

Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



January 26, 1970

The question of overriding a Presidential veto of the 1970 Labor-HEW appropriation bill is the first major issue before the second session of the 91st Congress. The bill is being vetoed because the Congress added \$1.3 billion to the President's budget request for HEW. Mr. Nixon had asked for \$16.5 billion which was already \$1 billion over the comparable appropriations for 1969. He requested increases in various funds for education and health services, but the Congress insisted on adding another \$1.3 billion. The President insists this is inflationary, that the increases go to marginal or misdirected programs which need to be overhauled rather than expanded, and that this is an improper burden on the American taxpayer. To protect the consumer from higher prices and the taxpayer from additional taxes, he promised to veto the measure.

I voted against the bill when it passed the House. I intend to support the President's veto for reasons which I trust you will find sound and responsible. One objection to the bill is the inclusion of an additional \$400 million for "federally impacted school districts." These are districts around Washington, D.C. and other areas serving the children of federal employees, and those school districts surrounding our military installations. The Congress upped from \$202 million to \$600 million the amount of tax funds to go to these schools. Yet they provide education for only about one-half of the elementary and secondary school children in our country. None of the money under this program would come into Kent or Ionia Counties. Yet our taxpayers would be helping to pay for education in Washington's suburbs and in many other areas. Most of these areas are just as capable of meeting their own educational needs as are Kent and Ionia Counties.

In fact, in 1968 this program provided \$5.8 million to the richest county in the United States while paying only a total of \$3.2 million to the 100 poorest counties across the nation. This program is not an appropriate mechanism for meeting the financial needs of poor school districts. Over the last ten or more years the original intent of the "impact aid program" has been distorted. In this appropriation bill it provides an inequitable distribution of federal education dollars. Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon have proposed changes in this program that would substantially reduce and redistribute funds for this purpose. A Congressional study carried out by a private research organization concludes that hundreds of millions of dollars more than necessary are being spent to support this inequitable

"impacted school area" program. President Nixon was correct in objecting to this mandatory spending increase of \$400 million.

We have had a number of letters from those who are concerned with funds for library resources, textbooks, etc., for public and non-public schools under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. It is true that Mr. Nixon recommended no funds for this program this year and that the Congress put in \$50 million. The President is not vetoing the bill because of this action. He is concerned with an increase of more than \$1 billion in the appropriations bill as a whole. Certainly, if the veto is sustained, a new bill can be developed to meet the President's objections and still provide needed and substantial support for education.

President Nixon is not against education as some lobbyists allege. He recommended a 1970 expenditure of \$3.2 billion for the Office of Education. He suggested increases over 1969 in such areas as "dropout prevention," colleges of agriculture and mechanic arts, student grants, work-study programs, vocational and adult education, and education for the handicapped. He did suggest cuts in other, less essential programs. In other words, the new Administration has been evaluating existing programs and making necessary changes.

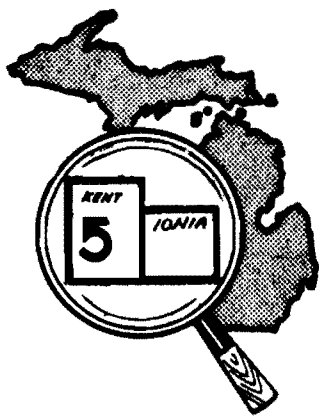
Likewise, the President is not against federal health services. He recommended \$2.711 billion for 1970 as compared with \$2.713 billion for 1969. We hear much about a reduction in medical research. But Mr. Nixon requested a 1970 appropriation of \$1.44 billion for the National Institutes of Health compared with \$1.39 billion for 1969, an increase of \$50 million. But there have been cuts in certain programs and increases in others, as the evaluation of the situation dictated.

President Nixon knows that the American people are fed up with huge federal deficits, higher and higher taxes, and continued inflation. He is determined to do his part in maintaining a balanced budget. In any discussion of his veto of the Labor-HEW appropriation bill, it is important to note that the President has made drastic reductions in the 1970 defense budget (about \$8 billion less than President Johnson's request of January 1969), has reduced spending for the space program to the lowest amount in years, has deferred 75 percent of all new federal construction projects, and in the first six months of his administration he cut the number of full-time government employees by 40,000. By June 30 the Administration will have reduced the number of government employees 95,000 below the level of federal employment recommended by President Johnson.

President Nixon is determined to balance the budget in order to hold down taxes, prevent further inflation, and to protect the interests of all the American people. I support his efforts and his veto.

NEWSLETTER: Our mailing list for "Your Washington Review" now exceeds 25,000 names. Many were added as a result of my recent questionnaire. If you should be receiving duplicate copies, please let me know.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant, Gordon Vander Till, will be in the Council Room at BELDING on Friday, January 30, from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m.



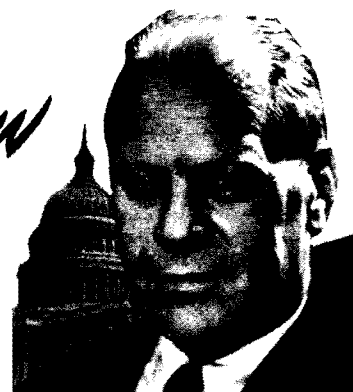
Your Washington Review

by

Congressman

JERRY FORD

February 2, 1970



The House of Representatives has voted to sustain the President's veto of the Labor-HEW Appropriation bill. In his veto message, Mr. Nixon promised that if the veto were upheld he would "immediately seek appropriations which will assure the funds necessary to provide for the needs of the nation in education and health. No school will need to be closed, no child need have his education interrupted or impaired as a result of this veto action." As far as the "impacted areas" for which Congress had added \$400 million are concerned, he proposed a guarantee that no school district should, as a result of changes in the federal aid program, have a school budget less than 95 percent of what it had in 1969.

The President has repeatedly stated he is for changes in this appropriation bill which will give us a better educational program with fully adequate federal assistance.

In this connection it is significant that two liberal syndicated columnists (one of whom was press secretary to former Senator Kennedy) commended the President on his courage in vetoing the bill and then said:

"But it will be even more courageous if Mr. Nixon chooses to tell the truth about this bill, which is that like much of the money we spend on education, it allocates resources to the wrong places and does little or nothing for our children, the quality of whose education seems to deteriorate in direct proportion to the money spent on it."

This is a harsh judgment by men who by no standard can be called conservative supporters of the President. Yet when Mr. Nixon asked for \$25 million for research in education to determine, among other things, new ways to teach reading, how older children could be used to teach the younger, and whether intelligent people who know their subject could teach their specialty without going through years of teacher education - the Congress cut out the entire appropriation. In his message, the President gave as one reason for his veto the fact that "the added funds are largely for lower priority programs."

Mr. Nixon also emphasized that nearly 90 percent of the increases voted by the Congress were for mandatory programs for which the money had to be allocated regardless of need or merit. Under the vetoed bill the President had no discretion; the extra money had to be spent. Furthermore, we are now late into the school year and all of the money must be allocated by June 30. In many cases the increased funds cannot be used effectively. The President's veto was justified and I voted to sustain it. One basis for a bill the President might approve is the removal of this

mandatory spending provision.

COMMUNIST CONTROL: The House approved legislation last week to keep known Communists out of our defense factories and away from our ships and port facilities. The bill (H.R. 14864) authorized the President to establish a "personnel screening program" designed to keep anyone associated with a "communist action" organization from holding a position where he could disrupt the nation's defense production facilities.

Congress had previously enacted legislation in this area but the Supreme Court recently ruled that the law was too broad, making it possible to punish both those who could be penalized constitutionally and those who could not. But the Court agreed that Congress could and should declare sensitive positions in national defense industries, and on our ships and in our ports "off limits" to those who could endanger our security. H.R. 14864 does this and was carefully drawn to meet the constitutional tests laid down by the Court.

The bill also gives the President additional authority to protect classified information released to industry. All in all it strengthens both our national security and our individual liberties. It is necessary legislation and I supported it.

PRODUCT PROMOTION: I voted against a bill which was approved last Tuesday by the narrow margin of 190 to 186. This bill makes an exception to the Taft-Hartley Act and permits employers in the construction industry to contribute to a joint employer-employee trust fund to finance the promotion of construction products used in plastering, lathing, painting, etc., and to carry on research in these products. Taft-Hartley, with a few exceptions, prohibits payments between management and labor union representatives. This is to prevent collusion, bribery, shakedowns, and to promote freedom of action on both sides. Industry promotion funds are legal under existing law; thousands exist today. The only limitation on them is that they may not be jointly administered by unions and management. The bill as approved removes this limitation.

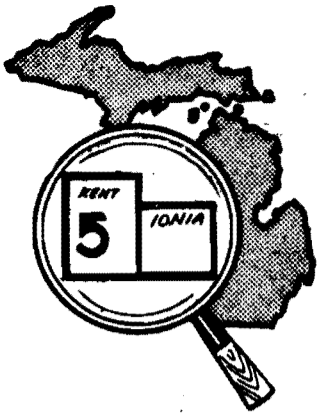
Five members of the Committee reporting the bill filed a dissenting report. They stated that the legislation is unnecessary--we have many industry promotion funds; advertising and research are the functions of management as a part of our free enterprise system; the bill could lead to abuses, particularly union jurisdiction disputes, and the bill could discourage research and perpetuate outdated products and processes as small groups attempt to preserve their own limited domain. Furthermore, although this is called a "joint industry promotion" controlled by representatives of management and unions, only employers would contribute money to the fund. Others would contribute services, skills, and knowhow.

Secretary of Labor Shultz proposed postponement of the legislation until an in-depth study of the overall problem could be completed. On balance, I felt that the arguments against the bill were stronger than those for it.

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW will be omitted next week and from time to time. We will do this when there is a limited legislative schedule on the floor although all House Committees may be at work with public hearings and sessions devoted to the drafting of specific bills.

Furthermore, the newsletter mailing list in Kent and Ionia Counties has expanded to include approximately 25,000 persons. The net result is a weekly personal cost of over \$150 which is not covered by any government allowance.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant will be in the Council Room at IONIA on Friday, February 6, from 2:30 to 5:00.

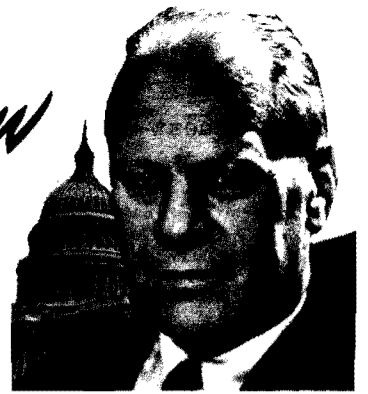


Your Washington Review

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JERRY FORD

February 16, 1970



A revised HEW appropriation bill is scheduled to be considered by the House of Representatives this week. President Nixon who vetoed the original bill because it exceeded his requests by \$1.3 billion, has proposed a reasonable and responsible compromise increasing his request by \$449 million. He would add \$70 million for basic vocational educational grants, an additional \$30 million to intensify health research in high priority fields, and \$238 million more for impacted school areas (as opposed to the \$400 million in the first bill), to mention just a few items. Mr. Nixon also asked Congress to restore two priority education programs which were reduced from his original budget: \$10 million for projects to prevent school dropouts and \$9.5 million for experimentation and evaluation to improve school performance.

At this writing final details on all the items in the bill have not been worked out but the bill is expected to be ready for House action by the middle of the week.

COMMISSION ON POPULATION GROWTH AND THE AMERICAN FUTURE: Also scheduled for House approval this week is a bill to establish for two years a Commission on Population Growth and the American Future. Proposed by President Nixon, the Commission will make recommendations to meet the needs of our country whose population is expected to increase by 50 percent in the next 30 years. It will be concerned with providing food, shelter, clothing, education, and transportation for a nation of 300 million people in the year 2000. It will gather data and predict the social consequences of this growth. It will report on the resources which will be required to deal with this number of people and the ways by which all units of government may be affected.

POTATO MARKETING ORDERS: Legislation on potato marketing orders approved last week illustrates the changes in food processing in the last 35 years. Passed by a voice vote after only a few minutes of debate was a bill to exempt from federal marketing orders potatoes for dehydration, potato chips, and potato shoestrings. When the law was first passed in 1937 vegetables for canning were exempted from the law. In 1946 vegetables for freezing were exempted. This year we are to exempt dehydrated potatoes. This enables smaller potatoes to be sold where there is a marketing order against their shipment in general, if the potatoes are to be used for chips or shoestrings and the like.

THE 1971 BUDGET: President Nixon has submitted a balanced budget for 1971 of more than \$200 billion. Much has been written and said about this record budget but I want to mention just a few facts on defense and non-defense spending.

The 1971 defense outlay is some \$9.5 billion less than President Johnson's request for fiscal year 1970 and \$5.3 billion less than currently estimated for fiscal year 1970. Other federal outlays are up by \$8.6 billion. This is the first time in 20 years that the federal budget provides more funds for human resource programs than for national defense. The Nixon Administration is not increasing defense spending while cutting down on domestic programs. In fact President Nixon and Secretary Laird have been pretty tough on the Defense Department. About 550,000 military personnel and 130,000 civilian employees will be dropped during their first two years in office. In addition, the cut in defense purchases will cause the loss of 640,000 defense jobs across the nation.

Furthermore, defense spending under the new budget will be 7 percent of the Gross National Product as compared with 13 percent a few years ago. In fiscal year 1960 military expenditures represented 49.8 percent of the federal budget; it is now down to 36.7 percent, the lowest ratio since 1950.

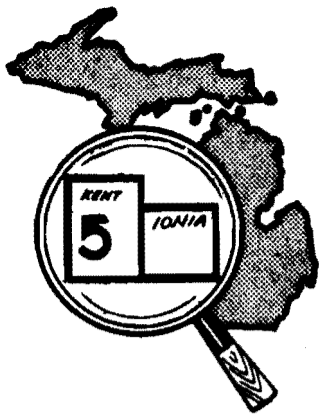
In any discussion of defense and non-defense spending by the federal government one most significant fact must not be overlooked: the federal government alone is responsible for the defense of our country. It maintains the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. But the states and local governments, and the private sector spend billions of dollars on education and health services. These expenditures must be recognized and included when we compare spending for defense and the expenditures for health and education. It is estimated that federal, state, and local governments and the private sector spend annually for health and education about \$126 billion. Defense expenditures for 1971 will be about \$73.5 billion.

POST OFFICE INCREASES SERVICE: Greater home delivery service is to be provided to the patrons of nineteen smaller post offices in Kent and Ionia Counties according to an announcement made last week by Postmaster General Blount. Persons living more than a quarter mile but less than a half mile from a post office that does not have city delivery are now eligible to receive delivery at home. Previously they had to go to the post office for their mail. Since they did not live $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the post office, they were not eligible for rural delivery service; and there was no city delivery.

Post offices to receive this expanded service in Kent County are: Ada, Alto, Belmont, Byron Center, Caledonia, Cannonsburg, Cedar Springs, Comstock Park, Kent City, and Sand Lake. In Ionia: Clarksville, Hubbardston, Lyons, Muir, Orleans, Palo, Pewamo, Saranac, and Smyrna.

The only requirement to obtain this new service is that it must be requested by the postmaster, and a majority of those living in the area must desire the service.

DISTRICT OFFICE: On Friday, February 20, my District Assistant will be in the City Manager's office at ROCKFORD from 12:00 to 2:00 and in the Council Room at CEDAR SPRINGS from 3:00 to 5:30.



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February 23, 1970

Legislation to implement President Nixon's anti-pollution recommendations were introduced in the Congress last week. I co-sponsored the seven bills designed to wage a constructive and effective campaign against air and water pollution. On the positive side, the bills will encourage better soil conservation and the development of parklands and public recreation areas. They are also concerned with means of disposing of trash and all "solid wastes." These bills are all designed to clean up our water resources, to improve the quality of the air we breathe, and to remove from the landscape the litter and trash which has become a national eyesore.

The legislation encourages the construction of sewage treatment plants, and strengthens the power of the federal government to halt stream pollution. It proposes that the federal government establish and enforce nationwide air quality standards. Specific attention is to be given to automotive exhaust pollution and the development of engines and fuels to curtail poisoning of the air. The legislation is also concerned with the disposal of solid wastes such as cans and bottles, paper and all trash, and old automobiles.

Many of us were surprised when the President reported that in 1969 more than 50,000 cars were towed away as abandoned on the streets of New York City alone. Mr. Nixon has urged the study of a bounty payment or some other system to promote the prompt scrapping of all junk automobiles. Likewise, studies are underway to develop new packaging methods so that the containers will be more readily disposable or more easily re-used.

Mr. Nixon is also suggesting the development of additional park and recreational areas, and the expansion of our efforts to control erosion in order to prevent stream pollution and to preserve our soil.

All of this is going to require the cooperative efforts of all of us. Special responsibilities rest on governmental units at every level. Private industry and private individuals must meet their responsibilities. Enormous sums of money will be required. In the future this means the expenditure of substantial federal tax dollars. But, the health and lives of all of us, now and in the future, are at stake. In the past I have supported all constructive anti-pollution measures. I will continue to do so. For as the President said: "This task is ours together. It summons our energy, our ingenuity, and our conscience in a cause as fundamental as life itself."

THE NEW HEW APPROPRIATION BILL: The Committee on Appropriations recommended a new LABOR-HEW money bill cutting \$445.6 million from the bill recently vetoed by the President. However, the Committee bill was still \$693 million more than the President's original budget recommendation. Of the amount cut, \$160 million was from funds for federally impacted areas, the most controversial item in the bill. The 1969 appropriation for these areas was \$521 million. President Nixon originally requested \$202 million while the Congress initially voted \$600 million. In the new bill these school districts which educate children of federal employees and those from federal installations would get \$440 million, the amount suggested as a compromise by Mr. Nixon.

The Committee's new bill stated that federal aid may not be cut off from school districts that permit students to attend the school of their choice, nor may federal funds be used to force districts to bus students. It provided further that no federal money can be used to formulate or carry out any plan to outlaw freedom-of-choice plans. An attempt to eliminate this provision was defeated in the House by a vote of 122 to 145. I voted to support the Committee.

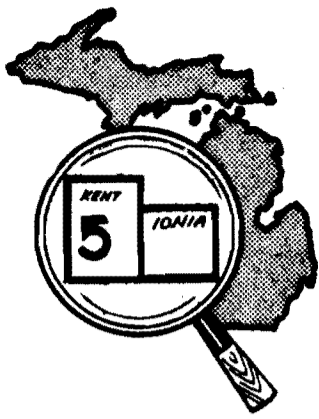
The Committee's bill also authorized the President to withhold the expenditure of funds appropriated. This was to satisfy one of Mr. Nixon's principal objections to the original bill--the mandatory spending provision. The new bill supplied the money but did not order the President to spend it. However, this provision was stricken from the bill by the House on a "point of order," as being legislation in an appropriation bill which is prohibited under House rules. I then voted for a motion to limit expenditures to 97½ percent of the total funds available in the bill. But this lost 189 to 205. With the fiscal and school year more than one-half over, there must be some relaxation of the mandatory spending provision.

The House also added \$80 million for impacted areas bringing the total in the bill to \$773 million over the President's recommendation. When all of this happened I could only vote against the bill on final passage and express the thought that there may be another veto.

THE PRESIDENT ON BUSING AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS: On February 12 the White House issued a statement which, among other things said: "The President has consistently opposed, and still opposes, compulsory busing of school children to achieve racial balance. This practice is prohibited by the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Administration is in full accord with the provisions of the statute.

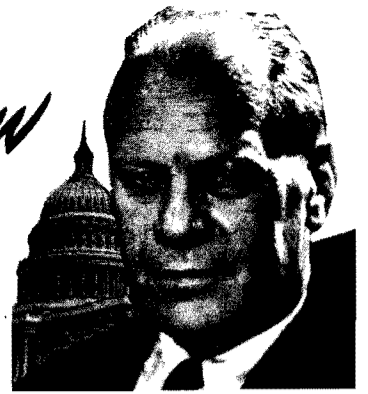
"School desegregation plans prepared by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare...will be directed to the greatest possible extent toward preserving rather than destroying the neighborhood school concept. It is the President's firm judgment that in carrying out the law and court decisions in respect to desegregation of schools, the primary objective must always be the preservation of quality education for the school children of America." I agree thoroughly. The President's statement is consistent with what I have said repeatedly and which was reported on the front page of the GRAND RAPIDS PRESS on September 16, 1969.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant will be in the Council Room at LAKE ODESSA on Friday, February 27, from 2:30 to 5:00.



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March 2, 1970

The House of Representatives last Thursday refused to consider the National Forest Timber Conservation and Management Act. By a vote of 228 to 150 it turned down a resolution under which the bill would have been debated for two hours and opened for amendments. The legislation was controversial; we received a sizable number of letters and telegrams on both sides of the issue. But the bill was recommended with bi-partisan support by the Committee on Agriculture. Nothing in the bill would allow the cutting of timber in wilderness areas or the National Parks. It referred only to land managed by the Forest Service.

The Committee had made a number of changes in the original legislation to meet objections pointed out in public hearings by various conservation groups, labor and farm organizations, the Forest Service, and the timber industry. After these changes were made and the final version of the bill was written, only one member of the 35-man Committee (20 Democrats; 15 Republicans) voiced his opposition. This member did not see any need for legislation to increase timber production and felt that the bill would weaken and curtail other activities of the Forest Service: soil and water conservation, wildlife habitat management, and recreation.

Had the bill been taken up, the proponents of the legislation were prepared to offer and support an amendment to meet this objection. The amendment would have earmarked a portion (at least 10 percent and possibly more) of the total timber sale receipts for multi-uses, particularly soil and water conservation, wildlife habitat management, and recreation. This amendment would have guaranteed funds for these conservation programs and would have substantially increased (100 percent or more) federal funds for wildlife habitat management and soil and water conservation. I would have strongly supported such an amendment.

I voted for the resolution to take up the measure in order to give the House an opportunity to improve the Committee's bill by adding the above amendment and to make any other necessary changes. Certainly such proposed legislation should have been permitted to come to the House floor for debate, amendment, and final judgment.

The bill as approved by the Committee set up a special "High Timber Yield Fund." Money received from the sale of timber and other forest products from the national forests would be deposited in this fund and used for increasing the production of timber in our national forests. The money would go for tree planting, thinning, pruning, fertilizing, and for developing better seed and stock. It is

estimated that over \$200 million would have been available for these purposes under the bill this year. Under current law most of the money from the sale of timber from our national forests goes into the general fund. This bill earmarked the money for reforestation and forest management improvement in the timberlands administered by the U.S. Forest Service. It would have meant a major increase in funds for this purpose, and the amendment I endorsed would have guaranteed, and I emphasize "guaranteed," increased federal funds for wildlife habitat management and soil and water conservation.

The Forest Service administers 186 million acres, only about half of which are suitable for the production of trees, and for recreation, wildlife, water, and grazing. About 97 million acres provide more than half of the nation's softwood timber inventory. Much of this is composed of decadent old-growth timber. Other areas amounting to 13 million acres have young timber stands in need of thinning and weeding. Still others include 4.8 million acres that need reforestation. In each case, the area is not producing to its potential. Tree harvests on the national forests could be increased by 5 billion board feet per year if the backlog of cultural and reforestation work were done. With other sustained yield management, including the salvage of dead and dying trees, the annual yield could be raised a total of 7 billion board feet in the next 10 years, according to the Forest Service. H.R. 12025 would have provided the means to accomplish this.

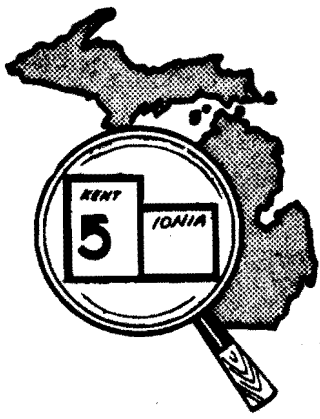
The Committee urged adoption of the bill in order to manage our national forests more efficiently, to insure a timber harvest under sound conservation principles, and to provide sufficient lumber to meet our national housing needs. The national forests contain 19 percent of the 510 million acres of commercial forest of our country. The forest industry owns 13 percent, other public agencies 9 percent, but the bulk of the commercial forests, 59 percent, are privately owned as farms, etc.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF BUSINESSMEN: Recently in Grand Rapids I was briefed on the status of the local National Alliance of Businessmen JOBS program by Fred Meijer, Carl Eschels, Gerald Greene, and John Hodge. I also had an opportunity in Washington to discuss this fine program with Donald Kendall, the national chairman of JOBS.

It was good to learn that in Grand Rapids they have put together a consortium of 23 employers under the Chamber of Commerce with pledges to hire over 250 disadvantaged workers. This brings their total to 65 Kent County firms pledging over 650 jobs.

The National Alliance program is receiving top priority from President Nixon, as a good example of cooperative effort between government and business on the difficult but necessary task of hiring, training, and retraining the disadvantaged workers in our community. I urge every employer who is not involved in the NAB program to give it serious consideration, and to call in Fred Meijer and his NAB staff to come out and to go over details.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant, Gordon Vander Till, will be in the Council Room at PORTLAND on Friday, March 6, from 2:30 to 5:00.



Your Washington Review

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March 16, 1970



I voted for the revised Labor-HEW appropriation bill which has been signed by President Nixon. The \$19.4 billion appropriation is \$365 million less than provided in the bill vetoed by the President. However, under the approved bill, Mr. Nixon is authorized to make an additional cut of two percent or \$347 million. This flexibility accorded the President is one thing many of us fought for. We opposed the original mandatory spending provisions which permitted no discretion to the Chief Executive. The Congress did include a provision that no specific item funded in the bill could be reduced by more than 15 percent. In other words, the President cannot cut the entire \$347 million out of the bill by simply reducing or eliminating a few items.

In announcing my support of the revised bill on the floor of the House I said that I would work with both Democrats and Republicans in writing good, substantive legislation as it affects impacted aid. The present impacted aid legislation providing federal funds for certain school districts is a distortion of the basic intent of the law passed in the 1950's.

RAILROAD LEGISLATION: I also voted for the bill extending for 37 days the period during which the threatened railroad strike could not take place. President Nixon had recommended legislation putting into effect the contracts that were agreed to by the union negotiators and the railroad officials in December 1969. But the Committee having jurisdiction over this matter felt that it did not have time to consider the President's plan for the settlement of the long-standing dispute. It also expressed the hope that the railroads and unions could settle the strike themselves during this period.

Frankly, I preferred the President's plan which imposed a settlement. Of the 19 railroad brotherhoods, only four are involved in the labor-management dispute. The bargaining committees of all four unions had agreed to the terms of a compromise settlement. The membership of three of these four brotherhoods approved the agreement rather overwhelmingly. Only one, the Sheet Metal Worker's International Association, with a membership of between 6000 and 9000, voted 2200 to 1100 against the agreement. This is what the threatened nationwide railroad strike was all about. Although I voted for the Committee's proposal, I thought the President's plan to validate the settlement agreed upon by union and management negotiators was preferable. Furthermore, when the 37 days have passed, regrettably the problem may be right back on the doorsteps of Congress. This critical situation emphasizes the need for

Congress to act affirmatively on the President's proposal to improve the overall procedure for the settlement of labor-management disputes.

In his message of February 27, Mr. Nixon suggested that the President be given additional options to handle disputes in the transportation field. Currently, when the "cooling off" period expires, the President has no recourse than to let the strike occur or to request special legislation from the Congress. Mr. Nixon has proposed that the President be allowed to extend the cooling off period, or to require partial operation of the troubled industry, or to invoke compulsory arbitration.

STOCKPILE DISPOSAL: The House also passed, and I endorsed, nine bills authorizing the sale of surplus materials from the national stockpile. The various stockpiles are designed to assure a sufficient supply of critical, strategic materials in a national emergency. The bills approved last week permit the sale of a limited amount of excess materials and would mean an increment to the government of \$407 million. The federal treasury needs the "cash" and the President believes the stockpiles can be reduced. These materials include bismuth, cobalt, fluorspar, magnesium, tungsten, shellac, and castor oil.

The government has 18.5 million pounds of castor oil to sell at about 14½ cents per pound. To many older folks castor oil has a disagreeable connotation. But most of the surplus will be sold for use in paints and varnish, linoleum, oilcloth, printing ink, soap, lubricants, and hydraulic brake fluids.

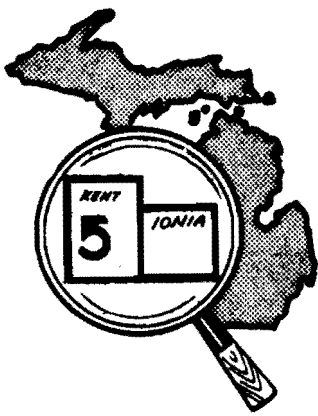
Over 4 million pounds of shellac will be offered for sale at about 15¢ a pound. Shellac is the product of an insect that lives in southern Asia. It is used as a sealer and primer, in cements for basing electric bulbs and tubes, as a glaze for candy and medicinal tablets, and in self-polishing floor and furniture waxes.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY: I have joined with the Majority Leader and others in introducing a resolution to establish a joint congressional Committee on Environment and Technology. The Committee composed of members of both houses will carry on a continuous study and make reports on all types of pollution control, on means of improving environmental quality, and on methods of promoting "conditions under which man and nature can exist in harmony."

FOREIGN STUDY SCHOLARSHIP: I am pleased to announce that in cooperation with the American Institute for Foreign Study, I am offering a \$1000 scholarship to one high school junior for six weeks of study and travel in Europe this summer. Any 11th grader in a Kent or Ionia County high school who is interested should consult his principal who has been sent a memorandum on the scholarship.

AT HOME: I am planning to be in Grand Rapids next Monday, March 23rd to visit with these groups: At noon I will meet with the Wyoming Kiwanis Club and in the evening participate in a panel discussion at Aquinas College on American ecology, population and pollution. During the afternoon I will be available for appointments at my 425 Cherry Street office.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant will be at the Cascade Township Hall (28th St. and Cascade Road) on Friday, March 20 from 2:30 to 5:00.



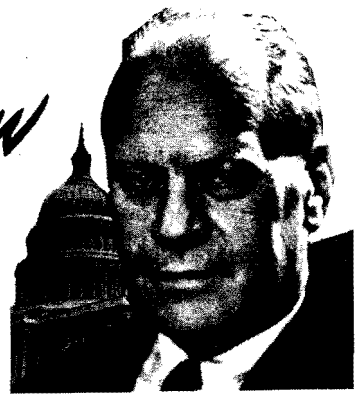
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JERRY FORD

March 23, 1970



President Nixon's "family assistance act" has been approved by the Committee on Ways and Means and recommended to the House of Representatives for passage. Designed to replace the current welfare program with a "workfare" program, the act will provide for the basic needs of the poor while requiring them to register for work or training. Adult family members must agree to work if physically able and if not required to care for an ill or small member of the household. If willing to work but with no jobs available, recipients are eligible for job training in skills for which jobs are available. Those who refuse to cooperate will be penalized.

A family of four would be granted an income of \$1600 a year but could earn up to \$3920 before its last dollar of assistance would cease. This has been called by some critics a "guaranteed annual income" but it actually is no more so than the allowance guaranteed to welfare recipients under the present system. It can be fairly stated that the existing welfare program has a guaranteed annual income for idleness. Under the "workfare" program, the family members are encouraged, rather than discouraged, to seek employment and to train for a better job.

Another provision of the legislation would hold a parent who deserts his family responsible to the government for repayment of the amount of assistance received by his family. Under current welfare programs fathers are actually encouraged to desert their families and get a job elsewhere so the family can qualify for welfare. Many low-paid workers are actually worse off working than they are on welfare, because if they work and support their families they become ineligible for welfare under current law. The bill would change this, and at the same time require a deserting parent, when located, to reimburse the government or make direct payments to his family, in which case the federal assistance could be reduced by a like amount.

This workfare program is not going to cut family support costs drastically and suddenly. However, we do expect costs to be reduced in the long run. The proposal will be vigorously debated in the House but there is general agreement that we must find a constructive substitute for the current expensive and unsatisfactory handout programs.

WARRING AGAINST OBSCENITY: The number of complaints from those receiving obscene material through the mail has declined recently. This may be a reflection of the fact that the Nixon Administration has zeroed in on 20 of the nation's larger distributors, whose mailings of sexually oriented materials have prompted about 90% of

all public complaints. Of these, four have been convicted and indictments have been obtained against the remainder. During the last four months, there have been 38 indictments and seven convictions of those who traffic in pornography. Sixteen additional cases have been formally presented to U. S. Attorneys for possible prosecution.

There are signs, too, that the courts are taking a firmer and less tolerant attitude. The Supreme Court recently refused to disturb the conviction of eight Boston sellers of pornography. Immediately after the decision was handed down, city detectives closed in on 14 other operations--only to find them all closed. If the courts will continue to cooperate, this problem can be licked.

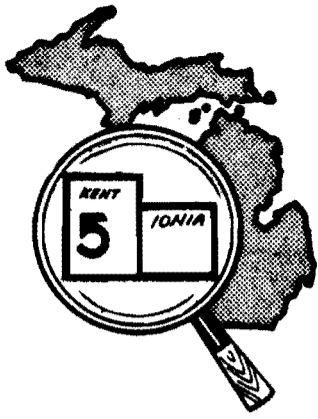
CENSUS 1970: On Saturday of this week about 43 million census questionnaires will be delivered to households throughout our country. A short form consisting of seven basic questions and about 15 questions on housing will go to four families out of five. Every fifth family will receive a longer form containing additional questions on living quarters, education, employment, earnings, etc. Whether a household receives a long form questionnaire or a short one depends entirely on chance.

All of us are asked to fill in the form and mail it back on Census Day, Wednesday, April 1. I urge everyone to cooperate fully in this nationwide effort to gather valid statistics to serve both the public and private interests of our country. All answers are confidential and cannot by law be disclosed to any person outside the Census Bureau for any reason whatsoever.

The total cost of the 1970 Census of Population and Housing is estimated at \$219 million, or slightly more than \$1 per person. Over 60 percent of the population will be questioned by mail but we will still need about 160,000 census takers. They will gather data where the mails are not used, and will collect information from those households which fail to mail back a complete questionnaire.

THIS AND THAT: When President Nixon took office there were 532,500 American fighting men in Vietnam. As of March 12 this number had been reduced to 460,800. By April 15th the President's Vietnamization program will accomplish a total reduction of 115,000 in the U.S. manpower ceiling in Vietnam.....The Committee on Appropriations has released a schedule calling for House action on the first regular money bill of this session during the week of April 13 with the last of the regular appropriation bills to be considered during the week of June 15. If this happens it will be a far cry from last year when the House did not take initial action on the last funding bill until Sept. 19.....The Senate has approved lowering the voting age to 18 in local, state, and federal elections. When Michigan voted on this in 1966, the Fifth District (Ionia and Kent Counties) voters cast their ballots: No - 71,170; Yes - 31,223.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant, Gordon Vander Till, will be in the Council Room at BELDING on Friday, March 27 from 2:30 to 5:00.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



March 30, 1970

The Capitol is filled with visitors these days. In one day last week over 11,000 went through the building. A greater number is expected this week and our records indicate that many will be from the Fifth District. Washington belongs to the nation; it is unique among American cities.

But there are American citizens who fear to visit their nation's capital. They are familiar with the crime situation here. In the District of Columbia last year there were 289 murders, over 12,000 robberies, nearly 23,000 burglaries, and 335 cases of forcible rape. Over 11,300 automobiles were stolen. The number of felonies reported in 1969 totaled 51,419. Arrests were made in only 11,504 cases and of these but 2,583 were indicted, and 1,461 convicted. The most shocking aspect of the whole crime picture in Washington is this fact that only 2½ percent of the felonies reported resulted in convictions. Moreover, between 1956 and 1969 serious criminal offenses increased by 288 percent while at the same time there was a drastic reduction in the percentage of crimes solved by arrest and punishment. This is a serious and discouraging development.

I am not reporting these facts to frighten anyone away from Washington. It is still safe to visit here and to enjoy the beauties of the city and observe the machinery of government. But one must exercise proper caution as to where and when he goes. I do make this report to emphasize why President Nixon has been urging special crime legislation for the District and why the House recently approved a D.C. Court Reform & Criminal Procedures Act, a strong anti-crime bill which will enable the police, prosecutors, and the courts to do a better job in protecting the public.

Some have been critical of the so-called "no-knock" provision. This permits a police officer, armed with a search warrant, to make a surprise, and possibly forced, entry into a home, building, or vehicle.

The police officer must have a search warrant and one which expressly authorizes entry without notice. The warrant is to be issued by a judge only when he has been convinced that a crime is being committed in the building, and that for the police officer to knock or otherwise announce his presence would result in the evidence being destroyed, the suspect escaping, or the police officer being recognized or injured.

Twenty-nine states (not Michigan) already allow "no-knock" entry and I believe officers in our Capital City need this tool in their fight against crime.

No law-abiding citizen need fear the no-knock provision. New York has had such a law since 1965. Of 1,800 cases since then, police officers in New York have applied for no-knock warrants in only 14 instances and have actually used them in only 12. The constitutionality of the New York law has been upheld by the courts.

VIETNAM EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS: Congress has approved, and I supported, a bill which increases from \$130 to \$175 per month the educational allowances for veterans of the Vietnam War era. A married veteran would get \$205 per month with \$25 for the first child and \$13 for each additional child. Payment will be made on the basis of 1½ months for each month served with a maximum of 36 calendar months.

Widows and children of men killed in action or who died from service-connected disabilities are also eligible for educational benefits.

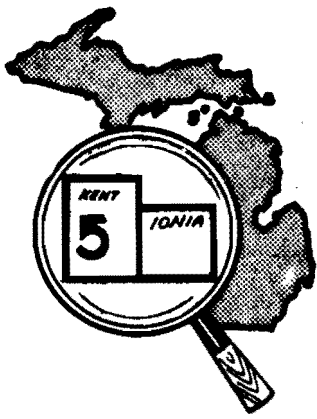
LOTTERY AND DRAFT PROBABILITY: In my newsletter of December 22 I warned that it would be "unwise for any draft eligible registrant to assume that he is certain not to be reached for induction in 1970 simply because of his draft sequence number." This is still true, but Selective Service Headquarters tells us that it is determined to make the lottery system work the way it was supposed to work. Because of the reduction in draft calls by President Nixon and the adoption of a plan of equalization among the local boards, Selective Service is limiting pre-induction examinations for the time being to registrants with numbers under 216. Those with 216 and higher will be given pre-induction examinations as armed forces requirements indicate.

MILITARY SALES ACT: The United States does sell arms abroad. Although we continue to encourage arms control and disarmament, the Congress recognizes that some nations have legitimate defense needs in order to deter aggressors and to provide internal security. In amendments to the Foreign Military Sales Act approved last Tuesday, the House prohibited sales of defense articles and services to countries who seize American fishing vessels in international waters. It also set a permanent ceiling of \$75 million a year for Latin American countries, and halted sales to countries which deny the growth of fundamental rights or social progress to their own people. The law already bars sales to military dictators who deny such progress to their people.

OBSCENITY LEGISLATION: A bill to strengthen the government's fight against the smut peddlers has just been reported to the House. It includes some of the President's recommendations which I have co-sponsored. It defines material which may not be mailed to minors and provides a means for keeping it out of our mail boxes. More on this when the House considers it.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant will be in the City Hall at IONIA on Friday, April 3 from 2:30 to 5:00.

NO NEWSLETTER NEXT WEEK--EASTER RECESS.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman

JERRY FORD

April 13, 1970



Local officials everywhere are distressed and baffled by the increasing costs of our welfare system. The number of individuals receiving aid under the program of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) has more than doubled between 1961 and 1969; costs have nearly tripled. Today, 7.1 million individuals receive \$3.8 billion at an annual rate in welfare payments. In New York City one out of every seven persons receives welfare assistance.

In Kent and Ionia Counties there is a monthly average of 5300 cases involving old age assistance, and aid to dependent children, the blind, and the disabled. The annual cost comes to over \$7.9 million. In addition there are 1000 cases of direct relief with a total annual cost of \$1.8 million. These figures do not include the child welfare costs, the county hospital, hospitalization not covered by medicare, and administrative costs. The present welfare program is growing in caseload and cost.

The AFDC program also encourages family breakups. In all states, no aid is available to poor families with a full-time employed father. In one-half the states, no aid goes to poor families with an unemployed father at home. These facts simply encourage some men to desert their families.

Under the present system many people are better off on welfare than they are working. A family of four in Michigan has to earn \$1.94 per hour to be as well off as a family on welfare; anyone earning less would be better off quitting his job.

THE FAMILY ASSISTANCE PLAN: To eliminate these defects and to provide an incentive to work or to train for a job, President Nixon and the Committee on Ways and Means have proposed the Family Assistance Plan (FAP). The House is scheduled to debate and vote on this Plan this week. Recommended by a Democratic-dominated committee, the Plan has also been endorsed by the House Republican Policy Committee.

Each family with children would be eligible for assistance even if there were a working father in the family. A family of four with no income would be eligible for a FAP payment of \$1,600. A family of four (father, mother, two children) could earn \$200 a month and still receive a FAP payment of \$63.33 plus \$34 as a food stamp bonus for total government assistance of \$97.33. The family would then have an annual income of \$3,568. Parents would be required to participate in a work training program to upgrade their skill and increase their earning power. The aim would be to get their own income above the minimum for FAP assistance. Those participating in the training program would receive an allowance of \$30 a month.

A family with more than \$1,500 in resources, other than the home, household goods, personal effects and property essential to the family's means of self support would not be eligible for FAP. Parents who desert their families would not be eligible for any federal payments made to their families. This point must be emphasized --any persons who refuse to accept employment or training without an acceptable reason, will receive no funds, and family benefits will be paid to a person outside the family under a protective payment arrangement. The entire concept is to encourage acceptance of family responsibility and to require training which would help the family to become self-reliant. This is a "workfare" rather than a welfare program.

SOME OBJECTIONS ANSWERED: Some have objected to this program as a "guaranteed annual income." The existing welfare program is a guaranteed annual income for idleness.

The FAP is oriented to work; it is not a proposal for a guaranteed minimum income. Those who are able to work or to be trained are required to register for and accept suitable training or employment or lose their benefits. Benefits are limited to families with children, which is not true of guaranteed income schemes.

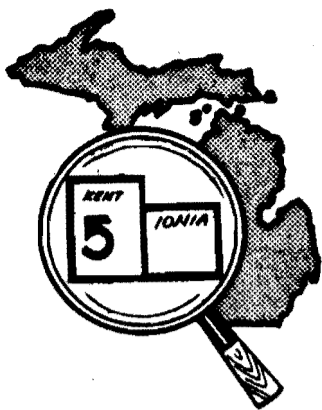
Others insist that \$1,600 for a family of four is too low as a minimum benefit. The President has proposed more than \$1,600 since a family of four will be eligible for a food stamp bonus of about \$860, bringing the federally financed portion of the benefits to \$2,460. In addition, the program ensures that 42 states will continue to provide supplementary payments above the \$1,600 in order to maintain present benefit levels.

It is alleged that most welfare recipients are unemployable or untrainable. It is true that 57 percent of those who may be eligible for FAP benefits have a limited employment potential because of age, disabilities, or are needed at home or in school. But 43 percent have a reasonable employment potential. They could benefit from training, employment or a better job.

A fourth objection centers around the increase of over \$4 billion in federal welfare spending. In reply it can be said that the estimated federal cost of AFDC in 1975 is only \$300 million less than the estimated cost of FAP. The cost of the family portion of the welfare program for the federal government will be about the same as the cost which would be incurred without any change to FAP. About \$600 million of the additional cost represents fiscal relief to the states. The reforms resulting from these costs should reduce the welfare caseload, restore family stability, and strengthen work incentives.

AT HOME: I was in the Cherry Street office for appointments last Saturday morning after addressing the Michigan Dental Association in Grand Rapids Friday evening, and before attending the junior bowling competition at the Westgate Bowl Saturday noon.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant will be at the Village Hall in CALEDONIA on Friday, April 17, from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



April 20, 1970

Some years ago when we were concerned with high water and flooding on the Grand River, I sponsored legislation calling for a survey of the Grand River Basin. Now as a result of that survey, the Corps of Engineers is proposing a dam and sizable reservoir on the Rogue River. At a meeting in my office last Friday with top officials of the Corps, it was confirmed that the Rogue River project is not being proposed as a flood control measure. The Corps is recommending it only for recreational purposes and for the development of fish and wildlife.

On the basis of such a proposal, I am vigorously opposed to the construction of a dam on the Rogue River. We cannot by any means justify the inundation of 6000 acres of land and the destruction of 300 homes to create another lake; Michigan already has over 6500 lakes plus the Great Lakes. I so informed the Corps officials. You may be assured that I will object strenuously to the authorization and the appropriation of any federal funds for the Rogue River Reservoir.

APPROPRIATIONS: Three 1971 appropriation bills were approved by the House of Representatives last week. The Treasury and Post Office Departments and the Executive Office of the President were voted \$9.5 billion, an increase of \$695 million over this year. However, postal receipts between \$6.5 and \$9.1 billion, depending on the rate schedule, will be used to offset the total expenditure.

The legislative appropriation bill, providing funds for the House, Library of Congress, Government Printing Office, etc., came to \$347 million but the Senate must add funds for its own operation.

For the first time funds for the Office of Education are being provided in a separate appropriation bill. Previously these funds (\$4.1 billion for 1971) were included in the Labor-HEW bill, usually approved later in the session. Early consideration of a separate bill is designed to let the states and local school districts know before school opens in the fall what federal assistance will be available. Included in the bill is \$425 million for federally impacted school districts, an item which figured prominently in the President's veto of the 1970 HEW bill. The Democratic-dominated committee said it "is in full sympathy with the President's objective of reforming this program so that the funds go to the school districts which are clearly under an economic burden imposed by the federal government."

THE POST OFFICE---SERVICE, DEFICIT, AND RATES: The post office next year will

be delivering over 86 billion pieces of mail through 31,000 post offices to more than 56 million addresses in our country. If the proposed pay raises are approved and if postal rates remain unchanged, the postal deficit for next year will reach \$2.5 billion. Even if we charge off \$1 billion as capital investments and public service we still have an enormous deficit of \$1.5 billion in one year.

From the revenue side, this deficit can only be met by enacting new postal rates or paying it out of taxes. Authorities tell us that 70 percent of our mail is business mail and 64 percent of our taxes are paid by individuals. If we do not raise rates so that users of the mail will be paying their share of this deficit, the individual taxpayers of the country will be making a sizable contribution to subsidize the business institutions of our country.

I'm certain that most of us will agree that those who use the mail should bear the major cost of the postal service. That is why the President has recommended an increase in rates on all classes of mail. But we must also be sure that each class of mail pays its fair share of the total cost. What is a "fair share" can become a debatable question. Should each class pay its own way? Some insist that it should. Others argue for instance that second class mail, newspapers and magazines, should be subsidized as a contribution to general education.

We hear from many who insist that third class advertising material should pay 100 percent of the cost of handling. The Congress must, therefore, not only develop a basic policy but also analyze carefully the Administration's recommendations. I can say at this point that I have not endorsed the package rate increase recommended by the Postmaster General.

I say this because the figures provided by the Post Office Department suggest that second and third class mail may be paying less than their fair share. Taking into account about 50 percent of total postal expenditures which the Department feels can be attributed to each class of mail, the chart below shows the percentage of cost paid by each class of mail during 1969, and the percentage for next year provided the proposed pay raises and rate increases become effective. It should be noted that second and third classes do include mailings by many non-profit groups.

	<u>Class</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1971</u>
First	(letters)	185 %	204 %
Second	(newspapers, magazines)	42	51
Third	(advertising material)	170	196
Fourth	(parcel post)	154	155

FOREIGN STUDY SCHOLARSHIP: Miss Margaret Hefferan, 37 Burr Oak, N.E., Grand Rapids was selected by a panel of school superintendents to receive the \$1000 scholarship for study abroad this summer which I offered in the newsletter of March 16. A junior at West Catholic High School and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Hefferan, Margaret will spend six weeks in Europe with major study in France.

AT HOME: On Wednesday I will be participating in the "teach-in on environment" at Grand Valley State College at noon and at the Civic Auditorium in the evening.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



April 27, 1970

The major item of business before the House of Representatives last week was a \$3.6 billion authorization bill for NASA. The near disaster of Apollo 13 may have a decided effect on the seven additional Apollo landings originally scheduled: two in 1970, two in 1971, one in 1972, and two in 1974. But the bill includes funds totaling \$1.1 billion for the Apollo program next year.

The second single largest item in the bill is \$670 million for the Space Flight Operations program designed to place a Workshop in Space to which crews will be dispatched to remain up to 28 days and carry on a series of experiments and observations.

I do not share the view of those who say we should abandon or sharply curtail our efforts in space. But I do think we must exercise restraint and common sense. This is not the time to waste our substance in deploying missions to far off planets. However, the continuation of a reasonable effort in space can be justified, especially as knowledge and techniques are gained which are of value to us on earth.

President Nixon has recommended the smallest federal appropriation for NASA since 1963. The 1971 request of \$3.4 billion is more than \$500 million under the total outlay for the current year. In 1966 NASA received \$5.9 billion which represented 4.4% of the total federal budget outlay. The 1971 request is only 1.7% of the total budget. I agree with the President's cutback and feel that an appropriation of not more than \$3.4 billion will permit us to continue "a reasonable effort in space."

THE HOUSE AND JUSTICE DOUGLAS: Our mail last week was primarily concerned with the proposed impeachment of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. We have received over 1800 letters and telegrams running 3 to 1 in favor of impeachment.

The Constitution says judges shall hold office "during good behavior." A practice or pattern of misbehavior is impeachable. Resolutions have been introduced by over 100 members of the House (about equally divided between Democrats and Republicans) calling for the establishment of a special committee to determine whether impeachment proceedings against Justice Douglas should be initiated. The resolutions list specific charges against Mr. Douglas. Among these are: practicing law as a member of the Supreme Court contrary to a federal criminal statute, hearing and deciding a case involving a person with whom he had a personal financial relationship (i.e., conflict of interest), acting as president of a foundation which received substantial income from gambling interests involved in litigation before the federal courts, publishing a book

encouraging violence, anarchy and civil unrest, and permitting a portion of that book to be used in a magazine which regularly features pornographic and obscene material.

On April 15 I addressed the House outlining in detail the case against Justice Douglas. I urged his impeachment on the basis that he had violated the "good behavior" clause of the Constitution. The House of Representatives is charged by the Constitution with the supervision of the federal judiciary and has the responsibility of impeaching judges who no longer exhibit "good behavior." Copies of the full text of my address may be obtained by calling on my Grand Rapids office (456-9747) or writing me in Washington.

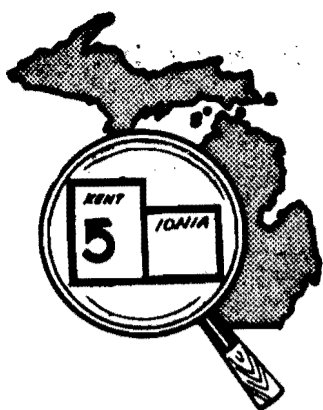
On April 21 the Judiciary Committee named a five-man subcommittee to investigate the impeachment charges. Included on the subcommittee is our colleague from Michigan, Congressman Edward Hutchinson.

GRAND RIVER DAM AND RESERVOIRS: Last week I mentioned my opposition to the construction of a dam and reservoir on the Rogue River in Kent County. The Corps of Engineers is also proposing four dams and reservoirs in or affecting Ionia County. Duck Creek reservoir (\$9.1 million) would serve no flood control purpose. Prairie Creek dam (\$14.1 million) would have a minimum effect on flood control. The Portland Reservoir on the Lookingglass River (\$12.3 million) is only partially for flood control; other purposes are more significant. Fish Creek Dam (\$14.4 million) would be only for recreation and fish and wildlife development.

The Labarge Reservoir (\$5.5 million) on the Thornapple and Coldwater Rivers in Kent and Barry Counties is listed mainly for flood control. But the Corps agrees that it is not economically feasible because of the adverse ratio of cost to benefit. In other words, none of these projects can be justified on the basis of flood control. In view of this fact and of the enormous costs involved, I shall object to any authorization or appropriation for these projects in Kent or Ionia Counties. Our original purpose for initiating the survey of the Grand River basin was to determine means for preventing floods and extremely high water.

LOWERING THE VOTING AGE: The House will soon have to pass on the Senate amendment to the Voting Rights Act lowering the voting age to 18 for federal, state, and local elections. In 1966 when Michigan voted on this subject I cast my ballot in favor of the lower age limit. However, the voters of Michigan overwhelmingly defeated the proposal. The vote in the 5th District was 31,223 in favor with 71,170 opposed. My questionnaire last fall indicated that 64 percent of the citizens of Kent and Ionia Counties object to the lower age. Moreover, the Constitution seems clearly to indicate that voting requirements are under the jurisdiction of the various states. A federal law setting the voting age for all elections is of doubtful constitutionality. While therefore I favor lowering the voting age by a state or federal constitutional amendment, I cannot endorse this specific Senate proposal.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant will be at the Cedar Springs City Hall on Friday, May 1, from 12:00 to 2:00 and at the Rockford City Hall 2:30 to 5:00 p.m.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



May 4, 1970

Following two days of debate the House of Representatives on Thursday decided to postpone until this week further action on the \$20 billion authorization bill for the purchase of aircraft, missiles, naval vessels and other weapons, and for defense research. The bill includes \$6 billion for aircraft, \$3.5 billion for missiles, and \$3 billion for naval vessels. The authorization recommended in the bill is \$473 million less than for the past year. An authorization simply sets the upper limits of spending; an appropriation bill, to be approved later, sets the actual amount to be spent.

Much of the defense research is conducted in our universities and colleges. The Committee on Armed Services has served notice that this research must proceed under an absolute assurance of complete academic freedom, meaning "freedom to present both the pros and cons on any issue without disruption by proponents or opponents." The Committee is requiring an accounting of all research funds going to those colleges where student disruptions have taken place, particularly in those institutions where administrators have condoned heckling, picketing, etc. The bill as passed prohibits any funds to those universities which have barred recruiting personnel of any of the armed forces.

PROTECTION AGAINST OBSCENE MAILINGS: President Nixon recommended and the House has approved legislation to protect those under the age of 17 from mailings of obscene matter, and to protect any family which objects to receiving "sexually oriented advertising through the mail."

The bill defines material which cannot be mailed to minors as that which "(a) predominantly appeals to the prurient, shameful, or morbid interest of minors; and (b) is offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community concerning what is suitable material for minors; and (c) is substantially without redeeming social value for minors." No distributor of such material can mail it without a purchase order from an adult. To do otherwise will subject the distributor to criminal prosecution. Adults may order what they wish but children are protected.

The bill also permits any postal patron who objects to receiving "sexually oriented advertising through the mail" to register his name with the Postmaster General. The advertising matter does not necessarily have to be "legally obscene." Any registered individual or family receiving the offensive material may ask the

government to take legal action against the mailer. Here the emphasis is on keeping unwanted advertising matter out of the mail box.

I strongly supported the bill which passed the House last Tuesday by a vote of 375 to 8.

UNSOLICITED CREDIT CARDS: The Senate has approved a bill which prohibits the issuance of unsolicited credit cards and limits the consumer's liability for a lost or stolen card to not more than \$50.00.

A House committee has recommended a bill requiring that an unsolicited credit card must be sent by registered mail with delivery restricted to the addressee and a return receipt required. The thought is that the high cost of registered mail will discourage the practice and its use will prevent theft from the mail. It is generally agreed that something must be done to stop or discourage the mailing of credit cards except when requested or to replace an expired card. The Senate committee listed six objections to unsolicited credit cards. Among these are an encouragement to spend beyond one's means; danger of non-receipt or loss with accompanying liability or other difficulties if someone else uses the card; many persons find the "unsolicited credit offensive per se and an unwarranted intrusion into their personal life;" and the cards are prone to theft in the mails and put an undue burden on law enforcement authorities.

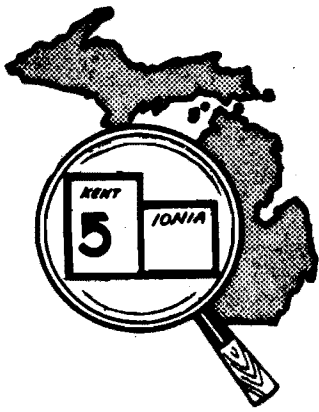
I agree that some action, along the line of either bill, should be taken by the Congress this session.

ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT: It may seem incongruous to talk about disarmament in a newsletter which mentions a \$20 billion defense procurement authorization. Yet the House last week with my full support also authorized \$17.5 million for the next two years to finance the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

The work of the Agency has assumed added importance because of the strategic arms limitation talks (SALT) now going on with the Soviet Union. The Agency is also involved in the efforts of the United States to negotiate agreements with respect to chemical and biological warfare. The unanimous report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs stated: "In general, the outlook in the arms control and disarmament field is somewhat brighter today than in past years....The Soviets have...exhibited a cooperative attitude on arms control at the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva and at the United Nations."

CALVIN CHOIR AT WHITE HOUSE: With the enthusiastic approval of President Nixon, the Calvin Seminary Choir of Grand Rapids will participate in the White House religious services next Sunday, May 10. It was my privilege to bring to the President's attention the excellence of this male chorus. President Nixon in my conversation with him on the invitation well remembered his several past appearances at Calvin.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District assistant will be in the Village Hall at Lake Odessa on Friday, May 8, from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman

JERRY FORD



May 18, 1970

AS OF 8:00 A.M. ON THURSDAY, MAY 14, UNITED STATES AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES HAD CAPTURED THE FOLLOWING ENEMY WAR MATERIEL IN THE CAMBODIAN SANCTUARIES:

Rifles	7,540	Large Rocket Rounds	869
Machine Guns	1,071	Smaller Rocket Rounds	8,536
Rounds of Small Arms		Recoilless Rifle Rounds	9,418
Ammunition	8,474,425	Vehicles	178
Anti-Aircraft Rounds	4,072	Boats	40
Mortar Rounds	13,384	Rice (lbs)	4,998,000
Grenades	12,843	Man Months	109,956

Had these weapons not been seized by U.S. and South Vietnamese forces they would have been used against American troops in Vietnam. The rice captured would have fed a Communist army of over 109,000 for a month, or an army of 36,000 for three months. In addition 3,318 bunkers were destroyed. All of this was accomplished in a period of two weeks.

This action was taken as a result of President Nixon's decision to clean out the North Vietnamese sanctuaries in Cambodia. The President's action was aimed only at further protecting our troops in Vietnam. He has made it clear that this is a limited action (total withdrawal by July 1) designed to shorten the war in Vietnam and to enable a more prompt withdrawal of our American forces.

Those familiar with the facts have indicated with concrete evidence that the results of Operation Cambodia are "spectacular" and an "enormous success."

The President's decision will help protect our men from enemy attack; it will strengthen the Vietnamization program, and it will permit the withdrawal of our troops at the scheduled or an accelerated rate, and I believe in greater numbers.

The President's decision does not make this Mr. Nixon's war. Let's take a quick look at the record: President Truman sent 36 American military advisors to Vietnam; President Eisenhower increased their number to less than 700; President Kennedy sent over 16,000 soldiers to Vietnam, and President Johnson had increased this number to 532,500 by the time he left office.

President Nixon has reversed the trend. He is bringing Americans home. As of May 7, the number of American troops has been reduced to 428,750 which is 103,750 less than when President Nixon took office. An additional 150,000 men will be home by next spring. Mr. Nixon is determined that the South Vietnamese assume the major responsibility for their own defense and welfare.

To help achieve this goal of withdrawing U.S. forces and to protect the lives

of the dwindling American forces, Mr. Nixon could not tolerate an enormous enemy armed camp within a few miles of Saigon. Those who object to our limited operation in Cambodia seem to forget that the Communist North Vietnamese have invaded Cambodia, violated its neutrality for over 6 years, and established what had been a military sanctuary from which to attack American soldiers and to destroy all our efforts at U.S. withdrawal and pacification. We have no designs on Cambodian or Vietnamese territory.

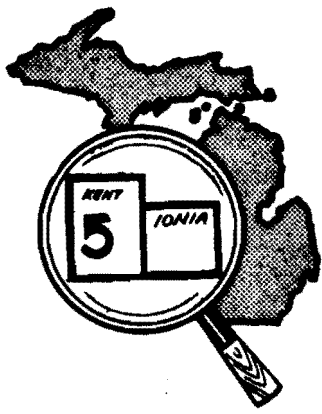
The House of Representatives supports the President's decision on Cambodia. For two days a week ago the House debated legislation involving the Department of Defense and our military policies. Amendments were offered to restrict the President's use of appropriated funds in Vietnam and Cambodia. When all the words were said and the votes taken, the House had refused to place any restrictions on the elected Commander-in-Chief who has prime responsibility for the safety of American G.I.'s. A majority of members, Democrats and Republicans alike, realized that if there is one man in the United States who wants peace in Vietnam it is Richard Nixon. The President, like all of us, wants to end the war so we can complete the task of reordering our priorities by expending more federal funds on domestic problems.

While we are receiving hundreds of letters and telegrams on this subject, and some of them are quite critical, I believe that a majority of the American people are also behind the President. A mother in the City of Wyoming wrote me to say: "I would like you to know we fully support President Nixon's decision to go into Cambodia. There are a lot of people in your district who feel this way. Our son has just returned from a year in Vietnam and he understands the problem, having seen it first hand."

May I also point out that my support of President Nixon is not politically motivated. You may remember that I consistently endorsed President Johnson's efforts to achieve peace. I would like to quote from my newsletter of January 26, 1966, over four years ago. Discussing the War in Vietnam and Senator Dirksen's comments on the Republican Party's policy on the war, I stated: "We will support anything which Mr. Johnson does to obtain a prompt, just and secure peace....Our only objective is a just and secure peace. Our only aim is to promptly bring home all American servicemen -- alive and whole. Our only opposition is to getting bogged down in an extended and massive land war in the jungles of Southeast Asia, a war which could go on for many years and produce thousands of casualties." That was written in January, 1966. Our objection to such a war still stands.

BUSINESS EXPANSION CONFERENCE: On Friday afternoon (1:30-4:00) I will be participating in a Business Expansion Conference for the 5th District at the Pantlind Hotel. Any interested citizen is welcome to hear a discussion of the services of the SBA, FHA, Department of Commerce, and the Michigan Department of Economic Expansion.

DISTRICT OFFICE: My District Assistant will be in the City Hall at PORTLAND on Friday, May 22, from 2:30 to 5:00.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman

JERRY FORD

May 25, 1970



A young soldier in Vietnam on May 4 wrote his grandfather in Grand Rapids about President Nixon's Cambodian decision. I would like to share a portion of his letter with you. He wrote: "My enemies...are the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese army. One of their most effective tactics is to construct bases just inside the Cambodian border from which to launch attacks on allied units and towns in South Vietnam. Until recently, VC troops would strike at a camp such as mine, and when allied units counter-attacked, the VC would simply run back to Cambodia and be safe. There they would be able to rest and prepare for new attacks. Our inability to follow them into Cambodia has kept the VC the strong, effective combat force that they are today, and it has cost many American lives in the process. As an example, there is a VC stronghold in plain sight of us only a mile and a half away on the other side of the Cambodian border. It is these VC who attacked our camp four nights in a row last week. Luckily we took no casualties, but there is no way of telling when the VC will strike again. They may be moving toward me as I write this letter tonight...."

"The only way to insure my safety, and probably the only way to end the war is to ceaselessly attack the reds in Cambodia and resume the bombing of North Vietnam. Despite what many people in the United States are saying, many lives, and maybe my own, have been saved by the President's wise decision, and I along with every man here most heartily support what he has decided to do." A copy of the entire letter has been sent to President Nixon.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS INCREASED: An additional 5 percent increase in Social Security benefits was voted by the House of Representatives last Thursday. This will become effective January 1, 1971. The bill also increased the earnings limitation from \$1,680 to \$2,000. This means that a person can earn up to \$2000 without losing any benefits. If he earns between \$2,000 and \$3200, he loses \$1 in benefits for each \$2 of earnings.

The bill makes a number of other changes in the law which the Committee believed were most urgently needed at the present time and which can be financed from funds to be available. The House overruled the Committee 233 to 144 and approved President Nixon's proposal for an automatic increase in benefits whenever the cost of living goes up by 3 percent or more beginning in 1972.

To pay for the new benefits the Social Security tax base is increased. Now

there is no tax on income over \$7,800. Beginning January 1, the base limit will go up to \$9,000. This year the tax on employees and employers each is 4.8 percent. Next year the tax will go to 5.2 percent. The maximum social security tax on an employee today is \$374.40 based on wages of \$7,800 or more. Next year the maximum tax will be \$468 based on wages of \$9,000 or more.

SOCIAL SECURITY IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT: Over \$5 million a month is distributed in Social Security benefits to more than 53,800 persons in Kent and Ionia Counties. Approximately one half of these are retired workers but over 2400 are disabled persons and about 13,000 are survivors. We generally think of Social Security as benefiting our senior, retired citizens. But in December 1969, Social Security benefits were paid to 6858 individuals in the 5th District under the age of 22. Parents recognize Social Security as an excellent form of life insurance for their surviving children.

APPROPRIATION BILLS: Since my last report on the essential money bills, the House has approved three regular 1971 appropriation bills. HUD and the independent agencies were voted \$17 billion, a cut of \$201 million from the amount requested but over \$1 billion more than supplied for this year. Included in this bill is \$9,411,000 for the construction of a federal courthouse and office building in Grand Rapids. I testified in support of this project pointing out the need and explaining how this facility fits into the development of our civic center.

The Departments of State, Justice, Commerce, and the Judiciary were given \$3.1 billion, a cut of \$137 million from the request but \$574 million more than this year. The story is the same for the Department of the Interior. The \$1.6 billion voted was \$358,000 under the President's budget but \$185,000 over this year.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION: The House last week also approved a \$1.9 billion military construction authorization after cutting \$95 million from the request of the Defense Department. Included in the bill is \$483,000 for a radar flight control center, an inspection facility, and an addition to the sanitary sewer system at K. I. Sawyer Municipal Airport at Marquette, Michigan. Wurtsmith Air Force Base at Oscoda gets \$663,000 for additions to its laboratories and a sewage treatment facility.

AT HOME: This evening I plan to be in Grand Rapids to address the Child Evangelism Fellowship meeting at Knollcrest Campus. On Wednesday I am scheduled to speak at the Grand Rapids Township Social and Civic Club dinner party. Thursday noon I will meet with the Grand Rapids Rotary Club and that evening will speak to the Grand Rapids Home Builders Association. During the day I will be in the 425 Cherry Street office.

Last Saturday I participated in the Saranac Community parade and had lunch with the Saranac Jaycees. In the afternoon I took part in the Lions Club Water Pollution Forum at the Pantlind. Friday afternoon we had the Business Development Conference and a meeting with Mayor Robert Boelens to discuss projects involving the City where the federal government is involved. That evening I addressed a Convention of the Michigan Lions Clubs in Grand Rapids.