FEDERAL, STATE TAX-SHARING

February 6, 1967

This is Congressman ______ reporting to you from Washington.

America is a land of many climates. They vary from the sub-tropical weather of the Southern States to the freezing cold of our Northern winters.

People are different, too. Americanism gives them a basic likeness, of course, but a Texan, for instance, is as easily distinguishable from a New Englander as an Irishman is from a Scot. They are alike, but they are different—especially do they differ in their local customs and local habits.

This fact has, of course, been recognized for a long time. But until recently the trend here in Washington has been to ignore it—-to treat the States and localities as though they were all cut from the same pattern—to use Federal funds to shape the various areas into a pre-conceived bureaucratic mold.

The root of this problem is, of course, money—Federal money, with the Federal control that usually goes with it. Federal aid is granted to States under strict rules and conditions laid down in Washington. In short, there are strings attached.

Something must be done to counteract the overwhelming weight of this Federal money-club, to prevent every facet of the States' activity from being stamped "made in Washington."

I believe one answer is the tax-sharing plan recently sponsored by Republicans in the House of Representatives. This plan would return more than two billion dollars directly to the States and localities—-without the government earmarking how the funds are to be spent or specifying controls over its use.

The present system of Federal aid to the States and localities is an uncoordinated spider web of confusion. State and local governments are now buried under a mass of over 400 different Federal appropriations covering 170 separate aid programs, administered by a total of 21 Federal departments and agencies, 150 Washington bureaus and 400 regional offices—each with its own way of passing out Federal tax dollars.

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Here's how this tax-sharing plan would work:

First, it would allocate three per cent of Federal personal income tax revenue for tax-sharing with the States. Over a four-year period, this would be raised to five per cent. The 17 poorest States would first receive 10 per cent of the total funds as a form of equalization. The other 90 per cent would then be divided among all 50 States on the basis of population, with special incentives for States making a maximum tax effort.

Forty-five per cent of funds allocated to a State would go to local communities for education or other costs and the remaining 55 per cent could be spent in any way the State chose. Moreover, a new Council on Tax Sharing, with State representation, would be set up to administer the program to insure simplified distribution—and to preclude Federal control. The 10-man bipartisan council would be appointed by the President, and five members would be State governors.

I believe it is time that we start revitalizing the initiative of our State and local communities and reinvigorating our Federal system. The availability of more than two billion dollars would provide the needed revenue for problem solving by States and localities without rigid and wasteful Federal forms and control.

I am hopeful Congress will act on this plan.

This is Congressman Jerry Ford reporting from Washington.

(Note: A copy of this script is available on Teleprompter in the House TV Studio.

For additional information on this script or to suggest ideas for future scripts, contact Cindy Hawkins at the Committee's Public Relations Office.)
This is Jerry Ford your Congressman speaking to you from the Nation's capital. In this first broadcast for 1967 I want to extend my appreciation to this radio station for permitting me to report to you weekly.

Last Wednesday the House of Representatives approved an increase in the public debt limit from $330 billion to $336 billion. The vote was 219 to 199. I voted "NO" as I have done on the last 7 occasions when the President has requested the Congress to raise the debt ceiling. It seems to me that some place along the way we must call a halt to deficit financing and a constant increase in the public debt.

The last time I voted to increase the debt was in response to President Kennedy's request in 1962. Mr. Kennedy had pointed out that to effectively manage the national debt and establish a sound fiscal policy, the debt ceiling should be raised to $300 billion. I went along with his request but stated at that time that something must be done to halt deficit financing. I said that the Congress cannot blithely go on voting for new proposals to increase federal spending. And added that Congress may have to refuse to increase further the national debt limit. That was in 1962 when President Kennedy asked that the limit be set at $300 billion.

The national debt now hovers near $330 billion and is on the way to $336 billion. The Johnson Administration is guilty of excessive and unnecessary spending in many areas. By granting the Administration authority to further increase the debt we are simply asking for more irresponsible fiscal management.

It was interesting to note that the legislation last week to increase the debt to $336 billion was passed by a margin of only 16 votes.

Before the bill was finally passed, the Republicans offered two amendments which we think would have been sound and helpful to the Administration and to the taxpayer.

Current law sets the interest rate on long-term United States bonds (those running over 5 years) at 4%. With interest rates as they are today, this is unrealistic and means that the Treasury cannot issue such bonds. No one will buy them at 4%. In fact, in December the Treasury was paying an average interest rate of 5% on 90-day bills. Our amendment, therefore, would have permitted the Treasury to issue long-term bonds at the going interest rate which we feel in the long run would result in a net saving to the taxpayers in overall interest payments.
However, this amendment, the second one we proposed, was defeated 261 to 155. Our other amendment simply required that money borrowed through the sale of participation certificates be included as a part of the national debt.

You will remember that last year the Democratic Congress authorized the President to sell certain assets held by the Treasury. The assets included FHA mortgages and the like. When the government sells these participation certificates or government assets, it is paying well over 5% for the money it borrows, and this is long-term borrowing.

However, the money borrowed by this method of selling government assets is not included in the federal debt limit. Consequently, the Administration can ignore the debt limit as far as its borrowing through the sale of government assets is concerned.

We do not think this is right. We feel that it gives a distorted picture of the true debt situation. We proposed, therefore, that the money borrowed through the sale of participation certificates be included in the debt limit. However, this amendment, too, was voted down.

I can assure you, however, that Republican members of the House will continue their efforts to cut down unnecessary expenditures so that we can more nearly balance the budget without increasing the tax burden on the American people.

This is Jerry Ford, your Congressman. I will be back next week with another report from Washington.
This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

I'd like to talk with you today about something that concerns all Americans—clean government.

You all have heard of the highly publicized Adam Clayton Powell case, and maybe you're familiar with the investigation into the activities of Senator Thomas Dodd of Connecticut.

You become incensed when you read about alleged shenanigans involving members of Congress, and you should.

You should get excited about wrongdoing in public office—just as I do—regardless of whether it's just a few individuals who do the wrong and tarnish the image of all of their colleagues. Unfortunately, people do tend to lump all members of Congress together when they hear of the misdeeds of a few. That's why I say the integrity of the entire Congress is at stake in the Powell and Dodd cases.

This is no time for injured feelings on the part of national lawmakers. Nor is it a time for indignantly saying, "Who... Not me." But it is cleanup time in Washington. It's time the American people were given laws guaranteeing that members of Congress are properly elected and that they conduct themselves properly after they assume office.

That's why I am pressing for a congressional code.
of Ethics—one with teeth in it. That's why I am urging that a Select Committee
of the House of Representatives be created to ride herd on all congressmen and see to it that they toe the mark. That's why I want to see an Election Reform Act passed by the Congress this year.

There obviously is an Integrity Gap in Washington, and the American people are greatly alarmed.

I hope we can close the Integrity Gap. In that hope, I have introduced a bill of my own to lay down a congressional code of ethics and establish a special committee to see that this code is adhered to.

The Integrity Gap can and must be closed. It will be plugged if Democrats in Congress will cooperate with Republicans to establish a Code of Ethics for congressmen and set up a fulltime Select Committee to enforce it. In that way, no individual member will be able to claim he is the victim of a "witch hunt."

We can plug the Integrity Gap, too, if Democrats will work with Republicans to pass an Election Reform Act.

We must repeal the foolish and dangerous election bill that slipped through the Congress late last year. That law would provide as much as 60 million dollars to the political parties for the 1968 campaign by picking up $1 from each
contributing taxpayer. What a gigantic slush fund for both major parties!

What we should do instead is to adequately police all political contributions and expenditures, require both incumbents and their challengers for House and Senate seats to disclose all of their gifts and honoraria, slap a ceiling of $5,000 on donations to any one candidate or committee in a single year, and remove the present meaningless ceiling on total contributions to any political committee and on the expenditures by such committees.

We need a Committee on Conduct.

It's cleanup time in Washington, and that means action has arrived early and standards. We should enact the Election Reform Bill.

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

This is Congressman Jerry Ford, reporting from Washington.

There is a lot of talk in the Capital these days about building bridges—bridges of trade between the East and the West.

Although the question of East-West trade is not new, it is becoming more controversial because of the Vietnam war. Many of the Communist bloc countries which even now benefit from limited trade with the United States are supplying hard goods to the North Vietnamese.

This is an issue which the 90th Congress must face up to in the days ahead. President Johnson brought the question to a head in his State of the Union message last month when he urged enactment of his plan to expand U.S. foreign and commercial trade with the East.

Some important questions come to mind. Is such a policy in our best interest? Is Communism softening, thereby offering us new opportunities for friendly relationships? Should we help build up somebody who has vowed to bury us?

Let's look closer at the issue. I, for one, see no evidence that the Soviet Union has changed its basic goal of world domination. Somehow, many bridge-builders seem to overlook the fact that it is the Communists who threaten the peace of this world—not us.

Furthermore, there is no doubt that our exports to Communist bloc countries have helped the enemy in Vietnam. What would happen if we expanded such trade? Of course, the bridge-builders will tell you that we do not—and would not—sell anything that could help the Communists in a warlike way. But do you know what our Department of Commerce lists as "non-strategic" materials? Such things as diesel engines, jet aircraft engines, machine tools, fibers, plastics, computers and capital machinery.

Something which disturbs me is the recent disclosure that, although the Commerce Department claimed it had checked with our American intelligence officials before licensing such goods for shipment to Communist countries, it actually had made no such check. Just why would the Commerce Department make such false claims as this?
This question, as well as the other facets of East-West trade, need some exploration. This is why I support a proposal to set up a House Select Committee on the Export Control Act. This committee would undertake a penetrative study of the problem—to determine if such trade was in the best interest of the United States, even in an economic sense. With few exceptions—furs and platinum, for example—the Soviet Union produces little we need. On the other hand, the Russians are seeking from us such items as chemicals, machine tools and oil refineries.

And, of course, the overriding issue is the war in Southeast Asia, as it relates to East-West trade. Building a bridge could well be a foolish undertaking if it sustains and nourishes the enemy while draining our own country. I intend to do what I can to see that Congress is not stampeded into building a bridge of East-West trade without a thorough study first of the entire issue.

This is Congressman Jerrymond, reporting from Washington.

(Notes: A copy of this script is available on Television in the House TV Studio. For additional information on this script or to suggest ideas for future scripts, contact the Committee's Public Information Office.)
This is Congressman ________ reporting from Washington.

This is the time of year when Americans begin to think about filing their Federal income tax returns. I say "begin" to think about it—because most taxpayers find the chore so painful that they put it off until the last minute.

As the tax deadline approaches, millions of Americans will discover that they owe even more money, despite increased year-long withholding. But, you know, I believe that most Americans do not begrudge paying Federal taxes, particularly in these tense times when hundreds of thousands of our young men are fighting in the jungles of South Vietnam.

But, at the same time, I wonder how the average taxpayer would react if he knew that his hard-earned money was being spent on what I consider questionable and sometimes even foolish "research" projects.

For example, the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities—financed with your tax dollars—has just awarded a grant of more than eighty-seven hundred dollars to a California school for a study of comic strips. The foundation defends such an expenditure by saying that Little Orphan Annie and other comics "have been an important source of political ideas for the young...and those not so young."

Mind you, I am not picking out an isolated example. This particular foundation, among many similar tax-supported organizations, hands out awards which total nearly a million dollars annually. Some of those awards are really far-out. For example, would you believe:

--A grant of more than twelve thousand dollars for a university study of "popular" literature, such as dime novels?

--A grant of about ten thousand dollars to support a college microfilm center of literature and historical manuscripts written in European monasteries before 1600?

--A five thousand dollar grant to complete an experimental analysis of a violin fwarn-

ish known to have improved violin tone prior to 1737?

There are many more examples, too. Do you know, for instance, that some twenty thousand of your tax dollars are being spent by the National Science Foundation to study German
cockroaches? Many of these projects involve even bigger amounts. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare is spending half a million dollars to run two "laboratory" theaters to find out whether the arts can be used to teach youngsters who can't learn from books. There's another Federal grant of almost five hundred thousand dollars for a beautification project in the District of Columbia. And I haven't even touched on the millions doled out under the so-called "war" on poverty to finance everything from TV programs to summer theater projects.

The obvious question, of course, is: Are such uses of tax dollars justified in time of war? It is estimated that government-subsidized research and development now totals 16 billion dollars a year. Only one other item in the Federal budget—that of defense—exceeds this amount.

I am not suggesting that all of the government's research efforts are foolish, wasteful or unnecessary. Not at all. Some are valuable, vital. Those I will support wholeheartedly. Many research projects—although worthwhile—can and should be set aside, however, while the Nation's taxpayers are carrying the burden of our military commitments in Southeast Asia. We must set sensible priorities on these programs, in other words. This will be one of my objectives in this Congress.

This is Congressman reporting from Washington.

(Note: A copy of this script is available on Teleprompter in the House TV Studio. For additional information on this script or to suggest ideas for future scripts, contact the Committee's Public Relations Office).
This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington. Today I'd like to talk with you about one of the problems demanding immediate action in Washington--the need for an increase in Social Security benefits.

Millions of older Americans are continuing to live on fixed incomes which have been eaten away by inflation. Their situation is not getting any better. It is becoming worse.

I have introduced legislation which would provide for an 8 percent increase in Social Security benefits without any increase in the Social Security payroll tax paid by nearly all working Americans. This increase would be retroactive to last January 1. My bill also provides for future increases in benefits whenever the cost-of-living rises at least 3 percent since the last Social Security increase.

The President has offered a much more ambitious plan. It involves an average 20 percent increase in Social Security benefits plus further broadening of the program.

Under this proposal, payroll taxes would rise steadily over the next 20 years until they reached a maximum rate of 5.8 percent to be paid by every worker on every dollar of his pay up to a maximum of $10,800. Every employer also would pay this same levy--for a combined employee-employer payroll tax of 11.6 percent.

To put the President's plan in terms of a dollars-and-cents tax, the maximum that could be deducted from a person's pay would jump from the present $290.49 to $343.20 next year. That's a tax increase of $55 in 1968. In 1969 the tax would climb to $390--a hundred dollars more than at present. In 1971
the payroll tax would go up to $450. That's $160 more than now. By 1988--20 years
from now--the maximum payroll tax is scheduled to be $626.40--more than double
the present amount.

We need improvements in the Social Security system. There's no question
about that. And Congress will vote greater benefits this year. I am not wedded
to the figure of 8 percent. My guess is that the benefits increase will run
somewhere between the 8 percent that could be achieved without a payroll tax and
the 20 percent jump the President has proposed.

It is interesting to note that the President suggested a 10 percent Social
Security increase last fall and now has doubled it.

Congress, if it is to be at all responsible in the matter, must ask where
the money is going to come from. It must come, of course, from all Americans
who are working and are subject to Social Security taxes.

Whatever tax increase is approved will weigh most heavily on our young
people because they will be subject to the steadily increasing payroll levy for
a longer time than older Americans.

The payroll taxes proposed by the President would be especially burdensome
to young people, since they are just beginning to establish themselves. They are
hoping to scrape together the money to buy a home. They will be facing heavy
expenses as they have children and raise a family. America's young people, and
all other wage-earners, have good reason to look at the tax picture and consider
what really sharp increases in the Social Security payroll tax will mean to them.
At the same time, we are concerned with the elderly who have been hurt by inflation. The Congress surely will act to meet their problems.

It is the House Committee on Ways and Means which will play the most important role in determining what the increases in Social Security benefits and taxes will be.

And I can report to you that Democrat Wilbur Mills of Arkansas, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, is troubled by the steep tax increases involved in the President's plan. Indications are Mr. Mills thinks the plan goes too far.

The Ways and Means Committee will soon hold its hearings on the President's Social Security proposals. They will want to see the President's proposals carefully considered. Their goal should be to provide needed cost-of-living benefit increases, to remove inequities, and to improve the system.

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

I'll be talking with you again next week over this same station.

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

Today I'd like to talk with you about a topic which is very much in the news—the Selective Service System, or as we call it, the draft.

The Congress must act by July 1 to extend the present draft law in some form. The present law will expire at midnight June 30.

To help Congress decide what to do about the draft, President Johnson has sent us recommendations based on a study by a presidential commission. The House Armed Services Committee, which will handle the draft legislation, also has received the advice of a study group headed by former Gen. Mark Clark of World War II fame.

There seems to be little disagreement that the draft should be changed so that 19-year-olds are called first. In fact, the President plans to put this change into effect by his own order without waiting for any kind of action by Congress.

The President's draft law proposals are arousing controversy in Congress, however. Most of the argument involves Mr. Johnson's plan to start using a lottery system to pick draftees.

What's wrong with using a lottery system? The President knows it's going to be hard to sell and so he has hung a special name tag on it. He calls it FAIR... P-A-I-R...for "fair and impartial random," a blind system of selecting young American men for military duty.

Maybe that's just what's wrong with a lottery system of compulsory military service. It's a blind kind of justice that dehumanizes the draft. It's been tried before and it just hasn't worked.
A lottery would blindly take some of the best young brains in the country. It would take some of the best young farmers in the country. It would take some of the best young workers in the defense industries of the Nation.

The President passed over the question of eliminating local draft boards, as recommended by his presidential commission. But if you have a national lottery system for picking draftees, what will local draft boards have to do?

I think our friends and neighbors have been doing a real good job of handling their draft board chores. They have been performing a very important service. I like the idea of giving a local board the discretion to grant deferments in deserving cases. They know each case because they are familiar with local situations. This is important. It preserves what I call "the human element" in the draft. I'd hate to see the draft made a purely mechanical, computerized kind of operation. Blind justice can lead to much injustice, it seems to me.

The President also skipped over the subject of deferments for college students.

There is no question the present system of deferments needs tightening up. College should not become a haven for draft dodgers. For this reason I agree with the President that graduate students should not be deferred unless they are studying medicine or dentistry. However, many of these prospective doctors and dentists under deferment would be required to serve in the Armed Forces after completing their medical and dental training.

I would like to see the day when our Armed Forces are made up entirely of volunteers. Unfortunately, we must keep 3 million 300 thousand men under arms today to carry out our mission in Vietnam and guard the rest of our defense line.
around the world. Experience indicates that an entirely volunteer force of men would total no more than about 2 million.

Let us, then, see to it that we are as fair and as sensible as possible in imposing on our young men the military obligation which is required of them as the price of our Nation's freedom. I believe Congress will act in that spirit in revising our draft law in the months ahead.

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

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

This week the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported an 11 per cent increase in serious crimes last year in this country. And this week the House began work on legislation we hope will be effective in a nationwide war against crime.

The work began with hearings before the House Judiciary Committee, which will examine President Johnson's recommendations for an omnibus crime bill. The President's proposals are based on a report submitted by a commission he had appointed to study the problem of crime and what to do about it.

The word is that the Judiciary Committee plans to concentrate almost exclusively on the President's recommendations. I think Congress should also look at ideas advanced by the crime commission but rejected by the President. Congress also should consider other proposals that may have merit.

The President and all members of Congress are anxious to halt the swift rise in the crime rate and to wipe out the fear that has gripped the hearts of law-abiding Americans in recent years. We have the same goals. When we differ, it is because we have different ideas about how to achieve those goals.

We're all agreed that the quality and quantity of local police forces should be improved with the help of the federal government. At the same time, there should be no federal intrusion, no federal officials telling local law enforcement officials how to run their affairs. We at the federal level should only provide whatever assistance we can, voluntarily given and voluntarily accepted. Basically, law enforcement is a local responsibility.

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Many of the President’s anti-crime proposals have merit. But this does not mean they cannot be improved upon.

There are many members of Congress, for instance, who believe local officials will be dictated to under terms of the President’s proposals. They point out that there is no formula in the Administration bill for distributing federal anti-crime money to the states. This is left up to the Attorney General of the United States. The President would give him the sole authority to decide how the money should be distributed.

The most important element in a nationwide war against crime, of course, is for local communities to back the effort. We must all stand behind the man behind the badge.

In that connection, many members of the House and Senate feel that the President’s anti-crime proposals are inadequate. The Administration bill would do nothing to resolve the trouble police are having in dealing with criminals because of the Supreme Court’s interest in protecting individual rights.

Many members of Congress feel that the Court’s decisions, which have stretched the Fifth and Sixth Amendments to the Constitution, have contributed to this Nation’s trend toward lawlessness. These decisions have handicapped police in the questioning of suspects and the use of confessions to obtain a conviction.

The Court, it may be said, has made it practically impossible to convict self-confessed criminals in cases where the prosecution has to rely upon their own voluntary confessions of guilt.

As a result, 20 senators have co-sponsored a bill providing that a confession
may be admitted as evidence in any trial court established by Congress as long as it is obtained voluntarily.

These are some of the problems Congress is wrestling with as we join with you in fighting the war against crime. There WILL be an omnibus crime bill--and it will be the best that the Congress can put together.

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

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

Congress now is taking its annual Easter Recess. We won’t be meeting again until Monday, April 3rd. So now is a good time to take stock of what’s been happening in Congress and in the country.

Apart from our continuing search for the path to peace in Vietnam, we should be most concerned right now with the state of the American economy.

Members of Congress are worried that we may be on the verge of a recession. Some economists believe a recession has already started. Because there has been a serious slowdown in the economy, the Congress this week moved quickly to stimulate investments by business in new plant and equipment. We did this—-at the request of the President—-by restoring the 7 per cent investment tax credit and accelerated depreciation allowances.

The people of Michigan certainly are aware of the economic troubles we’re having. Automobile production has been cut back 15 per cent. Men are being laid off. This country currently is experiencing the sharpest decline in industrial production in 28 months.

Democrats and Republicans alike are alarmed. In Congress we have what is known as the Joint Economic Committee, made up of congressmen and senators. This group makes careful studies of our economic problems and has just issued a report.

In this report, we find the Democratic members of the Joint Economic Committee agreeing with the Republican members that the Johnson Administration should cut non-defense spending and work to lower interest rates. Members of both political parties agreed that the Administration can’t go on spending money
on every project and program somebody might put on a list. What they are saying is that we need to establish priorities and hold down domestic spending.

The Administration professes not to be worried about a possible recession, and the President insists that we should still raise income taxes effective July 1. Administration officials have predicted that the economy will show an upturn about the middle of the year and will speed up in the last half.

I hope the Administration is right, but most of the signs are negative. The members of the Joint Economic Committee--Democrats and Republicans--are inclined to believe the President is wrong on his optimistic midyear forecast. They believe--and I believe--that it would be a mistake to raise income taxes in July.

I think the President should take two actions now which would stiffen this country's economic spine, restore confidence both to the consumer and to business, and put us back on the road to healthy economic growth and prosperity.

I'd like to see the President forget about an increase in income taxes, at least at this time, and move quickly to cut federal non-defense spending.

It's bad for a possible income tax increase to be hanging over the heads of the American people at a time when the economy is slumping.

Does it make sense for the Johnson Administration to be stimulating business investment on the one hand and taking money away from consumers with a tax increase on the other?

If the economy does speed up later this year, the President then could reinstate his request for an income tax increase to offset the Administration's large deficit spending. He could do that--but he could also cut non-defense spending and avoid a tax increase altogether.
It just doesn't seem right to load a tax increase on the backs of American workers who are still trying to catch up with last year's sharp rise in prices.

I think you'll find when Income Tax Day rolls around on April 15 that your federal income tax still is too high. Our goal should be to reduce taxes, not raise them.

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

I'll be talking with you again soon over this same station.

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

When Congress checks back in at the Capitol after Easter recess, we'll have our work all cut out for us.

Thus far we've disposed of very few items on the agenda. We have yet to deal with crime, the need for increases in Social Security benefits, extension and revision of the draft law, the President's proposal to increase the present level of anti-poverty spending by more than $400 million, the President's request for an income tax increase, the Administration's proposed increase in foreign aid spending, the President's new civil rights program, and aid for elementary and secondary schools and for higher education.

This first session of the 90th Congress has been dominated by the Vietnam War and the Adam Clayton Powell and Sen. Dodd cases. The Powell and Dodd cases have not been resolved, and neither has the war.

To continue paying for the third largest foreign war in our history, the Congress approved an extra $12.2 billion as a supplementary military appropriation.

Other major actions taken by the Congress to date include a Vietnam War veterans pension bill and restoration of the 7 per cent investment tax credit on new plant and machinery.

The pension bill passed the House last year but died in the Senate because the Johnson Administration opposed it at that time. Now it will become law because the President has withdrawn his opposition to it.
The President asked Congress to restore the investment tax credit because the economy is continuing to sag. Congress was glad to oblige but some members spoke out against what they called "a yo-yo tax policy" because it was only last October 10 that the investment tax credit was suspended at the President's request.

Many members of Congress also noted during action on the investment tax credit that it doesn't make sense to stimulate business with a tax break now and then come up a little later with an income tax increase for business and individuals.

Because I feel that the slump in the economy is serious enough to turn into a recession, I urged the President to withdraw his request for an income tax increase. I believe that if he would do this it would help to restore consumer and business confidence in the health of the economy. If we find later that the economy still shows signs of slipping, the President then could restate his tax increase request to start in July or August.

I don't think it's at all likely the Congress will approve an income tax increase even if the President sticks by his guns. The general feeling in Congress is that we ought to cut non-essential federal spending instead of raising income taxes.

After all, we're also faced with the prospect of increasing mail rates and of boosting payroll taxes if the Social Security benefit increases we approve require additional financing.

As we approach April 17, Tax Day, 1967, I sense that a backfire of protest is building among our citizens against a federal income tax increase. A federal increase would be a double blow, coming on top of an increase in state taxes.
to this the possible increases in Social Security taxes and mail rates and the fact that all is not well with the economy, and--well, I just don't believe Congress is going to go for President Johnson's extra tax on income.

As my family and I observed Easter this year, I said a special prayer for peace in Vietnam. I believe we can have peace if only North Vietnam's rulers can be persuaded that Americans are determined to see the war through with honor. It's now time for the other side to make a move toward the peace table. We have already walked the extra mile.

This is Jerry Ford reporting to you from Washington. I'll be talking with you again next week over this same station.
THE CONCERNED AMERICAN

This is Congressman __________ reporting from Washington.

The more I travel across this country, the more I realize how concerned Americans are about the course we are following—concerned not only about Vietnam and our boys dying over there, but about crime and welfare and high prices and growing taxes, just to mention a few subjects.

This concern was pointed up again the other day in a letter I came across from the wife of a public school official in one of our Western states. Referring to herself as "The Tired Housewife," Mrs. J. P. Strickland spelled out in her letter some of the same concerns that a year or so earlier bothered another citizen, Alan McIntosh, editor of a small-town Minnesota weekly.

In an editorial in his newspaper entitled, "The Tired American," Mr. McIntosh wrote in part—and I quote:

I am a tired American—fed up with mobs of scabby-faced, long-haired youths and short-haired girls who claim they represent the "new wave" of America and who sneer at the old-fashioned virtues of honesty, integrity and morality on which America grew to greatness.

Mr. McIntosh went on:

I am a tired American who resents those who try to peddle the belief in schools and colleges that capitalism is a dirty word and that free enterprise and private initiative are only synonyms for greed. They say they hate capitalism but they are always right at the head of the line demanding their share of the American way of life.

Mrs. Strickland, writing as a concerned housewife, said in her letter—and again I quote in part:

I am tired of trying, in this land of abundant food, to balance my budget when milk prices jump three cents on the half-gallon, and meat which was 69 cents per pound goes to 89 cents in just one week's time.

I'm tired of attorneys and social workers and courts who continue to hand down candy-coated sentences because, they claim, the poor dear hoodlum wasn't brought up in the right environment—an environment that half the world would be envious to share.

- more -
I'm tired of having to run to turn off my radio when smutty jokes come over the air, often under the guise of folk songs.

Mrs. Strickland summed up by saying that, although she's tired of these and other things, she's not too tired to pray.

Inscribed into the granite of the National Archives building here in Washington, there is a line which says the "past is prologue." If this is true, as I am sure it is, perhaps we'd all better start praying for America.

This is Congressman reporting from Washington.

(Note: A copy of this script is available on Telepromptor in the House TV Studio. For additional information on this script or to suggest ideas for future scripts, contact the Committee's Public Relations Office.)
This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington. The big topic of conversation here this week is Postmaster Larry O'Brien's proposal to convert the Post Office Department into a non-profit government corporation.

I immediately welcomed the plan as a fresh idea, something that was worthy of careful study by the Congress.

There's no question that our mail service could stand a lot of improvement, and this is no criticism of the men who pound the pavements to deliver the mail to our doors. The problem is the tremendous volume of mail and how to get it to our mailboxes accurately and quickly.

Whether O'Brien's nonprofit government corporation is the answer nobody really knows at this point. The Congress would need every available bit of information to make a judgment on the proposal. Actually, the proposition is not even before the Congress. O'Brien unveiled it at a luncheon meeting of magazine editors and publishers and provided only a sketchy outline of the idea.

One aspect of it I like. It would take politics out of the Post Office Department. This would be a healthy development. The Republican leadership in the House of Representatives has been pushing hard to rid the Post Office Department of politics. We will never have a first-class postal system until we do so.

There is bipartisan support for this drive to divorce the Post Office Department from politics. It is one of the provisions in the congressional reorganization bill passed by the Senate and now awaiting action by the House.

The Post Office Department is big business. The Postmaster General, a political appointee named by the President with the consent of the Senate, oversees the work of more than 700,000 employees. These employees handle more than 75 billion 500 million pieces of mail a year.

One cause for concern in Mr. O'Brien's plan to turn the Post Office Department into a nonprofit government corporation is that the Congress apparently would give up any say it has about the pay and working conditions of postal employees. Under Mr. O'Brien's proposal, the department would be run by a board of directors and a chief executive. This, of course, has its advantages and disadvantages.
To whom do the people and postal employes go if they have a complaint to make?

It bothers me, too, that Mr. O'Brien should simply throw up his hands and say that the only way to solve our postal service problems is to abolish the Post Office Department. That's a neat way to solve a problem, isn't it? Just abolish it.

We could, of course, revitalize the Post Office Department instead of abolishing it. We could change it from a politically-dominated agency where appointments and promotions are based on political favoritism to one in which merit, experience and good management procedures count the most.

Perhaps we could find a better system than the ZIP Code for letter sorting, too, and thus take another load off the backs of the American people while speeding up mail deliveries.

I'm not willing to say at this point that the only way to make the Post Office Department a professional operation is to abolish it. Let's give this one plenty of thought.

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

April the seventeenth—the last day for filing your federal income tax returns—is almost here. I'm afraid that there is going to be a lot of moaning and groaning when Americans find out how much taxes they paid the government last year—and how much they may still owe.

As a taxpayer, like you, I am concerned over the continually-increasing amount of money we are all required to pay each year to run the big government in Washington—and I would like to take a few minutes to discuss this with you today. This, I might add, is the one truly bipartisan political subject. It affects everybody, Republican and Democrat alike.

Let me start off by quoting some figures. First of all, the budget deficit and the increasing size of our national debt. At the beginning of this year, it was estimated that there would be a budget deficit of 8.1 billion dollars. Although this is a large enough figure to make the more economy-minded of us shudder, the actual deficit will be far, far greater. The deficit will actually be between 15 and 20 billion dollars. And there is a distinct possibility that the deficit may go as high as 25 to 30 billion dollars.

If this should happen, America is headed for very serious economic trouble. The cost of everything will go up even further and employment figures will go down. Indeed, the warning signals of a recession are already appearing on our economic horizon.

Obviously, there is only one reason for a federal deficit and that is over-spending by our government. As far as spending is concerned, the federal government has simply got to learn where to draw the line. If it doesn't, then watch out for your taxes next year and the "private" deficit you personally will
have to face.

As a member of Congress, I intend to do what I can to cut down on unnecessary spending, even if it means that some worthwhile projects have to be postponed until funds for them are available. In a time of war—when vast sums are necessary to support our fighting men in the field—it is essential that priorities be established.

If federal spending goes unchecked, our fiscal balance is thrown out of whack. For example, fourteen cents out of every dollar that you pay in taxes now goes just to pay the interest on the national debt which has grown by ten billion dollars in the past year.

What can be done? First of all President Johnson and his Administration must devote much more effort to restraining the growth of non-essential spending. Rather than continually suggesting new spending schemes, Mr. Johnson must find means for protecting and defending the taxpayer. As an immediate step the Administration should suspend its request for a 6 percent increase in income taxes.

Present and future administrations should refrain from promising more than can safely be accomplished for the good of the country. The President and Congress at all times should keep the efforts of the government to achieve desirable goals within the nation’s current means.

Fiscal policy should be so planned as to produce a budget surplus in years of high-level prosperity and substantial full employment, thereby reducing inflationary pressures.

High priority should be given to developing a solution for the balance-of-payments problem.

Overlapping and duplicating government programs should be consolidated, and where appropriate, eliminated, and in practical cases steps should be taken to transfer their administration to state and local governments.
This is your Congressman Jerry Ford reporting to you from Washington.

April the seventeenth--the last day for filing your federal income tax returns--is almost here. I'm
The Administration should do away with window dressing and camouflage and should present a true and complete budget so that results will not appear more favorable than they actually are.

I can assure you that I will continue to support sound fiscal policy and to vote against unnecessary expenditures in an effort to obtain a more nearly balanced budget and eliminate the necessity for a tax increase.

This is your Congressman Jerry Ford reporting to you from Washington.
THE NEW OPPORTUNITY CRUSADE

This is Congressman reporting to you from Washington.

From the very beginning of its history, America has been fighting a series of domestic wars. Perhaps I should call them police actions, since they've never actually been called "wars," at least until now. I am talking about the continuing battles against ignorance and illiteracy, the battles against the criminal element in our population, the battles against bigotry and bias, the battles against poverty.

The last, against poverty, is the most publicized of these new wars. An army to combat it has been raised. The top brass has been given a remarkably free hand in planning its tactics. Ample money—perhaps too much—has been placed at their disposal.

But what has happened? The result has been, I am afraid, a stalemate that amounts almost to stagnation. It has long been apparent to the entire country that something has to be done, and done quickly, or the so-called anti-poverty war will turn into a rout.

In my opinion, this admission of defeat would be a black tragedy. It must not be allowed to happen.

Obviously, what is needed is a thorough-going reorganization and more detailed and more careful planning. In fact, there must be an entirely new crusade.

Two Republican Congressmen, Charles E. Goodell of New York and Albert H. Quie of Minnesota, have already called for such a crusade—the new Opportunity Crusade. They have put together an eleven-point program that is well worth serious consideration. These two Congressmen are recognized experts in the poverty field. They are high-ranking members of the House Education and Labor Committee, which handles poverty legislation, and their views are widely-respected, by Republicans and Democrats alike.

To give their crusade new life and zest, they proposed that the poverty war be given Cabinet status. This could be done without creating a new Cabinet post. The Community Action and Job Corps programs should be turned over to the existing Department of Health, Education and Welfare. It calls for the dismantling of the Office of Economic Opportunity.
whose administration has more often “botched,” rather than fought, poverty.

Other new proposals are these:

An Industry Youth Corps, offering youths 16 to 20 private productive employment and on-the-job training.

Expansion of Head Start, the pre-school program for poor children, to take in children up to the third grade.

New Military Career Centers for volunteers unable to meet Selective Service requirements.

Conversion of the present in-school Neighborhood Youth Corps into a major work-study program for youngsters likely to drop out of high school for economic reasons.

Creation of a new State Bonus program to encourage States to contribute up to 200 million dollars—their contribution to be matched by the Federal Government. The funds would be used to supplement Community Action and Head Start programs.

Another facet of the Opportunity Crusade would be creation of a Hometown Peace Corps, to enlist local volunteers in the anti-poverty effort.

Other recommendations include establishment of an automated employment service to match individuals with available jobs, taking a "long overdue" national skill survey to pinpoint the thousands of skilled jobs already available, offering incentives to encourage the hiring and training of the unskilled, and allowing retired persons to work without losing their Social Security benefits.

We all know that the plight of the poor is something that our rich country has to face. But it has to face it realistically and practically. Training the poor to help themselves is the only real answer. Federal handouts are not in any way a solution, they are only an encouragement to idleness. If the war against poverty is ever to end in victory, it has to have the support of the American people. They have to have confidence in the way it is being waged. This confidence is rapidly being lost. It must be restored by constructive action.

I believe the legislative proposal just presented by Congressmen Goodell and Quie embodies that spirit. I plan to do what I can to see that it receives early and serious attention by this Congress.

This is ______________ reporting from Washington.

(Note: A copy of this script is available on Teleprompter in the House TV Studio. For additional information on this script or to suggest ideas for future scripts, contact the Committee's Public Relations Office.)
Editors, Party Publications: The following is the commentary by Felix Cotten, Republican National Committee, Public Relations Division, which is part of the COMMENT, weekly radio news program. The transcript of this commentary is being sent to you, for whatever use you care to make of it with or without credit.

Republicans are pressing at this session of Congress for the passage of legislation providing various forms of relief for elderly persons, especially those drawing Social Security benefits and other fixed incomes. Most of these people have been hard hit by the rising cost of living, which has been triggered by extravagant and uncontrolled Government spending.

To deal with some of the more urgent problems of elderly persons, the Republican Coordinating Committee early this month recommended, among other things, a double-barreled plan for increases in Social Security benefits. The plan includes an immediate increase in benefits and an automatic escalator increase which would go up as the cost of living goes up, both retroactive to last January 1.

The Coordinating Committee stressed the need for the automatic escalator increase, pointing out that the cost of living has risen faster than Social Security benefits.

The leadership group also recommended a plan that would allow persons over 65 to earn up to $2,100 a year without any loss of Social Security benefits, or 40 per cent more than the $1,500 now allowed. As an alternative, it recommended that persons over 65 be permitted to have an income of $3,300 a year in Social Security benefits and earnings without any loss of Social Security benefits.

The Coordinating Committee recommended restoration of the right formerly granted elderly people to deduct all uncompensated medical and drug expenses in
figuring their income taxes. This right was removed effective as of this year when the Medicare bill was passed in 1965.

The group proposed that widows be permitted to draw 100 per cent of the primary cash benefits of their late husbands.

At the same time, the Republican leaders strongly opposed Administration efforts to tax Social Security and Railroad Retirement benefits, to repeal the double exemption now allowed persons over 65, and to do away with the direct tax credit permitted the elderly on retirement income.

This is Felix Cotten, Republican National Committee News, in Washington.

4/11/67
This is Congressman Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

The wheels of legislation sometimes turn very slowly but when a sound idea pops up in Congress it usually winds up on the lawbooks in time.

This is what appears to be happening to the proposal for helping parents put their children through college by giving them a credit on their income tax for part of the expenses involved.

For the first time, this proposal has moved halfway through the Congress. The Senate on April 14 approved a tax credit for college expenses by tacking it onto a bill restoring the tax credit for investments by business men in new buildings and equipment.

Now that a tax credit covering part of the expense of higher education has cleared the Senate, pressure is building up for it in the House.

Every Republican in the Senate voted for the college tax credit proposal. The only votes against it were cast by Democrats.

In the House, Republicans are taking the lead in pushing the college tax credit plan. I cited this plan as one of the legislative objectives of the Republican Party when I delivered the domestic affairs portion of the Republican State of the Union Message last Jan. 19.

In that message I said: "We will continue our efforts to provide assistance to those who bear the rising cost of higher education through tax credits."

I now urge my Democratic friends in the House to support the Republican effort to gain passage of a college tax credit plan.

College tax credits would win full congressional approval if Democratic members of the House Ways and Means Committee would back the idea when they meet and selected Republican members meet with their Senate counterparts to work out a compromise on the investment tax credit bill.

But the Johnson Administration is strongly opposed to the college tax credits House plan, and there is reason to believe that the Democratic who are members of the conference committee will move to knock it out of the investment tax credit bill.

Even if this happens, I think the time will come fairly soon when college tax credits will be recognized as the proper and necessary means of helping parents foot the bill for their children's college expenses.

The time definitely has come for Congress to write into law tax relief for parents who invest in higher education for their children.
Steadily rising college costs have put a tremendous squeeze on family budgets.

Congress has accepted the idea of giving businessmen a tax break on their investments in new buildings and equipment. Should we do less for Americans investing in human betterment? Are new machines more important than an educated citizenry?

Education is not a luxury. It is a necessity. And the day when a high school education was enough is long past. We should make every effort to encourage our young people to continue their education beyond high school. Tax credits for part of college expenses is an effective means of doing just that.

I believe there is a definite shift of sentiment in the House of Representatives toward support of the college tax credit plan. This gives me strong hope for early enactment of this measure.

It is vital that we encourage individual investment in education. The better educated our people are, the stronger our Nation will be.

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

The wheels of legislation sometimes turn very slowly but when a good idea pops up in Congress it usually winds up on the shelves in time.

This is what appears to be happening to the proposal for helping parents put their children through college by giving them a tax credit on their income tax for part of the expenses involved.

For the first time, this proposal has moved halfway through the Congress. The Senate on April 14 approved a tax credit for college expenses by tacking it onto what will be a bill restoring the tax credit for investments by businessmen in new buildings and equipment.

Now that a tax credit covering part of the expense of high education has cleared the Senate, pressure is building up for it in the House.

Every Republican in the Senate voted for the $130 college tax credit proposal. The only votes against it were cast by Republican Democrats.

In the House, Republicans are taking the lead in pushing the college tax credit plan. I cited this plan as one one of the legislative objectives of the Republican Party when I delivered the domestic affairs portion of the Republican State of the Union Message last Jan. 19.

In that message I said: "We will continue our efforts to provide assistance to those who bear the rising cost of higher education through tax credits."

I now urge my Democratic friends in the House to support the Republican effort to gain passage of a college tax credit plan.

College tax credits would win full congressional approval if the 140 Democratic members of the House Ways and Means Committee would back the idea when they meet and select their 140 Republican members meet with their Senate counterparts to work out a compromise on the investment tax credit bill.

But the Johnson Administration is strongly opposed to the college tax credits House plan, and there is reason to believe that the 260 Democratic who are members of the conference committee will move to knock it out of the investment tax credit bill.

Even if this happens, I think the time will come fairly soon when college tax credits will be recognized as the proper and necessary means of helping parents foot the bill for their children's college expenses.

The time definitely has come for Congress to write $130 into law some tax relief
Steadily rising college costs have put a tremendous squeeze on family budgets.

Congress has accepted the idea of giving new businessmen a tax break on their investments in new buildings and equipment. Should we do likewise for American investing in human betterment? Are new machines more important than an educated citizenry?

Education is not a luxury. It is a necessity. And the day when a high school education was enough is long past. We should make every effort to encourage our young people to continue their education beyond high school. Tax credits for part of college expenses is an effective means of doing just that.

I believe there is a definite shift of sentiment in the House of Representatives toward support of the college tax credit plan. This gives me strong hope for early enactment of this measure.

It is vital that we encourage individual investment in education, because the better educated our people are the stronger our Nation will be.

This is your Congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington. I'll be talking with you again next week over this same WXYZ station.
This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington. These are most eventful times in the Nation's capital.

On Friday, the two houses of Congress met jointly to hear Gen. William Westmoreland, commander of our forces in Vietnam and a good personal friend of mine. I attended a luncheon at the White House in Gen. Westmoreland's honor.

The news wires also were humming with stories about a new approach to aid for elementary and secondary schools, known as the Quie Amendment, and a proposal to help low-income families buy homes of their own. I am working hard for the adoption in Congress of both of these proposals because I think they are good for America.

The school aid legislation, introduced by Rep. Albert Quie of Minnesota, would provide block federal grants for elementary and secondary schools. It would give local school people much more freedom in attacking local school problems with federal dollars.

At the same time, it would continue all the benefits present school aid law, supports the Amendment. Mr. Quie and I met a few days ago with private school officials and reached agreement on Quie Amendment provisions which will guarantee private schools full benefits. Definite assurances regarding those benefits have been written into the Quie Amendment. The Amendment would eliminate present benefits to private schools under the existing Federal School Aid Act. I am happy to set those fears at rest. There is nobody in the Congress who is more determined than I that private schools will continue to enjoy the benefits now being afforded them.

I and the many, many others in the House of Representatives who favor the Quie Amendment are simply interested in cutting federal red tape and easing federal controls. We want to make it possible for local educators to set their own priorities on the use of some of the federal school aid dollars made available to them.

Legislation to give low-income families a "leg up" on owning their own homes was introduced recently in the Congress by Sen. Charles Percy of Illinois and Rep. William Widnall of New Jersey. I immediately endorsed it because I believe it will be of tremendous help to slum dwellers who want to better themselves.

All Republican members of the Senate co-sponsored the Percy Bill, and more than 100 Republican members of the House introduced bills identical with Widnall's
Prospects are good for bipartisan support of the Percy-Widnall Bill. I would very much like to see such support develop in the days ahead because this is a bill that would help low-income Americans help themselves. I think all America would benefit as a result.

The Percy-Widnall Bill is designed to fill a great unmet need—the need to provide home loan funds for people who cannot get a home loan from a regular lending institution.

The bill would bridge this home loan gap by creating a Home Ownership Foundation with a board of trustees made up of some of the top people in the country. This board would raise mortgage money by selling bonds. This money then would be made available, through neighborhood nonprofit associations, to those of our citizens unable to afford regular home loans. The neighborhood association also would select the potential home-owners, help them find suitable housing and give them advice about employment, family finances and family planning. Where necessary, the Federal Government would help out with the initial interest payments—payments to be repaid later by the homeowner as his income increases.

Every American should be concerned with this legislation because it is aimed at achieving one of our country's foremost goals—a decent home and favorable living conditions for all our citizens.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington. I'll be talking with you next week over this same station.
A NEW EDUCATION PLAN

This is Congressman em[il] reporting to you from Washington.

"As the twig is bent, the tree inclines," is an old saying about our youngsters that has a timely meaning. I am reminding you of it because very soon a decision is going to be made in the Congress as to just how our little twigs are going to be bent. Will the "bending" be entrusted to the Federal Government or will it be kept much nearer to the home and the school? In other words, is Washington going to have the power to dictate—through the withholding or granting of federal funds—the content of our kids' schoolbooks, for instance? Or are we going to give our State governments and our localities this prerogative?

This affects every father and mother in the country—and, of course, their children. It is a nationwide issue. It is also a family matter.

And, because it is a family matter, I believe decisions on education should be made as near to the home as possible where the parents can have some "say" about it and can keep a closer eye on how their tax money is being spent.

So far, Washington has made too many of our educational decisions. It has, so to speak, laid down a very considerable part of America's educational "line."

Recently, however, a bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives designed to return responsibility for primary and secondary education to the States and localities. This bill would substitute lump-sum grants to the States for the present system of "categorical grants" for specific school programs. Funds would continue to come from the Federal Government, in other words, but the administration of these funds would be shifted to the States to prevent Federal control.

This will mean that you yourself will have much more chance to say about how your little twig is going to be bent—about how your tax money will be spent to help educate your youngsters.

Congressman Albert H. Quie of Minnesota, author of this new legislation, put the whole matter very succinctly the other day when he said, and I quote:

[quote]

(more)
I believe we have reached a crucial turning point in Federal programs for education—the point at which we must decide whether the Federal role will merely support the broad goals of education, or whether it will direct the objectives, structure, methods and ultimately the content of education. In a word, Congress must decide which course to take: whether to continue smothering our schools in Federal regulations, imposing Federal notions about how they are to do their job, or, on the contrary, to give our educators a vote of confidence in their ability to make the best school system on earth a better one.

I subscribe to those views expressed by Congressman Quie—and plan to do what I can to see that educators at the local level are given greater say and responsibility over the programs they administer.

Efforts are being made by bureaucrats in Washington to defeat this legislation by claiming that it would shortchange private and parochial schools. This is not an accurate interpretation of the Quie Amendment. The fact is that the Quie legislation would not take any benefits away from private school children—but rather would continue all present benefits.

The purpose of Congressman Quie’s bill—which is receiving support from Republicans and Democrats alike—is to substitute Federal block grants for the present maze of separately-funded school aid programs. This would free State and local school systems from Federal red tape and control. The Quie Amendment would give States more responsibility for their public school systems and would fully protect the private and parochial school students.

Such a concept must be appealing to most parents with school-age children.

I only hope we can translate this appeal into the law of the land.

This is Congressman Ford reporting from Washington.
Salute to Our Armed Forces.

(Note: This script is sent to you in advance of Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 20, and includes a place for insertion of special film showing servicemen in action around the globe. Although this insert has its own narration as part of the film, you may use the text as your own without the film insert if you prefer. Contact Bob Gaston at the Committee to make arrangements for the film insert or for further information.)

This is Congressman reporting from Washington.

May 20 is Armed Forces Day—the day we honor all branches of our Armed Forces and all the men and women in them. It is a day which finds our country still at war in Vietnam. Almost half-a-million men are already engaged in that conflict and still more are likely to be needed before we gain even the "limited objectives" which it seems we are fighting for.

So it is with deep solemnity that I say to the men and women in uniform: "We honor you, every single one of you. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the sacrifices you are making. We pray for your safe return and for a quick and victorious conclusion of your efforts."

Perhaps some of you will wonder what I mean when I say that our objectives in the Vietnamese war are "limited." Some of you may be shocked and say to yourselves, "What, aren't we fighting to win?" And you may want to know what grounds I have for making such a statement.

Let me quote to you a comment by one of the Pentagon's civilian leaders, Phil G. Goulding, assistant secretary of defense. Mr. Goulding said—and I quote—"We are engaged in a limited war for limited objectives. Our military actions must be weighed against those limited objectives. Our bombing operations in the North are conducted within certain constraints because they are tied to our limited objectives in the South."

Now, I'm not going to discuss at this time the wisdom or un-wisdom of engaging in a limited war for limited objectives. But I am going to say that this country—except for a noisy few "longhairs"—is solidly behind America's men in uniform, especially those now facing the enemy in Vietnam. And that it is pledged to support them in every way it can. (more)
honor them for the bravery and determination they are showing.

Join me now in a brief salute to our men in uniform.

FILM INSERT HERE . . .

Cut to closeup of globe

Narrator: Around the globe, our mighty defense forces are spread. Their job is to keep the peace and to fight only when the Communists deliberately encroach on free territory—-as happened in South Vietnam.

Cut to shot of troops in Korea

They are in Korea, still guarding the free South from the Chinese menace in the North.

Cut to shot of troops in Germany

And, of course, they are in West Germany, ready and poised, should the Russians suddenly decide on a new military adventure.

Cut to shot of Berlin Wall

The Berlin Wall—at best a flimsy barrier between East and West Germany—is made strong because American troops and their superb equipment are poised behind it.

Cut to shot of Navy

Our Navy is indeed world-circling. It is the mightiest Navy in the world, its sailors the finest, the best-trained. We salute the officers and men of the Navy. They defend the free world better than any Iron Curtain or Bamboo Curtain defends the Communist countries.

Cut to shot of Army in Vietnam

We salute the officers and men of the Army, whose job is to do the dreadful, weary fighting in the jungles of Vietnam. Their job is indeed a bitter one with vile Eastern diseases thinning their ranks.

Cut to shot of Marine Corps in Vietnam

We salute the officers and men of the Marine Corps, whose splendid courage is mentioned again and again in dispatches from Vietnam. Always, it seems they are the first into battle. Always, it seems they are there where the fighting is thickest.

Cut to shot of Air Force

And our Air Force—who can find the words to express our admiration for the job it is doing? At speeds faster than sound, our pilots have to pinpoint targets often hidden away

(more)
Cut to Congressman

Yes, we can all be proud of our men and women in uniform. They are unmatched by the armed forces of any nation in the world. And what a history behind them! Two world wars fought against tyranny and aggression—fought through to victory to save freedom for the world.

On Saturday, May 20—as on all days—I am proud to join in this salute to the men and women of our Armed Forces.

This is Congressman reporting from Washington.

(Note: A copy of this script is available on Teleprompter in the House TV Studio. For additional information on this script or to suggest ideas for future scripts, contact the Committee's Public Relations Office.)

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

As we approach the long holiday—just a little more than two weeks away—it is perhaps appropriate to note that the 90th Congress has been laboring and laboring and has produced little more than a mouse.

There is a mountain of work to be done by the Congress—and not the least important piece on the work pile is a bill to reorganize and modernize the Congress so it can serve the people better...can function more efficiently and effectively.

I call this to your attention because there is some evidence to indicate that the majority party in the House is—for some strange reason—apparently not too interested in congressional reform. In fact, the majority party leaders may be seeking to block it.

We now have before the House Rules Committee a congressional reorganization bill passed by the Senate last March 7—more than two months ago. The Rules Committee is conducting hearings on this bill, but there is no assurance that any kind of a reorganization bill will be sent to the floor of the House for action.

Other members of the House Republican Leadership and I feel it is imperative that Congress enact a bill to modernize and strengthen Congress.

After all, the wise men who carefully shaped the United States Constitution established the Congress as the First Branch of our Federal Government. It was intended that Congress serve to check the power of the Executive Branch. The members of the House of Representatives, elected every two years, are closest to the people and serve as their direct spokesmen.

One way in which congressional reform legislation would strengthen Congress—and thus strengthen the voice of the people—is in the control of federal spending.

The federal budget has become so huge and complex—and the devices for concealing the truth about federal spending so numerous—that federal spending is spiralling out of control. We have not had a balanced federal budget since 1960, the last year that President Eisenhower was in office. Instead we have been going deeper and deeper into debt each year—even in times of seeming prosperity.

Congress needs help to check this fiscal madness. Lacking... experts and given information only by Executive Branch fiscal officers, Congress is hard put to make an independent judgment on budget matters. There is no question that the Executive Branch often seeks to confuse or even to deceive Congress rather than to enlighten it.
So Congress needs help—help that can only come if the entire appropriations process is beefed up under provisions of a Congressional Reorganization Act.

It goes without saying, too, that Congress would serve the people better through congressional reform legislation, if the minority party's role on Capitol Hill were strengthened. I say this even though there is a good chance the Republican Party may win control of the House of Representatives in the next election.

The two-party system has made a great contribution to the success of the American political process.

Competition is good in politics just as in business. In the same fashion that competition in business tends to bring the consumer a better product, so competition in Congress serves to produce better legislation.

Yet the word I get is that the majority party leadership—if it does let a congressional reorganization bill get to the House floor—is planning to serve up a dish with all beefing-up of the minority chopped out. If that occurs—and the majority party makes it stick—I think it would be tragic for the country.

I hope the people will make their voices heard on this most important issue—and will insist that Congress be strengthened as a check on the Executive...and that the minority party, whichever it is, is aided in its role as watchdog for the people.

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

We are coming down to the wire on a struggle in the House of Representatives which will determine whether federal aid to elementary and secondary schools will continue to be strangled by federal red tape or will be allowed to flow freely to the states and local school districts.

The House is scheduled to consider Monday an Administration bill which would continue the present Elementary-Secondary Education Act and substitute legislation sponsored by Rep. Albert Quia of Minnesota, known as the Quia Amendment.

The outcome of this legislative test in the House is highly important. Democrats take the position that the present system of federal aid to elementary and secondary schools cannot be improved upon. Republicans believe that state and local school officials are being prevented from making full use of federal aid dollars because of federal interference and red tape.

The sole objective of House Republicans is to improve the quality of education in our local schools, private as well as public.

We also believe that the Quia Amendment would—in the words of the Council of Chief State School Officers—eliminate vast inequities that exist under the present Elementary-Secondary Education Act.

Many charges have been made concerning the Quia Amendment. These charges stem from baseless fears conjured up by the Administration. None of them is true.

Republicans ask only that the Quia Amendment be judged on its merits—that it be judged on the following facts.

In providing assistance to non-public schools, the Quia Amendment follows exactly the same procedure as the existing Elementary-Secondary Education Act. It requires state and local school officials to provide equitably for private school students. It actually expands the type of services that must be made available to private school students by including the loan of laboratory and other equipment on the same basis as textbooks and library materials.

Most states will get more money under the Quia Amendment's allocation formula. No state can get less than it receives in the fiscal year beginning this July 1.

The Quia Amendment does not affect either handicapped children or the Peace Corps.

The Quia Amendment requires that at least 50 per cent of a state's federal aid for elementary and secondary schools be spent on educationally deprived children, including those in private schools. In addition, it requires that the state
must give highest priority in spending ALL of the federal aid funds to heavy concentrations of economically and culturally deprived children, areas of rapid increase in school enrollment and areas of economic depression." The net result would be to concentrate federal funds on inner-city slum schools and impoverished rural areas to a greater extent than under the existing school aid Act. The present Act is written so that funds for the educationally indiscriminately deprived are scattered over 90 per cent of the country's school districts, including the wealthiest as well as the poorest.

The Quia Amendment does not in any way alter civil rights enforcement as it applies to school aid under the Civil Rights Act of 1964. But the Administration and the Democratic leadership are making a deal with the Southern Democrats in the House to weaken enforcement of school desegregation guidelines.

The Quia Amendment does not provide general aid for school construction or teacher salaries. Special programs would qualify for construction aid to meet special problems.

The Quia Amendment is simply a move to return local schools to local people. With the approval of a State plan by the U.S. Office of Education, local school districts would work with their state school officers to make the best possible use of federal aid dollars instead of running to Washington with a thick and complicated application form.

Shouldn't we take this one small step toward better schools?

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

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

Two issues are shaping up in the first session of the 90th Congress as legislation of substance finally comes before the House.

One of these is fiscal responsibility—an attempt to convince the American people and the majority party in the Congress that the federal money well is not bottomless and there's a war going on.

The other is state and local responsibility—an attempt to shift control of local education away from the federal government and back to the states and local school districts where it belongs.

Republicans in the House struck a blow for fiscal responsibility last week by seeking to block further expansion of the Johnson Administration's rent subsidies program and to keep the model cities program in the planning stage for a year. We succeeded in holding the rent subsidies program to the present level but failed in our move to hold up on model cities construction money.

In an historic attempt to reverse the flow of power to Washington that began with the New Deal, Republicans in the House also moved to free local school districts from federal red tape that has hampered best use of federal school aid funds. That action took place this week.

Republican moves on rent subsidies and model cities drew sharp criticism from those individuals who believe there should be no limit on federal spending or the federal debt and have no concern for the fact that the interest, alone, on the federal debt now is costing the American people $14 billion a year.

These individuals would have you believe that the federal government is doing precious little to assist local communities with their urban problems and that the Republican motions to block additional huge outlays were an attack on the cities themselves.

For that reason I took the floor of the House to point out just how much federal money was being poured out in the same appropriations bill containing the rent subsidies and model cities funds—$750 million for the traditional urban renewal program, $275 million in contributions to low-rent public housing, $75 million for mass transportation, $165 million for water and sewer programs, $27 million for neighborhood facilities plus $37,000,000 for salaries for that program, $20 million for housing for the elderly and handicapped with an additional $100 million to be raised through sale of participation certificates—a form of federal borrowing at high interest cost, $75 million for metropolitan
incentive planning grants, $5 million for urban research and technological research, $2.5 million for community development training programs, $2 million for urban information and technical assistance, and $2 million for low-income housing demonstration projects.

For anyone to argue that the appropriations bill House Republicans tried to cut neglected the problems of the cities is sheer nonsense. The truth is that appetite for federal spending is insatiable. They have no regard for the taxpayer. Republicans do not believe it is necessary to bleed the taxpayer white or plunge the Nation into bankruptcy to make an affirmative attack on city problems.

We halted further growth of the rent subsidies program. This, it was said, was "just" a $10 million item. What was really involved was a federal commitment of $10 million for 40 years—for a grand total of $400 million. This would have been an irrevocable step—a plunge into still another huge federal spending program, a program more costly than public housing and far more costly than a federal subsidy for home ownership.

These are the issues, these are the problems I face as I represent you in the House.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington. I'll be talking with you against next week over this same station.
THE CUBA THREAT

This is Congressman ______ reporting to you from Washington.

For some time now, Americans have been so concerned about the war in Vietnam—and more recently, of course, the Mideast situation—that they have forgotten about a very grave danger right here on our doorstep: Communist Cuba.

Today, I would like to bring you up-to-date on a new crisis we soon may be facing there—namely, Cuba's rapid development as a Russian missile base.

Just the other day, Paul Bethel, a former Foreign Service officer who now serves as director of the Citizens Committee for a Free Cuba, told the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee about what he referred to as "completely credible" eyewitness accounts from more than 60 different refugees of the movements in Cuba of missiles 70 to 80 feet in length and five to seven feet in diameter. This would place them in the Intermediate-range ballistic missile category, capable of attacking targets 800 to 1,500 miles distant.

An acknowledged Cuban authority, Bethel also reported that five Russian missile experts, two of general rank, arrived in Cuba last November. He said they took charge of a battery of long-range ballistic missiles whose warheads are now aimed at American targets. Obviously, the Soviet Union did not send their missile experts of general rank just to show the Cubans their smart new uniforms and their brilliant display of ribbons. A Red plot is being hatched 90 miles off the Florida coast—and the U. S. and other Latin republics are the victims!

Only a month ago, Dean Rusk, our Secretary of State, tried to play down the Russian–Cuban threat, claiming that it had subsided. The fact is that the threat has been growing. Recently, there has been an alarming and mysterious increase in the number of Soviet bloc ships arriving in Cuba. General Robert Porter, head of the U. S. Southern Command, testified before Congress that during one recent seven-day period, 70 to 75 vessels arrived with vast amounts of military supplies and additional Soviet troops. The
general noted caustically that this traffic represents the largest number of Soviet bloc ship arrivals in Cuba since the 1962 crisis.

I am afraid that we have to face the fact that the Communists are plotting a series of Vietnam-type wars in South America in order to sap U. S, resources and also to sap our determination to win in Vietnam.

General Porter is convinced that the situation in Cuba is going to worsen. In recent testimony before Congress, he said—and I quote—"Serious disorders, riots and insurgency could develop rapidly in a dozen Latin American countries—Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, Panama, Haiti and the Dominican Republic are all targets." The general's comments sum up what we're in for in the months ahead.

In closing, let me quote from Castro's "blueprint" for Latin subversion made public by him only last month. In it he called for "two, three or many Vietnams" to sap America's strength.

This document, which leaves no doubt as to the viciousness of his efforts or the target he is aiming at, states—and again I quote: "In order to focus destruction on Imperialism, we have to aim at the head—which is none other than the United States of America." End of quote.

Castro, in short, is determined to step up his war of subversion in this hemisphere and it can only mean more trouble for the United States. We must be on guard, lest the war in Vietnam blind us to the Communist threat just off our southern coast.

This is Congressman __________ reporting from Washington.

(Note: A copy of this script is available on Telaprompter in the House TV Studio. For additional information on this script or to suggest ideas for future scripts, contact the Committee's Public Relations Office.)
This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, reporting to you from Washington.

Right now, just after the Memorial Day holiday, is a good time to take a reading on what has happened in Congress this year and what is yet to come.

The most important single happening, in terms of future impact, was what the House did to the Administration's elementary-secondary school aid bill.

There seems to be a lot of confusion about just what the House did do. But there clearly was one highly significant development. The House voted to loosen federal control over school aid and turn some federal power over to the states.

House members did this by giving states control over experimental programs to develop new teaching techniques and by declaring federal hands-off regarding funds to strengthen State departments of education.

From the standpoint of what's best for the country, it doesn't matter whether the author of these changes was a Republican or a Democrat. It happens that the sponsor was Rep. Edith Green, Democrat of Oregon. But the net result was that the House went a good step of the way toward the greater state control proposed by House Republicans. Republicans therefore accomplished much of what they had set out to do—assuming that the House changes in elementary-secondary school aid are not struck down after this legislation moves through the Senate.

These changes in the school aid bill are a sign of the times—a reflection of the changed complexion of Congress resulting from the net gain of 47 seats in the House achieved by the Republican Party in the last election.

Congress has been in session for five months to date but there's not much on the scoreboard. Most of the floor action still lies ahead.

Legislation through one or both houses of Congress includes draft law revision, half a dozen appropriation bills, a supplemental appropriation for Vietnam, the investment tax credit bill, Food for India, a supplemental appropriation for national security, an increase in the temporary debt limit from $330 billion to $386 billion through June 30, and a veterans pension and benefits bill.

In individual action, the House voted to exclude Adam Clayton Powell from membership to challenge his court test of the separation of powers doctrine, and to establish a permanent committee on Official Standards of Conduct for House members.

The Senate, acting alone, has approved the consular and outer space treaties.

The list of legislation still to be disposed of by the Congress is staggering. It includes the President's proposed income tax increase, his request for an increase in the permanent national debt ceiling from $295 billion to $365 billion,
an increase in Social Security benefits, the President's proposal for expanding trade with Communist countries in Eastern Europe, foreign aid authorization and funding, legislation to deal with a threatened railroad strike, the President's proposals to continue and expand the Teacher Corps, an omnibus anti-crime law and the use of wiretapping, firearms control, college aid, air pollution control, reorganization of Congress, election reform, educational television, picketing at construction sites, truth-in-lending, and civil rights.

The House is showing some inclination—as urged by House Republicans—to keep the President from spending as much as he would like to on Great Society programs. To date we have cut roughly $1.5 billion from the regular fiscal 1968 appropriation bills. But the Administration refuses to pull in its horns on spending despite the continued sharp rise in Vietnam War costs. For that reason it is becoming doubtful whether Republicans in Congress can succeed in their determination to head off the President's income tax increase.

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