

WASHINGTON REVIEW

*A Report
From Your Congressman*



*Serving
Kent and Ionia Counties*

JERRY FORD

June 7, 1971

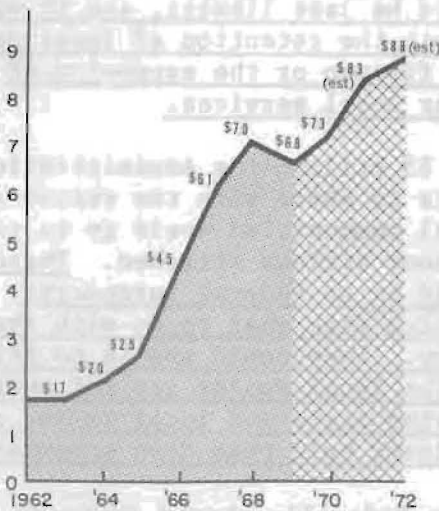
NOT PRINTED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE

DEMOCRATS REJECT LOCAL CONTROL OF MANPOWER TRAINING

House Republicans last week could not get enough Democratic support to break the Federal stranglehold on manpower training programs and give local communities the option of using Federal manpower funds for public service jobs or job training.

EDUCATION AND MANPOWER TRAINING

BILLIONS \$



MANPOWER, SCHOOL OUTLAWS RISE--Under the Nixon Administration, Federal expenditures for education and manpower have steadily increased. In addition, new legislation has been proposed to consolidate and decentralize manpower programs, provide public service employment leading to regular jobs, provide a skill upgrading program, redistribute and increase student aid to poor and low-income students, establish a National Foundation for Higher Education to spur reforms, and establish a National Institute of Education to conduct research aimed at improving education.

The House twice turned down an Administration-endorsed bill authored by Republican Rep. Marvin Esch of Ann Arbor which would have authorized a \$2.5 billion two-year program aimed at turning control of manpower training back to local communities and letting them decide how much of their manpower money to spend on public service jobs.

The votes against the Republican proposal were 204-182 and 202-183. I strongly supported the substitute offered by Esch.

Having rejected the substitute bill, the House approved 244-142 a Democratic bill authorizing the expenditure of \$5 billion over a five-year period to create 150,000 public service jobs. Those would be mighty expensive jobs (\$33,333 each), with no provision for moving the job-holders from public, taxpayer-subsidized employment into private employment. As a consequence, I voted against this bill.

The question involved in the legislative fight on the House floor was not whether to provide public service jobs. The substitute bill would have done that--at the discretion of local communities. The question was whether to reform a dozen Federal manpower training programs, with 10,000 local contracts, and let local officials set up their own training programs without being tangled in Federal red tape.

The Democrats refused to consider manpower training reform because they wanted to focus attention on their move to set up a public service employment program. As Republican Rep. John Erlenborn of Illinois pointed out, what they really want is a campaign issue for 1972.

Erlenborn noted that the President last year vetoed a combination manpower training and public service jobs bill because the public service jobs to be created by the bill were the WPA-type, with no transition to private employment. In view of this history, he said, the Democrats could expect another presidential veto--and, hence, were only looking for an issue.

The Democratic push behind a public service jobs bill is part of a pattern aimed at the 1972 election. Earlier this year they passed an accelerated public works bill. The public works bill, like the public service jobs bill, would not solve unemployment--but it makes good reading.

It is interesting to note that Arthur W. Okun, who was chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under Lyndon B. Johnson, recently warned Congress against coming up with too many expenditure schemes in an attempt to stimulate the economy. Okun said he was "disappointed" that the Democratic Congress was "dredging out just about every expenditure scheme." He specifically mentioned the Democrats' \$4 billion accelerated public works bill. And he could very well have mentioned their \$5 billion public service jobs bill.

The Senate, after a controversy similar to that in the House, has also passed a public service employment bill with a price tag of \$1.75 billion for a two-year program. House and Senate conferees now will have to work out differences between the House and Senate bills and get the approval of both houses before the bill is sent to the President for his consideration.

(over)

The need for returning manpower programs to local control was pointed up at a recent meeting of Michigan Chamber of Commerce executives with Michigan congressmen and U.S. Labor Department officials. At that meeting we heard from Richard Johnston, manager of the Grand Rapids consortium of employers who last year provided 72 job training and placement opportunities for the unemployed in our area. Johnston said 30 job opportunities were lost because of delay in getting Federal officials to approve contract changes once the J.O.B.S. program was in progress. That is the best reason I know to put local officials in charge of manpower training.

GENERAL REVENUE SHARING HEARINGS START

Hearings on President Nixon's plan to share \$5 billion in Federal income tax revenue with the states and local communities began last week in both the House and the Senate.



PORTLAND SENIORS VISIT U.S. CAPITOL--Portland High School seniors, 64 strong, visited Washington, D.C., last week, accompanied by five chaperones. They are shown here with me on the House steps of the U.S. Capitol Building. After I had welcomed them to Washington, the group toured the Capitol. They also took in all the usual tourist sights, including the White House.

House Ways and Means Chairman Wilbur Mills, D-Ark., did something unusual for a chairman about to begin consideration of a bill. He said he was going to give the Administration's revenue sharing bill "a quiet burial," and he reflects the opposition of the Democratic leadership.

I strongly favor general revenue sharing because it will ease the tax burden on local communities (local real estate tax increases would be less likely), and it would permit the retention of local police and firemen or the expansion of other local services.

The \$5 billion the Administration wants to share with the states and local communities would go to them without strings attached. There would be no Federal bureaucrat telling them what to do with the money. They could use it to fill in the local dollar gap and avoid raising state and local taxes, or at least hold them down somewhat.

Michigan would get a \$229 million slice of the \$5 billion in Federally-shared revenue. Of the state allocation, the State Government would get \$128,883,405 and local units \$100,265,427. Kent County's share would be \$1,363,217; Ionia County's, \$90,308. Grand Rapids would receive \$2,215,551; Ionia, \$144,587. Other local units would get their proportionate share.

But Mills is determined that the bill be killed. The only way it can be saved is for the cities, counties and states to exert such pressure upon the Congress that Mills finally relents and at least comes through with a compromise version of the Administration bill. Such a drive is under way under the leadership of a National Citizens Committee for Revenue Sharing, headed by former Alabama Governor Albert P. Brewer and former Pennsylvania Governor William W. Scranton.

This group has assembled a host of information pointing up the dire financial straits in which various cities and states find themselves. Two of their items: Detroit has laid off 500 City employes, and Hamtramck is refusing Housing and Urban Development grants because that city can't put up the local matching money to make use of the Federal funds.

SENATE ALSO ENDORSES VOLUNTEERS CONSOLIDATION

The Senate last week joined the House in endorsing President Nixon's plan to consolidate seven or more Federally-funded volunteer assistance agencies by bringing them under an umbrella agency known as Action. Attempts were made in both the House and Senate to kill the plan but both moves were rejected. The consolidation includes the Peace Corps and Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA). I think merger of the volunteer agencies will bring about a marked improvement.

SUMMER JOBS AT HIGHEST LEVEL

President Nixon has reported that more than 824,000 job opportunities will be available this summer for needy youth--674,000 through the Federal Government and 150,000 through the National Alliance of Businessmen. This is the highest total in the 7-year history of the program.

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JERRY FORD

*Serving
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June 21, 1971

NOT PRINTED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE

CONGRESS ENDORSES NIXON TROOP WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Both the House and the Senate endorsed President Nixon's policy on troop withdrawals and the way he is ending U.S. involvement in Vietnam when both bodies refused last week to adopt so-called end-the-war amendments.

The House rejected the Nedzi-Whalen Amendment 256 to 158. I voted against it. This was a confusing amendment because it ostensibly promised to end the Vietnam War but on the other hand gave the President as commander-in-chief full authority to continue the conflict if he decided it was appropriate.

Approval of the amendment would have been a hoax because it would have raised false hopes.

By Dec. 31, 1971, President Nixon will have reduced our military forces in Vietnam by 377,000.

I firmly believe the U.S. troop withdrawal should be accelerated both in time and numbers. It can be and should be, and I am urging the President and the Secretary of Defense to do so.

The Nedzi-Whalen Amendment would not have required that all U.S. troops be withdrawn from Vietnam by Dec. 31. It would not have cut the pay of those troops remaining in Vietnam after Dec. 31. It would not have denied U.S. troops the use of weapons already in Vietnam or authorized by previous legislation.

What, then, would the Nedzi-Whalen Amendment have done? With the loophole previously mentioned, it would have prohibited use in the Vietnam War after Dec. 31 of any funds in a \$21 billion weapons procurement bill to which Reps. Nedzi and Whalen sought to attach their amendment. These are weapons to be ordered or those being produced. Few if any would be available for several years.

Furthermore, the Nedzi-Whalen Amendment would have thrown away our best bargaining tool to get back our American prisoners of war. Former Sen. Eugene McCarthy has condemned Vietnam War cutoff amendments because they would arbitrarily and unilaterally throw away the bargaining

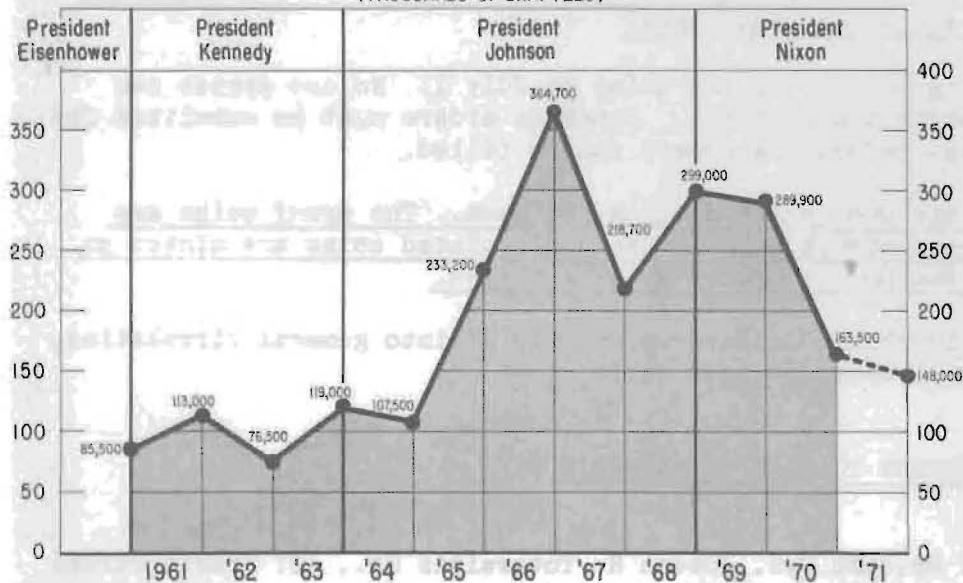
power of our peace negotiators in Paris. The United States did this when America stopped the bombing of Hanoi in the hope the Communists would negotiate a peace. The Communists simply "banked" what we gave away and demanded more. If we want our POW's home and a negotiated peace, we should not unilaterally give away our last bargaining point.

There were two end-the-war date-setting moves in the Senate last week. A Dec. 31 deadline was defeated 55 to 42, and a June 1 cutoff was rejected 52 to 44.

Having turned down the Nedzi-Whalen Amendment, the House approved the \$21 billion fiscal 1972 weapons procurement bill, 331 to 58. I voted for the bill, since the House Armed Services Committee had submitted this future weapons list to

Draft Calls Requested by Department of Defense

(THOUSANDS OF DRAFTEES)



Source: U. S. Selective Service System

DOWN GO DRAFT CALLS -- This graph clearly shows how President Nixon has reduced draft calls.

(over)

the House as essential to our national defense.

Earlier the House rejected a move to cut \$102 million from the \$1 billion anti-ballistic missile item. This amendment made no sense. I voted against it. The U.S. should not unilaterally cut back on ABM construction just at the time when the Russians have finally agreed to negotiate limitations on both offensive and defensive nuclear weapons. We would be throwing away one of our trump negotiating cards.

VETO EXPECTED

I expect the President to veto a \$5.4 billion public works acceleration, Appalachian Region development, and economic development bill sent to the White House by the House of Representatives last week.

The reason the veto seems inevitable is that the bill provides for a \$2 billion program of "accelerated" public works, with the Federal Government paying 80 per cent of the cost in areas with heavy unemployment.

This would appear to be laudable legislation but the facts are to the contrary. The accelerated public works program would have very little effect on unemployment, would not reach its peak for perhaps two years and would create construction jobs when those newly suffering from unemployment are primarily professional and technical people.

We have the history of the 1962 Accelerated Public Works Act to go by. When fully operating, that program created 46,000 jobs after two years and cost \$900 million, or roughly \$20,000 per job per year. Assuming that the proposed present program also created 46,000 jobs, the cost per job would be \$30,000 to \$35,000. Inflation has boosted construction costs some 60 per cent since 1962. And it can be assumed that the 1971 program would not get into full swing until 1973.

So what proponents of the accelerated public works program are talking about is a program of high-cost construction jobs scattered throughout the nation, creating less than 900 jobs per state on the average, and having only a minimal effect on unemployment.

The proposed accelerated public works program is a hoax. It would not accomplish what its proponents claim for it. For that reason I opposed it initially and voted against the final version which was sent to the President last week on a House vote of 275 to 104.

If the legislation is vetoed--and I believe it will be--I think any attempt to override the veto will fail. The Congress then probably will enact separate legislation extending the Appalachian Region development programs and the Economic Development Act.

The best way to deal with unemployment is to stimulate the private sector of the economy and create real jobs. In that connection, it is significant that total employment increased 263,000 nationally in May to 78,961,000. This is an increase of 723,000 since last January. These figures are a better measurement of what is happening in the economy than the unemployment rate. The latter reflects the increasing number of young people now reaching working age and the fact that more than 1 million Vietnam veterans are rejoining the work force each year.

ATTENTION COIN COLLECTORS!

Persons interested in buying proof and uncirculated silver Eisenhower dollars may now obtain order blanks at my district office, 425 Cherry Street, S.E., Grand Rapids. The forms may also be obtained at Post Offices and commercial banks.

The U.S. Mint will begin accepting orders for the coins on July 1. No one person can order more than five proof and five uncirculated coins. Separate orders must be submitted for each type, and it may be several months before the orders can be filled.

The proof coins are \$10 apiece; the uncirculated coins, \$3 each. The proof coins are made from highly polished blanks and are struck twice. The uncirculated coins are minted on high-speed presses, are struck once, and do not have a special finish.

The non-silver or cupro-nickel Eisenhower dollar, which will go into general circulation, will become available through commercial banks in late fall.

NEW INTERN TO WORK ON MASTER'S

Joseph R. Totoraitis Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Totoraitis Sr., 157 Travis Street N.E., Grand Rapids, is working as an intern in my Washington office through the month of June. He then will go to Rochester, Mich., where he will join the Teacher Corps. Joe will be teaching in a low-income rural community. This is a 1½-to-2-year program which will culminate in Joe's receiving a master's degree.

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June 28, 1971

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HOUSE PASSES WELFARE REFORM-SOCIAL SECURITY BILL

The House last week approved 288 to 132 a combination welfare reform and social security bill which can only be described as landmark legislation, a monumental measure.

The bill would replace the present Federal-State welfare system with a Federally-administered system which is completely work-oriented in terms of employable adults. It also would raise Social Security benefits by 5 per cent effective June 1, 1972, and make Social Security increases thereafter automatic in relation to rises in the cost of living.

The basic goal of the welfare reform provisions in the bill is to make every family in which there is an employable adult economically self-sufficient--to take the employable adult off welfare rolls and put him or her on a payroll.

Here is what the bill would do on welfare:

- * Create 200,000 public service jobs
- * Require every employable adult to accept employment or job training
- * Expand Federal support for child day care, job training and placement
- * Provide financial incentives for recipients enrolled in job training
- * Encourage family unity by removing the incentives for parental desertion
- * Provide basic assistance to families headed by unemployable or incapacitated adults, including a new and improved assistance program for the needy, aged, blind and disabled.

Here is what the bill would do on Social Security:

- * Raise benefits 5 per cent across the board for 27.4 million recipients as of June 1, 1972
- * Provide that benefits go up thereafter whenever the cost of living rises at least 3 per cent
- * Increase a widow's benefits to 100 per cent of the amount her deceased husband would be receiving if he were still living--the increase to be effective January 1, 1972
- * Raise the earnings limitation from \$1,680 a year to \$2,000 for the taxable years ending after 1971
- * Reduce the age upon which benefits are computed for men from 65 to 62
- * Increase a worker's benefit by 1 per cent a year for delaying retirement beyond age 65, effective after 1971, based on earnings after 1970

I have been urging welfare reform ever since the President laid his reform proposals before the Congress two years ago. I have been pushing for automatic increases in Social Security, tied to the cost of living, for six years.

PRESENT WELFARE SYSTEM MUST BE REPLACED

There was opposition to the proposed welfare reform on the part of some conservatives who objected to the cost and by liberals who contended the Federal income floor of \$2,400 a year for a family of four was too low.

I argued that the present welfare system is beyond repair and must be replaced. One reason is the fantastically escalating Aid to Families with Dependent Children. In Michigan, for instance, the number of recipients on AFDC increased 48.9 per cent just from March 1970 to March 1971, and costs increased 77.8 per cent during that same period.

My position is that we must adopt a system which seeks to move recipients from a condition of dependence to a state of independence. We must make taxpayers out of tax-eaters.

A public welfare system worthy of the name should provide help to those in need to the extent they are prepared to help themselves. H.R. 1, the bill the House approved last week, provides for just such an assistance program, with a work requirement.

(over)

Why should work make a family ineligible for assistance in meeting its needs if wages are inadequate to fill them--if, indeed, they are less than his neighbor's welfare checks? In Michigan, for instance, a man's wages must be \$1.94 per hour in a family of four before his income exceeds corresponding welfare payments.

To those who object to aiding the working poor, I say that going on welfare should never be more attractive than working.

In the long run there will be fewer on welfare than if the present system were to continue because "work training" will put people back to work. The present system has incentives for people to go on welfare and stay there; it carries within it the seeds of its own inexorable growth.

To those who say \$2,400 Federal income for a family of four is not enough, let me point out that the states can supplement this Federal payment and still save tremendous sums in relation to what they are paying for welfare now under the present system of 50-50 Federal-State sharing of costs.

The key vote in the House last week was a choice between the present welfare system and the proposed reforms. A move to kill the reform proposals lost 234 to 187. I voted for a change and against the status quo.

HOUSE PASSES TWO APPROPRIATION BILLS

The House last week passed a \$12.4 billion appropriation bill for the Agriculture Department and other agencies and a \$3.76 billion money bill for the State, Justice and Commerce Departments and related minor agencies.

**Honor
America
July 4**



The House added to the Agriculture bill \$500 million not requested by the President for sewer and water grants.

On a vote of 214 to 198, the House cut maximum price support payments for each of three major crops on any farm from \$55,000 to \$20,000.

I voted for the \$20,000 ceiling last year but this year I voted against the lower figure because it was a case of not keeping faith with the farmers. They have made their plans on the basis of the \$55,000

figure. I felt it was unfair to change the rules in the middle of the game.

The House on a vote of 172 to 225 rejected an amendment that would have cut off food stamps from families of strikers. I voted for the amendment because furnishing food stamps to strikers actually subsidizes a strike. It brings the Government into the strike on the side of the strikers. The Government should be neutral in any labor-management dispute. It is interesting that scanning of the 1971 Ford questionnaires returned to me clearly shows overwhelming opposition in Kent and Ionia Counties to the furnishing of food stamps to strikers' families.

The House also rejected, 129 to 278, an amendment calling for a one-year moratorium on stream channelization as part of the small watershed program run by the Soil Conservation Service.

I voted against this amendment because I think the Soil Conservation Service has been doing a first-class job. They are keenly concerned about soil erosion--as much so as the most ardent environmentalist.

Furthermore, the Environmental Policy Act of 1970 provides environmental safeguards. Under this Act, environmental impact statements must be filed with the Council on Environmental Quality before any public improvement project can proceed. This means the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could object to any channelization project which might harm the environment.



THREE LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS were among Future Teachers of America attending a seminar last week in Washington. Chatting with me, left to right, are Cathy Asplund, Karen Alexander, and Karen Reagan.

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July 19, 1971

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HOUSE UPHOLDS FIRST AMENDMENT PRESS RIGHT

The House of Representatives voted 226 to 181 last week to kill a move by its Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee to cite the Columbia Broadcasting System and its president, Frank Stanton, for contempt of Congress.

What brought the contempt citation attempt was CBS's refusal to supply the committee with unused film shot in connection with its news documentary, "The Selling of the Pentagon."

According to sworn unchallenged testimony taken by the committee, CBS was guilty of deceitful editing and transposition of questions and answers in producing the documentary.

When the committee demanded the unused film shot while the documentary was being made, Stanton refused on the ground this constituted an infringement on freedom of the press. The unused film, he contended, was like a news reporters notes and was privileged. Faced with this challenge, the committee issued a subpoena for the material--which CBS refused to obey.

Those Commerce Committee members who favored the contempt citation argued that the sole issue at hand was that of proving fraud and deceit on CBS's part in production of the documentary. They also contended the unused film was needed as the basis for any legislation the committee might draft, directed at the abuse with which CBS was charged.

A majority of the House, including your congressman, felt that CBS was definitely guilty of deception but that the First Amendment right of freedom of the press was at stake and was over-riding in the matter.

I agree with those who contend that governmental interference with the news media has an adverse impact on the right of free speech.

I feel sure that our founding fathers were aware that a free press would make mistakes and would engage in various practices which the congress would find deceptive and fraudulent. Yet they decreed in the First Amendment to the Constitution that "Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech or of the press."

James Madison, one of our early Presidents, said: "Some degree of abuse is inseparable from the proper use of everything; and in no instance is this more true than of the press."

The courts have ruled that "no rational distinction can be made between radio and television on the one hand and the press on the other in affording the Constitutional protection contemplated by the First Amendment." This was affirmed by the Supreme Court in 1954.



WHEN TAKE-OFF-POUNDS-SENSIBLY delegates from all over the country gathered in Washington, these Grand Rapids area TOPS advocates dropped into my office to see me. They are Agnes Kooiker and Anne Lehnen of Rockford, Goldie Butt of Belding, and Anne Lavn of Grand Rapids.

In the case of the "Selling of the Pentagon," CBS afforded the Vice-President, the Secretary of Defense, and the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee an opportunity to criticize the documentary on the air.

The Commerce Committee's motives were of the highest order--to show the public how alleged deceit and fraud had been perpetrated. But Congress has no business sitting in judgment on the content of news presentations and the presentation of controversial issues. In other words, the First Amendment issue was paramount in the matter before the House.

WHITE HOUSE TO EXPEDITE PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS PROGRAM

I was delighted to learn last week that the Nixon Administration is going to move as fast as possible to get the new public service jobs program rolling.

As you may know, Grand Rapids is seeking \$2 million under this new program in order to keep on the payroll City employes who otherwise may be laid off.



METROPOLITAN GRAND RAPIDS Camp Fire Girls attending a Washington conference receive from me and Sen. Robert P. Griffin a Flag that has been flown over the U.S. Capitol. They will use the Flag at Camp Wohelo on Lake Michigan near Holland. The girls are, left to right, Debbie Houseman and Jackie West of Grand Rapids, Barbara Jackson and Sherryl Smith of Wyoming, and Kathy Gillett and Mary Worth of Grand Rapids.

I am also hopeful that Congress this year will adopt the President's proposal to share \$5 billion in Federal income tax revenue with the states and local units of government.

If this legislation is enacted, it may be possible to avoid any increase in local taxes.

HOUSE PASSES TOUGH ANTI-SMUT BILL

The anti-obscenity laws in this country badly need strengthening. I therefore strongly supported a tough new anti-smut mailing measure which has passed the House and now is in the U.S. Senate.

The bill is designed to crack down on smut peddlers. It provides a definition of "obscene" to get around court decisions which allow mailing of "nude" magazines and other sex publications.

The legislation also prohibits the mailing of sexual material to youths under 17 and requires special markings on mail that might contain "potentially offensive sexual material" so people can destroy the mail or return it without opening it.

HOUSE APPROVES TRANSPORTATION MONEY BILL

The House last week passed and sent to the Senate a \$7.9 billion Transportation Department appropriation bill which included \$4.6 billion in Federal aid for highway construction. The bill passed 400 to 12. I voted for it. It was \$275 million less than the President requested but that request contained \$235 million for the SST, which Congress killed.



THREE FINE INTERNS now are working in my Washington Office. They are left to right, George Zeeff and Barbara Valenti of Grand Rapids and William Jagger of Belding.

The minute the President signed the bill which makes the public service jobs program possible, I got in touch with the White House and with the Labor Department.

The Labor Department assured me that although the new program is primarily for placing the unemployed in public service jobs and giving them on-the-job training in such employment, some of the funds also can be used to provide continued employment for municipal employes who otherwise would become jobless.

The Office of Management and Budget on behalf of the President submitted an urgent request for \$1 billion for this fiscal year to fund the new public service jobs program.

I will do everything possible to see that Grand Rapids receives some of these funds so we will not find ourselves in the position of laying off essential City employes.

DISTRICT TOUR

My district assistant, Gordon Vander Till, will be at the City Hall in Belding from 2:30 to 5 p.m. July 23 to talk with anyone who has a problem he wishes to bring to my attention.

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JERRY FORD

July 26, 1971

NOT PRINTED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE

BILLS VITAL TO MICHIGAN INTRODUCED IN HOUSE

Two bills which are vital to Michigan have been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives--a measure to repeal the 7 per cent automobile excise tax and a bill to allow auto manufacturers to pool their knowledge on car engine anti-pollution devices and thus speed up development of a clean engine. These bills have also been introduced in the Senate.

I authored the House clean engine bill and co-sponsored the auto excise tax repealer.

Under present law, the auto makers cannot put their heads together to develop a clean car engine as rapidly and economically as possible. They would be in violation of the antitrust laws. Yet they are operating under a congressional deadline which requires them to put virtually pollution-free engines in their cars by 1975.

It is costly to force the auto manufacturers to work independently on anti-pollution devices--costly to the manufacturers and to the consumer. It also poses the possibility that production will be interfered with and it thus threatens the jobs of auto workers.

I firmly believe--along with United Auto Workers President Leonard Woodcock--that the auto manufacturers should be allowed to work together on building a clean car engine. This is in the best interest of auto workers and the best interest of the country.

AUTO EXCISE TAX REPEAL WOULD BOOST ECONOMY

There are many reasons why the auto excise tax should be repealed. The chief reason is that this would give the entire economy a shot in the arm.

Auto excise tax repeal would stimulate car sales and thus boost employment. It would help hold car prices down.

Under present law, approved by Congress last December, the auto excise tax will be phased out over the next 10 years. The phaseout will begin Jan. 1, 1973, and the tax will drop to zero as of Jan. 1, 1982.

We should not wait to get rid of the auto excise tax. We should repeal it now.

HOUSE PASSES VETERANS BILLS

The House last week passed two veterans bills--one dealing with drug addiction and the other with development of new medical schools.

The drug bill would:

- *Provide a drug-addicted veteran with VA hospital treatment no matter what kind of discharge he had received from military service
- *Establish an orderly procedure for the VA to cooperate with the Armed Forces in treating members of the Armed Forces with drug addiction problems
- *Provide that the VA Administrator may receive and treat drug-addicted ex-servicemen on the basis of commitment from Federal courts

The other veterans bill would set up five new medical schools in conjunction with the Veterans Administration.

That bill is designed to help ease the severe shortage of physicians in the country and also to improve VA hospital facilities.

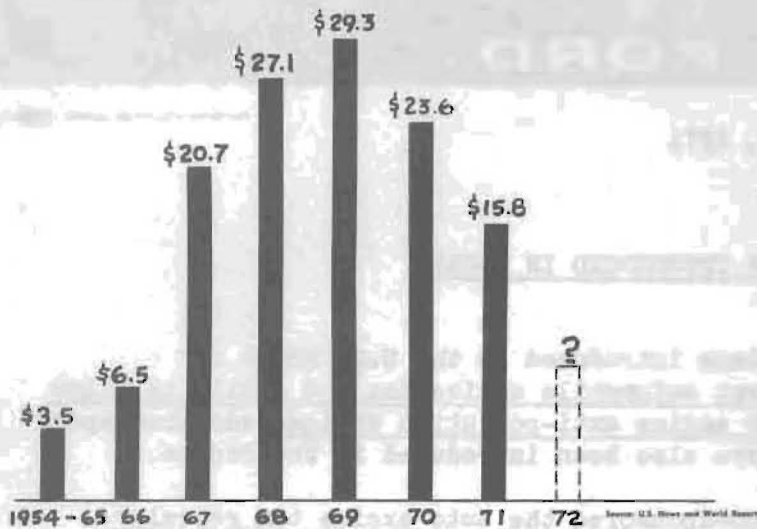
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HOUSE PASSES MILITARY CONSTRUCTION BILL

The House last week approved a bill authorizing \$2,138,337,000 worth of military construction during fiscal 1972. This was \$121,107,000 less than requested by the Defense Department.

EXPENDITURES ON THE WAR IN INDOCHINA

(\$ BILLIONS)



SPENDING ON the war in Vietnam has dropped drastically under the Nixon Administration, as this graph dramatically shows.

pre-World War II and mobilization type buildings which now are inadequate to support modern medical equipment. Demolition work now is under way at Walter Reed.

The authorization bill also provides for:

- *\$129.9 million for air and water pollution control at 173 military installations in the United States and overseas
- *\$172.5 million for real estate, easements and tactical and supporting facilities for further deployment of the Safeguard anti-ballistic-missile system
- *\$5,870,000 for projects in the Ninth Naval District, including a hospital corps school and bachelor enlisted quarters at Great Lakes, Ill.

WIDER-BUS BILL APPROVED

The House last week passed a bill allowing a six-inch wider bus to operate on the Interstate Highway System but only on those sections which have 12-foot lanes. This is permissive legislation only and is not binding on any state.

The bill will go into effect July 1, 1973, unless the Secretary of Transportation reports to the Congress that the wider buses will be unsafe. This gives the Secretary of Transportation virtual veto power over the move.

HOUSE FAVORS JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

The House voted to create a House-Senate Committee on the Environment. This joint committee would provide a clear focus on many of the difficult environmental decisions which must be made in the years ahead. I co-sponsored this legislation, along with House Speaker Carl Albert, D-Okla., and others.

This bill now goes to the Senate. I hope the Senate will quickly approve this legislation, so that Congress will be in a position to effectively carry out its responsibilities with regard to environmental matters.

The committee would develop policies which would encourage the greatest possible public and private efforts to improve the quality of the environment.

DISTRICT HOURS

My district assistant, Gordon Vander Till, will be at the City Hall voting room in Ionia from 2:30 to 5 p.m. July 30 to meet with anyone in the Ionia area wanting to bring a problem to my attention.

The bill placed major emphasis on "peoples projects" aimed at improving conditions under which our service personnel and their families live.

One of the most important of the "peoples projects" involves improvement of troop bachelor housing. The bill authorizes \$273.1 million for that purpose, more than double the amount for last fiscal year.

The sum of \$48 million is aimed at providing privacy in existing military barracks. The objective is to attract Army volunteers.

There is no authorization in the bill for military construction in Southeast Asia.

The bill authorizes \$56,181,000 for the modernization and improvement of five Air Force depots. Air Force authorization also includes \$1,431,000 for K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base at Marquette and \$440,000 for Wurtsmith AFB at Oscoda.

The overall authorization includes \$112.5 million for construction of a main hospital building at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. The plans are to replace the

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From Your Congressman*



*Serving
Kent and Ionia Counties*

JERRY FORD

August 2, 1971

NOT PRINTED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE

GRADUAL WITHDRAWAL, NEGOTIATION SUPPORTED

My 1971 questionnaire results are now in, and I have reported them to my constituents, the Congress, and the President.



GRAND RAPIDS PONY FROM CHINCOTEAGUE--This is the Assateague Island, Va., pony given to the children of the Grand Rapids area by the people of Chincoteague, Va. He will be transported to the Grand Rapids Zoo.

The balloting on Vietnam was most interesting. I don't know what the November referendum in Grand Rapids will show, because of the phrasing of the question. But my questionnaire indicates that more than 62 per cent of Kent and Ionia County residents favor either the Nixon policy of gradual withdrawal from Vietnam while seeking a political settlement, or a stepup in the fighting with victory as the goal.

A breakdown of this sentiment shows 49.3 per cent favor withdrawing U.S. troops on a monthly basis while continuing negotiations, while 13 per cent favor increasing our military effort.

Only 33.3 per cent said they favor withdrawal by a fixed date regardless of the effect on negotiations.

The complete results of the questionnaire balloting are as follows:

	YES	NO	OTHER
1. Do you favor Federal deficit financing to stimulate the economy?	26.62%	66.41%	6.97%
2. Should the Federal Government impose strict controls on wages and prices?	53.64	41.62	4.74
3. Should the Federal Government expand efforts to control air and water pollution even if this costs you more in taxes and prices?	68.28	27.53	4.19
4. Should the Executive Branch of the Federal Government be reorganized and the number of cabinet departments reduced from 11 to eight?	68.69	20.40	10.91
5. Do you favor Federal legislation requiring "unit pricing" of food items so you can compare the cost per pound, ounce, etc., of the various brands?	77.48	19.04	3.48
6. Should food stamps be made available to those idled by a labor-management dispute?	16.72	80.46	2.82
7. Should we keep a residual force in Vietnam until all American prisoners of war are released?	65.51	27.83	6.66

MULTIPLE CHOICE

8. On Vietnam, what is the best policy? Pick one.	
A. Increase our military effort in hope of achieving "victory"	A. 12.98%
B. Withdraw U.S. troops on a monthly basis while continuing negotiations aimed at a political settlement	B. 49.34
C. Withdraw all U.S. forces from Vietnam by a fixed date regardless of the effect on negotiations	C. 33.28
	other 4.40
9. On State and local problems, what is the best answer?	
A. Return a percentage of Federal income tax revenue to the states and local units to hold down local taxes and help solve local problems	A. 37.73
B. Increase state and local taxes and cut Federal income taxes	B. 25.51
C. Increase the funding for over 550 Federal grant programs, with local government matching funds required	C. 7.27
D. Have the Federal Government take over all welfare costs and pay this cost from federal taxes	D. 13.94
	other 9.19
	multiple 6.36
10. On welfare, which is better?	
A. Keep the present system	A. 6.92
B. Adopt a Federal minimum income for families with children and enact a work or job training requirement	B. 81.62
	other 11.46

HOUSE PASSES APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

The House last week passed a \$20.3 billion appropriation bill for the Labor and Health, Education and Welfare Departments, a \$13.3 billion final version agriculture money bill, and a \$4.5 billion public works appropriation bill.

The House added \$82.4 million to the Labor-HEW bill for vocational rehabilitation for a total of \$695 million in "rehab" money, and tacked on \$14 million to keep open the Fort Worth, Tex., narcotics center.



DISTRICT INTERN--
Mary Jane Zinn of
Grand Rapids is a
summer intern in
my district office.

The House rejected a package of Labor-HEW amendments which would have added \$200 million for the fight against various diseases.

I voted against the add-ons because the bill already was \$321.7 million over the budget recommendations, and \$2.8 billion over the amount for the same programs last year.

Very large sums are automatically appropriated for labor and HEW programs each year without going through the formal appropriating process. And the Congress has already approved a separate \$5.1 billion school aid appropriation bill, with \$3.5 billion in various health and welfare bills still to be considered. It all adds up to \$86.9 billion--far in excess of the \$73.2 billion the President has asked for national defense.

The public works appropriation bill included \$3.4 million for Michigan navigation, flood control and survey projects, including \$765,000 for St. Lawrence Seaway season extension and \$425,000 for a Great Lakes water levels survey.

I voted against the "Ag" appropriation bill because it was \$1,172,000,000 over the President's budget.

In the Labor-HEW and "Ag" appropriation bills, the Democrat-controlled House increased the budget by more than \$1.5 billion. That raises the question: Who is responsible for inflation?

HOUSE APPROVES PUBLIC WORKS BILL

The House last week passed a public works authorization bill which extended the life of the Economic Development Administration and the Appalachian Regional Development Act and included \$500 million for accelerated public works for two years. Thus the House scaled back the \$2 billion in accelerated public works authority contained in the bill the President vetoed last month.

I voted for the bill. The President is expected to sign it. Grand Rapids will be eligible for aid under Title I of the bill, which includes the modified accelerated public works program to be managed by the Economic Development Administration. The bill makes Federal grants of 80 per cent or more available to eligible communities for certain public works projects.

BLUE COLLAR PAY RAISE O.K. 'D

The House passed and sent to the Senate a Federal blue collar worker pay raise bill which ultimately will add more than \$180 million a year to the \$4 billion blue collar Federal payroll.



MONEY FOR JOBS--A City of Grand Rapids and School Board delegation talks with me about chances for a \$7.4 million Federal grant to fund 633 public service jobs. Left to right are Schools Special Programs Director Wallace Norgrove, Acting Mayor Lyman Parks, City Commissioner Patrick Barr, Commissioner Richard Schwaiger, Ass't School Supt. John Dow, and City Manpower Coordinator Harold Oliver.

The President vetoed a similar bill last year and is expected to do so again, assuming that the Senate passes it. The bill would destroy the whole concept of paying Federal workers in a local wage area the same rate as that paid by private industry. I was opposed to the bill. The pay raise would cost \$76.8 million this fiscal year; \$115.3 million next year; and \$181.3 million the third year.

DISTRICT VISITS

My district assistant, Gordon Vander Till, will be at various district locations from 2:30 to 5 p.m. in August. He will be at Rockford City Hall August 6; Lowell City Council Room, August 13; and Portland City Council Room, August 20. Anyone wanting to bring a problem to my attention is invited to talk with Mr. Vander Till. I will personally visit the district with my mobile office August 23-26 and August 30-Sept. 3.

WASHINGTON REVIEW

*A Report
From Your Congressman*



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JERRY FORD

August 9, 1971

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MOBILE OFFICE TOUR SCHEDULED

During the recess I will devote nine days to a tour of Kent and Ionia Counties in my mobile office. In addition, I have meetings, conferences and speeches scheduled in our congressional district.

I will tour Kent County August 23 through 26, and Ionia County August 30 through Sept. 3. In all, I will be taking my mobile office to 18 locations--eight in Kent County and 10 in Ionia. My office hours will be from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and from 2:30 to 5 p.m.

My complete mobile office schedule is as follows:

9:00 to 11:30 A.M.

2:30 to 5:00 P.M.

Mon., Aug. 23	KENT CITY (Township Hall)	SPARTA (E. Division Parking Lot)
Tues., Aug. 24	CEDAR SPRINGS (Main at Ash)	ROCKFORD (Don's Pharmacy)
Wed., Aug. 25	COMSTOCK PARK (Lamoreaux Drug)	STANDALE (Plaza)
Thurs., Aug. 26	GRANDVILLE (City Hall Parking Lot)	ROGERS PLAZA (Schensul's sign)
Mon., Aug. 30	BELDING (City Hall)	IONIA (First Security Bank)
Tues., Aug. 31	PORTLAND (City Parking Lot)	LYONS-MUIR (Tabor & Superior Sts.)
Wed., Sept. 1	SARANAC (28 N. Bridge)	LAKE ODESSA (BraDee Parking)
Thurs., Sept. 2	LOWELL (Main at Lafayette)	CALEDONIA (Main at Lake Ave.)
Fri., Sept. 3	BYRON CENTER (Harkema Parking)	CASCADE (Old Kent Bank Parking)

HOUSE VOTES PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS MONEY

The House has approved a \$1 billion appropriation for fiscal 1972 to fund up to 172,800 public service jobs in communities hard-hit by unemployment. Grand Rapids is among those cities expected to benefit.

The City of Grand Rapids and the Grand Rapids Board of Education are seeking \$7.4 million from these emergency employment funds to pay the salaries of 633 persons who would be employed in City and School Board jobs.

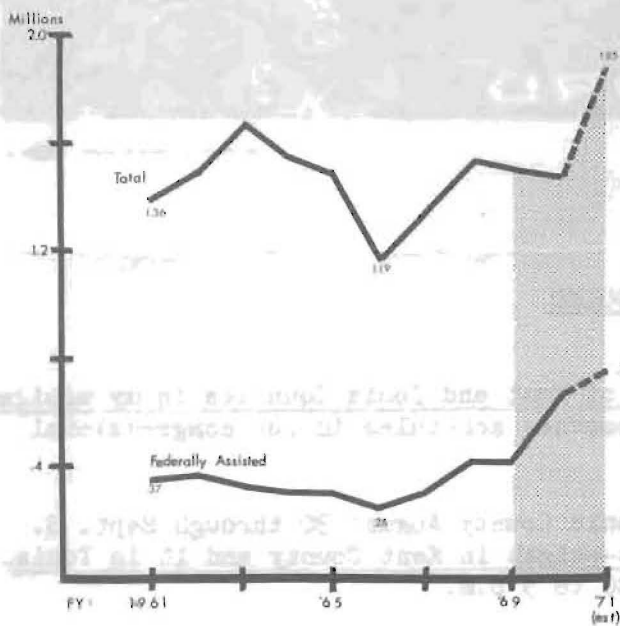
I will do everything in my power to help obtain public service jobs money for Grand Rapids. Grand Rapids is definitely eligible under provisions of the Emergency Employment Act, and City and School officials have moved quickly with their application to "get in on the ground floor."

(over)

The House has moved to reassert Congress's war-making power with a resolution requiring the President to report to the Congress whenever U.S. forces equipped for combat are sent to foreign areas in substantial numbers for any purpose.

HOUSING STARTS...

...a dramatic upturn



A BRIGHT SPOT in the economy is housing construction, which has reached a 10-year peak nationally.

We could have expected a much more reasoned and reasonable Congressional decision on the basis of a Kennedy report on troop dispatch in 1962.

I was wholeheartedly in support of the House Joint Resolution, which was adopted under suspension of the rules. I urged action of this kind by the Congress in a speech last July 16 to the Pennsylvania Department of the American Legion at Pittsburgh.

Purpose of the war-making powers bill, House Joint Resolution No. 1, is to avoid future Vietnams. Had it previously been law, it would have required a Presidential report to the Congress on:

- *Deployment of U.S. troops in Thailand in 1961-62
- *Troop buildups in Vietnam through August 1964, when Congress approved the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution
- *Activities over Laos in early 1971

Had this reporting requirement been in effect in 1962 when President Kennedy increased the number of U.S. advisers in Vietnam from 700 without combat gear to 16,000 men equipped for combat, the President would have had to explain promptly to Congress why he had taken that action and his reasons for not seeking specific prior Congressional authorization for it.

It's true that Congress gave President Johnson blanket authority to carry on the Vietnam War with passage of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution in 1964. But that action was taken under circumstances charged with emotion.

HOUSE APPROVES FINAL VERSION DRAFT EXTENSION

A compromise version of a two-year draft extension bill finally came last week before the House, which had passed its own draft bill last April 1. The House quickly approved the compromise, which was in the form of a "conference report."

The big hangup was the so-called "Mansfield Amendment," which called upon the President to withdraw all U.S. forces from Vietnam within nine months, subject to release of all American prisoners of war.

House and Senate conferees finally agreed upon compromise language, which urges the President to negotiate an immediate cease-fire in Vietnam and the withdrawal of all U.S. forces by a date certain contingent on the release of all American prisoners, with the U.S. withdrawal to be in phased form tied to the phased release of American POW's. This was a proper expression of Congressional concern over Vietnam and our desire to end the fighting there.

The draft extension also provides for:

- *A military pay raise of \$1.8 billion on an annual basis to boost recruitment and encourage reenlistments, aimed at establishing an all-volunteer Armed Force
- *An increase of \$409.8 million in basic allowance for troop quarters
- *An increase of \$105.9 million in Dependents Assistance Allowance
- *A combat status first-enlistment bonus of up to \$3,000 for a three-year hitch
- *Draft deferments until graduation for students deferred during the 1970-71 academic year
- *A bar to induction of any person who has lost a member of his immediate family through service in the Armed Forces, and discharge of any surviving son or sons who would have been exempt from induction for the same reason

MY ATTENDANCE RECORD AT 92%

During this session of Congress (up to July 30), there have been a total of 227 quorum calls and roll calls. I missed only 18, for a showing of 92 per cent. There were 76 quorum calls; I missed 3. There were 150 roll call votes; I missed 15. There was also the vote on electing the Speaker of the House.

My current record slightly surpasses my attendance of the past 20 years, which averages 91 per cent.