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Speeches

REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN GERALD R. FORD, JR

LINCOLN BANQUET - FEBRUARY 10, 1951

* * *

Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests, fellow Republicans:

My remarks this evening will be brief. We are honored by the presence of a distinguished guest and I know he will bring us an interesting and important message.

However, I should like to say this. I see a hopeful trend, a change of conditions, a glimmer of light on the horizon in the nation's capital. Because the people of this great nation spoke so emphatically on November 7, 1950 and because so many citizens gave so willingly and intelligently of their time and effort in the two-year interval between 1948 and 1950, a resurgence of political and diplomatic intelligence and morality is making an appearance in Washington. There is much yet to be accomplished but the long-awaited start has been made. With a continued effort in the months ahead, substantial success and progress will materialize on behalf of the American people and our anti-Soviet allies throughout the world.

Since the end of World War II this nation has been a member of



the United Nations. During the infancy of the U.N. the United States unselfishly gave in dollars more than its proportionate share for the operation of this peace preservation experiment. Over the years since its founding the U.N. and most of the member nations have benefitted from the generosity of our citizens. At times some conscientious and loyal Americans have questioned the wisdom of our participation in this organization. This criticism has materially increased with the major effort in Korea falling on our shoulders.

Is there justification for these attacks on the U.N. and has anything been done by our government to remedy the situation? The answer is YES in both instances. The armed forces of the United States have carried on the assigned tasks in Korea with skill and courage despite the fact that certain members of the U.N. have given little if any support to the battle against Communist aggression. Unfortunately, until recently the Department of State has apparently condoned this attitude and many followers of the Truman-Acheson line in the Congress have done likewise.

Fortunately, there has been a reversal in this attitude as exemplified by the recent unanimous votes in the House and Senate condemning Communist



China as an aggressor in the Korean conflict. A year ago many in the Congress, as devoted followers of the Truman-Acheson line, would not have taken such a straightforward stand. Altogether too many in the 81st Congress were rubberstamp followers of the Department of State "let the dust settle" China policy. The voice of the people on November 7th has had considerable to do with this new anti-communist feeling on the part of our Democratic colleagues in the House and Senate.

All citizens have been shocked by the recent messy revelations concerning the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. A unanimous report, concurred in by four Democrats and two Republican members of the committee, charges unconscionable conditions of waste, favoritism and political chicanery from the White House down. This investigation and report was concluded in 1950 but never saw the light of day, until now, in hopes that President Truman would take affirmative action to clean up the filthy mess.

As you know, the White House has failed to take the necessary action. Senator Fulbright and his committee members, a majority of them loyal Democrats, in good conscience could no longer sit idly by while



these conditions went unchallenged. I submit that this willingness on the part of some members of the President's own party to expose the sins of the White House clique is the direct result of citizen clamour on November 7th for a rebirth of morality in the federal government.

Despite the outrageous money requests in the President's 1952 budget message, 98 billion in all, there is some hope that the 82nd Congress will cut non-defense spending to the bone. Our House Committee on Appropriations has by certain actions to date indicated that it will be free of White House and bureaucratic pressures. The few economy-minded members in the Democratic Party on this committee have so far joined ranks with the Republicans. I assure each and every one of you that the election results of last November have had a material effect on this Committee's deliberations to date. I further assure you that every Republican on that committee, making up 20 out of the 50 members of the Committee, will continue to pursue a relentless policy of government economy on all domestic programs. We will reject the Brannan Plan, compulsory health insurance, and other nonessentials which the President so glibly included in his 98-billion-dollar budget.



Our speaker this evening is a personal friend. I wish it were possible for each of you to know him as I have for the past several years. His outstanding ability is quickly recognized but the depth of his courage and conviction can only be appreciated by those who know him well. Under the most trying circumstances, including the infamous "red herring" smear from President Truman, our guest singlehandedly exposed Alger Hiss as the leader in the crimson clique in the Department of State. No finer public service has been rendered by any person. Our distinguished speaker represents the younger element in the Republican Party. At the same time, his mature judgment and basic common sense rivals and, in my estimation, exceeds that of some of our elder statesmen. He is a recognized authority on labor-management and education legislation and has the respect and admiration of all who are truly seeking fair and equitable laws in these controversial fields.

Our honored guest has an enviable reputation among his former colleagues in the House and I predict this esteem will follow him to the Senate. In debate he is articulate, erudite, and the epitome of poise.



Few members of the House during the consideration of the most controversial legislation on the agenda could command and deserve the attention and respect of his colleagues as that of our speaker. After hearing his address tonight I predict you will concur in my prophecy that Senator Dick Nixon has an unlimited future as a statesman and public servant.

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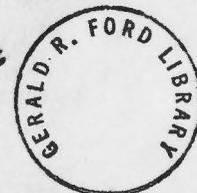
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GERALD R. FORD, JR.
FIFTH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

WASHINGTON, D. C., ADDRESS:
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, ADDRESS:
518 MICHIGAN TRUST BUILDING

RALPH B. PRATT
SECRETARY

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

February 6, 1951

Mr. John R. Stiles
1555 Eastern Ave., S.E.
Grand Rapids 7, Michigan

Dear Jack -

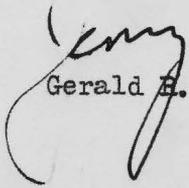
Enclosed you will find a copy of my short speech and introduction of Senator Nixon on this coming Saturday. Wish you would take a look at this and make any revisions that seem desirable. Don't hesitate to add to or delete in any way whatsoever.

If you could look this over and dictate the suggestions to Barb Blakeslee before Saturday it would be most helpful. She could then have the revised script ready for me on Saturday A.M. I think this is important so that I'll have an opportunity to go over it before the last minute on Saturday evening.

Hope that Fred had a fine time while he was here. Several people on the House Committee on Banking and Currency complimented me on his statement. I only wish that more on the committee had heard his testimony.

See you Saturday and hope that we'll have a chance at that time to get together.

Sincerely,


Gerald R. Ford, Jr. M.C.

Enclosure



MR. CHAIRMAN, distinguished guests, fellow Republicans, my remarks this evening ^{will} ~~for obvious reasons shall~~ be brief. We are honored by the presence of ^a ~~our~~ distinguished guest ~~and any encouragement by me on his time would be an imposition and a disservice to you,~~ ~~for I am certain beyond all doubt that he~~ ^{will} bring a message of great significance, ^{to us all.}

~~With your indulgence, however, a few personal remarks might be in order and I trust that they will not impinge too greatly on the time and content of the address by my good friend from California.~~ ^{However, I should like to say this} My observations will be directed at a hopeful trend, a change of conditions or a glimmer of light which I sincerely believe is on the horizon in the Nation's Capital. Because the people of this great Nation spoke so emphatically on November 7, 1950 and because so many citizens gave so willingly and intelligently of their time and effort in the two-year interval between 1948 and 1950, a resurgence of political and diplomatic intelligence and morality is making an appearance in Washington. There is much yet to be accomplished but the long-awaited start has been made. With a continued effort in the months ahead, substantial success and progress will materialize on behalf of the American people and our anti-Soviet allies throughout the world.

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