists want this 5,000 acres. Military needs and taxpayers' dollars are to have no consideration.

168 Republican members of the House, including your Congressman, believed otherwise. They vigorously opposed such a "deal." They voted to keep this excellent, established facility and voted against ordering the Army to duplicate the depot in Alabama on land not yet purchased by Uncle Sam.

The action of the Democratic-controlled House means an unwarranted expenditure of up to \$44 million, the estimated cost of the new facility. Of course, any amount realized from the sale of the present depot will reduce the net cost.

This action by the Democratic majority was puzzling indeed. The puzzle becomes less complex, however, when we realize that under the seniority rule Congressmen from the

southern states, including Texas, wield tremendous influence when the Democrats are in power.

We can only hope that the Senate will reverse this action of the House when it considers the bill.

RIVERS AND HARBORS AUTHORIZATIONS: President Eisenhower has signed the new public works authorization bill. On April 15 he vetoed a similar bill because it contained 18 projects unjustifiable from an economic or engineering point of view. The new bill which eliminated or modified these 18 projects authorizes \$31,595,500 for construction work in Michigan.

An amount of \$9,825,000 was listed for the flood control project on the Grand River. All this money is allocated for work in and around Lansing. In addition to the Federal funds, local interests are putting up \$3,098,000 for the project.

COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF GRAND RIVER: Work is progressing on the comprehensive survey of the Grand River from its source to its mouth to determine the need for flood control projects. This survey was authorized by the House Committee on Public Works upon the adoption of my resolution on August 16, 1950.

Considerable aerial photography has been completed in known problem areas. Storm studies have been initiated with a view to developing stream flow data at the various stream gaging stations. An interim report on the Portage Creek area (Jackson County) is scheduled for completion this fall.

Surveys to determine stream cross sections have been completed in Jackson County and in the vicinity of Eaton Rapids. "Stream cross sections" will show how large an area will be inundated if there should be a flood.

The Army Corps of Engineers which is in charge of the survey is cooperating with the Michigan Water Resources Commission and the Soil Conservation Service in establishing the most feasible plan for soil conservation and flood control.

Through July 1, 1958 approximately \$104,000 had been spent on the survey. The budget for the present fiscal year contains an amount of \$30,000 (the same as last year) for continued activity. It is now estimated that the total cost of the survey will be \$423,000. This is an increase of \$223,100 over the estimate of a year ago and is based on new and more complex drainage problems and increased costs.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION: The House has approved the conference report making the SBA a permanent agency. This agency has made 18,150 loans worth \$576,421,000 to small businesses since its creation in 1953. It not only serves small businesses which cannot otherwise obtain financing, but also has an outstanding program of "disaster loans" for those small businesses which suffer from a natural disaster, such as the tornado which swept the Standale area in 1956.



Your Washington Review

by

Congressman
JERRY FORD

July 24, 1958



The Congress has approved the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 and your Congressman was one of nine conferees from the House of Representatives that hammered out the final draft of the legislation. The Senate was likewise represented by 9 conferees, including Senator Lyndon Johnson, the Democratic Majority Leader.

Although I have served on fifteen House and Senate conferences on various appropriation bills in recent years this was my first opportunity as a conferee on a strictly legislative matter. Congress considers and approves both appropriation and legislation bills; however one primarily involves funds, the other broad policy matters. Frankly, it is quite a different experience to adjust dollar differences between House and Senate versions of an appropriation bill than to compromise language variations in two legislative drafts of a bill.

The new Aeronautics and Space Act coincides fairly well with the President's recommendations that United States activities in "space" should be devoted to peaceful purposes but with assurances that the Department of Defense shall have essential freedom to carry on research, development, and exploration in those areas which are peculiar to or primarily associated with weapons systems, military operations or the defense of the United States. The new law sets up a National Aeronautics and Space Administration headed by an Administrator who will be aided by an Advisory Council comprised of nine members, including the President, which shall make the actual determinations in the assignment of new programs or projects.

Instead of setting up a completely new civilian agency to handle U. S. "space" programs the law authorizes the President to combine in one organization from various government agencies those functions that have duties related to aeronautics and astronautics. For example the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics will be terminated but its functions and responsibilities will be transferred to the new Administration.

The new legislation is sound and constructive. It does mean that our U. S. research, development, and exploration in space will be properly coordinated and emphasized in conjunction with our national defense efforts in missiles and satellites.

On July 18th I received the following letter from Representative McCormack, Democrat Majority Leader in the House and Chairman of the Space Committee:

"On Wednesday afternoon I received a call from President Eisenhower, and his purpose in calling me was to through me thank the members of the House Select Committee on Outer Space, and the staff, for the wonderful job that we did. The President said, 'Thanks, John, it was a grand job and I am greatly pleased, not only with the bill, but with the speed with which it passed the Congress.' I am transmitting the thanks of President Eisenhower for the excellent work you did as a member of the House Select Committee."

PERSONAL NOTE: As a member of the House Select Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration your Congressman was invited to attend and participate in the annual meeting of the International Astronautical Federation which is to be held in Amsterdam in August of this year. Although I would have liked to attend this important meeting, it was not possible for me to accept the invitation because of my intention to return to Kent and Ottawa Counties as soon as Congress adjourns.

THE MIDDLE EAST: Speaker Sam Rayburn set the tone for the House of Representatives on the Middle East crisis when he rebuked a member of his party who had taken the floor to oppose the action of the President. From the Speaker's desk he said, "Without wishing to criticize the gentleman from Wisconsin, in times like these we had better allow matters to develop rather than make statements about them."

The next day Speaker Rayburn advised the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee that "the chair is not going to recognize Members to talk about foreign affairs in this critical situation." He recognized Chairman Emanuel Celler only when the latter said that "my statement is going to be in favor of what the President is doing."

This is indicative of the bi-partisan endorsement which the Administration is receiving. There is deep concern here but no panic. While I endorse the strong action taken by this country, I am hopeful that the United Nations will assume its responsibility to maintain peace and reestablish stability in the Middle East.

H. R. 3., PREEMPTION INTERPRETATION: Your Congressman joined the majority in a 241 to 155 vote of approval of H. R. 3, a bill to clarify the legal position of State and Federal laws when both refer to a similar matter. First, the bill says that in legislating on any given subject the Congress does not intend to occupy the field and exclude state legislation unless the act of Congress specifically says that the Federal government is preempting the field.

Secondly, the bill tells the Courts that they are not to find State laws null and void in an area of concurrent jurisdiction unless they are in irreconcilable conflict with a Federal law.

The need for this legislation stems from a number of sources but a major one is the Steve Nelson case decided by the U. S. Supreme Court in 1956. The Court declared unconstitutional the Pennsylvania sedition statute insofar as it applied to subversive activities against the United States on the grounds that there was a Federal law dealing with subversive activities. The Court said Congress had preempted the field. H. R. 3 states that Congress had no such intention and that as a rule of interpretation it would permit State law to stand unless that law is in irreconcilable conflict with federal law.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD

July 31, 1958



President Eisenhower won a signal victory last Thursday when both Houses of Congress approved the Defense Reorganization Act. Mr. Eisenhower approved the action and stated that "except in relatively minor respects, the bill adequately meets every recommendation I submitted to the Congress on this subject."

The bill as passed was a compromise worked out by Conferees from both House and Senate who reconciled the differences in the versions previously approved by each House.

The President now has an additional tool for the modernization of our Defense set-up.

UN EMERGENCY FORCE: The Senate has approved a concurrent resolution welcoming the establishment of a United Nations emergency force as a permanent arm of the U. N.

While there has been little adverse criticism of the President's strong action in Lebanon, we all realize that neither the United States, nor any other nation acting unilaterally or in consort with a few allies, can continue to be responsible for maintaining stability and peace throughout the world. We must depend upon strong and constructive action by the United Nations. But as long as the Soviet Union continues to abuse the veto power possessed by each permanent member of the Security Council, the U.N. will not be as effective as many of us desire. Nevertheless, the establishment and use of an adequate and mobile U. N. emergency force which could be quickly dispatched to points of international tension ought to be of great value. Had such a force been sent to Lebanon, the desired objectives undoubtedly could have been realized without raising any of the objections and problems which have come as a result of landing the American Marines. We must realize, however, that under present provisions of the charter the use of such a force would have been subject to a Soviet veto. An emergency force alone is not sufficient. We need mutual trust and respect, something not now present but an aim and goal of the future.

The Senate Concurrent Resolution 109 recommends a force composed of military units supplied by the smaller members of the U. N. No units or individual volunteers would be accepted from the great powers who have permanent seats on the Security Council. Equipment and expenses would be provided by the United Nations out of its regular budget.

EXPLORATION OF OUTER SPACE: The Senate also adopted House Concurrent Resolution 332, another measure looking to the future. Already passed by the House, this resolution is to make clear to the people of the world that the United States is determined to ensure that outer space is to be used for the benefit of all mankind rather than for military purposes and narrow nationalistic motives. The resolution requests the President to



enter into international agreements concerning the joint exploration of outer space, the advancement of scientific developments, and prohibiting the use of outer space for military purposes.

In this resolution, also, the Congress suggested that it was appropriate to work through the United Nations. It is understood, however, that we will make no agreement banning the use of outer space for military purposes until agreements have been negotiated establishing reliable control of missiles.

NATIONAL ALLERGY MONTH: While the Senate was debating the above resolutions, the House Committee on the Judiciary held hearings on a joint resolution requesting the President to proclaim the month of August 15 to September 15, 1958 as National Allergy Month. So the broad spread of Congressional interests.

While an allergy month may seem mighty insignificant when we are sending Marines to the Middle East and probing the mysteries of outer space, the sponsor of this resolution pointed out that allergies afflict about 17 million persons in the United States. He told the Committee that the Allergy Foundation of America is sponsoring National Allergy Month to call attention to the need for basic research and the development of better methods of treatment and control of this health problem.

MAIL FRAUD: A concern in California has been selling through the mails a supposed "magic amulet" to be used for warding off evil, while a Florida outfit would supply "seals" to make people love you, to help you find wealth, or just bring good luck. But fraud complaints have been issued against these enterprises by the Post Office Department under the Federal laws to protect U. S. citizens from these unscrupulous operators.

Among other companies who lost their mailing privileges last month were those supplying "Reduca-Caps" to reduce weight without dieting, and "Youthilizers" designed allegedly to give women "all the benefits of a real plastic surgery face lifting without dangerous surgery." Four California concerns were cited for selling obscene material. Congratulations to Postmaster General Summerfield for taking legal action to uphold decency and legitimate businesses.

BRUSSELS WORLD FAIR: Former President Herbert Hoover recently visited the World's Fair in Belgium and reported, "I have witnessed our American participation in many expositions. Never before has so impressive an exhibit been made in behalf of the American people....There is no ground for American disappointment. We can be proud of it."

THE ECONOMY: Employment during June rose to 64,981,000 an increase of 920,000 jobs over May. Average weekly earnings of factory workers increased by \$1.27 to set a new record of \$83.10 per week.

Almost everywhere there is evidence of better times for farmers. Just this week the Department of Agriculture reported that for the first six months of this year net realized income for farmers was 22 per cent ahead of last year.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD

August 7, 1958



The Social Security Bill approved by the House of Representatives last week was sound and constructive legislation. Your Congressman voted for it.

It provides for an increase in benefits of about 7 percent over the levels in the present law, with a minimum increase of \$3 a month for a retired worker. The maximum for a retired worker now on the benefit rolls will be \$118 instead of \$108.50. Some 20 changes were made in the Old Age, Survivors and Disability provisions of the law and other changes concerned the public assistance and the maternal and child welfare section of the Social Security law.

But this bill not only liberalizes benefits. It includes provisions to fully finance the increased benefits and also to improve the actuarial status of the social security system. In fact, according to the Committee Report, "the actuarial insufficiency is reduced to the point where it is virtually eliminated, namely below one-fourth of one percent of payroll, as has been the case generally in the previous legislation." This year, for the first time in the 18 years since benefits were first paid, the income to the OASI trust fund is slightly less than the expenditures.

Beginning on January 1, 1959 the social security tax on employers and employees will be $2\frac{1}{2}$ percent each. In 1960 the tax will go to 3 percent and in 1963 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ percent. The tax on self-employed persons similarly will be $3\frac{3}{4}$ percent, $4\frac{1}{2}$ percent, and $5\frac{1}{2}$ percent.

I think it is significant to note that each month over 25,000 persons in Kent County receive payments in excess of \$1.5 million as benefits under OASI. In Ottawa County more than 6,000 individuals receive over \$350,000 monthly as income from the same source. The assurance of these monthly payments to our senior citizens has been a stabilizing influence in our economy in the past year.

SWITCHBLADE KNIVES: The Senate has passed and sent to the White House the House-approved measure, H.R. 12850, to prohibit the manufacture for, or transportation in, interstate commerce of switchblade and similar knives. The Committee reported that 12 states already have legislation prohibiting the manufacture, sale, or possession of switchblade knives, but as long as anyone can purchase the knife by mail, the problem of enforcing the state laws will be extremely difficult.

The Committee also stated that the switchblade is almost exclusively "the weapon of the thug and delinquent," and that "there is no legitimate use for the switchblade to

which a conventional sheath or jackknife is not better suited."

PENSIONS FOR EX-PRESIDENTS: By a division vote the House approved legislation to provide retirement benefits to former U.S. Presidents and to widows of former Presidents. Prior to consideration of the bill, I had voted on a roll call against the rule to take up the bill. At that time the measure also provided for clerical assistants and office space for former Presidents, an item which could run to over \$100,000 a year. This provision fortunately was deleted from the bill before final passage.

With the present fiscal difficulties of the U. S. Treasury, I could see no good reason for saddling the taxpayers with another unnecessary burden and setting up for any ex-president a retirement system to which they had made no financial contribution.

FISCAL POLICY AND RESPONSIBILITY: The President has requested the Congress to increase the regular Federal debt limit to \$285 billion and also to provide an additional temporary increase of \$3 billion to run through June 30, 1960. The present limit is \$280 billion and on July 29, the national debt stood at \$275.5 billion.

It appears that the Federal Treasury will run into a sizable deficit during this fiscal year, and possibly for some years to come. With world tensions at a high pitch and our national security a prime consideration, we must meet the demands of an adequate defense program.

With defense costs up and deficits imminent it is imperative that the Congress re-examine any new or additional spending commitments. It likely means saying "NO" at this time to some otherwise justifiable projects. Hundreds of bills have been introduced calling for additional expenditures of billions of dollars. Many of these would establish or encourage highly desirable programs, but we in the Congress must take a "new look" at COSTS and long-range treasury commitments, especially in light of recent developments.

OBSCENE MAIL: Both the Senate and the House have passed H.R. 6239 to strengthen the authority of the Federal Government to deal with those who mail obscene or crime-inciting material or ship it in interstate commerce.

The Senate version of the bill provides for prosecution at the place of deposit and at the place of delivery. The House bill also permitted prosecution of the violators in any Federal judicial district through which the material passed. To accept the Senate version will not weaken the bill materially and may eliminate some possible abuses.

The Senate added a provision to the bill doubling the criminal penalties for those who send the obscene matter to persons under 19 years of age. Few will object to doubling the maximum fine to \$10,000 and the maximum imprisonment to 10 years for those who peddle these wares to youngsters.

At this writing, Senate and House conferees are endeavoring to work out a compromise version which we trust will be effective.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



August 14, 1958

The Congress has approved the appropriation bill for the Department of Defense which means that in this fiscal year the Army, Navy, and Air Force will spend approximately \$41 billion for our national security. This is about a \$2 billion increase over the defense expenditures for the previous 12 months.

The House and Senate boosted the funds for the Armed Forces over the budget recommendations of President Eisenhower by more than \$800 million. In contrast last year the Congress slashed Ike's military budget by \$2.5 billion. The President condemned this action in 1957 as detrimental to our national security. Ike was right. This year the Congress changed its views and upped the funds in several major categories.

More funds were made available in fiscal year 1959 for the Polaris atomic-powered submarines which will carry 1500 mile ballistic missiles. The new budget provides substantial funds for an expansion of U. S. airlift for rapid and world-wide transportation of troops and supplies. This means many more huge jet transports for the Army and Marine airborne units.

In addition there is an increase in funds for the intermediate and intercontinental ballistic missiles. Incidentally my committee the day this report was written had a comprehensive and up-to-date briefing on the U. S. missile program. Because all of the data is top secret I can only summarize and say, "Our American missile and satellite programs are sound and effective as to quality and quantity and furthermore are on schedule."

Your Congressman, who has worked many long hours on this bill for the past seven months, believes the Congress did a good job with one exception. As you know, I have fought for three years for the Army's right to close down costly and unneeded installations. In 1957 after a bitter battle, your Congressman made it possible for the Army to close down a hospital in Massachusetts that the Surgeon General said was not essential. The closing of this facility saves the taxpayers over \$500,000 annually.

This year the House of Representatives on my recommendation gave the Army authority to close another unjustified hospital in Hot Springs, Arkansas, which would save another half-million dollars annually. The Senate, however, inserted a provision forcing the Army to keep open this facility, which it wishes to close, despite the fact that only 60 out of 405 beds are being used. The Senate action made it mandatory that the Army employ approximately 300 military and civilian personnel to handle a patient load of about one-sixth capacity. This Senate action was logrolling at its worst.

The Democratic majority in the House and Senate conference committee unfortunately agreed with the Senate. As a result the Army must keep this unneeded hospital open until June 30, 1959. I am glad to report that Secretary of the Army Brucker worked closely with me in trying to save the unnecessary expenditure of over \$500,000 annually. Both of us intend to continue this economy battle and next year expect to win.

POST OFFICE EXTENDS RURAL DELIVERY SERVICE: Postmaster General Summerfield has announced that starting immediately rural delivery routes will be extended on the basis of benefiting two families per mile instead of three. Prior to 1953, four families to the mile were required before extensions of rural delivery service were authorized. This was changed to three families in 1953 and now to two families.

This change will benefit more than 300,000 rural families in the United States and is in line with Mr. Summerfield's policy of improved nationwide postal service. I know there are deserving rural route extensions in Kent and Ottawa Counties which can now be approved.

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY: It was brought to my attention recently that a project involving the dredging of the South East Bend Cut-off Channel in Canadian waters in the St. Clair River would be financed by American dollars but completed entirely by Canadian firms and Canadian labor.

With some other Michigan congressmen, I have written Secretary of State Dulles pointing out the unemployment situation in Michigan and urging that in our negotiations with Canada on this matter "the utmost consideration be given to the possibility of awarding a major portion of the work on this project to American contractors and American Labor."

During the first week of operation of the United States section of the St. Lawrence Seaway, July 4 - 10, a total of 263 ships from ten nations used the new waterway facility. The countries represented by these ships were Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Liberia, the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden. Ships with a draft up to 14 feet are able to navigate these waters at present.

It is significant to note the Seaway will be able to handle large ocean going vessels next spring when the 27-foot channel will be completed.

Another vital point was highlighted recently in hearings before the Senate Public Works Committee on a bill to authorize an additional flow of water out of Lake Michigan into the Chicago Drainage Canal. Your Congressman has consistently opposed further diversion of Great Lakes water by and through Chicago. We must not further lower the Lake level at the same time we are dredging channels and improving harbors.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



August 21, 1958

In the adjournment rush Congress notched some noteworthy accomplishments but in several instances has failed to measure up to its legislative responsibilities.

After three unsuccessful attempts at writing a sound bill for agriculture the House of Representatives agreed to a proposal which has the endorsement of Secretary Benson and the Democratic and Republican leadership. The Secretary of Agriculture had this to say: "The bill more closely approaches the immediate and long-range needs of agriculture as set forth in January by the President."

Your Congressman voted for this proposal. I disapproved of previous bills coming from the Committee on Agriculture because, (1) they had been loaded with special benefits for individual commodities such as cotton and rice, and (2) they were actively opposed by the American Farm Bureau and most agriculture experts.

The Senate has already approved an acceptable farm bill. In conference between the House and Senate conferees a constructive solution to this complicated and controversial issue can be achieved. Because of the President's leadership, Secretary Benson's firmness and the Congress' eventual willingness to compromise its differences, real progress has been made.

LABOR MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION: The shocking disclosures brought to light by the McClellan Committee would seem to necessitate Congressional action on legislation to correct these abuses. The Senate earlier this year approved a compromise bill after accepting a number of amendments from the floor that had not been recommended by the Committee. The net result: a piece of legislation that is highly controversial and one which badly needed further analysis by the House Committee on Education and Labor.

The Senate bill was sent to the House of Representatives in mid-June and held by Speaker Rayburn on his desk 41 days before it was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor. In the meantime the Committee did nothing about public hearings where the pros and cons of this Senate bill could be scrutinized.

Now, all of a sudden, there are rumors that the Senate bill will come before the House of Representatives under a parliamentary procedure which limits debate to a total of 40 minutes and precludes any amendments. On a problem which is so serious to so many people, on an issue which is extremely controversial to say the least and in a field of the law where every single provision is of vital importance to all concerned it does not seem proper to restrict debate to 40 minutes, prevent amendments, and by-pass intelligent

and orderly consideration of the legislation by an established House committee.

If the Speaker of the House had referred the Senate bill to the Committee promptly instead of holding it on his desk for 41 days the House Committee could have done its job and then the House as a whole could have worked its will by approving or disapproving proposed amendments. A "gag rule" procedure in this situation doesn't make sense. I for one would greatly prefer that the Congress stay on the job postponing adjournment until sound and constructive labor-management legislation is approved.

NATIONAL EDUCATION ACT: The Federal Education Bill as amended and passed by the House provides for Federal loans to needy college students who have proven their ability. The House eliminated those provisions of the bill which would have authorized \$17,500,000 in each of three years for awarding free scholarships of up to \$1000 each to those persons found eligible by tests and other measures of aptitude.

The bill as passed makes available loans which must be repaid. The assistance would be available to capable students who can show a definite need for financial assistance. However, the Federal Aid would go only to those individuals willing to assume the responsibility for repayment.

The program will be administered through the various state departments of education.

In subsequent action the Senate included the scholarship provision in the bill but limited each scholarship grant to \$250 annually. At this writing the bill is headed for a House and Senate conference to iron out differences.

U.S.S.NAUTILUS: Every American was thrilled to hear of the historic trip of the Nautilus, our atomic powered submarine, over the top of the world and under the ice cap at the North Pole. When the U.S' S. SKATE duplicated the feat in the opposite direction we knew something of the terrific advancements that this country has made in underwater navigation.

Having been aboard the NAUTILUS for a week-end underwater cruise in 1956, I was especially pleased to receive the following letter from three members of the crew postmarked "North Pole, 11:15 p.m., Aug. 3, 1958"

"After having met you on board the Nautilus we wish to extend you a very hearty greeting from the Top of the World.

"It might be of interest to you that we left Pearl Harbor on the 22nd of July and arrived here at the North Pole at 2315 E.D.T. on 3 Aug 1958. Presently we are heading for some European port of call. Thus marking two historic achievements, the first being the Polar Transit in addition to reaching the North Pole by ship.

"We are looking forward to having you on board for another visit. Until we see you again we remain....Sincerely yours, John J. Krawczyk FTC (ss), Lynus J. Lorch TMC (ss), John H. Michaud SOC (ss)."



Your Washington Review

by

Congressman

JERRY FORD

August 29, 1958



As this letter is being written it appears the Congress will adjourn by Saturday night August 23rd. Within the last 24 hours most of the logjams have been broken in the stream of legislation coming from the House and Senate. Of course unexpected problems such as a Senate filibuster could develop in the next 36 hours but the end of the second session of the 85th Congress seems at hand.

What does the scorecard show on the work of the 85th Congress in 1958. One can get a variety of views. The Democrats who control both the House and the Senate generally praise their legislative effort. The Republicans, in the main, point to specific worthwhile actions of this Congress and contend that where progress has been accomplished the President provided the leadership. However, most Republicans concur with Senator Byrd, Democrat of Virginia, who said July 27th:

"This has been one of the most recklessly spending Congresses I have seen in my 35 years in Washington. It has piled spending on top of what now seems to be a rising economy. It has planted the seeds of what could be a terrific inflation."

An honest appraisal of this session of the Congress clearly indicates that the Democratic Party majorities in both the Senate and House have forced through a number of bills that will add substantially to the federal deficit and foster inflationary forces. Almost without exception the Congress has taken President Eisenhower's various legislative recommendations and boosted the cost considerably. It is this disregard of the taxpayer where the Democratic leadership has failed.

By the President threatening to veto some of the Democrat sponsored spending proposals the Congress saw the light and cut back the burden on our taxpayers. By actually vetoing some measures that would have added to the federal debt Ike stood firm on the principle of fiscal responsibility. One can truthfully say that those who vote for economy in federal government are mostly Republicans and Southern Democrats. President Eisenhower is primarily on their side. In contrast the voting records show the Northern Democrats, almost without exception, are the big spenders. The liberal Democrats who come from areas above the Mason-Dixon line consistently favor programs that will cost more and more tax dollars and at this point it is money Uncle Sam doesn't have and will have to borrow.

ON THE PLUS SIDE: After much hasseling over a 2-year period Congress finally approved a sound law for agriculture. Mark up a victory for Secretary Benson and Ike. The House and Senate enacted an excellent law to give the U. S. "space program"

real impetus. Representative McCormack, Democrat majority leader in the House, deserves a great deal of credit for this job well done. The President in turn has appointed Dr. Keith Glennan, former president of one of our top engineering schools as head man in the agency and as a result American progress in satellites and space exploration will move ahead with full speed.

In this session the Congress extended the Reciprocal Trade Act for four years. This legislation is a necessary tool in the implementation of U. S. foreign policy. The President's recommendations were watered down a bit but not seriously so.

After some initial haggling the Congress finally saw the vital need for legislation to reorganize the Department of Defense. Ike fought hard and effectively for this authority to streamline the combat organization of the Armed Forces. In this era of missiles the Army, Navy, and Air Force must have a responsive chain of command plus the strategic plans to act promptly and effectively at a moment's notice. The Defense Reorganization Act is now being implemented in the Pentagon by Secretary of Defense McElroy.

The House and Senate provided the Armed Forces this year with ample funds to move more rapidly from conventional to the most modern weapons. With over \$40 billion available in fiscal year 1959 for the Army, Navy, and Air Force, we can expect a ready and able defense force to provide the deterrent to war.

The Congress gave education a boost by providing a modified loan program for needy students with ability. The Social Security Act was amended to increase benefits by 7 per cent. In labor-management legislation the House and Senate approved legislation to require better handling of employee pension programs. The disclosures of the McClellan Committee prompted this law and laid the ground work for badly needed legislation to protect individual union members from any dishonest union leaders.

On matters of foreign policy there was a high degree of bi-partisanship. The Democratic Party leaders, Speaker Rayburn and Senator Johnson, supported Ike and Secretary Dulles nearly unanimously.

Your Congressman believes that in many instances the Congress did well. However, I repeat that the Democratic Party leadership failed to appreciate the need for economy. As your representative I have sought to protect the federal treasury consistent with the national security of our nation.

FOOTNOTE My Congressional attendance batting average in 1958 - again over 97 per cent. To do a job in Congress one has to be on the job. My attendance record in the past 10 years is one of the best in the House.

After a short Lake Michigan vacation with my family I'll be in Kent and Ottawa Counties with my Mobile Office. Hope to see you then. Thanks for your interest and may I extend my most sincere best wishes.