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This is your ~~senator~~ congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

This past Friday we celebrated our 193rd birthday. We look upon July the Fourth as the birth date of our Nation despite the fact that the War of Independence did not end until 1781 and ~~the~~ the original states did not adopt a federal constitution until 1787.

When it's your birthday, it is natural to take a look at yourself and do a little stock-taking. That comes naturally for Congress in ~~July~~ July, ~~too~~ too, because at this time ~~the~~ ^{91st} Congress is about halfway through its first session.

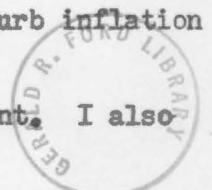
In his Inaugural Address last January 20, President Nixon said we faced a "crisis of the spirit."

The House of Representatives last week faced a crisis of another sort and barely surmounted it. That crisis came with the House vote on extending the 10 per cent income ~~tax surcharge~~ tax surcharge.

Nobody likes the surtax. Naturally not. I don't like it. President Nixon doesn't like it. You don't like it.

Everyone would have liked to see it expire June 30th. But I worked hard to round up ~~votes~~ votes to extend the tax despite the fact it is ~~unpopular~~ unpopular. I would have been ~~derelict~~ derelict in my duty to the American people if I had not done so. I say this because I ~~strongly believe~~ firmly believe it would have been a terrible mistake ~~if the~~ House had voted to let the tax die before we have brought inflation under control.

President Nixon has predicted that the policies of his Administration--extending the surtax and keeping a tight rein on the money supply--will begin to curb inflation within ~~a~~ a matter of ~~two~~ two or ~~three~~ three months. I trust his judgment. I also



feel it is absolutely vital that we win the fight against inflation.

The easy course for a member of the House of Representatives last week was to vote against extension of the surtax. Two hundred and five members did so-- 179 Democrats and 26 Republicans. That was the easy road--~~whatever reason a member~~ ^{may} ~~not~~ give for voting against the surtax.

The tough decision, the difficult path to travel, was to vote for extension of the surtax. Two hundred ¹⁵⁴ ~~and~~ and ten members chose that ~~easy~~ road--the responsible road.

What a congressman had to ask himself ^{on} ~~the~~ the surtax question was:
What will the consequences be if the surtax is allowed to die?

What I and 209 other members of the House did was to vote to phase down and then phase out the surtax. We voted to reduce it to 5 per cent as of next Jan. 1 and to eliminate it altogether as of midnight June 30, 1970.

What did the 205 who voted against the Administration do? They voted to wipe out the surtax in one fell swoop.

I think that would have dramatically ~~fed~~ fed the fires of inflation. It also would have signalled to the other nations of the world that Americans have given up on their fight against inflation. And ~~that would have~~ that would have ~~thrown~~ the world monetary system into a deep crisis.

So I appeal to you for an understanding of what the results would have been if the surtax had been allowed to die suddenly. I, for one, am not ready to give up on the fight against inflation. To allow prices to get completely out of hand would be far worse than to continue the surcharge at the 10 per cent rate for another six months and at a five per ~~cent~~ cent rate for six months thereafter.



The fight against inflation is terribly tough because for the past four
years the federal government under the previous administration pursued a guns and
butter policy that led to huge federal deficits. There was no spending restraint,
and prices kept going up and up and up. The surtax had to be imposed
in 1968 as a result of these policies--and it has to be extended in 1969 for the
same ~~same~~ reason.

This ~~is~~ is your congressman, Jerry ~~Ford~~ Ford, reporting to ~~you~~ you
from Washington. I'll be back with ~~you~~ you next week--same time, same station.

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Script for 5^B Dist. Stations ahead of
July 12-13.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

The other day a news reporter asked me an interesting question. Why, he wanted to know, is President Nixon asking Congress to expand and strengthen the unemployment insurance system at this time. Is the President expecting deep unemployment?

My answer was simple and, I think, to the point. A man does not buy fire insurance because he actually expects his house to burn down. He does so because he wants to protect himself against that ~~exhaustive~~ possibility.

And so it is with unemployment insurance. The best time to strengthen the unemployment insurance system is when employment is high, as it is right now.

This is why the President has chosen this particular time to ask Congress to extend unemployment insurance coverage to an additional 4,800,000 workers and to provide it for workers who are being retrained. The President also recommended a formula for automatic extension of unemployment benefits during long-lasting periods of high unemployment.

There are several points that should be made clear about unemployment compensation.

Unemployment benefits are not a giveaway. They are earned benefits. They are paid from a fund into which an employer pays as a kind of tax levied on behalf of each man ~~and~~ or woman employed by him. This is like a fringe benefit. It is insurance bought in the employee's behalf, much as many employers now pay the premiums on hospitalization insurance for their employees. The worker therefore is entitled to the benefits he receives when he becomes unemployed through no fault of his own.

There are many benefits to American society as a whole as a result of the

unemployment insurance system.

Unemployment compensation keeps a man and his family off welfare while he is looking for another job. Money paid out as unemployment benefits also acts to help keep the economy ~~fr~~ afloat during times when unemployment is high.

President Nixon's plans to expand unemployment insurance coverage to an additional 4,800,000 workers includes 1,600,000 workers now employed in small firms with less than four employees.

This could be a little rough on these employers, and so the President is recommending that the States use a reduced unemployment insurance tax rate for these newly included employers until enough time has elapsed to indicate what their true rate should be.

But it is important that the 4,800,000 additional workers be covered because many of them are low-wage workers with little job security and no prospect of terminal pay if they are laid off.

In addition, the present gap in coverage works a special hardship on minority employees because a higher percentage of the 4,800,000 involved in the Nixon proposals is nonwhite, as compared with the entire labor force.

I commend the President for moving to close this gap at this time.

I also commend the President for legislation he now is shaping to attack the worsening narcotics problem in this country.

At the last White House legislative meeting I attended I received a briefing on a bill now being prepared by the Justice Department to deal more effectively with narcotics traffic and drug addiction.

The President passed me a note in which he said that nearly 60 per cent of the

It is also important to remember that the sale of narcotics is a major source of revenue for the Mafia and helps to finance the widespread operations of the crime syndicates.

I hope the Congress acts promptly to implement President Nixon's recommendations both in the field of narcotics control and unemployment insurance.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from the Nation's Capital. I'll be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

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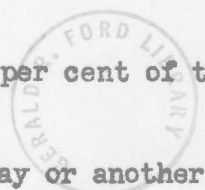
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The President passed me a note in ^{which} he said that nearly 60 per cent of the crimes committed in the New York City area involve narcotics in one way or another.

while I sat next to him at the White House

dated



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(organized crime)
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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, speaking to you from the Nation's capital.

As our astronauts blast off on epic journeys into space, our eyes ~~are~~ are fixed on the new-new world of the moon and the stars but our feet remain earthbound. And problems that ~~are growing in intensity~~ *continue* to plague us on ~~this planet~~ our own sphere remain very real and very much with us.

So it was that the President ~~last week~~ this past week sent the Congress a Message urging a wide-ranging and ~~an~~ expanded new effort to deal with the growing problem of narcotics trafficking and drug addiction.

Time was when drug addiction was primarily a personal tragedy. But now it is fast becoming a national tragedy as well.

For many years the number of narcotics addicts was stable at around 60,000. Today it is estimated that more than 100,000 Americans and perhaps hundreds of thousands are addicted to ~~these~~ drugs. The problem has long been a blight in the inner city. Now it has spread to the suburbs.

It is ~~now~~ conservatively estimated that more than 5 million Americans, both juvenile and adult, have used ~~the~~ marihuana one or more times. Twenty to 40 per cent of our college students are estimated to have experimented with marihuana, ~~and~~ and perhaps 5 per cent with LSD.

It is also estimated that as many as 10 per cent of the young people who have tried marihuana have become chronic users who devote ~~large~~ *large* portions of their time to obtaining and using this drug.

The problem of drug addiction is a complex problem, a dilemma for which ~~there is~~ *there is* no simple solution. It is a problem which required far more than improved and strengthened



law enforcement. ~~It~~ It is imperative that ~~at the same time~~ we speed up our development of treatment and rehabilitation facilities, our research, education and information programs, and our training of specialized personnel.

That was the thrust of the President's Message. President Nixon laid before the Congress a comprehensive and constructive set of proposals for ~~dealing~~ dealing with this ~~growing~~ growing national scandal of drug abuse.

The President ~~called~~ called for not just ~~Federal~~ Federal, state and local cooperation to meet this problem, but international cooperation--new, strong efforts to halt the production ~~of~~ of illegal narcotics and the smuggling of such drugs into the United States.

President Nixon proposed powerful new measures to cope with the ~~traffickers~~ traffickers and the pushers. At the same time, he placed ~~strong~~ strong emphasis on the need for compassionate treatment of drug victims.

It is ~~just~~ just this kind of balanced, overall approach that is needed to make the proper attack on this growing national problem.

The very moral fiber of our ~~society~~ society is threatened by the increasing use of ~~dangerous~~ dangerous drugs, especially by the young.

Drug addiction is like a cancer, eating away at the community--at-large. And no small part of the consequence is that in some areas a majority of the major crimes are committed by drug addicts who rob ~~others~~ ^{others} to support their habits.

We are living in a fantastic era--an era of miraculous achievements, such as our ~~space~~ space exploration, but also one of ~~excessive~~ ^{excessive} permissiveness in human ~~behavior~~ behavior, escapism, and ~~careless~~ careless experimentation with dangerous drugs.

While we press on in our exploration of the secrets of the universe, we must also deal vigorously with the great problems that face us on earth. Perhaps space



~~simultaneously for~~
~~exploration~~ exploration will yield dividends yet undreamed of as we work ~~simultaneously for~~
a better life here on earth.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington. I
invite your comments and your views. Drop me a line when you have time. I'll
be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

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*WFM: Jerry Ford (Rep. 103)
KJIA 7:00 PM 7/26-27/69 (JFM) 40*
and 100
This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

For many years after the end of World War II, it was ^{very} commonplace for people to ask each other, "Where were you on V-E Day?" There will be little or no need to ask Americans where they were on July 20, 1969. Nearly all of them were--of course--glued to the tube, watching two ~~men~~ of their countrymen make an almost unbelievable landing on the moon. Then, on into the early hours of July 21, 1969, Americans gazed in awe as their television sets brought them pictures of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walking on the powdery surface of ~~the~~ another planet a quarter of a million miles away.

I could not help feeling as my wife Betty and I and the children watched this greatest of all television spectacles that the moon mission seemed almost easy. Then I remembered the price we had paid--not only an estimated \$24 billion in federal expenditures but also the lives of three gallant astronauts who didn't make it to the moon, our own Roger Chaffee of Grand Rapids and his buddies Gus Grissom and Ed White.

It is a jarring thought to think back to the flash fire of Jan. 27, 1967, that took the lives of Roger Chaffee, Ed White and Gus Grissom, but I think we should remember...we should remember and honor ~~the~~ them, just as much as we honor the ~~men~~ moon mission men of Apollo 11, Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Mike Collins. Chaffee, Grissom and White also made an heroic contribution to the success of Apollo 11. They also helped make it possible for Eagle to land on the moon and *for Columbia to* return to planet earth with information that may unlock the secrets of the universe.

Now, as we ~~men~~ sit back and ponder the incredible journey of ~~the~~ Apollo 11, we are filled with mixed emotions and our thoughts are somewhat ~~men~~ jumbled. We



feel a tremendous pride. But we also are troubled by nagging questions. If we can put a man on the moon, why can't ~~we~~ we solve the problems of the cities? If we can put a man on the moon, why can't we find ways for men to live in peace on earth?

There are, of ~~course~~ course, no easy answers to these questions. We must try, and we must try much harder than we have. This I know. It is easier to put a man on the moon than it is to resolve the crisis of the cities. The crisis of the cities is an even greater challenge than space exploration. Not as exciting. But ~~success~~ success in this effort would be just as rewarding, if not more ~~so~~ so.

So we are going to have to constantly review our priorities in terms of demands on the federal dollar and what we know we must do as a Nation and a people. Then, we must do it.

As for the search for peace, ^{and this is impatient,} President Nixon has embarked upon another effort in that direction with his trip to Asia and to Romania. Some Americans may wonder why the President should visit Romania. It's clear to me that the President is seeking to promote friendship with those who want friendship with us--and that this is the path to world peace. Enmity, hatred, hostility--these have never brought peace, whether those involved were nations or individual men. At the same time, America and the world should know that President Nixon is ~~a~~ a realist ~~in~~ in dealing with the Communists. He does not intend to give away something for nothing.

Earlier I spoke of the great competition for the federal dollar posed by our various national needs and interests. I might mention here and now the great need to protect the dollar so that it ~~will~~ will continue to ^{buy} ~~buy~~ something.

There are those in Congress who have opposed the President's plan to continue the surtax at 10 per cent until Jan. 1, ^{then} drop it to 5 per cent ^{and finally} ~~then~~ phase it out next June 30. ^{the} Some have argued that ~~President's~~ ~~cuts~~ cuts of \$4 billion

in the federal budget were not enough. Last week the President announced additional cuts of \$3.5 billion in federal spending, just to ~~offset~~ ~~offset~~ rises in certain federal ~~outlays~~ over which the ~~Nixon~~ Nixon Administration has no control--interest on the national debt, ~~a~~ medicare, social security, civil service retirement benefits, public assistance and veterans benefits. The President is ~~supporting~~ holding down federal outlays to the ^{best} of his ability. And I am supporting the extension and phaseout ~~the surtax~~ ~~as the best weapon at hand to fight inflation.~~

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting from Washington. I'll be with you again next week--same time, same station.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

All of us were terribly shocked this past week by news of the horrible murder of Karen ~~Sue~~ Beineman of Grand Rapids. Karen Sue apparently was the seventh victim of the same killer, since the method used in all of the slayings of co-eds in the Ypsilanti-Ann Arbor area has been of a pattern.

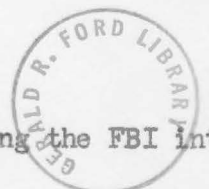
I feared for Karen Sue the minute I heard she had disappeared. And my first thought was that there must be a way to mobilize federal, state and local police powers to track down the demented animal who has been pursuing and slaying these young women.

On my instructions, my office has been in touch with the FBI here in Washington, with Gov. Milliken's office and the office of Col. Frederic Davids, the head of the State Police, and with the Criminal Division of the Federal Department of Justice.

My contacts with the FBI indicated there was no basis for bringing the FBI into the investigation of the Ypsilanti-Ann Arbor murders. However, I joined with the Governor in nursing the hope that the Lindbergh Law or the Civil Rights Act might serve as statutory authority for seeking FBI help.

Col. Davids gave ~~me~~ me a ~~detailed~~ detailed report on how the Beineman case and the other cases are being handled. He said arrangements had been made, ~~aimed~~ aimed at the best possible coordination of State Police and local police investigative work. He also noted that the description of Miss Beineman's suspected killer as a young ~~curly-haired~~ curly-haired man riding a motorcycle was the best lead Michigan authorities have had thus far in the series of murders that have horrified the people of ~~Michigan~~ our state.

There was one last avenue I explored in connection with bringing the FBI into



the case. I consulted legal authorities here with regard to my introducing special legislation aimed at giving the FBI statutory authority to come in. But the answer was that ~~such~~ such legislation would almost certainly be ~~unconstitutional~~ unconstitutional.

The last word I had from Col. Davids of the State Police is that "everything is being done that can possibly be done."

I don't know whether it might be helpful in the Beineman case or not, but I certainly believe that Congress should expedite dollar aid for local law enforcement--an action which hinges on congressional passage of an appropriations bill which was in the Senate when I made this broadcast.

I join with Attorney General John Mitchell in urging that federal aid for local law enforcement be funded at the full \$300 million called for in the authorization bill already approved by the Congress. And I also commend the Nixon Administration for going all-out in its efforts to combat organized crime.

I refer to a statement made before a Senate Committee last week by Mr. Mitchell, when he said: "In areas of direct federal jurisdiction, we have launched an all-out attack on organized crime and upon international and interstate traffickers in illicit narcotics and drug traffic."

Now I would like to turn to President Nixon's ~~global~~ global trip in search of world peace.

First of all, I would like to emphasize that the President is not simply sitting back, studying the world situation, and reacting to ~~moves~~ moves by the Communist powers. Instead he is taking initiatives for peace--~~with~~ with his trip to ,with his address to the Nation and the world regarding Vietnam, Europe, ~~with~~ with his relaxation of trade and ~~travel~~ travel restrictions involving ~~China~~ China, and now with his trip to ~~South~~ Southeast Asia, Saigon, and Romania.



I agree with President Nixon that it is time the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong made a movement which might help ~~eradicate~~ end the Vietnam War--after all the concessions we and Saigon have made. We certainly have opened wide the door to peace, and President Thieu of South Vietnam has joined us in that effort by proposing free, internationally-supervised elections in which ~~the~~ Viet Cong candidates could participate.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to ~~you~~ you from Washington. I'll be back with you again next week--same time, same station.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

This past week the news was ~~bursting~~ bursting with big developments. The most significant ~~developments~~ events were related to two topics of great interest to all of us--peace and taxes.

Tax reform and tax relief are on the way for the Nation. That we now can say with ~~some~~ some feeling of certainty.

In dealing with taxes, the House passed and sent to the White House a six-month surtax extension as a weapon against inflation and then tackled the most comprehensive tax reform bill in the history of our country.

(The tax reform ~~legislation~~ legislation is aimed at eliminating inequities in the income tax laws. It also is pointed toward cutting everyone's tax rates by ~~about~~ ^{about} five per cent by 1972.

It would take ~~nearly six~~ ^{nearly six} million taxpayers off the tax rolls as too poor to be paying income taxes and would cut tax rates for ~~nearly all other taxpayers~~ ^{individuals} ~~in two stages.~~

It is natural that all of us should resent the burden of the federal surtax, combined with increased State and local taxes. At the same time, low and middle income taxpayers ~~feel~~ ^{now} ~~feel~~ acutely the effects of the inflation stimulated by the heavy deficit Federal spending of recent years.

Now we are climbing out of this intolerable situation. We are on the way to ~~initiated~~ ^{definite} initiated by the previous administration. phasing out the surtax. We are beginning to get hold of inflation. We are on the

road to wiping out tax inequities and ~~reducing~~ ^{reducing} income tax rates, ~~as far as the~~ ^{as far as the} ~~fed gov. is~~ ^{fed gov. is} ~~concerned,~~

~~Tax~~ Tax reform is long overdue. It is to President Nixon's credit that he endorsed tax reform and proposed 13 sweeping changes to the Congress. ~~Congress~~ ^{made by the Pres.} has built on those proposals, and we now are moving toward the first major ~~overhaul~~ ^{overhaul}



of our tax system in 10 years ^{and} and the most comprehensive changes in our history.

I personally am delighted that at long last tax reform apparently will become a

reality. It is only because the ^{President} ~~Nixon Administration~~ has tightened up on federal spending that meaningful tax reform has become possible.

We also are moving ~~toward~~ ^{welfare} toward long-needed ~~reform~~ ^{the Pres} reform as a result of far-reaching changes proposed by ~~President Nixon~~. This, again, is a matter of great urgency. I certainly will do my utmost to bring about welfare system changes which will be in the best interests of all the American people. I have always subscribed to the objective of getting people off welfare rolls and onto payrolls. To every extent possible, we must make self-supporting citizens of our tax eaters.

I would like to turn now to President Nixon's world trip because I believe it is the most ^{and meaningful} ~~historical~~ presidential trip in this decade.

The President's ~~global~~ ^{global} trip ~~signalled~~ ^{signalled} the beginning of ~~important changes in American foreign policy.~~ important changes in American foreign policy.

^{The Pres} Mr. Nixon's foreign policy declaration on the island of Guam marked a definite departure from former ^{world} ~~President Johnson's~~ ^{sanctioned by his predecessor!} policy of massive intervention in ^{the policy of the past has been} ~~the~~ the internal affairs of Asian nations through the use of American ^{ground} ~~forces~~ forces. It means President Nixon is determined there shall be NO MORE VIETNAMS.

After meeting with the President and hearing him discuss the new policy, I can report to you that ~~Mr. Nixon~~ Mr. Nixon has declared a "do-it-yourself" doctrine" for the Asian nations. He has told them they can expect economic aid and military aid in the form of arms, but not the use of American ^{combat troops,} ~~troops~~ in dealing with internal ~~subversive~~ disorders. This is the new Nixon Doctrine for Southeast Asia.

I believe this is sound policy. I believe it will be good not only for the United States but also for our Asian friends. It is a building block for a more stable

world, a more peaceful world. It is not isolationism. It is common sense. .

President Nixon's visit to Romania ~~was also~~ ^{had dup significance} ~~also was important.~~ It may

mean ~~the~~ the beginning of a breakthrough in our relations with Eastern

Europe. As Mr. Nixon said, "Nations can have widely different internal orders and

live in peace."

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

I'll be back with you again next week--same time, same station.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Congress is taking a ^{short mid term} ~~three week vacation or recess~~, ~~as we call it~~. When
^{Kent + Iowa counties}
you hear this message, I will actually be ~~among you~~, visiting with people in the district to get their thinking and to help with their problems. This report to you on doings in Washington was taped before I left for home.

It is a big break from the pattern of recent years for Congress to take a mid-session recess. But it is now becoming clear that legislating in the Nation's capital has become a year-around job. And so some provision had to be made for young members of Congress with children to get some time off for a summer vacation with the family. I expect that ~~after~~ Congress reconvenes we will be in session at least through November and possibly on into December.

This is a good time to report to you on the job Congress has done to date, what the President has most recently proposed to the Congress, and what the outlook is for the President's program.

The greatest single accomplishment of the Congress up to this point is the movement toward tax reform and tax relief.

As you know, the House of Representatives has passed the most comprehensive tax reform and tax relief bill since the Income Tax Law first was enacted 56 years ago. Nearly six million low-income Americans will be taken off the tax rolls, and nearly everyone else will have his taxes cut. The standard deduction will be increased, and tax rates will be reduced in steps running to 1972.

Maybe you wonder how taxes can be cut when there is so much talk about the need to fight inflation. There IS a big need to fight inflation. What many people do not realize is that in 1970 the new tax changes will actually be anti-inflationary.



By that I mean that loophole plugging, action taken to see that none of the rich escape paying income taxes, and repeal of the 7 per cent investment tax credit previously allowed business and industry will bring in \$2.4 billion more than the Treasury loses through tax cuts for the low-income and middle and upper middle-income groups.

I ~~would~~ would also caution that while the surtax will drop from 10 per cent to five as of next Jan. 1, the tax bill passed by the House continues it at the five per cent rate for the first six months of 1970. President Nixon believes this is necessary to hold down on consumer prices. ~~And~~ So, too, does the Democratic chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Wilbur Mills of Arkansas.

After 1970 the tax rate reductions will be felt by the Treasury, so that by the time they take full effect the Treasury will wind up with a net annual loss of more than \$2 billion on balance as a result of the tax legislation.

Causes some concern especially with so many groups demanding additional spending
~~This disturbs the Nixon Administration.~~ There is just one saving factor.

And that is that our great American economy, ~~through the process of~~ assuming healthy and normal growth, generates about \$10 billion more in income tax revenue each year.

In reviewing other congressional action this year, we have to agree that the Congress has concentrated on quality rather than quantity. This is not bad. Rather, it is good for the country. We need to digest and to review and to revise and make work all of the laws and programs we now have going for us.

There were, of course, some highly important actions taken by the Congress up to recess time—approval of the surcharge extension at 10 per cent for six months by both Houses of Congress as a weapon against inflation, approval by the Senate of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, and the Nixon ~~Administration~~ Administration ~~in~~ victory in the Senate on the Safeguard ~~missile~~ missile defense issue.

Meantime, the bulk of President Nixon's program still is in committee, and the President has just unveiled some exciting new proposals. I am confident most of the President's program will be approved. He has advanced sound proposals, proposals which will return the Government to the people and will help disadvantaged Americans get up off their backs and onto their two feet.

~~I will not, of course, be reporting to you by radio during the three-week congressional recess. My next Washington report will come to you the weekend of Sept. 6 and 7. Until then, this is your congressman, Jerry Ford, saying so long for now.~~

Hope to see you at home & then after
the recess will be back with my weekly
radio report on this station



~~_____~~
This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

Developments in Hanoi and Paris eclipsed everything else as Congress met again after ^{a short} ~~a 3 1/2 week~~ summer recess. The talk ^{in Washington} here was of Ho Chi Minh's ~~_____~~ death and of hints by Hanoi's chief negotiator in Paris that rapid withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam might get the stalled peace talks moving ^{soon}.

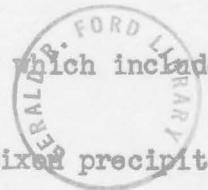
We are all so anxious to see an end to the Vietnam War that ^{it} ~~_____~~ is ^{tempting} to believe ~~that~~ Ho Chi Minh's departure from the scene ^{will} ~~_____~~ signal a big breakthrough in the Paris peace talks. I ~~am afraid~~ ^{maybe} ~~this~~ ^{_____} ~~is~~ ^{although I hope not,} ~~_____~~ simply wishful thinking.

It is a good guess that whether Ho Chi Minh is succeeded by one man or by a ruling group the new ~~_____~~ regime will be just as determined as Ho was to force Communist rule on South Vietnam.

As for the hints by Hanoi ~~_____~~ that a rapid and massive American ~~_____~~ troop withdrawal might break the deadlock at Paris, this ~~_____~~ may well be true. After all, ~~_____~~ for Hanoi this would be an intermediate step in their announced goal of getting all U.S. troops out of Vietnam.

I think a realistic approach to the question of U.S. troop withdrawals from South Vietnam is that they ~~_____~~ should be geared ^{& it is growing} to the growth of South Vietnamese strength. This has to be our guideline unless we are willing to tell ~~_____~~ ourselves that we are going to pull out all of our troops on a massive and unilateral basis without regard for the consequences.

A ~~_____~~ group of nine outstanding Americans known as the Citizens Committee for Peace with Freedom in Vietnam recently finished a round-the-world tour which included a week in Vietnam. This group concluded that ~~_____~~ if ~~_____~~ President Nixon precipitously withdraws ~~_____~~ U.S. ~~_____~~ troops from Vietnam without ~~_____~~ regard for South Vietnamese strength,



"the enemy can reverse the tide running against him...and we will ~~have~~ have lost more than 35,000 American lives in vain." The Committee for Peace with Freedom in Vietnam is headed by Edmund A. Gullion, dean of ~~the~~ the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

One last comment on Vietnam. I believe the tide is running against the enemy. I think this is reflected in the ~~reduced~~ reduced rate of enemy infiltration from North Vietnam into South ~~Vietnam~~ Vietnam. I also believe that the death of Ho Chih Minh ~~will~~ ^{will} drain ~~some of the spirit out of the North Vietnamese people,~~ some of the spirit out of the North Vietnamese people, so that they will lose some of their determination ~~to~~ to pursue the war to what ~~they~~ they would consider a successful conclusion.

I would like to turn now to the Congress and what lies immediately ahead in the House of Representatives.

This coming week or the following week we will be voting on a proposed Constitutional Amendment ~~which would abolish the Electoral College and provide for direct popular election of the President.~~ which would abolish the Electoral College and provide for direct popular election of the President. I strongly support ~~this~~ this amendment. I ~~believe~~ believe it is what the American people want. It is an action which would do away once and for all with the danger that ~~every four years--the danger that no candidate for President~~ ^{could be present} ~~will~~ ^{will} receive a majority of the electoral vote and the election therefore ~~will~~ ^{will} be thrown into the House of Representatives. I expect the House to approve the amendment by more than the necessary two-thirds ~~majority,~~ majority, and I hope the Senate will do likewise and that ~~three-fourths~~ three-fourths of the State Legislatures will approve the amendment. This is a remedy for which the American people have waited too long.

Soon after ~~voting on the President Election amendment,~~ voting on the President Election amendment, the House will take up extension of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.



I want to see the Voting Rights Act extended but I also believe it should be made applicable to all 50 states, not just pointed at the South. I believe, for instance, that if literacy ~~tests~~ are banned in the Southern states they ~~should~~ also be banned in all other states. This, it seems to me, is only fair.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington. If you have any problems I can be helpful with, please do not hesitate to write me or to contact my district office on Cherry Street ~~in~~ Grand Rapids. I'll be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

#####



This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

I would like to chat with you about a variety of subjects today, beginning with President Nixon's order cutting back on direct Federal construction projects as a move against inflation.

White House
I want to point out that the ~~Nixon~~ order does not affect the projected Federal ~~building~~ *in our urban renewal area downtown* to be constructed in Grand Rapids. That project is in the property

acquisition stage and has not reached the point of construction. There were no

construction
funds for the building in the fiscal 1970 Federal budget for that reason. So the project is in ~~no~~ *way* affected by the cutback order.

I would also emphasize that the Nixon order does not involve the Federal highway program or construction of airports, or for that matter any Federal projects now under way.

Let me turn now to two actions taken by the U.S. House of Representatives within the last few days.

In what I consider a *very* significant move, the House unanimously passed *and sent to the Senate* a bill which I believe will result in the production of better quality car and truck tires.

The bill ~~would~~ require tire manufacturers to notify buyers of any defects discovered after the sale of a tire. ~~This was one provision in the~~

general legislation, which extends and expands the Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966.

The House this past week approved and sent to the Senate a bill extending the life of the Peace Corps for another year and permitting appropriations of up to \$101.1

the program.
million to finance it. I ~~strongly supported~~ *Peace Corps because I believe* the bill. I ~~also joined with a House~~ *the U.S. gets its best return on this investment in the foreign aid area.* majority in blocking *an \$11.1 million* cut in the funding authorization. ~~The amount I supported was~~

the ~~the sum sought by the Nixon Administration.~~ *approved by the House* That amount was \$900,000 less than the

total appropriated by the Congress for fiscal 1969.

This outbreak had the endorsement of the new Administration.

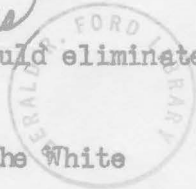
The House this past week also ~~was~~ began debating an historic proposal--a proposed constitutional amendment to abolish the electoral college and choose the President of the United States by direct popular election. I am doing everything in my power to see to it that this proposed constitutional amendment is approved by a two-thirds vote in the House. We will get no direct indication of the outcome until Wednesday, Sept. 17, when the voting ~~will~~ begins on ~~amendments~~ amendments to the direct election proposal. I am hoping and predicting that the direct election proposal will go through the House ~~will~~ unchanged and ^{*without any major modifications*} receive the necessary two-thirds approval.

Long in the air in 1950
The House has not considered a major electoral ^{*college*} reform plan for more than a century, so the current action is indeed of the highest historical significance.

As the House set the stage ~~for~~ for its debate on electoral reform, the House Republican Policy Committee pledged strong Republican support for the direct election method of choosing American Presidents.

There are differences of opinion on this issue ~~in~~ in both Republican and Democratic ranks in the House, of course. ~~Some~~ ^{*members*} ~~will~~ will be offering alternatives to the direct election proposal. But assuming that those alternatives fail--and I believe they will--then an overwhelming number of ~~House Republicans~~ ^{*and Democrats*} will support direct election in the final voting.

^{*of the Pres.*}
I support ~~direct~~ direct election because it is the fairest of all the alternatives to the electoral college system. It means that the vote of a man or woman in Michigan ^{*will be*} exactly equal to that of a voter in the huge-electoral-vote-package states of New York and California, for instance. In addition, ^{*of the Pres.*} the direct election ~~method~~ would eliminate the possibility of a popular vote winner in a Presidential contest losing the White



House in the Electoral College. ~~■~~ Direct election ~~■~~ is the only method which

completely does away with the Electoral ~~■~~ *vote system.* I believe the Electoral ~~■~~ *vote system*

should be abolished. It serves no useful purpose. ~~■~~ It simply perpetuates

inequities and dangers ~~■~~ which should have been eliminated long ago.

We must not forget that on three occasions a candidate for the Presidency has won the largest number of popular votes but has been denied the White House in the Electoral College. And we must not forget the near-crisis we experienced in the Presidential election just past.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington. I'll be ~~■~~ talking with you again ~~■~~ next week--same time, same station.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

Last week President Nixon announced the second phase ~~in~~ in his policy of withdrawing American combat forces from South Vietnam as conditions permit.

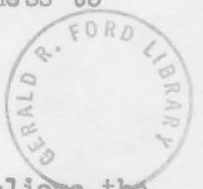
With this second replacement of U.S. troops by South Vietnamese, President Nixon will have withdrawn 60,000 men from South Vietnam since he took office last January.

Hanoi and Moscow have pooh-poohed these troop withdrawals and called them "dribblets." But these statements of course are aimed at trying to offset the truth in the court of world opinion. The truth is that the United States is trying desperately to end the Vietnam War but the Communists are ~~trying to~~ dragging it out ~~in the hope of accomplishing at the bargaining table~~ in the hope of accomplishing at the bargaining table what they have been unable to achieve on the battlefield--a complete takeover of South Vietnam.

As President Nixon declared after announcing the second troop withdrawal, the withdrawal of 60,000 American troops from Vietnam is a significant step. It means that the time for meaningful negotiations with the Communists has arrived.

I believe chances are good for additional troop withdrawals even if there is no immediate progress at Paris. But these subsequent ~~withdrawals~~ withdrawals will depend largely on whether the rate of enemy infiltration from North Vietnam continues to decline, the level of enemy ~~combat~~ combat activity and of American casualties declines, and the South Vietnamese armed forces continue to grow in readiness to take over from the United States.

I think the Communist leaders in Hanoi are making a mistake if they believe the American people want U.S. forces withdrawn in massive numbers from Vietnam in precipitous retreat. This would wipe out the credibility of American commitments in



Asia and would be a crushing blow to American prestige throughout the world. What we want is a negotiated settlement of the Vietnam conflict which will simply allow the South Vietnamese to ~~determine~~ ^{in free elections} under what government they wish to live.

Here in the Congress the House of Representatives has been engaged in historic debate over ~~the~~ the proposal to elect the President by direct popular vote. I supported ~~this~~ this move to do away entirely with the electoral vote system because direct election is the only way to make the vote of each citizen in our country count exactly the same. All of the alternative proposals--the district plan and the proportionate plan--would weight the votes through a system of intermediate steps. Plans of that kind diminish the integrity of the individual vote. For that reason I ~~strongly~~ strongly urged every member of the House to support the proposed Constitutional Amendment providing for direct election of the President.

The House of Representatives interrupted its debate on the electoral vote system last Tuesday to meet jointly with the United States Senate ~~as a forum~~ as a forum to honor the ~~three Americans~~ three Americans who flew to the moon. I was privileged to be a member of the committee of congressmen and senators who escorted the three astronauts into and out of the House Chamber.

It was a pleasure to hear the crew of Apollo 11 speak. There was no bombast, no bragging, no fancy oratory. There was, however, some simple eloquence. And it came chiefly from the one man in the three-man crew who had to stay in the mother ship, Columbia, while the spidery craft, Eagle, touched down on the moon's surface with Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin.

I think ~~astronaut~~ astronaut Michael Collins probably expressed the prevailing spirit in America when he told the joint meeting of Congress: "We cannot launch our planetary probes from a springboard of poverty, discrimination and unrest. But

neither can we wait until each and every terrestrial problem has been solved. Such logic 200 years ago would have prevented expansion westward past the Appalachian Mountains, for assuredly the eastern seaboard was beset by problems of great urgency then, as it is today. Man has always gone where he has been able to go. It is ~~that simple~~ that simple. He will continue pushing back his frontier, no matter how far it may carry him from his homeland."

With Michael Collins' eloquent words I agree. This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington. I'll be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

#####



This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

I know of nobody who is not pleased that President Nixon has cancelled draft calls for 50,000 men during the months of November and December and spread out the October draft call over the next three months. As one newsman remarked when he heard the announcement: "Merry Christmas!"

It amazed me, therefore, to hear some college students *criticizing the announcement* putting down the news by saying the President was simply trying to blackmail Americans who otherwise would be inclined to protest against the Vietnam War.

I really do not know what the President has to do to convince some people that he is honestly trying to end the war, short of simply throwing in the towel and calling all of our troops home immediately.

Rather than talk of blackmail, those who are anxious to see a quick end to the Vietnam War *should work toward* that objective by supporting the President on his Vietnam policy and his efforts to reform the draft.

The President is determined to Vietnamize the war by gradually turning more and more of the combat operations over to the South Vietnamese and bringing our men home in phased withdrawals. Meantime he is also *diligently* pressing for a breakthrough in the negotiations at Paris.

On the subject of the draft, the President has moved to limit the draft to 19-year-olds, so that the time that a young man wonders if he will be drafted is limited to that one year. This would lift a terrible burden from *those* the older age brackets 20 to 26-year-olds.

The President sent Congress his proposed lottery system for the draft on May 19.

Regrettably Congress has not *acted on this Nixon proposal* acted in the many months since that date. So now the President has

served notice that if the Congress does not act before the end of this year, he will take ~~some~~ action ~~similar to the lottery system~~ by Executive order. Actually, all Congress would have to do to allow the President to institute a lottery or random selection draft system is to repeal one sentence in the 1967 Selective Service Act. That sentence specifies that the oldest ~~men~~ in any draft pool must be called first.

To get back to ~~the anti-war protests~~ anti-war protests, it is just such actions on the part of ~~some~~ Americans which ~~persuade the hawks among~~ persuade the hawks among ~~the~~ North Vietnamese leaders that they ~~should drag the war out and refuse to negotiate~~ should drag the war out and refuse to negotiate ~~at~~ at Paris.

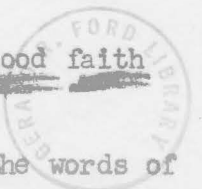
in this country
At one time the anti-war movement ~~served the purpose of pushing the national~~ served the purpose of pushing the national administration toward negotiation and away from a military solution in Vietnam. But now the stronger and louder the protest movement in the United States the less chance ~~that~~ there is that the hawks among the leadership in North Vietnam will decide to seek a compromise solution in Paris. That is the tragedy of the ~~one-day American anti-war students' strike scheduled for~~ one-day American anti-war students' strike scheduled for ~~Oct. 15.~~ Oct. 15.

Nobody can argue with the right of the students ~~to~~ to conduct the strike. But I would seriously question their wisdom in doing so, because I think they are working against their own objectives in the process.

The situation in Vietnam has improved for our side. That is why it was possible for the President to cancel the November and December draft calls.

How wrong it is for any American to pooh-pooh such developments and to ~~try to~~ try to cut the ground out from under the President's peace efforts.

Our second troop withdrawal ~~from Vietnam~~ from Vietnam is a clear sign of good faith to North Vietnam. It's time for the other side to ~~make good on the words of~~ make good on the words of



their chief negotiator. ~~_____~~ As you may recall, he recently said that further reductions ~~_____~~ of American troops in Vietnam could improve prospects for a breakthrough in negotiations at Paris. The North Vietnamese now should translate these words into action.

I am here in Washington to serve you. If there is any way ~~_____~~ in which I can help you, please write me. This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington. I'll be back with you again next week--same time, same station.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

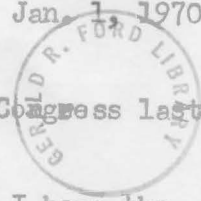
Responses to my congressional questionnaire have literally been pouring into my office. The volume of returns has been excellent...just great. There is still time for those of you who have not yet filled out and sent back the questionnaire to do so. The more returns I receive, the more complete will be the sampling of opinion in Kent and Ionia Counties on the ~~issues~~ ^{issues} in the questionnaire.

There have been many developments in Washington on which I would like to comment.

Michigan--and particularly West Michigan--can take pride in the election of U.S. Senator Robert P. Griffin ^{of Traverse City} as assistant minority leader of the Senate. What Sen. Griffin's elevation to this position of national leadership means is that his colleagues in the Senate recognize what the people of Michigan have known all along--that Bob Griffin is a man of unusual ability and leadership qualities.

The U.S. House of ~~Representatives~~ Representatives recently passed legislation which would establish a Council on Environmental Quality, a group of prominent and qualified Americans to preserve and protect our air, water and other natural resources. I voted for this bill and hope that the Senate will approve it quickly. We do have a Cabinet-level Council on Environmental Quality established by order of President Nixon on May 29 but we need to ~~create~~ create an organization of experts to back up the Cabinet-level Council. This is the function the House-passed bill would fulfill.

Moving a little closer in point of time, I have introduced in the House a bill to increase Social Security benefits by ~~at~~ at least 10 per cent effective Jan. 1, 1970. The cost of living has gone up nearly 8 per cent to this date since the Congress last raised the benefits, and our elderly need all the help they can get. So I hope the



Congress will move fast to increase Social Security benefits enough to fully offset all rises in the cost-of-living since the last Social Security increase took effect. *Escalation clause.*

Meantime the ~~House~~ House ~~Judiciary~~ Judiciary Committee has begun hearings on legislation I introduced to fight the flood of pornographic material which is ~~reaching~~ reaching homes throughout the nation by mail. One of my bills ~~would~~ would prohibit the dissemination of obscene matter to homes where children 16 years of age or younger reside. The other would require smut peddlers to obtain the permission of a prospective ~~customer~~ customer in advance before mailing him any pornographic advertising material.

Responding to public demand for a crackdown under existing law, the Nixon Administration has quietly mounted an extensive campaign against huge mail-order distributors of pornography. As a result, I am pleased to report, 20 persons and 22 companies have been indicted during the past eight months on charges of distributing obscene materials.

The House Armed ~~Services~~ Services Committee has ~~begun~~ begun hearings on draft reform as requested by President Nixon. [The proposed change would permit the President to institute a lottery or random selection system for picking draftees.]

The House ~~recently~~ recently passed ~~census~~ census legislation which permits the Federal Government to obtain the information it needs for intelligent decision-making but at the same time protects the rights and privacy of our citizens.

Sec. 2 Agriculture
The Nixon Administration has unveiled a new general farm program aimed at making efficient farmers less dependent on government subsidies and lessening the cost ~~making it possible for~~ *To the American taxpayer* inefficient farmers to get out of agriculture entirely.

Much attention is being focused here on the ~~demands~~ demands by some members of



Congress that we set a deadline for getting our troops out of Vietnam.

^{seriously}
My feeling is that such demands ¹undermine the efforts of our President to end

the Vietnam War in an honorable way. What the deadline setters are saying is that

we should throw ~~in~~ in the towel--~~and go home.~~ ^{declare ourselves defeated}

^{President Nixon wants to end the war before Dec 1970. while those who set a deadline 15 months away are prolonging the War.}

I say that all Americans ~~should~~ ¹should united behind the President in his efforts to

bring about a negotiated settlement in Paris. And those who have planned an anti-war

¹ ~~protest~~ ^{demand that the communist leaders in North Vietnam} for Oct. 15 should ~~instead~~ spend their time praying that the President will

be successful.

This is Jerry Ford ~~reporting~~ ¹reporting to you from Washington. I'll be talking with you

again next week--same time, same station.

#####

*join with Pres. Nixon
in negotiating a
settlement
work!*



5-4224

3315403

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

In most ~~important~~ important recent action, the House of Representatives debated and approved a \$21.3 billion military procurement bill.

During the three days of debate on the bill, the House voted twice on the vital question of whether to ~~deploy~~ ^{deploy} President Nixon's ~~Safeguard~~ Safeguard anti-ballistic missile system. In both instances the House gave very ~~strong~~ strong support to the President's *recommendation*.

The first decision came on a standing vote in which ABM opponents sought to *cut out* all but research and development funds *for the ABM.* That effort lost 219 to 105.

The final test was a straight up-or-down ~~vote~~ vote on whether to proceed with deployment of the ~~Safeguard~~ Safeguard ABM at the two missile sites in Montana and South Dakota. On that vote, deployment was approved by a rollcall tally of 270 to 93.

So although the Senate approved ~~initial~~ initial deployment of the Safeguard missile defense system only 51 to 50, the House gave the proposal resounding endorsement--first on a teller vote of 2 to 1 and then on a rollcall vote of 3 to 1.

With this vote of confidence by the House of Representatives, President Nixon now can deal with the Soviet Union from a position of strength in the ~~strategic~~ strategic arms limitation talks expected to begin soon.

The final version of the \$21.3 billion military procurement bill will be hammered out by a House and Senate conference committee and then submitted to the two bodies of the Congress for ~~routine~~ ^{second} second-round approval. The bill will then go to the President.

Critics of the military lost on more than a dozen attempts in the House to cut



back on ~~funds~~ ^{weapons} for various items or weapons systems, including ~~research~~ money for a new bomber and funds for a new Freedom Fighter plane.

The House did, however, impose tighter restrictions on the reporting, movement and testing of chemical and biological warfare agents. That, I think, was a very good move. We cannot be too careful in connection with the testing of chemical and biological warfare ~~agents~~ agents.

There ~~was~~ ^{here} another recent development which I believe is highly ~~significant~~ significant.

That was President Nixon's endorsement of ~~the~~ direct popular election of the President, the proposal which was overwhelmingly approved by the House of Representatives.

Now that Mr. Nixon has given his ~~the~~ blessing to direct popular election I think the proposal has a far better chance of winning ~~the~~ two-thirds approval in the United States Senate and getting the approval of the required three-fourths of the states.

There is, of course, virtually no possibility that 38 states--the necessary ^{three-fourths} ~~the~~ will approve this proposed constitutional amendment in time for ~~the~~ it to be effective in 1972.

The reason is that only 30 of the state legislatures ^{are scheduled to} ~~will~~ meet in 1970, and as the proposed amendment is drawn it ~~the~~ would not go into effect until the Jan. 21st following its ratification. To be effective with the 1972 election, the amendment would have to be approved by the 38th state no later ^{er} than Jan. 20, 1971. That just isn't in the cards. ~~I~~ ~~the~~ I ~~the~~ hope that the momentum needed to get ratification will continue despite the time lag involved.

In still ~~the~~ another development, I have learned that Grand Rapids is offering ~~the~~ the Housing and Urban Development Department a prototype site under ~~the~~ Secretary George

Romney's Operation Breakthrough Program. The idea behind the program is to build prototype low-cost housing on eight selected sites in various sections of the country.

These prototypes will become the models for volume production of low-cost quality housing at prices our citizens can afford to pay. Operation Breakthrough is a challenge

to the construction industry ^{both labor and management} and to all ~~other~~ other industry to come up with

new ideas, new designs and methods. I certainly hope ~~the Grand Rapids~~ the Grand Rapids site is ~~chosen~~ among those chosen.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, ~~reporting~~ reporting to you from Washington.

I'll be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

#####



This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

Since I last talked with you, the days here have been crowded with events.

The most spectacular happening, of course, has been the Vietnam Moratorium.

But there have also been other developments of importance to the American people, and I would like to comment on these before discussing the Vietnam Situation.

One of these developments dealt with water pollution control and the amount of money to be appropriated by the Congress this fiscal year to help local communities build ^{additional} sewage treatment plants.

There is no question that water pollution control is one of the country's top priorities.

On that basis, the House Appropriations Committee looked at the President's request for \$214 million in pollution control funds and boosted it to \$600 million. ^{for a 12-mo period} Meantime, a group of House members decided the appropriation should be increased to \$1 billion. This was ^{increased} despite the fact that all but 18 states would be unable to use the extra funds that ~~would~~ would be made available as federal matching money under the \$1 billion appropriation. ~~as applied to the existing~~

Those House members who sought the \$1 billion appropriation ignored the fact that the Congress earlier this year imposed a strict spending limitation on the President, a spending ceiling he is already finding it ~~extremely~~ extremely difficult to stay under.

When the House considered all sides of the situation, House members narrowly voted, 148 to 146 to stay with the ~~committee's~~ committee's \$600 million figure, and then

overwhelmingly approved the ^{water} pollution control bill on final passage.

I believe that this ^{additional} money plus a new program which the Pres. will be submitting shortly will be an adequate amount of money and a good program to help Mich. solve its problem with local funds.



against excessive federal spending and voted a federal employee pay ~~raise~~ ^{would} ~~which~~ add \$1.5 billion to federal expenditures this fiscal year and would boost federal spending ~~thereafter~~ thereafter by more than \$4 billion a year.

The chief defect in the bill is that it would knock out hopes for the President's proposal to create a government-owned, self-supporting postal corporation. Under that plan, postal employee pay would be set through collective bargaining and not as a result of ~~pressure~~ pressure on the Congress.

I have to say that the pay bill approved by the House last Tuesday ^{when you look at all aspects of it -- the added costs, prospective defeat of Post Office Reform legislation} is ill-considered legislation. If it also passes the Senate, I believe the President will veto it.

Now the Vietnam Moratorium. I understand completely how those taking part in the Moratorium felt. Frustration, ~~Anxiety~~ Anxiety. A host of emotions were involved.

And that is precisely the point. The ~~Moratorium~~ Moratorium was an outpouring of emotion, an outpouring of feeling which North Vietnamese leaders find a ready subject for exploitation. ^{under any circumstances}

I do not question the motives of most of the demonstrators. But

I was not at all surprised to see the premier of North Vietnam address an open letter to the American people in which he praised the demonstrators for "their fall offensive" aimed at forcing President Nixon to withdraw all U.S. troops from Vietnam immediately. ~~I have no doubt that the demonstrators are sincere and that they are not motivated by any ulterior motives.~~

The attempt by the North Vietnamese leaders to exploit the moratorium was not something to go unchallenged. ~~And so~~ And so Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott and I ^{along with its Democratic leaders in the House} introduced resolutions in the House and Senate urging the demonstrators



to repudiate this blatant and insolent ~~intrusion~~ intrusion into American affairs by the premier of North Vietnam and to disassociate themselves from his statement.

I think it is ~~a~~ a sad commentary on the ~~Nation~~ state of affairs in this Nation ~~if~~ if *a Communist dream power* an enemy power ~~is~~ is able to seize upon a public demonstration in America ~~and~~ and turn that demonstration to its own purposes.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

I'll be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

#####



This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

First of all, I want to announce that the responses to my congressional questionnaire now are being tabulated and I will be reporting the results to you shortly. I received a tremendous number of returns. The usual number is about 10 per cent of all of the questionnaires mailed out to all addresses in a congressional district. The response to my questionnaire was far in excess of that. So I am greatly pleased.

Many people in Kent and Ionia Counties wrote comments on the questionnaire cards--comments I had invited because I want to know as fully as possible what my constituents are thinking. Others wrote me letters because they wanted to say more than the space for comment on the questionnaire card allowed. I was very glad to get these comments. They represent the pulse of the people.

The bulk of the comments centered on two topics of great concern today--inflation and the Vietnam War.

The comments on both inflation and the war reflected impatience--an impatience I understand completely. These comments also indicated a need for greater knowledge of what the Nixon Administration is doing to deal with inflation and the war.

The best explanation of Administration policies on inflation is contained in a little-publicized letter which President Nixon sent recently to business and labor leaders. In this letter, the President set forth an anti-inflation formula which is the only alternative to either runaway inflation or an inflation crackdown which would surely produce a recession and deep unemployment. That formula is contained in one word: RESTRAINT. Self-discipline on the part of government, business and labor.

The Administration is employing restraint by holding down on government spending

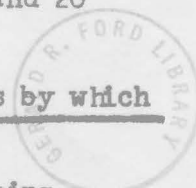
and keeping a tight check on the nation's money supply. Now it is up to business and labor to follow the ^{*of restraint*} example set by the ~~government~~ Administration. The same is true of the consumer...because, after all, ~~the business and labor~~ prices in today's market place still ~~are~~ are affected by supply and demand.

It is the law of supply and demand that the President was referring to when he told business ~~leaders~~ leaders that "the business that commits errors in pricing on the up side, expecting to be bailed out by inflation, is going to find itself in a poor competitive position." "Betting on ~~ever~~ ever-higher prices is a sure way of losing," *the President said.*

At the same time, the President told labor leaders: "It is in the interest of every union leader and workingman to avoid wage demands that will reduce the purchasing power of his dollar and reduce the number of job opportunities." That may not be easy to see, but that is what happens when pay increases are cracked into the price of products and passed on to all consumers in the form of ~~ever~~ ever-higher prices.

Restraint, ~~as~~ as the President said, is not pleasant medicine. But we have to take it if we want to cure inflation. And the Administration is determined to do so.

In looking at the Vietnam situation, I have before me a White House paper which compares the situation in Vietnam now with what it ~~was~~ was on Jan. 20 when President Nixon assumed the Presidency. This paper shows ~~conclusively~~ conclusively that President Nixon has made bold moves in the search for peace in Vietnam--offering to negotiate on every point except the right of the South Vietnamese to decide their own future, pulling 60,000 American troops out of Vietnam...12 per cent of all our forces there and 20 per cent of our combat forces, greatly speeding up the Vietnamization process by which we are gradually turning the war over to the South Vietnamese, greatly reducing casualties so that casualties during the first nine months of this year are one-third



less than in the first nine months of last year and the lowest currently that they have been in about three years, ~~████~~ changing our combat policy in Vietnam from one of search and destroy to one of protective reaction.

In short, President Nixon has been winding down the war and at the same time has made moves that should have produced a breakthrough at Paris except for the stubbornness of the other side.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington. I'll be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

I would like to talk with you today about a variety of items, beginning with Vietnam.

Great interest is centering right now on what President Nixon will tell the Nation on Nov. 3 when he discusses "where do we go from here" in Vietnam. The President talked about his speech with me and other congressional leaders earlier this week but cautioned us not ~~to~~ to speculate on what he was going to say. He did, however, tell us that his speech would be reassuring to the American people. I found that most heartening. Other than that, I can say nothing except that the President's speech will be a broad, comprehensive review of the situation in Vietnam. I think the speech will be timely and significant.

I personally have been predicting that more than half of our troops will be withdrawn from Vietnam ~~within~~ within a year from now. ~~This~~ This observation is ~~a~~ a cumulative impression based on all I have ~~heard~~ heard in White House meetings with the President and others. It is not based on any advance knowledge of what the President will say on Nov. 3.

There is ~~a~~ a mood of cautious optimism on Capitol Hill regarding Vietnam, ~~and~~ ~~the~~ The feeling of optimism also springs ~~in~~ in part from the fact that the Soviet Union has finally agreed to a beginning of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, the so-called SALT talks. Those ~~talks~~ talks will begin Nov. 17 at Helsinki, ~~Finland~~ Finland.

I don't think we should get all ~~excited~~ excited about the ~~SALT~~ SALT talks and expect that they inevitably will produce beneficial results. We are all hopeful, of course. But we must realize that the talks probably will drag on for a long time, and that the subject of the negotiations is most difficult and complicated. I would like to make this observation: The agreement by the Soviet Union to begin the talks ~~is~~

Belies

~~the~~ the fears of those who opposed the President's anti-ballistic missile system on the ground it would hamper any moves toward arms control. I have long contended that, rather than blocking such talks, action by the United States to ~~deploy~~ deploy the ABM would be an incentive to the Russians to talk about arms control.

As we speak of Vietnam and arms control, it is also natural that we consider the draft. This is what Congress now is doing ~~in~~ in response to President Nixon's request that we adopt a system where a young man is vulnerable to the draft for only one year, instead of seven years as at present. When that one year is over, the young man knows he will not be taken except in case of national emergency. Those who are deferred for good reason become one-year-vulnerable when that deferment ends. So all would be ~~exposed~~ exposed to the draft--but only for one year.

I believe the Vietnam situation will improve ~~enough~~ enough in the coming months so that next year Congress could begin laying the groundwork for ending the draft and going to an all-volunteer Army. As ~~President~~ President Nixon's program of phasing out U.S. combat ~~forces~~ forces in Vietnam and phasing in Southvietnamese forces progresses, we will have a substantially lessened need for draftees. For that I am terribly thankful. Meantime, I think ~~the~~ Congress should give the President the power he asks to revise present draft procedures.

Congress recently moved in another area--the housing field--to build a better America. The House passed a \$5 billion housing bill, different in some respects from a ~~\$6.3 billion~~ \$6.3 billion bill passed earlier by the Senate. Now the two houses of Congress will have to act to resolve their differences.

The most significant ~~changes~~ changes in the House bill open the way to build cheaper housing faster and call for a replacement of razed homes in urban ~~renewal~~ renewal areas on a one-for-one basis.

The provision to help build cheaper homes more quickly is congressional backing for Housing and Urban Development Secretary George Romney's "Operation Breakthrough." That is a program ~~designed~~ to find ways to build ~~the~~ low-cost housing on a mass production basis. A number of such projects will be launched on an ~~experimental~~ experimental basis in various of our cities. Grand Rapids is one of the cities ~~which~~ ^{a site for} which has offered ~~to build~~ such prototype housing. I hope Grand Rapids is one of those cities selected.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington. I'll be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

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GK.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, ~~the~~ reporting to you from Washington.

Today I want to talk with you about a ~~number~~ variety of ~~these~~ topics...action by the Congress and other important developments here in the Nation's Capital.

The most significant happening here, of course, has been President Nixon's address to the nation on Vietnam, and the show of support for him that followed that speech.

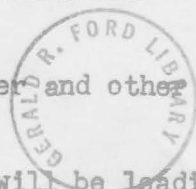
As you know, thousands of telegrams in support of the President's Vietnam policy poured into the White House after ~~the~~ Americans heard Mr. Nixon ~~the~~ explain why ~~he~~ he has chosen to pursue his plan for peace in Vietnam and has rejected immediate withdrawal. *& surrender.*

I think this tremendous show of support for the President was ~~the~~ primarily *a* response to four sentences in his Vietnam speech. "Let us be united for peace. Let us also be united against defeat. Because let us understand: North Vietnam cannot defeat or humiliate the United States. Only Americans can do that."

I agree completely with this statement by President Nixon. And I feel sure that a solid majority of all ~~the~~ Americans agree with him too.

That is why I believe the second Vietnam Moratorium, ~~the~~ planned for Nov. 13 through 15 will not only fail to arouse greater support for immediate ~~the~~ U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam but will boomerang on ~~the~~ those who ~~the~~ urge a U.S. surrender in Vietnam.

One reason I believe the Vietnam Moratorium next week will boomerang is that while some of the ~~the~~ leaders are simply idealistic young men others are dedicated American Communists. It is ~~the~~ Communists like David Dellinger and other members of the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam who will be leading



the *march*
Moratorium ~~in~~ in Washington on Nov. 15. I believe the American people will feel repelled by this demonstration and will make their feelings known.

President Nixon has made clear what the choice for America is in Vietnam:

~~Defeat~~ Defeat by the Communists--what I call an American Dunkirk in Vietnam--or his pursuit of ~~a~~ a peace with honor either through negotiations or through Vietnamization of the war.

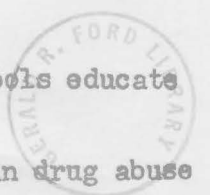
As the President has said, the consequences of an American defeat in Vietnam would be a disaster of the greatest ~~magnitude~~ magnitude--"a collapse of confidence in American leadership not only in Asia but throughout the world." *And*, ultimately, it would not bring peace but more war.

Now there are ~~a~~ a number of other items to which I would like to call your attention.

The House of Representatives, by an overwhelming vote, has passed a bill which would allow President Nixon to establish a lottery system--a true random selection system--for picking draftees. ~~Unfortunately~~ Unfortunately, the Democratic leaders in the Senate have indicated there ~~will~~ will be no Senate action on this bill. I hope the ~~members~~ members of the Senate will enter into a gentlemen's agreement to approve the one change in the ~~draft~~ draft law the President is asking for now and ~~take~~ take up comprehensive reform of the draft law next year. This is the course of action which is indicated now. It is vital for ~~our~~ our young people. It is vital for the Nation.

In recent actions, the House of Representatives passed a *long-needed* ~~long~~ measure to protect coal miners. It requires mine owners to adopt safety practices recommended by President Nixon and the House Education and Labor Committee.

The House also has passed a bill providing Federal funds to help schools educate their pupils on the dangers of drug abuse. This is a *much-needed* ~~three~~ three-year program in drug abuse



education.

Finally, I want to point out that ~~REDACTED~~ President Nixon has sent the Congress proposals to greatly strengthen protection for the American consumer. He is asking for a fair deal for the consumer in the market place. He proposes a Buyer's Bill of Rights that would set up a new Office of Consumer Affairs, strengthen the Federal Trade Commission, and in other ways protect the consumer against fraud and dishonesty. I hope the Congress acts soon on the President's consumer proposals.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington. I will be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

There have been some significant news developments in the last few days, and I want to comment on them. But first I would like to sum up some recent congressional actions.

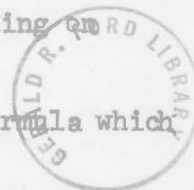
The House has just passed and sent to the Senate an extension of the Federal Aid Highway Act. The House gave the Administration three more months to estimate what it will ~~cost~~ cost to complete the interstate highway system.

The highway bill also included a \$1.5 million authorization to keep alive the highway beautification program which began in 1965. The House kept in the bill the present penalty of a 10 per cent loss of highway construction funds for any state which fails to submit plans for tearing down by July of 1970 all billboards that are within 660 feet of state and primary highways.

Prior to that action, the House ~~approved~~ approved and sent to the Senate a bill which authorizes ~~an~~ appropriations of up to \$2.2 billion for foreign aid for fiscal 1970. This amount was roughly \$400 million less than the President asked. And the amount that will ~~be~~ be appropriated by the Congress for actual expenditure will undoubtedly be ^{still} less.

I have consistently supported the principle of foreign aid because I believe it is a program which promotes world peace. But I have also supported cuts in the dollar amounts spent on the program.

The House ~~recently passed~~ and Senate recently approved and sent to the White House a \$7.5 billion farm appropriation bill for fiscal 1970. In doing this, the Congress deleted a \$20,000 annual ceiling on individual farm subsidies. The ceiling on subsidies was eliminated ~~because~~ because it would have triggered an old formula which would have cost the taxpayers far more in subsidy payments to individual farmers.



The most significant recent action on the national scene was President Nixon's decision to take the United States out of the field of germ warfare.

Germ warfare is actually too horrible to contemplate. And it is possible that President Nixon's action eliminating bacteriological weapons from the United States arsenal will lead to an international ban on germ warfare.

I personally feel that the germ warfare ban could very well have a favorable impact on the strategic arms limitation talks now taking place between the United States and the Soviet Union.

The psychological impact is there, because by taking itself out of the field of germ warfare the United States is once more demonstrating its devotion to peace.

It seems significant, too, that just this past week the United States and the Soviet Union ratified the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

The strategic arms limitation talks--or SALT talks, as they are known--have now moved through their second week. These are preliminary talks, aimed at finding common ground for the two nuclear giants of the world to find ways of curbing the nuclear arms race.

There appear to be a few encouraging signs of a serious Soviet intentions.

American disarmament specialists are saying that they see a more pronounced Soviet interest in arms controls than at any time in recent memory.

Of course, we must be cautious. And we are being cautious. In an earlier era, we would have called such signs a thaw in the Cold War. But we think of Soviet support of the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong in Vietnam and of the Soviet-led invasion of

Czechoslovakia, and we keep our feet on the ground and our heads out of the clouds.

We must be cautious and realistic--at the same time hoping against hope that the SALT talks will move the world ~~away from~~ at least in ~~some~~ some measure away from possible nuclear destruction.

I think a realistic approach to the SALT talks will make the chances of success all the more likely.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

I'll be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

A tremendous show of support by the House of Representatives for President Nixon's efforts to negotiate a just peace ~~in~~ in Vietnam--and the first use of the lottery system to pick draftees since World War II... These were the highlights in the news this past week.

-333755-

The House voted overwhelmingly in favor of the Vietnam resolution backing President Nixon.

to be read rapidly

What the resolution said was this: "Resolved, that the House of Representatives affirms its support for the President in his efforts to negotiate a just peace in Vietnam, expresses the earnest hope of the people of the United States for such a peace, calls attention to the numerous peaceful overtures which the United States has made in good faith toward the Government of North Vietnam, approves and supports the principles enunciated by the President that the people of South Vietnam are entitled to choose their own government by means of free elections open to all South Vietnamese and supervised by an impartial international body, and that the United States is willing to abide by the results of such elections, and supports the President in his call upon the Government of North Vietnam to announce its willingness to honor such elections and to abide by such results and to allow the issues in controversy to be peacefully ~~so~~ so resolved in order that the war may be ended and peace may be restored at last in Southeast Asia."

Now, what does this resolution mean? *It's* ~~a~~ a peace resolution. What it does is to strengthen the President's hand in the Paris negotiations because it shows the strong support the President has on the part of both political parties in the House for the kind of peace he is trying to achieve.



This resolution ~~also~~ recognizes the fact that the American people ~~also~~ want peace in Vietnam ~~and not~~ and not surrender, because they know that surrender ~~also~~ might well mean the outbreak of a new Korean War in 1970 or the encouragement of new Communist ~~also~~ aggression elsewhere.

The House resolution on Vietnam is an expression of unity. Democrats and Republicans worked on it together and both parties backed it. The chief sponsor was Rep. Jim Wright of Texas, a Democrat. I worked with him on ~~the~~ the resolution and helped to draft it.

Jim Wright and I worked together because we know--as all ~~sound~~-thinking Americans do--that unity in America is needed more in time of war than at any other time.

The Vietnam resolution adopted by the House declares to friend and foe alike that despite some differences in viewpoint on the Vietnam conflict the members of the House of Representatives ^{Democrats - Republicans,} are firmly behind President Nixon as he works for peace in Southeast Asia.

Turning now to the draft lottery, I want to say I was glad to see the random selection system finally put to use as recommended by President Nixon.

The lottery conducted this past week will affect some 850,000 young men in the 19-to-26 age group. The drawing determined approximately when they can expect their induction ~~also~~ notices, if at all. I say "if at all" because about 600,000 in the total group will not have to go ^{except in the case of all-out war.} This is why ~~also~~ blind chance is the fairest way of picking those who will be drafted.

The first drawing was for a specific date during the year. Those ~~also~~ dates represented birthdays. A second drawing was made from a scrambled list of the ~~also~~ 26 letters of the alphabet, representing the first letters of the surnames of the men born on the dates previously drawn. A third drawing from the alphabet represented the first initial of the

first name.

So to find out how he stands in the draft, a young man finds his birthdate on the list produced by the lottery drawing and looks at the number beside that date. That is his position in the draft call. A number from 1 to 122 means he probably will be called. A number from 123 to 244 means he may or may not be called. A number from 244 to 366 means he is unlikely to be called. And the letter representing the first letter of his last name indicates how fast he will go among those in his birthday group, if he is called.

I have gone through this explanation because I have received a number of inquiries about the lottery system and how it works.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington. I'll be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

First off, I want to tell you I am concerned about the fate of the tax bill. I am concerned because the Senate has gone so far beyond the sensible, responsible bill that the House passed that ~~that~~ tax relief and tax reform this year have been placed in jeopardy.

One great difference between the ~~the~~ House and Senate bills is that the House cut taxes by reducing tax rates. The Senate voted to cut taxes by increasing personal exemptions from \$600 to \$800.

~~Now, what the Senate did is politically popular. We all know that a \$600 exemption today doesn't mean very much in terms of what it costs to support a person for a year. But neither does \$800. And so it all comes down to this: Which is the better way to reduce taxes at this time--by cutting tax rates or~~ *by* ~~raising exemptions a little?~~

The House used the rate-cutting method because it is ~~more~~ easier that way to control how much revenue the Federal government will lose through tax reductions.

The Senate action ~~that~~ would mean the loss of ^{\$4.5} ~~the~~ billion ~~more~~ in Federal revenue than the House-approved rate cuts. *And this comes at a time when many groups are asking that Congress spend more* ~~And that is one reason President Nixon says he would veto a tax bill with the \$800 personal exemption in it.~~ *felon funds on many, many projects.*

~~The Senate bill also would deal another blow to the Federal budget. It provides increased Social Security benefits which would cost \$6.5 billion. That's \$2 billion more than ~~the~~ benefit increase approved by the House Ways and Means Committee. So that is another reason that the President ~~that~~ would veto the tax bill in the ~~the~~ form approved by the Senate.~~

Senate tax bill would
As the President put it, ~~the tax exemption and Social Security increases voted by~~



the ~~Senate would~~ benefit some of the people but the result would be rubber ~~dollars~~ dollars--greatly ~~increased~~ increased inflation--and all of us would pay the price for that.

The Senate did what it is easy for a politician to do--vote for a lot of goodies without any thought for the consequences to the Nation. The President is refusing to go along with ~~such~~ such irresponsible action.

*Let me add however, 2
Believe Congress will put up with a good tax reform bill & responsible
The House of Representatives this past week cleaned up nearly all of tax reduction*

the Federal Government's remaining appropriation bills and sent them to the Senate.

The House last Tuesday night passed and sent to the Senate the ~~smallest~~ smallest foreign aid money bill in our history--just \$1.6 billion. The vote was 200 to 195. I voted for the bill on final passage because I believe that, in principle, the foreign aid program is in the best interests of our Nation. I believe the foreign aid program, properly administered, promotes world peace.

The big fight during the nine hours of debate on the foreign aid bill was over \$54.5 million to supply a jet fighter squadron to Nationalist China. I supported the jet fighter move. It was successful on a vote of 113 to 77.

The House also voted to cut off U.S. aid from any nation trading with Communist China.

The day before, the House approved a ~~69~~ 69 billion 960 million dollar defense appropriation bill. ~~This~~ This was \$5.3 billion less than President Nixon asked in April and nearly \$7.8 billion less than former President Johnson had estimated in January. However, Defense Secretary Laird had meantime announced defense spending cuts totalling \$3 billion. So the House ~~went~~ went the Administration only \$2.3 billion better.

There were attempts by some House members to make deeper cuts than the \$5.3 billion reduction recommended by the Appropriations Committee. These moves were ~~rejected~~ rejected. They

eliminate
included an attempt to ~~the~~ funds for initial deployment of the Safeguard ~~missile defense system~~
~~missile defense system~~

The fact that no House member tried to increase the figures recommended by the Appropriations Committee pointed up the mood of the Congress this year on military spending.

However, the House did concern itself--and properly--with whether the \$69 billion in the bill would do the job of ~~the bill~~ giving this country a reasonably acceptable military posture. I and my colleagues are satisfied that it will.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington. I'll be talking with you again next week--same time, same station.

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This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from the Nation's capital.

I wish you all a happy holiday season. But even as I do so I am ~~s~~ saddened by the thought that America is still at war--and that thousands of our families ~~are~~ ^{are} separated from sons, brothers and husbands by the realities of that war.

I thank God, therefore, that President ~~the~~ Nixon has announced another troop cuts ~~that~~ that brings to 115,000 the number of U.S. troops ~~he~~ he has ^{diminished} cut from our Vietnam commitment since he took office last January.

Some letter writers ask me why we are still sending new men to Vietnam, now that we are cutting back on our total commitment there. The reason for that is our rotation policy. Our policy is that no man shall serve in Vietnam for more than a year. So we have to send over fresh troops to replace the veterans who are coming home on rotation. Of course, the number of new men we send to Vietnam each month is dropping as the President ~~the~~ reduces our overall troop commitment in Vietnam.

One of the saddest aspects of war during this holiday season is that 1,359 Americans are ~~either~~ either missing in action in Vietnam or held captive in Communist prison camps. It is pitiful that the families of ~~these~~ these men do not even know if they are alive. These prisoners of war are in the hands of a ruthless enemy which completely disregards the accepted standards for humane treatment of war prisoners as laid down by the Geneva Convention of 1949.

Both the United States and North Vietnam are bound by ~~the~~ ^{the} Geneva Convention. The Convention covers ~~undeclared~~ undeclared as well as declared wars. We honor the Geneva Convention but North Vietnam refuses to abide by it.

The House of Representatives has adopted resolutions calling upon North Vietnam to honor the Geneva Convention, and joint teams from the Pentagon and the State Department have been briefing the families of Americans held captive in Vietnam.



What can the people of America do about this prisoner of war tragedy?

Everyone can do as Sen. Robert P. Griffin and I ~~am~~ are doing, at the suggestion of the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce.

We can put moral pressure on the North Vietnamese by deluging Xuan Thuy, chief of the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris, with messages.

I, like many others, have sent a Christmas card to Xuan Thuy with a message urging that North Vietnamese leaders abide by the Geneva Convention and make arrangements for the early release of U.S. prisoners of war.

I urge that all of you listening do this, too. Your cards should be addressed to: Project Xuan Thuy, Box 2600, Washington, D.C., 20013. That is the collection point for the cards. The Jaycees will see that they are delivered to the North Vietnamese leaders.

I do have one bright note to comment upon at this time. It is a kind of Christmas present to the elderly in America, ~~to~~ to all of those on Social Security.

It is virtually certain that Social Security benefits will be increased ~~by~~ by 15 per cent across the board, effective Jan. 1.

Now, something to remember ~~is~~ is that the increased payments will not show up ~~in~~ in Social Security checks until the check of April 3. And then the retroactive ~~sums~~ sums for January and February will be sent out in a special check later in the month of April. So it will be a belated Christmas present. But it is the best that we can do because it is mechanically impossible for the Social Security Administration to gear up for the change in payment amounts before April.

The Social Security Administration takes that long to crank up the mechanical part of the new checks

The extra ~~15~~ 15 per cent increases the monthly checks of single retired persons from \$100 to ~~\$116~~ \$116. Other average increases are \$170 to \$196 for a couple; \$88 to \$100 for a widow; \$254 to \$296 for a widow with two children; \$113 to \$130 for a disabled worker; and \$237 to \$273 for a disabled worker with a wife and two children.

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Another piece of good news during this holiday season is that tax cuts are on the way, along with tax reform.

So...a happy holiday season to you. This will be my last radio report from Washington until the Congress meets again in January. We have a few worthwhile accomplishments to show for the first session of the 91st Congress, but the big task still lies ahead. I will be reporting to you regularly during the new session. Be talking with you then. This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, saying so long for now.

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