

FOR RELEASE January 6, 1955

YOUR WASHINGTON REVIEW
By Gerald R. Ford, Jr., M. C.

The 84th Congress convenes January 5th and after the oath-taking ceremonies the first session will be under way. New bills can be dropped in the legislative hopper immediately but it will take approximately a month or more before any vital legislation will be on the floor of either chamber for action. Why the delay? It primarily arises because control of the House and Senate passes from the Republicans to the Democrats and with this comes considerable committee personnel changes. There will be new chairmen of every Congressional committee and about a third of the membership on most groups will be revised. During this reorganization period all legislative hearings are stalemated. The logjam will be loosened on or about March 1st and from then until adjournment the Congressional schedule will be piled high with important and controversial issues.

During January President Eisenhower will be submitting a number of messages to the Congress wherein he will officially report on what has taken place in the past months under his stewardship as Chief Executive and what he proposes for the future. The day after Congress reconvenes Ike will deliver to a joint session his State of the Union message. This is always a highlight of a new session for on such an occasion the President lays out the blueprints for his program. In the past six years your Congressman has heard four by HST and two by Ike. Admittedly I'm a bit prejudiced but Ike's proposals have always been more constructive.

On January 10th President Eisenhower will submit to the legislative branch of the government his new suggestions for an improved reciprocal trade act. Ike firmly believes America as a whole will derive tremendous benefits from an overall expansion of world trade. There are others who will violently oppose such legislation and this issue may kick up quite a fuss in both the House and Senate before it is resolved. This debate will definitely cut across party lines for there are Democrats and Republicans on both sides of the fence in this controversy.

The President on January 17th will submit his proposed federal budget and as a member of the Committee on Appropriations I am most anxious to see the details of Ike's continuous and effective policy of economy in government. In the past two years substantial cuts have been made in Uncle Sam's spending and certainly more reductions are in order.



Three days later, on January 20th, the Congress and the Nation will have before them the Chief Executive's economic message which will relate the Nation's progress in the past twelve months and forecast the prospects for 1955. From all indications to date the next twelve months should be one of the most prosperous peacetime eras in America's history.

From time to time during the first session of the Congress Ike will undoubtedly make further recommendations and reports to the House and Senate but for the present the January batch seems sufficient for Congress to handle. For the past few months the President and his staff have been working long and hard on his program of "moderate progressivism" and now it's Congress' turn to "burn the midnight oil."

The Speaker of the House in the next session under Democrat control will be Representative Sam Rayburn of Texas and he has already made it clear that there will be a tight ban on radio-TV coverage of House committee hearings. It is difficult to understand the reason for this attitude for committee hearings are public business and if properly conducted are highly informative.

The members of the House by a vote could revise the rules and override Speaker Rayburn's decision but it is doubtful if the Democrat members who are now in the majority would slap down their boss. In the Senate, the question has been left to the discretion of the various committees concerned and according to present prospects, this setup will remain unchanged during the 84th Congress.





Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



The 84th Congress started its business much like its 83 predecessors except for the fact that the President is of one political party and the control of the Congress is in another. New majority and minority party leaders were selected by the Democrats and the Republicans in both the House and Senate. The Democrats initially pledged support for the President's program. In the next two years it remains to be seen how closely the promise coincides with performance.

Ike in turn, in his State of the Union message to a joint session, reaffirmed his strong desire for cooperation between the executive and legislative branches of the federal government. On this problem the President said, "Let the general good be our yardstick on every great issue of our time." That's sound advice for every citizen, Democrat and Republican alike.

The President before launching into his all important message congratulated the new Speaker, Sam Rayburn, on his 73rd birthday. The date for the joint session and Sam's birthday coincided. Ike certainly was at his best in extending personal felicitations to a person who first came to the House of Representatives as a Texas Congressman on March 4, 1913, 42 years ago. That's a day before many younger members of the 84th Congress were born.

Ike's message covered a good many vital subjects and he stepped directly into some controversial fields. When Congress adjourns next summer, it will be interesting to see his "batting average." Your own Congressman wishes to express his general approval of the President's legislative suggestions. I suspect my Eisenhower scorecard during this Congress will be about the same as it was in the past two years when I supported Ike 92 per cent of the time on his legislative recommendations. I have always opposed subsidized public housing and will continue to do so. Outside of this one difference your Congressman again looks forward to wholeheartedly working for the President's program.

Here are a few forecasts on the fate of the President's legislative policy. Ike wants the corporate income tax left at 52 per cent, and the excise taxes on gasoline, automobiles, liquor and cigarettes retained at the present level. The Democrat Speaker of the House concurs and he apparently voices the opinion of his party. These



taxes will probably be left at the present rate in 1955, but there is a good possibility of other tax cuts, particularly for individuals, in 1956.

Ike wants certain provisions in the Taft-Hartley Act revised. The northern Democrats favor Taft-Hartley repeal, while generally the Democrats in the South would hesitate. The net results, no changes in the Taft-Hartley Act,

The President recommended an increase in the minimum wage to 90 cents per hour. Republicans in the Congress will support Ike, and northern Democrats should help the cause, but again the southerners will balk.

The Eisenhower State of the Union message proposed pay increases for civilian employees of the federal government, plus wage increases for the Army, Navy and Air Force. Ike also endorsed a pay boost for Senators and Congressmen. The President's overall program for government wage increases will get the "green light" although the House and Senate may be skittish about raising their own salaries.

Ike's national defense program which emphasizes air power, a concentration on new weapons, an improved continental defense, a buildup of a ready reserve force, and an acceleration of stockpiling of strategic materials will likely be approved by the Congress. There may be considerable controversy on certain aspects of the military manpower program, although there is no question that the Selective Service Act, requiring a two year period of active duty, will be re-enacted.

Ike wants immediate statehood for Hawaii and the same for Alaska in the near future. Again unfortunately the issue of new states will be bogged down by sectional jealousies.

The Congress will be receptive to the President's various health measures including a proposal to combat juvenile delinquency, but there may be rough going for the accident and health re-insurance recommendation. The constitutional amendment lowering the voting age hangs in the balance, but prospects don't appear too favorable.

In the months ahead important pages of history will be written. Let us hope the results will be predicated on sound principles and genuine cooperation.



Your Washington Review

by
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FOR RELEASE January 20, 1955

The problems of government continue to arise. Some are national or international in scope; others of local significance. During the past week I was especially concerned with three problems. Much time and energy was expended in an effort to insure to the Kent County Airport the \$190,000 allocation previously announced on October 5th by the Civil Aeronautics Administration. The issue is clear cut. If the original decision of the CAA in October was sound, it should not be changed at this late date after local authorities in good faith have acted in reliance on a public commitment by a responsible federal agency. On the other hand if the October 5th decision of CAA was not based on a sound analysis of all the facts, then the public announcement should not have been made. We have no quarrel with other communities in Michigan but we are interested in the integrity of decisions of federal agencies.

Last Thursday evening I addressed the annual banquet of the Detroit Association of Insurance Agents on the topic: "The Federal Government Looks at Mail Order and Unauthorized Insurance." There are a number of insurance companies, not licensed by our State government, which are selling insurance by mail in Michigan. There is always the danger that this unauthorized insurance will prove fraudulent from the public's point of view; or to say the least, that advertising concerning it will be misleading. At the present time there seems to be no way in which the State authorities can handle this undesirable situation. My proposal would simply give the State authorities a new and effective tool to implement State regulation. This bill will deny the use of the mails for solicitation of insurance within any State which forbids such activity except by licensed companies. The purpose would be to protect the citizens of Michigan from those outstate companies which could misrepresent their policies, and which do avoid regulation and taxation by our State.

Last week your Congressman addressed the House of Representatives on a problem concerning the United Nations and the narcotics traffic. The Secretary



General of the UN is considering a proposal to transfer the UN Narcotics Division from New York to Geneva, Switzerland. There is no good reason for such a move and it could mean far less effective control of the illicit dope traffic. President Eisenhower recently appointed an inter-departmental committee to suggest improvements in our narcotics program. Our most effective work in combating this terrible evil may call for an energetic international office in this country. I want to see nothing done which will curtail our efforts or the efforts of the UN in protecting our children and young people from the vicious peddler.

There is also some evidence to show that the whole idea resulted from the recent trip of Clement Attlee to Red China. I vigorously protest any action by the UN which would in any way increase the influence of Red China either in the UN or in the world at large.

I am intensely interested in the UN functioning as an effective international agency and hope that it will take no action on transferring the Narcotics Division outside the United States. To do so will tend to weaken the U. S. support for the United Nations.

Most taxpayers applauded the recent proclamation of the President terminating on January 31st certain veteran benefits intended for those who served during actual conflict. It does seem to me, however, that men now in the service should continue to build up GI education rights beyond the expiration date. Many men volunteered with this thought in mind. Last Thursday the President indicated his support of an extension of the educational rights for those who entered in Armed Forces prior to February 1st.

IN A SENTENCE OR TWO: The United States government is still paying a pension to ten dependents of veterans of the Mexican War (1846-1848); nine widows and one child.....Each B-47 purchased by your government costs \$2,300,000..... On Monday evening Bob Hope received for one hour's work on TV the sum of \$100,000, which is equal to the salary paid President Eisenhower for one year's responsibility.....From the beginning of this Congress through last Thursday 2,368 bills and resolutions had been introduced in the House of Representatives. Your Congressman was responsible for five of these.....A booklet entitled "Your Federal Income Tax; 1954" is available from the Superintendent of Documents for 25 cents.

RECENT VISITORS: Mr. Herbert G. Eastwood, Mrs. A. F. Schroeder, and Mr. Harry L. Kendall all of Grand Rapids; Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Smith of Grandville.





Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FCR RELEASE January 27, 1955

The Congress now has before it the new federal budget for next year and the President's report on the economic state of the nation. Ike's optimistic and forcefully states that in the months ahead the U. S. is headed for "even better times." Clearly all the evidence points to a long period of general economic expansion. President Eisenhower's policies in the past two years during the transition from war to peace have brought economic stability and ever-increasing strength in our national defense program. It would be tragic if the Democrat-controlled Congress "rocked the boat" for political purposes.

Already there are indications that the Democrats in the House and Senate by various and sundry legislation want to "tinker" with the Nation's economy. Regularly, secret memorandums are being circulated by the Democratic National Committee which are sniping at Eisenhower policies and programs. One "secret memo" attacked Ike's foreign policy and justifies what was done under former Secretary of State Dean Acheson. Another hits at Ike's budget message. More partisan criticism of this sort is definitely in the mill.

What are some of the significant points in the new budget? Your Congressman, as a member of the Committee on Appropriations, believes the federal government after two difficult years has now reached a point of fiscal responsibility. No longer is our government willfully and extravagantly spending hard-earned tax dollars far beyond its means. Uncle Sam's "cash budget," which measures total receipts and disbursements, will be in the "black" by over \$500 million on June 30, 1956. The prospects for a balance between cash outgo and income for this June 30th are most encouraging. Everyone likes to run their own household on a basis where revenue at least equals expenses. It looks like the federal government after an extravagant and extended fling will shortly be handling its finances like most American families.



A big headache for the past twenty-four months has been the accumulated "unexpended appropriations" which totalled \$78 billion when Ike was inaugurated. This huge sum represents appropriations which previous Congresses had made which were not yet expended by the various federal agencies. Although unexpended the \$78 billion was committed in long-term contracts mostly by the Army, Navy, and Air Force for military equipment. This sizeable backlog of C.O.D. orders has been worked down by \$25 billion in a two-year period and additional reductions in this burden are assured.

Let me illustrate this problem and the change for the better in a different way. Suppose Mr and Mrs. X. as the head of a family for five or six years, piled up debts and contract obligations far beyond their foreseeable income. Such a staggering financial burden, if not halted, would eventually lead to bankruptcy and serious family hardship. A reduction in this backlog of financial commitments would obviously salvage the household and lead to better days ahead. The same holds true in the handling of your government's money problems.

Despite the big changes for the good let's not kid ourselves that Uncle Sam is running a small "penny anti" operation. Just as an example, the federal budget next year provides more money for paper cups and paper towels for all government agencies and the Armed Forces than George Washington spent for the entire government during his first fiscal year in office. The F. B. I., a highly essential operation these days, will undoubtedly receive \$83 million next year, an increase of nearly \$10 million over its present budget.

Before the House Committee on Appropriations can start hearings on the President's budget the Committee must be organized into subcommittees. For the past few weeks the new Democrat chairman of the Committee has been feuding and "fussin" behind the scenes with some of his Democrat colleagues in the group (it's a bitter and long-standing conflict) and as a result committee business is at a standstill. When they get this party fight settled the whole committee can go to work analyzing Ike's budget.

Congresswoman Bolton of Ohio has introduced a bill authorizing the Armed Forces to give Reserve Commissions to men who are registered nurses; a privilege previously reserved for women. This proposed legislation would give "equal rights to men."





Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE February 3, 1955

The Ghost of War and the Spirit of Peace again haunted the hall of the House of Representatives the past week. Your Congressman was one of the 409 Republicans and Democrats who voted to approve the Joint Resolution on the defense of Formosa. Let me assure you that I did not take that stand lightly nor in ignorance of the implications. It is the consensus of the best-informed authorities here that this is a step away from, rather than toward, war. By definitely announcing our intention of securing and protecting Formosa and the Pescadores we dispel any false notions by the Chinese Communists that the United States will not defend these islands. Our military experts contend that if Formosa falls into the hands of Red China, the Free World will inevitably lose the Philippines, Japan and other Pacific allies. The loss of this valuable territory means the ruthless and dangerous enemy is thousands of miles closer to the shores of America. We are one united nation in our determination to halt the march of the Godless Communistic aggressors in the Kremlin or Peiping.

Some Americans have expressed the fear that we are giving Chiang Kai-shek a "blank check," encouraging him to attack the mainland and thus precipitate a general war. As your Representative here in Washington, I am convinced that our government has a firm assurance that no such action will be taken.

To strengthen this confidence, the Congresswoman from Illinois, Mrs. Marguerite Church, a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, gave personal testimony in favor of the Resolution on the floor of the House. Among other things she said:

"I have lived through three major wars. I want no more war. I have practically stated that only over my dead body and my lost hopes would I ever vote for war. I voted therefore to make this action unanimous only because I became convinced after 5 hours of careful testimony and discussion-- the main tragedy being that we cannot tell you all of the facts in the case, ever--that this resolution was a measure not for war but a step that is to prevent war. Only for that reason did I find the courage to take a step that I know is so momentous."



Furthermore, the President has asked the United Nations to work out a cease-fire order between the warring Chinese camps. The Formosa Resolution is not too definite as to the position of Quemoy and Matsu in all this. The fate of these islands undoubtedly is not being sealed at the moment in an effort to bargain effectively in the cease-fire negotiations.

It is conceivable that these islands will have to be sacrificed to obtain a cease-fire order. Should that order be effected, Chaing would have less reason to insist upon keeping Quemoy and Matsu, and peace would be more firmly established.

We have taken our stand. But the tragedy and frustration which we all feel was well expressed by Representative Jackson of California, who in the course of the debate stated:

"The question of war or peace is not for us to determine. A handful of men a half a world away hold the key to that grave question. We should be greater than gods if we could insure a just and lasting peace among men and, by the same token, we would be less than men if we failed to meet this clear challenge in this fateful hour.

Your Congressman was also one of the 365 Representatives who last week voted unanimously for the bill permitting any person serving in the Armed Forces on January 31st to continue to accrue educational benefits under the G.I. Bill of Rights. Not only did many men volunteer for service with the understanding that they would be eligible for educational benefits, but thousands of veterans have proved that they have a serious approach to education and that the training they received is enabling them to make a constructive contribution to the welfare of their country. The President agrees that these educational benefits should continue for those in the Army, Navy, and Air Force prior to January 31st.

The President of the Republic of Haiti addressed a joint session of Congress last Thursday. To one on the floor as well as to one in the gallery, this was another auspicious occasion symbolizing the solidarity of the human race and the breadth of our democracy. Here was a negro leader from Haiti addressing in the French language, a predominately white American Congress which listened to an English translation. President Magloire of this small but friendly ally, repeatedly in his address praised the efforts of Ike to seek world conditions that would end the Communist menace.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE February 10, 1955

For the past week in Washington it's been mighty frigid outside and at times a bit overhyped inside the Capitol. It was cold enough according to the weatherman for your Congressman to haul out and wear his red-flannel nightshirt which the Clipper Girls and Cedar Springs forwarded for just such an emergency.

For hours on end in a bare but well-heated committee room in the Capitol my committee has been listening to the top witnesses from the Department of Defense discuss the need for a military budget totalling approximately \$34 billion for the next 12 months. The testimony wasn't limited to the monetary aspects of the Army, Navy, and Air Force budgets for the committee was intensely interested in what Secretary of Defense Wilson and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Radford could tell us about the situation in the Formosan-China area. Since the committee hearings relate directly to our national security and military policies they are behind closed doors. The hearings are later printed for public distribution after deletion of secret testimony.

Under these conditions the witnesses can testify freely to the 13-member committee. It is vitally important that as the elected representatives of the people we know what is contemplated by the military in the tense and critical international situation.

Secretary Wilson was on the witness stand 10 hours and Admiral Radford followed him in the same spot for a day and a half. Both endorsed and supported the military budget submitted by President Eisenhower which calls for a balanced force between the Army, Navy, and Air Force. It doesn't mean dividing the \$34 billion "pie" in three equal pieces. Rather, it emphasized increased air power, modern weapons, a powerful Navy and a mobile, well-manned, high-firepower Army.

A good many Democrats in the Congress are condemning the President because he has recommended a minor cutback in Army personnel. Actually the proposed reductions in GIs is less than five per cent. The Army with the cut will still have more than a million men on active duty which is twice the number when President Truman ordered the United States Army into Korea.



These complicated and controversial hearings will go on for the next three months. Any visitors from home, if I'm not in my office or on the floor of the House will find me well occupied in the committee seeking the whys and wherefores of a \$34 billion military budget which involves the effectiveness of the Army, Navy, and Air Force and the three-million men who are serving in uniform.

Recently your Congressman sponsored legislation designed to curb improper disposal of industrial waste materials by factories. This bill should be of particular interest to residents near the Grand River basin where industrial wastes create unsanitary conditions by finding their way into stream and river waters which they pollute.

The bill provides industry with a real incentive to construct adequate sewerage disposal facilities for eliminating any water and air pollution from factory wastes by allowing tax deductions over a five-year period on expenditures made for purification equipment.

This bill is expected to receive strong support from numerous conservation groups because of the ruinous effects wastes may have on hunting, fishing, and on maring natural beauty.

Senator Potter deserves hearty congratulations for asking a federal commission to study problems of the aged and aging. This bill proposes that a commission be set up to "study, analyze, investigate, and assess" what can be done to integrate the growing age group of persons 65 years old and older into continuing useful lives. Senator Potter estimates that this age group is increasing at the rate of 1,000 persons per day.

Eight per cent of the population or 14,000,000 Americans are 65 years or older. By 1970 this group will reach 12 per cent of the total population.

Statistics show that 5,000,000 families are headed by a person 65 or older and of these 43 per cent have yearly incomes of less than \$1,500; 30 per cent take in less than \$1,000 a year and 15 per cent get less than \$500.

Other problems confronting the aged concern adequate housing, employment opportunities, health, and recreation.

Now seems as good a time as any other for Congress to look into these problems and attempt to dig out some answers to them.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE February 17, 1955

Your Congressman was privileged to attend the first public showing of two new facilities recently put into operation by the National Bureau of Standards. These were the Gamma-Ray Laboratory and the Betatron Laboratory. These names probably seem as strange to you as they did to your Congressman when he first heard them. But they represent some of the latest scientific strides by your government in Washington.

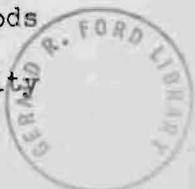
The Bureau of Standards is part of the Commerce Department headed by the Secretary of Commerce, Sinclair Weeks. Part of the job of this Bureau is to provide basic standards—especially for physical measurements. They have custody of maintaining and determining lengths, widths, and depths of such simple things as the official length of an inch to the more complex precisions in length, time, and speed demanded by modern technology.

Those two latest standards just unveiled to the public, which your Congressman saw, concerned such new demands. The Gamma-Ray Laboratory is for the standardization of radio-active materials so scientists all over the world can use constants in discussing quantities of such particles. In addition, the Betatron Laboratory has developed standard measuring techniques for very high energy X-rays. This latter development is a boon to medicine, industry, and research.

One function of the Bureau of Standards has always been of special interest to your Congressman as a member of the House Appropriations Committee. It concerns the part played by the Bureau of Standards in seeing that the taxpayer isn't "gyped."

It works in this way. The Bureau has set up certain high standards of quality which must be met by suppliers of government material. The Bureau of Standards checks up on the quality of goods sold to the government.

For instance, if a new post office is being constructed, agents from the Bureau of Standards check on the quality of cement, wood, and other building materials placed in the structure. They do the same for roads, chemicals purchased by the government, cloth, and many other items. Naturally if the purchased goods doesn't meet the predetermined standards, they are rejected and a higher quality



is substituted.

A question asked me recently was: How has the Eisenhower Administration met its obligations in the sphere of antitrust enforcement?

In 1954 a total of 35 new cases were filed by the government against businesses where there was "a conspiracy to restrain or monopolize trade." But this number doesn't tell the whole story because the Anti-trust Division of the Justice Department has a policy of pre-complaint negotiations which was instituted last year. This means that after the Antitrust Division has investigated a particular violation and prepared a complaint, they sit down at the conference table with the delinquent business and try to work out the problem so as to avoid actual court action.

The sole purpose of Antitrust law is to help promote or restore an atmosphere where our forces of free enterprise may operate more effectively for the public interest and guarding against abuses. If you would care to obtain some additional information on this subject, just drop me a line and I will be happy to pass along to you a recent speech with examples and types of suits occurring in 1954. This speech was delivered by the Assistant Attorney General, Stanley M. Barnes.

The other day we came up with some facts and figures about the Library of Congress which may interest you.

During the last fiscal year the Library acquired its 10-millionth book. Number ten million was just one more item, though, in the grand total of 33,153,000 articles contained by the Library. Rounding out this staggering number are manuscripts, maps and views, musical literature, photographs, and films among other things. A few of the more novel of these articles include the world's smallest book, an edition of "The Rose Garden of Omar Khayyam" which is no larger than a fingernail. On the other hand, the Library has two sets of one of the largest books ever printed, Audubon's "elephant folio" edition of the "Birds of America," measuring three and a half feet in height.

The Library lived up to its name in fiscal 1954: Every Congressman made use of it, and some 69,000 congressional inquiries were answered.





Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE February 24, 1955

Your Congressman favors the enactment of the Trade Agreements Extension Act. The bill is flexible enough to give the President authority to meet emergency situations and yet rigorous enough to guarantee reasonable protection for American industry and agriculture. Under the proposal the authority of the President would be extended for three more years to negotiate tariff reductions on a reciprocal basis up to 5 per cent in each of those years.

Many folks think this bill automatically lowers tariffs. The proposed legislation does no such thing. It only gives the President permissive authority under certain restrictions to reduce tariffs. And before this can be done the President must obtain the advice of the Tariff Commission as to the rate below which it believes a reduction could not be made without causing or threatening serious injury to domestic industries.

Also, the President must obtain the views of the Department of State, Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Treasury, Interior, Labor, and the Foreign Operations Administration to get advice and facts on all aspects of the problem. Finally before making any binding agreement to alter the tariff structure, public hearings must be held in which American industry, labor, agriculture, exporters, importers, producers, and consumers have every opportunity to make their views known.

Currently the United States has trade agreements with 42 countries which carry on between them at least 80 per cent of world trade. Agreements negotiated cover about 58,000 items with a volume of 1953 trade surpassing 240 billion.

President Eisenhower's nomination of John Marshall Harlan to be an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court is unfortunately gathering dust in the files of the Democrat-controlled Senate Judiciary Committee. Chairman Kilgore of West Virginia and other Democrat Senators are apparently blocking President Eisenhower's lead in seeking non-segregated public school opportunities throughout the United States.



They are doing this by taking advantage of the announcement that the Supreme Court will not hand down a final decision on the question of segregation in public schools until the court vacancy is filled. By delaying action on the Harlan nomination the Democrats are road-blocking further progress on desegregation in many parts of the country. It is regrettable that the Democrats pose as champions of the negroes on the one hand and at the same time sabotage President Eisenhower's effort to make real progress in the field of civil rights.

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In a roll call vote on Wednesday, February 16 your Congressman was one of 283 members of the House who voted to increase Congressional pay from \$15,000 a year to \$25,000. There were 118 votes against the bill. This final vote showed 166 Democrats teamed up with 117 Republicans to provide the first Congressional pay boost since 1946 when the annual salary scale of \$12,500 plus an expense allowance of \$2,500 or a total of \$15,000 was set for members of the House and Senate. The provisions of the new pay bill, which now awaits Senate action, still provides \$2,500 for expenses and \$22,500 salary. Like all income earned by any other United States citizen this amount is subject to federal income taxes.

It is interesting to note that since 1946 federal employees classified under civil service have received average pay increases of 40 per cent and another increase is expected this year. For this same period the Department of Labor reports gross earnings of all production workers in manufacturing industries have increased over 68 per cent.

Back home in Michigan, your State representatives and senators in Lansing have received a 356 per cent pay hike since 1946 and their annual salaries and expense allowances have jumped from \$1,095 to \$5,000. The Governor's total salary was \$7,500 in 1946 and today it is \$22,500 or 200 per cent higher. I am informed Governor Williams recently requested that his annual salary be increased to \$30,000.

The Congressional pay-increase legislation was endorsed by the American Farm Bureau, the CIO, President Eisenhower, former President Truman, and by newspapers from one end of the country to the other.

All this seems to boil down to one basic issue. Do we want our legislators and other public officials to be men and women of some independent income or outside wealth or do we want them to be elected officials compensated so that anyone with ability and proper qualifications can serve without economic sacrifices to himself and his family.





Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE March 3, 1955

The President took a firm position in favor of fiscal responsibility when he exposed the fallacies in a recent politically inspired tax legislation. The opposition apparently supports bigger U. S. deficits which our children must pay off at some future date. The fundamental issue on this tax fight is whether the present generation of taxpayers shall pay for the benefits provided by our government today or duck its responsibility and lightly pass this burden on to our kids. All of us selfishly would like \$20 more to spend now, but in all honesty hesitate to pass an increased debt on to our youngsters with interest.

Unbalanced budgets lead to inflation, and inflation insidiously steals from the small taxpayers. The politically inspired tax cut will inevitably rekindle the fires of inflation by increasing Uncle Sam's deficit. Inflation will quickly eat up, in fact devour, any \$20 tax saving.

In recent months quite a few members of the Congress have voted to increase Uncle Sam's expenses, reduce his revenue, and have disapproved of authority to borrow more money to pay his current bills. Is this honest and consistent? It reminds me of the husband who won't work to earn the necessary family funds, who decides to spend more rather than less, and who has a debt ceiling or borrowing limit that he won't or can't raise. Such irresponsibility leads to bankruptcy.

The President's road program which was sent to Congress last week is an important step toward improving and expanding the nation's highways, now crumbling beneath an ever-increasing overdose of traffic. The President suggests that the federal government assume principal responsibility for the cost of a modern Interstate Network of highways, and that \$25 billion be spent on these roads over a ten-year period. Michigan, which ranks seventh among the States in the number of motor vehicles registered, has approximately 985 miles of the interstate highways. The route from Muskegon to Grand Rapids to Detroit is included as well as the highway from Grand Rapids to Benton Harbor and Chicago.



The President also proposes that those who use the highways should pay for them through the present gas and diesel oil taxes, and to some extent by tolls. During the last session of Congress for the first time all the revenue from these sources was allocated for highway purposes.

Good roads save money and lives and are essential for any national defense emergency. For every 2.9 fatalities on roads built to interstate standards, there are 8 to 10 deaths on defective or below-standard highways with similar traffic.

The U. S. Government will continue to assist the States in constructing primary and secondary roads as at present, but the States and local units will retain the major responsibility.

Your Congressman has again taken to the air waves through weekly five-minute radio broadcasts, taped in Washington and sent back home to the various radio stations in Kent and Ottawa Counties. The following is my schedule over the Grand Rapids stations: WOOD, Sunday, 12:00 p.m.; WLAV, Sunday, 12:05 p.m.; WGRD, Sunday, 12:10 p.m.; WMAX, Sunday, 12:15 p.m.; WJEF, Saturday, 2:30 p.m., and WFUR which also scheduled this weekly radio report although I don't have the exact time. The program is heard over WHTC, Holland, Thursday at 7:15 p.m.

We also make a TV cast over station WOOD-TV, usually during Bob Runyon's Friday news program at 6:15 p.m.

In case you're curious how your Congressman goes about making his radio program and TV film, here in the House Office Building provisions are made for a sound-proof radio recording studio as well as very complete TV facilities. This is purely for congressional use and many congressmen use it to keep their constituents well informed about what goes on in the Nation's Capital.

RECENT VISITORS: Mr. Harry Kendall, Mrs. Mildred Bruinsma, Mr. Frank Clark
Mr. John Knorr, Rev. Henry East, Mr. Ray Feringa, Mr. William Broensma, Mr. John B. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Voss, Miss Bea Alphenaar, Miss Patricia Campbell, all of Grand Rapids; Lt. George R. Lundberg of Lowell, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Smith of Grandville, Dr. D. Ivan Dykstra of Holland, Miss Dorothy Boon of Grand Haven, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Van Overloop and Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Lubbers of Hudsonville.





Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



for release March 10, 1955

Recently a Grand Rapids resident inserted a dime into a commercial stamp-vending machine. Three 3¢ stamps popped out as expected but in addition something most unusual was a part of the package. This was not the neat little cardboard folder holding the stamps but printed matter on it which described rather vividly the advantages of subscribing to a magazine containing names, pictures and addresses of lonely persons wishing correspondence with members of the opposite sex.

Through a letter from a constituent this incident immediately came to my attention. I was greatly disturbed that United States government stamps should be distributed commercially in a cardboard folder containing this type of printed matter. It would seem that such a commercial promotion could create, if it has not already done so, a very bad situation in many communities which would cast discredit upon the Post Office Department.

As a result, last week your Congressman introduced a bill which is designed to prohibit sales from vending machines of postage stamps accompanied by matter bearing or containing advertising..

The United Nations has embarked on one more area of investigation for developing peaceful uses of the atom which President Eisenhower urged last year in his speech before the UN General Assembly. The world organization has set up a working party that will study questions related to the uses of atomic radiation for agricultural purposes. Our own Department of Agriculture is also making investigations into this field. They have found, for instance, that radio-active materials alone do plants no good. But the use of radiation offers a new tool for work in agricultural research.

Researchers have found that by adding radio-active phosphorus to fertilizers they can discover new and better ways for nourishing plants. Recent experiments with radio-active isotopes have revealed a new method for discovering minor nutrient deficiencies in trees. This will be especially useful for fruit growers with large orchards. And the Department of Agriculture has found that radio-active



cobalt can induce more mutations in plants.

As yet there is no printed material available to explain developments in this new area of research. It is a pioneering field from which we may expect striking advances in the next few years.

I was impressed again last week with President Eisenhower's sincere efforts to strengthen the spiritual life of our nation. In a broadcast initiating the American Legion's "back-to-God" program, he declared, "Without God, there could be no American form of government, nor an American way of life. Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first - the most basic - expression of Americanism." He further pointed out that "veterans realize, perhaps more clearly than others, the prior place that Almighty God holds in our national life. And they can appreciate, through personal experience, that the really decisive battleground of American freedom is in the hearts of and minds of our own people."

House Democratic leaders swallowed a bitter pill when Majority Leader McCormack complained on the House floor that he and speaker Sam Rayburn weren't receiving copies of Presidential messages before they are read in the House. It turned out that 250 copies of each message were being sent to the majority leader's office, well in advance, where they were kept on a table, rarely looked at and quickly discarded in a wastebasket.

VISITORS - Jack L. Kailey, Floyd A. Thornton, David Mandel, George Bernhardt, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Gritter, Mr. and Mrs. John S. Vander Heide, Jr., all of Grand Rapids. Albert Van Dyke of Grandville and Thomas A Dowell of Battle Creek .

Do you have anyone in mind you think might like to receive the "Washington Review" weekly as you do? If so, just have them drop me a line and I'll be happy to place them on my mailing list.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE March 17, 1955

About one of every five pieces of mail I receive requests me to take a definite stand on some controversial question before Congress. Usually this is made during the early stages of the particular bill's existence when traditionally slow legislative machinery is just starting to grind into action. The bill is subject entirely to consideration by a committee which gathers the opinions of experts and carries out detailed fact-finding investigations.

Finally, if the bill is shoved out from one of the 19 committees on to the House floor the measure in detail with all its ramifications is aired openly for all to see. In the meantime, the committee has probably given the bill such a face-lifting that it may bear no resemblance to the way it looked when originally introduced. Still further, on the floor it may be subjected to the test of further debate and numerous amendments. For the legislator it is neither intelligent nor honest to pledge himself to one side or the other before all the facts are available and the bill appears in its final form.

In the meantime, I try to answer correspondence on such issues still in the fact-finding stage, by giving my thoughts and pointing out my general approach to the question. Naturally, mail with opinions and additional information from constituents is a most helpful element in the consideration of legislation.

The days in Washington are still cold but nevertheless spring and the cherry blossoms are almost here and with them the advent of the tourist season.

If you should travel to Washington this year and visit my office, I can provide you with several passes that will in all probability make your stay in the Nation's Capital much more eventful. To see the House in session you must visit your Congressman's office to obtain a pass. But in addition, I have passes for tours through the National Art Gallery, the White House and some material which can serve as a helpful guide to points of interest in the city.

If you happen to know any young man between 17 and 21 who is interested in information about the United States Merchant Marine Academy have him drop me a line and I'll see that he receives some data on it. I have been informed that the



annual competitive examination for appointment to the academy, located at Kings Point, New York, will be held Monday, April 11, at Civil Service centers throughout the country.

This academy offers a fine four-year course at college level which leads to a commission as ensign in the naval reserve, a bachelor of science degree and a license qualifying the graduate as a Merchant Marine Officer.

ECONOMY NOTES: Secretary of the Interior, Douglas McKay, recently appeared before a Senate Appropriations subcommittee with good news for the American taxpayer. Mr. McKay, appearing in support of a \$424,400,000 budget for his department, said this fund request for the next fiscal year would cost the treasury only \$88,000,000 because the Department of Interior has a growing income from resources under its control. For instance, it expects \$147,000,000 alone this year from oil leases on the ocean's continental shelf. Income from these oil leases and other sources will steadily increase, and eventually make the Department of Interior self supporting.

Some of the effects of the liberalized re-enlistment bonus for the Army, Navy, and Air Force legislated by the last Congress are now becoming apparent. During the first seven months since the law's enactment 25,000 more already trained army personnel re-enlisted than figures under old system would have indicated. This means 25,000 less Army recruits going through expensive training. The first six months of a recruit's training costs Uncle Sam \$3,200. Therefore, savings in initial training costs in this instance amount to \$80,000,000 because the Army has not had to induct 25,000 untrained men to replace experienced GIs.

With all the talk about federal tax legislation I would like to point out a few interesting facts from recent history. When President Eisenhower expressed his hope that in 1956 more tax relief could be given he was manifesting a traditional Republican policy. For example, it is interesting to note that since the advent of the income tax in 1916 there have been 14 tax increases. Twelve of these came under Democrat administrations. There have been ten tax reductions, and eight of these came under Republican administrations.



Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE March 24, 1955

The past week has been a busy and interesting one. My attention has been captured by more than a usual share of problems and information, that is, when I could escape from the long hours in my committee. For instance, the long-awaited, most controversial and very revealing Yalta documents were released for public consumption by the Department of State, and the Honorable Robert Gordon Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia, briefly addressed the House on Wednesday.

On Thursday, March 17th, I was invited to lunch at the White House along with the other 18 members and former members of Congress who urged President Eisenhower, who at that time was in Paris as General Ike in charge of NATO, to seek the Presidential nomination back in February of 1952. This informal White House luncheon has now become an annual event, at least the President's hospitality would seem to indicate as much, and let me assure you the 19 guests look forward to the occasion each year. Ike seemed in good health and far more relaxed than on previous occasions. I sincerely believed the United States needed him as our President in 1952, and I feel we need him even more so in 1956.

Last week I voted for the so-called Career Incentive Pay Bill which should improve the efficiency and the morale of the Armed Forces by providing more pay as an incentive for young men to make the Armed Forces a career. This also would seem to be a just reward as a matter of fairness to experienced servicemen in recognition of the job we depend on them to do, which incidentally, is the 24-hour-a-day defense of our Nation. And we hope that the outcome of this bill, which now awaits Senate action, will save the treasury money which would be needed for training new men to take the places of those who otherwise might leave the service.

It is interesting to note, for example, that the Army re-enlistment rate in 1949 was 41 per cent while in 1954 it had dropped to 11 per cent. In the Navy in 1950 the re-enlistment rate was 66 per cent which dropped to a 1954 low averaging 24 per cent. As I have said before the loss of trained soldiers, sailors, and airmen is mighty expensive to the federal treasury.



During the war when our supplies of rubber were sharply cut off, a vast partnership between government and industry was born. Government had the funds and industry had the technical know-how to construct efficient synthetic rubber facilities.

After the war the need for this partnership no longer existed. Between 1946 and 1949 some 18 synthetic facilities were sold to private industry. In 1948 and again in 1950, President Truman in messages to Congress, recommended disposal of the remaining plants to private ownership. In 1953, President Eisenhower made a similar recommendation, and shortly thereafter the House in the spirit of bipartisanship passed the disposal bill 316 to 58. The Senate followed suit with a vote of 65 to 16.

President Eisenhower appointed a commission to administer the sale of these rubber plants operating under a law designed in the best interest of national defense and financial stability.

These sales will become a reality unless a proposal of disapproval is passed by either House by midnight of March 25th. As of April 30th of this year the government will have a total unrecovered investment involved of \$272,718,800. The Commission proposes to sell the plants for \$263,643,000 which will return to the taxpayers 96.6 per cent of the unrecovered investment since the program's inception in 1941.

I am very pleased the government is getting out of the rubber business, and despite some rumbles of protest, this disposal program has received bipartisan support, not only from former President Truman, but more recently from the Democrat Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee which has been mostly concerned with this matter.

Chairman Vinson said on March 10th, "In my opinion, the disposal program meets all of the criteria established by the law. I believe it obtains for the taxpayers the full fair value for the facilities."

visitors; Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Parris, Mr. Robert L. DeMaagd, Mr. A. J. Minor, Mr. Charles Maynard, Mr. and Mrs. Earl F. Phelps, Mr. Silas F. Albert, and Miss Virginia R. Vogt, all of Grand Rapids. Mr. Albert Van Dyke of Grandville; Miss Mary Elin Pas of Zeeland; Mr. Robert C. Roos of Holland; and Mr. Franklin W. Wallin of Jenison.





Your Washington Review

by
Congressman
JERRY FORD



FOR RELEASE March 31, 1955

Last week I voted along with 119 other House members in favor of pay-increase legislation for Post Office employees. If this bill had passed, the postal employees would have received a pay boost averaging 7.5 per cent and the benefits of job reclassification. Under a suspension of rules, which was the parliamentary procedure used in this instance, no amendments can be proposed from the House floor. I feel that in a measure as complicated and controversial as this one the free use of amendments could well result in a legislative hodge podge.

Now the bill must follow a much slower House procedure and as a result the postal employees are being deprived all the longer of a well-deserved raise which is scheduled to become effective as soon as the bill is signed by the President.

The defeated measure was introduced by the Democrat Chairman of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee and approved by the Committee after long study and careful drafting. It has the support of the ranking Republican on this committee as well as the backing of Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield and President Eisenhower. The President has hinted that he would veto any raise above 7.5 per cent. I do not want to see a recurrence of last year's affair which resulted in a presidential veto and deprived the postal workers of any increase in salary.

The job reclassification provisions provide for equal pay for equal work with salaries geared in proportion to job responsibility. This seems justifiable and fair with sufficient safeguards to protect all employees.

Last week the House passed an appropriations bill of \$89,138,000 for the activities of the National Institutes of Health. This is an increase of \$7,870,000 over fiscal 1955. In appropriating these funds Congress has exercised national leadership both in making people aware of the power of medical research and in providing funds to expand and sustain medical research efforts for the promotion of the general welfare.



Two fields which received major consideration in this appropriation were research in mental health and cancer. Figures show, for instance, that about one half of nine million hospital beds in the United States are occupied by the mentally ill.

The NIH reports that 30 to 50 per cent of senile cases in our institutions, with proper treatment and care, can be taken out of institutions and placed where they would be happier and would cost the state less. In studying means of helping emotionally disturbed children, the NIH is trying to find shortcuts and different ways of treating these children so more of them can be handled quickly, and a cure effected in a shorter time.

Progress is also being made in the treatment of cancer with chemical agents. For example, in 40 cases of a cancer usually occurring in the retina of the eye, the use of a drug, together with radiation, apparently cured 80 per cent of those children within a two-year period.

Fully one quarter of all research done in the medical schools in the country are supported by 3,000 grants supported by this program. And other funds are being used to assist in a minor way the training of research manpower in the medical and biological sciences. This is money well spent!

The moral leadership of the United States in world affairs received another boost last week when the Capitol's new interdenominational "prayer and meditation" room opened. This room, exclusively for use by Congressmen resulted from a joint resolution by the House and Senate.....By April 1st my committee on Army appropriations will have finished over two months hearings on the \$8 billion request for funds to keep the Army in top shape for its part in the National Defense team. While listening to the Army witnesses 5 hours per day, week after week, I have been impressed with the quality of the men and machines protecting our American way of live..... Congratulations go out to Mr. R. V. Huyser, R. R. #5, Holland, for being the first person to request farmer bulletins from the current list. My office sent out 24,000 catalogs of these bulletins. We have a number still on hand which are available upon request.

