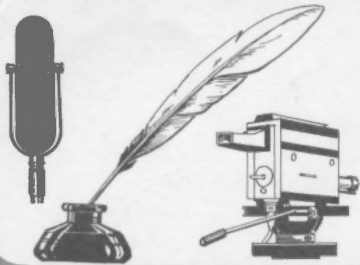


The original documents are located in Box D23, folder “House Floor Speech President Johnson's AFL-CIO Speech, December 13, 1967” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT--
December 13, 1967

Remarks Prepared for Delivery on The House Floor

The Great Society of Lyndon Johnson has become a runaway locomotive with a wild-eyed engineer at the throttle.

The American people can be thankful that the 90th Congress has slowed down this locomotive which is hurtling down the track toward national bankruptcy, the highest interest rates in a hundred years, devaluation of the dollar through a steady surge of inflation if not by official action in the money markets, and a papering over of national problems with paper dollars--money that shrinks in value with each passing month.

The man in the White House can only be described as wild when he talks of a \$35 billion deficit at the same time that his budget bureau director places it at \$19.8 billion.

He can only be described as wild when he continues talking about greater and greater spending on social welfare schemes at the same time that he talks of a \$35 billion deficit and talks to business and labor about the need for wage and price restraint. The President irresponsibly threatens to put the American economy and the American people in the straight jacket of wage and price controls.

The President's pleas to business and labor actually are meaningless because business and labor are trapped by Johnson inflation. It is Lyndon Johnson and he alone who has wrecked the price stability we enjoyed under the Eisenhower Administration. He did it with his irresponsible spending policies--his guns-and-butter policy in time of war.

The President said in his speech to the AFL-CIO: "I told the businessmen they should not point the finger of blame at you, and I say that you should not point the finger of blame at them." He's right. The blame rests with just one man--Lyndon Johnson--the man who rejected every suggestion from his advisers and leading economists in early 1966 that he fight inflation with spending cuts or a tax increase then. The President is a Lyndon-come-lately to the inflation fight. The best way to fight inflation is to restrain irresponsibility in the White House.

(more)



Mr. Johnson says he wants a great Congress again, one like the 89th. President Johnson called the 89th "my Congress." That was completely natural. He owned it. It gave him everything he asked for and more. It was a runaway Congress.

Now Mr. Johnson again wants a Congress like the 89th. He wants a two-thirds Democratic majority in the House again. He wants to return to one-man government.

I agree with Mr. Johnson that the 90th Congress was a good Congress and a productive Congress.

Republicans and Democrats in 1967 joined together for the good of the country to cut federal spending \$4.1 billion and resisted President Johnson's income tax increase as the wrong medicine for the economy at this time.

Republicans and Democrats teamed up to launch a three-year, \$428 million attack on air pollution on a regional basis, a three-year authorization for a revamped Teacher Corps to benefit slum children, a responsible approach to federal school aid and a war on crime, a Comprehensive Health Act giving states and local communities the power to determine priorities on use of federal funds to fight rats, communicable diseases and narcotics addiction.

Republicans and Democrats joined to increase Social Security benefits, improve the operations of Medicare and tighten up on Medicaid, take the able-bodied off the welfare rolls and put them to work, and to make all the meat purchased in America safe to eat.

Republicans joined with Democrats in support of the President's basic Vietnam policy -- halting Communist aggression in Southeast Asia. It is only those in the President's own party who talk about "cutting and running."

I am not surprised that Mr. Johnson finds fault with the 90th Congress. The Congress repudiated him and his guns-and-butter policy by insisting on deep spending cuts in deferrable and controllable areas.

The President is unhappy because Republican strength in the House increased this year by 47 seats. This is simply proof that the American people rebuffed President Johnson in 1966 and will repudiate him completely in 1968.