

Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



July 2, 1969

The surtax extension bill scheduled for passage by the House of Representatives this week, does much more than continue the 10 percent surtax until December 31. In line with President Nixon's recommendation it reduces the tax to 5 percent on January 1 and eliminates it on June 30, 1970.

But the bill has four additional provisions: 1) It will remove 5.2 million income tax returns from the tax rolls, almost all at or below the "poverty level," and bring about a reduction in taxes for another 7 million returns. Thus about 12 million returns will be lowered or eliminated. The tax reduction will become effective during calendar year 1970 when it will produce a taxpayers' saving of \$625 million.

President Nixon recommended a "low income allowance" in his tax message of April 21. This bill provides for a "low income allowance" of \$1100 to be added to the total in \$600-exemptions permitted each family. Thus a family of four would pay no tax on the first \$3500 of its income. Presently such a family would be exempt from taxes only up to \$3000 of income. A single person taking standard deductions today starts to pay an income tax at \$900. Under the President-Committee's proposal, he would be free of tax on the first \$1700 of income. As Mr. Nixon stated, "The low income allowance, if enacted by the Congress, will offer genuine tax relief to the young, the elderly, the disadvantaged, and the handicapped."

2. The bill also calls for a one-year extension of the 7 percent manufacturer's automobile excise tax and a similar extension of the 10 percent tax on local and long-distance telephone calls. These taxes will generate \$540 million in revenue in fiscal 1970. This is a continuation of existing taxes; no new taxation is involved.

3. It repeals the 7 percent investment tax credit effective April 18 but makes provision for construction begun and for binding contracts in effect on or before that date. It was in April that President Nixon recommended this action. The tax credit was initially approved in 1961 to stimulate investment in capital improvements. Businessmen, in response to this credit and other factors, have spent almost \$400 billion on plant and equipment since 1962. Both the President and the Committee on Ways and Means feel that the investment credit provision has fulfilled its purpose of increasing investments during a period of slack demands and has outlived its usefulness as a stimulant to the economy. Its repeal will also produce tax funds to make up for the loss of revenue due to a reduction in the surtax. The repeal is

expected to increase receipts during fiscal 1970 by \$1.35 billion.

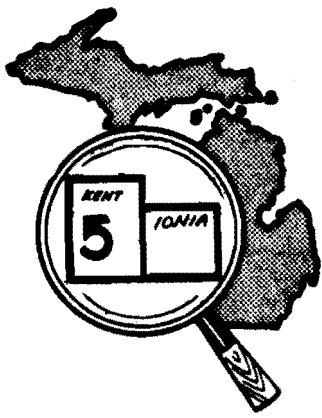
4. The bill encourages factory owners to curb air and water pollution by allowing them to amortize the cost of new pollution control facilities over a five-year period. Since quite often these facilities have a useful life of 10 to 20 years or more, the usual depreciation deduction each year is relatively small. The larger deduction provided by allowing the recovery of the taxpayer's costs over the shorter 5-year period will mean there is a greater incentive for the installation of effective pollution control equipment. We must fight pollution. The encouragement in this bill is helpful because of the high costs of effective control and because expenditures for pollution control generally do not result in an increase in the profitability of a factory.

I strongly support the President's recommendations as set forth in this legislation approved by the Democratic-controlled Committee on Ways and Means. All of us would have preferred to let the surtax expire on June 30. But as the Committee pointed out in its Report, the consequences of failing to extend the surtax could be catastrophic: another budget deficit, a further hike in interest rates, price increases and an inflationary psychology, and greater international pressure on the dollar. Not to approve this bill means a shift from a projected surplus of \$5.2 billion to a deficit of \$4 billion in the unified budget for fiscal 1970. It would mean that the projected deficit of \$5.4 billion in the administrative budget would be increased to \$14.6 billion.

The tax reduction for over 12 million low-income families and individuals is meritorious as is the anti-pollution incentive. I hope the House adopts the bill this week.

THIRD APPROPRIATION BILL: The House approved the third of 13 regular appropriations last Tuesday when it passed a \$14.9 billion funding bill for the independent agencies and HUD. Over \$7.7 billion goes to the Veterans Administration which is \$34 million more than the President requested. NASA's (space program) request was cut \$18.5 million but it will still get \$3.69 billion. HUD's appropriation was set at \$1.6 billion or \$384 million less than requested. In all the House cut the request for funds by nearly a half billion dollars.

INTERSTATE TAXATION ACT: The House on Wednesday approved a bill establishing national guidelines which allow interstate business to pay its share of state and local taxes in a fair and uncomplicated manner. The bill as approved also provides that no state can levy an income tax upon an individual who was not domiciled in that state during the year except to the extent that he earned and derived income from sources within the state. It also prevents taxation of the same income by more than one state. These provisions are particularly important to servicemen and their wives, truckers, and all those whose business requires them to travel in a number of states and stay overnight away from home several times per year or month.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



July 9, 1969

The United States is now 193 years old. Our flag is a year younger. It was on June 14, 1777 that the Congress adopted a resolution "that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field." Except for growth to 50 stars, the same design remains to this day.

On Independence Day, Flag Day, and all national holidays we can well recommend the flying of our national emblem at our homes or places of business. I am able to obtain for constituents in the Fifth District a flag which has been flown over the United States Capitol. This is a new flag and is accompanied by a signed statement certifying that the flag has flown above the Capitol. A 3x5 flag costs \$2.75 while a 5x8 flag sells for \$5.50. The request should be addressed to my Washington office with the check made out to me. There may be a slight delay in delivery as I must purchase the flags and have them flown.

AT HOME ON THE FOURTH: It was my privilege to participate in four local celebrations on Independence Day. I spoke at the Hollyhock Lane celebration in Grand Rapids early Friday morning. At 10:00 I took part in the American Legion's 9th Annual Independence Day Parade. At noon I attended the combined Fourth-of-July and Centennial festivities at Sand Lake. Later in the day I was at Portland for the celebration there. It was a full and delightful day.

TAX BILL APPROVED: The tax bill whose five provisions I discussed last week was approved by the House on Monday by a vote of 210 to 205. Many of those who opposed the legislation felt that it should be accompanied by or preceded by additional "tax reforms." But we have the word of the Congressional leadership, the President, and the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means that further changes in the tax laws will be presented to the House this session. The Committee on Ways and Means held two months of public hearings on various proposals to plug tax loopholes and develop a more fair tax system. It is now working in executive session to develop legislative proposals for submission to the House. Committee leaders hope to have these ready by the first part of August.

The surtax expired on June 30 and the Senate must still act on the legislation. To prevent confusion in connection with the withholding of the surtax, a resolution has been passed continuing tax withholding until July 31 when it can again be extended until Congress makes a final decision.

SULLIVAN'S BASEBALL TEAM COMMENDED: May I share with you a letter just received from Mr. Harold E. Howland, American Consul General at Amsterdam, The Netherlands:

"Dear Congressman Ford:

"You will recall my letter of last year commending the Sullivans Baseball Team for its exemplary behavior and good sportsmanship here in Holland. As you know, the team has returned this year taking part in the Haarlem Baseball International Tournament.

"Again, they are doing a splendid job--on and off the field and we are proud of these young Americans who are doing so much to negate the image one gets from the antics of some collegians and other young people at Berkeley, Harvard, and Columbia who get a disproportionate amount of international press attention.

"The Sullivans, The Berlin Bears (U.S. Army champions) and the California Stags (a group of 24 young collegians from the area of Claremont, California) are also doing a great job of vividly portraying the real side of our vast majority of American youth; namely young people who are wholesome, personable, helpful and friend-winners.

"President Nixon's telegram read at the ball park and carried throughout the land over the Dutch national television network was warmly received and much appreciated by the Dutch public.

"Thanks for your role in all of this."

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS: We are now in fiscal year 1970 and not one of the 13 regular appropriation bills to supply funds to operate the federal government for this year have been sent to the President for signature. Prior to the Fourth-of-July recess the House had approved three of these bills but none had been passed by the Senate.

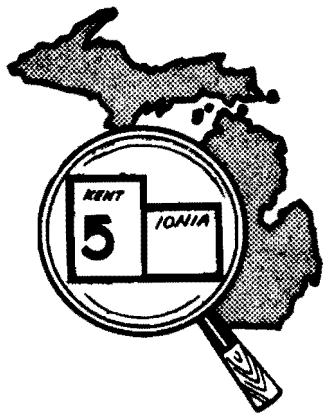
To keep the government in funds, Congress adopted a continuing resolution. Under the resolution the departments and agencies involved in the three bills passed by the House (Agriculture, HUD, Post Office, Treasury, the Executive and Independent Offices) may continue to spend at the 1969 rate or at the rate provided in the bill as passed by the House, whichever is lower. For those Departments and Agencies involved in the other 10 appropriation bills the governing factor, with a few exceptions, will be the 1969 rate or the amount requested by the President for 1970, whichever is lower.

ATTENDANCE AND VOTING RECORD: There have been 97 roll calls in the House of Representatives this year. I have answered 92 for an attendance record of 94.8 percent. But I missed only one of the 43 yea-and-nay votes on legislative business. The remainder of the roll calls were merely to determine the presence of a quorum.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Representative, Gordon VanderTill, announces the following office hours for Friday, July 11:

1:00 - 3:00	ROCKFORD	City Manager's Office
4:00 - 7:00	CEDAR SPRINGS	City Hall

RECENT VISITORS: From Grand Rapids: Mr. & Mrs. Rolland Williams; Mr. & Mrs. Russell Ochsankohl and daughter; Mr. & Mrs. C. VanderWeele; Jim Cooper; Mr. & Mrs. Don Campbell and daughter; Rev. Duane VanderBrug; Mr. & Mrs. David Wagner; Mr. & Mrs. David MacAuley; Mrs. Paul Harvey, Ron and Gloria; Mr. & Mrs. Ted Karsten; Mr. & Mrs. H. Lang.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



July 16, 1969

President Nixon has recommended that an additional 4.8 million workers be covered by unemployment insurance. These would include workers in small firms with less than four employees, those on large farms (with four or more employees) and in agricultural processing, employees of non-profit organizations, state hospitals and universities, and salesmen and delivery tradesmen. Mr. Nixon would also have each state pay 50 percent of the worker's wage in unemployment compensation (some now pay less), and would require the states to pay benefits while the workers were enrolled in training programs designed to increase their skills. Twenty-five states now discourage retraining by denying unemployment benefits on the theory that workers in training are not "available for work." Provisions are also suggested for the automatic extension of benefits during long periods of high unemployment.

President Nixon proposed too the taxable base which in most states is now the first \$3,000 of wages be raised over a five-year period to \$6,000. This would strengthen the Unemployment Insurance Fund in each state. To further protect the Fund, Mr. Nixon suggested that a standard based on a minimum period of 15 weeks' employment be required as a condition of benefit eligibility, and that the practice in two states of paying unemployment benefits to workers directly engaged in a strike be discontinued. New York and Rhode Island now pay those on strike after a six- or seven-week waiting period.

Our unemployment insurance system is a cooperative federal-state program. It seems to me that the President's recommendations are sound, and that their adoption would result in a more equitable program nation-wide.

NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS: We have received many letters recently reflecting the fear that the Neighborhood Youth Corps (NYC) will be abolished in Kent County. According to the Department of Labor there is no intention to eliminate the NYC in Grand Rapids but there is a change in emphasis being effected nation-wide.

The NYC has three types of job training programs: for youth in school, for those out of school, and the special summer program. What is being done, nation-wide, is a phasing out of the "out-of-school" program for those over 18 years of age. This is being done for two reasons: other manpower training programs exist for those over 18, and the money saved by curtailing the out-of-school program will permit the NYC to concentrate on the in-school program for youngsters 14 to 17 years of age and do a better job in that area, as well as in the summer program.

CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS: The House of Representatives last Tuesday approved legislation increasing the authorization for direct appropriations from \$15.5 million to \$23 million for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. This is an increase of \$7.5 million which must be matched by an equal amount from private sources.

In 1958 President Eisenhower signed into law a bill authorizing the construction of a National Cultural Center. Following the assassination of President Kennedy, Congress renamed the Center and designated it as the principal memorial to the late President in the Washington area. Congress has appropriated \$15.5 million and about \$21 million has been received as private gifts.

The Center, located near the Lincoln Memorial, is now more than 50 percent completed. Among other things it will contain a symphony hall, an opera house, a larger (Eisenhower) Theater, and a smaller film theater. But the Center needs more money to complete construction. Inflation and change orders have contributed to this need but there were also serious errors in estimating costs.

The House could either authorize additional funds or permit the structure to remain in its present unfinished state. Neither alternative was attractive. The Committee on Public Works recommended \$7.5 million in additional tax funds, but pointed out emphatically: "This is the last request for public funds for the John F. Kennedy Center which the Committee will entertain. Under no circumstances will this present Committee at a future date give consideration in any manner, size, shape, or form to any further funding...."

I agreed with the Committee and voted for the bill on final passage when it was approved 210 to 162.

AT HOME: I expect to participate in the Saranac Centennial Parade on Saturday, July 19, and to attend the Barbecue and Rodeo at Wyoming that evening. Next Monday, July 21, I plan to be at the "Opening Night" of the Lowell Showboat.

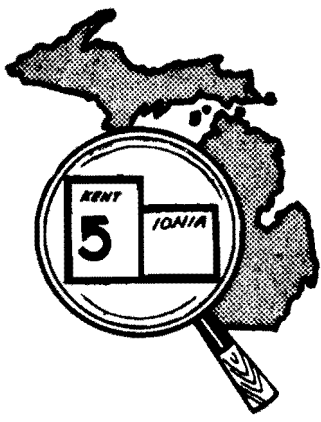
Last Saturday I was privileged to attend the Centennial Prayer Breakfast at Saranac and to keep a number of appointments at my Grand Rapids office.

The Fourth-of-July schedule which I mentioned last week was marred by thunderstorms and couldn't be carried out fully as I had hoped and predicted.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Representative Gordon Vander Till, announces the following office hours for Friday, July 18:

1:00 - 3:00	LOWELL	City Council Chamber
4:30 - 7:00	LAKE ODESSA	Village Council Chamber

RECENT VISITORS: From Grand Rapids: Mr. & Mrs. Greydon Black; Mr. & Mrs. Frank Noor and 2 children; Myra Baas; Garret Oosterhof; Mr. & Mrs. Edward Hart, Jr.; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Nadolski; Mr. & Mrs. Peter Nickel, Dianne and Beverly; Mrs. H. Beukema; Mr. & Mrs. Jake VanDyke and 2 girls; Mrs. Helen Vesotsky; Mrs. Peter Lemson and Pat; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bowen; Marie Dutmers; William Mason; Mr. & Mrs. Edward Breen; Wanda Gasco; Mr. & Mrs. James Hollebeek; Mr. & Mrs. John Visser; Mary Drumler; Barry O'Malley; Mrs. Willmer Collins; Betty Vredevoogd; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Blum; Mr. & Mrs. Bob Perry and family; Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Berghouse and family; Mrs. Donald Johnson; Gayle and Eric; Mr. & Mrs. J.DeFouw & 2 sons; Mr. & Mrs. Ray Dykstra; Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Cooper and family.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



July 23, 1969

The House of Representatives last week passed 273 to 103 a bill to renew and expand the Appalachian Regional Development Program. I supported this bill which also continues five other economic development regions including the Great Lakes.

WHITE HOUSE SUPPORTS TAX REFORM: The surtax extension bill is presently with the Senate where demands are heard for extensive tax reform to be coupled with the surtax bill. Leaders in the House, including the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, have promised a comprehensive tax reform bill this session, hopefully by the middle of August. President Nixon has pledged his support to such legislation. I strongly favor tax reform.

In a letter to me which I read to the House on June 30, the President said: "As the House nears a decision on the surtax, I want to remove any vestige of doubt as to the commitment of this Administration to prompt and meaningful tax reform.

"I first made this commitment publicly on February 6. I reaffirm it today.

"Clearly the record supports that commitment. On April 21, after less than three months in office, this Administration submitted 16 substantive tax reforms to the Congress. They included a minimum income tax to help insure that people with high incomes will not fail to share the tax burden. We suggested a Low Income Allowance to remove poverty-level people from the tax rolls and reduce the taxes of some eight million others. We also recommended repeal of the seven percent investment credit....

"Important as these...reforms are, much more is needed and will be done. On May 27 the House Ways and Means Committee published a list of tax reform measures which it had tentatively approved. On my direction Treasury officials and staff have been working closely with the Committee. They will continue to do so.

"There is no reason why a far-reaching tax reform bill cannot be put before the House of Representatives this summer. This is the announced goal of the Ways and Means Committee; it is also the goal of this Administration...."

It should be pointed out that President Nixon is the first President in more than 30 years who has recommended and endorsed tax reform. Also some of those now demanding tax reform have controlled the Congress and its committees for better than eight years. What have they been doing for all these years when they had, as now, the power to get results.

WHO IS BLOCKING PEACE IN VIETNAM? Self-examination and self-criticism may be

a healthy exercise but to hear some Americans, one would believe that the failure to achieve peace in Vietnam is the fault of the United States and its South Vietnamese Allies. But let's look at the record:

1. Prior to January 20, we halted the bombing of North Vietnam and agreed to meet at the conference table with the NLF as well as the governments of Hanoi and Saigon.

2. We remained at the table and refrained from resumption of the bombing despite Hanoi's shelling of South Vietnamese cities, its violation of the DMZ and its refusal to deal with the Saigon government.

3. On March 25, Thieu offered to meet with the NLF for private talks without preconditions on a political settlement.

4. On May 14, with Thieu's support, President Nixon put forward an eight-point plan for peace. The President ruled out a military solution, offered withdrawal of U. S. and allied forces within 12 months under international guarantees, and emphasized that our only objective was to secure the right of the South Vietnamese people to determine their own future without outside interference.

5. On June 8, the President announced the withdrawal of 25,000 U. S. combat troops. Subsequently, he expressed the hope that all combat troops could be removed by the end of next year.

6. On Midway, both Mr. Thieu and Mr. Nixon declared their readiness to accept any political outcome arrived at through free elections.

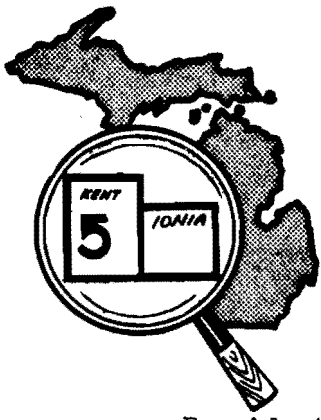
7. Thieu has also offered a concrete program by which free elections can be held and the will of the South Vietnamese people can be determined.

While President Nixon works diligently for peace, what is Hanoi doing? It negates our efforts at Paris, it violates agreements for a demilitarized zone, and it continues an aggressive war against civilians and soldiers in South Vietnam. Let's put the responsibility for war or peace where it belongs----on the communist aggressors of North Vietnam.

CENSUS - 1970 and 1980: A subcommittee of the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service has approved legislation to set up procedures for taking the 1980 census. Because of criticism of some of the questions to be asked next year, the subcommittee is recommending a bill which would give Congress an opportunity to review the questions to be asked in 1980 before they are finalized and the questionnaire is sent to the printers. The bill also reduces the penalties for those who refuse to give answers to certain questions and increases the penalties for any government employee who divulges confidential census information.

Secretary Stans has removed or reworded some of the more objectionable questions in the 1970 census and has reduced the number of persons who will be asked to respond to the longer census form.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Representative, Gordon Vander Till, will be in the Village Council Room at PORTLAND on Friday, July 25, from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD

July 30, 1969



President Nixon is determined to reduce federal spending and to maintain a balanced budget this year. He has already cut \$4 billion from former President Johnson's 1970 budget bringing the proposed spending figure down to \$192.9 billion. Last week Mr. Nixon directed the heads of all Departments and agencies to reduce spending by an additional \$3.5 billion.

This action is necessary because of increases of about \$2.5 billion in expenditures for such uncontrollable items as interest on the public debt, medicare, social security, civil service retirement benefits, public assistance, and veterans' benefits. The refusal of Congress to provide certain new revenues and its attitude toward some specific expenditures can add another billion dollars net to federal spending this year. So instead of holding expenditures to \$192.9 billion, it appears that the cost of government will go to \$196.4 billion.

To maintain the lower figure, the President has ordered a further cut of \$3.5 billion. Mr. Nixon said: "I would prefer that the Congress made these off-setting cuts in programs it considers of lesser priority, when and if it votes increases over my April budget for activities it considers essential. If it does not do so, the duty of making such cuts clearly becomes mine."

We all applaud President Nixon's determination to hold down federal spending. His willingness to cooperate with the taxpayers is one reason I have supported his request for an extension of the 10 percent surtax to December 31 when it will go to 5 percent and be eliminated on June 30, 1970.

You will remember that I agreed to endorse President Johnson's demand for the 10 percent surtax only after he promised to cut government expenses by \$6 billion. Mr. Nixon will be reducing the 1970 budget by \$7.5 billion. But the cooperation of Congress is essential if we are to maintain a \$192.9 billion budget which the President believes "reflects a responsible fiscal policy." A bill signed into law last week sets a spending ceiling of \$191.9 billion but permits an additional \$2 billion as a cushion for expenditures in such areas as public assistance, Vietnam, medicaid, farm price supports, and interest on the public debt.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS: The House did cut \$28 million from the \$1.5 billion appropriations bill for the Department of Interior and related agencies approved last Tuesday. But even then the bill for this year exceeds that of last year by over \$10 million.

However, the net cost to the taxpayers for operating the Department and related agencies is only about \$185 million. Revenues generated by the agencies funded in this bill will amount to \$1.3 billion. The Bureau of Land Management anticipates receipts of \$944 million in 1970 from its mineral and oil leases. Royalties received by the Geological Survey will total \$360 million. The Forest Service expects a timber harvest of 13 billion board feet in 1970 with receipts from sales of about \$327 million. This volume represents about one-fourth of the total timber and 40 percent of the softwood timber cut for industrial purposes annually, and is equivalent to the construction of about 1.6 million average-sized homes.

NUTRITIOUS MEALS FOR NEEDY CHILDREN: The House last week approved a bill authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to use \$100 million to provide meals for needy children in schools or other institutions where children are gathered away from home. This brings the total amount approved by the House for child feeding programs in fiscal 1970 to over \$858 million. It is intended that this \$100 million is to be used to feed the most needy children.

According to the Committee Report there are today approximately 32.5 million children not participating in a school lunch program. Of these, 30 percent can be expected to pay a reasonable full price for lunch, 60 percent need a reduced price (on an average meal cost of 41.5¢, the government would pay 26.5¢) and the remaining 10 percent need free lunches.

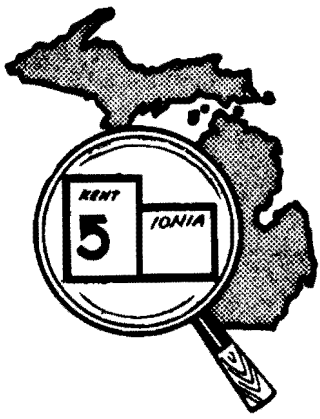
President Nixon's request for funds to meet these needs demonstrates, as was pointed out in debate, that his Administration is committed to putting its money where its mouth is on feeding needy people. And as the Speaker said further, "President Nixon's request to double funds for needy people cannot be turned into some claim of callous attitude just for partisan purposes."

FIFTH APPROPRIATION BILL: The House passed the fifth of the 13 regular appropriation bills on Thursday when it approved the expenditure of \$2.3 billion for operating the Departments of State, Justice, Commerce, the Federal Judiciary, and related agencies. In this bill the increases over 1969 spending are due primarily to an additional \$245 million to combat crime and narcotics violations and \$121 million to take the 1970 census.

The Committee on Appropriations had recommended \$200,000,000 for subsidies for ship construction but this was stricken from the bill on a point of order that such an expenditure had not been authorized. A majority of the Committee felt that this item was of such importance that sufficient funds should be provided now to ensure a proper level of ship construction. I agreed but the point of order was sustained.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Representative, Gordon Vander Till, will be in the City Council Chamber at BELDING on Friday, August 1, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

RECENT VISITORS: Comstock Park: John Vallonic. Kentwood: Pam and Diane Herrema; The Kimmels. Lowell: Craig Thurtell; Scot Jefferies; Jim Fedorowicz. Byron Center: Marvin Klunder & son. Sparta: Mrs. Marion Denhof & Eddie. Wyoming: Mr. & Mrs. Larry Venlet; Mr. & Mrs. Ed Willison & 6 children; Mr. & Mrs. Otis Fahl and family.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman

JERRY FORD

August 6, 1969



During three days of discussion last week, the House of Representatives added a billion dollars to the Labor-HEW Appropriation bill. President Nixon had recommended a total of \$16.49 billion to operate these Departments. The Committee on Appropriations added \$155.8 million but the House tacked on another \$894.5 million in floor action.

I supported the Democrat-controlled Committee and could go along with its \$156 million increase primarily in the area of additional educational services. But I voted against the \$894.5 million addition. About \$291 million of this amount was for educational spending at the elementary and secondary level, \$398 million was for "impacted school areas" which receive federal funds, because parents of children live or work on federal property, and about \$331 million was for additional assistance for vocational education. Now, all of these are fine program, and without the added funds they could not expand as rapidly as some would desire. But with the universal taxpayer demand for tax relief, we must exercise restraint in the use of tax funds. I believe the President had established a fair set of values and priorities. I could accept the Democrat-controlled Committee's recommendation for modest increases where its hearings had indicated that these were justified. But a billion-dollar increase over President Nixon's request and \$895 million in excess of the Committee's recommendation only demonstrated a calloused attitude toward the vast majority of our citizens who are demanding tax relief.

In the debate, I pointed out that many of the same members of the House who favored this enormous spending increase had recently voted against the surtax extension and had voted for a \$191 billion limitation on expenditures this year. I could not help but say to these members as I did on Tuesday: "Are you not going to provide any money in necessary taxes to pay the bills? I think you ought to be consistent, I think you ought to be rational, and I think you ought to be constructive. To take this kind of action (adding millions in federal costs) would be irrational, confusing, and inconsistent unless you vote to provide the necessary revenue." Deficit financing during the past eight years added \$74 billion to the public debt. Interest charges on the federal debt this year will exceed \$16 billion. I opposed the increase but did support the bill on final passage because it provides the money for many essential services supplied by the Departments of Labor, and Health, Education, and Welfare.

NO AID TO RIOTERS! The House specifically approved a provision of the bill which denies any federal funds to any person actively participating in college disorders on or after ~~October 12, 1968~~ ^{Aug. 1, 1969}. This would apply to students or instructors, and to a loan, grant, or salary. No federal tax money appropriated by this bill can go to anyone who used force or threat of force to seize property of a college or university, or to prevent teachers, students, or officials from engaging in their duties or carrying on their studies. With this provision, I am sure all of us agree. To receive such taxpayer aid is a privilege which must be respected. Under this provision, the institutions may be penalized also if it does not take proper action against those who foment disorder.

CHOICE OF SCHOOLS: Another provision in the bill would forbid HEW to force busing of students, closing any school, or forcing any student to attend a school against the choice of his parents. This does not mean that busing is to be prohibited, but it does prevent HEW from using tax funds to force the busing of students.

SOCIAL DOMESTIC SPENDING: We are spending enormous sums on national defense. But expenditures for social welfare are greater. According to a recent report the American taxpayers in 1968 paid out over \$112.4 billion for social-welfare spending. Federal spending in that area has doubled since 1960. In that year, federal outlays for relief, education, social insurance, and similar programs came to \$25 billion. By 1969, the sum had gone to \$61 billion. This does not count a similar increase in state and local spending in these categories, much of it mandated by federal matching programs, from \$27.3 billion to \$51.4 billion.

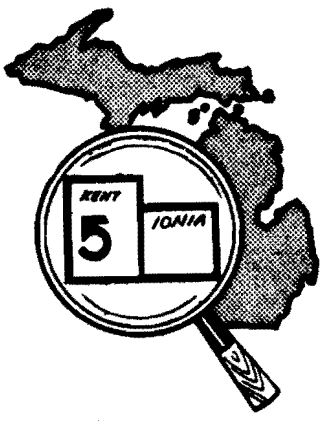
MICHIGAN'S TAXES AND FEDERAL AID: Michigan is one of the 17 states which pays more to the federal government for federal aid purposes than it receives in grants, according to a late report of the Tax Foundation. For every dollar received by Michigan in federal aid, our taxpayers have contributed \$1.46.

In 1968, Michigan received in federal grants a total of \$591 million. But to obtain this, Michigan contributed in taxes for grant purposes \$863 million.

The Tax Foundation points out that the federal grants-in-aid to states and local communities have more than tripled in the past decade, going from \$7 billion in 1960 to about \$25 billion this fiscal year. Fastest growing programs are for medical care, housing and community development, commerce and transportation and aid to education. The Foundation estimates that this year about 18 per cent of the receipts of state and local governments will come from federal aid.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Representative, Gordon Vander Till, will be in the City Hall (voting room) at Ionia on Friday, August 8 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m..

RECENT VISITORS: From Wyoming: James Wood; Mr. & Mrs. William Baxter; Mr. & Mrs. Deac Ellis; Mike Barr; Mr. & Mrs. Larry Root; From Rockford: Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Knox, Cindy, Mindy, Mike; Mr. & Mrs. Jack Luidens; Sallie, Priscilla. From Grandville: Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Schuitman; Mr. & Mrs. Gene Bilinsky; Mr. & Mrs. B. Lewis and 2 children; L. J. Gibbs; Mr. & Mrs. R. Hoolsema and 4 children; Mimi Dice.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



August 13, 1969

The "Tax Reform Act of 1969" has been approved by the House of Representatives and sent to the Senate. It is a highly complex piece of legislation sponsored jointly by the Democratic Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means and the senior Republican on the Committee. The bill runs to 368 pages and weighs 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ pounds. The Committee issued a 226-page Report to explain the measure. There are 37 principal provisions in the bill changing tax law, plugging loopholes, and reducing taxes for many in the lower and middle income brackets.

Like all tax measures, the bill was considered under a "closed rule" which means that no amendments except those approved by the Committee could be offered on the floor. As a result, each Congressman had to weigh all the advantages and disadvantages of the bill, all the strengths and weaknesses, and determine whether he should vote "yes" or "no." On balance it seemed to me that the measure deserved my support and I voted for it.

SURTAX EXTENDED: The 10 percent surtax has been extended to December 31, 1969. The House agreed to a compromise on this issue last Monday when it accepted an amendment to the House-approved bill on unemployment insurance.

As you know, the House by a 210 to 205 vote had approved legislation to continue the 10 percent surtax to December 31 when the rate would be reduced to 5 percent until June 30, 1970, the expiration date. This legislation (H.R. 12290) also provided for a low-income allowance, a continuation of the excise taxes on automobiles and on telephone and telegraph service, repeal of the 7 percent investment credit, and tax encouragement for pollution control.

The Senate ignored H.R. 12290. But it took a bill (H.R. 9951) having to do with unemployment insurance (newsletter: July 16) and tacked on an amendment extending the surtax only to December 31. This could not be done in the House which adheres to the rule of germaneness. Any amendment considered in the House must relate to and be relevant to the subject-matter of the bill. Not so in the Senate. There, any amendment, no matter how irrelevant or nongermane, can be added to legislative measures, except those relating to appropriations.

In this case the Senate took a House-approved bill on unemployment insurance and amended it to include a provision extending the surtax to the end of this year. Under the parliamentary situation last Monday the House had to vote to accept or reject the Senate Amendment. Time was of the essence because as of the previous

Friday the authority to withhold the surtax from wages and salaries had expired. I therefore urged my colleagues to accept the Senate amendment. I also pointed out that some members had previously voted against the surtax extension because they felt tax reform legislation must also be considered. They now had assurance that reform would come up for a vote. It was scheduled for later in the week and the legislative proposals of the Committee on Ways and Means for reform had been published. By a vote of 237 to 170, the House did approve the Senate amendment continuing the 10 percent surtax to December 31. The unemployment insurance bill as amended was sent to the President for signature.

OTHER PROVISIONS APPEAR IN TAX REFORM BILL: Anticipating the Senate action in by-passing H.R. 12290, the Committee on Ways and Means wrote into the Tax Reform bill those provisions of the bill (H.R. 12290) already passed by the House but ignored by the Senate. So, if the Tax Reform bill as approved by the House becomes law, the surtax will be lowered to 5 percent on January 1 and will expire on June 30, 1970. Likewise, the other provision of H.R. 12290 mentioned above will become effective. But this requires Senate concurrence, and no one can predict at this time what the final version of the tax reform bill will contain.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION: Cutting over \$346 million from the Pentagon's request, the House of Representatives approved last week a \$1.5 billion authorization bill for military facilities such as troop and family housing, maintenance shops, roads, laboratories, dispensaries, etc.

Included in the bill is \$12.7 million for the installation of research, development, and test facilities at the Kwajalein Island Test Site in the Pacific for the Safeguard ABM System. The Committee on Armed Services pointed out that these facilities would be required even if the ABM were only approved at a research and development level rather than deployment.

Over \$4.9 million in the bill is assigned for developments in Michigan. A major portion is to go to the Army's Detroit Arsenal for a vehicle track and suspension laboratory.

PICKET CONTROL: This bill also contains a provision making it unlawful for anyone to picket or parade on federal property in or near the Pentagon IF by his actions that person intends to interfere with or impede the administration of military and defense affairs. There is nothing in the bill to prevent individuals or groups from peacefully assembling and expressing their views. But no interference in the conduct of our military affairs is permitted.

RECENT VISITORS: Wyoming: Harriet Laman. Grandville: Mr. & Mrs. Al Snoeyink & 7 children. Grand Rapids: Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Hallberg & family; Mr. & Mrs. Don Halvorsen; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wiersma & 6 children; Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Daverman; Mr. & Mrs. Fred Bailey & Fred Jr.; Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Borst Jr. & 2 children; Mr. & Mrs. John Hornbach & 3 children; Howard Schuitema & family; Leo Yonkers & family; Debbie Snite; Mr. & Mrs. Paul Cholewin & family; Mr. & Mrs. Bill Terkeurst; Mr. & Mrs. G. J. Knol & family; Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Helms; Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Cowles; Mr. & Mrs. Edward Chase & family; Henry B. Davis Jr.; Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Huissen & family.



Shown above are John Reed of Lake Odessa and Jim Kinnebrew of Grand Rapids who are our "student interns" this month. John is a student at Hope College while Jim attends Oakland University.

During the summer we have had five other Fifth District students spend a month in the office to obtain practical experience in government and to see how one congressional office operates. The others, all from Grand Rapids, are Miss Olive Brown (Calvin), Thomas Glasser (Michigan), Debbie Snite (Marywood), George Ter Horst and Nell Ytsma (both Calvin).

Any college student from Kent or Ionia County who would like to work in my office next summer should write me by January 1.

FILMS TO LOAN

My Grand Rapids office has two fine Apollo films to loan. A new conservation film will be ready in Sept.



Each week while Congress is in session I prepare a five-minute radio tape for use by our stations at home. In this radio report I discuss current legislation or analyze some controversial issue. Here is the schedule for hearing these reports:

Saturday:	10:10 am	WJEF
	11:05 am	WION
	4:55 pm	WFUR
	6:10 pm	WXTO
Sunday:	7:00 am	WAFT
	7:25 am	WGRD
	7:45 am	WLAV
	10:45 am	WERX
	2:55 pm	WOOD
Monday:	1:00 pm	WJPW

BOOKLETS AVAILABLE

The 1969 editions of "How Our Laws Are Made" and "Our American Government: 175 Questions and Answers" are now available at my Grand Rapids and Washington offices. Requests will be honored as long as supply lasts.



This week I will be in the Grand Rapids Office for appointments. Both the House and Senate are in recess until the Wednesday following Labor Day. Anyone desiring to see me at 425 Cherry Street, SE may telephone 456-9747 for an appointment. We are interested in seeing those who may have problems with an agency of the federal government, or those who wish to discuss national or international issues. Of course, anyone who just wants to say "Hello" is welcome.

We have also scheduled the following noon speaking engagements:

Monday: Grand Rapids Kiwanis Club
 Tuesday: Wyoming Rotary Club
 Wednesday: Lowell Rotary Club

During the first session of the 91st Congress, I have answered 139 out of 149 roll calls for an attendance record of 93.3 percent. I have missed only four of the 72 yea-and-nay votes on questions before the House. The other roll calls were simply to determine the presence of a quorum.

AUGUST
18
1969

Your Washington Review
by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



The young lady pictured above is Miss Maryellen Olman of Grand Rapids who has just joined my Washington staff. She is the daughter of Norman A. Olman, 1855 Georgetown, SE, and a graduate of Marywood Academy and Michigan State University where she majored in community service.

In August 1967, Maryellen was with us as a "Student Intern." When a vacancy occurred recently we asked her to come back as a permanent member of the staff. Maryellen has also worked in an insurance office in Chicago and resigned her position as a hostess for United Airlines to come to Washington.

We hope you will enjoy this special edition of the newsletter. The next regular issue will be in September.

QUALITY THE HALLMARK OF SESSION

TAX REFORM and tax relief are on the way. That development overshadowed all others as the 91st Congress took a 3-week vacation beginning August 13.

House passage of an omnibus tax reform and relief bill not only pointed toward fairer tax treatment for all Americans, it also promised tax cuts for nearly all our taxpayers.

The largest tax relief will go to the poor; the next largest to the middle and upper middle class. Those with incomes of \$100,000 or more will pay more taxes. But high-income individuals with little income other than their salaries will get tax cuts.

The tax reform and tax relief bill is only halfway through Congress. The Senate must act on it--will make some changes. But it's virtually certain the bill will survive in basically the same form it is now.

Don't count your tax savings yet. The poor will get their relief this year but the other reductions are spread over the next three years.

However, there will be a tax cut for everyone next year in any case. That's when the surtax drops from 10 per cent to five, assuming Congress enacts a 5 per cent rate for the first half of 1970. As matters now stand, Congress, has merely made official an extension of the surtax at 10 per cent the rest of this year.

But the additional 5 per cent surtax for first-half-1970 is part of the tax reform and tax relief bill and almost surely will prevail.

A QUALITY PRODUCT and not quantity has been the hallmark of Congress this year to recess time.

Very little major legislation has cleared both houses of Congress except for the 10 per cent surtax extension. Much legislation has passed one House or the other, and so is just half way through the mill.

The Nixon Administration scored a dramatic victory when the Senate narrowly rejected attempts to block deployment of the Safeguard Anti-Ballistic Missile System. It is safe to predict that the House will approve Safeguard by a comfortable margin.

With no House action required, the Senate early this year approved the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. I consider this a step toward peace.

THE BULK OF THE PRESIDENT'S program remains in committee. As committee hearings are completed, we can expect to see a broad range of measures reach the House and Senate floors for action.

Legislation Congress will be focusing on deals with agriculture, airport-airways problems, crime, the draft, schools, postal reform, pollution, welfare reform, mass transit, and job training.



With Speaker John McCormack



Majority Leader Carl Albert



---and Chief Justice Warren Burger



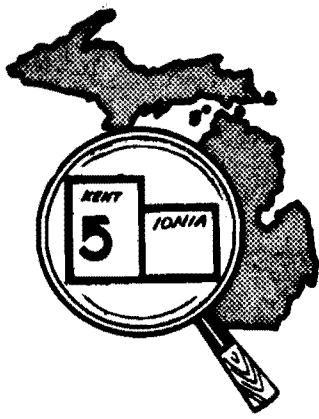
Father Kozlowski & Calvin Jeter, Grand Rapids



Future Teachers Jan Hilton (Belding),
Martha Lutz (Grand Rapids)



---and Greeting Tom VanPutten at the Hospital



Your Washington Review

by

Congressman

JERRY FORD

September 15, 1969



The principal issue before the House of Representatives last week was the constitutional amendment providing for the direct election of the President and the Vice President. The issue was debated for more than two days, but the vote on alternate proposals and final passage was put off until this week because of Senator Dirksen's funeral.

The Committee on the Judiciary has recommended the approval of H. J. Res. 681 under which the President and Vice President would be chosen at a nationwide popular election. If no team of candidates obtained at least 40 percent of the popular vote, there would be a runoff election between the two pairs of candidates who received the highest number of votes.

OBJECTIONS TO CURRENT METHOD: The need for a change in the method of electing our President is obvious. Under the electoral college system of the Constitution, the candidate who receives the most popular votes in each state gets all the electoral votes. And the electoral votes determine who wins. This "winner-take-all" system doesn't jibe with our current "one man, one vote" concept. Furthermore, in the 46 presidential elections held under the electoral college system three popular vote losers became President (John Quincy Adams, 1824; Hayes, 1876; Harrison, 1888). There also exists the possibility that electors will exercise their independence and vote against the wishes of their constituents. Finally, should no team of candidates obtain a majority of the electoral votes, the President is to be selected by the House of Representatives. Here, voting is by states, with each state delegation casting one vote. Alaska with one Representative and 275,000 people will have the same vote as New York with 41 Representatives and over 18 million people. Whenever there is a strong third-party candidate, as last year, this eventuality becomes a real threat. The delay and political maneuvering which would result from election by the House are inconsistent with sound policy. We cannot be satisfied with the "winner-take-all" concept and the possibility of a House-selected President.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS: In addition to direct election, the Committee on the Judiciary considered three alternative plans. The district plan preserves the electoral college but would require electors to be chosen by congressional districts with two electors in each state running at large. Each state would have the same number of electors as now, but only two would be elected state-wide.

The proportional plan would allocate electoral votes in each state in

accordance with the popular vote in that state. A candidate receiving 60 percent of the popular vote would get 60 percent of the state's electoral vote.

The automatic electoral plan abolishes the office of elector but retains the electoral votes of each state. Under this plan, the electoral votes of each state would be automatically awarded to the candidate receiving the greatest number of popular votes. The present system is preserved but the electors are eliminated so there could be no independent or "faithless" elector voting.

Generally, all three of these alternate plans provide, that in the event no candidate obtains the required number of electoral votes, the House and Senate, meeting jointly, and with each member having one vote, would select the President.

40 PERCENT PLURALITY AND RUNOFF ELECTIONS: The Committee recommends a 40-percent plurality for election. Some members wanted to lower this to 35 percent while others felt it should be 45 percent. The Committee selected 40 percent as reasonable, and as proving a sufficient national mandate. Only two Presidents in our history have received less than 40 percent of the popular vote: John Quincy Adams (30.54) and Abraham Lincoln (39.78). The Committee felt that any greater amount than 40 percent would encourage splinter parties and would increase the likelihood of a runoff election.

But the Committee also felt that a runoff election should be held if no candidate received at least 40 percent of the popular vote. It rejected, therefore, the proposal to have a joint session of Congress, with each member casting one vote, choose the President if there is no 40 percent winner. If we are to have direct elections, it should be so all the way.

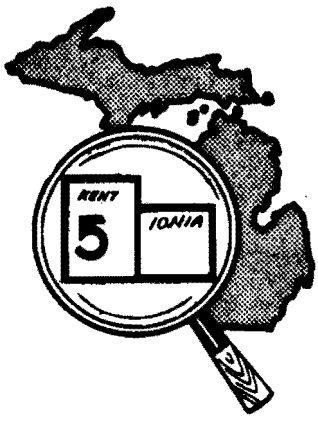
ON THE ISSUE: I believe the Committee's proposal is sound and I support it. However, if the House should adopt an alternative method, I will go along with it, provided the substitute plan abolishes the "winner-take-all" concept and eliminates the present method of selection by the House when there is no election by the initial process.

PEACE CORPS CONTINUED: The House last week authorized \$101.1 million to finance the Peace Corps during fiscal 1970. This is a reduction of \$900,000 from last year, and was the amount requested by the President. The Corps expects to reduce its number of volunteers and trainees from 12,400 to 12,000 during the year.

APOLLO 11 FILM AVAILABLE: A 16mm, color, sound film entitled, "Eagle Has Landed," is now available at my Grand Rapids office (456-9747). This film tells the story of the historic first landing of men on the moon. Principal emphasis is given to activities on the lunar surface. Call the office for reservations.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Representative, Gordon Vander Till, will be in the City Hall at LOWELL on Friday, September 19 from 3:00 to 5:30.

RECENT VISITORS: From Grand Rapids: Mr. & Mrs. George Roose, Jr.; Mr. & Mrs. Jack Verstrate and Mark; Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Hoeksema, Jim, Gary, and Mary; Mr. & Mrs. Edward Saur and son; Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Gritter; Mr. & Mrs. Louis Bomhof; Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Polkowski and family; Joann and Fred Kline; Norbert Hruby; Daniel Pilon.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD

September 22, 1969



During consideration of the electoral college reform amendment last week, the House of Representatives defeated efforts to substitute other methods for that of direct election of the President. The district plan lost on a teller vote 192 to 159 and on a roll call vote 245 to 162. The proportional plan was defeated 179 to 147. As I indicated last week, I strongly endorsed direct or popular election and therefore voted against both substitutes.

Some of those who opposed direct election did so because they felt that such a method of electing the President will not be approved by two-thirds of the Senate or ratified by three-fourths of the states. Thirty-eight states must ratify a constitutional amendment. This means that 13 states can block ratification. It was argued that 13 smaller states will not give up the advantage they now have in the electoral college. It seems to me there is sufficient evidence to support a contrary view, and in any event the House should exercise its own best judgment on the issue.

After beating down all changes in the Committee's proposal (except one of a minor technical nature), the House voted 339 to 70 to approve the constitutional amendment calling for the election of the President and Vice President directly by the people without any use of electors or electoral votes. The proposal now goes to the Senate.

STUDENT LOANS ENCOURAGED: In addition to grants and direct loans to students, the Congress has authorized a program of government-guaranteed loans to college students. The student gets a loan from the bank of his choice which may charge interest up to 7 percent per year. Repayment is not required until after the student graduates but repayment is guaranteed by the government. However, with the prime interest rate since June at $8\frac{1}{2}$ percent, some banks are refusing to take on these student loans. This means that thousands of needy students may not be able to return to college this year. That the program is significant is emphasized by the fact that in the year which ended in June, there were in existence 737,656 such loans involving \$669,880,405.

To solve this problem the House on Monday approved a subsidy (called a "market allowance") up to 3 percent as determined by the Secretary of HEW to be paid by the government to the lenders. This would encourage banks to assume these loans without increasing the interest cost to the students. This "market allowance" would be re-determined every three months. During an extremely "tight money" period it could go to 3 percent. As the money market eases, the amount would go down and could reach zero.

I supported this proposal as a reasonable solution to the problem. It passed the House 322 to 60. A conference with the Senate has been requested to work out the final details on the legislation. I hope final action is taken as soon as possible.

U. S. POLICY IN VIETNAM: In announcing the withdrawal of 35,000 additional troops from Vietnam, President Nixon listed what he has done since January 20 in an effort to bring an end to the war. I believe these nine proposals, which Mr. Nixon reiterated last week, are worthy of mention in this newsletter:

1. "We have renounced an imposed military solution.
2. "We have proposed free elections organized by Joint Commissions under international supervision.
3. "We have offered the withdrawal of U.S. and allied forces over a 12-month period.
4. "We have declared that we would retain no military bases.
5. "We have offered to negotiate supervised cease-fires under international supervision to facilitate the process of mutual withdrawal.
6. "We have made clear that we would settle for the de facto removal of North Vietnamese forces so long as there are guarantees against their return.
7. "We and the Government of South Vietnam have announced that we are prepared to accept any political outcome which is arrived at through free elections.
8. "We are prepared to discuss the 10-point program of the other side together with plans put forward by the other parties.
9. "In short, the only item which is not negotiable is the right of the people of South Vietnam to determine their own future free of outside interference."

The United States stands ready to end the fighting. But as it takes two to make war, it takes two to achieve peace. We await that essential cooperation from North Vietnam. In the meantime President Nixon will continue to explore all other alternatives.

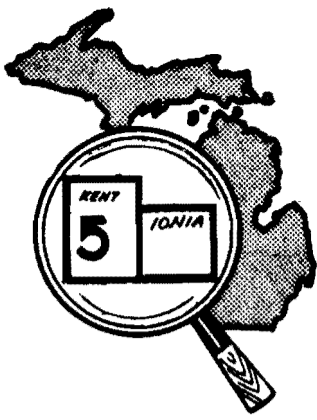
ACADEMY OPPORTUNITIES: Ionia and Kent Counties are entitled to five scholarships at the service academies for the class entering West Point, Annapolis, or Colorado Springs next July. Any young man interested in applying should let me know by Thursday, Sept. 25. Applications may be obtained from my Grand Rapids office at 425 Cherry Street, S.E., where the telephone number is 456-9747. Selection will be made on the basis of a Civil Service examination to be given on Saturday, October 4.

There will be a second examination on Tuesday, November 4, for those who cannot take the October test. Applications for this examination will be considered if received as late as October 30.

These all-expense college scholarships with graduation into a career in the armed services should be seriously considered by high school seniors, and other legal residents of the 5th District who are male U.S. citizens, under 22 years of age, unmarried, and able to pass the physical and scholastic requirements.

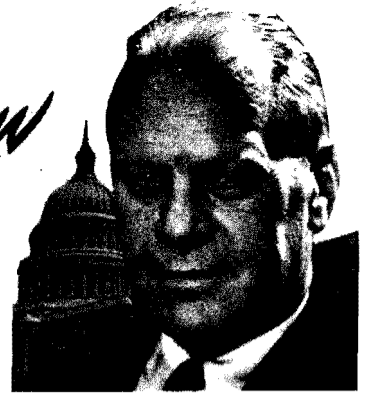
FILM - SO LITTLE TIME: My Grand Rapids office has for loan a 30-minute, 16mm, color film entitled, "So Little Time." It is an outstanding example of wild bird photography with a conservation theme. Reservations may be made by calling my Grand Rapids office.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Representative, Gordon Vander Till, will be in the Village Council Room at PORTLAND on Friday, September 26, from 3:00 to 5:30.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



September 29, 1969

The 1980 Census will include only questions approved by congressional committees if legislation passed by the House of Representatives last week becomes law. The bill requires the Director of the Census to submit to the House and Senate Committees on Post Office and Civil Service three years before the decennial census all questions to be asked. Within one year the committees are to notify the Census Bureau of their approval, rejection, or revision of the questions. The Congressional committees want to make certain that the statistical needs of all units of government are met and that the facts and figures needed by the private sector are obtained. But the committees also want to be sure that no questions will be asked of individuals which trespass on their rights of privacy. There has been considerable concern about the original 1970 questionnaire which now has been revised to eliminate some of the more objectionable features.

But the census must provide more information than such basic facts as name, address, birthplace and date, occupation, etc. Billions of dollars in federal funds are distributed each year to states and local governments on the basis of social and economic data provided by the census. Equally important are the uses made of census data by the private sector: business, labor unions, professional, trade, or educational associations, and many others.

The bill eliminates the jail sentence for those who refuse to answer the questions or give false information. However, fines can still be imposed. For any employee of the Census Bureau who divulges confidential information the bill increases the fine from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and the jail sentence from 2 to 5 years.

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY: The House has approved legislation establishing a five-man Council on Environmental Quality to conduct studies and advise the President and the Congress on air and water pollution, conservation, and related subjects. The President has by Executive Order set up a Cabinet-level Environmental Quality Council but the House felt that a legislatively established council would have added prestige and its members would be able to devote full time to the work of the Council. Certainly the problems of pollution and conservation are among our most serious domestic issues.

THE WEST FRONT: My office overlooks the west front of the Capitol building. You who have visited us know about the reinforcing beams which have been installed to protect the area from deteriorating masonry. A recent issue of "Science and

"Mechanics" magazine pictures on the cover a crumbling Capitol dome and features an article entitled, "The Capitol is Doomed." There is general agreement that the west front of the Capitol must be repaired and strengthened before serious damage develops. But action has been postponed because there is no agreement on how the repairs are to be made. Some want merely to restore the structure without altering the present design of the building. Others insist that the only permanent solution is reconstruction and extension of the west front.

Because of the seriousness of this situation I relied most heavily on the advice of Mr. Mario Campioli, Assistant Architect of the U. S. Capitol since 1959 who has the following credentials: graduate in architecture from New York University; registered architect in New York and Virginia; member of the American Institute of Architects; in architectural work since 1928; Director of Architecture for Colonial Williamsburg from 1949 to 1957; member of Board of Architectural Consultants for Georgetown since 1965.

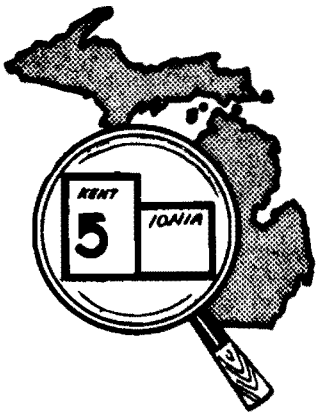
The west central front represents the oldest part of the building and is the only part not faced in marble. The original sandstone has to be painted periodically and continues to deteriorate. But it does have historic and esthetic qualities.

The House of Representatives, however, has appropriated \$2 million for plans and specifications for an extension of the west front. No construction funds were provided in the bill. The plan is to extend the center portions 44 feet, the westerly courts 88 feet, and the connecting wings 56 feet.

This action was not taken without extended debate between advocates of restoration and extension. I supported extension for a number of reasons:

1. Restoration does not provide a permanent solution. Any form of restoration will result in a makeshift job with additional work undoubtedly required within 10 or 20 years and this would require substantial additional expenditures.
2. Highly competent architects and structural engineers report that the only way to make the Capitol completely safe and structurally sound is to extend the building. The extensions would permanently buttress the existing walls and supports.
3. The Assistant Architect of the Capitol who was for eight years in charge of the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg and is at heart a "restorationist," recommends extension. (We are not being influenced by the non-architect Architect of the Capitol or by any political leaders, as has been alleged.)
4. While extension may cost approximately \$45 million, no one knows how much restoration will cost. The rough estimates range from \$10 to \$50 million but no builder will take the job on contract. The work would only be done on a cost-plus basis.
5. Restoration would mean the expenditure of enormous sums without getting a single square foot of additional working space.
6. Extension would permit construction of facilities in the Capitol which would serve not only members, but more important the visiting public as well. Fifteen years ago about 1 million visitors toured the Capitol. This year the number is expected to reach 10 million.
7. There have been many additions and changes in the Capitol since 1793. The proposed extension of the west front will mean a limited design alteration to the present exterior facade but there will be no substantial change in the esthetic thrust of the facade.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Representative will be in the City Council Room at BELDING on Friday, October 3 from 3:00 to 5:30.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



October 6, 1969

The major legislation considered by the House of Representatives last week was the bill authorizing \$21 billion for the purchase of military aircraft, missiles, naval vessels, combat vehicles, and for research and development for the armed forces. This is only a part of the defense appropriation budget which this year will total about \$78 billion. In its Report, however, the Committee on Armed Services presented a chart (below) and said: "The figures do indicate...that the military budget is not growing at an unprecedented and alarming rate and is not swallowing up ever larger proportions of the Federal Treasury." The facts, presented below, demonstrate that military expenditures as a percentage of our nation's gross national product (GNP) and of the total federal budget are declining and are less than non-military spending.

Year	GNP	Budget		% of GNP		Military as % of Budget
		Military	Other	Military	Other	
1953	\$355Billion	\$47B	\$29B	13	8	62
1960	495B	43B	51B	9	10	46
1964	612B	51B	71B	8	11	42
1970	960B	78B	118B	8	12	40

This is not to insist that cuts cannot and should not be made in the defense budget. We must effect savings in every department of government. But these figures are helpful in gaining a perspective on defense and non-defense spending.

At this writing the final vote on the bill has not been taken. However, tentative decisions have been made on three of the primary controversial issues in the legislation. The bill provides \$746.4 million for the Safeguard ABM. This is the same issue which was debated for weeks in the Senate. Of the total amount, \$345.5 million is for procurement of the missile and \$400.9 million is for research and development. An attempt was made to delete all funds for procurement, leaving money only for further testing, development, and evaluation. But the House rejected this attempt by a teller vote of 219 to 105.

The Committee recommended \$481 million for the purchase of 23 C-5A jet transport planes, said to be the world's largest airplane. An additional \$459 million was also included for other expenses in connection with this aircraft. An effort was made to eliminate the \$481 million for the 23 planes but this, too, was rejected by a teller vote of 136 to 60. Some question the practicality of this plane. The C-5A would be used by the Army, and under wartime conditions would have the capability of delivering a 265,000 pound payload, over 3100 miles at a speed of more than 500 miles per hour. Because of its unique landing gear, with 28 wheels, the plane can operate

from landing strips no firmer than a baseball field. Tanks, tractors, and other vehicles can be driven into the aircraft at one end and out of the other. It is estimated that the cost per ton-mile of service from the C-5A would be much lower than that of other cargo planes now in use.

The House Committee recommended \$3.6 billion for our navy shipbuilding program. This is \$1 billion more than was requested by the President and approved by the Senate. An effort was also made to delete this \$1 billion. Proponents of the reduction said that it would have no effect on full funding of the new aircraft carrier or three nuclear attack submarines. The Committee argued that the additional \$1 billion is necessary to increase the annual rate of new ship construction in order to replace the aging ships in our fleet before we are outstripped by the technological advances of the Soviet Navy. The bill provides for the construction of 18 warships, including a new nuclear aircraft carrier, and 18 support ships. The House supported the Committee's position by a teller vote of 131 to 92.

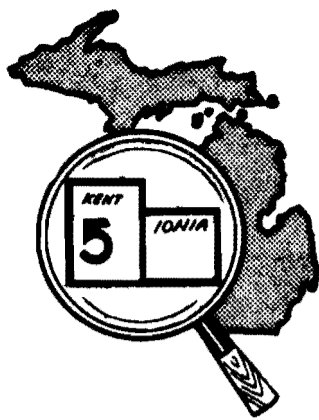
All of these teller votes are expected to be confirmed in final action by the House. The bill is expected to be approved pretty much as recommended by the Committee.

LEGISLATION APPROVED: The House last week agreed that the VA could set interest rates on its guaranteed or direct loans at more than 6 percent for another two years. To require the 6 percent rate in today's financial market would dry up completely money for these loans, and veterans would get no help under these VA programs. The VA has set the rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ percent but authority to raise the rate above 6 percent expires shortly.

The House also passed a bill permitting employers and unions to agree on an employer contribution to a trust fund to provide employees and their dependents with scholarships to study at educational institutions or to establish child care centers. The bill is permissive only; it does not require such contributions but specifically authorizes them. Furthermore, the bill states that the refusal of an employer to bargain on the establishment of such a fund shall not constitute an unfair labor practice. The legislation was necessary to clarify the law on employer contributions to an employee organization.

OBSCENITY LEGISLATION: The Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service are holding hearings on legislation to control the distribution of pornography and obscene material. Among the bills to be considered are those recommended by President Nixon which I have co-sponsored (newsletter: May 14). We trust that out of these hearings will come some effective legislation.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Representative, Gordon Vander Till, will be at the City Hall Voting Room in IONIA on Friday, October 10, from 3:00 to 5:30.



Your Washington Review

by
**Congressman
JERRY FORD**



October 13, 1969

The \$4.5 billion public works appropriation bill was approved by the House of Representatives on Wednesday. This was the eighth of the 13 regular appropriation bills which must be passed each year to provide funds for governmental agencies and programs.

President Nixon had requested \$4.2 billion. The House cut \$160 million from the President's request for certain programs but added more than \$440 million in other areas. As a result the bill exceeds the President's budget by \$301 million but is still \$176 million below the appropriation for last year.

The major increase was \$386 million to bring to \$600 million the amount for grants to waste treatment works under the Clean Water Restoration Act. The authorization for this program is \$1 billion. We have had numerous letters urging an appropriation this year of the full \$1 billion authorization. The issue was debated vigorously on Wednesday when the \$1 billion amount was defeated on a teller vote of 148 to 146. President Nixon had recommended \$214 million and the Committee added \$386 million which was accepted by the President and approved by the House on final passage.

The Committee recognized the concern of those who insist that it is essential to assist the states and local communities in accelerating new construction and upgrading of waste treatment works to eliminate the discharge of untreated or inadequately treated waste sewage into the nation's streams and waterways. But it also recognized the need for continued budgetary restraint. It felt that a \$600 million program for 1970 would finance most of the sewage treatment projects ready to go this year. As of August 31, a total of 1893 applications involving estimated federal grants of \$841 million were pending. But not all of these projects were ready to go and the Committee felt that the \$600 million plus a carryover of \$65 million was about all that could be properly used in fiscal 1970. I supported the Committee's recommendations as reasonable. We must proceed to eliminate water pollution now but there is little point in appropriating more money than can be properly used. Michigan's share of the \$600 million for this year is \$24 million, an increase of \$17 million above the amount of last year.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AUTHORIZATION: Another money bill approved by the House last week authorized \$480 million for the National Science Foundation. The Foundation supports research in all the sciences. Its goal is to insure the continued

scientific and technological strength of our country. An authorization bill permits the appropriation of funds and sets the upper limit of the actual appropriation which follows.

PAYMENTS TO WIDOWS AND CHILDREN OF SERVICEMEN: The House voted last week to increase the payments to widows of men who die in service or as the result of a service-connected disability. The purpose of the legislation was to increase payments in line with the rise in the cost of living and to equalize benefits paid widows in the various grades. For instance a widow of a PFC now drawing \$150 a month will get \$177; a Corporal's widow will be increased from \$159 to \$187; Staff Sergeant from \$180 to \$197. The widow of a 1st Lt. now getting \$200 will receive \$211 but all officer's widows now drawing \$247 or more will receive no increase. Under existing VA law no payments, other than Social Security, are made for dependent children where there is a surviving widow. The House-approved bill authorizes \$20 per month for each child under 18 as an addition to what the widow receives.

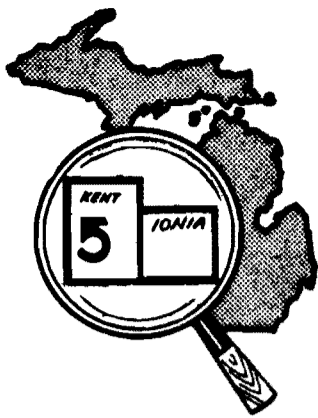
During debate on the bill it was reported that 35 percent of Vietnam deaths were Army PFC's and 25 percent were Corporals. Among officers the greatest loss was among 1st Lieutenants but this is only 3 percent of the total. The five lowest pay grades suffered 84 percent of the combat deaths.

EDUCATION BILLS APPROVED: The House also approved unanimously two bills relating to federal aid to education. One is to encourage improved educational programs for gifted and talented children. The House recognized that with all our emphasis on assisting the disadvantaged (and there is no objection to this), we must not neglect those children who have outstanding intellectual ability or creative talent. It was pointed out that these children can be found in the inner cities, suburbs, and rural areas, among all kinds and types of families. But they must be recognized and developed to the extent of their potential for the national good.

The second bill includes among the educationally handicapped children those "with specific learning disabilities." This is clarifying legislation authorizing research and teacher training to assist school children whose handicap is not readily discernable but who just don't seem to be able to learn to read and write effectively. It is estimated that 1,500,000 children or roughly 3 percent of the school population may fall in this category.

SOCIAL SECURITY HEARINGS: The Committee on Ways and Means is scheduled to begin consideration of social security legislation on Wednesday of this week. Administration spokesmen will present President Nixon's recommendation at that time. I have introduced the Administration's bill but will not object to reasonable changes involving the percentage increase or the effective date. The Committee will also consider raising the earnings limitation and will analyze proposals relating to welfare, medicaid, and medicare.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant, Gordon Vander Till, will be in the Village Council Room at SPARTA on Friday, October 17, from 3:00 to 5:30.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



October 20, 1969

Much has already been written on last week's Vietnam Moratorium. But I feel I should summarize briefly my views:

1. Any American has the right to protest peacefully an action of his government. The right of petition is guaranteed by the First Amendment.
2. Every responsible American prefers peace to war. President Nixon wants peace in Vietnam. I want peace in Vietnam. America as a nation wants peace in Vietnam.
3. Since he became President, Mr. Nixon has clearly demonstrated his dedication for peace and initiated proposals designed to achieve peace. Mr. Nixon's specific proposals and actions were listed in my newsletters for July 23 and September 22.
4. U. S. troops are being withdrawn from Vietnam; U. S. casualties are down; draft calls have been restricted. Mr. Nixon has altered the course of the war. He is de-Americanizing the conflict; more and more responsibility of its own defense is being turned over to South Vietnam. President Nixon is phasing out U. S. troops (already 12% of those committed by his predecessors and 20% of the U. S. combat troops) and phasing in South Vietnamese military personnel to do the fighting.
5. In the conduct of its foreign affairs and national defense, our country acts through the President who is the Commander-in-Chief of our armed forces and the chief architect of our foreign policy. If he is to be successful in dealing with foreign governments, the President must have the support of our people.
6. I am disturbed by the view which is emerging in some quarters that unless you actively support the Moratorium, you are not in favor of ending the war in Vietnam. This is most unfortunate. It can divide our people, not on the question of how to end the war but over whether or not we support the Moratorium.
7. With some limited exceptions the Moratorium is an expression of public desire for peace. It will not, however, do anything to convince the enemy to negotiate a peaceful settlement. The protest could well weaken our negotiating position at the bargaining table in Paris.
8. If there are to be protests, why not direct them against the government of Hanoi which has brutally treated thousands of U. S. prisoners of war or against the Soviet Union which supplies North Vietnam with about 80 percent of its war materiel?
9. The current attack on President Nixon can be likened to the football team which attacks its own quarterback. They may vent their emotions but they are not going to win the game.

Now I want to quote two paragraphs from the October 15 column of Jack Anderson (the successor to Drew Pearson; not known as a conservative or a devotee of President Nixon). Mr. Anderson wrote from Tokyo: "This column has examined documentary evidence that a few rabid revolutionaries who seek to dominate the anti-war movement in the United States are receiving instructions from Hanoi. They aren't against the war at all; they merely are on the enemy's side. Indeed, their aim is to stir up new 'wars of liberation,' including guerrilla warfare in the streets of America, to advance the Communist cause. Their immediate instructions are to agitate for an unconditional withdrawal from Vietnam."

A FEDERAL PAY RAISE BILL: The House on Tuesday approved a \$4.3 billion per

year pay raise for federal employees. The vote was 310 to 52. I was one of the 52.

The bill grants a raise averaging 5.4 percent, retroactive to October 1 to some 700,000 postal employees. Under the bill all other federal employees would get a raise of between 5 and 6 percent beginning early next year. Enactment of the bill will add \$1.5 billion to federal costs this fiscal year, none of which has been funded by the Congress.

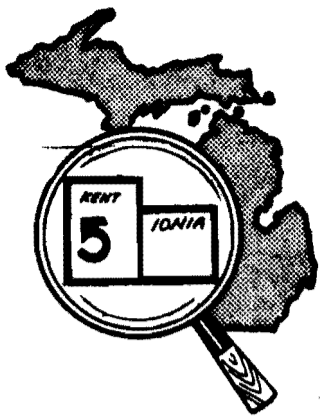
President Nixon in a letter to me which I read to the House, urged defeat of the bill in its present form. He is deeply concerned with the enormous cost to all taxpayers and the fact that Congress earlier this year imposed a \$192.9 ceiling on all federal expenditures. The President pointed out that such an enormous cost increase without additional taxes or a postal rate increase must mean reduced federal services and programs to the public as a whole.

In addition to these reasons I opposed the bill because it removes from the President and the Congress authority to set federal salaries for the 3 million employees in the future. The bill establishes a Salary Commission of four persons from the executive branch (but none designated by the President) and four persons selected by federal employee unions. No one represents the public; no one represents the Congress. This commission would set the rates of pay for federal employees each year without any consideration of revenue or taxes. Under the bill as reported by the committee, these rates would go into effect unless disapproved within 30 days by either house of Congress. I'm glad to report that the House changed this to require affirmative action with a recorded vote in both houses to put the commission's recommendations into effect. This will prevent what happened this year when congressional salaries were increased simply by no action in either house.

But I believe the Congress should not give up its prerogative and responsibility to determine the federal salary schedule nor should it deny the Chief Executive a direct responsibility in this significant administrative duty. The best way to handle pay and working condition problems for postal employees is through President Nixon's proposed postal reform plan. I want fair and equitable salaries for all federal employees under a bill that has a chance to become law. I voted to return the bill to committee for further consideration but this was defeated.

DOLLAR AND HALF-DOLLAR AUTHORIZED: The House approved on Wednesday a bill authorizing a non-silver dollar and half dollar. Only a small percentage of about 1¼ billion silver half dollars minted since 1963 are actually circulating. Well over 200 million ounces of silver have already been used to mint this coin. This is equal to the total amount of silver mined in the U. S. since 1963. It is evident that we must either stop minting the coin or use a cupro-nickel clad material now used in dimes and quarters. The House decided on the latter. The bill also authorizes an Eisenhower dollar with Ike's image on the face and a design symbolic of the Eagle of Apollo XI on the reverse side.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant, Gordon Vander Till, will be in the City Manager's office at ROCKFORD on Friday, October 24, from noon until 2:00 p.m., and in the City Hall at CEDAR SPRINGS from 3:00 to 5:30.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman

JERRY FORD

October 27, 1969



The House of Representatives last week approved a housing bill which continues and expands the federal housing program. The bill authorizes \$2 billion for urban renewal this year, \$750 million for the Model Cities Program, and an additional \$100 million for water and sewer grants. A number of changes in current law are made in order to update the housing assistance provided by the federal government. Many of the changes are technical in nature. The Committee's Report on the legislation runs to 176 pages. The bill was considered for three days before being passed by a vote of 339 to 9. I supported the legislation on final passage.

MINE SAFETY: The House had intended to consider a bill to strengthen the health and safety standards for U.S. coal mines but this was put off until this week. There is general agreement on the need for the legislation and on most of the provisions of the bill recommended by the Committee. Most of the controversy centers on two provisions. The first levies on the owner of every mine a royalty of 2¢ for each ton of coal produced. The money collected would be used to pay for medical examinations for miners and for medical research in connection with mining. Opponents pointed out that research has been going on without this "user tax," that the royalty would apply to all coal mining firms without regard to their method of mining or for their past health and safety records, and that this provision would have a dampening effect on the private research efforts of industry.

The second controversial provision sets up a system of federal benefits (workman's compensation) for those coal miners or their surviving widows who are disabled as a result of coal dust pneumoconiosis (black lung disease). For over 50 years workman's compensation has been the exclusive jurisdiction of the states. Opponents contend this bill would federalize the program for one group of persons and be a first step toward federalization of the entire system of workman's compensation. Furthermore, they point out that it is unfair to grant federal benefits to miners who became disabled because of one disease, while those disabled because of another occupational disease or as a result of a mine accident would get state benefits which could be smaller. And all states now provide compensation for pneumoconiosis.

SELECTIVE SERVICE CHANGES: Also scheduled for consideration last week but put off until this week was the bill to permit the lottery selection of draftees on a youngest-first order of call. Proposed by the President, recommended by the Democratic-controlled House Committee on Armed Services, and endorsed by the House

Republican Policy Committee, the bill is expected to be passed this week.

The "prime age group" from which draftees would be drawn would be those who are 19 years of age and those whose deferment has expired. Men would be selected by lottery according to the sequence in which their birthdays were drawn. If March 2 is the first number drawn, those men who have a birthday on that date would be most susceptible to service, and so on. Thus a young man would know much better where he stands with the draft than at present. Once he left the "prime age group" he would not be called except in an emergency. Those deferred for college would join the "prime age group" as soon as their deferment has expired. There would be a new drawing of birthdates each year.

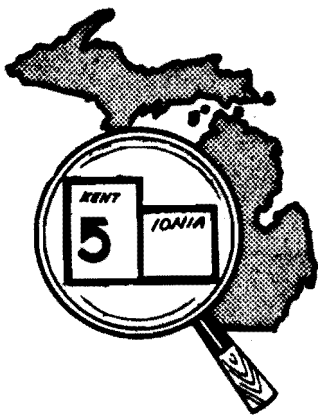
A VIETNAM REVIEW: In view of some comments by those advocating an immediate withdrawal from Vietnam while heaping criticism on President Nixon, it may be well to review briefly the story of our involvement in Southeast Asia:

1. The Truman Administration on May 15, 1950 announced a decision to send economic and military assistance to Indochina following the Communist takeover of China. In August of 1950, an American military assistance advisory group of 35 personnel was sent to Indochina.
2. President Eisenhower continued military and economic assistance at the levels set by his predecessor until the fall of 1953 when aid was increased in an effort to avoid disaster in Indochina. On July 21, 1954 agreement was reached at Geneva resulting in withdrawal of France and the establishment of North and South Vietnam. In 1960 there were fewer than 700 U. S. military personnel stationed in South Vietnam to train South Vietnamese forces.
3. The Kennedy Administration sent thousands of U.S. combat troops into Vietnam. By 1963 the number of American troops in South Vietnam had grown to 16,575 and by the end of that year, the U.S. had lost 109 killed and 486 wounded.
4. The Johnson Administration greatly increased the involvement of American military forces. When Lyndon Johnson left office in January 1969 there were 532,500 American servicemen in Vietnam, and 30,991 Americans had been killed in combat and 195,601 wounded.
5. President Nixon has reversed the trend. On October 16 the number of our troops in Vietnam had been reduced to 501,900 with greater withdrawals on the way. Draft calls for the last quarter of this year are down 30 percent compared with a year ago. Battle casualties have been reduced. Mr. Nixon is de-Americanizing the war and turning more responsibility over to South Vietnam. Meanwhile he is working diligently to negotiate a peaceful settlement.

All of this was recognized by former Vice President Humphrey who said recently: "I think the President is proceeding along the right path.... We have only one President at a time and I think the worst thing we can do is try to undermine efforts of the President. I think what he (President Nixon) has done has been good.. .. I believe no man in this country is more desirous of bringing about an acceptable settlement in Vietnam than the President of the U. S." The Majority Leader of the Senate, Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) has stated: "What the President has done is to bring about a de-escalation of the conflict. In essence, it is a sort of cease-fire and stand fast." The Nixon critics could well ponder these statements.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant will be at the Village Hall at LAKE ODESSA on Friday, October 31 from 3:00 to 5:30.

RECENT VISITORS: From Grand Rapids: Mr. & Mrs. Edward Czarnecki and Bonnie; Mr. & Mrs. Henry Bloem and family; Mr. & Mrs. Dale Ford and Betsy; Richard Burchfield; the James Smith family; Kathy and Mary Haughey; Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Rosema and family.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman

JERRY FORD

November 3, 1969



Recently we mailed to all postal patrons in Kent and Ionia counties a public opinion poll with nine "yes" or "no" questions on current issues, and one multiple-choice query on Vietnam. Over 24,000 replies were received, giving us a good cross section of opinion among citizens in the Fifth District. Here is a summary of the results of the questionnaire expressed in percentages.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unanswered</u>
1. Should President Nixon's Family Assistance & Workfare Program be set up in place of the existing welfare system?	72%	16%	12%
2. Should a percentage of Federal income tax money be shared with the cities and states for use as they see fit?	64	29	7
3. Should Federal aid be cut off from students disrupting college classes and administration?	90	8	2
4. Should we elect the President by direct popular vote?	88	9	3
5. Should we amend the U. S. Constitution to give 18-year-olds the vote?	33	64	3
6. Should we create a self-supporting U. S. postal corporation in place of the present postal system?	72	21	7
7. Should we pick draftees by random selection (lottery)?	52	36	12
8. Should we step up space spending to put a man on Mars?	10	87	3
9. Do you favor President Nixon's Safeguard anti-ballistic missile system (ABM)?	42	45	13
10. What should we do about Vietnam?	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
A. Carry on limited military action, pursue the peace talks in Paris.		4%	
B. Follow the Nixon policy of gradually phasing out U. S. troops and replacing them with S. Vietnamese.	50		
C. Resume and expand bombing of North Vietnam.	13		
D. Withdraw immediately.	22		

Multiple answers 7%; unanswered 4%

It is significant that 50 percent of our folks endorse President Nixon's Vietnam policy while only 22 percent want to withdraw immediately. An additional four percent favor limited military action while pursuing the peace talks in Paris, actually Nixon policy, so in effect 54 percent go along with the President. This is important in any evaluation of President Nixon's efforts to end the war. We have every right to assume that this expression of opinion in the Fifth District represents the view of American citizens throughout the country. In fact, the latest nationwide poll suggests that 57 percent of Americans approve the manner in which Mr. Nixon is handling his responsibilities; 24 percent disapprove while 19 percent expressed no opinion.

It is also interesting to note how closely the vote on the Safeguard ABM in Kent and Ionia Counties paralleled that in the U. S. Senate. The Senate approved the President's recommendation by a vote of 51 to 49. However, the vote in the House was 270 to 93.

APPROPRIATIONS. Congress has completed action on only two of the 13 regular appropriation bills which provide funds for running the government beginning on July 1 of each year. Most departments and agencies are operating under a "continuing resolution" which permits them generally to spend at last year's level. Because the "continuing resolution" expired on October 31st, and 11 appropriation bills were pending, the Congress had to extend the "continuing resolution." The House acted on this last Tuesday when it agreed to extend the expiration date to five days after the adjournment of this session of Congress. But the House also altered the resolution in certain respects with the net effect that the Office of Education will be able to provide federal aid to education at a much greater rate after November 1st than before. The final amount of federal aid to education will be set when both houses have completed action on the Labor-HEW appropriation bill.

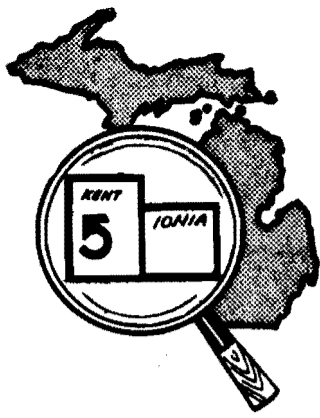
In the eight appropriation bills already considered by the House, the President requested \$49.5 billion; the Committee on Appropriations recommended \$49.3 billion, a net reduction of \$204 million. The House in floor action made net additions of \$725 million so the eight bills approved by the House are some \$523 million above President Nixon's request.

MINE SAFETY: The House approved the coal mine and health safety act last Wednesday. It struck from the bill the controversial 2¢ royalty which I mentioned last week but retained the system of federal workman's compensation for those disabled by black lung disease. I supported the bill on final passage when it was approved 389 to 4.

SELECTIVE SERVICE: The House also approved the changes in the Selective Service Act which I discussed last week. Under the bill passed by the House, the President will be permitted to draft 19-year olds first and use the lottery system for selection.

The Committee on Armed Services recommended this legislation by a 31 to 0 vote but some members of the House wanted to open up the bill to amendments including those relating to college deferments, conscientious objectors, assignment of troops to Vietnam, the composition of local draft boards, and probably many more. The "rule" submitted by the Committee on Rules restricted consideration to the immediate subject-matter in the bill. An attempt to open up the legislation to all types of amendments was defeated 265 to 129. I agreed with the majority that opening up the bill would delay action on changes needed immediately and possibly result in no improvements at all in draft legislation this session. The Committee on Armed Services intends to make a comprehensive review of Selective Service next year.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant will be in the Council Room at LOWELL on Friday, November 7 from 2:30 to 5:00.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



November 10, 1969

The House of Representatives last week approved a bill authorizing \$690 million over a three-year period for improving the nation's airport and airway system. But the legislation envisions a \$5 billion program in the next 10 years.

The bill calls for airport user taxes expected to net \$652 million in 1971 and \$1.4 billion by 1979. These taxes will be allocated to a special trust fund out of which money will be appropriated to develop and improve airports and make our airways more safe.

The revenue for the trust fund will be raised by increasing the passenger ticket tax for domestic flights from 5 to 8 percent and placing a new \$3 "head tax" on international commercial flights beginning in the U. S. The tax on aviation fuel will be increased and there will be a new tax on air freight and a new aircraft registration tax. The Committee felt that it had worked out a fair division of the burden between general (non-commercial) and commercial aviation.

The airport trust fund is not expected to be self-sustaining in the immediate future. While Congress feels that it is fitting that the primary financial burden should be assumed by the direct users of air traffic, it recognizes that a modern system of airports and airways is also essential to our national defense. The Air Force uses these facilities extensively. Supplemental monies will, therefore, be coming from the general fund of the Treasury.

The federal aid authorized in this legislation is a substantial increase over the amount going to our airports heretofore. In recent years the authorization has been fixed at \$75 million a year but the actual appropriation has been about \$30 million a year. The annual request for federal grants are over 10 times the \$30 million figure.

President Nixon recognizes the need for improving our airways, and in acting on this legislation the Congress was carrying out his recommendations. Over the past five years, the certified air carrier fleet has increased from about 2,079 piston aircraft to an almost completely jet fleet of 2,586 aircraft. By 1980 it is estimated that the domestic certified airlines will enplane 420 million passengers, almost tripling the 1969 figure. It is predicted that by 1980 the present fleet of 124,272 general aircraft will have doubled and there will be 1,400,000 pilots compared with 600,000 today.

ONE-BANK HOLDING COMPANIES: Also approved last week was a bill to control one-bank holding companies. A "holding company" is a business organization designed primarily and solely to own, control, or hold other companies or businesses. Thus a bank holding company may own not only a bank but also an insurance business, a travel agency, a real estate investment firm, or any other kind of enterprise.

Since 1933 it has been federal policy to separate bank and bank-related activities from other business activities. The theory has been that to mix banking and non-banking activities could threaten the existence of thousands of small businesses throughout the country. In 1956 Congress prohibited any holding company owning two or more banks from engaging in non-bank-related activities. However, one-bank holding companies (numbering 117 and small in size) were exempted from this law.

In the last three years a significant number of large banks have converted to one-bank holding companies. As a result of this development the Committee on Banking and Currency recommended legislation to place one-bank holding companies under the same law which restricts multi-bank holding companies.

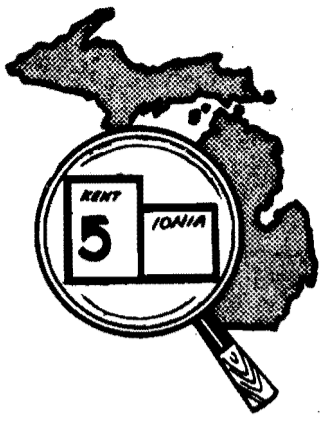
The bill, H.R. 6778, as recommended, restricted these companies to activities which are "functionally related to banking," and specifically prohibited them from engaging in the general insurance agency business or selling mutual funds. The bill also set the effective date at February 17, 1969, the date on which H.R. 6778 was introduced. This means if the bill becomes law, any one-bank holding company organized after that date would be required to divest itself from its non-banking activities.

In its deliberations on Wednesday the House decided to set the date back to May 9, 1956, which is the date of the enactment of the original bank holding company law. It also agreed generally to prohibit holding companies from engaging in the business of underwriting, insurance, travel agencies, accounting, and equipment leasing. A number of other amendments were also approved, substantially altering the bill as recommended by the Committee.

When this happened to the bill, I felt that it should be further examined by the Committee on Banking and Currency which could determine in detail the effect of the amendments on the legislation. I therefore voted to recommit the bill to committee, but this was defeated 245 to 124. Because I believe we do need legislation in this area and it was either H.R. 6778 or nothing at this time, I voted for the bill on final passage when it was approved 351 to 24. But the Senate must still act on the legislation and we can't predict what the final version of the bill will be.

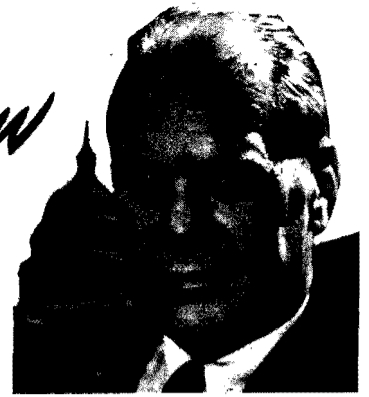
DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant, Gordon Vander Till, will be in the Council Room at PORTLAND on Friday, November 14 from 3:00 to 5:30.

RECENT VISITORS: From Caledonia: Mr. & Mrs. M. Weber. From Rockford: Dr. & Mrs. Robt. Byram and 2 children. From Comstock Park: Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Pike; Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Pike; Diane Barnes. From Wyoming: Mr. & Mrs. Larry Root; Mr. & Mrs. Louis Nemeth and 2 sons; Mr. & Mrs. Vossekuils and family; Mr. & Mrs. Robt. Grassmid and family. From Grandville: Mr. & Mrs. Jack McIntyre, Jack, Brian, Don, and Tim. From Sparta: Renae Kober. From Ionia: Mr. & Mrs. Fred Strong. From Cedar Springs: Betty Hawley; Barbara Bull. From Grand Rapids: Mr. & Mrs. A. Slotsema, Janice, Diane; Mrs. Allan Johnson.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



November 17, 1969

The ninth of the 13 regular appropriation bills was passed by the House of Representatives last Thursday when it approved \$1.4 billion for military construction and family housing. This amount is a reduction of \$225 million below last year's appropriation. A little over \$5 million will be spent in Michigan with a major portion going to the army's Detroit Arsenal, and smaller amounts to the Michigan Army Missile Plant at Warren, K. I. Sawyer AFB at Gwinn and Wurtsmith AFB at Oscoda.

The bill contains no additional funds for construction in Vietnam during this fiscal year. The United States has already spent a total of \$1.4 billion for military construction and housing in Vietnam. On August 31 there remained \$214 million of appropriated funds not yet spent. It is expected that these funds if needed at all would meet our construction needs in Vietnam until July 1, 1970.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION: The House also passed a bill to extend and improve the unemployment compensation system. About 58 million jobs are now protected by this system but approximately 16.6 million jobs remain unprotected. The bill would extend coverage to 4.5 million of these jobs. Positions newly covered will include those in firms employing less than four employees (now exempt from federal law), those working in agricultural processing plants, and employees of nonprofit organizations, state hospitals, colleges and universities.

The bill also establishes a new program to pay benefits during periods of high unemployment to workers who exhaust their regular benefits under state law. In addition the bill prohibits the states from denying benefits to an individual who is undergoing training, with the approval of a state agency, to improve his skills or to train for a new job. The House doesn't believe that state laws regarding availability for work, active search for work, or refusal of suitable work (usual requirements for receiving unemployment payments) should be used to discourage an unemployed person from entering upon a job training program that will qualify him for a new or better job.

POTATO RESEARCH AND PROMOTION: The House defeated by a vote of 198 to 171 a bill establishing a National Potato Promotion Board to promote the sale of potatoes and potato products and to carry on research in the use of potatoes. About \$2 million a year would have been collected by the Board for this purpose through a levy of 1¢ per hundred pounds on potatoes produced.

This would have been the first government promotion program of one food product against competing foods; in this case, rice, corn, and others. Many felt

that this was an improper use of federal governmental authority and that it would establish a precedent for producers of other food crops to seek the same privilege of having the government collect funds for research and promotion activities. Furthermore, the bill applied only to growers of five acres or more which meant that 94 percent of the potato farmers would be excluded from the program. Many Michigan farmers objected to the bill because our state already has a Michigan Potato Industry Council which has many of the same responsibilities proposed in the federal legislation. I agreed that the arguments against the bill outweighed those presented by the Committee and voted "no."

Potatoes are a basic food in the United States. Some 310,000 farms produced 29.3 billion pounds of potatoes (488 million bushels) in 1968. The value of potato sales at the farm averages \$491 million yearly and the per capita consumption of potatoes is about 110 pounds annually.

INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGICAL PROGRAM: The House on Wednesday approved a resolution expressing its support of the International Biological Program. This is a cooperative 50-nation program to study the changing relations between man and his environment. It is concerned with the problems of pollution, food resources, wilderness conservation, water use, etc. These are terribly significant issues and must be dealt with on a worldwide basis.

*Nov. 12 = Miller of Calif.
Anderson of Tenn.*

RE VIETNAM: On November 6 our troop strength in Vietnam totaled 490,700 compared with 532,500 when President Nixon took office in January. Draft calls for the last quarter of this year amount to 29,000 compared with 41,300 for the same period in 1968.

RE THE MORATORIUM: Columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak (who would not be labeled conservatives) had a significant article on the "peace movement" last Wednesday. They said: "The tens of thousands of well-meaning war protesters set to converge on Washington Saturday will be joining a demonstration planned since summer by advocates of violent revolution in the U. S. who openly support Communist forces in Vietnam....The march remains essentially a project of the far left, constituting a tragic failure of leadership by liberal foes of the war."

AT HOME ON VETERANS DAY: It was my privilege to participate in the Veterans Day services at Veterans Memorial Park in Grand Rapids last Tuesday morning. At noon I met with the Downtown Lions Club. Later I did a half-hour interview for a local TV station and attended a "25-year club" reception at a downtown store. That evening I spoke at the Kent County Pharmaceutical Association's Honor Banquet.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant will be in the City Hall at BELDING on Friday, November 21 from 3:00 to 5:30.

RECENT VISITORS: From Grand Rapids: Robert Swartz, Tim and Dale; Mr. & Mrs. D. Lidgard and family; Mr. & Mrs. R. Posthuma, Ron, Ric, Randy and Lynae; Rev. & Mrs. M. Zylstra and family; Kenneth McPhail; Mr. & Mrs. Harold Schuhman and family; Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Price and family; Carol Boynton; Rev. Charles Jansen; Dr. & Mrs. Hoyt and family; Gertrude Spote; Mr. & Mrs. C. Tiggleman; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Portwood and Vicki; Mr. & Mrs. James Flanagan, Mary, Linda and Beth; Mrs. Crystal Mack; Harold Newman.



Your Washington Review

by

Congressman

JERRY FORD

November 24, 1969



reply 40 m. less

Fifty million dollars for development loans was cut from the foreign aid bill by the House of Representatives last week but \$54 million was added for aircraft for the Republic of China. The Administration had requested an authorization of \$2.6 billion. The Committee on Foreign Affairs recommended \$2.19 billion and this was within \$4½ million of the amount finally approved by the House. As you know, I have always endorsed our mutual security program as an essential element in our own national defense, but through the years I have also supported reductions in the dollar amounts spent on the program.

In 1948-49, Congress authorized \$6.9 billion for economic assistance; in 1963 this was down to \$3 billion, and in 1968 to \$2.2 billion. Last year \$2.5 billion was requested; \$1.6 billion was authorized, and \$1.4 billion actually appropriated. The bill approved last week was an authorization, setting the upper limit for spending. The actual appropriation, yet to be made, will undoubtedly be lower.

But less than half of our foreign aid programs are included in this bill. The total proposed for 1970 amounts to about \$4.5 billion which is 2.3 percent of the federal budget and less than one-half of 1 percent of our gross national product (GNP).

The Committee on Foreign Affairs reported that "the U.S. now provides about half of free world development assistance in absolute terms--but the share of other free world countries is growing. In fact, many other countries devote a larger share of their GNP to foreign aid than the United States, and many provide assistance on easier terms than we do." The Committee went on to say: "Today's AID program does not send money abroad--it sends U.S. goods and services. The result of this tied procurement policy is that all AID's dollars remain in this country to purchase American goods or to pay U.S. companies, universities, and other private groups for American technical and professional services to carry out projects overseas." The major items purchased here for use abroad are fertilizer, industrial machinery, chemicals, and motor vehicles.

Our largest technical assistance programs are in India, Brazil, Laos, Nigeria, Thailand, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Philippines, and Indonesia. Our military assistance is designed to improve the defenses of those nations bordering communist countries. Most of our military assistance goes to Greece, Turkey, the Republic of China, and Korea. In 1963 Congress appropriated \$1.7 billion for military assistance; the amount in this bill is down to \$450 million.

SUPERSONIC TRANSPORTATION: The future of the Supersonic Transport aircraft was a major issue when the House considered the \$6.6 billion Department of Transportation appropriation bill last Tuesday. The Committee recommended and the House approved \$95.9 million for continuation of the development of the SST.

I agreed with those who argued for the appropriation. Other nations (Soviet Union, Britain, France) are building supersonic passenger aircraft and their planes are being test flown right now--the U.S. is several years behind. Development of an American SST is important to our foreign trade and balance of payments. Right now the U.S. manufactures over 80 percent of the jet aircraft sold throughout the world. In order to maintain our leadership and protect our balance of payments we must produce a SST. The undertaking is too costly for private industry alone; government help is needed, at least for the next several years. We have already appropriated \$623 million for the SST and it is estimated that \$662 million more will be required. To stop now could mean a loss of the \$623 million.

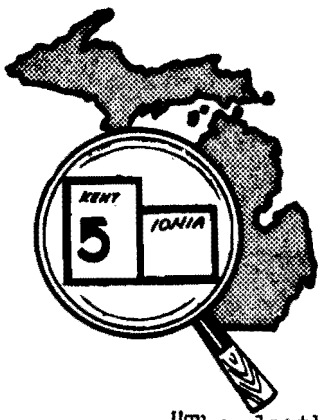
The contract with the private interests provides for royalty payments to the government. If the manufacturers sell 300 SST aircraft, these payments to the government will equal the government's investment. If 500 are sold, the U.S. Treasury will gain an additional \$1 billion. The sale of 500 over a 13-year period is not considered an unreasonable goal.

The Congress is concerned with sonic boom which can disturb people and destroy property. None of the SST's will fly at supersonic speeds over populated land areas. Proponents of the SST pointed out that research in sonic boom is continuing and perhaps someday it can be eliminated. But they agreed that this would not be in the foreseeable future or for the SST aircraft now under development.

Conservationists will be pleased to know that this appropriation bill bans any federal funds for the proposed 39-square-mile jet airport in Florida until it has been shown the airport will have no adverse effect on the Everglades or on the wildlife in the area.

AMMUNITION RESTRICTION REPEALED: Sportsmen will be pleased to know that both the House and the Senate have approved legislation eliminating the requirement for bookkeeping in connection with the sales of rifle and shotgun ammunition. No longer will it be necessary for the seller to record the name, address, and other information about the purchaser. It was generally agreed that this provision of the 1968 gun control law was no deterrent to crime, expensive to administer, and was burdensome and distasteful to dealers, hunters, and other sportsmen. There is no change in the law relating to the sale of pistol and revolver ammunition, nor .22 caliber rim-fire ammunition which can also be used in a pistol.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant will be in the City Hall (Voting Room) at IONIA on Friday, November 28 from 2:30 to 5:00.



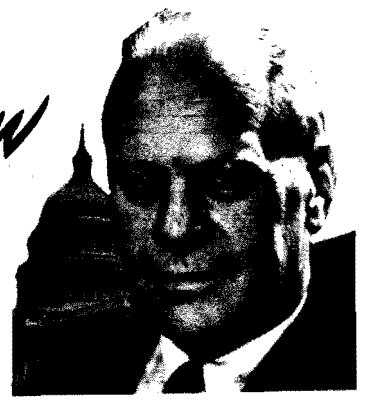
Your Washington Review

by

Congressman

JERRY FORD

December 1, 1969



"The death rate on our highways, and the accompanying economic loss, is the equivalent of wiping out, absolutely, every living and material thing in a city of 55,000 population once every year. That is intolerable." So stated the Committee on Public Works in its report on the federal-aid highway act which was approved by the House of Representatives last Tuesday. The Committee, which had conducted many days of hearings on highway safety, beautification, etc., was critical of the National Highway Safety Bureau which it said has concentrated so heavily on trying to keep accident victims alive that it has all but forgotten its primary mission, which is to work toward the prevention of accidents in the first place. I am sure that this has been the observation of many of us when we are shown all the "safety gadgets" on a new car. These are fine but we must be more concerned with preventing automobile accidents which are killing 55,000 persons each year.

It is also interesting to note that the committee concluded: "We do not know whether driver education is actually as valuable an aid to accident reduction as has popularly been believed." The Committee is not now suggesting that driver education be downgraded as a safety standard but it did say that "the driver education program today is pretty much what it has been for a long time, and it is entirely likely that something very different may be required."

The House agreed to a Committee reduction in highway beautification funds from \$30 million to \$1.5 million. The latter is for administrative expenses only; there are to be no funds for billboard and junkyard control, and for landscaping and scenic enhancement. The Democratic-controlled Committee found that the administration of the Highway Beautification Act of 1965 has "created problems, costs and hardships for both governments and citizens that are entirely out of harmony with the social philosophy underlying the act itself." While there is little opposition to its basic purpose, efforts "to achieve practical, effective and equitable results under the act, with few exceptions,...have been unsuccessful."

LEGISLATIVE CURBS TO OBSCENE MATERIALS: We continue to receive letters from Fifth District residents objecting to the delivery of obscene mailings to their homes and supporting S.1077. I endorsed consideration of this bill in the newsletter of April 23; it is presently pending with the Criminal Law Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. The bill would prevent any federal court from overruling a state or federal jury which has found a book, film, or any such article to be obscene.

Both the House Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service are currently considering other legislation designed to curb the distribution of offensive materials of an obscene nature. Included are three bills recommended by President Nixon which I am co-sponsoring and which were described in detail in my May 14th newsletter.

The Committee on the Judiciary has before it about 175 bills, some, of course, similar or identical. The Committee is expected to recommend some sort of legislation next session. The Post Office Committee has completed extensive hearings and may incorporate legislation on obscenity in the postal reform bill on which it is now working. Prompt action by the Congress is essential for the protection of our families.

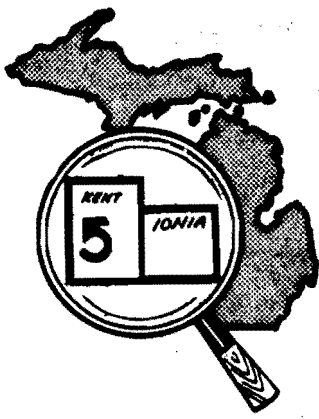
CANCER RESEARCH: We have also been receiving a number of protests on the action of the House in what appears to be a reduction in the appropriation for cancer research from \$185 million in 1969 to \$180.7 million for fiscal 1970. The House Committee on Appropriations recommended this action because last year the Congress appropriated \$185 million for cancer research and only \$175.5 was actually expended. Furthermore, on July 1, 1969 (beginning of fiscal year 1970) there was on hand for cancer research \$125 million, appropriated during 1969 and in prior years, but not yet expended. In other words this year the total available for cancer research will be \$180.7 million plus the carry over of \$125 million for a total of \$305.7 million which is far more than has been available in the past years for cancer research. In addition, this change when considered with other committee action reflects a desire to provide more and better medical care through the training of doctors, dentists, and nurses. For example, the same appropriation bill, increases federal aid for "health manpower" (training of professionals) from \$172 million in 1969 to \$218 million in 1970. This same bill increases federal aid for medical school construction from \$92 million last year to \$126 million for fiscal 1970.

SUMMER JOBS: Young people interested in a summer job with the federal government should get a copy of Civil Service Announcement No. 414 from their local post office, or by calling my Grand Rapids office at 456-9747, or by writing me at H-230, The Capitol.

There are a limited number of opportunities for such summer employment in Washington and throughout the country. It is recommended that interested students apply early. The first examination will be held on January 10 for those who apply by December 5. Other examinations will be given in February and March. No application will be accepted after February 4, 1970.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant will be in the Council Room at SPARTA on Friday, December 5 from 3:00 to 5:30.

RECENT VISITORS: From Grand Rapids: Bill Rockwell; Sue Dressel; Tom Briggs; Mr. & Mrs. Tom Draisma and 3 daughters; Mrs. L. Alland; W. Steenland; Charles Porter; Paul Phillips; Jack Boonstra; Larry Popski; Everett VanSlyke; N. Weinheimer; Steve Eastwood; Mr. & Mrs. Allan Ronda, Jack and Ingrid; Mr. & Mrs. Mel Teets, Jeff, Jim, Billy.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD

December 8, 1969



HOUSE BACKS NIXON ON VIET NEGOTIATIONS

By a resounding vote of 333 to 55, the House of Representatives last Tuesday told the world it is solidly behind President Nixon's efforts to negotiate a just peace in Vietnam.

The action was highly significant although it was purely a House action and does not involve the Senate.

Most importantly, it strengthened the President's hand at the Paris peace talks.

In adopting the resolution, the House told the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong that elected representatives speaking for the vast majority of the American people were united behind the President in his attempts to negotiate "a just peace" in Vietnam.

The resolution endorsed free elections in Vietnam, declared the willingness of the United States to abide by the results of that election, and urged North Vietnam to abide by the 1949 Geneva Convention rules regarding prisoners of war.

I was tremendously pleased by House adoption of the Vietnam resolution in support of President Nixon because it transcended partisanship. Rep. James Wright, Democrat of Texas, was the chief sponsor of the resolution. I worked closely with him and helped to draft the resolution. It did not emanate from the White House.

This resolution was truly a bipartisan product. It should prove helpful in convincing the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong that they have nothing to gain by stalling the negotiations in Paris.

ANTI-POVERTY DEBATE CALLED OFF

House Democratic leaders last Wednesday postponed a scheduled debate on legislation which would have extended the anti-poverty program for two years.

This was done on a last-minute basis at the request of Rep. Carl Perkins, D-Ky., chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee. It meant that the House was suddenly idled for at least two days despite the fact that little time remains this year to complete work on vital legislation.

Perkins postponed House consideration of the anti-poverty bill reported by his committee because it was apparent to him and others that the House would reject the committee bill in favor of a substitute bill proposed by three Republicans and three Democrats. Rep. William H. Ayres, R-Ohio, is the chief sponsor of the substitute.

The committee bill would extend the present anti-poverty program for two years under an annual appropriations ceiling of \$2.2 billion--\$295 million more per year than President Nixon requested.

The substitute would strengthen the role of the states in the anti-poverty program, provide cash payments to bring the incomes of servicemen's families up to official poverty levels and explore whether similar payments should be made to persons 65 or over whose income is below the poverty level. Under this two-year extension, the annual appropriation could be no higher than \$2 billion.

I am supporting the substitute bill despite the fact it is opposed by Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) director Donald Rumsfeld. I am doing so because the substitute bill carries out the New Federalism concept of giving the states a larger say in the total governmental process. It will also make for a better anti-poverty program.

Opponents of the substitute bill are saying it will cripple the anti-poverty program. This charge is absurd. The bill simply offers each state the opportunity to develop a coordinated anti-poverty program. The substitute bill would decrease the power of regional OEO offices and increase the state role, but leave final authority with the OEO director.

* * *

LETTERS HAVE been coming into my office at the rate of about 25 a day about the alleged indiscriminate killing of South Vietnamese civilians by American G.I.'s at Song My Village.

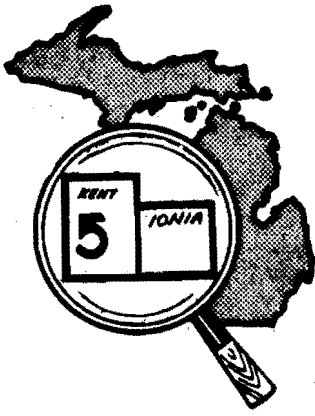
The entire affair was a tragedy. No American approves of wanton killing. One of the tragic aspects of the incident is that the North Vietnamese are making propaganda capital of the alleged massacre.

Americans and the peoples of other Free World nations should not be taken in by this propaganda campaign. It is ridiculous to assume that all American G.I.'s are being "brutalized" by the Vietnam War. After all, thousands of them have taken part in a great variety of humanitarian projects in South Vietnam, extending from the building of new schools to befriending South Vietnamese children. At the same time, we should keep in mind the multitude of atrocities committed by the Communists in South Vietnam, most notably the slaughter of 3,000 South Vietnamese civilians in the city of Hue. This is cited not in an attempt to justify the alleged massacre at Song My but to keep the entire picture in proper perspective.

Under no circumstances do I condone what was allegedly done at Song My, but I believe it is vital that any Americans charged in connection with the incident should be given a prompt and fair trial. That will not be possible if the public prejudices them.

* * *

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant will be in the City Manager's Office at ROCKFORD on Friday, December 12 from 12:00 to 2:00 and in the Council Room at CEDAR SPRINGS from 3:00 to 5:30.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD

December 15, 1969



THE HOUSE "GETS CRACKING"

In a single week's time, the House passed the last two of the 13 regular appropriations bills and sent them to the Senate, approved the House-Senate compromise version of the State, Justice, Commerce and Judiciary Appropriations Bill, acted on extension of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and took up extension of the anti-poverty program.

The House approved a defense appropriations bill that was heavily cut in committee. The total for fiscal 1970 was put at \$69,960,000,000--\$5.3 billion less than President Nixon estimated last April and nearly \$7.8 billion under former President Johnson's estimate of last January. In the intervening months, however, Defense Secretary Laird had announced defense spending cuts totalling \$3 billion.

There were attempts by some House members to make deeper cuts than the \$5.3 billion reduction recommended by the Appropriations Committee. These moves were rejected. They included an attempt to eliminate \$779.4 million for initial deployment of the Safeguard missile defense system.

Approved reductions included a \$2 million cut made possible by President Nixon's decision to take this country out of the biological warfare field and to ban first-use of chemical weapons.

As you know, the United States and the Soviet Union now are engaged in preliminary strategic arms limitation (SALT) talks. These talks in themselves will have no immediate impact on the fiscal 1970 defense budget. However, if a safe and meaningful limitation on strategic weapons is agreed to, this will affect our defense budget in future years.

Meantime, the House has voted funds to assure us a reasonable military posture, including \$7.5 billion for strategic weapons such as the new Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile, superhard missile silos, conversion of six more Fleet Ballistic missile submarines to the multiple-warhead Poseidon missile, and development of an advanced manned strategic aircraft.

FOREIGN AID: The House approved the smallest foreign aid money bill in the history of the program--\$1.6 billion. This was roughly \$1 billion less than President Nixon asked. The vote was 200 to 195, and the outcome was in doubt until the last moment. I voted for the bill on final passage because I believe that, in principle,

the foreign aid program is in the best interests of the Nation. I have consistently voted to cut the amount of Presidential requests for foreign aid, but I believe that if the program is properly administered it promotes world peace.

One very significant point about the fiscal 1970 foreign aid bill is that it contains funds to Vietnamize the Vietnam War--the phaseout of U. S. combat troops and the phasing in of South Vietnamese forces. I strongly support the President's program for getting us out of Vietnam, so I found this a compelling reason to vote for the 1970 foreign aid bill.

EAST-WEST TRADE: The House refused to accept a Senate provision liberalizing trade with Communist countries and sent the legislation back to the Senate with the controversial provision knocked out. The vote was 238 to 157 to reject a conference committee report containing the Senate provision. I voted to reject.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965: Whether or not to extend the Voting Rights Act without change plunged the House into a big battle that crossed party lines. I led a successful fight for changes sought by the Nixon Administration.

Under the present Voting Rights Act, Federal registrars are sent into states where less than 50 per cent of the population of voting age are registered or less than 50 per cent actually voted in the 1964 Presidential election. Under this formula, the present Act applies only to six Southern states and part of a seventh. The Act further prohibits these states from making any changes in their election laws without approval of the U. S. district court for the District of Columbia.

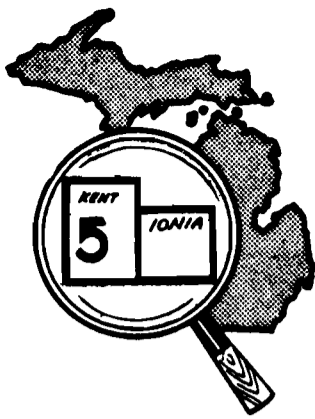
The Administration voting rights bill would equally apply to all 50 states, not just six or seven. It would eliminate the ban on changes in election laws but would empower the U. S. Attorney General to go after any state making an election law change designed to interfere with anyone's voting rights.

The Administration voting rights bill contains a highly important provision to which far too little attention has been paid. This provision gives the right to vote for President and Vice-President to an estimated 5½ million Americans who are disenfranchised every four years simply because they moved to another state before the election. The Administration bill lays down a uniform residency rule for voting in Presidential elections. It makes eligible anyone who lived in a state as of Sept. 1 immediately preceding the election. The committee bill rejected by the House did not include this provision, which greatly benefits the mobile Americans of today.

The Administration bill would protect all the gains made in the South under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and would extend the same protection against voting rights discrimination to people in all the other states.

After listening to all the arguments pro and con on the Administration measure, the House approved the nationwide voting rights bill on a 208 to 205 roll call vote.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant will be in the Village Council Chamber at LAKE ODESSA on Friday, December 19, from 2:30 to 5 p.m.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman

JERRY FORD

December 22, 1969



Social Security beneficiaries will receive a 15 percent increase in their April, 1970 checks with payments retroactive to January 1. Both the House and Senate have approved this increase which is expected to be incorporated in the Tax Reform bill.

Last Monday the House unanimously agreed to the proposal which will mean that the average benefit paid to a retired worker will be increased from around \$100 to \$116 a month. The average paid to an aged couple will go from approximately \$170 to \$196 a month.

About 25 million beneficiaries, nearly one out of every eight people in the country, will be affected by this increase. The additional payment from the trust funds for calendar year 1970 will amount to about \$3.8 billion. One of the reasons the House unanimously agreed to a 15 percent increase was the assurance that such a boost was actuarially sound, that the new benefits could be paid without endangering the trust funds and without raising social security taxes on employers, employees and self-employed persons. The House was told that during calendar year 1970 contributions to the Social Security Trust Funds would total \$34.5 billion while payments and administrative expenses would come to \$32.5 billion. It is significant to note, too, that during that year the trust funds will earn \$1.6 billion in interest and that the balance on December 31, 1970 will be \$37 billion.

The increase in Social Security benefits was also voted because of the 9.1 percent rise in the cost of living since the last benefit increase in February 1968. There was some reluctance on the part of the Committee on Ways and Means to recommend a simple increase in benefits while withholding action on other badly needed and overdue improvements in the social security program. But the Committee assured the House that further consideration of the social security program will be the first order of business for the Committee when Congress reconvenes in January. At that time it will consider President Nixon's recommendations relative to automatically adjusting benefits in the future to cost-of-living increases, increasing the amount of income that can be earned without losing benefits, increasing a widow's benefit from 82½ percent to 100 percent of her husband's benefits, and many other changes that will improve the equity, administration, and financial soundness of the social security program.

A WORD FROM VIETNAM: Recently I wrote all military personnel from Kent and Ionia Counties serving in Vietnam to extend to them the season's greetings. I want to

share with you a reply received from a Lance Corporal in the Marine Corps. He wrote:

"I was honored to receive your letter wishing me season's greetings. I wish to thank you sincerely for writing.

"I take heart in the thought of the people back home backing us. As I read the papers I sometimes wonder. I hope you will not take offense if I state my mind.

"I believe in the United States and I am proud to serve in the forces which protect our way of life. It is not easy to be so far from home. I left my wife and family to be here. I left willingly though because I believe in what we're doing here. I do not think I am the exception but the rule for my generation. It is often the minority who is taken as the representative for the whole, those few who take the easy way out of responsibility. I am not, what is referred to in the Marine Corps as a 'lifer,' but merely one man who believes in his country and is willing to fight for it."

ON THE 1970 DRAFT BY LOTTERY: Our mail indicates that there is some concern and confusion relative to the possibilities of draft registrants being inducted under the lottery system. There have been reports that those in the last third of the numbers drawn would be safe from induction, although the official White House release said only that they had a "relatively low probability" of being drafted. Now the State Selective Service Directors for Michigan and other states are warning that all 1-A's may be needed, regardless of their lottery number. These warnings were made primarily because hundreds of potential draftees with low sequence numbers were getting rid of their student deferments or withdrawing their applications for reserve service in the expectation that none in the lower third would be called. Under the new law and regulations, if not called in their "vulnerable year," they would be free from further induction.

Last week I was told by high authority in the Defense Department that it would be "unwise for any draft eligible registrant to assume that he is certain not to be reached for induction in 1970 simply because of his draft sequence number." Even though President Nixon and Secretary of Defense Laird have announced a 10% reduction in "draft calls" (25,000 less in 1970) because of a reduction in U. S. forces in Vietnam, no absolute assurance can be given today that any young man in 1-A will not be inducted by December 31, 1970. There are just too many variable factors. But we have assurance from our State Director that he is "going to make the lottery system work in Michigan the way it is supposed to work," and to me this means those in the third category have a "relatively low probability."

AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST: We have about 700 copies of a 1970 pictorial calendar for distribution. A request addressed to me at 425 Cherry St. S.E. Grand Rapids or to H-230, The Capitol, Washington, will be honored as long as the supply lasts.

Our entire allotment of the 1969 Yearbook of Agriculture has been distributed as a result of the announcement in the public press. But my Grand Rapids office has about 50 copies of the 1966 Yearbook entitled, "Protecting Our Food."

NEXT ISSUE--NEXT YEAR: This is the final issue of "Your Washington Review" this year. We will be back after Congress reconvenes in January.