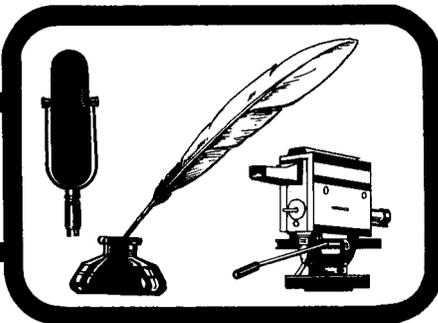


The original documents are located in Box D20, folder “12-County GOP Barbecue, Findlay, OH, August 12, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AT 8 P.M.
FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 1966

SPEECH EXCERPTS--REP. GERALD FORD AT 12-COUNTY GOP BARBEQUE AT FINDLAY, OHIO.

The consumer is the forgotten man of 1966.

That is the real message in President Johnson's recent remarks playing down the seriousness of the inflation now punching holes in Americans' pocketbooks and savings accounts.

What the President said was that we're going to have more inflation but we shouldn't worry about it because other countries have it much worse.

That's not good enough for Americans. We could be doing much better and we would be if President Johnson and the free-spending Democrats in Congress had not disregarded the excellent advice Republicans have been giving them.

Early this year President Johnson had an opportunity to put this country on the right course economically. He could have submitted a wartime budget to Congress--a budget which recognized the fact that we're in a \$2 billion-a-month war.

Because his political sense won out over his common sense, the President took a gamble. He charted a big-spending course and relied on high interest rates and his now-discredited wage-price guidelines to keep the economy riding high on even keel.

He and the nation are headed toward economic shipwreck as a result of that political judgment.

Mr. Johnson almost certainly will seek an income tax increase in January. The upshot is we'll all be paying double for his mistake--higher prices and higher taxes.

I say Mr. Johnson has mismanaged the economy of this country--and for purely political reasons. If the man on the street doubts this, let him consider that his actual purchasing power has dropped because living costs are rising so fast.

Now the President is again appealing to labor and management to bail him out instead of exerting the leadership the nation so desperately needs.

What is the President's economic policy? It is a policy of drift and delay and hope-for-the-best. That's why his patchwork Great Society is coming apart at the seams. That's why this country is in trouble.

(MORE)

SPEECH EXCERPTS--

This nation is in deep trouble--both at home and abroad--and the American people are turning to the Republican Party to pull them out of it as they have in the past.

The Democrats have been long on promises and short on performance. Sure, they're delivering--delivering on their credo of "something for everybody." But that something for everybody is a real lulu. It's that Great Society bonanza--inflation.

The people know what inflation means. They're finding out it's just a case of paying more and getting less whenever they buy something in the market place.

That's why the Great Society has become the Great Illusion--for the breadwinner with meager pay, for the couple living on an annuity or a pension, for the widow on Social Security, and even for the hourly wage-earner who used to think he was getting ahead.

These people find their standard of living going down and down as prices go up and up.

And don't let Big Daddy or any other apologist for his Administration explain away steadily climbing prices and tell you that you never had it so good. That's a lot of hoey.

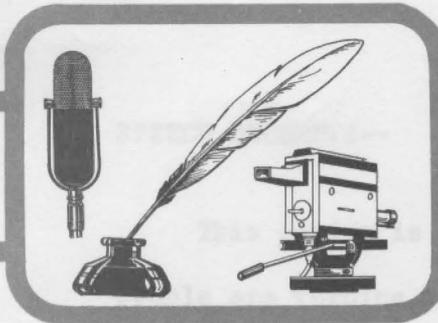
Why are living costs going up? Living costs are spiralling because the Johnson-Humphrey Administration is making like Diamond Jim Brady and the Democrats in Congress are even going them one better.

What can you expect when a Democrat-controlled committee rams through a three-billion-dollar program in 19 minutes? They wouldn't even let Republicans on the committee take a peek at the bill.

This government doesn't belong to the people anymore. It belongs to the big spenders in Washington--and you know who they are.

Over the years I have been deeply disturbed by what is obviously the basic philosophy of the Democratic Party--spend now, pay later. This is the chief reason the cost of living has been going up and up. This is why our taxes are still so high that the hard-working fellow trying to put something aside for a family emergency throws up his hands in despair.

But a Republican tide is running in this country. I feel it everywhere. It is a tide of protest which will wash the nation clean of fiscal insanity in November because it will wash more Republicans into Washington.



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