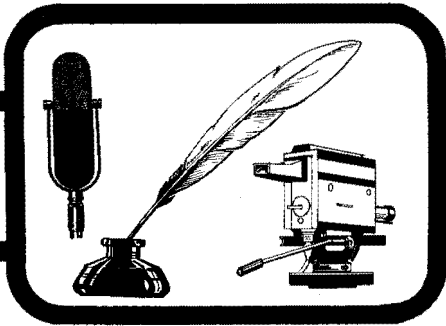


**The original documents are located in Box D22, folder “Milburn - Short Hills Republican Club Dinner, Milburn, NJ, May 15, 1967” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AT  
6:30 p.m., Monday, May 15, 1967

EXCERPTS FROM A SPEECH BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH., HOUSE MINORITY LEADER,  
AT THE MILLBURN-SHORT HILLS, N.J., REPUBLICAN CLUB DINNER, MONDAY, MAY 15, 1967,  
AT MILLBURN, N.J.

In all recent-year national elections there have been two major issues--  
peace and prosperity.

Next year we may find ourselves with still another major issue--one which I  
think was highly significant in shaping the outcome of the 1966 election when the  
Republican Party made a net gain of 47 seats in the House of Representatives. That  
issue, to put it simply, is the Credibility Gap.

The Credibility Gap has been variously defined as a Crisis of Confidence--the  
people's lack of trust in the present Administration--and the gulf that separates  
thinking people from the Administration. We know why and how the Credibility Gap  
has developed. After being misled on many occasions by top Administration officials,  
the attitude of millions of Americans has become, "Who and what can we believe?"

Republicans didn't create the Credibility Gap. Neither did the newsmen who  
are so often criticized by the President, the Vice-President and some Johnson  
cabinet members for honestly reporting news unfavorable to the Administration.  
American newsmen are just doing their job. It is the Administration itself which  
has dug the Credibility Gap and has proceeded to make it deeper and wider in a  
variety of ways.

Trust is a two-way street. Small wonder there is a crisis of confidence in  
this country. The Administration doesn't trust the people; therefore, the people  
don't trust the Administration.

There is good reason for the people's lack of confidence in the official  
statements of the Johnson-Humphrey Administration. The reason is that this  
Administration from President Johnson on down has misled the American people from  
the very beginning and in a myriad of ways.

It was President Johnson who told the American people during the 1964 presi-  
dential campaign: "We don't want our American boys to do the fighting for Asian  
boys. We don't want to get involved in a nation with 700 million people (Red China)  
and get tied down in a land war in Asia."

The Johnson Administration has repeatedly misled the American people on the  
conduct, progress and cost of the Vietnam War.

(more)

A faint circular stamp is visible in the bottom right corner of the page, containing illegible text.

This Administration has misled the American people for the past three years on the results of the Vietnam pacification program--a program reportedly now teetering on the edge of total collapse.

This Administration misled the American people last year and again this year on federal spending, the federal budget and the state of the economy.

It is only fair to conclude that the Johnson-Humphrey Administration is becoming known as the incredible administration. There is great unease among the American people. They yearn for a federal government they can trust.

\* \* \*

In 1966 the Republican Party scored a victory in depth because the American people awakened to the fact that the Democratic Party has created a pattern of federalism hopelessly ensnarled in red tape and crushed by a huge and continuously growing bureaucracy.

The people are taking a fresh look at the Republican Party because our Party has come alive with a new progressive spirit. The Republican Party is hotly pursuing new answers to the Nation's most pressing problems.

And we are coming up with those answers. Unlike the Democratic Party, we are not content simply to throw dollars at the people's problems and hope they'll go away. We are fashioning solutions that would give New Direction to our Nation and give us a truly people's government.

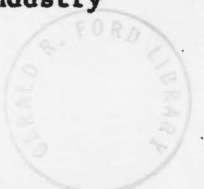
Democrats as well as Republicans have become aware that for local communities to obtain the categorical federal grant-in-aid is like stumbling through a labyrinthian maze in the hope of someday finding a pot of gold at the end of the twisting, winding bureaucratic corridor.

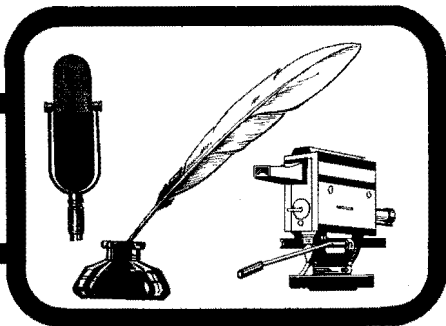
The situation has become so ridiculous it has spawned a new group of experts who call themselves "grantsmen." These people are being paid fat fees by cities to fill out grant-in-aid applications with just the right public relations touch and an overlay of bureaucratese. One of these experts worked up a 190-page application for a model cities grant and remarked that he could have done it in five pages but it wouldn't have won the grant. That's what the Great Society is coming to! It is becoming an Empty Society, a Great Facade, a society of phonies and con men.

Republicans offer a New Direction in federal aid to local units of government-- federal tax-sharing or block sum grants which skirt the federal bureaucracy and make some layers of it ripe for the pruning knife. This would reduce the cost of operating the federal government and at the same time speed the process of local problem-solving.

I invite the American people to take a new reading on the Republican Party. They will see a responsible party--a party that encourages individual responsibility, individual initiative, strong local and state government, a healthy federal government which joins with state and local governmental units and with private industry to fashion a partnership of progress.

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