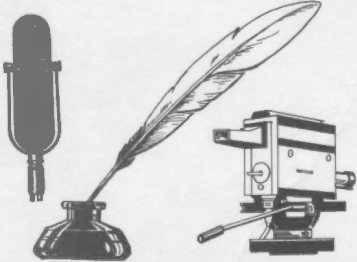


The original documents are located in Box D19, folder “House Floor Speech Vice President Residence, March 16, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

Speech to be delivered by House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford on House Floor,
Wednesday, March 16, 1966.

Contents are for release at 12 noon Wednesday. *Bill not introduced at this time.*

Mr. Speaker:

It's been a long time since the people of this country thought of their vice-president as a Throttlebottom--a shadow of a man neither to be seen nor heard.

Now, it's true that sometimes the present vice-president kind of fades into the woodwork but we all know the reason for that. About this business of not being heard--well, that certainly doesn't apply to our good friend, Hubert. Nobody can choke him off except one man.

In this country today we recognize the office of vice-president as one of significance, an position from which an individual can render great service to the American people.

And so I believe, Mr. Speaker, that as an elective official ranking second only to the president of the United States, the vice-president should have a house furnished him by the taxpayers. It should be a house of which the people can be proud. It should be a residence fully befitting the stature of the individual who, with his family, occupies it as the No. 2 man in the country.

But, Mr. Speaker, there is a time to build and a time to mark time on a project of this kind. I say this is no time to be building a \$750,000 mansion for the vice-president--and my opposition has nothing to do with the merits of the project itself or the individual occupying the office.

I would like to ask the supporters of this authorization bill: By what logic do they advocate the spending of \$750,000 on a residence for the vice-president when the secretary of defense has sidetracked 8,500 units of urgently needed military family housing authorized and funded by Congress in 1965 for construction this fiscal year?

In a press release dated last December 20, Secretary McNamara said the Defense

(More)



Department was deferring \$620 million worth of military construction, including \$160 million for the 8,500 military family housing units.

What was Bob McNamara saying by this action? He was declaring that it was vital to this nation to refuse to spend not only \$460 million in funds earmarked for general military construction but also \$160 million tagged for housing the families of our men in uniform.

While he did not use the word, inflation--and perhaps he avoided it deliberately--McNamara left no doubt he feared the deferred projects might have put extra push behind the already high cost of building in this country.

Only yesterday, McNamara said he will not ask Congress for any new military family housing construction for fiscal 1967. Instead he proposed leasing 13,075 housing units over the next two fiscal years.

I say we are experiencing a more heated inflationary situation than we were in December, 1965, and the prospects are that the cost of living will be spiraling more in the months ahead. I say it doesn't make sense in times like these to be spending \$750,000 of the people's money on a house for the vice-president.

If the vice-president were asked today how he feels about the project, I have great doubts he would want to go ahead with it knowing that some of our servicemen and their families are living in what amounts to slum quarters.

Bob McNamara last January 26 told the Subcommittee on Military Construction Appropriations that the 8,500 family housing units he had frozen were "justified" but he was putting off construction just the same.

McNamara added in direct testimony: "We think it wise to defer the start of that construction until there is less pressure on our total construction industry in this country."

Let's assume the vice-president's house is, to use McNamara's word, "justified." Is this the time to build it--when we're fighting a multi-billion-dollar war in Viet Nam and trying to dampen the fires of inflation at home?

Should we cut the school lunch and school milk programs but build a three-quarter million dollar house for the vice-president?

Should we cut agricultural extension programs and reduce support funds for our land grant colleges but construct a handsome house for the vice-president?

Bob McNamara put a hold order on 8,500 places for our servicemen and their families to live while saying this construction was "justified."

Other Defense Department officials also testified the military housing was desperately needed. Unless we think they are given to telling fairy stories, we have to believe them.

J. J. Reed, deputy assistant secretary of defense for family housing, on May 25, 1965, pleaded with the military construction appropriations subcommittee to provide funds for all 12,500 family housing units then sought by the Defense Department for fiscal 1966.

He said the program was urgent because: (1) "Decent living conditions create a better military man; (2) The Nation has an obligation to provide decent living conditions for the family of the military man who has pledged to risk his life for the common defense; and (3) Decent living conditions make a military career more attractive--it assists the military forces to retain qualified personnel in competition with higher paying civilian careers."

Despite this justification for building all 12,500 housing units, Bob McNamara shelved 8,500 of them for an indefinite time.

Assistant Defense Secretary Paul Ignatius declared in testimony before the subcommittee April 13, 1965: "In lieu of our request for 12,100 units in fiscal year 1964, only 7,500 were funded (by Congress). Last year (calendar year 1964), the Congress funded only 8,250 units as opposed to our request for 12,500 units. In view of the level of funding for new units that has been approved in the past two years, it is now apparent that it is impossible, without a 'crash' building program, for the (Defense) Department to obtain its objective within the original five-year program."

Ignatius said the Defense Department would have to build 12,500 family housing units annually over a six-year period to meet the needs of its men.

Those plans have been crippled by McNamara's hold order on 8,500 units of family housing for our men in uniform.

(More)

Certainly the vice-president and the nation will not suffer if the proposed vice-presidential residence is left on the drawing board along with the family construction program for our servicemen.

#

See attached Statement

Proposed Statement on S.2394, A Bill That Authorizes 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.

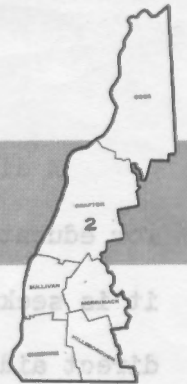




MEMORANDUM FROM THE OFFICE OF

JAMES C. CLEVELAND

2nd Congressional District, N. H.



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1506 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
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WASHINGTON REPORT #5

DISTRICT OFFICE:
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CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03300
TEL.: 224-4187

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, MARCH 17th, 1966

VIETNAM "DEBATE" CLOUDS ISSUE FURTHER

The great debate in the Congress, intended to throw light on the issue of Viet Nam, seems to have clouded the issue further. The debate did bring into sharp focus the deep and disturbing division of opinion within the majority party. The debate occurred chiefly in the Senate and centered around the \$4.8 billion authorization bill for the war. In the end, all but two Senators voted for it. In the House, there was not much debate; the vote was 392-4. Here again, there was confusion, however. The Speaker announced that he considered a vote for the bill a square endorsement of the President's Viet Nam policy... Seventy-eight Democrats apparently differed, and filed a statement setting forth their position.

In spite of these overwhelming votes, however, the divisions remain and the "debate" itself has served mostly to add to the confusion in the public mind. For example, when Senator Robert Kennedy of New York proposed that our side offer the Communist Viet Cong "a share of the responsibility" in the future government of South Viet Nam, the Administration, in a matter of hours, jumped on the proposal hard, bringing its biggest guns to bear: Press Secretary Moyers, recently departed Presidential adviser McGeorge Bundy, Vice President Humphrey, and foreign aid chief David Bell. Some thought this was over-reacting to the Senator's proposal. About 12 hours later, General Taylor, an impressive spokesman for the Administration, blandly announced that the Senator and the Administration were not really far apart at all. It is very hard for members of Congress, who are close to the scene, to follow this sort of thing. News media appeared baffled by the affair and I don't see how the public can be any less so. Worse than this, is that our enemies may read into the confusion more than is really there and find cause for rejoicing and redoubled efforts on the battlefield. Ambassador Harriman has testified to this, along with other high authorities in the government. Ironically, all this could result in a longer war.

FOREIGN AID SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORIZATION

I voted for the \$415 million foreign-aid supplemental fund, including the amendment that was adopted to bar any of the funds from being used to aid nations trading with North Viet Nam unless the President specifically finds that such a bar would be counter to the national interest.



EXPANDING FEDERAL CONTROL OF EDUCATION

A disturbing pattern is beginning to emerge from the Administration's budget requests for education. While it is seeking to expand education programs involving Federal control, it is seeking to reduce or eliminate a number of long-standing, traditional programs of direct aid which involve little or no Federal control. These targets for cutbacks include:

1. Aid to impacted areas where for years the Federal Government has paid compensation to school districts in areas where there are Federal installations adding to the burden of school districts and removing property from the tax polls.
 2. A \$20 million reduction in the School Lunch Program.
 3. An \$80 million reduction in the School Milk Program.
 4. Deep cuts in funds for Land-Grant Colleges, such as the University of New Hampshire.
 5. Destruction of the direct student-loan program run by colleges and universities, substituting insured bank loans subject to Federal standards and control.
- One can object to each of these proposals on various grounds. Collectively, however, they tend to draw tighter into the hands of Washington the reins of academic power. I do not think this is healthy for the long-range future of American education, which draws much strength from freedom and diversity. I shall oppose them.

SENATOR COTTON LEADS FIGHT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Senator Cotton has won the everlasting thanks of older persons who, through no fault of their own, did not become eligible for Social Security benefits during their working years. With Senator Prouty of Vermont, he led a successful fight in the Senate to make all persons over 70 who are not now in the Social Security System eligible for minimum benefits. Although a House-Senate conference committee later raised the age to 72 and exempted those receiving government pensions, railroad retirement benefits or public relief, the measure is still an important start in the right direction, which I enthusiastically support. Senator Cotton has shown that a minority, even though heavily outnumbered, can win a battle once in a while when the cause is a good one.

TO MAKE A POINT: A POEM

In the present make-up in Congress, however, the Minority most often has an uphill fight on its hands to make a point. I recently turned to verse to express supplemental views in a Public Works Committee Report on a bill to build a mansion for the Vice President. While this may be desirable for the future, I feel that this is not an appropriate time to build a million-dollar mansion for a Federal official. The budget is out of balance; we are fighting a war; inflation is threatening, etc. I am told this is the first time in history that a formal committee report has been in verse (30 stanzas and 13 footnotes).

A couple of verses follow. If you would like to have the whole thing, let me know.

But while boys who fight for freedom
Are poorly housed and chill,
Is it right to build a mansion,
A frill up on a hill?
While the dollar fades before us
And inflation robs the poor,
We should build and spend with true restraint
So the dollar may endure.

COMMENT

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

RADIO NEWS

1625 EYE STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

AREA CODE 202 628-6800

FOR RELEASE
MONDAY A. M.'S
MARCH 14, 1966

VICE PRESIDENTIAL MANSION HAS SHAKY FOUNDATION

Congressman Bob Wilson (R-Calif.), a member of the House Armed Services Committee, today questioned how the great society can afford a mansion for the Vice President while at the same time calling decent military housing inflationary.

Representative Wilson aired his views on COMMENT, the weekly radio news program of the Republican National Committee.

The following is the text of the Congressman's remarks:

"I am disturbed that the Johnson/Humphrey Administration places no urgency upon proper housing for the families of servicemen, yet is pushing a bill to construct a house for Vice President Hubert Humphrey costing three quarters of a million dollars.

"Last September Congress provided funds for military housing that was sorely needed for service families. Yet, in December, the Secretary of Defense arbitrarily cancelled our appropriation for such military housing. Appearing before the Armed Services Committee the Secretary claimed that such unilateral action was taken because of budget demands.

"Why should we concern ourselves about furnishing an expensive house for the Vice President when the Secretary of Defense refuses to use the funds we have already appropriated to provide proper housing for our fighting men? If such housing for our servicemen is to be deferred because of budget limitations and inflationary pressures, then why can't the same principles apply to the very expensive house planned for the Vice President?"



COMMENT

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

RADIO NEWS

1625 EYE STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

AREA CODE 202 628-6800

FOR RELEASE:
SUNDAY
MARCH 6, 1966

WHY THE RUSH TO BE PLUSH?

House Republican Whip Leslie Arends of Illinois, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, commented on the Johnson Administration's attempt to push through Congress a bill for construction of a \$750,000 house for the Vice President.

Representative Arends aired his views on COMMENT, the weekly radio news program of the Republican National Committee.

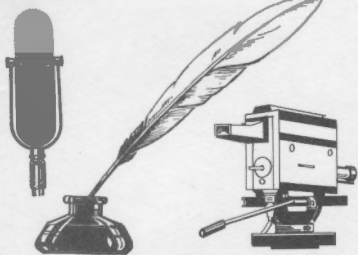
The following is the text of the Congressman's remarks:

"There is no emergency from the point of view of the Administration with respect to furnishing proper housing for our servicemen. Last September the Congress provided funds for military housing sorely needed. Some of our servicemen have been living in little more than barns, even in tents.

"Last December the Secretary of Defense arbitrarily shelved our appropriation for military housing. In testimony before our Committee the Defense Department claimed that this unilateral action was taken because of other budget demands and that the expenditure would add to the inflationary pressures.

"I concur in the desirability of furnishing proper housing for our Vice President. But why the rush? And I should like to ask this question: why should we at this time concern ourselves about furnishing an expensive house for the Vice President, admittedly needed, when the Secretary of Defense refuses to use the funds we have already appropriated to furnish proper housing for our fighting men? If proper housing for our servicemen is to be deferred because of budget limitations and inflation pressures, why should not the same principle apply in connection with an expensive house for the Vice President?"

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

Speech to be delivered by House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford on House Floor, Wednesday, March 16, 1966.

Contents are for release at 12 noon Wednesday.

Mr. Speaker:

It's been a long time since the people of this country thought of their vice-president as a Throttlebottom--a shadow of a man neither to be seen nor heard.

Now, it's true that sometimes the present vice-president kind of fades into the woodwork but we all know the reason for that. About this business of not being heard--well, that certainly doesn't apply to our good friend, Hubert. Nobody can choke him off except one man.

In this country today we recognize the office of vice-president as one of significance, an position from which an individual can render great service to the American people.

And so I believe, Mr. Speaker, that as an elective official ranking second only to the president of the United States, the vice-president should have a house furnished him by the taxpayers. It should be a house of which the people can be proud. It should be a residence fully befitting the stature of the individual who, with his family, occupies it as the No. 2 man in the country.

But, Mr. Speaker, there is a time to build and a time to mark time on a project of this kind. I say this is no time to be building a \$750,000 mansion for the vice-president--and my opposition has nothing to do with the merits of the project itself or the individual occupying the office.

I would like to ask the supporters of this authorization bill: By what logic do they advocate the spending of \$750,000 on a residence for the vice-president when the secretary of defense has sidetracked 8,500 units of urgently needed military family housing authorized and funded by Congress in 1965 for construction this fiscal year?

In a press release dated last December 20, Secretary McNamara said the Defense

(More)



Department was deferring \$620 million worth of military construction, including \$160 million for the 8,500 military family housing units.

What was Bob McNamara saying by this action? He was declaring that it was vital to this nation to refuse to spend not only \$460 million in funds earmarked for general military construction but also \$160 million tagged for housing the families of our men in uniform.

While he did not use the word, inflation--and perhaps he avoided it deliberately--McNamara left no doubt he feared the deferred projects might have put extra push behind the already high cost of building in this country.

Only yesterday, McNamara said he will not ask Congress for any new military family housing construction for fiscal 1967. Instead he proposed leasing 13,075 housing units over the next two fiscal years.

I say we are experiencing a more heated inflationary situation than we were in December, 1965, and the prospects are that the cost of living will be spiraling more in the months ahead. I say it doesn't make sense in times like these to be spending \$750,000 of the people's money on a house for the vice-president.

If the vice-president were asked today how he feels about the project, I have great doubts he would want to go ahead with it knowing that some of our servicemen and their families are living in what amounts to slum quarters.

Bob McNamara last January 26 told the Subcommittee on Military Construction Appropriations that the 8,500 family housing units he had frozen were "justified" but he was putting off construction just the same.

McNamara added in direct testimony: "We think it wise to defer the start of that construction until there is less pressure on our total construction industry in this country."

Let's assume the vice-president's house is, to use McNamara's word, "justified." Is this the time to build it--when we're fighting a multi-billion-dollar war in Viet Nam and trying to dampen the fires of inflation at home?

Should we cut the school lunch and school milk programs but build a three-quarter million dollar house for the vice-president?

Should we cut agricultural extension programs and reduce support funds for our land grant colleges but construct a handsome house for the vice-president?

Bob McNamara put a hold order on 8,500 places for our servicemen and their families to live while saying this construction was "justified."

Other Defense Department officials also testified the military housing was desperately needed. Unless we think they are given to telling fairy stories, we have to believe them.

J. J. Reed, deputy assistant secretary of defense for family housing, on May 25, 1965, pleaded with the military construction appropriations subcommittee to provide funds for all 12,500 family housing units then sought by the Defense Department for fiscal 1966.

He said the program was urgent because: (1) "Decent living conditions create a better military man; (2) The Nation has an obligation to provide decent living conditions for the family of the military man who has pledged to risk his life for the common defense; and (3) Decent living conditions make a military career more attractive--it assists the military forces to retain qualified personnel in competition with higher paying civilian careers."

Despite this justification for building all 12,500 housing units, Bob McNamara shelved 8,500 of them for an indefinite time.

Assistant Defense Secretary Paul Ignatius declared in testimony before the subcommittee April 13, 1965: "In lieu of our request for 12,100 units in fiscal year 1964, only 7,500 were funded (by Congress). Last year (calendar year 1964), the Congress funded only 8,250 units as opposed to our request for 12,500 units. In view of the level of funding for new units that has been approved in the past two years, it is now apparent that it is impossible, without a 'crash' building program, for the (Defense) Department to obtain its objective within the original five-year program."

Ignatius said the Defense Department would have to build 12,500 family housing units annually over a six-year period to meet the needs of its men.

Those plans have been crippled by McNamara's hold order on 8,500 units of family housing for our men in uniform.

(More)

Certainly the vice-president and the nation will not suffer if the proposed vice-presidential residence is left on the drawing board along with the family construction program for our servicemen.

#

Mr. Speaker:

~~Simple~~

As an elective official ranking second only to the president of the United States, the vice-president should have a house furnished him by the people of the nation. It should be a house of which the people can be proud. It should be a residence fully befitting the stature of the man, who with his family, occupies it as the No. 2 man in the country.

But, Mr. Speaker, there is a time to build and ~~also~~ a time to mark time on a project of this kind. I say this is no time to be building a \$750,000 mansion for the vice-president—and my opposition has nothing to do with the merits of the project itself, *or the individual occupying the office.*

I would like to ask the supporters of this authorization bill: *By* what logic do they advocate the spending of \$750,000 on a residence for the vice-president when the secretary of defense has sidetracked ~~the~~ 8,500 units urgently needed of/military ~~in~~ family housing ~~which~~ authorized by Congress in 1965 for construction this ~~year~~ fiscal year?

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~~Appropriations~~ Appropriations the 8,500 family housing units he had frozen were

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~~Assistant~~

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Certainly the vice-president and the nation will not suffer if the proposed vice-presidential residence is left on the drawing board along with the ~~family~~ construction program for our servicemen.##

end speech

