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House Republican Policy Committee  
John J. Rhodes, Chairman  
140 Cannon House Office Building  
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Budget  
For Immediate Release  
March 15, 1966

Republican Policy Committee Statement on S.2394, A Bill Authorizing  
An Official Residence for the Vice President of the United States

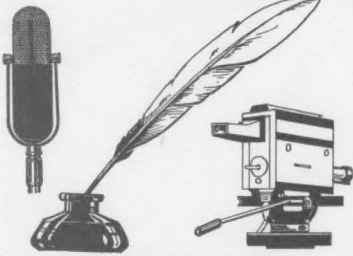
The Republican Policy Committee is opposed to S.2394 as it has been reported from the Committee on Public Works. Under the provisions of this bill the Administrator of the General Services Administration would be authorized to plan, design, construct, furnish and maintain an official residence for the Vice President on the grounds of the U.S. Naval Observatory. The type of "residence" that may be contemplated is reflected in the Senate Report which states: "by establishing this official residence for the Vice President, we will also be providing for the American people another great national monument, surpassed only by the White House and the Capitol itself."

This bill, and the mansion it would provide for the Vice President, is just one more illustration of the Johnson Administration's "business as usual" attitude. Although faced with a massive war in Viet Nam and a serious inflationary situation at home, the Johnson Administration has refused to place any priorities on spending. The need for such priorities is reflected in the fact that last year alone the cost of living rose over 2 percent and in January of this year it rose 0.5 percent. Thus, if this rate continues throughout the year, it would amount to 6 percent annually. Moreover, the cost of the war in Viet Nam is continuing to escalate, domestic spending is at an all-time high and the National Debt now stands at a record-breaking \$322 billion.

It is also significant that although the Administration is pressing for the construction of an expensive residence for the Vice President, it is, at the same time, calling for a reduction in: (1) housing for military personnel, (2) the low-cost milk and lunch program for school children, (3) the National Defense Act loan program for college students, (4) the federal impacted area school assistance program, and (5) grants for land grant colleges. We believe a sensible policy of first things first would reverse this order and place the Vice President's mansion at the bottom of the expenditure list, or, in the alternative, at the top of a list containing items to be eliminated or postponed.

Certainly, under the present circumstances every effort should be made to reduce non-essential government spending. Congress can take the first step in imposing fiscal restraint on a spendthrift Administration by defeating this bill.





CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

APRIL 5, 1966

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN

In line with his "jawbone" campaign to cool off the economy and try to halt inflation, President Johnson is setting an example by postponing construction of "two little rooms to a house that we have down home that we will occupy some of these days."

If Mr. Johnson thinks it important to defer adding "two little rooms" to a house he owns, then it would be only logical for him to veto the Hubert Humphrey House bill now awaiting his signature. By vetoing that bill, the President would deal inflation a much weightier blow than by his deferment of the two-room addition he speaks of. He would be putting off a \$750,000 construction project which hardly falls into the category of essential wartime spending.

In explaining his decision to postpone the two-room addition to his house, Mr. Johnson said: "I asked Mrs. Johnson...to defer those two rooms because the construction people who would be working on them would be very much in demand."

The same is true, of course, about Hubert Humphrey House.

Mr. Johnson said his two-room addition was "a little thing" but added that if everybody postpones non-essential building "the economy won't get out of our hands, and the prices won't go up five per cent in the next five months."

I suggest to the President that he could set an even better example for the people by vetoing the bill which will put Hubert Humphrey House on the drawing boards. He has until Saturday to sign the bill. He can strike a blow against inflation by vetoing it.

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