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READING TEXT

Orlando, Florida  
Nov. 3, 1965  
Orange County Republican Executive Committee

It is a special pleasure to be in the Sunshine State.

When John Rushing sent the invitation, I had some reservations about accepting the speaking engagement. John's letter went something like this:

"Dear Congressman Ford:

"The Orange County Republican Executive Committee has a reputation for excellent programs and outstanding speakers."

John then listed several fine orators.

His letter concluded: "I hope you will accept the invitation....

until now our programs have been exceptionally good."

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(GOVERNOR OF VIRGIN ISLANDS)

Looking back on what I call the speed-of-sound Congress and its first session which ended not so long ago, I can recall many amusing incidents.

From our side of the aisle, it was laughable to watch the huge mass of humanity on the other side when the White House fired off messages to Capitol Hill.

The Democrats didn't know whether to clap their hands or click their heels most of the time.

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The Administration's poverty program--among others---has amusing phases. The story goes----not verified by Bill Moyers of course---that a White House official saw some men busy whittling with their pocket knives when he visited a small town.

"What can we--in the poverty program--- do for you?" the official asked.

The reply was: "Nothing---just leave us alone."

The White House official answered: "Well, we have the money appropriated already----can't we do something?"

-more-

One of the whistlers stopped rocking in his chair, looked up at the man from Washington and said: "Yes...go back and read the 26th chapter of Proverbs, the 17th verse."

For those who cannot recall the exact words in that verse, they read: "He that passes by, and meddles with strife belonging not to him, is like one that takes a dog by the ~~mouth~~ ears."

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We can be thankful that there are many rugged individualists in America.

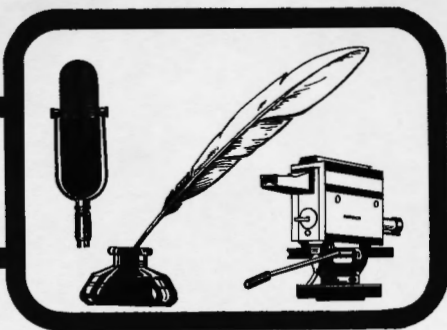
(INCOME TAX STORY)

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There are strong indications of Republican victories in 1966.

Tonight for a few minutes I will discuss some of the major issues and how our Party can experience a resurgence of strength at all ~~level~~ levels of government.

(INTO GOP SPEECH)



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

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

Excerpts from a speech

Release for Ams

Orlando, Fla. Nov. 3, 1965

or at time of  
speech delivery

At the root of America's domestic problems today is an Administration more interested in creating a welfare state than in the state of the welfare.

We need only to look at the poverty program, which has already become a top-heavy bureaucracy.

Republicans, Democrats and political independents alike are concerned about poverty, but with the way things are going under the Great Society's plan it is time to take the profit out of poverty.

The Great Society is a shambles of contradiction. Its programs are dressed in purity of name. And, in fiscal 1966 its new programs will cost American taxpayers an estimated additional \$16.7 billion over and above the so-called regular expenditures. Meanwhile, our national debt is not the \$320 billion appearing on the record books. Actually it is \$800 billion in commitments for future spending that requires no new laws or programs.

\* \* \*

The President has predicted that this Congress "will leap into history as the most effective and most rewarding Congress for all the people in all the history of America."

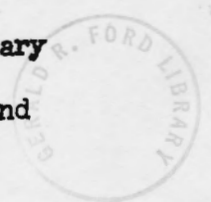
Is it rewarding to have skyrocketing living costs and the threat of spiraling inflation...to have state and local governments crumbling under the heavy hand of federalism? Is it effective to have reckless spending by the Administration and its irresponsible economic policies that could lead the way toward national and personal bankruptcy?

At this point, we recall that it was Dwight D. Eisenhower who said that one answer to bigger government in Washington is better government in the states.

\* \* \*

The record of President Johnson presents the Republican Party with a magnificent opportunity to return sound, sensible and responsible government. It gives us the issues of reckless spending, bureaucratic sprawl, inflationary pressures and higher hidden taxes.....and the loss of individual freedom and identity.

-more-



The common cause---the cause of good government--- is great enough and big enough to over-shadow all the minor differences that sometimes separate us.

There are plenty of Democratic political scalps available without us having to sharpen our hatchets in each other's back.

For us to win the chance to restore balance to government and return dignity to the individual, for us to seize the golden opportunity that the Administration's record has given us, we must present the American people with a broad-based, united Republican Party.

We need to develop strong fund-raising campaigns. We should enlist more articulate, personable and knowledgeable candidates. By our record we must earn the respect of the electorate to regain stewardship of government in state houses, counties, townships and ultimately, in Washington.

I propose a neighbor-to-neighbor crusade to tell the facts of the alleged Great Society. We should ask our neighbors some questions about the Administration's claim of progress.

Is it progress to retreat from the principles of the Constitution? Is it progress to perpetuate poverty by political exploitation and purpose? Is it progress to stifle individual incentive? Is it progress to set a record for a national debt?

We should remind the electorate that millions of Americans, under the Democrat Administration, have less money to spend on necessities, slimmer savings accounts, and more taxes arbitrarily taken from their paychecks.

\* \* \*

With one party dominating Congress and controlling the White House, millions of Americans have nothing to say about the conduct of the Nation's business.

In the coming elections they will have an opportunity to make our society not a Great one, but a good one.

\* \* \*

Let's get on with the job. Let's forget 1964. Let's become once again one Republican Party. This does not mean a huge monolithic political organization. Certainly we can have responsible disagreement. We should have intelligent dialogue.

Together---shoulder-to-shoulder-- we can win Republican victories.

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