

# Congress Not Enthused Over Ike's Message

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On the basis of scattered early returns, President Eisenhower's explanation of the nation's financial position with relation to the conflict with Russia was better received by the country's editorial writers than by Congress.

What Congress would hear from the people remained to be seen. Faced by the determination of an important Republican congressional group to reduce defense spending and foreign aid below the minimum safety point which he believed his budget recommendations had attained, and by a concerted drive to reduce taxes in the face of a budget still far from balanced, the President had gone to the people.

**Simplest Terms**  
He attempted to reduce the situation to its simplest terms, a very difficult thing when dealing with so many billions of dollars, with authorized but unspent funds to consider and with an explanation needed, for instance, of how the Air Force can be stronger with 120 wings than with 143.

Beyond what could be said saved—and he said the administration's search for possible economies would be continuous—the people would just have to go on paying.

**Dash of Cold Water**  
To many the speech came as a dash of cold water. They had expected, last fall, that the new President would pull the rabbit of tax reduction out of the magic hat. But Eisenhower said that in an age of danger from a great power determined to destroy freedom around the world, there was no magic hat. He relied mostly on logic, but there were stretches of eloquence, too. He wanted people to feel it an honor to carry their heavy load in the cause he advocated.

Congress flew right back at home. The hue and cry for more economy on one hand, and for tax reductions on the other, had begun in anticipation of the Eisenhower stand, and continued unabated.

Republican members of the House Ways and Means Committee agreed for the most part that they would oppose extension of the excess profits tax.

**Taft 'Disappointed'**  
Sen. Taft said he was "disappointed" in Eisenhower's 50 billion figure for defense and foreign aid, and said the problem should be studied to see if 40 billions couldn't be made to do.

Business men of all classes pointed to inequalities and hardships in the excess profits tax, but the stock market had discounted the President's words in advance, and remained steady.

The problem has been building up to a climax for years. It's evaluation involved the chances for war. It involved the balance point between a sound dollar, a sound economy, and a safe level of military defense. It involved not only the practical but the spiritual cooperation of the Western Allies. It involved the fate not only of this nation, but of all the nations.

The battle of viewpoints promised to be bitter. None could say who was right, who wrong, or if there still remained a better middle ground. That would be revealed only as new pages of history were turned.

## Farm Information Fund Stabilization Bill Advances

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House Agriculture Committee Wednesday approved a bill to stabilize annual federal aid to states in providing agricultural information for farmers.

The bill would continue each year the funds given to each of the states this year for agricultural extension service work. Under present law, the amount given to each state may change every decade as a result of population shifts down by the decennial census.

State land grant colleges cooperate with the Department of Agriculture in extension services and states pay part of the cost. The service keeps farm people posted in new agricultural developments.

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