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ADDRESS BY REPRESENTATIVE GERALD R. FORD, JR.,
FIFTH DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN, AT NORTH CAROLINA
YOUNG REPUBLICAN RALLY IN MORGANTOWN, N.C.
MAY 6, 1950

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen - it is a real privilege and a great pleasure for me to return to the Tarheel State on this occasion. My three previous visits to this part of the country include a summer at your excellent University law school in Chapel Hill, a 9 month tour of duty with the Navy, again at Chapel Hill, and finally^a week end wedding party, not my own, in your delightful mountain country. You can readily see that my Carolina experiences are of a wide variety, running the gamut from the school house, the military installation, the alter and now the political arena. I have survived and enjoyed all former visits. It is my hope that I can on this occasion contribute my bit to your energetic and determined effort for the preservation of our American way of life.

An unbiased and nonpolitical analysis of the communications received nowadays by members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans alike, would unquestionably reveal serious public concern about most of our government's present policies. Letter writers properly wonder why we seem to be losing the Cold War, particularly the



struggle in China and the Far East. There is a similar apprehension as to the future on purely domestic matters. Furthermore, many young men who served faithfully and well in World War II wonder if we are dropping our guard, so to speak, when the threat of Soviet attack is perhaps more imminent than we would like to admit.

Frankly, I would be dishonest if I should assure you here tonight that the United States is impregnable secure at home and abroad. In fact, I am as fearful for the future as my Michigan constituents. Fortunately there is a glimmer of hope yet remaining, and as long as there is a chance for a revival we in the Republican Party must fight wholeheartedly and intelligently for certain basic principles upon which this nation was founded and prospered so that America can continue to go forward everlastingly as the inspiration to others throughout the World. Make no mistake, the chips are down. The Republican Party must win in the coming elections or the United States will inevitably tread the identical path followed by England since 1900. It is high time that we dedicate ourselves once and for all against these individuals, those pressure groups and any political party that seeks by direct action or



insidious gradualism to destroy our nation.

Let us survey for a moment the international situation.

Despite the precariousness of the situation, notable progress since the end of World War II has been made in our struggle against further Soviet aggression in Europe. The battle with Russia and her satellite nations beyond the Iron Curtain in Europe has not been won but at the moment we are assured by the State Department and the Military that we do have determined allies, and furthermore there is evidence of considerable dissatisfaction and unrest beyond the Police State barriers.

The diplomatic successes in Europe to a material extent have resulted from the forward looking legislation initiated in the Republican controlled 80th Congress. My fellow townsman, our Party's senior Statesman in foreign affairs, Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg, was and still is largely responsible for the constructive policies that have been and are now bearing fruit across the Atlantic. Another Republican, E.C.A. Administrator, Paul G. Hoffmann, has done a remarkably fine job in making the European Recovery Program successful.



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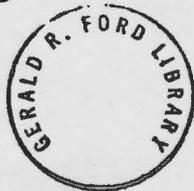
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With all the conviction at my command I contend that if the present Administration is continued in power my home town friend is acting unwisely. The Administration is committed to a program which calls for continuous federal spending in excess of tax revenues. It is reliably estimated that in the 1949-1950 and 1950-1951 fiscal years federal expenditures will aggregate about 14 billion in excess of revenues. Unfortunately this is no isolated case. The federal government has been operating in the red in 18 of the last 20 years. Despite the fact that the United States is now in a period of relative prosperity continuing annual federal deficits stare our citizens in the face. Thoughtful people in all walks of life are becoming more and more apprehensive regarding the future value of the dollar. Thoughtful people throughout this



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Can a government behave in an immoral manner toward its own people? We all know how a community would condemn a man who ran up charge accounts, went on a binge every Saturday night and didn't pay his bills. How long could a respected citizen borrow money from his friends and, when the time came to pay it back, require them to settle on the basis of 60 cents to the dollar? Surely any community would frown on a person who indulged in these practices. But when a government does these things, is such conduct any less immoral? The facts clearly indicate that the United States Government is on a big spending binge. It is living beyond its income, not accidentally or because of misfortune, but deliberately, and I vehemently condemn those who permit such practices to continue.

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True, there is a humorous side to this but, on the other
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What this country needs today is not a good 5-cent cigar.
It needs some booklets issued by the Federal Government on the
following subjects: First, How to Balance the Federal Budget; second,
How to Put an End to Deficit Financing; and third, How to Take a
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As well-trained Communists know that one of the easiest ways to wreck capitalism is to debauch the currencies of capitalistic nations. Communists are well acquainted with the fact that the simplest way to demoralize and defeat the United States is to force us into a perpetual policy of deficit spending. Our former President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, knew and appreciated this danger. Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932 while campaigning for the Presidency had this to say, and I quote, "Any government, like any family, can for a year spend a little more than it earns. But you and I know that a continuance of that habit means the poorhouse." These words by Franklin D. Roosevelt, important eighteen years ago, have even greater importance today. It is indeed unfortunate that the present Chief Executive fails to appreciate the soundness of his predecessor's counsel and advice.

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Many of my friends in the State of Michigan scoff when told there is a distinct possibility, in fact a probability, that the Administration if continued in power will force through the Congress in the near future the Brannan Plan and a program of health insurance similar to the one now in operation in Great Britain. This total lack of appreciation of the true facts is appalling. For example, according to newspaper stories, just last week the Democratic National Committee started a new drive on behalf of Mr. Oscar Ewing's nationalized medical program. Let there be no mistake, both of these preposterous, Un-American programs will be on the federal statute books unless the citizens of this great country take affirmative action at the polls in the coming months.



For a moment let's take a look at this plan that the Secretary of Agriculture is trying to bludgeon through the Congress. Mr. Brannan promises all things to all men. The scheme presents an alluring appeal to all groups - a guaranteed income to the farmers and cheaper food to the consumers. What will the cost be to all taxpayers, including these deriving special benefits? No one, including Mr. Brannan, will hazard an accurate prediction as to the drain on the federal treasury. The best authorities, however, estimate the annual lost to the treasury will be 5 to 10 billion. Bear these figures

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There could be but one final outcome - nationalization of the land. Make no mistake, that is the ultimate goal of the planning boys! It is a clever plan to get the farmer's neck into a noose, while he is fattened for the kill.

Farmers should read The Parable of the Wild Duck, written in the first half of the 19th Century by a great Danish philosopher. There is a deadly parallel to be drawn between the plight which will be the farmer's, if the Brannan plan is put into operation, and the sad fate which overtook the wild duck in the story I'll relate.

With his mates a wild duck was flying in the springtime northward across Europe. During the flight he came down in a Danish barnyard where there were tame ducks. He ate of their corn and he liked it. He stayed for an hour - then for a day - then a week -



then a month - and finally, because he relished the good fare and the safety of the barnyard, he stayed all summer.

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He dropped back into the barnyard and said to himself, "Oh, well, my life is safe here, and the food is good."

But, alas, he was not safe from the man who fed him - for he later discovered that he was being **EATTENED FOR THE KILL.**

The problems and dangers raised by so-called compulsory health insurance programs, better known as socialized medicine, are too numerous to be discussed in detail on this occasion. One myth, however, should be exposed. The Administration's proposal, which calls for governmental compulsion and regulation, is not



free medicine as many of its advocates would make you believe. Substantial deductions in addition to present social security payments will be made regularly from the paychecks of the workers. Employers will likewise contribute funds for the maintenance of this new federal service and bureaucracy. If we can use the experience of England as a test, the total of such contributions by workers and employers will pay approximately one-tenth of the over-all cost of this scheme. The other 90% of the cost will come directly from the U. S. Treasury. As you already know, the government is now borrowing funds to keep its coffers supplied. Again I wonder if my letter writing friend, who is helping Uncle Sam borrow by buying government bonds, would approve of such proposed legislation.

What is the answer to the health problems facing us as a nation? I submit we need more doctors in more places with greater emphasis on general practitioners. Our hospital construction program should provide essential and adequate facilities, not only in metropolitan areas, but in properly designated rural sections. Medical research should be expanded by private subscription and government



funds. Last but not least, the coverage of our nonbureaucratic voluntary health insurance programs should be greatly expanded. This approach is making substantial progress. It can and will meet the legitimate needs of our people and furthermore will be accomplished in the finest American tradition.

As the representative of a highly industrialized part of the country, where labor and management frequently and bitterly disagree, I have, as you can imagine, a few problems in reconciling the differences in point of view. It should, however, be self-evident to the extremists, both in labor and in management, that industrial peace cannot be achieved by legislation that favors one group at the expense of another. It is indeed regrettable that certain individuals and groups have recklessly or by design plunged the whole issue of labor-management legislation into the political arena. No sound solution in favor of the general public, can possibly result when such a vital issue is beclouded by political demagoguery. There should be legislation that will not hamstring management. There should be laws that will not bring lashes down on the backs of labor. The



President and the leaders in management and labor would render a great public service if a nonpolitical conference were jointly sponsored so that reasonable differences could be reconciled for the benefit of the nation as a whole.

I pass along a word of caution to those leaders in management who seem to advocate complete dominance by business and a disregard of the rights of employees. Most farsighted businessmen and economists agree that the disastrous economic collapse and depression of the 1930's resulted from a lack of purchasing power in the hands of the workers. Industrial leaders should make every effort to pay adequate wages so a proper balance will be maintained between production and consumption. If this policy is not followed, economic chaos will again unfortunately plague this nation.

Labor along with its new power also has its added responsibilities and at times I become gravely concerned with the comments and policies advocated by individual labor leaders. Let me recite an experience I had not too long ago while attending a meeting of one of the union groups in my district. Several union leaders were extremely critical of profits made by some of the companies in our state. For



example, General Motors was bitterly attacked for the amount of money earned during the last year or two. In answer to the questions put to me, I strongly emphasized that employees of a profit-making company are infinitely better off than those who work for a company which loses money. It seemed appropriate to draw a comparison between the Kaiser-Frazier Co. which lost 30 million dollars last year and General Motors which made a profit. Which of the two companies offer the greatest job security for individual workers? I'm sure the answer is obvious. This precise point was realized by Samuel Gompers, the renowned leader of the American Federation of Labor in its early days, who once said, and I quote:

"The greatest crime a company can commit against its employees is not to make a profit."

In closing, let me make this emphatic statement - the Republican Party is against the forces, the pressure groups, that want this country handled or mishandled by Big Business, Big Government, Big Labor or Big Agriculture. This country belongs to the people and it's time we re-stressed the fact. It's high time our voters act affirmately as they did this last week in some states.



It should be obvious that today the United States is catapulting down the chute to the worst type of bureaucracy and regimentation. This pending disaster must be stopped here and now, not tomorrow. But how are we going to stop it when the public appears to enjoy being spoon fed by a paternalistic government? The solution lies in showing the American citizens that bigger and bigger bureaucracies endanger free government, that financial insolvency ultimately leads to forced economy and slave labor, that men cannot both be free and at the same time dependent on government handouts for food, health and lodging. Let's not remain inactive while being fattened for the kill.



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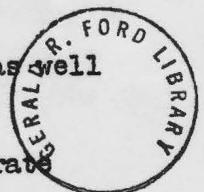
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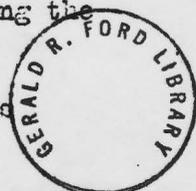
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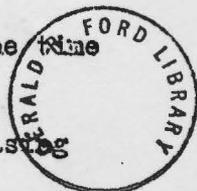
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The problems and dangers raised by so-called compulsory health insurance programs, better known as socialized medicine, are too numerous to be discussed in detail on this occasion. One myth, however, should be exposed. The Administration's proposal, which calls for governmental compulsion and regulation, is not



free medicine as many of its advocates would make you believe. Substantial deductions in addition to present social security payments will be made regularly from the paychecks of the workers. Employers will likewise contribute funds for the maintenance of this new federal service and bureaucracy. If we can use the experience of England as a test, the total of such contributions by workers and employers will pay approximately one-tenth of the over-all cost of this scheme. The other 90% of the cost will come directly from the U. S. Treasury. As you already know, the government is now borrowing funds to keep its coffers supplied. Again I wonder if my letter writing friend, who is helping Uncle Sam borrow by buying government bonds, would approve of such proposed legislation.

What is the answer to the health problems facing us as a nation? I submit we need more doctors in more places with greater emphasis on general practitioners. Our hospital construction program should provide essential and adequate facilities, not only in metropolitan areas, but in properly designated rural sections. Medical research should be expanded by private subscription and government



funds. Last but not least, the coverage of our nonbureaucratic voluntary health insurance programs should be greatly expanded. This approach is making substantial progress. It can and will meet the legitimate needs of our people and furthermore will be accomplished in the finest American tradition.

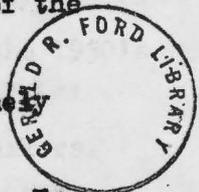
As the representative of a highly industrialized part of the country, where labor and management frequently and bitterly disagree, I have, as you can imagine, a few problems in reconciling the differences in point of view. It should, however, be self-evident to the extremists, both in labor and in management, that industrial peace cannot be achieved by legislation that favors one group at the expense of another. It is indeed regrettable that certain individuals and groups have recklessly or by design plunged the whole issue of labor-management legislation into the political arena. No sound solution in favor of the general public, can possibly result when such a vital issue is beclouded by political demagoguery. There should be legislation that will not hamstring management. There should be laws that will not bring lashes down on the backs of labor. The



President and the leaders in management and labor would render a great public service if a nonpolitical conference were jointly sponsored so that reasonable differences could be reconciled for the benefit of the nation as a whole.

I pass along a word of caution to those leaders in management who seem to advocate complete dominance by business and a disregard of the rights of employees. Most farsighted businessmen and economists agree that the disastrous economic collapse and depression of the 1930's resulted from a lack of purchasing power in the hands of the workers. Industrial leaders should make every effort to pay adequate wages so a proper balance will be maintained between production and consumption. If this policy is not followed, economic chaos will again unfortunately plague this nation.

Labor along with its new power also has its added responsibilities and at times I become gravely concerned with the comments and policies advocated by individual labor leaders. Let me recite an experience I had not too long ago while attending a meeting of one of the union groups in my district. Several union leaders were extremely critical of profits made by some of the companies in our state. For



example, General Motors was bitterly attacked for the amount of money earned during the last year or two. In answer to the questions put to me, I strongly emphasized that employees of a profit-making company are infinitely better off than those who work for a company which loses money.

It seemed appropriate to draw a comparison between the Kaiser-Frazier Co. which lost 30 million dollars last year and General Motors which made a profit. Which of the two companies offer the greatest job security for individual workers? I'm sure the answer is obvious. This precise point was realized by Samuel Gompers, the renowned leader of the American Federation of Labor in its early days, who once said, and I quote:

"The greatest crime a company can commit against its employees is not to make a profit."

In closing, let me make this emphatic statement - the Republican Party is against the forces, the pressure groups, that want this country handled or mishandled by Big Business, Big Government, Big Labor or Big Agriculture. This country belongs to the people and it's time we re-stressed the fact. It's high time our voters act affirmately as they did this last week in some states.



It should be obvious that today the United States is catapulting down the chute to the worst type of bureaucracy and regimentation.

This pending disaster must be stopped here and now, not tomorrow. But how are we going to stop it when the public appears to enjoy being spoon fed by a paternalistic government? The solution lies in showing the American citizens that bigger and bigger bureaucracies endanger free government, that financial insolvency ultimately leads to forced economy and slave labor, that men cannot both be free and at the same time dependent on government handouts for food, health and lodging. Let's not remain inactive while being fattened for the kill.

