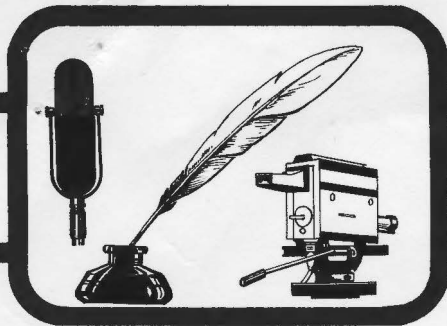


The original documents are located in Box D22, folder “United Republican Fund of Illinois Dinner (in honor of the Illinois GOP delegation in Congress), Chicago, IL, October 20, 1967” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

NEWS
RELEASE

FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 p.m.
Friday, October 20, 1967

AN ADDRESS BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.
UNITED REPUBLICAN FUND OF ILLINOIS DINNER
OCTOBER 20, AT THE CONRAD HILTON HOTEL, CHICAGO
IN HONOR OF ILLINOIS GOP DELEGATION IN CONGRESS

For. Vergen. Jole

Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, colleagues, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Tonight I have a most welcome assignment. I do not use the words, "chore" or "task," because my assignment is most pleasurable. *It's really wonderful* ~~It is~~ to talk with you *It's wonderful* about one of the most prestigious state delegations in the Congress--~~the members~~ *from* your own state of Illinois.

This is a welcome assignment, ~~too~~ *also*, because it gives me an opportunity to come out of the shadows and into the light to talk about the other half of the "Ev and Jerry Show"--that dedicated, wonderfully talented, multi-faceted gentleman who is now in his fourth term as Republican leader of the Senate.

There ~~are~~ *some* people who tell me I make an excellent TV partner for Ev. After all, where else could he get so willing and cooperative a straight man?

Believe me, nobody could compete with Ev when he talks about his days as a horse soldier in World War I...and mustard gas...and rotten hay.

That's one of the reasons we love him, this most articulate of Americans, this grand Thespian, this statesman who gives *glamour* to Capitol Hill.

What other state can boast a horse soldier who leads the Republican troops in the Senate...and among them *Chuck Berg an able* a dark horse candidate for the Republican presidential nomination?

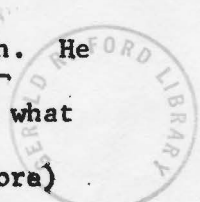
The people of Illinois can indeed be proud of their delegation in the Congress, and there is no one of whom they should be more proud than the gentleman who cracks the Republican whip in the House, my good friend Les Arends.

The real test of a man is the number of friends he has. Nobody measures higher on that score than does Les Arends. This and tremendous natural ability as a lawmaker have made Les the most valuable whip a leader in the House could have.

I've learned they just don't come with any higher degree of loyalty. He is always there when you need him. He always comes through in the clutch. He has an unerring instinct for sensing what the mood of the country is and what

(more)

Hardy Temple
Speaking we may like to add to Charlotte Reed
Ev



the people want. I am deeply grateful for his invaluable assistance.

Your entire delegation is a bulwark of strength in the House. You have representation on a number of important committees--Armed Services, Appropriations, Ways and Means, Foreign Affairs, Commerce, Education and Labor, ^{Joint Atomic Energy, Pt. Economic} Judiciary, Rules, Science and ^{Astronautics} Astronautics. If the Republicans in the House had 218 like the Illinois G.O.P. delegation the country would be in good hands.

Yours is a delegation which gives the Republican leadership in the House overwhelming support on crucial issues. Your members were solid, for instance, on votes to block a continuing appropriation of funds for Great Society programs at existing levels and force a cutback of \$5 billion in Johnson Administration spending this fiscal year.

This is the kind of voting this country needs in the Congress--the kind of voting which will help pull this Nation out of the fiscal mess into which Lyndon Johnson has plunged it.

We can find that road to fiscal sanity only with a Republican victory in 1968. ^{The Republican Leadership} Your party is grateful to you for helping us gear up for that victory.

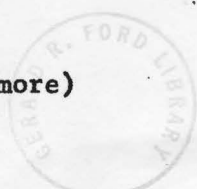
How important is it to you people in Illinois that Republicans take over the House of Representatives after the next election?

Let me point out that your delegation in the Congress would grow in power and prestige. For instance, Bill Springer would become chairman of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. Others would be on the majority side in their various committees where each would be in a position to implement affirmatively Republican policies and philosophy, in contrast to the tired, threadbare New Deal and superficial Great Society programs.

I want to congratulate you. In the last election you sent us Tom Railsback and achieved a standoff with the Democrats on the makeup of the Illinois delegation--12 Republicans and 12 Democrats. So you're batting 500. But you can do better.

I ask you to bear this in mind. There is a distinct possibility that the 1968 presidential election could be thrown into the House of Representatives for final decision. Each state would have one vote--except that those states with delegations evenly split between the two major parties would have no voice in the outcome. This makes it all the more vital that Illinois Republicans achieve a net gain in the 1968 congressional elections. Your state should have a vote, and it must be a Republican vote...for it could be all-important in selecting the next President of the United States.

(more)



*Independence
Int. Res. Service
Have been solid
Debt limitation
5% cuts in spending*

*M. J. Tamm
new board
INVESTMENT
↑*

and from

*good means
you?*

You do want a Republican as the next President of the United States, ~~don't~~

I was sure you would agree with me that there's a better way than LBJ.

You have a wealth of opportunities to send a Republican majority to the U.S. House of Representatives from Illinois. I urge you to zero in on the four or five districts now held by Democrats, where an attractive, articulate, able Republican candidate can win. Make those your target districts and you'll hit pay dirt. The goal line is not far away.

Republicans in the Congress need your help. The country needs your help.

Oddly enough, we constantly have to remind the people that the Democrats still are in control of both houses of the Congress. After all, we have won a few battles on the House floor and we have the Administration in a box on spending.

The Johnson Administration is in trouble. It's in trouble because the truth is finally catching up with it, and even the most ^{*political*} clever attempt to twist the truth will fail to fool the people.

The truth that has turned each day into a nightmare for the Johnson Administration is just this- the President has so badly mismanaged the economy that only a change of administrations can straighten it out.

The truth is that our economy is in trouble solely because a Democratic President and a Democratic 89th Congress launched this country on a reckless spending spree which threatens to bankrupt the Nation.

The truth is that the blame for the galloping inflation of 1966 and the highest interest rates in 40 years lies squarely on the Johnson Administration and the Democratic majority in the Congress...and so, too, does the blame for the inflationary tide now rising in this country.

Mike Mansfield

What does a public figure do when he is trapped by his own mistakes in office? He looks for a scapegoat.

President Johnson is faced with a \$25 to \$30 billion deficit generated by his refusal to set priorities. So he has asked Congress to impose a 10 per cent income tax surcharge on the American people...the same people who are paying the price of Johnson inflation precipitated when the Administration ignored Republican economy pleas in early 1966.

Republicans in Congress have responded by demanding a \$5 billion cutback in Johnson Administration spending this fiscal year.

Has the President acted responsibly to meet the challenge of inflation? Not at ^{*all*} all. Instead he is playing the game of switch and practicing the most

(more)

devious kind of deception on the American people.

It is the game of switch--an attempt to switch the blame--when the President and his cabinet officers seize every opportunity to talk about inflation and seek to blame the Congress for it in advance.

It is deception--deception of the rankest kind--when the President proposes a 50 per cent cutback in highway spending out of the Highway Trust Fund despite the fact such a reduction would have no impact whatsoever on the projected \$29 billion General Fund deficit.

It is the game of switch--an attempt to shift responsibility--when the President pretends he cannot cut federal spending by \$5 billion this fiscal year and challenges Congress to do so.

The truth is that while Congress appropriates the funds it is the President who spends them.

The truth is that if a Democratic Congress insists on appropriating far too much and a Democratic President insists on spending it, Republicans still in the minority in the House and Senate are powerless to put a stop to it.

Republicans owe the President a debt of gratitude, for he is making it plain to the American people that only by turning this Nation's government over to the Republican Party can the people regain control of federal spending.

The real issue in the current fight in our Nation's capital over the proposed 10 per cent surtax is just this: Will the American people regain control over federal spending?

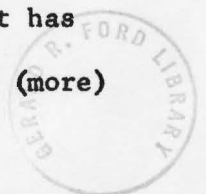
The President is stubbornly refusing to cut federal General Fund spending in this fiscal year. Instead he is simply offering vague promises of a temporary freeze in areas such as highway construction where life and limb are involved while going full steam ahead with highway beautification. That's a cock-eyed view of priorities!

Is there any reason to believe the President's promises of economy? The American people know better. ⁺ That's why there is a nationwide taxpayer ^h revolt against the wild spending policies of the Johnson Administration.

The American people have awakened to the fact that the cost of the Federal Government is going up 10 times faster than the rate of population growth in this country. They know that the Johnson Administration is not serving their needs but the needs of the bureaucrats and social experimenters.

They know that the Johnson Administration held back for over two years on effective bombing of significant military targets in North Vietnam but has

(more)



bombed the people's pocketbook full of holes.

They know that the cost of living is up 8.3 per cent since 1963, the year Lyndon B. Johnson took office. They know that living costs have soared because the Johnson Administration has taken this Nation down the road of wild federal spending that has cheapened and almost destroyed the dollar. They know that non-defense spending has jumped 97 per cent since 1960. They know that the federal payroll has been fattened by 276,000 just in 1966 alone. They know there is waste and fat in the Federal budget--a \$136 billion administrative budget that Lyndon Johnson insists he cannot cut.

President Johnson and his cabinet officers are shouting that more inflation and higher interest charges will follow if Congress does not approve his proposal to raise income taxes.

He is just looking for an "out," because the facts are that prices are going to go up with or without a tax increase, and interest rates are going to rise with or without a tax increase.

The American people know this, and they are unwilling to accept a Johnson tax increase on top of Johnson inflation. They know, too, that a dollar reduction in federal spending has nearly twice as much anti-inflation bite as a dollar increase in taxes. That's why Republicans are fighting to cut federal spending.

It's not the Republicans who are making the Johnson income tax increase a political issue; it's the people. But let's not let Mr. Johnson get off the hot seat which is of his own making.

The American people are demanding new representation in the Congress and in the White House. It can be done.

We are witnessing the spectacle of an American President who is seeking either to override the will of the people or to mislead them into thinking the 90th Congress is responsible for this country's fiscal woes.

There is only one remedy--rid this country of the Johnson Administration, an administration of confusion and deception.

You have made a commitment here tonight--to do just that and to help the Republican Party lead this country back to fiscal sanity.

You should be proud of that commitment as well as of the outstanding congressional delegation we honor here. It means you are willing to stand up for America, to move it along the paths of greater growth and glory for the sake of all our people. Thank you.

###

*8 yrs
let me guide
Pop - 10%
Consumer surplus - 25%
payroll - 75%
Start spending - 90%
Deficits - \$70 billion*





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