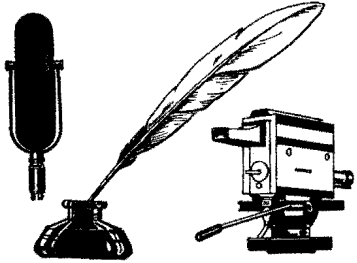


The original documents are located in Box D20, folder “4th District GOP Convention, Bridgeport, CT, June 25, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY (After 3 P.M.)
SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 25, 1966

EXCERPTS--KEYNOTE SPEECH AT CONNECTICUT 4TH DISTRICT GOP CONVENTION, BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

The Republican Party is on the move. The drive to a splendid string of victories in November is under way, and you delegates to this great convention are in the vanguard. This is one of the key districts in the country--one of the areas we are counting on to add to our strength in the Congress.

The Great Opportunity Party is on the move because it is propelled by a new sense of unity, a new sense of mission and accomplishment, and a fresh realization that the nation desperately needs Republican leadership.

The new sense of unity is evident throughout our ranks. It has been made abundantly clear by the willingness of our people to contribute to our 1966 campaign chest. It rings out in the enthusiasm I have found at party gatherings in my travels through more than 40 states.

The new sense of mission and accomplishment is demonstrated by our determination to become the majority party in the Congress, our unwillingness to roll over and play dead despite the fact that Republicans in both houses of Congress are outnumbered more than 2 to 1.

We also are on the move toward fresh new solutions for America's problems, sound solutions that draw their inspiration from the great good sense of the American people. We are sending House Republican Task Forces throughout the country to stir thinking and scoop up the yeast of American wisdom at the grass roots.

America is troubled by lack of leadership in the White House and by the "Big Daddy-ism" that is offered in place of sound solutions and great national goals, clearly perceived.

The Republican Party, applying the findings of its task forces like that on urban problems which visited Bridgeport recently, will put before the people a program that will move this nation toward a greatness based on people and not on cheap dollars.

This nation is floundering in a sea of troubles. It is foundering because President Johnson's vaunted government by consensus has been lost in a leadership gap.

Government by consensus puts no strains on leadership.

Great leaders make timely and decisive judgments in a crisis and then rally the people behind them. Deep crises have presented themselves to the man now in the White House during his 2½ years in office. How has he responded?

(MORE)

SPEECH EXCERPTS

He has rejected the role of statesman in domestic and foreign affairs. He has simply played it by ear. Maybe he knows no other way, but playing it by ear is hardly a demonstration of leadership.

We have been faced for months with an inflation crisis. The inflation crisis continues because the man in the White House refuses to act. He refuses to cut back on non-essential federal spending although it is the inflationary policies of his Administration which are primarily to blame for the continuing climb in the cost of living. Instead the man in the White House talks about a possible income tax increase. He sits in the White House and watches and waits--until after the election.

We are caught up in the crisis of the Vietnam War, a war which is costing us nearly 1,000 casualties a month and more than \$1 billion a month in additional military spending. Republicans have offered proposals for ending the war. Mr. Johnson doesn't seem to know how.

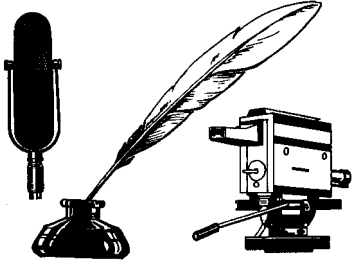
At home, while the President plays it by ear, the cost of living keeps going up. The old and the poor, especially, are squeezed in the vise of Johnson-Humphrey inflation.

The President promises the aged an increase in Social Security payments next year but prices keep going up this year. And the wage-earner on inflation's escalator finds his offsetting pay increases nearly wiped out by the 1966 Social Security tax increase.

The American people are angry, and they have a right to be. City people are angry about the constant rise in the cost of living. The farmers are angry because the Johnson-Humphrey-Freeman Administration has beat down farm prices to try to placate the city people. Labor leaders are unhappy because the Democrats made them a lot of promises but couldn't deliver. Negroes are unhappy because the Johnson-Humphrey Administration talks equal rights but doesn't even adequately enforce the civil right laws now on the books. Businessmen resent the Administration's pressure tactics and interference despite the fact Mr. Johnson puts his arm around them. The poor are angry because the War on Poverty leaders have been long on promises but short on performance. And the politically oriented poverty warriors are profiting at the expense of the poor.

What does this all add up to? I predict a gain of at least 40 House seats this fall. It could go much higher.

The American people deserve much more than a play-it-by-ear President. They need to fill the leadership gap in Washington. Let's give the President the Republican Congress he needs to put him on the leadership track.



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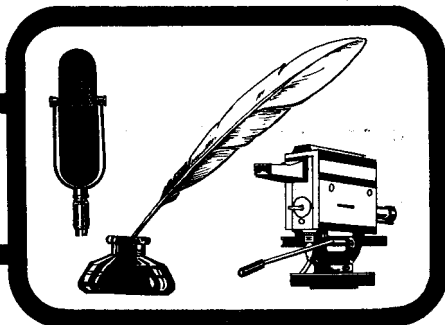
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