

July 5, 1950

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW

BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

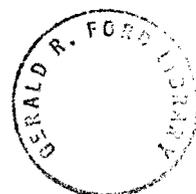
This past week was one of extreme contrasts in Washington. The big news, the center stage was of course occupied by the activity resulting from the invasion of South Korea by the Communist forces from the north. At the same time the City of Washington was crowded to the stuffing point with Boy Scouts from all over the United States who were sightseeing on their way to the Jamboree at Valley Forge. In between the pleasant opportunity to see Boy Scouts from home and the unpleasant realization that world peace is not a fact, we in the House had our noses to the grindstone considering the proposed tax revision legislation.

\* \* \* \* \*

At the time this column is written in the nation's capitol no one knows precisely the facts on what the future may hold in our struggle with communism forces in the Pacific area. This one point is clear, however - there is a united, non-partisan support for firmness in preventing further totalitarian aggression. All of us may have our own ideas concerning the inadequacy or ineffectiveness of the State Department's past policies of vacillation and misdirection in China and elsewhere in the Pacific, but now that the chips are down "together we stand". I assure you the President has a cooperative Congress on both sides of the aisle in this hour of crisis.

\* \* \* \* \*

One word of caution, it's no time for careless war hysteria. Our government's officials, both legislative and executive, are carrying out policies which strive for the preservation of peace rather than the incitement of war. The proper appeals were made to the United Nations and except for Russia's boycott and Yugoslavia's reaction, the United States received the necessary support from our allies to authorize the President's subsequent action. Despite Representative Marcantonio's statements on the floor of the House just before we approved an extension of the Draft Act accusing the United States of capitalistic aggression, our policy in the Far East



is definitely for the protection of freedom for nations and people throughout the world.

\* \* \* \* \*

For the past two years members of Congress and the public have anxiously awaited the bill for a cut in wartime imposed excise taxes. The House finally approved such a bill. With the cuts there are some tax increases and as a result the net loss of federal revenue will be negligible. It would have been far better to remove the excise taxes and cut governmental expenses but the President and his political party leaders would not follow this procedure. The Republicans as a whole did their best but when the opposition has a 90 vote majority in the House at times there isn't too much that can be done.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Grand Valley Council of Boy Scouts had 110 scouts and scouters in Washington for two days. They really saw the Capitol in a hurry but at that age kids can cover more ground than their elders. The boys were in the House gallery when we voted on the one year Draft Extension bill. A pretty exciting moment for all concerned.

\* \* \* \* \*

GUESTS: John V. Menhart of Rockford; Joe Weiner and C. J. Brooks of Grand Rapids; T. J. Rynbrandt of Byron Center; and Lester N. Woltman of Holland.

\* \* \* \* \*

July 12, 1950

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW

BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

On the Friday before the Fourth of July the House of Representatives finished up practically all of the "must" legislation for the year. The Senate is still behind schedule so the Democrat and Republican leaders in the House agreed to a 10 day recess. This gave the Fords a chance to move the family home. Betty and Mike will stay in Michigan but I'll be back in Washington by July 10th for on that date the House votes on the controversial Reorganization Plan 27.

\* \* \* \* \*

Reorganization Plan 27 is another attempt by the President to set up Federal Security Administrator Oscar Ewing as the head of a Department of Health, Education and Security. Guess you all know that Mr. Ewing has been the President's staunchest advocate for socialized medicine. Leaving aside Mr. Ewing's personal interest in socialized medicine, Reorganization Plan 27 is not in accord with the Hoover Commission Recommendations. Spokesmen for the non-partisan Citizens Committee for the Hoover Commission in testifying before the House legislative committee urged the rejection of Plan 27. Actually the record shows there is a wide variance between the Hoover Commission proposals and President's Plan 27 and consequently it should be defeated.

\* \* \* \* \*

In many respects it was a pretty grim 4th of July but in our District a number of committees and individual groups appropriately celebrated the birthday of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. On the morning of the 4th I attended the excellent neighborhood ceremonies for the kids and grown-ups sponsored by the Calvin-Giddings Patriotic Association. About 500 kids with flag covered bicycles put on a swell parade. All told about 2000 folks participated and it shows what can and should be done.

\* \* \* \* \*



The evening of the 4th the Willard G. Leenhouts Post of the American Legion and the Holland Chamber of Commerce put on a mighty fine program with about 5000 folks taking in the ceremonies at the Post's clubhouse.

\* \* \* \* \*

On the Korean situation a few words of encouragement- - - -. The daily headlines and radio reports don't look too good but I feel confident the situation is improving steadily. We mustn't forget it takes a few days to move personnel, ships and equipment across an ocean.

\* \* \* \* \*

Visitors in Washington last week: Mr. and Mrs. F. Roland Allaben and children, Mr. and Mrs. Al Imperi, and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hubbell all of Grand Rapids.

\* \* \* \* \*

July 20, 1950

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW

BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

Everyone in the United States has his mind centered on the military developments in Korea. The news to date is grim and discouraging. Most military experts advise that the situation is to be worse before it becomes better. This may even mean the loss of Korea entirely just as we lost China to the Communists. This is understandable for several reasons. In the first place, it takes time to move ground troops and supplies from our advance bases in the Pacific and from our military installations in this country. Second, we have found that our military leaders underestimated the role of armored tanks in present day warfare and overestimated the effectiveness of air power. It will take time to regroup and reallocate our forces to be used in Korea.

\* \* \* \* \*

Is the struggle in Korea a localized situation or in reality the first step toward a global war? Initially it was nearly the unanimous opinion in Washington that the aggression by the Communist forces of North Korea was a local action similar to the Red China aggressions in the last four years. However, because of the recent successes by the Communists in Korea there is a growing feeling that Stalin may now be encouraged to try further attacks elsewhere throughout the world. If the Kremlin does make other military moves, thinking the United States and its allies are weak, then World War III is definitely on its way.

\* \* \* \* \*

Is the United States and its European allies secure from Russian aggression on the continent? Russian forces, if an attack were made on France, the Netherlands or other countries in Western Europe, would meet stiffer resistance than that offered by the South Koreans. Stalin and his Communist armies would make advances and possibly overrun parts of Europe but any such attack would be the go-ahead for relentless air attacks with all weapons against Russia itself. The United States through the Berlin airlift met one Soviet challenge in Europe and I believe we should and would meet any other thrust by the necessary means and methods.

\* \* \* \* \*



As the cold war between Communism and Democracy gets warmer there is even a greater need for an alert calmness on the part of our citizens. At the moment the United States is paying heavily for the terrible diplomatic blunders by the State Department under Secretary Acheson and his predecessors. Unfortunately the President up until June 26th apparently believed in the erroneous and unsound theories of the Department of State. Since June 26th the military leaders have been assigned the salvage job in the Far East resulting from the diplomatic bungling of the Administration's Pacific theatre foreign policy. General McArthur will do the job, but you can't expect him to overcome overnight the immense handicaps the State Department handed him four weeks ago. The General said months ago that Formosa had to be defended; President Truman and Acheson said NO. Now, when time and equipment are short, General McArthur is ordered to protect Formosa as well as Korea. As a good soldier he will do his best, but remember this, five years of grievous errors aren't redeemed in a matter of weeks. Some contend we shouldn't spend time pointing out the responsibility for the disasters of the past. Good sense, however, demands that we expose our weak links and express our faith in those who now have the tremendous responsibility of bringing order out of chaos.

\* \* \* \* \*

VISITORS: Mr. and Mrs. Henry Den Braber and daughter Joan, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Van Amdel, and Mr. and Mrs. Merle Hardaker, all of Grand Rapids; Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Miles of Holland; Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Weston of Sparta; and Henry T. Parker of Grand Haven.

\* \* \* \* \*



July 27, 1950

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW

BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

With Betty and Mike in Grand Rapids and the rest of the family in Washington, my routine consists of working, eating and sleeping. Perhaps it's well the family is home for the international situation has stepped up the legislative tempo. Twelve hours a day in the office is the regular schedule. The one diversion is a chance to hear the Marine and Navy band concerts which are regularly given on the Capitol steps every evening. It's mighty stimulating to linger for a while on my nightly walk to our apartment in order to join the thousands who listen to these fine musical organizations.

\* \* \* \* \*

When our historians at some future date analyze the pros and cons of American diplomacy for the last 5 years in China and the Far East, the critics might compare the recommendations of Republican Representative Walter Judd with the policies of Secretary Acheson, Owen Lattimore and others. Congressman Judd is a medical missionary who spent most of his life in China and consequently knows the intricate problems first hand. Because of modesty he won't talk about it but he in the 1930's was removing from Chinese soldiers Japanese bullets made from American scrap metal. Walter Judd, a realistic and down to earth expert on Pacific problems, has constantly pointed out to the Administration theorists that the Communist forces in China were not "simple agrarians" and that the seizure of the Chinese mainland was a well planned Soviet program for the last 25 years. It is sound to write that Representative Judd has been 100% right and our State Department practically 100% wrong in China. What worries me is the possibility that the President, after we win in Korea, will still leave our Pacific diplomacy in the same discredited hands. Wouldn't it be more sensible to put a man like Walter Judd in charge of Far Eastern policy.

\* \* \* \* \*



Some sad facts developed a week or so ago while the House was considering amendments to the Export-Import Bank legislation to permit 250 million in foreign loans for the President's Point IV program. This is a sizeable amount of taxpayers' money and you would imagine the proposal would be thoroughly scrutinized by a Congressional committee before approval. Actually the opposite took place. For example, a year ago Committee hearings on the bill were held a couple of hours each day for only 5 days. Only 5 witnesses, all favorable to the legislation, appeared. Yet today, when there is a changed international situation, the Administration forces the bill through the House. To say the least, new and more extensive hearings should have been held to bring the matter up to date. Things have changed a bit since August, 1949. Frankly, I wouldn't and didn't vote for legislation involving such an important issue which was so poorly considered.

\* \* \* \* \*

In contrast, let's analyze the conscientious consideration given the recent tax bill approved by the House. This is the way legislation should be examined and prepared. The Committee on Ways and Means met five times a week, morning and afternoon for over three months. In addition, the Committee staff worked an estimated 15,000 hours preparing the legislation for the Committee and the House as a whole. Quite a difference between the time and effort by the Committee on the tax revision bill and the 250 million Point IV legislation. A Congressman and the public could have faith in one but considerable doubt about the other.

\* \* \* \* \*

August 3, 1950

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW

BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

There is no dispute in Congress about increasing our military appropriations. The President has requested 10 billion dollars immediately for the Army, Navy and Air Force and you can rest assured it will be available pronto. One disturbing possibility, however, is the danger that even though Congress appropriates the money and directs the executive branch of the government to go ahead, no action will take place.

Here are some facts to show what I mean. The 80th so-called do-nothing Congress added over 800 million to the Air Force appropriation in order to establish a 70 group Air Force! The President and his advisors said 48 groups were sufficient and he impounded and never spent over 700 million for the bigger Air Force. Later Secretary of Defense Johnson ruled that the nation's air power was still too large and withheld 243,000,000 more of Air Force funds. In other words, the Administration within the past several years refused to spend nearly a billion dollars for national defense which Congress thought was necessary for the strengthening of the Air Force.

That isn't all. Secretary Johnson also withheld 435 million in other military funds despite a clear directive from the Congress that the money should be spent for our national security. Within the last couple of weeks Secretary Johnson was hauled before several Congressional committees to explain his disregard for such Congressional directives. Members of the committees tell me Mr. Johnson was meek as a mouse, not at all like the blustering dictator of a year ago when he said, "if any enemy attacks at 4:00 P.M. we will strike back at 5:00."

\* \* \* \* \*

Here's another reason why there is much lack of faith in some of our administrators. The Congress in the fall of 1949 authorized sizeable United States funds for the military assistance of our allies. Under this legislation the South Korean Republic was promised over 10 million in military equipment.



On June 27, 1950, General Lemnitzer informed the Committee on Foreign Affairs that the South Koreans had received only \$200 worth of wire in the 8 months the law has been on the statute books. No aircraft, no tanks, just \$200 worth of useless wire. This proves one point: It takes more than laws to do the job. What we needed then and now is some administrators in our civilian agencies who will get some action.

\* \* \* \* \*

The President has properly warned us all that hoarding, "panic buying" and "profiteering" will severely hurt our mobilization effort. Any individual or any corporation taking advantage of the present crisis is mighty selfish and deserves no sympathy. Obviously we want no "5 percenters" and their sidekicks like General Vaughn. There is plenty of food and clothing in the U.S. if we don't go hogwild. Don't add to our problems by creating artificial shortages. It seems to me that the Michigan State Liquor Commission members acted unwisely in purchasing 86,000 extra cases of liquor because of a possible shortage at a later date. A government agency should be an example to follow not to condemn. Can we honestly expect patriotic citizens to refrain from purchasing sugar, coffee, etc. when at the same time a state agency purchases more than it needs for normal operations?

\* \* \* \* \*

The Congress will give the Executive branch of the government all the laws needed to keep our economy in order. In many respects I think we should go further than the President. The laws should be on the statute books in case the situation becomes worse. Let's be prepared both militarily and domestically. You can't stop Communism by half-way measures. Strong action now may inconvenience us a bit and hurt our pocketbooks taxwise but at the same time we may save American lives later on.

\* \* \* \* \*

Visitors: Ken Wedgwood of Grandville; David K. Waer and Mr. and Mrs. Leslie R. Calkins of Grand Rapids.



August 10, 1950

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW

BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

There is enough Washington information this week to make ten news letters rather than one. Honestly, so much is happening in the Capitol I wish it were possible to make in person reports on a daily basis. However, as your Representative, I can't be on the job in Washington and at the same time be at home for speeches and meetings. The Congress each day is considering vitally important legislation and my conscience won't permit me to be away from the job. Two years ago I promised to WORK FOR YOU. It is my intention to abide by that promise.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Congress appears to be well ahead of the President on the need for immediate economic controls. The situation is peculiar to say the least. Several weeks ago Mr. Truman requested legislation which would give him only the authority to allocate basic materials and control credit. Because of tremendous price increases and unwise panic buying, we in the House believe such authority is insufficient. The House is giving the President discretionary or standby authority to invoke price and wage controls. I would prefer an immediate "freeze" and roll backs. This legislation must also include the power to impose taxes on excess profits that will probably prevent war profiteering.

There is a strong feeling among Congressmen that some authority in the situation should be retained by the House and Senate. The emergency legislation will undoubtedly provide that Mr. Truman can impose all controls if and when he deems it necessary. However, in case the President is slow in acting, Congress should have the authority to force the Administration to invoke "down the line" price and wage controls. It is essential that such controls go hand in hand in this emergency. At the same time the House and Senate should retain the authority to remove such controls if and when the crisis has passed. We don't want our economy indefinitely hamstrung by controls as has happened in England and France. That would be disastrous particularly with some of the bureaucrats and state-planners at the helm. Consequently, I am urging that Congress retain the right of Presidential veto. Such a provision will protect the American people from unlimited control in the hands of the Executive Branch of the federal government.

Last week the House had several guests from foreign lands. The Prime Minister of Australia made an impressive address in which he reaffirmed his country's support for U. S. and U. N. action in Korea. As you know, Australia is one of the nations that is already helping and according to Prime Minister Menzies additional forces will be on their way shortly.

The day before the House heard a speech by Delegate Kitamura of the Japanese Diet. Mr. Kitamura spoke in his native tongue and after each sentence an interpreter gave us in English what had been said in Japanese. During Mr. Kitamura's talk I couldn't help but recall the two years I spent on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific where we naturally believed all Japs were our mortal enemies. They certainly were in those days. I only hope and trust that the words of Japanese friendship now pronounced by Mr. Kitamura are from the heart. Japan could redeem in part her sins of past years by wholeheartedly supporting the U. S. in this time of crisis.

\* \* \* \* \*

Recently it was my privilege to hear in a small and confidential meeting one of the foremost American authorities on Communism both here and abroad. He gave us solid facts and figures which prove beyond any doubt that the Korean invasion is but one of the many aims of Stalin and his satellites. The Communists want the destruction of capitalism and to achieve that end they will fight us on the battlefield and at the same time will attempt to destroy the strength of the U. S. by boring from within. In this speaker's estimation there is altogether too much infiltration by Communist sympathizers in government positions of responsibility. I repeat the man is a well-known authority on the subject, not a headline hunter. Some of our leaders in the Executive Branch of the government should take heed instead of whitewashing all attempts to expose those who would destroy us from within.

Here's something that might interest you. Moscow spends more money each year in the United States for our nation's destruction than is spent every four years by the Democrats and Republicans combined.

\* \* \* \* \*

8-10-50

Visitors - Phil Osterhouse and June Shoup, both of Grand Rapids, stopped in our office this past week, as did Robert Linn of Holland. We understand that Mary Ann Hynes and Mary Joseph of Grand Rapids were in Washington also, but we didn't happen to see them.



August 17, 1950

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW

BY GERALD R. FORD JR.

The House of Representatives after several days of disturbing indecision and lack of Administration leadership finally approved a presentable bill for the stabilization of our domestic economy. The Senate will act promptly which means the President will have the necessary tools to bring a semblance of economic balance out of the chaotic and artificial dislocations of the past few weeks.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Old Man" Yost, that great coach of former days at the University, used to instruct the centers on his football team, "Not too high, not too low, not too fast, not too slow." The Defense Production Act of 1950 as approved by the House follows that pattern. It gives the President more authority to control prices, wages, etc. than he wanted; yet the House restricted the power of the bureaucrats. The state-planners didn't get what they wanted and the House slapped down those who said no controls are needed. The House bill is a good compromise if administered fairly.

\* \* \* \* \*

This last week I introduced an important bill to help those in the Armed Services cast their vote in the coming fall elections. Our citizens in uniform who are defending freedom and liberty on the battlefields should be given every assistance so their absentee voter ballots will be counted with the rest. Such legislation was enacted in World War II and I'm certain the Congress will do the same again. The 48 state legislatures may have to help locally but there should be no hesitancy on such an issue.

\* \* \* \* \*

As some of you know, I had to cancel a number of speaking engagements in Kent and Ottawa Counties which had been scheduled several months before the Korean crisis. Everyone seemed to understand that it was more important for their Representative to be on the job in Washington. However, one good friend wondered why the vote of one Congressman made any difference when most roll call votes indicated that emergency legislation was being approved by overwhelming majorities.

It is true that on a final vote there is near unanimity but when a bill is being considered for amendment on the floor there are numerous close votes on specific amendments where the absence of one member would make quite a difference.



In the last few weeks several important amendments have been decided by one or two votes. Because of this situation it is most unwise for any member of Congress to be away from Washington while the House and Senate are in session.

\* \* \* \* \*

A colleague of mine received the following letter which well expresses the sentiments of many.

"Dear Congressman:

"The ghost of Neville Chamberlain is haunting this country today, and if he were to stand alongside Dean Acheson you'd never be able to tell which twin had the Toni.

"The proposal to push Dwight Eisenhower for Secretary of Defense sounds like a good one. Bernard Baruch might do as Secretary of State. But if you have somebody else in mind, that's okay, too. Do what you can for him, please. Anybody would be an improvement.

"Acheson has dined and wined our enemies, waltzed them intimately and drooled sweet nothings down their necks while they pick his pockets. Helluva way to run a community dance.

"Imagine the result, sir, if fight manager Jake Mintz were to bind Ezzard Charles' right arm behind his back, tie a pillow to Ezzard's left hand, then blubber: 'We can lick hell outa Joe Louis any time.' Johnson has done relatively the same thing with regard to our armed forces. Why?

"Economy, you say? Whose economy? The Taxpayer's? We haven't noticed. And now look what's happening.

"You are an advocate of air power, I believe. But while your fly boys were looking up, the opposition bunted one along the ground. Air power is fine as long as it includes support of troops. And it still takes troops to win a war and ships to carry them.

"If you were to ignite all your letters from irate constituents, you'd probably start a bonfire big enough to smoke Dean Acheson and Louis Johnson out of Washington. For your convience, a match is enclosed.

Respectfully,

J.E.H."

\* \* \* \* \*



One of the aircraft carriers the Navy is taking out of mothballs is the ship your Congressman served on for nearly two years in World War II. Like all sailors, I'm quite sentimental about my ship and the job the crew did in helping to whip the Japs. Secretary Johnson's meat axe economy on the Navy and Marines particularly never did make sense. Nor did I approve of the President's cut of the Air Force from 70 to 48 air groups. In this critical period the United States needs a balanced military force.

\* \* \* \* \*

Visitors: Joseph R. Erhardt and family, Leone B. Obiedzinski and R. L. McKay, all of Grand Rapids.

August 24, 1950

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW

BY GERALD R. FORD JR.

A good many citizens are sincerely disturbed, and I think rightfully so, about the Administration's lack of any real action against Communist sympathizers in the United States. Ever since the end of World War II the President has advised that the government was "watching" communist agents here at home. Unfortunately it appears too many government officials "watched" too long without taking action. The various departments "watched" while Harry Gold and others conspired with Klaus Fuchs while that "gang" stole and carried off vital secrets of the atomic bomb from the Los Alamos project. This is only one of many cases where the Executive branch of the government has been too late with too little action in our struggle with the Soviets at home and abroad.

\* \* \* \* \*

My mail indicates the American people want some real action against the subversive elements in this country. In fact, every Congressman is being urged to approve legislation that will tighten up our internal security. This public demand is sharpening the fight in Congress between those who want the Mundt-Nixon bill, which will do the job, and those who favor half-way proposals which are no good at all. From all appearances the Mundt-Nixon bill or something quite similar to it will be passed by the Congress and presented to the President for his signature. So far the legislative substitutes offered by the President to deal with subversive elements have been pretty wishy-washy. We need strong laws and determined prosecution against Communists within this country if we are to rid the U.S. of the like of Alger Hiss.

\* \* \* \* \*

Let me illustrate how some of the left wingers in Congress have run to cover in recent weeks. In 1948 and 1949 the Committee on Un-American Activities was the whipping post for the so-called liberals. The left wingers refused to vote funds for the committee's investigations even though that committee uncovered the Alger Hiss mess. In the last two years the left wing liberals refused to condemn committee witnesses who played the "communist party line". All of a sudden this group of Administration supporters has awakened. The other day the House of Representatives cited for contempt over 50 witnesses whose records mark them as strong Soviet sympathizers.



Only Representative Marcantonio voted against the contempt citations. The rest of the old gang scrambled for safety knowing full well the American people are fed up with the Administration's policy of coddling communist sympathizers. Heretofore this same bunch of Congressmen were always yelling "red herring". Thank goodness the Republicans never played "footsie" with Joe Stalin and his followers in the United States.

\* \* \* \* \*

There's an increasing demand from Congress, Democrats and Republicans alike, for the resignation or dismissal of Secretary of State Acheson and Secretary of Defense Johnson. Despite this pressure from the people and their representatives, Mr. Truman says the two will stay. The arguments for the ouster of Acheson and Johnson are sound. In the first place, right or wrong, the public has lost confidence in both cabinet officers. If our citizens have no faith in the policies of Acheson and Johnson, how can we expect the necessary public support for the war effort? A number of critics contend the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense are incompetent, that their mistakes caused the U. S. to lose the peace and prevented us from being prepared for the present emergency. Some good Americans will dispute that point of view. However, in the light of recent events it seems that Acheson and Johnson should resign.

\* \* \* \* \*

VISITORS: Mr. and Mrs. Jack Westveer, the Misses Nell Westveer, Jeanne Ann Westveer and Harriet Westveer, Miss Jacqueline Kuyper, Miss Helen L. Krapf, Mrs. Vercel Bovee, Miss Rose Perrin, Mr. and Mrs. Everd C. Dudley and children Joan and Gordon, and Mr. Harold B. Bostwick.

\* \* \* \* \*



August 31, 1950

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW

BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

The American people in this critical hour aren't too interested in the political fortunes of any one political party or any candidate. I'm certain the G.I. in Korea doesn't much care about vote getting shenanigans. Nor does the housewife who has trouble making the weekly pay check stretch to meet the family needs. Likewise in Congress most members are doing their best to expedite "total mobilization". However, on August 15th in the Senate, Senator Neely of West Virginia, a Democrat, indicated his feelings on this matter.

Members of the Senate were trying to reach an agreement for a vote on Friday, August 18th on the all important Defense Production Act of 1950. Senator Neely objected. He explained that the annual convention of Young Democratic Clubs of West Virginia was to be held in Charleston on that Friday and Senator Sparkman of Alabama was to be the speaker.

Here's what Senator Neely said on the floor of the Senate -

"I do not wish to delay action. But in my opinion, except the saving of immortal souls, the most important thing this side of the grave to the people of the world is the success of the Democratic Party in the approaching election. The success of the Democratic Party in the Nation is largely dependent upon its success in West Virginia. The Democratic success in West Virginia is largely dependent upon the speech which the Senator from Alabama has promised to deliver in Huntington next Friday."

Sure, there was only a four day delay in the handling of this important legislation but in my humble estimation that is four days too long. It is regrettable that the Senator from West Virginia, for the sake of politics, would request such a delay on this important matter.

\* \* \* \* \*



This week the Committee on Agriculture came up with a bill to provide three new assistants for Secretary Brannan. Mr. Brannan in a letter to the Committee said because of his heavy work load he couldn't handle the job unless Congress gave him the extra assistants. The Secretary wanted to hire two men at salaries of 15 thousand a year apiece and the third at a salary of \$14,000 annually. What's that old gag about pulling yourself up by your bootstraps.

This proposal didn't make sense particularly when Mr. Brannan spends a good bit of his time away from his Washington office making "political speeches". The House cut-off two of the three jobs but even then I voted against the proposal. During World War II the job was done by the then Secretary of Agriculture without any extra high priced help. Seems to me Mr. Brannan could do the same, particularly if he would get off the political speech-making circuit and tend to business in Washington.

\* \* \* \* \*

One of the biggest problems still facing this Congress in mobilizing against Stalinism is how to pay for the vast new military appropriations for our national security. A new tax law will be enacted shortly but even the contemplated revenues in this proposal will be inadequate to put the U.S. on a "pay-as-you-go" basis. Corporation tax rates must be increased substantially and this includes an excess profits tax. Individual tax rates will also be bumped up and in addition tax loopholes must be closed to catch up with "profiteering" at public expense. The burdens must be across the board. We can't expect the G.I. to do his part on the battlefields in this struggle with Communist aggression if civilians aren't carrying their full burden.

\* \* \* \* \*

VISITORS - Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kosten and son of Grand Rapids; Mr. & Mrs. Guy Harris of Cedar Springs.

\* \* \* \* \*

September 7, 1950

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW

BY GERALD R. FORD JR.

Several weeks ago the Congress put its final stamp of approval on the new Social Security legislation. My correspondence indicates there is widespread interest in the new provisions in the law. Consequently, Your Washington Review this week is devoted to a summary of the changes.

The revised law adds approximately 10 million persons to the 35 million previously covered by Social Security. For the first time the self-employed, such as the owner of the corner grocery store or a gas station proprietor, will make contributions and receive benefits. However, certain professional people are excluded from this provision. Those excluded are lawyers, doctors, dentists, accountants, engineers and architects. Benefits are increased, as well as coverage. Increases in benefits will average about 77½ per cent. Some of the low benefits were boosted nearly 100 per cent.

\* \* \* \* \*

The higher benefits begin with checks to be mailed on or about October 1st. The increases come automatically to those who have been receiving benefits previously. If there is no increase in the monthly check which you receive for the month of September, contact the local office in order to straighten out the matter.

Here's an important feature of the new law. Beneficiaries will be able to earn up to \$50 monthly in covered employment and still receive payments under Social Security. Under the old law there was a monthly earning limitation of \$15 which kept a number of older folks from supplementing their Social Security benefits. This was particularly harmful to those who despite advanced age could still put in a good day's work.

\* \* \* \* \*



Eligibility requirements are eased. In other words, it will take a shorter time to qualify for benefits. Some who were disqualified under the old law because they hadn't worked in covered employment for a sufficient number of quarters can now receive benefits. However, those folks must apply at the local office in order to become eligible. This is important. If you didn't get benefits before and there is any possibility that you might be eligible under the new law, by all means check with the local federal security agency officials.

\* \* \* \* \*

Many self-employed people will wonder how they are to pay their tax so they in turn can receive benefits. Here's the answer. The owner of a local grocery store will pay his social security tax for himself when he files his federal income tax return for 1951. The social security tax on his self-employment income will be  $2\frac{1}{4}\%$ .

The veteran of World War II gets automatic wage credits of \$160 per month for time on active service. This means the G.I. who served 24 months in the Army can add to his previous or subsequent social security credit 24 months of \$160 per month wage credits. This is an important provision for the veteran. At the same time it is fair and equitable to all.

\* \* \* \* \*

One of the new groups covered by the changes in the law is agricultural workers. Those working regularly on farms and also those processing farm products off the farm come within the Act. To qualify as a regularly employed farm worker the person must work steadily for one employer for three months before coverage starts, then continue to work for that employer for 60 full days and receive cash wages of at least \$50 for each quarter-year.

You can readily see the new law is quite different from the old Act. If you have any doubts as to your status better stop down to the local Social Security Administration office.

\* \* \* \* \*

VISITORS: Adam Konieczny, Mr. & Mrs. H. B. Shaine, Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Hudson, Mr. & Mrs. Walter J. Gasilo, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Muller and family and John Boyd, all of Grand Rapids.

\* \* \* \* \*

September 14, 1950

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW

BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

Several weeks ago I introduced a bill to require the immediate deportation of all aliens who refuse to register and serve under the Selective Service Act. At the present time there is an unfortunate quirk in the law which permits an alien to avoid the draft although by refusing to serve any alien loses the right of citizenship.

Those of us who are pressing for action on this bill were assured by the Chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services that hearings would be held and action taken. Several days ago when certain changes were made in the Selective Service Act to set up a schedule for the drafting of doctors and dentists I urged that an alien deportation provision be included similar to my bill. Unfortunately the proposed amendment to the committee bill was disallowed on a parliamentary technicality. Nevertheless we were promised that my bill and several others similar to it would be considered shortly by the Committee on Armed Services. Aliens who come to the United States for a new start in life must expect to serve in our Armed Forces. If not they should be deported pronto.

\* \* \* \* \*

This fall during the political campaign the American public are to hear a lot of accusations pro and con on whether or not a vote against a bill for "economic aid" to Korea precipitated the invasion of South Korea by the Communists. To keep the record straight here are some facts.

On July 1, 1949, H. R. 5330 was approved by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. It provided "economic aid" to South Korea in the form of funds for hydro-electric power plants, etc. No funds for military equipment (that's another story). This bill was cleared for action in the House on July 26, 1949, but the Speaker and the other Administration leaders did not bring it to a vote until January 19, 1950, when it was defeated by one vote, 192 to 191. Mind you, a six months' delay



so presumably the legislation wasn't too urgent. Frankly it was defeated principally because President Truman and Secretary of State Acheson in effect said Formosa would be turned over to Red China, and South Korea would not be defended by the United States if Communist forces attacked.

After the defeat of the House bill, H. R. 5330, the Administration, less than 30 days later brought up a somewhat similar bill which had passed the Senate on October 12, 1949. The new proposal, however, was considerably different from the one which the House originally defeated. Specifically it contained assistance to non-Communist forces on Formosa. Because of the change in attitude in this regard by the President and Mr. Acheson the revised legislation was approved.

Remember this. The 21-day delay between the defeat of the first bill on January 19th and the passage of the second on February 9th after a previous six months delay didn't affect one iota the invasion decision of the North Koreans. In light of General MacArthur's recent statement as to the strategic importance of Formosa it is fortunate that a few of us said no economic aid to South Korea unless there is a consistent attitude in reference to other Pacific areas.

\* \* \* \* \*

General MacArthur according to reliable sources predicted quite accurately when the North Koreans would attack. On December 8, 1949, MacArthur advised the Army officials in Washington "No invasion appears imminent." On March 10, 1950, he reported to the Pentagon that North Korean forces would invade in June. They did.

\* \* \* \* \*

VISITORS: Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Needham, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Pearson and son, Mr. and Mrs. R. Forward and daughter and Mr. Stanley Fuehrer, all of Grand Rapids.

\* \* \* \* \*

September 21, 1950

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW

BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

The big news in Washington this week is the resignation of Secretary of Defense Louis A. Johnson. This change in the President's cabinet was inevitable and absolutely necessary despite Mr. Truman's statements to the effect that both Acheson and Johnson would stay on as long as he was in the White House.

The President selected General Marshall as Johnson's successor. This move will help to restore public confidence in the handling of our national defense policies, *Because General Marshall is a proven military leader.* However, before General Marshall can accept the job of Secretary of Defense, the Congress must change the Military Reorganization Act. The present law provides that no military careerist can be appointed to the civilian post of Secretary of Defense within ten years after service in the Armed Forces. ~~Under normal circumstances this is a good provision in the law for this country has never believed in military leaders dominating our government. The present situation is so critical however, it seems desirable to have a man of General Marshall's calibre at the head of the Army, Navy and Air Force. The House and Senate undoubtedly will quickly revise this provision in the law so the U. S. can have the full benefit of General Marshall's experience and knowledge.~~

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Truman's uncalled for remarks about the Marine Corps are still causing considerable comment in Washington. Every Congressman was bombarded with telegrams, letters and phone calls denouncing the President's statement that the Marines were the "Navy's police force" and that the Marines "have a propaganda machine equal to Stalin's".

It is regrettable that the Commander in Chief should belittle one of our fine military organizations. His public apology may have helped some, but it was small comfort to those who fought so valiantly all during World War II and who are now doing a fine job in South Korea. Those who have complained to me were not just Marines.



In fact, most of the objections came from sailors, airmen and army men. It just didn't seem right to them that their "buddies" should be vilified.

It isn't too well known but Secretary of Defense Johnson's regime tried to do a "hatchet job" on the Marine Corps. The President as evidenced by his statements apparently went along with Mr. Johnson in this regard even though Congress said NO at every turn.

\* \* \* \* \*

Several weeks ago this newsletter contained some information on Social Security law changes. A number of people in Kent and Ottawa counties are apparently unfamiliar with the location of the local offices of the Social Security Administration. Here's the dope. In Grand Rapids go to 906 Grand Rapids National Bank Building between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. In Holland, go to the Post office every Tuesday between 10:00 A.M. and 1:30 P.M. In Grand Haven, go to the Post Office every Monday from noon to 1:30 P.M.

\* \* \* \* \*

A good many small businessmen in our district have wanted information on government war contracts. In order to help out I have arranged for an all day Business-Government Conference in Grand Rapids on September 20th at the Rowe Hotel. Ten top government officials will be there to explain defense procurement policies and answer any inquiries. Make your reservations through the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, but you don't have to be a member of the Chamber of Commerce to attend.

\* \* \* \* \*

Folks are wondering if and when Congress might adjourn during this national emergency. Personally I don't think Congress should adjourn. It would be much better to recess for limited periods. After all the G.I.'s in Korea can't adjourn. Why should Congress? Apparently the President after conferring with his aides has OK'd an adjournment late in September. If Congress adjourns only the President can call the House and Senate back while if we recess the leaders in the House and Senate can reconvene the Congress.

\* \* \* \* \*

VISITORS: Ben Muller and Bernard P. Hoekstra of Grand Rapids, Clarence J. O'Hearn of Marne and Floyd Harrison of Conklin.

\* \* \* \* \*

September 28, 1950

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW

BY GERALD R. FORD, JR.

A very effective story in pictures came across my desk the other day. Sorry I cannot reproduce the drawing but the message can and should be discussed. One scene shows two American G.I.'s in Korea fighting to preserve our Republic. In the next picture an average citizen (50% didn't vote in 1948) is dozing on his porch in this country while the voter registration booth is empty. This should be a strong reminder that Michigan citizens must register by October 18th if they expect to vote November 7th. It isn't fair to expect our young men to protect our rights in battle if we will not use those privileges here at home.

\* \* \* \* \*

Within the last few months many citizens have written me and other Congressmen demanding that Secretary of State Acheson and Secretary of Defense Johnson be fired. My views on this situation are well known but a member of Congress actually has no control in such cases. In other words, Congress can't fire a member of the President's cabinet. The Senate must confirm the appointment of high ranking federal officials but only the President can fire them. Congress could petition the President to fire an unpopular member of his cabinet; but such a petition has no binding force.

\* \* \* \* \*

Why was there some objection to the appointment of General Marshall as the new Secretary of Defense? The arguments against his appointment can be summarized as follows: 1) General Marshall after World War II helped to formulate and put into effect the policy of appeasing the Chinese Communists. 2) General Marshall will be dominated by the policies of Secretary of State Acheson and the left wingers in the State Department. 3) General Marshall who retired as Secretary of State several years ago because of bad health, is now almost 70 years old and not able to stand the strain of such responsibilities. 4) The President could have selected a qualified civilian for the job instead of asking Congress to change the basic law of the



land so a military man could be appointed. No one denies that General Marshall was a good soldier and a fine citizen. He will probably do a good job if his health holds out and if he isn't dominated in his policies by the State Department gang.

\* \* \* \* \*

With the 81st Congress drawing to a close some folks at home have inquired what happens to bills that have been passed by the House or Senate and not approved by the other. Let's take two specific cases. The House of Representatives in March, 1950 approved statehood bills for Alaska and Hawaii. The Senate must act on these bills before the end of this session or the bills must be reintroduced next year and start again at the bottom of the legislative ladder when the 82nd Congress convenes.

\* \* \* \* \*

Lee Pressman, one time New Deal lawyer and later a top aide to President Murray of the CIO, finally came "clean" by testifying before the Committee on Un-American Activities that he was an active Communist while he worked for the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Pressman during his appearance before the Committee named other former high ranking New Deal officials as "commies". This testimony and that of many others, particularly the Alger Hiss case, proves rather conclusively that basic American policies for the last eighteen years were undoubtedly sabotaged by intellectual revolutionaries who travelled under the guise of reformers.

\* \* \* \* \*

How good is your memory? Who made the following statements?

June 21, 1948: "I like 'Old Joe' Stalin. He is a decent fellow."

August, 1948: "The investigation of Alger Hiss is nothing but a red herring."

Feb. 28, 1949: (In a letter to former Governor George Earle, of Pennsylvania)--  
"I am of the opinion that the country is perfectly safe as far as Communism is concerned."

June 23, 1950: "We are closer to peace than at any time in the past five years."

\* \* \* \* \*

VISITORS: Mr. & Mrs. Alfred W. Hewitt, Mr. & Mrs. John W. Cumiskey, Miss Rosemary Scott and Mother, Roland F. Allaben, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Feringa and Robert K. Stolz, of Grand Rapids. Mr. & Mrs. Neal Nagtzaam and Mr. & Mrs. Joe LaMaire Jr. of Grand Haven.

\* \* \* \* \*