



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**



July 5, 1956

Michigan roads will receive an additional \$40.4 million shot in the arm during the fiscal year 1957 as part of the highway construction bill just approved by the House and Senate. This boosts to \$70.6 million the amount of federal funds authorized for better roads in Michigan in this fiscal year which began July 1st.

This figure represents our State's share of the multi-billion dollar highway program as recommended by President Eisenhower and enacted by Congress in the first year of the 13-year nation-wide construction plan calling for completion of 41,000 miles of interstate highways. During the first three years, or through 1959, funds will be apportioned to the states on the basis of the existing allocation formula. During the last 10 years of the program the formula of apportionment will be the so-called "needs" test for the total completion of the interstate system. The federal share of the Interstate System is 90 per cent of the cost. There is also a three-year program for secondary and urban roads with the states and federal governments equally sharing the expense. This is a continuation of the existing highway program with some minor changes.

Increased fuel and tire taxes are intended to pay for the road construction by bringing into the Treasury an estimated \$14.8 billion of additional road funds in the next 16 years. Gasoline and diesel fuel taxes will jump from 3c to 4¢ per gallon; tires from 5¢ to 8¢ per pound; the excise tax on buses and trucks from 8 per cent to ten per cent; and a new \$1.50 per 1,000 pound levy on heavy trucks, all to pay for these new highways.

## VETERANS' LEGISLATION

The House of Representatives passed a veterans' pension bill last week setting up a peculiar formula under which, for instance, a World War I veteran can receive a non-service connected pension up to \$90 per month, whereas a 50 per cent service disabled Korean War veteran can draw a maximum of \$91. Any formula for determining pension rates is inequitable which would give a veteran who has no service-connected disability, at age 65 as much as a 50 per cent disabled veteran, or the widow of a serviceman killed in line of duty.

The precedent-setting bill as passed the House gives these new benefits only to World War I veterans and would cost during the first year an additional estimated \$367 million. Representative Olin E. Teague, Chairman of the Committee on Veterans

Affairs, opposed this legislation and instead urged the enactment of a bill that would have increased the compensation for those disabled in wartime. My views are similar. Our government has a prime and never-ending responsibility for service-connected disabilities and the widows and children of the deceased.

#### IKE'S LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

With Congress heading into the home stretch before adjournment it is worth noting that as of June 20th only 16 per cent, or 34 of 217, of President Eisenhower's legislative requests were approved. At the present rate Ike's batting average with the Second Session of the 84th Democrat-controlled Congress will be the lowest in his four years as Chief Executive. This compares with records of 73 per cent and 65 per cent compiled in 1953 and 1954 in the Republican 83rd Congress. In other words, with a GOP House and Senate Ike's program makes progress while the opposite is true when the Democrats control the Congress.

Other figures indicate that compared with the Second Session of the five preceding Congresses the House in this session is not making an outstanding record in terms of hours at work. The following figures indicate the total hours the House was in session up to May 31st for the second session of each Congress: 80th Congress - 387 hours, 59 minutes; 81st Congress - 418 hours, 59 minutes; 82nd Congress - 319 hours, 27 minutes; 83rd Congress - 272 hours, 39 minutes; and the present 84th Congress - 245 hours, 16 minutes.

#### BATTLE AGAINST DISEASE

The battle against disease and for longer, healthier lives entered a new phase with the approval by Congress of \$184 million to be used by the National Institutes of Health during the fiscal year 1957. This figure represents an increase of \$85.5 million over the \$98.5 million appropriated for the National Institutes in fiscal 1956 and a substantial increase over the Bureau of the Budget's request. It is the largest amount ever appropriated by the Congress for medical research.

All of us have a stake in this research which is giving real promise of a breakthrough in the conquest of such ills as cancer, heart disease, high blood pressure, mental illness, and other killers and crippers. Progress already made in these and other areas of medical research have led to a decline in the death rate of 19 per cent between 1937 and 1954. During this period your life expectancy has increased by 9 years to 68.8 years. And in specific battles in the war against disease, figures indicate that between 1945 and 1954 the death rate from tuberculosis declined 73 per cent; that from pneumonia declined 43 per cent; from influenza 91 per cent; the death rate from acute rheumatic fever declined 73 per cent; and that from appendicitis 76 per cent.



# Your Washington Review

by  
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**JERRY FORD**



July 12, 1956

Votes in the House of Representatives last week by those opposing the controversial Powell Amendment and those favoring substitution of a more justifiable formula for distributing federal funds to the States combined to defeat the Kelly Bill for federal aid for school construction, 224 to 194.

The Administration's school aid bill called for the distribution of funds on the basis of need and demonstrated effort at the local level. In this way below-par and poorer school districts would receive more aid than districts better able to supply their own educational requirements. The Kelley Bill would distribute federal funds to States on the basis of school population without regard to need or local effort. This bill disregards varying local conditions and would not provide greater aid for districts needing it the most. I am convinced that had the President's formula been adopted, the House would have approved the bill.

In the final vote I opposed the Kelley Bill because I do not believe federal aid can be justified on grounds other than as assistance to areas in genuine need and with little means to help themselves.

Before the final vote came, however, the House expressed itself on three roll call votes. The first vote came on a measure to amend the bill by allowing States to retain one per cent on their federal income taxes for school construction. I opposed this amendment which was defeated. It would have established an unsound policy for distributing federal funds and would bring little relief to those States most in need of schools. Then the Powell Amendment was offered which would bar federal funds from any State failing to integrate their schools in compliance with the Supreme Court Decision of May 17, 1954. I favored this motion which was carried. I also supported a move to recommit the Kelley Bill in order to change the formula for distribution of federal funds in line with President Eisenhower's recommendation. This move was defeated and was followed by rejection of the school construction bill with the unsound provisions for distribution of federal assistance.

## A LOOK AT THE ECONOMY

With 52,000,000 American families receiving average annual incomes of \$5,520 which is 3 per cent, or \$180 more than that of 1954, our national economy is flourishing with sound and stable prosperity. Average weekly wages for industrial workers, excluding supervisory employees, stood at \$78.40 in May of this year as compared to

\$76.30 for May of 1955, and \$67.97 for the 1952 weekly average. Small business, representing 99 per cent of American commercial units, showed in the last half of 1955 a sales volume gain of 8 per cent over the same period in 1954. In 1955 business failures were recorded at the rate of 42 per 10,000 units which compares to the annual average since 1900 of 72 per 10,000. The Department of Agriculture announced recently that farm prices registered a 19-point gain since mid-December.

#### LEGISLATIVE ROUND-UP

Congress passed and sent to President Eisenhower last week a bill authorizing a one-year increase in the national debt limit to \$278 billion. This represents a reduction in the statutory debt limit of \$3 billion, from the \$281 billion requested by the Treasury and set by the Congress for the past fiscal year.

**NO HOUSING BILL:** The Committee on Rules killed for the moment the housing bill by voting 6-4 to table it. The bill called for 180,000 public housing units over three years and contained one provision for loans at a low interest rate to nonprofit corporations constructing housing for the aged.

**VETERANS LEGISLATION:** In an attempt to eliminate one of the points of criticism directed at the present veterans' pension law the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported a bill which bars payment of a pension to a veteran confined to a penal institution for any period more than 60 days; another bill reported by the Committee would provide a 10 per cent increase to all veterans in compensation for a service-connected disability. This would cost the Treasury an estimated \$172 million for the first year. Both proposals will probably be approved by the Congress during this Session.

**APPROPRIATION BILLS:** In 13 regular appropriations bills passed by July 2nd and now law the Congress appropriated slightly more than \$52 billion for the numerous agencies of the federal government during the new fiscal year. There are two final appropriation bills yet to be enacted prior to adjournment. Total federal expenditures during the fiscal year 1957 will be approximately \$65 billion. The difference between new appropriations and expenditures comes from funds made available in previous years. Under President Eisenhower this backlog of unexpended funds has been steadily reduced.

#### BENEFIT TO FARMERS

July 1st of this year may have a double meaning to many farmers. It marks the date farmers can file for a tax refund on the federal taxes paid for gasoline used for farming purposes. Also, it marks the time when farmers over 65 years of age can file for social security benefits if they meet certain other qualifications. The law placing farmers under social security came into effect on January 1, 1955, and with July 1, 1956 the minimum period of 18 months or six quarters required for making payments was completed.



# Your Washington Review

by  
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**JERRY FORD**



July 19, 1956

The day after General Nathan F. Twining, head of the United States Air Force, reported to the President on his recent visit to Soviet Russia, he appeared before my committee on military appropriations. Naturally those of us on this committee who make recommendations to the House of Representatives for billions for our defense were vitally interested in what General Twining and his staff saw when they visited Moscow and Stalingrad, what their observations were of Soviet air capability, and their reactions to contacts with Russian officials and civilians.

The General, in response to several questions from committee members, reiterated his support of President Eisenhower's budget and program for the Air Force. Earlier this year General Twining had endorsed what Ike and Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson proposed for B-52s, guided missiles, fighter aircraft and other weapons for the Air Force. Twining's "look-see" trip to Russia actually firmed up his views, and he stated to the committee that "there is no question" that America has the better Air Force.

Here are some interesting figures which prove beyond question that our Air Force has plenty of funds for aircraft procurement despite all of the partisan political criticism by Democrats. On July 1st the Air Force had more than \$11 billion in uncommitted funds for the purchase of planes, missiles and related equipment. At the same time there was almost \$19 billion unexpended in the same account. In other words, our Air Force has more than ample funds to purchase equipment to keep the United States from enemy attack and at the same time be ready for massive retaliation against any aggressor.

#### PUBLIC POWER LEGISLATION

If legislation awaiting action on the floor of both chambers of Congress is approved, Michigan taxpayers will contribute \$28,769,780 as part of the \$508,300,000 in federal funds necessary for construction of the Hells Canyon power project in the Snake River between Idaho and Oregon. Federal responsibility for construction of this project, sponsored by Democrat leaders in the Congress, is unnecessary and undesirable. The Federal Power Commission, after careful study, issued a license last August to the Idaho Power Company to develop this power. Since then construction has been launched on three hydro-power dams in Hells Canyon with more than 700 workers now employed on the

job. The Idaho Power Company is not only able to construct these dams without cost to the American taxpayer, but can be counted on to pay annually upon completion of the project approximately \$10 million in taxes. Furthermore, it is estimated that with private financing the total project can be completed for a quarter of a billion dollars less than with public funds.

#### NIXON ON NEUTRALISM

Vice President Richard M. Nixon in a July 4th Philippine Independence Day speech at Manila stressed the need for collective security as a bulwark against communist imperialism, and expressed no sympathy for a neutralism which makes no moral distinction between the communist world and the free world. Mr. Nixon attributes the halt of communist expansion in Western Europe to a strong unity formed by the NATO nations with the United States in a pattern of collective security. A similar pattern in Asia, he indicates, can strengthen and preserve the independence of these nations against communist colonialism. The Vice President feels that generally a nation which rejects the principles of collective security because it feels its independence will be compromised by association with other powers is not reading correctly the trends of modern history. Today free nations actually are better able to preserve their independence by standing together than by remaining aloof or taking a half-way position between the free world and communist world.

#### POSTAL RATE INCREASE

The House approved last week the postal rate increase bill, 217 to 165. It increases first, second and third-class rates, and is designed to raise annual postal revenues \$430 million, to practically wipe out the Post Office deficit. There has been some talk that this bill will die in the Senate with nothing being accomplished in this session of Congress to help place postal operations on a firmer footing. If so, our taxpayers will continue to pay the annual \$400 million Post Office deficit.

#### MILITARY AND VETERAN

It cost \$18 a day to pay, clothe and feed an American soldier as against \$1.67 for a French soldier, 85¢ for a Korean, and 69¢ for a Turk. It is a wise investment on our part to support these nations as our first line of defense. By our contributions we are helping to maintain 200 divisions in friendly nations. Otherwise more American boys will be drafted for military service.

**DISABLED VETERANS:** The House passed a bill on July 12th to increase compensation for disabled veterans by 10 percent. This legislation, now awaiting Senate action, will cost \$173 million the first year. The vote on final passage was unanimous, 391 to 0.



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**

July 26, 1956



The 84th Congress has reached the homestretch and with adjournment just ahead probably Saturday, July 28th, the legislative pace picks up steam each successive day. Sessions of the House have been going further into the evening while the Senate has been meeting early in the morning and remaining in session far into the night. One day last week the Senate passed 112 scheduled bills, approved a supplemental appropriations bill, and confirmed a Presidential nomination. On this same day the House debated civil rights legislation and passed 60 bills.

House debate on President Eisenhower's civil rights program lasted two full days plus two more days on the various amendments. Southern opponents sought unsuccessfully to suppress the bill by such tactics as having debate limited in hours thereby making further delays possible. Provisions of Ike's program call for creation of a bipartisan Commission on Civil Rights within the executive branch. The Commission would investigate cases where citizens are deprived of rights or subjected to unwarranted pressures because of race, creed or color. In addition, it would establish an office of Assistant Attorney General in the Department of Justice dedicated to securing and protecting the civil rights of all American citizens. Although the House will undoubtedly pass the bill, there is little chance for a civil rights program in this session of Congress. Even if the bill were pried loose from the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Southern Democrats have threatened to talk it to death with a filibuster.

## RESOLUTION ON RED CHINA

The House of Representatives last week, 391, to 0, reaffirmed and reemphasized its previous position by passing a resolution against the admission of Communist Red China to the United Nations. This is the third consecutive Congress which by unanimous consent has taken this position. The resolution expresses the conviction of the Members of Congress, who represent the views of the great majority of Americans, that admission of Red China at this time would gravely injure the UN's prestige in promoting human welfare and rights as expressed by its Charter. It is not difficult to speculate on the kind of organization the United Nations would become if a substantial part of its membership consisted of regimes which think only in terms, such as Red China, of brute force, lies, and conquest. Not long ago the UN itself condemned unpardonable atrocities Red China committed as an aggressor. Following this resolution by recognition would be a mockery of the

peaceful aims and intentions of this world organization.

My Democrat opponent for the November General election has committed himself as favoring admission of Red China to the UN. On this point his views and mine are in direct contradiction.

#### CONFERRING WITH THE SENATE

For the past week your Congressman has been a member of two conference committees between the Senate and the House involving several major appropriation bills. The total dollars involved approximated \$5.5 billion. One of the joint House-Senate conference committees ironed out money differences between the two Chambers on the Supplemental Appropriation Bill. This bill is a "catch-all" to provide funds for numerous federal agencies including the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Interior, Health, Education, and Welfare, and the District of Columbia. We had the usual heated wrangle with Senate conferees arguing for greater sums than the House representatives thought justified. The Senate is traditionally more generous with federal funds.

Our committee met in the old Supreme Court Chamber in the Capitol. This is where the nine justices convened for 75 years from 1860 through 1935. It was originally used by the Senate as its chamber from 1819 through 1859 and during those years it was here that many historic legislative battles were fought.

Conference committees are held in executive session which means that those present are limited to members of the Senate, House, and the professional staffs of the two committees. Despite differences over the dollar amounts the two conferences resolved most differences reasonably satisfactorily.

#### LAST MINUTE BUSINESS

In last minute hustling by committees before adjournment a number of miscellaneous bills are being reported to the House floor. Although the chance for action on many is remote a random sampling indicates they represent a wide assortment of subjects.

For instance, one measure would change the name of Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor to Liberty Island. Other measures call for incorporation of the Order of the Purple Heart; making September 17th through 23rd Constitution Week; an increase of the minimum postal savings deposit; and provision for regulation of the interstate transportation of migrant farm workers by motor vehicle.

#### VISITORS

From Grand Rapids: Mr. and Mrs. Walter Schroeder and James and David, Mr. and Mrs. George Opdendyk, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Kammingo, Nancy Vanwyk, Dr. and Mrs. K. E. Gamm, Carl Benson, Mrs. Zella Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Harrison, Tad Murdick, and Dr. and Mrs. Robert Olsen from Grand Haven.



# Your Washington Review

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August 2, 1956

The pre-adjournment legislative log jam has broken and with it hasty and haphazard appraisals of much legislation. House leaders presented one bill to the House for action only 30 minutes after the first printed hearings on it covering more than three days' testimony of 600 pages were available for reading. This same bill had previously passed the Senate without benefit of any hearings whatsoever. It is difficult to imagine how Congressional leaders expect to intelligently transact the nation's business under such procedures.

## IKE AND CONGRESS

On Tuesday before adjournment President Eisenhower met with Congressional leaders at the White House to complete passage of his legislative program before adjournment. However, at this point it appears that Congress will adjourn with a "spotty" record of achievement on Ike's legislative requests with several highly important problems remaining unsolved. The Administration gave a stamp of "top priority" to civil rights and postal rate increase legislation, but to no avail. The House passed the President's civil rights bill which promptly was buried in the Senate Judiciary Committee by Southern segregationists who through seniority exercise committee control. The Senate leadership did not bring up the postal rate increase bill, although it passed the House, because of feared election-year consequences. Meanwhile the Post Office Department will continue to operate in the red for at least another year with general tax funds making up the \$400 million deficit for this fiscal year. The Senate Post Office Committee has concluded hearings on this bill which received the support of the United States Chamber of Commerce, Post master General Summerfield, and two former Democrat Postmaster Generals.

## UNUSED VISAS

Overlooked by Congress, despite a recent plea by the President, is an Administration proposal to amend the immigration laws to permit reallocation of unused Refugee Relief visas. Thousands of visas available to escapees from Communist countries now living in Germany and Austria have not been applied for. Under present law these quotas cannot be shifted to other countries where many refugees are stranded. "Unless action is taken in this session," President Eisenhower declared in a letter to Congress, "immigration from a number of friendly nations such as Greece and Italy will be drastically reduced when the visas which have been available to those countries under the Refugee Relief Act are exhausted this summer." Last minute note---As this newsletter goes to print there is a new hope that some compromise on unused quotas will be approved.

### ADMINISTRATION SUCCESS

The Senate, by a vote of 51 to 41, defeated a bill to spend approximately one half billion dollars for construction of a federal dam at Hells Canyon in the Snake River between Idaho and Oregon. The fundamental issue was between Democrats favoring subsidized power produced by a tax-exempt agency of the government versus Republicans advocating power resource development by a regulated tax-paying private electric company. Construction is presently under way on a three-dam project in Hells Canyon by the Idaho Power Company which the Federal Power Commission licensed after careful study last August. Public power advocates have charged "giveaway" by the Federal Government although they failed to elaborate on just what was being given away, nor did they explain who would be giving what to whom if the one half billion dollars of taxpayers' money were used to construct a dam to produce subsidized power for one region.

### FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Official figures released by the Treasury Department show that the Federal surplus for fiscal 1956 which ended on June 30th was \$1.7 billion, with expenditures of \$66.4 billion and receipts of \$68.1 billion. This is indicative of good fiscal management by the Eisenhower Administration. It is the fourth time in the last 24 years the federal treasury has had a surplus rather than a deficit. In the period from 1932 through 1952 the federal debt skyrocketed upward by more than \$246 billion. During the last three years the federal debt increased approximately \$7 billion.

### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Under co-sponsorship of Senate leaders William Knowland and Lyndon Johnson that chamber recently approved a resolution creating a committee of five Senators for the selection of the five all-time great personages who served in the United States Senate. Although this committee of Senators reserve the right to make final selections the qualifications are to be developed by an advisory board of distinguished political scientists and historians.

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Starting August 1st the Treasury Department hopes to save \$2,000,000 annually by replacing the 30,000,000 paper checks issued by the Government each year with punch-card checks. By switching from the paper checks the Treasury will be able to process the operation by electronics.

### VISITORS

James and Grace Toohey, Alva and Eva Tomson, Hilda Aukeman, Pearl Kemper, Hermina Hoving, Mr. and Mrs. Emil G. Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Howe, Rev. and Mrs. W. S. Carmichael, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Wimbush and children, Bob and Enders, and Mr. and Mrs. Esler L. Shuart all of Grand Rapids. District Attorney and Mrs. Wendell A. Miles and daughter Lorraine, John F. Meyer, from Holland, and Mr. and Mrs. K. J. Bos from Grandville.



# Your Washington Review

by  
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**JERRY FORD**



August 9, 1956

The Second Session of the 84th Congress adjourned at midnight on Friday, July 27th. Barring a special session which only the President can call the nation's lawmakers will not reconvene until January 7, 1957 with the advent of the 85th Congress.

Congress approved five major bills and countless minor measures Friday night in the last minutes before adjournment. Major bills approved were: 1) a \$3.7 billion foreign aid appropriation bill, which was \$1.1 billion less than President Eisenhower requested; 2) a social security bill which makes retirement for women possible at age 62 rather than 65, and provides benefits for those disabled at age 50; 3) a housing bill; 4) a military construction bill; and 5) an experimental state-federal flood insurance bill.

## CONGRESSIONAL CONTROL

With slim majorities in both Houses the Democrat Party organized the 84th Congress holding chairmanships of 19 House standing committees and 15 Senate committees. For the most part it is these committee chairmen who control the flow of legislation to be considered by the Congress as a whole. The 84th Congress passed and sent to President Eisenhower for signature or veto a total of 2878 measures during the 224 days it was in session over a two-year period. In the last five days alone the Senate leadership brought up and disposed of 349 bills; the House, 308. Bills were being accepted or rejected at a rate of one every 10 minutes. Legislation cannot be properly evaluated, discussed and voted upon in such a hasty fashion. It would have been a much more satisfactory session if the flow of legislative proposals had been evened out throughout the year rather than jamming up the schedule in the last few days.

## IDE AND CONGRESS

The House and Senate in 1956 gave President Eisenhower 45.9 per cent of his program by approving 103 of 224 specific and distinct legislative requests. In 1955 at the end of the first session the 84th Congress had approved 96 of the President's requests, or 46.3 per cent. By contrast, the Republican-led 83rd Congress approved nearly 73 per cent of Ike's requests in 1953 and about 65 per cent in 1954.

Few major Presidential proposals enjoyed the strong bi-partisan support in

Congress as did the multi-million dollar highway construction program and the soil bank plan. In 1955 Congress became tangled in a dispute with the Administration over financing the costly highway program which resulted in more than a year's delay before legislative action was taken. We can all be grateful that a compromise settlement was reached and soon a nation-wide construction program will be launched to make our roads safer and better for travel. After much pulling and hauling President Eisenhower came out on top in a struggle with Congressional leaders over farm policy. Ike's sound and sensible overall farm program was preserved and his soil bank proposals to boost farm income, although too late to provide maximum benefit for this year's crop, were enacted into law. Despite the tardiness of Congressional action agriculture surpluses will be cut this year by the soil bank and farm income is on the upswing.

#### FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND CONGRESS

President Eisenhower and the Democrat leadership worked well together in most questions of foreign affairs. Although this Congress did not give the President all the necessary funds he sought for foreign affairs, in January of 1955 the House and Senate voted overwhelmingly to approve a resolution to use American armed forces, if necessary, to defend Formosa. This was followed by a three-year extension of Reciprocal Trade, ratification of the Paris Pact, Austrian Peace Treaty, South East Asia Treaty Organization and the Nationalist China Defense Pact. More recently Congress unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the Administration's policy against admission of Red China to the United Nations. In the spirit of bi-partisanship President Eisenhower asked Senator Walter F. George, Democrat of Georgia, to serve as his personal representative to NATO with the title of Ambassador shortly after Senator George, 34-year veteran on Capitol Hill and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, announced his retirement from the Upper Chamber last May.

#### PAYING FOR GOVERNMENT

To run our government in fiscal 1957 Ike asked Congress for \$59.9 billion and received \$59.7 billion, a reduction of \$200 million. These figures do not include interest on the \$275 billion national debt and other fixed charges which total \$7.5 billion and make the total federal outlay for the current fiscal year about \$67 billion.

This was not an economy-minded Congress. The "log-rollers" or spendthrifts have committed the federal government to a number of expensive programs which may make tax reductions difficult. Ike has balanced the federal budget and on June 30th cut the federal debt by \$1.7 billion but in the next Congress he will need some help if expenditures are to be reduced.

#### VISITORS

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd H. Miller of Grand Rapids, Mr. and Mrs. Carl M. Holmen and daughter, Sandra, from Grand Haven, and Miss Marilyn Klomp of Grandville.



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**



August 16, 1956

Now that Congress has adjourned Betty, the three boys, Mike, Jack, and Steve, along with Dad, are back in Western Michigan. We expect to vacation on Lake Michigan until after Labor Day. I have several long-made commitments to go fishing, boating, hiking, and swimming with the two older boys. Steve, now three months old, is a little young to do anything but get the Ford household up at dawn for an early start each day.

Your Congressman is not planning to attend the Republican National Convention in San Francisco. Ottawa and Kent Counties will be well represented by two delegates, Paul Goebel of Grand Rapids and Carl Andreasen of Holland. Our Fifth Congressional District alternate delegates are Mrs. Robert Gaunt of Grandville and Mrs. Donald Josephson of Grand Rapids. I am confident this group and the others representing Michigan at the Conventinn will do a bang-up job. Needless to say, I will be a TV spectator while enjoying Michigan's vacationland.

#### FIFTH DISTRICT OFFICE

This week my Grand Rapids office at 518 Michigan Trust Building was reopened. Frank Meyer, my administrative assistant, Miss Irene Schroeder and Barry Brand of my staff will handle all inquiries and problems during our family vacation.

The office phone number is Glendale 6-9747. Don't hesitate to contact my office if I can be helpful in any way at any time. My office in Washington will be open to handle any matters in the Nation's Capitol. Miss Mildred Leonard will be in charge there. She will be pleased to aid any visitors to the District of Columbia while Congress is not in session.

Starting in mid-September I will again visit communities in Ottawa and Kent Counties with my mobile office. The trailer which was first used in 1955 to provide better person-to-person contact in our District will visit approximately 25 communities this year. Almost 900 citizens last fall stopped in the mobile office and as your Congressman I deeply appreciated the opportunities to find out first-hand the views of our citizens. The schedule of the mobile office tour will be announced within a week or ten days.

#### "ON THE JOB"

The House of Representatives in the 84th Congress met in the two sessions of 1955 and 1956 a total of 230 days to consume 937 hours and 16 minutes. During

the first session I missed two of the 147 rollcall votes while in the second session my attendance record was perfect, not missing any of the 132 rollcalls. Over the eight-year period I have represented Kent and Ottawa Counties in the Congress my attendance record has been 97.5 per cent. During the eight sessions in the House of Representatives from 1949 through 1956 there have been 1457 rollcall votes, and as your Representative I am recorded on 1420. The only absences occurred while away on official business.

#### COMMITTEE WORK

During the 84th Congress it was my privilege to serve as a member of the House Committee on Appropriations with assignments on subcommittees handling funds for the Department of Defense and the Mutual Security or Foreign Assistance Program. My responsibilities on the Department of Defense Subcommittee emphasized work with the Army Appropriations panel of which I am senior Republican.

By serving on these several subcommittees in the two Congressional sessions I had a direct hand in allocating during the 84th Congress more than \$66.4 billion to sustain a powerful and modern Army, Navy, and Air Force and more than \$6.4 billion to strengthen the military forces of our allies.

To justify much vast expenditures of taxpayers' money in this two-year period my subcommittee closely questioned high officials including: Admiral Arthur W. Radford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Charles E. Wilson, Secretary of Defense, General Nathan F. Twining, Head of the Air Force, General Maxwell D. Taylor, Chief of Staff for the Army, Admiral Arleigh Burke, Head of the Navy, and numerous civilian and military representatives of the Department of Defense. After listening to these military experts and carefully scrutinizing their plans and programs I feel confident that the strength and readiness of our armed forces is in excellent shape now as well as for the long haul.



# Your Washington Review

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**JERRY FORD**



August 23, 1956

In an unexpected personal message from President Eisenhower dated August 9th I felt greatly honored to receive a word of encouragement and pat on the back for my work in the 84th Congress. Ike's letter stated in part:

"Now that the session is over I should feel remiss if I failed to express to you my deep personal appreciation of your loyal support of the many key measures we have advanced in the public good. I am especially aware of the extraordinary amount of time and energy you devoted in the Committee on Appropriations in areas affecting the security of our country. For this I am grateful indeed. I feel that you are the kind of Congressman our nation needs in Washington....."

According to figures of the "Congressional Quarterly" the Democrat controlled 84th Congress backed President Eisenhower on 72 per cent of the 192 roll calls in both sessions that presented clear-cut tests of support for his views. In comparison, the Republican 83rd Congress supported Ike's position on 164 or 83 per cent of 198 roll calls involving his legislative program in 1953 and 1954. According to this same non-partisan digest my overall box score supporting President Eisenhower in the 84th Congress stood at 91 per cent. In this last session which ended several weeks ago my Ike "batting average" was 94 per cent.

## STATUS OF SMALL BUSINESS

Attention will be given in the coming months to how well small businessmen have fared in the last several years. The number of small businesses, which account for nearly 99 per cent of the total business units in the nation, amounted to 3.6 million units in 1947. By 1956 this figure jumped to 4.1 million units or one business for each 39 Americans.

## BUSINESS STATISTICS

It has been alleged that in the last three years there has been an upswing in business failures. Official figures show that 10,969 failures reported by Dun & Bradstreet for 1955 represent fewer business failures than for any other normal business year in this century. This is substantially lower than the 13,612 average yearly number of failures since 1900, and 9,000 lower than the failure rate in 1939. A more reliable yardstick, however, is to compare business failures per 10,000

business units in existence. In 1955 there were only 41.6 business failures per 10,000 units. This compares with an average failure rate since 1900 of 72 per 10,000. For three comparable years, 1939-41, the failure rate was 63 per 10,000.

#### DEFENSE CONTRACTS

Under orders of Secretary of Defense Wilson more than \$800 million in military purchases have been set aside for bidding by small firms. This is in addition to more than \$1.8 billion of Department of Defense contracts going to small business for the first eight months of fiscal 1956. This figure amounts to about 70 per cent of all military prime contracts small firms would be capable of fulfilling. On April 9, 1956, President Eisenhower established a new directorship in the Department of Defense with the responsibility of development and conduct of small business policies and programs.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

**ROAD PROGRAM:** There will be 442,000 road construction jobs resulting from the multimillion dollar highway bill President Eisenhower recently signed into law. Highway construction of all kinds in the 13-year period 1957-1969 will require 49 million tons of steel, 1,399 million barrels of cement, 128 million tons of bituminous material and 9,170 million tons of aggregate, according to year-by-year estimates of the Bureau of Public Roads of the Department of Commerce.

**FISH AND WILDLIFE:** Legislation passed in the recent Congress will reorganize fish and wildlife services of the Department of Interior. This ends a long legislative wrangle between commercial and sport fishing groups over efforts to split the Fish and Wildlife service and set up a separate agency to handle all fishery functions. The principle provisions of the bill call for creation of an Assistant Secretary of Interior for Fish and Wildlife and the establishment under the Assistant Secretary of a Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife, and a United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Under the Commissioner the bill establishes two bureaus, one called the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, one the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

**PASSPORTS:** More Americans than ever before are traveling abroad as indicated by recent reports from the Passport Office of the Department of State. There was an 8.8 per cent increase in passport applications during the first six months of 1956 as compared with the same period of 1955. During this period a total of 372,027 applications for renewal or issuance of passports were received. Of this number Michigan accounted for 12,876. Housewives topped the list of travelers followed by students and clerk-secretaries.



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**



August 30, 1956

No segment of the American economy will be reviewed more closely in the coming weeks than agriculture and the economic well-being of the farmer. After President Eisenhower, early in the last session of Congress, presented his nine-point program to bolster farm income, agricultural economists estimated that these steps if enacted promptly would raise incomes from this year's crop by about \$500 million. After a hectic legislative tussle with the Democrat House and Senate leadership most of Ike's farm program has been enacted into law and Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson reports that income on the farms has already increased 10 per cent this year and still is rising.

## POSITIVE FARM PLAN

One of the prime features of Ike's farm program is the soil bank which he hoped would offer immediate aid to agricultural pocketbooks as well as cutting down huge price-depressing surpluses building up since World War II. The full impact of the soil bank was lost for this crop year because of unwarranted delays by the opposition-controlled Congress which prevented the soil bank from taking effect until June 1st when practically all of the crops were planted.

Ike wanted to help the small family-type farmer but Congress turned its back on a statutory limitation of the federal subsidy which could be paid in one year to any farming unit. Had such a proposal been accepted it would have fixed a maximum subsidy which could be paid to large corporate farmers in the south and west. Some of these big-scale operators are receiving annual payments ranging up to \$500 thousand to place them in an extremely unfair competitive position with smaller family-type farms in Michigan.

## EXPORT MARKETS

Under the Agricultural Trades and Development Act passed by the 83rd Congress the Secretary of Agriculture is taking vigorous steps to reduce surpluses and improve farm incomes through opening foreign markets. Last year the Secretary of Agriculture appointed a full-time general agricultural sales manager with the responsibility of developing new outlets for American food products abroad. This year the rate of farm exports is the highest in 30 years. The Department of Agriculture estimates exports in the last fiscal year amounted to more than \$3.4 billion in value. This is a 10 per cent increase over the 1954-55 total of approximately \$3.1 billion and continuance of an upward trend recorded every year since 1952-53.

### DONATIONS OF SURPLUSES

Donations of surplus food by the Department of Agriculture's marketing service reached a total of slightly more than two-billion pounds during the fiscal year ending June 30th for about 95 per cent more than that distributed the previous year. Eligible recipients in this country received a total of 794 million pounds of food including butter, cheese, nonfat dry milk, cornmeal, wheat flour, and rice, or 61 per cent more than in the previous year. In Michigan 136,781 persons received this food in schools, institutions, and as needy families. Foreign donations through a program making full use of 25 private United States welfare agencies totaled 1.2 billion pounds to 84 countries, or 125 per cent more than in the previous year.

### NOTES ON POSTAL SERVICE

Fiscal 1955 was a record year for the Post Office with mail volume at 55.2 billion pieces and revenues at \$2,349.5 million. This mail volume represents an increase of 5.8 per cent over the previous year. The 1955 deficit stood at \$362.7 million or \$36.4 million lower than the deficit reported in 1954. There have also been a number of noteworthy developments in the Post Office Department. For instance, since 1953 the Department has reorganized with 15 regional offices and each averaging delivery of about three and one-half billion pieces of mail annually. In addition, on June 6th 1955 Certified Mail was established for first-class mail of no intrinsic value; in fiscal 1955 two-million additional families were added to city delivery service; and as one of the largest single savings banks in the country the Postal Savings System had 2.7 million depositors with balances totaling about \$2 billion on June 30, 1955.

### VETERANS LEGISLATION

President Eisenhower signed into law recently a GI loan law which extends for one more year the World War II GI loan program. Under this new law, which affects only World War II veterans, any GI loan for which the Veterans Administration receives an application by July 25, 1958 may be guaranteed or insured if it is completed by July 25, 1959. In the 12 years the GI loan program has been in operation, 4,466,000 World War II veterans have borrowed \$33.2 billion in GI loans to purchase homes, farms, and businesses. Veterans from the Korean conflict have until January 31, 1965 to obtain GI loans for homes, farms, and businesses. To date, more than 345,000 Korean veterans have borrowed \$3.6 billion in GI loans.

### VISITORS TO WASHINGTON

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Hopkins and son from Holland.



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**

September 6, 1956



The past four years have left an indelible imprint upon the welfare and vitality of the American "labor force." A record-breaking 66.6 million Americans are gainfully employed and at present rates are producing \$408 billion in goods and services for consumption by our nation. Of this record-high civilian "labor force" about 50 million persons are engaged in nonagricultural employment. About 17 million of the 50 million persons are engaged in manufacturing. Women comprise about one-third of the total "labor force."

## LABOR DAY MESSAGE

In a Labor Day message printed in the "AFL-CIO NEWS," Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell described this day as an appropriate occasion to re-dedicate ourselves to promoting an even better life for all our people. Secretary Mitchell said, "It is the responsibility of all of us in whatever calling, labor, management, or government, to make sure that the American dream is a reality to an ever-increasing number of our people; that the fruits of our labor are ever more widely distributed; and that the leisure which brings health of body and peace of mind is ever more abundantly available."

Secretary Mitchell continued, "How are our working men and women doing? How are they faring in 1956? More are gainfully employed than ever before. They are earning higher wages, and they are able to buy more for themselves and their families with these wages. In short," Mr. Mitchell concluded, "they are doing better than at any other time in our nation's history."

## COMPARATIVE YEARLY WAGES

In 1948, a factory worker with three dependents averaged \$53.17 a week after federal income and social security taxes were deducted. In January 1956, the same worker with the same dependents had \$71.92 after taxes. From 1948 to 1952 gross weekly earnings rose 25.5 per cent. From 1952 to 1956 gross weekly earnings rose 15.7 per cent. Yet the 1948 to 1952 rise resulted in only an 8.4 per cent increase in real spendable earnings, while the 1952 to 1956 rise resulted in a 12 per cent increase because of the stability in the cost of living in the latter four-year period. With 1947-49 as a 100 base, in 1948 the consumer price index average stood at 102.8; in 1952 it had risen to 113.5. The average for the first five months in 1956 was 114.8 while in June, the latest figure available, the price index stood at 116.2. Today two million more American families than ever before are in the \$5,000 a year income bracket.

### FURTHER PROGRESS

**STRIKE LOSSES:** In 1953 strike losses were down 53 per cent from 1952. in the seven years of the previous Administration, man-days lost because of strikes averaged 93 per cent more than the first three years of the Eisenhower Administration.

**DISCRIMINATION:** As a result of President Eisenhower's Committee on Government Contracts, Federal contracts now contain standard non-discrimination clauses barring on-the-job discrimination when federal treasury funds are used.

**PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED:** Last year 264,316 handicapped workers were assisted in obtaining employment by the United States Employment Service and cooperating State public employment offices. Forty-eight Governor's Committees and more than 700 community committees cooperated with President Eisenhower's Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped in encouraging employers to provide jobs for the physically impaired. In addition, improvements in the vocational rehabilitation program conducted by the Department of Labor has benefited more than two-million disabled persons.

### "MOBILE OFFICE" TOUR

This year Grandville will be the first of 24 communities in Kent and Ottawa Counties into which I will bring my 1956 "mobile office." The house trailer which has been converted into office quarters will be in Grandville on Monday, September 10th, and will be parked on the triangular grasslot on East South Street near M-21 or East Chicago Drive. My office hours here as in other communities will be from 2:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. On Wednesday, September 12th I will be at Godwin Heights at 3610 South Division next to Gaver's Jewelry Store; and Friday at Byron Center on the corner of 84th and Harlow Streets. During these visits to various communities I hope to meet and talk with as many persons as possible to discuss questions or problems of the Federal Government or just to become better acquainted. In last year's similar tour of the Fifth District I was privileged to meet and talk individually with 863 persons. My permanent office at 518 Michigan Trust Building in Grand Rapids will remain open during the seven-week tour; telephone - Glendale 6-9747.

### AGRICULTURAL YEARBOOKS

The 1956 Department of Agriculture Yearbook entitled "Animal Diseases" is now available in a limited quantity for free distribution through my office. I will be happy to forward a copy of this Yearbook to those having a need for it.



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**



September 13, 1956

The Ford family, Mike, Jack, Steve, Betty, and Dad, have had a wonderful vacation on Lake Michigan near Holland. Dad got in his share of swimming, fishing, boating, and other activities with our two older boys as they had been promised earlier this summer in Washington. But last week the vacation was over and I began once again to keep regular hours in my office at 518 Michigan Trust Building. However, my schedule was interrupted over the weak-end when on Friday I drove the family back to Washington in time for our eldest son Mike to start school as a first-grader. As much as Betty disliked leaving Michigan so soon we thought it best this way rather than later having to transfer Mike in the middle of the school term.

I flew back to Grand Rapids and now it is my earnest hope to be able to meet and talk with as many residents of Kent and Ottawa Counties as possible in the time available. This next week my "mobile office" will be in Hudsonville on Monday at the corner of M-21 and School Street; in Zeeland on Tuesday at the corner of Main and Elm Streets; and in Holland on Thursday at the corner of Central Avenue and West 8th Street. My hours at each of these communities will be from 2:30 p.m. through 8 p.m.

## IKE SUPPORT IN CONGRESS

An examination of roll call votes in both the House and Senate during the past four years disputes beyond doubt allegations that President Eisenhower's legislative program has benefited most from Democrat support or suffered from lack of G.O.P. votes. In the House of Representatives in the Republican 83rd Congress, Ike garnered 61.5 per cent of all the votes favoring his program from Republicans while Democrats cast only 38.5 per cent of their vote for the Eisenhower position. On these same issues Democrats took a position in opposition to the President on 71.1 per cent of the votes cast while Republicans did so on only 28.3 per cent. In the 84th Democrat Congress, House Republicans provided 55 per cent of the pro-Ike votes cast and Democrats 45 per cent. In opposition voting, Democrats turned in a 68.5 per cent average and Republicans 31.5 per cent.

Senate Republicans provided 64.7 per cent of the pro-Administration votes in the 83rd Congress and 59.4 per cent in the 84th Congress. During the 83rd Congress Democrats cast 74.3 per cent of the Senate votes opposing Ike while in the 84th Congress the Democrat majority provided 70.3 per cent of the opposition votes. The Republican members of Congress are no "rubber stamps" but they are supporting the Eisenhower program

and certainly to a far greater degree than their Democrat colleagues.

#### NOTES ON TAXES

During the political campaign this fall one will hear many promises about cutting taxes even though most of the statements blithfully ignore the problem of government fiscal responsibility. Personally I hope the Congress can reduce the federal tax burden next year but the House and Senate can only do it honestly by relating government receipts to expenditures. An unbalanced federal budget even with lower taxes helps no one. To cut taxes legitimately the Congress must hold down what Uncle Sam spends. In the last session expenditures did on too many occasions get out of hand. This year President Eisenhower had a balanced budget only because of good management of our government affairs and the nation's general prosperity.

At this point it might be well to point out that Ike balanced the federal budget this year even though federal taxes were reduced in 1954 by \$7.4 billion annually. About two of every three dollars of this reduction went directly to individuals for relief in a variety of situations. For example, this legislation allows all children under 18 years to be claimed as dependents regardless of earnings from summer or after-school employment. In addition, it permits a child to be claimed as a dependent, even if over 18, if he attends college or receives on-the-farm training.

Another provision helpful to many is the allowance of a 20 per cent tax credit on retirement income up to \$1200 for retired persons. Widows and widowers with children or other single close dependent relatives are given special attention through an extension to them of the split income privilege. Persons suffering high medical expense also are considered in legislation enacted by the 83rd Congress with a lowering of the expense deduction requirement from 5 to 3 per cent. Widows, widowers, and mothers who work, and have to hire baby sitters or other child care now may receive a tax deduction for this expense. Other provisions were included in this carefully thought out tax law but the notable point is that it tries to meet typical human needs on a personalized basis.

#### REGISTER TO VOTE

Every citizen has a serious obligation to vote on November 6th. To vote in this vital election you must register by October 8th. I repeat, October 8th. Regardless of your political beliefs by all means register with your city or township clerk by the deadline. Persons qualifying to vote in the November General Election must be United States citizens and have resided in the State at least six months and their township or city 30 days. Residents who are absent from their homes at the time of balloting may secure an absentee ballot from their city or township clerk.



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**



September 20, 1956

The recent 84th Congress exhibited strong pressures unfavorable to the passage of measures affecting civil rights and labor. President Eisenhower asked the 84th Congress to approve a constructive civil rights program and numerous other bills for the welfare of the individual worker which although supported by many in Congress were not passed.

Ike's labor recommendations included: (1) Grants-in-aid to the states for industrial safety programs; (2) A real safety bill for federal employees; (3) Regulate standards of interstate transportation for migratory farm workers; (4) A general eight-hour-day law applying to all federally-financed work; (5) Extending unemployment insurance to Puerto Rico; (6) Improvements in the District of Columbia unemployment compensation law; and (7) Extending coverage of the minimum wage.

The flow of bills reaching the whole Congress for final approval more often than not express the interests of committee chairmen which explains the hesitancy of the recent Congress to pass civil rights and labor legislation. Committee chairmanships are determined by seniority which meant in the recent Congress that Southerners controlled much of the flow of vital legislation. Of the fifteen standing committees in the Senate two-thirds are chaired by Southerners. These ten chairmen are from the eight states of Louisiana, Georgia, Arkansas, West Virginia, Virginia, Mississippi, Alabama, and South Carolina. In the House the proportion is the same with 13 of 19 committee chairmen representing a Southern viewpoint. These committee chairmen have continually stood between President Eisenhower and passage of his constructive labor and civil rights program.

## ANTITRUST LEGISLATION

The Department of Justice started fifty-one antitrust actions between September 30, 1954, and September 30, 1955 or almost 50 per cent more than in the comparable period before the present Administration assumed office. In 1955 the number of proceedings brought against corporate mergers was greater than in any previous year since 1950. In addition, a full-scale job of re-examining our nation's antitrust laws to improve and strengthen them has been launched and has resulted in two changes in the law with others forthcoming. One raises maximum penalties under the Sherman Act from five thousand dollars to fifty thousand dollars. The

other gives the federal government the right to sue for the damages it suffers as a result of antitrust violations.

#### DULLES APPLAUDED

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles received words of praise recently from two Senate Democrats for his handling of the tense Suez canal situation. The favorable comment came from Senators Mansfield, of Montana, and Humphrey, of Minnesota, after Dulles gave five Congressmen a secret briefing on the Suez canal dispute. The Congressmen all agreed that Secretary Dulles was doing an excellent job under difficult conditions concerning the Suez problem. "I think the Secretary is doing a good job in calming the people down," Senator Mansfield said. "His efforts aim at settling this by reason rather than emotion." Of Secretary Dulles Senator Humphrey said: "His efforts have been constructive and helpful."

#### ON THE BUDGET

Secretary of the Treasury George M. Humphrey reports that a mid-year review indicates our nation's books will be balanced for the second consecutive year. The surplus for fiscal 1956 amounted to \$1.8 billion. The surplus for the present fiscal year is estimated at \$700 million. Receipts for fiscal 1957 are estimated at \$69.8 billion with expenditures at \$69.1 billion. It is clear that even with higher tax receipts from a prosperous economy the present favorable budget position would not be possible without a cut of more than \$5 billion in federal spending between 1953 and 1957. In addition, it is worth noting that this has been accomplished while our national defense grew stronger and civilian services improved.

#### IN A SENTENCE OR TWO.....

**CIVILIAN PAYROLL:** The cost of civilian employment in the Executive Branch totaled more than \$10 billion in fiscal 1956 for approximately 2.3 million employees. This figure compares to 3.1 million employees in 1946 and 2.5 million in 1952.

**APPLE SMORGASBORD:** It was my pleasure to once again attend the annual Peach Ridge Apple Smorgasbord near Sparta on September 11th. This year's colorful feast offered a variety of over 200 apple dishes served with a meat course. The Herbert Reister family at 16th and Gooding Streets opened the spacious grounds around their farm for the occasion. After a wonderfully pleasant afternoon I was assured as in previous years of the excellent quality of apples grown in our area.

#### MOBILE OFFICE SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK

HOLLAND TOWNSHIP:	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 (FIRE STATION #1, NORTH RIVER AVENUE _ VANDERVEEN AVENUE)
WEST OLIVE	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 (BECKEMAN'S STORE)
ALLENDALE:	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 (TOWNSHIP HALL)



# Your Washington Review

by  
**Congressman  
JERRY FORD**

September 27, 1956



In the communities visited with my "mobile office" suggestions for possible federal legislation have been made by many local residents.

**TAX DEDUCTION FOR CARS:** At Godwin Heights a visitor presented me with a petition signed by employees of a local GM plant suggesting legislation to allow a 25 per cent deduction for depreciation for income tax purposes on automobiles used as transportation to and from work. The signers feel that this allowance would be reasonable as the car is essential to earning an income.

Nowadays factories in many instances are located in suburban areas and workers travel many miles from their homes to their jobs. This decentralization of industry is advocated by federal civil defense officials. It means however that the American factory worker today needs his car for his employment just like anyone else in business. Our tax laws give salesmen and professional people a break in the use of their cars for business purposes. In my opinion the factory workers and others should be treated alike and I intend to sponsor such legislation in the next session of the Congress. It should also mean that more autos will be produced and sold and this will help the nation's economy.

**ONION MARKETS:** A number of growers and dealers in onions have discussed with me the need for legislation to prohibit or regulate the trading in onion futures on the mercantile exchange. It is apparent that there have been abuses by speculative traders in onion futures and that some growers and legitimate dealers have been harmed. During the past session of the Congress, the Committee on Agriculture held extensive hearings on the problems in connection with a bill introduced by Rep. King of Pennsylvania to prohibit such trading. The bill was not enacted but the Committee did serve notice that the industry would have to exercise a greater degree of restraint or legislative restrictions would be imposed. Most of our visitors have recommended that the King bill should pass and from my local observations to date, it does not appear that conditions on the exchanges have improved materially. At the present moment I am favorably disposed to prohibiting futures trading in onions.

**DRIVING SAFETY:** At Grandville I received a suggestion for legislation to help lower the death and injury toll from accidents on our nation's highways. It has been noted from crash research by the American College of Surgeons that seat belts

installed in cars could cut in half auto deaths, saving possibly 19,000 lives and eliminating 750,000 injuries annually. Legislation was suggested for mandatory installation of safety belts in cars at the factory.

#### SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BILL

Some residents of Western Michigan have expressed concern over the problems of providing adequate school construction to meet the demands from greater numbers of school-age children. Federal aid to help solve our nation's pressing school needs came particularly into focus early last July when the Kelly school construction bill was defeated in the House of Representatives, 224 to 194.

The Democrat leadership in the Congress supported the Kelly school construction bill. But they were unable to produce the votes necessary for passage because of opposition from Southern legislators and because most Republicans favored the Administration's school aid proposals as embodied in the McConnell Bill. President Eisenhower's school construction bill would have distributed funds on the basis of need and demonstrated effort at the local level. In this way those districts with schools in sub-standard and poorer condition would receive more aid than districts better able to supply their own educational requirements. In contrast the Kelly Bill would distribute federal funds to states on the basis of school population alone and without regard to need or local effort. This across-the-board formula for distribution of tax money ignores varying local conditions and does not provide greater aid for districts needing it the most.

#### FINAL CONSIDERATION

During consideration of the school legislation a motion was made to recommit the Kelly Bill in order to change the formula for distribution of federal funds in line with President Eisenhower's recommendations. Your Congressman favored this motion and would have voted for the McConnell school construction bill. But the motion was defeated and the Kelly Bill with its unsound provisions for distribution of federal assistance remained on the floor and was subsequently defeated.

Southern Congressmen opposed the Kelly Bill mainly because of an amendment adopted in the House and offered by Representative Adam Clayton Powell, Democrat from New York, to withhold federal funds from states failing to integrate their schools in compliance with the Supreme Court Decision of May 17, 1954. When the Powell Amendment came to the floor of the House for approval or disapproval it not only involved the law of the land which the Congress is bound to uphold but also certain moral and social principles of equality among all our citizens.

#### MOBILE OFFICE SCHEDULE

Coopersville	October 1	Corner of Main and Eastmanville Streets
Grand Haven	October 3	Parking Lot on Washington Street just East of 7th St.
Spring Lake	October 4	Corner of Savidge and Buchanan Streets



# Your Washington Review

by  
**Congressman  
JERRY FORD**

October 4, 1956



Congress gave a total of \$170.4 million to the National Institutes of Health for spending by next July 1st to intensify the fight against major disease and health hazards. This figure represents an 80 per cent increase over last year's appropriation to the seven research organizations comprising the National Institutes of Health. The bulk of these funds go for grants to non-federal institutions such as hospitals, medical schools, clinics and state and local organizations engaged in research. For instance, \$48.4 million goes for cancer research; \$35.1 million for mental health work; \$33.3 million for heart disease; \$15.8 million for work on arthritis and metabolic diseases; \$18.6 million for research in neurology and blindness; and \$13.2 million for work on allergies and infectious diseases. In addition, \$6 million is earmarked for dental research which represents almost triple the amount spent last year. These funds were made available because of the very real prospects for success in whipping these critical health problems.

## PUBLIC HOUSING ISSUE

Although the Democrat Vice-Presidential nominee raised the issue of public housing on his recent trip to Grand Rapids, this question has failed to create much interest among local residents. Grand Rapids voters twice overwhelmingly rejected ordinances passed by the City Commission creating a local Housing Commission with authority to launch government subsidized housing. In a 1947 referendum Grand Rapids voted 12,583 to 7,989 against so-called public housing. Again in 1949 another ordinance similar to the previous one in favor of public housing was defeated 10,678 to 6,874.

It is interesting to note that 63.5 per cent of the families in the Grand Rapids area own their homes. In my opinion we don't need subsidized housing in Western Michigan but rather the continuation and expansion of FHA and GI financed homes. The so-called public housing program costs the federal treasury at present about \$80 million annually in subsidized rents. It is anticipated that this subsidy on previously committed obligations stemming from the 1949 legislation will increase to over \$300 million each year. In contrast the FHA and GI home-building programs which result in the individual owning his own residence do not impose a burden on the federal treasury or the taxpayers generally.

During the last session Congress considered the 1956 Housing Bill containing one provision which authorized direct long-term loans of up to fifty years duration at 3 per cent interest to non-profit institutions wishing to construct housing for the aged.

In Kent and Ottawa Counties several groups were vitally interested in building such projects for our older citizens. It is very difficult to understand why the majority members of the conference committee struck from the bill this provision when such a great need for it has been demonstrated throughout the country.

#### SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESS

This week Mr. Fred Pritchard, regional director for the Small Business Administration with offices in Detroit, dropped by my office on a visit to Western Michigan. While in Grand Rapids Mr. Pritchard had the opportunity to discuss with several local small businessmen some of their problems and ways the SBA might be helpful. Mr. Pritchard assured me that the SBA has on hand sufficient funds to meet all of the anticipated needs of qualified small firms that are unable to obtain credit elsewhere. I do feel, however, that Congress must do even more in this area if our small businessmen are to grow and prosper.

From the creation of the SBA in July 1953, by Congress upon recommendation of President Eisenhower, to August 31, 1956, it had approved 3,987 business loans totaling \$183 million to help small firms. During the first eight months of this year 1,717 business loans were approved by the SBA for a total of \$69 million which amounted to approval of 58.6 per cent of those considered during the period. With 40 field offices throughout the United States, in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico, the Small Business Administration also makes disaster loans to assist victims of hurricanes, floods, and other natural disasters. As of August 31, 1956, the Agency had approved 4,646 disaster loans for a total of \$54 million.

#### ON THE FEDERAL BUDGET

The national budget for fiscal 1956 was balanced with the government ending up with a \$1.8 billion surplus and excellent prospects for a \$700 million surplus in the current fiscal year with estimated revenues at \$69.8 billion and expenditures at \$69.1 billion. Most of the revenues for the operation of the federal government comes from corporation and personal income taxes. On the other hand, the greatest share of Uncle Sam's expenditures are going toward maintaining a strong national defense. This year over \$40 billion, or about two-thirds of the budget will be for the military protection of America. The second largest amount of money to be spent in the current fiscal year is for interest payments totaling \$7.2 billion on the national debt which amounted to approximately \$274 billion as of September 19, 1956. Other expenditures of Uncle Sam include: agriculture, 5.7 billion; veterans, 4.8 billion; labor and welfare, 3.0 billion.

#### "MOBILE OFFICE" SCHEDULE

Marne	October 8	Corner of State Street and 16th Avenue
Leonard Heights	October 9	Remembrance Road at Leonard Street
Comstock Park	October 11	Parking lot next to Fire Station.



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**



October 11, 1956

In numerous meetings and contacts with citizens' groups and individuals President Eisenhower has repeatedly called for a big vote this November. At one meeting Ike said, "We want the decision of America, not the decision of the minority." It is gratifying to know that here in the Fifth District voting registrations reached a record high. Now with the deadline for registrations passed we must be certain that every eligible voter casts a ballot on November 6th.

## VICE PRESIDENTIAL VISITS

Western Michigan residents were honored in the past two weeks with visits from the Democrat and Republican Vice Presidential nominees. Senator Estes Kefauver flew into Grand Rapids after a strenuous day of campaigning in Northern Michigan for a night rally at Fulton Park on Tuesday, September 25th. The following Monday afternoon the Republican nominee and incumbent, Richard M. Nixon, also came to Grand Rapids to address local residents.

Vice President Dick Nixon expressed personal gratitude to me just before boarding his plane to leave Grand Rapids for the "terrific reception" local residents gave him and his charming wife, Pat. Dick flew here directly from Florida and followed his visit to Grand Rapids with stops in Milwaukee and Hartford, Connecticut.

Dick Nixon spoke to approximately 10,000 persons at Campau Square in Grand Rapids where he characterized the determination of all Eisenhower Administration policies by the proposition: "Every program of this Administration is subjected to one test only - is it in the best interests of 167 million Americans?" The Vice President applied this proposition to various issues including the welfare of the nation's wage earners now totaling a record high 67 million. These people today have the highest wages, greatest take-home pay, best security in history and peace to boot, the Vice President said. In a comparison with 1952 he pointed out that American wage earners today have \$50 per month more in their pay checks than four years ago.

## VALUE OF THE DOLLAR

In addition, Dick Nixon showed that older people and those with savings are better off today because the dollar has been stabilized. For instance, if you worked and saved a dollar in 1942 and retired or spent it in 1952 you could buy only 60 cents worth of goods. Now the 120 million Americans who have life insurance, the 60 million covered by social security and the 40 million with government bonds and the millions investing in pension funds can all look forward and plan for the future realizing that since 1952 the value of the dollar has been virtually stabilized, and that these same policies which kept it stabilized can continue to do so.

## WORLD PEACE

There were other issues which Vice President Nixon touched on but paramount was peace and who best can serve as guardian of this peace without surrender; and who best can work toward further relaxation of world tensions. He said you can be sure President Eisenhower understands and will never underestimate the Communist threat either abroad or at home. And with his long experience as a military leader he will never underestimate the military capacity and strength necessary to cope with this threat. In addition, Communist leaders know Ike and what he stands for and they respect him. President Eisenhower will see that every resource, economic and moral and spiritual within his command will be thrown into the battle in the increasing conquest for lasting peace.

## ACTIVITIES IN DISTRICT

It has been my pleasure to meet and chat with about 45 persons on each visit in the "mobile office." But in addition to this your Congressman has participated in numerous discussions, informal talks and speeches before church groups, civic clubs, fraternal organizations, schools, and young people's clubs. These are wonderful opportunities to become better acquainted with residents of the Fifth District and to explain and answer questions about how our government functions on the federal level.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**MAIL SERVICE:** For better, faster service the Post Office Department is getting 5,743 new trucks, 1,500 new motor scooters, 2,000 more bicycles and 6,000 gold caddy-type letter carrier carts to speed mail to the nation. Also, 200 post offices, stations, and branches will get new counter facilities this year, while 22,500 mail boxes will be delivered by next spring for installation in growing communities over the nation. Delivery of new trucks will be completed in five months, and many will be on hand to speed Christmas mailings.

**HOOVER COMMISSION:** It has been estimated that Uncle Sam will save \$532.6 million annually from the recommendations of the Hoover Commission adopted to date. Approximately 35 per cent of the Commission's 314 recommendations have gone into effect in the 14 months since the 19 reports were presented to Congress. Congress approved a total of 31 pieces of Hoover Report legislation in 1956 and the Executive Branch has acted favorably on many recommendations for which legislative approval is not required.

## "MOBILE OFFICE" SCHEDULE

Sparta	October 17	Parking lot on East Division Avenue
Rockford	October 18	Corner of Main and Courtland Streets
Cedar Springs	October 19	Corner of Main and Ash Streets



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**



October 18, 1956

The problems of America's aged have attracted increasing attention in recent years. To help solve these problems since 1952 ten million additional persons have been brought under Social Security with monthly benefits increased to 6.5 million recipients. Among the groups added to social security rolls are: self-employed farmers, farm workers, domestics, architects, accountants and other professional people. It has been estimated that with these changes by 1960, 75 per cent of the nation's citizens who reach retirement age will be eligible for benefits.

#### OTHER PROGRAMS FOR AGED

In addition to these changes in the Social Security law the cause of the aging worker is being championed by the Department of Labor which is trying to crack prejudices and misconceptions with respect to the capacity of the so-called older worker. Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell allocated \$449,500 to place older-worker specialists in 48 state employment security offices and in employment offices in 70 larger cities. Eventually it is hoped to have a specialist in all the 1700 local employment offices who can encourage the creation of more job opportunities for the aged and offer advice to older job seekers.

The Department of Labor has made six pronouncements on the employment of aged persons in the past three months the latest being called the "Earning Opportunities Forum." This is a program with a "town meeting" approach where employers, community groups and prospective women employees are brought together in a one-day forum. The emphasis is placed on special job training to prepare older persons for work available to them. In addition, the Department of Labor is making a continual effort to accumulate and bring information to the attention of prospective employers to demonstrate that age does not indicate a decline in capability or usefulness.

#### MORE OLDER PEOPLE

With an increasing percentage of our population moving into the "older worker" category, President Eisenhower established last April a Federal Council on the Aging to give new momentum to government efforts to explode the outmoded concepts toward the aged and his abilities. Increased Federal activity in this area reflects the President's views as he put forth in a letter on March 21 this year to a Member of the Senate: "Our nation now must learn to take advantage of the full potential of our older citizens--their skills, their wisdom, and their experience. We need these traits fully as much as we need the energy and boldness of youth."

## VOTING FIGURES

There are approximately 105 million Americans who could vote in the November election according to the Census Bureau. But if only 60 per cent of these persons cast their ballots compared to figures from previous elections the turn out would be considered "good." In the 1952 Presidential election a record vote of 61,551,919 was recorded from a possible 98 million citizens who could have voted. In that same election year 76 million citizens had registered which means that approximately 12 million of this number did not bother for one reason or another to go to their neighborhood polling places. In Grand Rapids an estimated 133,900 could have qualified to vote this November but only 96,286 had registered by the deadline. Let no one undervalue his or her vote this November and let's make it our job to see that each eligible voter is sure to cast a ballot in this important election!

### IN A SENTENCE OR TWO.....

**SMALL BUSINESS:** Defense contracts to small business reached \$3.4 billion in fiscal 1956. This compares to \$2.9 billion in 1954 and \$3.2 billion in 1955. During the last three fiscal years the share of defense contracts going to small business amounted to 27.1 per cent compared to the previous three years of 18.1 per cent.

**CIVIL SERVICE:** When the present Administration took office in January of 1953, the turnover of federal employees was as high as 26 per cent on an annual basis. For the last two years annual turnover has been 14 per cent. This indicates a better career service for employees of Uncle Sam, improved service to the public, and a reduction in cost to the federal treasury.

**TAX SCOREBOARD:** Since the authorization of the federal income tax in 1913 Democrat Congresses have voted 14 of 15 federal tax increase laws. In contrast Republican Congresses voted one tax increase and seven of 10 reductions in federal taxes.

### "MOBILE OFFICE" SCHEDULE

Kent City	October 22	Main Street across from the Town Hall
Eastmont	October 23	4670 Cascade Road, S.E. (U.S. 16) just east of Forest Hills Avenue
Lowell	October 24	On north side of West Main Street at the bridge

### RECENT VISITORS IN WASHINGTON:

Claude I. Roskamp, Roy Feringa, Ruth Wistrater, Darlene Hollis, and Mrs. Maria Brzozowski all of Grand Rapids and Robert Van Ark of Holland.



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**



October 24, 1956

TO MY FRIENDS IN THE WEST OLIVE AREA:

During my visit with you at the Robart School on the evening of September 26th a number of questions went unanswered because of the lack of specific information. We have been able to get answers to these questions and I am pleased to be able to supply the information in this letter.

1. Question: How much land was acquired by the Federal Government? When? At what cost?

Answer: The Federal Government acquired 6227 acres of land in Ottawa County between May 1942 and October 1943 for about \$75,000.

2. Question: How much is the land worth now?

Answer: The land has not been appraised in recent years so there is no official estimate of the present value of the Federal holdings.

3. Question: Do we export any blueberries?

Answer: The amount of blueberries exported by the United States is negligible.

4. Question: Do we export any Christmas trees?

Answer: Christmas trees are exported under an exportation schedule which includes 20 items in addition to Christmas trees, such as fuel wood, anchor logs, fence posts, mine timbers, etc. Total value of these combined exports in 1955 was \$622,298. Unfortunately, there is no breakdown for Christmas trees, specifically. The above items were shipped to Latin-America and Canada.

5. Question: Is it true that Christmas trees may not be shipped into the United States under consignment?

Answer: The U. S. Tariff Commission reports that there is no such Federal law. The Canadian Embassy stated that there is no Canadian law prohibiting the exportation of Christmas trees under consignment. As far as we can determine, neither is there anything in Michigan law to restrict selling by consignment.

6. Question: Will the Federal Government increase the number of its nurseries to meet demands for seedlings under the Soil Bank program?

Answer: The Department of Agriculture plans to use existing unused capacity of the Federal nurseries. Up until now these nurseries have not been used to full capacity. With the increased demand, the Department intends to make greater use of its own facilities and expects to get the other needed seedlings and trees through the expansion of State and private commercial nurseries.

7. Question: Will any Federal expansion require an appropriation of funds by Congress?

Answer: The Agricultural Act of 1956 authorizes the Department to use money from the Commodity Credit Corporation. It is felt that adequate finances will be available from this source for any expansion at the Federal level.

8. Question: How does the program of the Michigan Conservation Department fit into the picture?

Answer: Chairman Gerald Eddy reports that his Department operates three nurseries, two owned by the State and one under long-term lease from the Federal Government. In 1955 for the first time since World War II, planting stock from all sources, both public and private, was enough to supply the demand from private land owners. Total production of reforestation stock by all sources in Michigan totaled 41 million trees of which 20,275,000 were produced by State nurseries.

Because of greater demand, the Michigan Conservation Department is planning to increase its production to at least 30 million for the fiscal year 1956-57. M. S. U. which has produced 4 million trees a year has announced that it is retiring its nurseries from production.

The Department is proposing a new nursery in the southern part of the state. The southern-most nursery is now at Higgins Lake. Many of the trees sold by State nurseries are planted in southern Michigan where the best planting time is at least two weeks ahead of the earliest spring shipments from these nurseries. This results in many farmers not planting as they cannot get their trees ahead of the press of other spring farm work.

Chairman Eddy stated further, "We do not feel that we should be distributing Christmas tree stock, except possibly in the case of an acute emergency, such as obtained temporarily in the case of scotch pine."

Mr. Eddy reports that the Department's relations with the Michigan Commercial Nurserymen's Association have been most cordial. He also feels that the participation of the State forest agency in the reforestation stock distribution program is essential to the rebuilding of our forest resources.

\* \* \* \* \*

It was agreed at the meeting on September 26th, that your Congressman should push for legislation to authorize the sale of the Federal land in Ottawa County. This will be done by means of a general law, or by one specifically aimed at this county.

It was also agreed that research on the European Pine Shoot Moth and other forest insects must be continued.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald R. Ford, Jr., M. C.



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**

October 25 1956



Lewis L. Strauss, Chairman of the United States Atomic Energy Commission, reports facts about the atom which could mean our country is about to embark on a new revolutionary course of greater abundance for all. The United States has built 82 atomic reactors for peaceful purposes with 127 more either under construction or planned, a total greater than in the rest of the world combined. More than one-third of this number are the type producing electric power. Eighteen reactors will go into plants for civilian atomic power between 1957 and 1962 with a generating capacity of 1.2 million kilowatts. This capacity is equal to the needs of Rhode Island and New Hampshire. The first of these plants, at Shippingport, Pennsylvania, begins operation next year, and will furnish 60,000 to 100,000 kilowatts of electricity for home and industrial use in the Pittsburg area. It is the world's first large nuclear power plant exclusively for civilian use.

## RIGHT TO VOTE

In the 1952 Presidential election about 63 per cent of the eligible voters in the country cast ballots. This was an unusually good turnout for us although other nations made much better percentage records in their last big elections. For example, in Britain 77 per cent of the eligible voters went to the polls; in Sweden 79 per cent; Denmark, 81 per cent, Italy, 94 per cent. A few countries such as Australia and Belgium impose a fine on non-voters and as a result usually have election-day turnouts of more than 95 per cent.

To help assure a big vote next month 375,000 members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars will set up and operate free election day nurseries in 7000 communities November 6th. Such a service will be particularly appreciated by many young mothers throughout the nation who otherwise might have difficulty in reaching their local polling places. These women of the Ladies Auxiliary deserve a great deal of credit for carrying out this election-day project. The Boy Scouts and other civic groups also are planning to help in the "Get-Out-the-Vote" drive.

## FROM THE "MOBILE OFFICE"

After reaching middle age many people who want to work have a difficult time getting a new job. Under the present law all government contracts include provisions barring discrimination in hiring because of race, color, or creed. At Comstock Park a local resident visiting the "mobile office" raised the question of amending the anti-discrimination provision to include age. This inclusion could have considerable merit

by requiring employers to have other reasons than age for refusing to hire an employee working on a government contract. In the next session of the Congress I intend to examine this fully with the purpose of possibly introducing legislation to carry out this suggestion.

#### SMALL BUSINESS POLICY

President Eisenhower recently received a report from his special seven-man Cabinet Committee on Small Business. Ike indicated a large share of the recommendations of this committee will be incorporated into the Administration's program in Congress next year to strengthen small business. One recommendation of the committee, headed by Dr. Arthur Burns, Chairman of the President's Council on Economic Advisors, calls for reducing taxes on the first \$25 000 of corporate income from 30 per cent to 20 per cent. This would help put the small businessman in a more favorable position to compete with big corporations. Such a policy would also serve to encourage the growth of new small business. Other recommendations to be adopted by the President's program include a study of government procurement policies for small business and simplification of government forms and the number of required reports to ease paperwork.

#### VETERANS' LEGISLATION

Under provisions of the Servicemen's and Veterans' Survivor Benefits Act passed by the 84th Congress and signed into law by President Eisenhower last August 1st, changes are made in the type and amount of benefits available to dependents of servicemen and retired armed forces personnel.

This new law taking effect January 1st, for instance, changes the old "\$10,000 insurance" paid by the government to beneficiaries of deceased servicemen. To replace this the new law revised the death compensation program to provide monthly payments for widows scaled to the military pay of their deceased husbands, increased payments to children, and provide for a sliding scale to determine benefits for dependent parents subject to annual income limitations. Another feature of the law extends old-age and survivors insurance (Social Security) to all servicemen on a contributory basis to be administered by the Social Security Administration. In addition, beneficiaries of deceased servicemen may receive from the government a lump-sum death gratuity equal to six times all items of monthly pay, except allowances, within a \$800 to \$3,000 range.

This law is part of a desire by the government to legislate a sound and fair overall veterans' program for those who serve their country in uniform and for their dependents.

#### 'MOBILE OFFICE' SCHEDULE

Caledonia	October 29	Corner of Main and Lake Streets
Cutlerville	October 30	Andringa's Hardware Store
Wyoming Park	November 1	Corner of Lee Street and Wyoming Park Avenue
Standale	November 2	Standale Merchandise Mart



# Your Washington Review

by  
Congressman  
**JERRY FORD**



November 8, 1956

With the close of 1956 campaign activity we can look back to assess the accomplishments not only from a political view but also from the standpoint of the issues debated and the opportunities to become better acquainted with the people of Kent and Ottawa Counties. Campaigns are stimulating and worthwhile because they serve to periodically cast light on the issues and stimulate thoughtful participation in the decisions on public policy through the democratic process. They also provide the winning candidate a chance to comprehensively appraise the thinking and sentiments of those he represents.

A lot of people worked hard in the campaign and deserve a great deal of credit for helping the candidates present the issues to the public. It has always been my strong contention that without these door-to-door contacts, telephoning, and countless other necessary tasks my job, as that of the other candidates, would have been infinitely more difficult if not impossible.

For myself may I express my deep personal appreciation to all who helped prior to and on election day.

## AROUND THE DISTRICT

In the campaign it was my privilege to visit with people in every area of Kent and Ottawa Counties. These experiences were very enjoyable, especially those connected with the "mobile office" which was used to visit 25 communities in the Fifth District from September 10 through November 2. Through this traveling office I met and visited individually with 998 persons. As a result I obtained a number of suggestions for legislation in the coming session of the Congress, renewed many acquaintances, and made new ones. Once again I was assured that no Congressman could represent any community of more substantial citizens than it is my privilege to do.

In 1955 with a similar "mobile office" tour of the Fifth District I met 863 persons in 27 communities. This year with a total of 998 people in 25 communities I feel very gratified with the response. The largest turn out was at Holland where 73 people dropped in at the house trailer converted into temporary office quarters. In addition to the actual number coming to the traveling office I had the pleasure of meeting several school groups and luncheon clubs before and during the hours of 2:30 and 8:00 p.m. or during the office hours. For example, in one community the school was temporarily

dismissed and the children came to the "mobile office" to present me with four pints of blueberries in a decorated package and a potted blue spruce, all grown in the area. Also, my picture was taken with the oldest resident in this community, a lady of 95, and with the youngest, a four and one-half month baby.

At several communities students were let out of class to drop by the "mobile office" for brief introductions and a few words. In one such instance the members of the senior high government classes came to the trailer where I answered questions and made a few remarks about how Congress functions. At another community 40 members of the 8th grade civics class questioned me about the government; and in one area 400 students came to the trailer where I spoke to them briefly in the parking lot where the "mobile office" was located and then was presented with a bouquet of flowers in an "elephant" vase.

#### POST-ELECTION PLANS

Later this week your Congressman is returning to Washington, D. C. where Betty and the boys have been waiting patiently for Dad to conclude election activities so that we can all be together once again. However, this will be a brief reunion, at least for the time being. As a member of the Committee on Appropriations I will be shoving off for an inspection of Armed Forces installations in Europe beginning in mid-November. This inspection trip begins in Spain where the Air Force and Navy have military bases and continues through Italy, Germany, and France to check first hand on how the tax money Congress is appropriating for our national defense is being used.

#### NEWSLETTER REPORTS

As your Congressman will be in Europe for this period and occupied principally with committee business, this will be the last issue of "Your Washington Review" until the 85th Congress convenes in January. Then these weekly reports will be resumed as they have without interruption since my election to the House of Representatives eight years ago. If you would prefer to have your name removed from the mailing list or if you know of any persons who might like to receive copies of "Your Washington Review" starting in January, drop me a line to this effect. I will be back at my desk in Washington by mid-December and members of my staff will be on hand in Grand Rapids and Washington through Christmas to handle correspondence, and any problems or inquiries which may arise.