

The original documents are located in Box D20, folder “GOP Fund-Raising Dinner, Galesburg, IL, July 29, 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 AT 6:30 P.M.
FRIDAY, JULY 29, 1966

SPEECH EXCERPTS--BY REP. GERALD R. FORD AT GOP FUND-RAISING DINNER, GALESBURG, ILL.

I have been predicting a Republican gain of 40 to 50 House seats in the November election. That is just a feeling I have from having traveled in nearly all of the 50 states since I became House Republican leader. It makes me feel good, therefore, to have the Gallup Poll report that an even 50 per cent of the voters outside the South now favor Republicans for Congress. Do you know what that means? The last time the GOP rated half of the non-South vote in a mid-term election was in 1954. That year the Republican Party won 196 House seats. The way we're moving, why not try for 218?

The reason the GOP is on the go is that it is the party of sound money and sound ideas. The voters are turning to the GOP because this nation is in deep trouble and it is President Johnson and the Democrats in Congress who have put it there.

Americans are becoming increasingly disturbed by the steady rise in the cost of living.

They are disturbed because the Johnson-Humphrey Administration and the 2-to-1 Democratic majority in Congress have not only failed to cope with inflationary pressures but have in fact created the push behind rising prices. These inflationary pressures have pushed up prices faster in the first six months of this year than in any other half-year period in eight years.

The increase in the cost of living for June--0.3 of 1 per cent--brought the six-month rise in living costs to 1.7 per cent. That indicates a cost-of-living climb for the entire year of nearly 4 per cent, a staggering blow to Americans living on pensions and fixed incomes.

President Johnson now is jetting around the country telling Americans they never had it so good. And you remember the old Democratic campaign theme--"Don't let them take it away." The truth is that the Democrats are taking it away.

Proof of this is the fact that higher taxes and higher prices more than wiped out any added income Americans may have earned in the last three months. According to the government's own studies, the average American wound up with \$10 less purchasing power in the second quarter of this year than in January, February and March.

(MORE)

While Lyndon Johnson keeps spreading his "Big Daddyism" around and telling the people the government will take care of all their problems, his Administration keeps dipping into their pockets with the secret sales tax known as inflation.

Mr. Johnson's government recently disclosed that per capita take-home pay, adjusted for the cost-of-living rise, fell from an annual rate of \$2,287 in the first three months of this year to \$2,277 in April, May and June.

Some Johnson-Humphrey Administration statements I find contradictory and confusing. But I think we can accept and rely on these figures, depressing though they are.

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Most Americans find it difficult to understand what excessive government spending has to do with inflation. Those disinclined to believe Republican statements on the subject were treated to the clincher a few days ago when none other than President Johnson warned of the inflationary peril in the ballooning of his budget. The President pleaded with Congress not to continue adding to his budget requests. To be accurate, he begged Democrats in Congress not to pad his budget. He didn't have to talk to Republicans about it. We have been trying to cut the spending bills the Democratic-dominated committees have been sending to the floor. We have been trying to reduce the President's budget requests, because his \$112.8 billion budget calls for a \$3.2 billion expansion of his Great Society programs. So the monkey is on the President's back, too--and not just the Democrats in Congress. Mr. Johnson is one of the Great Spenders--not a Great Economizer, as he would have the American people believe.

The biggest factor in boosting the cost-of-living is non-essential government spending added to the tremendous cost of the Vietnam War. The war is costing nearly \$2 billion a month.

We have to pay for the war. It is because non-essential spending is piled on top of war costs that prices keep going up.

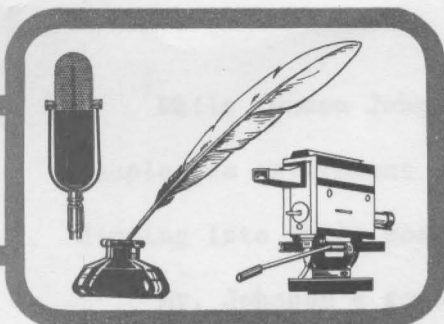
Republicans urged the President last January to admit we are fighting a costly war halfway around the world and to adjust other government spending accordingly. But Mr. Johnson spurned our advice.

I used to say "you'd think there wasn't a war on," but even Mr. Johnson now admits that the chickens are coming home to roost.

The way Mr. Johnson is scolding Democrats in Congress about big spending, you'd think he was telling Americans to vote Republican in November. Americans might well read that into his remarks. They would be doing what's best for the country. Democrats in Congress are making short shrift of thrift. It's time the voters made short shrift of them.

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Re: Inflation



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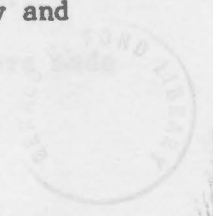
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