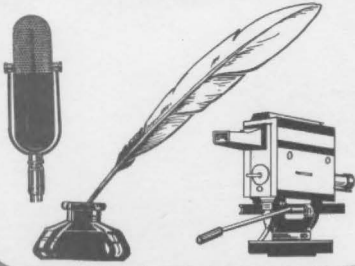


The original documents are located in Box D21, folder “Dinner for John Hoellen, GOP Candidate, 11th District, Chicago, IL, October 23, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AT 7:00 P.M.
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1966

EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN, AT DINNER FOR JOHN HOELLEN, GOP CANDIDATE, 11TH DISTRICT, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The men who drafted our Federal Constitution set forth their aims in an eloquent preamble to that document. Listed high among those objectives was this one: "To insure domestic tranquillity."

Do we have domestic tranquillity in this nation today? NO! We see mobs tearing at the social fabric of the nation. We see a kind of madness sweeping the land . . . arson, sniping, looting . . . scarring some of our great cities.

The rule of law is one of the cornerstones on which this nation stands in the civilized world. Without it we are reduced to savagery. And this is what we have witnessed in recent months.

One of the great fallacies of our time is that rioting in the streets is directly due to unemployment. I say this is a fallacy because a study of the Los Angeles Watts area riot has shown that the typical male involved there was not a jobless drifter. He was employed.

Riots? What are they? They are an explosion of emotions, an unreasoning outburst which can result from an accumulation of frustrations and bitterness. The frustrations and bitterness may have a basis in truth or arise from mistaken feelings of injustice done. But they are fed by promises that cannot be quickly kept and by the arousing of great expectations. When these are dressed up with a poverty war label and performance falls far short of promise, cynicism, anger, and an I'll-take-it-for-myself attitude can be the product.

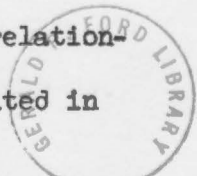
Why riots? The answer is tied closely to a government which seeks to provide all Americans with more material things while ignoring the ideals which made Americans a free people. Our government today is concerned with things, not with people and national causes. This is the sickness which afflicts modern America.

We have strayed from the rule of law. Our governmental leaders, by dealing in half-truths and misinformation, lead us to believe that honor and justice are just words. The message is that the end justifies the means.

They encourage the idea that if an individual considers a social objective desirable, then he is justified in employing any means to attain it -- even if this involves breaking the law and trampling upon the lives and property of others.

I maintain that the riots we have seen this year have little genuine relationship to the civil rights movement. They are tragic because they have resulted in

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a regrettable setback for the legitimate rights of 22 million Americans -- a setback resulting from the misguided zeal of a few mistaken leaders.

Our internal security has been established through a long history of justice under law. If our jury system isn't working properly, let's determine what is wrong and make it right. If our cities have become asphalt jungles, let's work together to remedy their ills.

We must restore respect for law and order in our land. Of course, this is not easy when the Vice-President of the United States thoughtlessly makes the remark that he has "enough spark left in (him) to lead a mighty good revolt under (certain) conditions."

We need a rebirth of reverence for the rule of law from top to bottom in this country. We need leaders who speak out consistently for law and order, not men who deplore riots one minute and encourage them the next.

Let's have progress in this country -- but let's have it under law. Let not Americans who feel downtrodden believe that the way to obtain redress is to riot in the streets. We don't need Molotov Cocktail throwing. We don't need top administration leaders who are willing to "lead a mighty good revolt." We need leaders who will discourage, rather than encourage, criminal actions.

During this last session of Congress I strongly supported legislation which would make it a federal crime for anyone to travel in interstate commerce or use the facilities of interstate commerce with the intent to incite a riot or other forms of violence. We need that kind of federal law to deal with irresponsible leaders and professional agitators. The Johnson-Humphrey Administration failed to support efforts to gain passage of an anti-riot law.

I have deliberately refrained from speaking of this nation's monumental crisis in crime in the same breath with street riots. I do not place the street rioter in the same category with the professional criminal. We will perhaps always have professional criminals. But we need not have riots.

Nationally, we look to our leaders to provide us with example, not with exhortation and rhetoric. While the front line in any war against crime must be the local community, it is imperative that the national administration set a tone that commands respect for law and order. That tone is lacking in this nation today. We hear the right words, but the words are meaningless because they lack substance.

We have traveled farther and farther down the road toward becoming a complete welfare state -- and yet the crime rate continues its frighteningly swift rise. Some contend that crime springs mainly from conditions of poverty. But I say that economic security from the cradle to the grave is not the answer to the problem of crime.