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8 March 1967

U. S. HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

REP. JOHN J. RHODES, (R.-ARIZ.) CHAIRMAN • 140 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING • TELEPHONE 225-6168

10

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT POLITICAL INFLUENCE IN THE POSTAL SERVICE

In order to have a first-class postal system, the Post Office Department must be divorced from politics. We urge the immediate consideration of legislation introduced by Republican Members that would eliminate political favoritism and insure the recognition and promotion of able and experienced career postal employees.

The United States Post Office Department is one of the world's biggest businesses. It employs more than 700,000 employees and handles over 75.6 billion pieces of mail each year.

Although this Department has an annual operating budget in excess of \$6.5 billion a year, and thousands and thousands of dedicated, conscientious employees, it has not furnished the type of mail service that this country needs and demands. Moreover, the ever increasing number of complaints, misdeliveries, nondeliveries, delays and backups are a clear warning that even more serious trouble lies ahead unless corrective steps are taken.

The American people will not get the type of postal service they deserve, and the many problems within the service will not be corrected, until there is a fundamental change in the manner in which the Department is operated. As long as this Department remains a politically-dominated agency where appointments and all promotions from postmaster to carrier, are based on political favoritism rather than merit, postal experience and good management procedures, a first-class postal system cannot be developed and maintained.

(over)



5 March 1957

Postal employees should not be placed in a position where obtaining a job or their future in the postal service is determined by the size or regularity of their political contributions.

The more modern European systems are operated strictly on a professional business basis. They have recognized that in order to give quality service, the operation of these departments must be divorced from politics. This is in contrast to our own system wherein postmasters of even the largest cities operating post offices doing many millions of dollars of business a year and employing many thousands of employees, need two paramount qualifications - they must belong to the right political party and they must curry favor with the right politicians.

Certainly, every employee coming into the postal service should have the opportunity to rise up through the ranks and attain a top supervisory position. This is not the case today and it may never be the case unless appropriate legislation is enacted into law.

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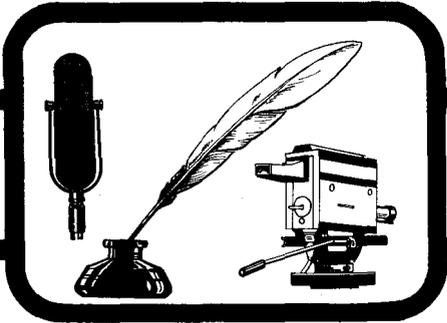


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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER



--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

February 25, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Republican Leader, U. S. House of Representatives

I have long personally advocated making advancement in the postal system a matter of merit and opening the top job in each Post Office to career employes on that basis.

For that and other reasons I wholeheartedly support President Nixon's legislative proposals aimed at taking politics out of the Post Office Department.

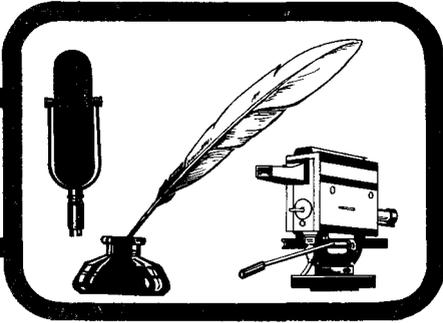
Delivery of the mail is a government service which touches the lives of all Americans. It is a service which must be improved or it will break down under the steadily increasing weight of demands placed upon it.

Enactment of the President's recommendations for reform of the postal system will benefit the Nation. That is the clearest indication of their merit. In addition, conditions in the Post Office Department place a mark of greatest urgency on the actions proposed by the President.

I urge that the Congress approve the President's proposals as soon as possible after thorough examination of the legislation required to implement them.

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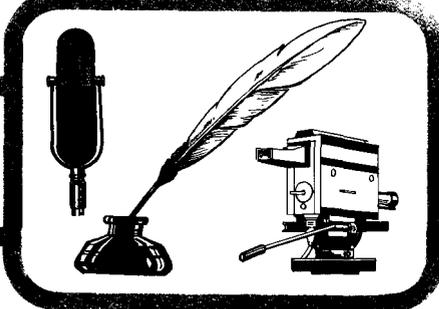
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HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
May 27, 1969

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U.S. House of Reps.
on the floor of the House, Tuesday, May 27, 1969.

Mr. Speaker: It is often true that what we need the most for our own well-being we assiduously avoid. There is little question in my mind that complete re-direction of our postal system is, as President Nixon today has told us, "absolutely essential."

There is also little question in my mind that if the sweeping reforms proposed by the President are to become reality, it will only be because postal employes finally recognize that the proposed new United States Postal Service is in their own self-interest.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want a thorough-going change in the operations of the Post Office Department. They want improved, efficient, fast mail delivery. The taxpayers want postal reform. They are sick of subsidizing the Post Office Department to the tune of nearly a billion dollars a year. I don't think anyone will have to sell the President's proposed new Postal Service to the people.

But the President and all others who recognize the imperative need for putting delivery of the mail on a business basis will have to do a selling job on postal employes and the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the proposed creation of a government corporation to run the United States Postal Service is an idea whose time has come. This is not a partisan political issue. Former Postmaster General Lawrence O'Brien strongly supports the new concept for an improved mail service.

Its time has come because all of the facts show postal reform to be in the enlightened self-interest of all of the American people, including our 750,000 postal employes.

Regrettably I understand that representatives of postal employes have vowed to fight the proposal for a Postal Service Corporation down to the last mail bag. It is my guess that their views will change when they see what it will mean in terms of their own self-interest.

Whatever the significance for other federal employes, the fact remains that postal workers under the President's reform plan will be able to engage in true collective bargaining for the first time. In addition, the plan calls for binding arbitration of stalemated disputes.

As President Nixon expressed it, "The postal worker will finally take his rightful place beside the worker in private industry."

Mr. Speaker, the Congress must take every vestige of politics out of our postal system. Postal reform deserves the support of every member of Congress, regardless of party.

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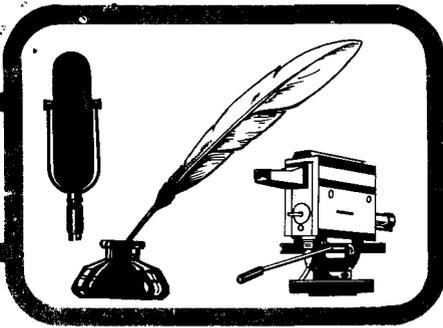
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HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
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--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
March 19, 1970

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U. S. House of Representatives, placed in the Congressional Record of Thursday, March 19, 1970.

Both President Nixon and Postmaster General Blount have expressed their great concern over the postal strike in the New York City area.

While it is impossible for the Administration to endorse this strike -- a strike which is illegal under existing law -- both the President and the Postmaster General agree that working conditions and rates of pay for postal workers must be improved.

The President expressed to me his hope that the striking employees would return to their jobs.

The mail is the life blood of our economy. This strike means a delay in the delivery of millions of welfare, social security and pension retirement checks in the New York area. It means the interruption of vital business service. It means a delay in the delivery of life sustaining medicines to the critically ill.

The President further expressed his concern over the refusal of the strikers to obey the Federal Court injunction issued yesterday ordering the striking employees back to work.

The postal strike is illegal under existing law and the failure to obey the Federal injunction places the strikers in contempt of court.

The Congress has, I think, demonstrated its interest in improving working and wage conditions for postal employees. Last week the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee, in an unprecedented bipartisan move, reported to the House floor a postal reform-salary adjustment act which will provide collective bargaining rights for postal employees for the first time.

Under this measure, postal employees can bargain with postal management over their grievances with the added provision that points of contention which cannot be settled at the bargaining table can go to binding arbitration.

It means that the striking employees in New York could, through their national leadership, bargain over the points of contention which precipitated this strike.

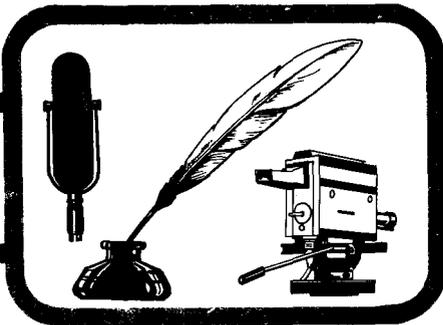
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The same legislation contains a 5.4 per cent wage increase for most postal employees retroactive to January 1, 1970. While this does not meet the current demands of the striking New York employees, it is a step in the direction of an upward adjustment in postal salaries.

The President has further expressed his support for additional postal pay increases above the 5.4 per cent -- and also a raise for other Federal employees.

But he has asked that these increases be withheld until next year.

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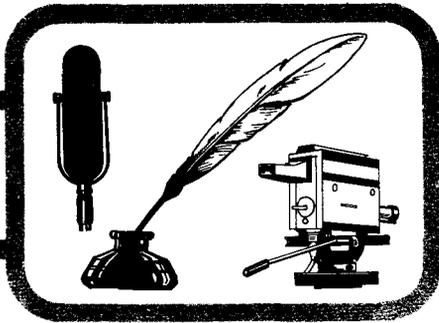
--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
March 23, 1970

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U.S. House of Reps.

President Nixon is to be applauded for confining his callup of the military to postal duty to New York alone. He took the most constructive action available to him in this time of domestic crisis. His appeal to the strikers was low-keyed and yet eloquent. It was the voice of reason. I hope the strikers will heed it. I would at this time also compliment Letter Carriers National President James Rademacher for urging the strikers to return to their jobs.

It should also be noted that H. R. 4, the pay increase and postal reform bill which probably would have avoided this entire situation, was held in the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee for too long a time. That was a tragic delay. When the committee did report out the bill on March 12, it was not brought quickly to the House floor for affirmative action. The postal walkout started on March 18. I urge that H. R. 4 be moved through the House as soon as the strikers return to work.

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--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
August 6, 1970

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, on the floor of the House, Thursday, August 6, 1970, in support of the Conference Report on H.R. 17070.

MR. SPEAKER: I support this conference report and urge its prompt adoption.

I also wish to commend the Chairman and the Members of the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service for what I consider to be one of the truly great accomplishments of this Congress. The postal reform bill, which we send to the President today, will stand as a landmark in the history of the United States postal service.

This legislation is the product of sincere, dedicated, bipartisan effort. Those efforts began with general studies in the last administration and moved ahead with President Nixon's specific legislative proposals of May 1969 and April 16, 1970. Today we reach the end of a journey of tremendous legislative accomplishment by sending the postal reform bill to the President for his signature.

While the final conference agreement before the House represents a fine compromise between the work of the House and the work of the Senate, it basically embodies all the recommendations of President Nixon resulting from the unprecedented negotiations between the Administration and the postal unions after the end of the March postal work stoppage. This includes, of course, the 8 per cent additional pay raise for all Post Office Department employees.

Shortly after he was inaugurated, President Nixon pledged that his Administration would move to abolish the political patronage system which has plagued the Post Office Department for nearly two centuries. That was accomplished by administrative action of the Postmaster General early last year. Under the provisions of this legislation there will be a permanent barrier against any resurgence of partisan politics in the postal service.

The Post Office Department is to be reorganized as an independent establishment in the Executive Branch and is purposely insulated from direct control by the President, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Congress.

The new postal system is intended to be self-supporting. It will have continuity of top management, with all the management tools and flexibility needed

(more)

to properly manage. It will have appropriate controls over its expenses and its revenues. It will have a workable means of raising the necessary funds for facilities and capital improvements.

The new postal service will herald a new era of dignity and respect for postal employees who will be able to sit down at the bargaining table with management and bargain collectively over pay, fringe benefits, and the conditions of their employment.

The end result of this massive reorganization of the antiquated Post Office Department can only be as the President anticipated -- "a truly superior mail service."

I am proud to have been a co-sponsor of this legislation.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I emphasize that this legislation which comes to us today for final approval after many, many months of long, tedious efforts by the Committee will stand as a monumental legislative achievement of the 91st Congress.

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93rd Congress
First Session

July 17, 1973
Statement No. 15

HOUSE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON H.R. 8929,

THE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL POSTAL AMENDMENTS OF 1973

The House Republican Policy Committee strongly opposes the passage of H.R. 8929, the Educational and Cultural Postal Amendments of 1973. The bill, reported by the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, is best described in the Views of the Committee Minority as "educational only as an object lesson in raiding the Treasury" and "cultural to the extent of its cultivation of special interest groups".

H.R. 8929 would provide huge and unwarranted windfalls to certain profit-oriented newspaper, periodical and magazine publishers and high-volume distributors of books and records. It would accord "favored status" to selected mailers by--

- 1) stretching out, from five to nine years and in biennial increments, the phased rate increases for profit-oriented second class publications and fourth class books and records;
- 2) providing a one-third discount on the first 100,000 copies of each issue of profit-oriented second class publications and on the first 250,000 copies of each issue of non-profit second class publications;

(OVER)

- 3) providing a 50 percent subsidy for any future rate increases for non-profit publications.

Upon the general taxpayer would fall the burden of this generosity-- approximately \$950 million during the next seven years. Beyond 1980 these continuing subsidies would prove equally exorbitant and inequitable.

The proposed legislation is completely contrary to principles underlying the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970. Once again it involves the Congress in the postal rate-setting process. It not only makes the already complicated second class rates more confusing and complicated, but by locking into permanent law references to former rate classifications that were repealed by the Act, it perpetuates an archaic classification structure.

Enactment of H.R. 8929 would prove a serious and costly error. It violates the structuring of postal rates and destroys the effective operation of the Postal Rate Commission. It is an unwarranted raid on the Federal Treasury for the unneeded benefit of a selected few.

The House Republican Policy Committee opposes the passage of H.R. 8929, the Educational and Cultural Postal Amendments of 1973.



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