

WASHINGTON REVIEW

*A Report
From Your Congressman*



*Serving
Kent and Tonia Counties*

JERRY FORD

April 3, 1972

NOT PRINTED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE

HOUSE PASSES FAR-REACHING WATER POLLUTION CONTROL BILL

After three days of debate and consideration of numerous amendments, the House last week approved a momentous \$24.6 billion three-year water pollution control bill with authority for a crash program to clean up the Great Lakes. I strongly supported the bill.

I resurrected the special Great Lakes cleanup program after the Office of Management and Budget had shot it down by leaving it out of the fiscal 1973 budget.

In a colloquy on the House floor with Rep. Bob Jones, D-Ala., floor manager of the bill, Rep. William Harsha, R-Ohio, senior Republican on the House Public Works Committee, and Rep. John Blatnik, D-Minn., Committee chairman, I established the fact that there is ample authority in existing law and in the House bill to proceed with the Great Lakes crash cleanup program.

Earlier I met with officials of the Environmental Protection Agency, who assured me there would be sufficient funds under the overall \$24.6 billion authorization in the bill to take care of the Great Lakes program.

I now will work on the House Appropriations Committee to obtain funds for a Great Lakes cleanup.

The main thrust of the Great Lakes program is a \$100 million attack on the problem of combined sanitary and storm water sewage. EPA wants the storm water as well as the sanitary sewage treated before it flows into the Great Lakes. I aim to see that the program is launched.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL BILL IS LANDMARK LEGISLATION

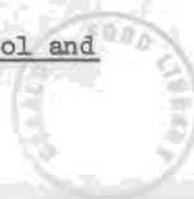
As Congressman Harsha remarked, "Anyone who thinks the House water pollution control bill is weak simply doesn't know what's in it."

Chairman Blatnik, longtime champion of clean water, declared the measure to be "the most effective, workable pollution control bill that has ever been devised."

Here are the chief provisions of the legislation. The bill:

- * Authorizes \$18 billion for construction of waste treatment works for fiscal years 1973-75.
- * Establishes the basic Federal grant at 60 per cent. If the State pays 15 per cent of the cost, the Federal grant is increased to 75 per cent.
- * Provides that projects initiated after 1956 which meet the requirements of the previous Water Pollution Control Acts would be eligible for retroactive grants--and authorizes \$2,750,000,000 for this purpose.
- * Requires that water quality standards be established for all navigable waters.
- * Requires point sources of effluent other than publicly owned treatment works to utilize the best practicable control technology currently available or a higher level of treatment if required to meet water quality standards.
- * Provides contract authority for construction grants, in place of reliance on annual appropriations.
- * Provides for user charges to assure that recipients of waste treatment services will pay their share of the cost of constructing, operating and maintaining waste treatment facilities.
- * Requires publicly owned treatment plants to offer secondary treatment by 1976.
- * Establishes a system of enforcement based on discharge permits and effluent limitations. Violations are punishable by fines up to \$50,000 and two years in jail.
- * Requires all States to classify their lakes and to carry out methods to control and restore polluted lakes. The bill authorizes \$300 million for this program.

(over)



The legislation also provides:

- * That allocation of funds to the States be on the basis of need, instead of the old formula of population.
- * That alternatives to traditional methods of waste treatment--like the spray irrigation system used in Belding and Muskegon--be encouraged.
- * That by 1981 industry must achieve zero discharge of pollutants unless compliance is not attainable at reasonable costs, in which case limits are to be based on "the best available demonstrated technology." For publicly owned facilities, the 1981 standard is "the best practical waste treatment technology." In addition, all newly constructed or modified private plants must meet discharge standards based on "the best available demonstrated control technology, process and methods."
- * That by 1985 there be no discharge of pollutants into the Nation's waters.

MANY AMENDMENTS DEFEATED

The biggest bone of contention in the debate over the bill was the Public Works Committee's insistence on a two-year study by the National Academies of Science and Engineering before the Congress inflexibly holds to its goals of safe, swimmable water by 1981 and no discharge of any pollutants into our waters by 1985.

The committee contended we ought to have an expert assessment of the costs and of the impact on our economy before we irrevocably hammer those standards into law.

Rep. Roger H. Zion, R-Ind., pointed out that Gov. Nelson Rockefeller had estimated the cost of achieving the no-discharge goal at \$2.3 billion for New York State alone. Extrapolating that figure, said Zion, the estimated cost for the Nation would be \$2.5 trillion--considerably more than the Gross National Product of the world.

The Senate has passed a water pollution control bill which sets the 1981 and 1985 goals without any conditions. The House felt this was unreasonable and so defeated, 248 to 140, an amendment which would have eliminated the study and subsequent congressional review of pollution controls.

The House also defeated, 251 to 114, an amendment giving only EPA the power to issue permits to industries to discharge wastes into waterways. Both the House and Senate bills transfer this authority to the States, with the Senate bill giving EPA veto power. The House bill lays down strict guidelines for the States to follow and provides for EPA to run the permit program in States failing to meet the requirements.

The House rejected, 267 to 125, an amendment that would have continued to require such Federal agencies as the Corps of Engineers, the Federal Power Commission and the Atomic Energy Commission to prepare environmental impact studies of the effects of their projects on waterways. The House bill removes this requirement if State water quality standards are not violated.

I believe the States should have a major role in the fight against water pollution and so should be involved in issuing permits. I also believe we should strive for the goal of no-discharge by 1985 but we should know where we are going as we head in that direction.

MUSKEGON AND BOAT POLLUTION AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

The House approved two "Michigan amendments" to the water pollution control bill.

The House voted 250 to 131 for a recycling amendment offered by Rep. Guy Vander Jagt, Republican of Cadillac. This amendment directs the Environmental Protection Agency to encourage regional resource management programs that utilize spray irrigation and recycling systems for waste water disposal. As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, Muskegon and Belding have this type of sewage disposal system. I voted for this amendment.

A boat pollution amendment affecting Michigan also passed, 210 to 174. This amendment preserves the rights of States to control discharges from vessels. Under the committee bill, the Federal Government would have preempted this right. The amendment permits States to completely prohibit the discharge of sanitary waste from boats. This is what Michigan law does. I supported the amendment.

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JERRY FORD

April 24, 1972

FEDERAL OUTLAYS RISE IN FIFTH DISTRICT

Federal outlays in Kent and Ionia Counties rose sharply in fiscal 1971, as compared with the previous fiscal year, according to an official government report.

Total Federal moneys flowing into Kent County in fiscal 1971 came to \$238,495,734, nearly \$41 million more than in fiscal 1970 (\$197,553,831). The largest sums emanated from:

- * The Health, Education and Welfare Department, \$110,535,339, including \$86,350,279 in Social Security payments;
- * The Housing and Urban Development Department, \$1,288,600, including \$224,000 for water and sewer facilities;
- * The Labor Department, \$2,900,477, including \$1,420,815 in unemployment insurance payments and \$630,979 for job placement services;
- * The Transportation Department, \$10,859,613, including \$6,402,175 for highway planning and construction;
- * The Veterans Administration, \$14,155,342, including \$5,126,655 for veterans disability compensation;
- * The Agriculture Department, \$5,778,421, including \$3,550,490 in food stamp bonus coupons;
- * The Defense Department, \$37,896,000, including \$29,580,000 in military prime supply contracts.

For Ionia County, the fiscal 1971 total was \$23,552,569, up \$2.2 million from fiscal 1970.

The largest amounts came from:

- * The Agriculture Department, \$3,491,575;
- * The Health, Education and Welfare Department, \$13,578,207, including \$10,182,946 in Social Security payments;
- * The Veterans Administration, \$1,595,656, including \$574,642 for veterans disability compensation;
- * The Labor Department, \$422,755, including \$228,876 in unemployment insurance payments and \$136,094 for placement services.
- * Railroad Retirement Board, \$208,843 for social insurance program.

One reason the Kent County total jumped as it did is construction of the new Court House and Federal Building in downtown Grand Rapids. The Federal Government spent \$7,629,206 on public buildings construction in Kent County in fiscal 1971.

MRS. PERROTT JOINS STAFF

Mrs. Marba Perrott has become a fulltime member of my district office staff in Grand Rapids, succeeding a part-time employee, Mrs. Elaine Westfield.



FIRST IN WASHINGTON -- The 43 seniors of Godfrey Lee High School were the first senior class from the Fifth Congressional District to visit Washington this spring.

FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE SHOWS RESULTS

The fight against drug abuse is producing impressive results. At a recent White House briefing, I learned that:

- The foreign sources of illegal dangerous drugs are being cut off due to negotiations carried out by the Cabinet Committee on International Narcotics Control.
- Turkey has banned production of the opium poppy effective this year, while the French have seized two heroin laboratories this year and have made the world's largest heroin seizure, 935 pounds, on a shrimp boat. We have formulated narcotic control action plans involving 57 countries.
- The President's Armed Forces Narcotics Program has been eminently successful, with the number of confirmed addicts among our service personnel in Vietnam reduced from 5.6 per cent to 1.8 per cent.
- Our domestic law enforcement efforts are paying off:
 - *Heroin seizure made by or with the assistance of U.S. customs and the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs increased 160 per cent in 1971 to 2,700 pounds, worth over \$1 billion in the U.S. at street-level prices;
 - *Federal narcotics arrests increased 70 per cent in two years to 15,252 in 1971;
 - *More than half of the calls received on the newly-established Heroin Hot Line have been reliable tips justifying a follow-through investigation.
- Total fiscal 1973 funding for the fight against drug abuse amounts to \$594 million--a nine-fold increase over the fiscal year 1969 funding of \$65 million.

What we have is a three-pronged campaign against dope--a total war against drug traffic.

We are fighting illegal drug traffic abroad. We are fighting illegal drug traffic at home, with grand jury action against pushers and prosecution of pushers for income tax evasion.

Congress has been working hand in hand with the President to combat drug abuse.

Step one was the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970, which gave Federal authorities powerful new weapons in their war against illegal traffickers in narcotics.

Two years ago, the President also created the National Clearing House on Drug Abuse Information, which has distributed more than 25 million pieces of drug education data.

In 1971 the President established a Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention within the Executive Office of the President and shortly after that he created the Cabinet Committee on International Narcotics Control headed by Secretary of State William Rogers.



THE WINNER -- I pin a medal on one of the winners during a recent historic U.S.-Soviet women's track meet at Richmond, Va. I attended as the President's official representative. The U.S. won. Our "gals" were superb.

Then by executive order this past January, the President established an Office for Drug Abuse Law Enforcement within the Department of Justice, charging it with the task of bringing "substantial Federal resources to bear on the street-level heroin pusher."

Congress a few weeks ago backed up the President by giving its sanction to his Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention and authorizing a \$1 billion three-year Federal attack on drug abuse. This includes treatment and rehabilitation of addicts.

I have strongly supported all of these actions.

COMMITTEE APPROVES REVENUE SHARING

The House Ways and Means Committee has approved a revenue sharing bill which would make \$5.3 billion a year available to States and local units of government each year for five years. I strongly support this action. Michigan's share would be \$243.1 million, with \$152.7 million going to local units and \$90.4 million to the State.

DISTRICT VISIT

My district assistant, Gordon Vander Till, will be in the Portland City Council Room from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Friday, April 28, to answer questions on my behalf and to discuss personal problems and public issues.

Richmond Newspapers

O. Dewayne Davis
Public Relations Director

*P/Can we use this
in N/12*

April 10, 1972

Congressman Gerald Ford
H230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Ford:

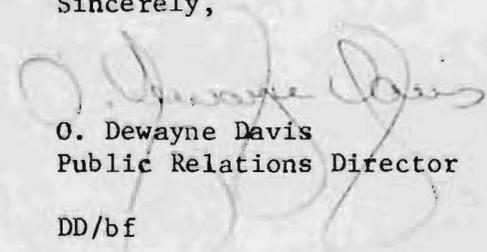
We Sincerely appreciate your participation in the recent historic meet between the track teams of the Soviet Union and the United States.

Reaction here following the meet has been excellent and we enter negotiations within the next few weeks to insure that it returns to this city next year.

I am enclosing a picture taken during one of the medal presentations. I thought you might like it for your family scrapbook.

Again, on behalf of the meet organizers and co-sponsors, thank you for your assistance in making our meet a success.

Sincerely,



O. Dewayne Davis
Public Relations Director

DD/bf

Enclosure





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May 1, 1972

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QUESTIONNAIRES POUR IN

Thousands of questionnaire returns have been pouring into my Washington office, proving again that Fifth District residents are deeply concerned about national problems.

Letters accompanying some of the questionnaire cards indicate the people of Kent and Ionia Counties are troubled most about forced busing to achieve racial balance, the delay in raising Social Security benefits, the various proposals for a nationwide health insurance system, and the Vietnam War.

I have already stated repeatedly that I favor a Constitutional amendment to ban forced busing of students outside of their neighborhoods in the name of racial balance. I am also supporting a legislative solution in the meantime, in the hope such a solution is possible. I favor doing everything feasible to achieve quality education for all--but I do not think forced busing is the proper path to that goal.

An increase in Social Security benefits is certain this year, but when it will come is a question mark. The House last June approved legislation containing a Social Security increase but the bill has been pending for nearly a year in the Senate. The increase when it does come will be at least 10 per cent. I strongly support such an increase and will vote for whatever figure emerges from a House-Senate conference committee. I am also hopeful that the final bill will include a House-approved provision for automatic cost-of-living increases in Social Security benefits in the future so that adjustments will be made automatically rather than just in election years.

The health care question on my questionnaire offers Fifth District residents a choice between the President's health insurance proposal (which calls for employers to pay 65 to 75 per cent of private health insurance premiums) and the Kennedy-Griffiths plan (which provides for a Federal health insurance system financed with payroll taxes). An interesting development on this question is that many, many Kent and Ionia County residents rejected both proposals, saying they wanted no part of either one. I personally favor a plan that would deal with present defects in the Nation's health care delivery system without erecting a costly Federal bureaucracy in place of the present private insurance system.

Results of the question on Vietnam appear to be running heavily in favor of a withdrawal from Vietnam conditioned on return of American prisoners of war, a ceasefire in Indochina, and the holding of an internationally supervised election in South Vietnam. The other choice on the question calls for immediate withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Vietnam and declaration of a ceasefire there but says nothing about the return of American POWs. I favor the proposal which is drawing the majority vote of my constituents.

VIETNAM DEBATE ERUPTS IN THE HOUSE

Vietnam has been the subject of considerable debate in the House for many days now.

Two of the statements merit quoting here, in my judgment. One is by a Democrat, Rep. Samuel S. Stratton of New York, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, and the other is by a Republican, Rep. Elford A. Cederberg of Bay City, Michigan.

Said Stratton: "I came into the House Chamber just as my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Democrat William Fitts Ryan) was commenting on the current North Vietnamese invasion of South Vietnam and saying that this proves that our policy of Vietnamization is not working. Well, Mr. Speaker, the policy of Vietnamization is designed to give the South Vietnamese who, two or three years ago were not very good in handling military affairs, the ability to defend themselves. I just sat in on a briefing by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I cannot comment on what he said, of course, but I will say to you that the South Vietnamese are doing a pretty darn good job in a battle in which virtually all of the military forces of North Vietnam

are committed to a conventional invasion. And to me that appears to be a pretty good demonstration that Vietnamization is working. If this is not so, then I do not know what we need to convince us."

Said Cederberg: "I have listened with a great deal of interest to the gentlewoman from New York (Democrat Bella Abzug) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. Ryan) condemning the U.S. Government and the South Vietnamese. I am waiting for the day when they are going to condemn the Communists for invading South Vietnam. That is the problem. If the North Vietnamese would go home, there would not be any need for the bombing. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, the time has come when we ought not to be apologizing for the actions that we are taking to prevent civilians from being killed and displaced. The gentleman from New York (Mr. Ryan) referred to refugees. Well, those refugees would still be in their homes if the North Vietnamese stayed behind the demilitarized zone where they belong. That is the problem, and we ought to be making some speeches concerning that factor."

HOUSE APPROVES CONTINUED SPACE EXPLORATION

The House has approved a bill authorizing appropriations up to \$3.4 billion for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal 1973.

With only one more Apollo moonshot upcoming, the only controversy during debate on the bill was over the projected space shuttle program. This was a \$200 million item. Opponents of this program failed to generate any support. An amendment to knock the shuttle out of the bill lost on a division vote, 103 to 11.

The fight over the shuttle was significant because that program spells a new forward thrust for the overall space effort. Had development of the space shuttle been rejected, it would have meant an early end to the space program.

If we want to continue the space program, the shuttle is a necessity as a means of reducing costs through the reuse of launch vehicles and payloads.

It is estimated there will be a saving of \$5 to \$8 billion in space program costs over the next 20 years if the shuttle is developed and put into operation.

There are understandable differences of opinion over the value of the space program, but tremendous "spinoff" benefits already are evident.

- * Weather satellite observations have already saved millions of dollars through improved forecasting.
- * Five-day forecasting is just around the corner, and this alone would save an estimated \$6 billion a year in agriculture, the lumber industry, surface transportation, retail marketing and water resource management. That is almost twice the annual cost of the entire space program.
- * Future satellites will analyze and patrol our resources, locating minerals and oil, studying ocean changes and factors in fish production, detecting air and water pollution and plant life infestation and other hazards.
- * Space satellites will permit all-weather navigation for our air and sea transportation.
- * Space is the path for future mass communications. A space satellite relay costs one-sixth what it does to build a TV relay across the Atlantic via cable.

So the space program can be justified by its present and future "spinoffs" alone.



4-H DELEGATE--Kris Langkamp of Caledonia, one of four Michigan delegates to the recent National 4-H Conference, presents me with a 4-H pen as a gift from the conference.

DISTRICT VISIT

My district assistant, Gordon Vander Till, will be in the City Hall at Cedar Springs from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Friday, May 5, to answer questions on my behalf and to discuss personal problems or public issues as my representative.

"ON THE JOB"

I would like to report to you my attendance record for the Second Session of the 92nd Congress.

Through April 2 there was a total of 129 votes and quorum calls. Of that number, I missed only 2, for a percentage score of 98.4. There were 80 yea and nay votes; I missed one. There were 49 quorum calls; I missed but one.

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May 15, 1972

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HOUSE APPROVES MINIMUM WAGE RISE 'STRETCHOUT'

The House last week voted to stretch out by one year a proposed immediate rise in the minimum wage to \$2 an hour and to establish special minimum wage rates for youth.

The House started out with a committee bill which would have jumped the \$1.60 minimum to \$2 an hour now for 34 million non-farm workers covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) before 1966 and would have extended coverage to about six million public employes and domestic workers. The minimum for the newly covered workers would have been set at \$1.80 an hour now and \$2 an hour a year from now. The minimum for workers on farms employing eight or more fulltime workers would have risen from \$1.30 an hour to \$1.70 in a year.

House members first adopted a Republican amendment stretching out the time for reaching the \$2 wage floor and then approved a Republican substitute bill eliminating the expansion of coverage.

As finally approved, the legislation would:

- * Raise the minimum for workers covered by the FLSA before 1966 to \$1.80 sixty days after enactment and to \$2 one year later.
- * Increase the minimum for workers first covered by the 1966 FLSA amendments to \$1.70 after enactment, to \$1.80 one year later, and to \$2 the next year (1974).
- * Raise the minimum for farm workers from \$1.30 to \$1.50 within 60 days and to \$1.70 a year later.
- * Establish special "youth differential" wage rates for workers under the age of 18 or students under 21. These rates would be 80 per cent of the applicable minimum wage or \$1.60 (\$1.30 for farm work), whichever is higher.

COMMITTEE PROPOSAL WAS UNWISE

The immediate jump from \$1.60 to \$2 in the minimum wage as proposed by the majority of the House Education and Labor Committee represented a 25 per cent increase in the Nation's wage floor.

This would have threatened to destroy the present wage and price control program. It would have had a sharp inflationary impact.

The complications it would have created would have been especially great in a number of retail and service industries where many workers now earn hourly wages below the proposed \$2 minimum and where the wage rates of workers above the minimum are closely linked with those at the low end of the ladder. A precipitous jump now in the minimum wage would have had an immediate escalatory effect and was therefore dangerous.

Marginal workers would have been hurt. The jobs of newly covered, low productivity workers would have been placed in jeopardy.

Because I am concerned about avoiding unemployment and inflation, I supported the stretchout concept.

The committee bill offered student employment provisions but they were not good enough. That bill authorized the employment of fulltime students at \$1.60 an hour (\$1.30 in farm work), but barred special student rates in 21 different industries or occupations. It also tangled the entire student employment procedure in red tape by requiring an employer to obtain a certificate from the Secretary of Labor, with the assurance the students would only be employed part time. The Republican substitute provided an uncomplicated plan offering job opportunities for all young people, whether fulltime students or not.

(over)



SICKLE CELL ANEMIA BILL SENT TO PRESIDENT

The House has passed and sent to the President a compromise bill authorizing a three-year \$115 million fight against sickle cell anemia, the deadly blood disease that afflicts one out of every 10 black Americans.

The legislation approved by the House carried a price tag \$10 million greater than the measure originally passed by House members and \$27 million lower than the bill initially voted by the Senate.

Kent and Ionia County residents have taken a special interest in this legislation because of work done by Dr. Robert Nalbandian of Blodgett Memorial Hospital and his team on sickle cell anemia screening in the Grand Rapids schools. I also brought to the attention of the House the fact that WZZM-TV won an Emmy Award for its documentary on sickle cell anemia.

The legislation approved by the Congress sets up a national program for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of sickle cell anemia. I was pleased to give my full backing to this legislation.

QUESTIONNAIRE RETURNS NOW BEING COMPILED

Now that virtually all the returns of my 1972 questionnaire are in, I have sent them to a computer firm for processing. I expect to announce the results in my next newsletter, and also through the news media in Kent and Ionia Counties.

Many Kent and Ionia residents made comments on the questionnaire cards indicating dissatisfaction with the way price controls are operating. The biggest complaint was that there are no controls on raw agricultural products.

Retail food prices are flattening out, and wholesale food prices declined in both March and April. But the cost of food still is naturally of great concern to all of us, and we all want to know why controls haven't been imposed on food prices.

The answer is that controls on food prices wouldn't work. Agricultural prices fluctuate widely due to perishability, changes in weather and other factors. If prices are controlled and supply fails to equal demand, rationing would have to be instituted.

We had experience with rationing during World War II. It was unsatisfactory. Black markets develop. People are forced to stand in long lines in front of empty counters.



FARMER'S SHARE OF THE PRICE OF SOME FOODS

	Housewife pays...	Farmer gets...	Others* get...
Beef, choice, lb. (average of all cuts)	\$1.066	69.9¢	36.7¢
Pork, lb. (average of all cuts)	71.9¢	35.2¢	36.7¢
Butter, lb.	87.5¢	58.0¢	29.5¢
Milk, half gal.	59.2¢	29.7¢	29.5¢
Eggs, large, doz.	52.0¢	29.5¢	22.5¢
Frying chicken, lb.	40.5¢	17.4¢	23.1¢
Bread, white, lb.	24.8¢	3.5¢	21.3¢
Apples, lb.	20.7¢	7.3¢	13.4¢
Oranges, doz.	99.7¢	23.6¢	76.1¢
Orange juice, frozen, can	24.9¢	8.0¢	16.9¢
Lettuce, head	40.5¢	16.9¢	23.6¢
Tomatoes, lb.	46.7¢	20.5¢	26.2¢
Margarine, lb.	32.9¢	10.9¢	22.0¢
Potatoes, 10 lb.	81.5¢	18.6¢	62.9¢
Peas, frozen, 10-oz.	22.2¢	3.8¢	18.4¢
Can of peaches	36.9¢	7.3¢	29.6¢
Can of spaghetti	19.1¢	2.0¢	17.1¢
Sugar, 5 lb.	68.7¢	29.6¢	39.1¢

*Processors, handlers, grocers, workers, etc.

Note: Prices are U.S. averages during period October through December, 1971.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

Overall, we are making progress against inflation. The increase in the Consumer Price Index was held to 3.4 per cent for all of 1971. That compares with a 5.5 per cent rise in 1970 and 6.1 per cent in 1969.

Real wages measure whether labor is better off than it has been. And the facts are that real earnings for workers from 1970 to the present showed a 6 per cent gain, while workers registered no gain in real earnings from 1966 to 1970.

In the last quarter of 1971, real earnings rose 5 per cent. In all of 1971, average weekly earnings increased 7.1 per cent, more than twice the 3.4 per cent increase in consumer prices.

So the charge that the wages are being held down while prices are rocketing out of control simply isn't true.

In the seven months since the wage-price control program was initiated, the Consumer Price Index has risen at a yearly rate of 2.8 per cent, compared with 4.1 per cent in the six months preceding the freeze.

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JERRY FORD

May 22, 1972

MORE THAN 20,000 RESPOND TO QUESTIONNAIRE

I received a total of 20,184 responses to my 1972 questionnaire in time for tabulation by a computer firm selected by me to add up the answers.

Quickly summing up the results, I find that those Fifth District residents responding to my questionnaire reject an unconditional withdrawal of U.S. forces from Vietnam, favor the Administration's health care proposal over Sen. Kennedy's plan for federalizing national health insurance, approve of President Nixon's proposals for a moratorium on busing to achieve racial balance coupled with special Federal aid to disadvantaged schools, overwhelmingly favor Federal legislation to prevent national emergency strikes in transportation, strongly favor a continuation of price and wage controls until inflation is curbed, solidly approve of Federal revenue sharing with states and local units of government, favor an increase in military spending by slightly over 50 per cent, reject the idea of diverting a slice of Federal highway user tax revenue for mass transit, and vote by less than 50 per cent for Social Security increases which involve an increase in Social Security taxes.

DISTRICT WANTS CEASEFIRE, RETURN OF PRISONERS

In posing my Vietnam question, I offered constituents a choice between the referendum which appeared on the Nov. 2, 1971, Grand Rapids ballot and a withdrawal of U.S. troops tied to return of U.S. prisoners of war, an Indochina ceasefire and an internationally supervised election in Vietnam.

The President's latest peace proposal calls for a pullout of all U.S. ground troops within four months, conditioned on release of American prisoners of war and a ceasefire throughout Indochina. He has dropped the election proposal.

The 1971 referendum question simply asked whether the U.S. should "declare a ceasefire within the nation of Vietnam and immediately withdraw all American military personnel therefrom." Nothing was said about getting back our prisoners of war.

Balloting on my multiple choice Vietnam question showed 67.8 per cent favoring a withdrawal tied to a ceasefire and return of prisoners and only 21.6 per cent for the referendum proposal.

At the time the referendum was voted on by Grand Rapids residents, I described the ballot question as poorly drawn because it said nothing about getting back our prisoners of war. I was later criticized for that by those advocating the proposal. Quite obviously, Fifth District residents want both sides to enter into a ceasefire agreement, and they want our prisoners back.

HEALTH INSURANCE--BUILD ON PRESENT SYSTEM

A sizable majority--57.8 per cent of those responding--favor the Administration approach of seeking to solve our health care problems by building on the present system of private health insurance.

Fifth District residents obviously abhor what many respondents call "Federal interference" in health matters.

This was indicated when only 19.3 per cent expressed a preference for Sen. Kennedy's proposed Federal health insurance system financed from Federal payroll taxes and the Federal treasury.

(over)

It was further pointed up by the fact that 22.86 per cent did not answer the question at all--many people scrawling across the question the word, "neither."

The Administration plan would require employers to pay 65 to 75 per cent of private health insurance premiums and would bring health insurance companies under Federal regulation.

I have sponsored the Administration bill but with an added provision or amendment which gives small businessmen Federal assistance in paying the bulk of their workers' premiums.

DISTRICT OPPOSES FORCED BUSING

District respondents voted 64.4 per cent in favor of a moratorium on forced busing to achieve racial balance, plus Federal financial assistance to disadvantaged schools. Of the rest, 30.9 per cent opposed the proposal, and 4.7 per cent did not answer.

Many Fifth District residents opposed to busing voted "no" on this question because they want busing banned altogether, not just placed under moratorium.

I am supporting legislation to prevent forced busing and also a proposed Constitutional amendment which would ban busing completely.

I do not believe forced busing of students out of their neighborhoods to distant schools is the answer to quality education. I favor quality education, not racial quotas. The answer, when it does come, will come through changes in housing patterns.

TRANSPORT STRIKE PREVENTION FAVORED

My questionnaire showed overwhelming support--79.6 per cent--for Administration legislation which would prevent national emergency strikes in transportation.

One of the options given the President under the measure would be to appoint an arbitration panel which would order a settlement based on the better of the final offers submitted by both labor and management. I am a primary cosponsor of this legislation.

YOUTH, ELDERS DISAGREE ON DEFENSE SPENDING

I set up my questionnaire so that balloting by 18-through-20-year-olds could be counted separately from the votes of those 21 years and older.

The views expressed by the special youth group--the new voters--were substantially the same on all questions except defense spending. Asked if they favor increased defense spending to offset advances made by the Russians, the youth group voted 60 per cent against and only 32.6 per cent in favor. By contrast, the 21-and-older respondents voted 53.5 per cent for more military spending and 41.2 per cent against.

The complete results of the questionnaire voting are shown below, listed in percentages rounded off to the nearest full digit. Percentages given do not add up to 100 per cent because the remainder did not answer the question.

JERRY FORD 1972 QUESTIONNAIRE

	18-20		Overall		(MULTIPLE CHOICE)	18-20		Overall	
	Yr. Old		Total			Yr. Old		Total	
	Yes	No	Yes	No		Yes	No	Yes	No
1. Do you favor a moratorium on forced busing to achieve racial balance, coupled with special Federal aid to disadvantaged schools?	53	42	64	31					
2. Do you favor Federal legislation to prevent national emergency strikes in transportation (railroads, airlines, shipping and trucking)?	61	31	80	17					
3. Do you favor diverting some of the highway user taxes to finance urban mass transit systems?	40	52	38	57					
4. Do you favor sharing of Federal income tax revenue with the cities and States on a fixed percentage basis?	53	35	63	28					
5. In the last four years the Soviet Union has increased its strategic missile capability and greatly expanded its naval forces. Do you favor an increase in U.S. military spending to offset this?	33	60	52	43					
6. Do you favor continuing wage and price controls until inflation is curbed?	68	23	82	13					
7. Do you favor a substantial increase in Social Security benefits if this means higher Social Security taxes?	36	54	49	47					
8. On health insurance, which do you favor?									
A. An improved nationwide private health insurance system, with employers required to pay 65 to 75 per cent of the premiums and employees the rest, and with insurance companies placed under Federal regulation and control.							47		58
B. A Federal Government program financed with special payroll taxes.							21		19
9. On Vietnam, the United States Government should:									
A. Declare a ceasefire within the nation of Vietnam and immediately withdraw all American military personnel therefrom.							27		22
B. Withdraw all American forces from South Vietnam, conditioned on release of U.S. prisoners of war, a ceasefire throughout Indochina and the holding of an internationally supervised Presidential election in South Vietnam.							53		68

June 9, 1972

Paul
MH

A**C))T) (I((O**N

While at the Senior Citizens outing yesterday, "Project Involve", I talked to Mrs. Eleanor Hargrove, Project Coordinator for Elderscope, 500 Commerce Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49502.

Elderscope is the monthly newsletter of the United Fund Community Services Senior Citizens Project and Mr. Ford receives it each month.

As project Coordinator, Mrs. Hargrove said that she had been religiously reading Mr. Ford's newsletters which come out weekly. She did express some regret over the fact that the newsletter always handles legislation that had been completed rather than serving as a notice of legislation that is coming up.

I am certain that she would like to have some information for Elderscope which could be of specific ~~information~~ service to the Senior Citizens and they would like a chance to "lobby" before the measure is passed.

Also, her suggestion about the newsletter seems to have some definite merit in that measures that are of significant not just to Senior Citizens but ~~no~~ many others could be mentioned prior to their consideration so that persons could inofrm the Congressman of their opinion.

Gordon.

