



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



January 31, 1968

The Second Session of the 90th Congress has convened. On January 17 the President presented his message on the State of the Union. Shortly thereafter the Committee on Ways and Means held two days of hearings on Mr. Johnson's demand for a federal tax increase.

It is evident that President Johnson has misinterpreted the mood of the country as far as taxes and federal spending are concerned. For every letter we receive in support of his surtax there are 101 pleading for tax relief and a reduction in government spending. From Grand Rapids this comment: "Is it true Congress is going to pass a bill for some tax to pay for our war in Vietnam? If this is true, what are we supposed to live on? I gross \$81 weekly, bring home \$60. Am already in poverty class, and am seriously wondering how long it will be before our pay is split 50-50 with the government." A father in Grandville writes: "Be realistic and vote no on this tax increase! Have some regard and consideration for the ordinary, hard-working man who really will suffer from any more taxes."

From Belding comes this suggestion: "For some time now, say the past 20 years, many of us have seen our take-home pay decreasing at a very fast pace through taxes in one form or another. So why not give our state and federal governments all our income and in turn let them send our children to school and college, pay our insurance, buy our cars, and pay the utility and grocery bills. If we tax our laboring man much more, this will happen."

A resident of Alto writes: "I am asking you to do all possible to block the President's proposed tax increase. I have five children and am only making \$600 per month. With all the local taxes, state taxes, and federal taxes, I seem to have trouble feeding and clothing my children."

And then from Northern Michigan: "We are hoping that enough courageous souls will stand firm on this tax increase. Government expenses can and should be cut."

From New York: "LBJ has got to stop spending money that he doesn't have. The working people have just so much to live on and he has us all taxed beyond reason."

From California: "Why should the government under the dictation of the greatest spender in our national history be allowed to run wild with no check placed upon him?"

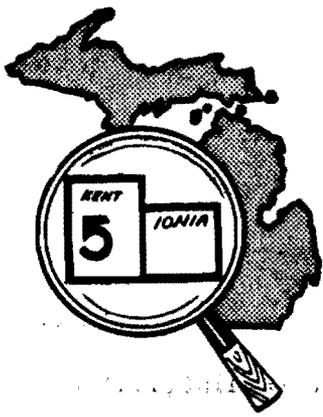
All American citizens can be thankful that there is a Congress to check on the President. Incidentally, on January 16 the national debt reached \$349 billion. This is an increase of \$20 billion over one year ago. The President does need further checking.

BREAKDOWN IN LAW AND ORDER: The most vigorous applause in the State of the Union message came when Mr. Johnson said, "We...know that the American people have had enough of rising crime and lawlessness." This is so true. Crime in recent years has grown six times as fast as the population. All of us are disturbed. But then the President went on to say that "the front line headquarters against crime is in the home, in the church, in the city hall and county courthouse and state house - not in the far-removed national capital of Washington." If by this, Mr. Johnson meant to infer that the major responsibility for the present breakdown in law and order is to be placed everywhere but in Washington, he certainly misunderstands the views of the American people. The American people know that what is said and done by national leaders in Washington does have an effect on law and order. Our Vice-President has said in a speech in New Orleans that he has enough spark left in him "to lead a mighty good revolt" under certain conditions. Our highest courts have freed criminals on new legal technicalities and made it extremely difficult for law-enforcement officials at every level to do an effective job for the protection of law-abiding citizens. The Attorney General has banned the use of modern investigative techniques. The President himself vetoed some constructive crime legislation for the District of Columbia a year ago and then last month reluctantly signed a modified bill designed to improve law enforcement in the nation's capital.

Last spring Attorney General Clark amazingly said, "there is no wave of crime in the country." As the Chairman of the Republican Task Force on Crime observed, "That he (Mr. Clark) should say this is part of the crime problem in this country." Indeed it is, with a 16 percent increase in nationwide crime in 1967. Leadership comes from the top. Top leaders in the federal government in Washington must recognize their responsibility. They must learn that their attitudes, words, and actions either build up or break down respect for law and order.

THE COPPER STRIKE AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS: The Department of Commerce estimates that the net loss in the balance of payments accreditable to the 7-month copper strike will reach \$200 million by the end of this month. The strike began in July and now involves 40,000 workers. Because of President Johnson's proposal to restrict the travel of Americans outside this hemisphere and to reduce U. S. investments abroad, this terrific deficit in our balance of payments is highly significant. In normal times the net monthly balance-of-payment deficit on copper is about \$18 million. But during last November, because of the strike, the deficit reached \$61.5 million. A huge number of American tourists would have to travel abroad to spend this much in one month.

LINCOLN FILM: My Grand Rapids office has available for use by any interested group a 16mm color film entitled, "A Tribute to Lincoln." Made at Lincoln Memorial and non-partisan in nature it presents the full text or excerpts from Lincoln's major addresses. Reservations for use of the film may be made by calling 456-9747.



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February 7, 1968

A "Truth-In-Lending" bill was approved by the House of Representatives last Thursday. The bill does not set interest rates or carrying charges for installment credit, but it does require full disclosure of these to the buyer and in any advertisement relative to credit terms. It aims to establish a uniform method for disclosing credit information and calls for the inclusion of all charges in the computation of the applicable percentage rate. Stated in simplest terms, the bill requires the lender or the seller to express all interest and service charges in terms of the annual cost to the borrower or purchaser. For example, instead of saying the credit charges are 1.5 percent per month, he must indicate 18 percent per year.

As recommended by the Committee the bill exempted from disclosure all transactions involving financial charges of \$10 or less. This would have exempted many credit purchases up to \$100. The House eliminated this exemption and the bill as passed requires disclosure of all charges on all credit sales.

There was considerable discussion of the Committee's special treatment of "revolving charge accounts" used by some retailers. Under this plan, the buyer is generally given 30 or 60 days to pay without interest or carrying charges. The Committee felt that it is too difficult to compute accurately in advance the carrying charges on these short-term "revolving charge accounts." Because of this difficulty the Committee decided that retailers using the revolving account could express their charges as so much per month. But the House voted to remove this provision and to require uniform disclosure.

Loan sharks with crime syndicate stripes.
The House also adopted an amendment proposed by Republicans making it a federal criminal offense for anyone engaged in interstate commerce to lend money at rates of interest illegal under the laws of the state where the transaction takes place. This was to help get at the "loan sharks" and organized crime operating in this area.

THE 1969 BUDGET: During the next fiscal year, beginning July 1, President Johnson wants to spend more than \$182.8 billion; he wants to lend \$3.3 billion for a total outlay in tax money of \$186 billion. This is an \$11 billion increase in expenditures over the current year.

It is evident that the Johnson Administration still refuses to heed the taxpayers' demands for expenditure restraint at the federal level. As you know, we in the minority have been urging a reduction in non-essential federal expenditures in every department and agency of government. As a result we are often condemned for

being negative, for being "aginers," for being concerned primarily with protecting the "haves" and with being without compassion for the "havenots."

It was good therefore to hear the Democratic Chairman of the Appropriations Committee say, "When we are in an inflationary period; when the budget is heavily in the red; when we are at war; when foreign holders of dollars threaten to foreclose on our shrinking gold supply if we do not act with great prudence and restraint,...the duty of economy just is not debatable; it is clearly imperative." The Democratic Chairman went on to say, "Hold the line at the present level - make do with what we have. Reject the unnecessary. Defer the desirable. Minimize the essential. All it takes is good old-fashioned will - and a majority vote."

I agree 100 percent. At a minimum we must reduce the budget by 10 to 11 billion dollars, thus holding 1969 spending to this year's level. We in the minority will help the Chairman get his majority vote. But his Democratic colleagues, at least some of them, must back him up in committee and on the floor. If they do, we can restrain the President's incredible expenditure proposals.

THE JOHNSON BUDGETS: The 1965 budget was the first one for which Mr. Johnson was fully responsible. In that year \$103 billion went for defense costs in Vietnam and \$96.4 billion for other government expenses in the administrative budget. In 1969 the comparable figures in the administrative budget are \$25.7 billion for Vietnam and \$121.5 billion for other expenses. This means that in four years, other government spending has increased practically as much as the cost of the war in Vietnam. (Actually, only \$506 million less.) On a percentage basis, non-Vietnam spending increased by 26 percent from 1965 to 1969. It is apparent that during this period when Vietnam defense costs were going up, no significant effort was made by the President to hold down other government spending.

Between 1965 and 1969 Mr. Johnson added 454,747 more full-time permanent federal employees to the civilian payroll. This is an increase of 20.4 percent and brings the total number of federal employees to 2,687,500.

WILL \$186 BILLION BE ENOUGH? Based on past experience, we have every reason to fear that the President will not be able to live within his estimated \$186 billion budget. We can expect he will be asking for more funds as we go into 1969. In 1966, Mr. Johnson spent \$10.4 billion more than his initial estimate. In 1967, the spread between the original and the final estimate was again \$10 billion. For this fiscal year (1968), the President has already revised his estimate upward by \$4 billion and the year is only half over. In other words, budget figures as originally submitted have not been accurate and these errors do add to the "credibility gap" between the President and the people.

RECENT VISITORS: From Grand Rapids: Mr. & Mrs. J.O. Rathbun, Debra, Barbie, Tim, Tom, and Terry; Sandee Dooley; Leonard Anderson; Lawrence Leigh; Marilyn Metcalf; Craig Black; Allen Dahme, Mrs. Allen Hunting, Allen, Jim, and Anne; Mr. & Mrs. Lee Mulnix. From Lake Odessa: Mr. J. Childs. From Byron Center: Mr. & Mrs. F. VanderMoere.



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February 14, 1968

The life of the Export-Import Bank, an agency of the U. S. government, was extended for five years and its lending and guarantee authority increased from \$9 billion to \$13.5 billion in action taken by the House of Representatives last Wednesday. This Bank assists in the financing of U. S. exports by making direct loans to overseas buyers of American goods and services, and by guaranteeing and insuring export credit transactions. It promotes export sales, and is paying yearly dividends of \$50 million to the U. S. Treasury on a relatively small investment of tax money.

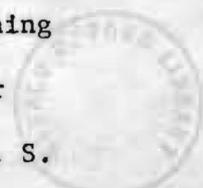
There was no objection to extending the life of the Bank but we did try unsuccessfully to hold its lending authority to \$12.5 billion. Major controversy revolved about the Bank's authority to assist communist countries and nations trading with North Vietnam. The bill as approved by the House bars all transactions with communist countries. Transactions with non-communist nations can continue, even though their private shippers or traders may deal with North Vietnam. However, if the government of a non-communist country officially endorses and encourages this trade, Export-Import Bank assistance to that country would be prohibited. The Senate bill contained different provisions, so the legislation will go to conference for further consideration.

THE PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL TAX: The Committee on Ways and Means has under consideration the President's proposals for restricting travel abroad. Administration spokesmen in support of the measures have been heard. Next week the Committee will hear representatives of the public.

Mr. Johnson has proposed a 5-percent tax on air and water transportation. He also wants to place a graduated tax on travelers outside the Western Hemisphere. The first \$7 spent each day would be exempt. But Americans abroad who spent between \$7 and \$15 per day would be taxed 15 percent. All spending over \$15 daily would be taxed at the rate of 30 percent.

Those close to the Committee see little opposition to the transportation tax, especially when it is noted that revenues from this tax will be used to stimulate foreign travel in the United States. But the Committee does see numerous problems in the graduated travel tax. No one can predict at this time what the Committee's final recommendation will be but some modification of the President's proposals is expected.

Exempted from the travel tax under the President's plan are those remaining abroad for more than 120 days in connection with their business, profession, or education, those who establish residence outside the United States, and "all U. S.



Government travel." This last exemption must be closely analyzed by the Committee. Certainly the U. S. Government can be expected to set an example in self-restraint in an area in which it seeks to restrict its citizens. We do understand that the President has directed all agencies to reduce official travel overseas to a minimum and I believe the Congress should do likewise.

We recognize the seriousness of our balance-of-payments crisis and must be prepared to meet it. The Congress may impose some limitations on foreign travel. But these restrictions cannot be a substitute for a vigorous effort by the President and the Congress to reduce federal expenditures at home and abroad.

POST OFFICE POLITICS: For three days last week the House Subcommittee on Postal Operations held public hearings on proposals to remove the Post Office Department from politics. One approach retains the Presidential appointment and Senate confirmation of postmasters but eliminates political recommendations. It provides penalties for those who seek or give political endorsement. This approach would encourage promotion to the postmastership from among qualified career postal employees.

Another approach eliminates Senate confirmation and would permit the Postmaster General to name postmasters from among qualified career employees or on the basis of an open competitive examination.

I favor any proposal which eliminates political considerations and provides for promotion within the post office on the basis of merit.

A FEDERAL ANTI-RIOT ACT: Last July the House approved a Republican-sponsored bill to make it a federal criminal offense to travel in interstate commerce with the intention of inciting to riot. Known as H. R. 421, it is presently pending in the Senate. I discussed this legislation in my newsletters of July 19 and 26, 1967.

Last Wednesday in his message on crime, Mr. Johnson proposed what he called a "new law," the Federal Anti-Riot Act of 1968. Its main provision is identical to H. R. 421 which was passed by the House on July 19, 1967 without Administration support. Actually, five Democratic congressmen from Michigan voted against it. We are pleased that President Johnson now recognizes the merits of this measure. We trust he will use his influence to obtain Senate approval of H. R. 421.

We endorse Mr. Johnson's proposals to strengthen the gambling laws and his recommendations to prohibit the advertisement, mailing, and shipping of motor vehicle master keys and information and devices from which such keys can be made. Many of his other proposals to control crime have been suggested by Republicans and merit favorable consideration by the Congress. We are glad to have White House support for some of the anti-crime proposals that are needed to combat the rising national crime rate.

RECENT VISITORS: From Grand Rapids: E. S. Thompson, Jim Hanink, David Haughey, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kosakoski, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond C. Sasak.



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February 21, 1968



1. Presenting a trophy to an outstanding Boy Scout at the Trinity Methodist Church in Grand Rapids, Feb. 10.

2. Crowning the Queen at the Sparta Rodeo.

3. Answering the President's State of the Union Message.

4. We meet the press.

5. Our Mike (right) and teammate receive football trophies at T. C. Williams High School, Alexandria.

6. Betty presents Michigan beans (from C. M. Hunkins, Lowell) to members of the International Club at the Capitol.

7. Confering with my brother Tom, a State Legislator, at my desk in Washington.

8. Walking with Lt. Gov. William Milliken at the Kent County Republican Picnic.

9. Preparing a TV report on the Capitol steps for use in Grand Rapids.

IONIA COUNTY SOIL SURVEY AVAILABLE

The Department of Agriculture has completed and made available a "Soil Survey" of Ionia County. This is a comprehensive and detailed report of nearly 200 pages, supplemented by 96 double-page charts. Paper-bound, the book measures 9 by 12 inches and is 1/2 inch thick.

The charts were made from aerial photographs and portray the type of soil in every part of the county. The Department points out that the Survey contains "information that can be applied in managing farms and woodlands; in selecting sites for roads, ponds, buildings, or other structures; and in appraising the value of tracts of land for agriculture, industry, or recreation.

Requests for copies of the Survey may be made to my Grand Rapids office or by writing me at the House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. The book will be mailed from Washington.

FOR STUDENTS

We have limited quantities of the following publications which will be sent upon request as long as our supply lasts:

1. The U. S. Constitution
2. Our Capitol
3. Our Flag
4. How Our Laws Are Made
5. Ford's Theatre (2-page pamphlet)

FOR PARENTS

Please let me know if you want a copy of any of these booklets:

1. Prenatal Care
2. Infant Care
3. Your Child from 1 to 6
4. Your Child from 6 to 12

These booklets run from 85 to 98 pages and are prepared by the Department of HSW.



The first play to be seen at Ford's Theatre since Lincoln's death was presented on his birthday this year.

Following the assassination the Theatre was closed. Eventually it became an office building, and in more recent years a museum. Now the Theatre has been reconstructed as it was in 1865. Visitors may see the building as Lincoln saw it, and theatrical productions are being scheduled. On opening night, "John Brown's Body" by S. T. Benet was presented.

Prior to February 12, dedication ceremonies were held and, as Minority Leader, I was asked to participate. In the picture below I am speaking from the stage. The President's box is at the upper level.

The Theatre has seats for 750.

We have in my Grand Rapids office (425 Cherry St., SE) a 16mm film entitled, "A Tribute to Lincoln," available to any group wishing to show it. The film is in color, 15 minutes in length, and was made at the Lincoln Memorial. The picture below was taken at the time.

The film is non-partisan in nature and consists of excerpts from the Emancipation Proclamation and the Second Inaugural, and the full text of the Gettysburg Address.

The readings are done by Senator Everett Dirksen, Senator Thruston Morton, and Rep. Paul Findley of Illinois.

Reservations for use of the film may be made by calling my Grand Rapids office, GL6-9747. Of course, there is no charge for its use.





Ed Barnes (right) of Grand Rapids is helping in my office this winter under a special program offered by MSU where he is a student. Ed is studying the work of the Joint Economic Committee but has time to assist in my office on a part-time, non-paid basis. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Barnes of 675 Manhattan Street, S.E.

Arlen Erdahl (center), a member of the Minnesota State Legislature, is in Washington under an American Political Science Fellowship. He will be with us for four months, also at no cost to the government. We appreciate the assistance of Ed and Arlen and trust that the experience is valuable to them.

During the summer we plan to have a number of college students from the 5th District with us as "Interns."

When Congress adjourned for the Lincoln Recess on Feb. 8, I had completed 19 years and 1 month of service to the 5th District.

During that period I answered 4500 roll calls out of a total of 4944 for an attendance record of 90.9 percent.

SAVE OUR LAKE

"Save Our Lake" should become a rallying cry for our state and the three others bordering on Lake Michigan.

There is perhaps no greater problem facing Michigan than that of cleaning up our Lake.

For this reason I issued a statement late last year calling attention to a four-state conference arranged by Secretary of the Interior Udall to speed the cleanup of all of Lake Michigan.

To get some idea of how serious the Lake Michigan pollution problem is just consider a recent report in the Saturday Evening Post. The article stated that Lake Michigan has been so abused by Chicago and the industrial cities of Indiana and western Michigan at its south end that conservationists estimate it will take 500 years for the Lake to recover--if it is helped.

I am determined that Lake Michigan gets all the help it needs to become a living, useful, beautiful body of water once more. I intend to support all necessary and feasible federal actions to solve Lake Michigan pollution problems in cooperation with state and local governments and private industry.

Republicans strongly supported the 1966 Clean Waters Restoration Act, which provides federal dollar help for sewage treatment plants, water purification studies and waste treatment. Now we are urging a 20 per cent tax credit to help finance industrial pollution controls.

Michigan and other states agree on major steps needed to save Lake Michigan. Now we must work out details on time-tables for remedial action.

CRIME WAR AID ON WAY

There is good reason to believe Congress will provide weapons this year for an all-out assault on this Nation's crime wave.

Best evidence of this is the overwhelming margin by which the House recently adopted a Republican proposal to bring federal forces to bear on loan-sharking operations.

The GOP move to make the lending of money at illegally high rates a federal crime is aimed at shutting off a principal source of the funds flowing to crime syndicates.

Almost unanimously approved by the House, the GOP anti-loansharking legislation will not become law unless accepted by the Senate.

It has generally been lost sight of but the House already last year passed a bill providing dollar help for local and state law enforcement and for police training and crime detection research. Republicans took a very strong hand in shaping that bill. If the Senate will act quickly and pass an equally strong bill, law enforcement help for our states and local communities soon will be on the way.

The President has sent Congress a Crime Message which calls for anti-riot legislation as well as other action. Unfortunately, Attorney General Clark has since said he places a low priority on the anti-riot move. Republicans sponsored an anti-riot bill last year, and the House overwhelmingly approved it. We attach a high priority to anti-riot control.

I hope the President will actively get behind this and other specific anti-crime remedies already endorsed by House Republicans and their Task Force on Crime.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 7, 1968

Mr. GERALD R. FORD introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

JOINT RESOLUTION

To declare the policy of the United States with respect to its territorial sea.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*

I have joined a number of Congressmen in introducing legislation to extend the territorial waters of the U. S. to more than the traditional three miles with respect to those countries which claim control over the seas beyond that distance from their shores. The passage of this legislation would mean that those nations claiming up to 12 miles (such as North Korea and the Soviet Union) would be required to respect our control over the oceans up to 12 miles from our shores. It is only fair that we operate in a reciprocal manner on this issue which came into focus again because of the PUEBLO.

A bill which I have introduced in the past five Congresses would require all railroad cars to be equipped with reflectors or luminous material so they can be seen more readily at night. The ICC endorses this proposal but the Department of Commerce takes a dim view of it. The House Committee has taken no action on the bill. I believe that accidents at dark crossings could be avoided and lives saved by the adoption of this safety measure.



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February 28, 1968

You and I cannot exchange our paper money for gold. But citizens of most foreign nations can demand and receive gold for their U.S. paper dollars by purchasing gold on the foreign gold markets. Our government and our citizens have been spending enormous sums abroad; foreign nations have been spending less here so we have an unfavorable balance of payments. Foreigners therefore have billions of dollars with which to indirectly demand our gold.

At the end of 1967 our total gold reserves stood at \$12.1 billion. But \$10.7 billion of this is, under present law, frozen as a 25-percent reserve against our paper money. In other words, right now the paper dollars you have are backed or "covered" by gold in an amount equal to 25 percent of their value.

The President asked Congress to remove this 25-percent gold backing or cover so that more gold would be available for meeting any foreign demands and for maintaining the value of the U. S. dollar at \$35 per ounce of gold. Actually, the Federal Reserve Board already has the authority under a waiver procedure to make use of the gold in the 25-percent reserve should a gold crisis occur. Furthermore, lifting the gold cover will not solve the problem. It simply postpones the day of reckoning. As the Republican Policy Committee stated: "Seven years of Democratic spendthrift policies have reduced this country from a fiscal strong-man into a hat-in-hand supplicant whose currency is dependent upon the restraint and forbearance of others. World confidence in the dollar has been shaken and the international monetary system is in serious trouble.

It is evident that the drain on our gold is not the cause of the dollar's difficulties but the result. The cause of the doubts about the dollar is the Administration's easy money policy, high deficits, and increasing inflation.

I voted against removal of the gold cover last Wednesday in order to encourage the President to adopt those policies which will strengthen our balance of payments abroad and make more responsible our fiscal policies at home. But unfortunately the bill was approved 199 to 190.

TO BAR MAILING OF MASTER KEYS FOR AUTOMOBILES: The House has approved legislation to halt the mailing of keys which will unlock the door or ignition switches of more than one automobile. Advertisements in nationally circulated magazines have offered for sale master keys which enable anyone to unlock and start the motor of any make of car in the United States manufactured from 1955 to the present. The bill

(H.R.14935) bars such keys from the mails unless they are being sent to certain authorized persons including locksmiths, car dealers, and operators of parking facilities.

The bill was unanimously recommended by the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service and approved by a voice vote. It was pointed out on the floor of the House that automobile theft is the third most serious crime in our country in terms of magnitude. In 1967, there were over 650,000 automobiles stolen, resulting in direct financial loss of over \$140 million. About 100,000 of these cars were involved in serious accidents. Sixteen percent of all auto thefts resulted from the use of a key, and over half of the locked cars that were stolen were taken with the use of a master key.

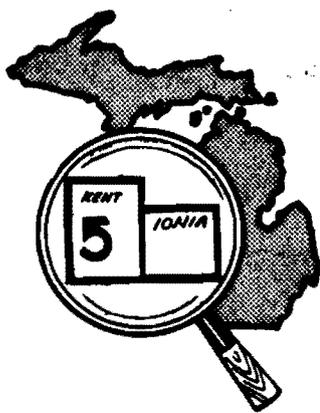
JOB CORPS CENTERS CLOSED: Sixteen Job Corps Centers, including the one at Battle Creek, are being closed. Congress appropriated the full amount requested by the President for the Job Corps program, but the President has cut \$10 million from the \$295 million made available by Congress. The closing of the 16 Centers means that a capital investment of \$24 million will start going down the drain.

Republicans in their criticism of the war on poverty, did NOT advocate the closing of these training facilities. House Republicans urged a gradual phasing-over of existing Job Corps Centers to regional training facilities to be operated in conjunction with technical institutes and area vocational schools with increased involvement of state, local, and private resources.

Rep. Charles Goodell, one of the senior Republican members of the Committee on Education and Labor, characterized the closing of these Centers as "another shocking example of short-sighted, planless, and wasteful administration of the poverty program." He points out that "OEO's own cost figures are an admission of gross errors in the planning of Job Corps Centers. Rather than converting these Centers to a more realistic approach that would serve enrollees more effectively, the Administration has chosen to close 16 Centers. Some of these Centers had just opened. \$1,265,210 was expended on the Swiftbird, S. D. Center which never opened at all."

Rep. Goodell said further: "When you add in the capital investments in these Centers to date you get a clear picture of the price the American taxpayers have paid for the mass-produced Job Corps Centers without adequate planning and foresight. The average cost per enrollee per year in the 16 centers being closed will be \$11,270." The average cost for providing a college education in a public institution is less than \$3,000 per year per student.

Rep. Goodell emphasizes that while Congress supplied the money requested, "the President has squeezed all existing programs for money to start new, untested programs that were never specially considered by Congress." I agree with Mr. Goodell's conclusion that "we need to work toward a utilization of facilities that have already been established without arbitrarily closing them and wasting the \$24 million we have already invested."



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March 6, 1968

The House acted Thursday to continue until December 31, 1969, the existing 7-percent manufacturers excise tax on passenger automobiles and the 10-percent tax on telephone service.

These taxes are scheduled to be reduced beginning April 1st. Continuing them will result in Treasury revenue of \$306 million this year and \$2.6 billion in fiscal 1969. In light of a predicted deficit of over \$20 billion for both this year and next year, I supported a continuation of the present excise taxes.

FEDERAL JURY SELECTION: Legislation was approved last week to insure that jurors in federal courts would be drawn from a fair and representative cross-section of the community. It provides that prospective jurors be selected at random from voter lists. For instance, every 20th or 50th name would be chosen. But to insure competence, the bill, S.989, provides certain physical, educational, and moral standards and gives judges further power to eliminate incompetents. Illiterates, the infirm, those accused of a crime or who have been convicted of a felony are barred from jury service. Also ineligible are those who have not lived in their community for at least a year.

The purpose of the bill is to provide competent juries that represent a cross-section of the community. It was designed to eliminate the charge that in some judicial districts a person could be tried by a "blue ribbon jury of the elite" rather than by his peers.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES AUTHORIZATION: Common sense prevailed and \$123.8 million of the taxpayers funds were saved when the House last Tuesday extended for one year the Arts and Humanities Act. The bill as presented called for an authorization of \$55 million in fiscal 1969 and an additional \$80 million in 1970. The bill as approved allows an appropriation of \$11.2 million for 1969 only. This amount is equal to the funds provided this year. I voted for the cuts and then supported the \$11.2 million authorization when it was approved on final passage by a vote of 272 to 123.

The Arts and Humanities Act sets up two National Endowments, one for the arts, another for the humanities. Financial grants are made to institutions and individuals to promote activities in these cultural areas. For instance, grants of \$1,000 each were given to 77 young artists to enable them to visit art centers, museums, etc., to enrich their cultural experience; early this year a \$200,000 federal grant was announced to help sagging Broadway shows which the agency felt would succeed if kept

open long enough. Such activities and other programs under this legislation may be desirable, but they create very definitely the "non-essential expenditures" which I believe must be reduced or eliminated until the federal budget is balanced. The bill as approved requires that all future grants go to institutions or to projects with none being awarded directly to individuals.

POPULAR ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT: I join those who favor a constitutional amendment calling for the direct election of the president and vice president. This has been recommended by the American Bar Association and other distinguished authorities.

The Bar Association proposal requires the candidates for president and vice president (who would run as a team) to obtain at least 40 percent of the popular vote. If no team received at least 40 percent of the votes there would be a national runoff election between the two top candidates. Personally, I believe this percentage should be greater, at least 45 percent and possibly 50.1 percent. But in any event, I think it is time to eliminate the archaic system under which the candidate who receives most of the popular votes in a state gets all its electoral votes - and the electoral votes rather than the popular votes determine the winner.

WAR ON POVERTY IN DETROIT: A Special Committee of the Michigan House of Representatives has just issued a report on the "Examination of the War on Poverty" in Detroit. The Committee Chairman (Rep. James Del Rio of Detroit) is a Democrat. The Committee is composed of a majority of Democrats. Its comments on Page 5 are therefore especially significant.

This Democratic-controlled committee said: "One of the most serious frauds one can commit upon the poor is to promise something you do not or cannot deliver. The receipts and disbursements for 1965-1966 and 1966-1967 fiscal years reveal the same picture. There is so little money left for the poor after salaries and fixed overhead that one can no longer refer to this fact as an irregularity - one must call it what it is - a fraud." This is the evaluation of Uncle Sam's poverty program in Detroit by Democratic Chairman Del Rio and his committee.

Page 5 of the Report goes on to quote a report by the U. S. Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare (also Democratic controlled) on its finding on the poverty program in Detroit. The Senate Committee said: "Under the beneficent wing of city government the poverty program has become a bureaucracy which helps the people it employs rather than the poor."

It was this sort of thing Republicans were trying to remedy last fall when we offered our alternatives to the program of waste developed by Mr. Johnson's war on poverty.

RECENT VISITORS: From Grand Rapids: Miss Margaret Kenison; Mr. & Mrs. David Crawford; Marilyn Smith; Gerald Dunn; David Cleary; Lt. Lawrence Thon; Ensign David Runnells; Mr. & Mrs. John Kwewel; Samuel Corl; Russell Blake. From Sparta: Steve Quay; Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Anderson and Marge. From Belding: Berniece Parker. From Saranac: Mr. & Mrs. Earl Cady; Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Dausman. From Ada: Mrs. Willard Combs.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



March 13, 1968

The House of Representatives has approved legislation providing penalties for those who use interstate telephone lines to make obscene, abusive, or harassing telephone calls. This bill (S.375) will be a supplement to the statutes in each of the 50 states which already have a law to meet this problem. Under existing state statutes 1,105 persons were convicted in 1967 of making calls of this type. During that same year the Bell Telephone System received 641,821 complaints about obscene or abusive calls.

Nothing is more disgusting than to answer the telephone only to be met with a tirade of oaths, obscenities, and threats. Nothing is more disturbing than to answer the phone only to have the caller hang up without a word. Of course, the telephone company cannot help unless there is a complaint. During the discussion of this legislation it was pointed out that many individuals do not complain because they are unaware that techniques and equipment have been developed to identify the persons making the calls. Two of these methods were demonstrated to the congressional committee. Others are available but were not demonstrated because widespread knowledge of them would limit their effectiveness. None of these techniques requires monitoring the content of the conversations on the calling or called person's line.

CHILDREN'S FOOD PROGRAM: A bill to expand the school lunch program was approved unanimously last Tuesday. Under present law federal assistance is provided the states to carry on school lunch programs at reduced costs. Because of the nutritional needs among pre-school children and for others during the summer months when school is not in session, the new bill extends the program to day-care centers, settlement houses, summer camps, and other child-care institutions.

The bill also puts on a permanent basis the pilot school breakfast program. Both rural and urban schools in 49 states have been participating in this experimental program. According to the Committee, "Dozens of reports have been received from school officials enthusiastically noting a sharp decline in tardiness and marked increase in the attention span of students in schools which have the pilot breakfast program." All these programs are directed at areas in which poor economic conditions exist and in which there are high concentrations of working mothers.

RADIO INTERFERENCE: The House is expected to pass this week a bill to permit the Federal Communications Commission to establish regulations to eliminate from the market faulty electronic devices which cause radio interference. Devices which may

cause radio interference include electric garage door openers, certain electronic toys, ultrasonic cleaners, welders, etc. The regulations would be applicable to the manufacture and sale of these items and would help manufacturers to know what standards are necessary to prevent interference.

DOUBLE JEOPARDY IN VIETNAM: I have written both the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of the Army to protest the involuntary return to Vietnam of any member of the armed forces who has already served there for at least 12 months.

We have had a number of inquiries about the practice of sending back to the combat zone in Vietnam men who have been there, have seen action, and have even been wounded. I see no justification for such double duty. As I stated to the Secretaries: "With the number of men we have under arms, it seems to me that sufficient replacements can and should be trained so that no man who has completed at least a year in Vietnam is compelled to return." Such a policy would not affect volunteers who desire to extend their tour of duty or who wish to return to Vietnam.

FEDERAL AID TO THE POOR: Federal aid to the poor from all agencies this year totals \$24.6 billion. In 1963 the amount was \$12.5 billion or about 50% less. In 1960 the figure was \$9.5 billion. The budget request for the next fiscal year totals \$27.7 billion in federal aid to the poor. These facts were presented to the House recently by Rep. George Mahon, Democratic Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations. Mr. Mahon said he released this information "in an effort to lend some focus to the fiscal implications and dimensions of the recommendations in the Report of the President's Commission on Civil Disorders (Riots)."

The Chairman also reported that federal outlays for health rose from \$4.1 billion in 1961 to \$13.9 billion in 1968. For education, training, and related programs the increase was from \$3.3 billion to \$11.6 billion. Federal aid to urban areas went from \$7.5 billion in 1961 to \$19.2 billion this year. These are sizable amounts and sizable increases which we cannot ignore in any consideration of the taxpayer's responsibility in social service.

A RECORD FEDERAL DEBT: According to the Daily Statement of the U.S. Treasury, our national debt reached a new high of \$355 billion on February 28. This is an increase of \$27 billion over exactly one year ago.

With Uncle Sam paying interest charges at an average of 4.36 percent per year, the interest payment on today's debt comes to about \$15 billion annually. Only defense, and health, education and welfare exceed interest charges as the most costly items in our federal budget.

RECENT VISITORS: From Grand Rapids: Norman Jones; Marty Hamstra; Mr. & Mrs. Ron Rozema; Mrs. Louise Esch; Mrs. Lois Palmer; Jim Setchfield; Steven Cribley; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Cueni; Douglas Fasner; James Witzel; Connie Himelick; Karen Wilcox; Janet Sweeney; Randall Schlegel; Thomas Deane, Jr. From Alto: David VanHeyningen; Linda Kingsland. From Ada: Nancy Rae; Jim Vekasi.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



March 20, 1968

The Civil Rights Bill with an "open housing" provision may be acted upon by the House of Representatives this week or next. The Senate amended a bill already passed by the House (H.R. 2516) to include the housing and other provisions. An attempt was made last week to seek House approval without an opportunity for adequate discussion and without permitting the House to even consider any changes in the Senate proposal. "Open Housing" is far too important to be disposed of in this cursory manner. I, therefore, joined those who insisted upon more thorough consideration by the House through a House-Senate conference which is the normal way of working out a compromise.

CIVIL RIGHTS--SENATE AGREES WITH HOUSE: The civil rights bill approved by the Senate last Monday contains two provisions similar to those already passed by the House. The first prescribes penalties for interfering with the rights of another person to vote, to secure employment, to attend school or college, to use the facilities of interstate commerce, or to enjoy what we generally call a citizen's civil rights. Both the House and Senate versions contain penalties (fines and imprisonment) for violation of this provision. I supported the bill when it passed the House by a vote of 326 to 93.

with
The Senate's bill also contained a section somewhat similar, but not identical, to H.R. 421 which was sponsored by Republicans and passed by the House on July 19, 1967. This section makes it a federal criminal offense to go from one state to another with the intention of inciting a riot or attempting to organize or encourage any act of violence in furtherance of a riot. I also supported this House bill when it was approved 347 to 70.

CIVIL RIGHTS--SENATE ADDS OPEN HOUSING: The Senate added to the House bill a controversial open housing provision. It prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, or national origin in the sale or rental of a dwelling. But if and when the law becomes fully effective there are significant exceptions. The law will not apply to the sale or rental of a single-family house where the owner does not use in any manner the services of a real estate broker or agent, and the owner does not advertise in a manner to indicate any preference based on race, color, religion, or national origin. However, those who oppose this legislation contend that if a home-owner posts a notice that he wants to sublet his home for the summer he may reject for any or no reason the first person who approaches him unless such

person is of a different race, religion, color, or national origin. Opponents base this view on the assumption that even an oral statement indicating racial or religious preferences would subject a family to the penalties of the law. Some real estate brokers also contend that this provision "discriminates" against them.

Also exempted from the provisions of the law are owners who rent not more than three single-family houses, and owners of one-to-four family apartments, one of which is owner-occupied.

But any owner of a single-family home or a small apartment could lose his exemption under the law by employing a broker, by improperly advertising so as to indicate racial preferences, or by selling more than one house within any 24-month period.

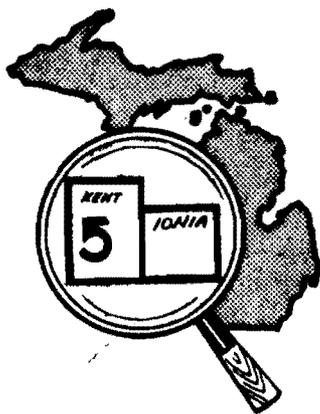
ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS: Any offended party may file a complaint with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development who has authority only to work out programs of voluntary compliance. But if this is unsuccessful the offended party may go into a federal district court to seek an injunction or other court order. The court may award to the plaintiff actual damages and not more than \$1000 punitive damages together with court costs and reasonable attorney fees. The complainant (plaintiff) has the burden of establishing proof of discrimination, and it is to be noted that there are no federal criminal penalties for violation of the law.

RIOT CONTROL: Another part of the bill (Title X) provides heavy fines or imprisonment for those who interfere with any fireman or law enforcement officer in the lawful performance of his official duties during a civil disorder. This Title also prohibits the manufacture or transportation of any firearms or explosive devices to be used in a riot or civil disorder, and provides penalties for those who teach others how to use these items in a riot.

VETERANS' PENSION BILL SENT TO PRESIDENT: The Senate last week approved without change a bill (H.R. 12555) passed by the House in December liberalizing veterans' non-service-connected pensions. The President's signature will mean an increase in veterans' benefits for 1,170,743 pensioners and will permit payment of a pension for the first time to 10,275 veterans or their dependents because of increases in overall maximum income limitations. The bill will maintain 213,386 pensioners at their present rate.

The bill changes the method of determining a VA pension. It also ^{provides} grants protection against loss of any VA pension through 1969 because of an increase in social security benefits.

IONIA COUNTY SOIL SURVEY: The Department of Agriculture has completed and made available a "Soil Survey" of Ionia County. This is a comprehensive report of nearly 200 pages, supplemented by 96 double-paged charts. Paper-bound, the book measures 9x12 inches and is ½ inch thick. The charts are made from aerial photographs and portray the soil in every part of the County. Requests for copies of the Survey may be made to my Grand Rapids office (GL6-9747), or by writing to me at H-230 The Capitol.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



March 27, 1968

The House Committee on Rules has postponed until April 9 its vote on a resolution bringing the Senate-approved civil rights bill, including an open housing provision, to the House floor. The House on August 16, 1967 passed a civil rights worker protection measure, a bill which did not contain an open housing provision.

The Rules Committee action means that in all likelihood the House will not act on civil rights legislation until after April 9. I hope the House will act before the Easter Recess.

Normal procedure when the House and Senate pass two widely varying bills involving the same subject is to send the two measures to a conference committee made up of selected members of the two legislative bodies. This is the course I favor in connection with the two civil rights bills. I have stated publicly that I want good civil rights legislation passed in this session of the Congress and that I favor an open housing provision.

However, the House Democratic Leadership is seeking in the resolution now before the Rules Committee to force the House to accept the Senate-approved civil rights bill without any opportunity to shape the final provisions.

I hope the House will reject this move, which calls upon the House to rubber-stamp after from one to four hours of debate a bill which the Senate spent nearly forty days debating and amending.

I personally favor sending the House and Senate civil rights bills to conference, where the House will have a say in the final version of this legislation. This is the only responsible way to legislate.

THE GOLD CRISIS: The Republican Coordinating Committee, of which I am a member, has pointed out that the necessity of revising our international gold system came about entirely from mismanagement of our domestic financial and economic affairs by the Johnson Administration. The Committee stated: "If the new two-price structure for gold is to become the means of transition to a durable international monetary system,...the President must proceed at once to restore credibility and confidence in the fiscal practices of our government. People around the world...must again be persuaded that it is better to hold dollars than gold."

The Committee went on to say: "The Administration must put into effect at once the sizable cuts in spending for which the Congress and the Republican Party have been calling. It is urgently necessary for the President to come forth with

meaningful specific proposals for major reductions in non-essential government spending. Until he does, there can be no expectation that the Congress and the American people will accept a tax increase. The budget must be brought close to balance and the deficit in our international payments must be sharply reduced if we are to restore faith in the dollar and avoid another crisis."

ASSIGNMENT OF ONLY SONS: We receive many inquiries from parents of young men who are the only sons or last male members of their families. They want to know whether these sons are exempt from involuntary service in the Army. Generally, the answer is "No, the young man is not exempt from selective service."

But there is a provision governing "sole-surviving sons." Under the selective service law a "sole-surviving son" is the last remaining son in a family that has already lost one of its members as a direct result of service in the armed forces. In other words, his immediate family has already lost a father, son, or possibly a daughter, from injury or disease incurred while in the armed forces. The "sole-surviving son" is exempt under the selective service law. The Army will discharge upon request any enlisted man who becomes a "sole-surviving son" after his induction because of a death in his family. Or the soldier may remain in the Army but upon request be assigned to duty outside a combat area.

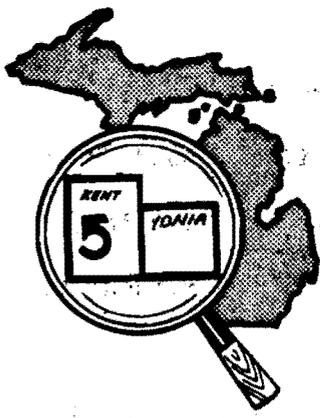
Two members of the same family will not be assigned to duty in Vietnam under current Army policy. If one member is serving there in any of the armed services, another will not be sent provided, of course, he informs his commanding officer of the situation and makes the request.

WITH THE COMMITTEES: The Committee on Ways and Means has been considering in executive session the President's proposals to restrict travel abroad by Americans. It is generally agreed that the President's recommendation will be substantially modified if a bill is reported by the Committee.

Presently the possession of LSD and other hallucinogenic drugs for sale or distribution is a federal offense. The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce is considering a bill which will impose penalties for possession of these drugs for personal use. There is a difference of opinion as to whether there should be any such penalty or whether it should be a misdemeanor or a felony.

FOR THE ASKING: Five booklets of interest to parents are available from my Grand Rapids office (GL 6-9747) or by writing me at H-230, the Capitol. You may request any one or all of the booklets: Prenatal Care; Infant Care; Your Child from 1 to 6; Your Child from 6 to 12; and, The Adolescent.

RECENT VISITORS: From Wyoming: Terri Burnham; Mr. & Mrs. J. Vredevoogd and Evelyn. From Grand Rapids: Paul Kravitz; John Saylor; Mr. & Mrs. A. Stumler; John VandenBerg; Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Nicholas; Mr. & Mrs. R. Judd, Jr.; Ellen Davidson; Tim DeVoogd; William Halliday, Jr.; Hilary Snell. From Rockford: Leonard Weller. From Caledonia: Wesley Huyser; Elton R. Smith. From Ionia: Truman Cerney.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



April 3, 1968

The Committee on the Judiciary has approved and reported to the House a bill which calls for the celebration of five holidays on Monday. They are Washington's Birthday (third Monday in February); Memorial Day (last Monday in May); Labor Day (first Monday in September); Columbus Day (second Monday in October); and Veterans Day (fourth Monday in October). New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas would remain on the traditional dates. You will note that Columbus Day would join the list of legal public holidays under this legislation, H.R. 15951.

VA HOUSING AMENDMENTS: By a vote of 366 to 12, the House approved legislation to make it easier for a veteran to obtain a VA-guaranteed home loan. The bill (H.R. 10477) increases the amount that the VA may guarantee on a home loan from \$7,500 to \$12,500. It also permits a veteran to have his loan guaranteed even though he may pay more for his home than the VA-appraised value. However, the VA guarantee will not exceed the VA appraisal. Under existing law, a veteran may not obtain a VA guarantee of his loan if the price he pays is greater than the appraisal. This works a real hardship on many veterans who have contracted to pay a small amount over the VA appraisal.

The bill also gives the Administrator of Veterans Affairs discretion to set the interest rate at whatever level he finds it necessary to meet loan market demands. Under present law the interest rate may not exceed 6 percent. This means that in many instances veterans cannot find a lender who will make a loan at the VA-guaranteed rate. He gets no loan. The VA reports that at the end of February the interest rate on conventional loans was 6.73 percent for new homes and 6.78 percent for existing homes in contrast to the top limit of 6 percent on VA-guaranteed loans.

Among those endorsing legislation to provide a flexible interest rate were the American Legion, VFW, and the Disabled American Veterans.

The veterans' housing program in the past 24 years has ^{helped} assisted more than 7 million veterans obtain financing on loans valued at more than \$70 billion. The loss on veterans' loans has been less than the conventional rate loss. Under this program these 7 million veterans have always paid the going market interest rate.

AGRICULTURAL FAIR PRACTICES: The House approved last Monday a bill to protect farm producers (farmers, ranchers, orchardists) from discrimination by buyers of their products because of the producer's membership in a cooperative or a marketing association. Testimony has shown that in some areas certain purchasers of vegetables

refused to buy from given producers in the community who were members of a local cooperative, but would purchase from an individual member or farmer if he would forego his membership in the cooperative. This bill, H.R. 13541, strikes at intimidation, coercion, or discrimination which might be used against a producer through refusal to purchase his goods if he is a member of a cooperative association.

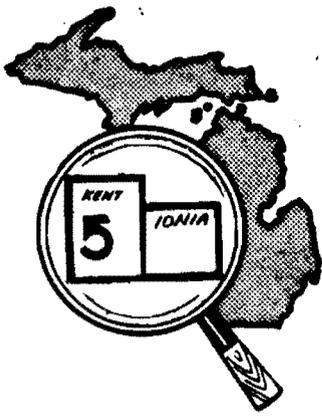
The bill was passed 232 to 90. Every Michigan Republican present (10) voted "yes." Every Michigan Democrat present (5) voted "no."

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS: In discussing the bill mentioned above, the Democratic-dominated Committee on Agriculture said: "From August 1966 to April 1967, agricultural prices suffered their sharpest decline since the late 1920's and early 1930's. Prices received by farmers in the marketplaces dropped to the lowest level in 33 years in relation to the rest of the economy.... Based upon data for the first half of 1967, the national income shows an increase of 221 percent while farm income is down 13 percent. This condition cannot continue.... Broke farmers cannot continue to produce our present abundance, much less increase production. Our whole food supply will be endangered if we do not restore to agriculture, prices which will enable farmers to stay in business and produce abundantly."

That is the judgment of a Democratic committee on the situation as it now exists on the farm after more than 30 years of Democratic farm legislation and administration.

REPUBLICANS ENDORSE CODE OF ETHICS: The House Republican Policy Committee, of which I am a member, has endorsed the Code of Official Conduct recommended by the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. This would require members, officers, and principal employees of the House to divulge any substantial interest in a company doing business with the federal government or subject to federal regulation. Outside income beyond a minimum amount would also have to be declared. These same individuals would be required to list the fair market value and income derived from personally-held securities. However, this specific information would be held in confidence unless the Committee finds it necessary to make it public as part of an official investigation.

The Code of Ethics also lays down rules on the acceptance of gifts, honorariums, campaign contributions, and other outside compensation. The Republican Policy Committee in endorsing these rules stated: "Public confidence in the legislative process and in the integrity of the members, officers and employees of Congress must be maintained and strengthened." It went on to say that the proposed code "avoids undue restriction and provides procedural safeguards (and)...would establish a well-organized and reasonable set of standards of conduct...." Under the proposal the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct would become a permanent standing committee with authority to enforce the Code of Ethics.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



April 10, 1968

All Americans will unite behind President Johnson in his efforts to bring about an honorable settlement of the Vietnam conflict. It seems to me that in his Sunday evening address to the nation, Mr. Johnson announced a major policy decision of great importance to the American people and to the world--namely, that it does not make sense for the United States to greatly increase its troop commitment in Vietnam. I applaud that decision. I think it is sound. I think it reflects a realization by the President that any future increases in allied strength in Vietnam should come from South Vietnamese manpower. I endorse that view. You will remember that from the beginning I have stated my opposition to getting bogged down in an extended and massive land war in the jungles of Southeast Asia (newsletters of January 26, 1966 and August 16, 1967).

You may be certain that I will continue to support every effort by the President to achieve a prompt, just, and secure peace in Vietnam.

CURBING OBSCENE MAILINGS: Beginning next Sunday all of us will have a new weapon to use against the mailers of obscene material. Under Public Law 90-206, if you or a member of your family receive any advertisement which you determine is "erotically arousing or sexually provocative," you may ask your local postmaster to order the mailer to remove your name or the names of your children from his mailing list. In contacting the postmaster, you should furnish him with the offending circular and the envelope and state in writing that you find the material "arousing and provocative." After determining that proper procedure has been followed, the Post Office Department will order the mailer to remove your name from the mailing list within 30 days.

If this is not done and you receive further mailings, you should supply the local postmaster with the same information as before. The Post Office Department will then take over, and working with the Department of Justice and the Federal District Court, will obtain a court order against further mailings to you. If the smut peddler continues to annoy you with his mailings, he will be subject to a citation for contempt of court and punished accordingly.

Local post offices will soon have instruction booklets and forms for submitting complaints. Many of you have written to me about the offensive advertisements which are mailed to your homes. I sincerely hope that anyone who receives obscene material in the future will make use of this new weapon provided by the Congress.

PESTICIDES AND WILDLIFE: The House last Monday approved a bill to continue for three more years research in pesticides and their effect on wildlife. Studies have been going on since 1958 to determine the amounts, concentrations, and chemical compositions of pesticides which may be harmful to fish and other wildlife. The bill also requires that information on how a given pesticide can be used to prevent or minimize injury to fish and wildlife must be printed on the label of each package of the chemical. I supported the legislation when it was passed by a vote of 333 to 25.

DRUG CONTROL TO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT: The House last Tuesday refused to disapprove a presidential reorganization plan involving the administration of the drug laws. The plan calls for combining the Treasury Department's Bureau of Narcotics which enforces the narcotic and marijuana laws with HEW's Bureau of Drug Abuse Control which enforces the laws concerning such items as pep pills, goof balls, and LSD into one "Bureau of Drugs and Dangerous Drugs" which is to be in the Department of Justice. Combining the two bureaus has some merit. But the Republican Task Force on Crime raised serious questions as to whether the new combined agency should be in the Justice Department. It pointed out that both bureaus are heavily engaged in regulatory functions involving legitimate drug manufacturers and pharmacists while the Justice Department is a prosecuting and law enforcement agency. Also the bureaus work in close connection with the scientific and educational resources of H.E.W. The Task Force also felt that more study must be given to the overall problems involved including "the effect of concentrating too much authority and discretion under one Federal official--a 'Mr. Big' [the Attorney General] who could thereby forge an all-powerful national police force." I shared this view and voted against the reorganization plan. However, the House voted 200 to 190 to permit it to go into effect.

CODE OF ETHICS ADOPTED: On Wednesday the House voted 405 to 1 to approve the code of ethics for members, officers, and top staff assistants which I mentioned last week. The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct was made a permanent, standing committee to investigate allegations of misconduct and to interpret and enforce the code of ethics.

TRAVEL TAX: The House approved on Thursday a bill imposing a 5 percent tax on airline tickets abroad and reducing from \$100 to \$10 (until October 16, 1969) the value of goods which may be brought back by American tourists duty free. There is a 5 percent tax on airline tickets for travel within the United States. Certainly, if our citizens who travel within the U. S. are to pay a 5 percent tax, those who travel overseas should pay an equal amount. The President's unwise proposal to tax the daily expenditures abroad by Americans was not included in the bill.

RECENT VISITORS: From Lowell: Mr. & Mrs. Donald McPherson. From Wyoming: Mr. & Mrs. Tim Wildeboer, Ron Higgins. From Grand Rapids: Judith Helder; Mr. & Mrs. Larr Inman; Mr. & Mrs. E. Krook; Randy Bytwerk; Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Bristols, Harry Nyberg; Mr. & Mrs. Silas Albert; Keith Clinton; Mr. & Mrs. Jack Kellogg; Paul Harvey; Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Bratt; Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Day; Mrs. John Gogulski; Wallace Norgrove.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



April 17, 1968

The Civil Rights Act of 1968, with its controversial "open housing" provision, was approved by the House of Representatives last Wednesday and sent to the President. In line with previously announced intentions, I voted to send the bill to a House-Senate conference but when that failed I supported the legislation on final passage.

The vote to send the bill to conference came on a procedural motion. To send a bill to conference means to refer it to a joint committee of Senators and Representatives who are to iron out the differences between the bill as passed by the House and the Senate, and bring it back for further consideration and approval by both houses. To send to conference does NOT mean to kill the bill, as some have charged. The Civil Rights Bill (H.R.2516) passed by the House on August 16, 1967, contained one subject described on 6 pages. The same bill as amended and passed by the Senate contained 10 titles and ran to 50 pages. Under such circumstances, it was the normal and proper procedure to send the bill to conference. For example, the bill passed by the House on February 29 to extend the excise taxes on telephone service and automobiles was amended by the Senate to include the controversial 10% surtax. That bill was sent to conference promptly, and rightly so. The Civil Rights Bill with its controversial open housing section should also have been sent to conference—not to kill the bill but to continue the legislative process in the proper and time-tested manner.

Furthermore, neither house should be expected to rubber-stamp the action of the other on any significant issue. Our constitutional system provides for a two-house legislature specifically to have one check on the other. This cannot be done properly by simply voting "yes" or "no" without adequate discussion on a major change in a bill. By sending the bill to conference the House would have had an opportunity to amend, refine, and improve the legislation under conditions permitting adequate consideration.

I did think there were provisions in the Senate bill of 50 pages which needed amending, refining, and improving. Many of these were technical. But there are sections in the bill which have broad practical application. These sections needed further review and clarification. Referring the bill to conference would have permitted the House through its conferees to do this. But on the procedural motion the House voted 229 to 195 to bypass the conference in this instance.

FOR THE BILL: You may now properly ask: "Congressman Ford, why then did you vote for the Civil Rights Bill on final passage?"

The question before the House was the approval or disapproval of the entire bill. I did have reservations on some portions of the bill. But I was obligated to look at the legislation in its entirety and to determine whether its strengths outweighed its weaknesses. On balance, it seemed to me that the desirable provisions of the bill were greater and more significant than the undesirable ones.

Title I imposes fines up to \$10,000 or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both, for those who use the facilities of interstate commerce (travel, mail, telephone, radio, TV) with the intention of inciting or encouraging a riot. A specific bill with similar but not identical provisions had been approved last year by the House but no action was taken on it by the Senate. We now have this needed legislation in the Civil Rights Act of 1968. Title I also prescribes penalties for interfering with the rights of another person to vote, to secure employment, to attend school or college, to use the facilities of interstate commerce, or to enjoy other civil rights. This too had been previously approved by the House in separate legislation.

Title X provides heavy fines or imprisonment for those who interfere with any fireman or law enforcement officer in the lawful performance of his official duties during a civil disorder. This Title also prohibits the manufacture or transportation of any firearms or explosive devices to be used in a civil disorder, and provides penalties for those who teach others how to use these items in a riot. These are sound legislative concepts and should become law.

The open housing section prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, or national origin in the sale or rental of a dwelling. However, exempted from the law are single-family homes when the owner does not use the services of a real estate agent and does not advertise in a manner to indicate preference based on race, color, religion, or national origin. Also exempted under similar circumstances are owners who rent not more than three single-family houses, and owners of one-to-four family apartments, one of which is owner-occupied. The bill provides no criminal penalties; enforcement is through civil action. But this is a step toward a solution to a basic social problem. And of course, we do have state and local laws on this subject and in many areas such local ordinances and state laws are stronger.

FROM THE MAIL BAG: Last week the mail was literally delivered to my office by the bagsful. During the first four days of last week I received about 19,000 pieces of mail, in addition to hundreds of telegrams, practically all on "open housing." Correspondence came from all over the nation with about 98 out of 100 against the "open housing" provisions of the Civil Rights Bill. Previously, we had been receiving about 500 letters daily and were answering out-of-district correspondence with a mimeographed letter. But when five bags of mail arrived last Monday we gave up on replying to other than 5th District correspondence. But every letter has to be opened and read. We have enlisted some local volunteers to help with this task. The letters and telegrams from Kent and Ionia Counties have been running about 50-50 on "open housing."

[Easter Recess: no newsletter next week]