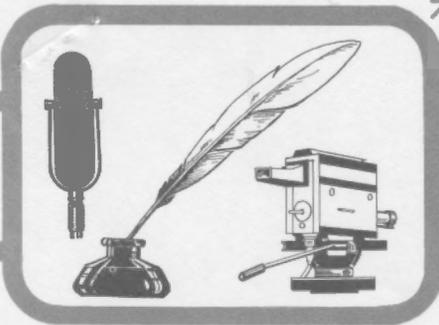


The original documents are located in Box D23, folder “Lincoln Day Dinner, Palm Beach, FL, February 13, 1968” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. The Council donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

*Distribution: 20 copies Mr. Ford ~~copy~~ M Office Copy
Mailing 4:30 p.m. 2/13/68*



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--For Release at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday--
February 13, 1968

Excerpts from a Lincoln Day Dinner Speech Feb. 13, 1968, at Palm Beach, Fla.

I would like to make a prediction. Unless they are all wearing blinders, delegates to the Democratic national convention will not use "Happy Days Are Here Again" as their theme song next August in Chicago.

Only an American who insisted upon shutting his eyes and living in a dream world could tell himself that this is the best of times. The State of our Union in the time of Lyndon Johnson, 1968, is best described in words employed by Abraham Lincoln nearly 112 years ago:

"We live in the midst of alarms; anxiety beclouds the future; we expect some new disaster with each newspaper we read."

We have lived under Democratic administrations for seven years. Where have we made gains? In what have we advanced?

Postmaster General Larry O'Brien says President Johnson will seek reelection solely upon his record--the record of his and the preceding Democratic administration. Look at that record if you will. Look, and compare.

Today we are at war in Vietnam. Not seven years ago!

Today serious trouble brews in the Middle East. Not seven years ago!

Today violent civil disorders ravage our cities. Not seven years ago!

Today Communists steal our ships. Not seven years ago!

Today we approach runaway inflation. Not seven years ago!

Today we have the Bobby Bakers, the Tom Dodds and the Adam Clayton Powells and on and on. Not seven years ago!

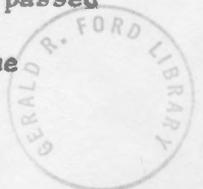
Today we have lost the respect America had throughout the world. Not seven years ago!

In Asia our team is on the field. The game is not going well. It's time to pick a new coach...one who won't tell the other side to write all the rules on how to end the contest.

Here at home we often wonder who's calling the signals.

The President recently sent the Congress his recommendations for fighting crime. He made no mention of the Republican-sponsored anti-riot bill which passed the House last year. He proposed his own anti-riot bill. He seemed to value such legislation highly.

(more)



The President also failed to mention that the House last year passed a Law Enforcement Assistance Act, greatly strengthened by Republican amendments, to help the states and cities in the war against crime. He ignored the fact that liberal Democrats in the Senate sat on that bill instead of giving the states and cities the added tools they need to fight crime--tools largely fashioned by Republicans.

Instead the President a few days ago signed an executive order making Attorney General Ramsey Clark the coordinator of all federal anti-crime efforts.

You remember Ramsey Clark. He's the fellow who said last year, and I quote: "The level of crime has risen a little but there's no wave of crime in the country."

It seems the attorney general does not read the reports of J. Edgar Hoover's FBI. The FBI recently stated that crime rose by 16 per cent in just the first nine months of 1967 as compared with the like period in 1966. FBI statistics also show that crime has risen 67 per cent since 1960 while the population has increased only 10 per cent. Yet Ramsey Clark says the level of crime has gone up only "a little."

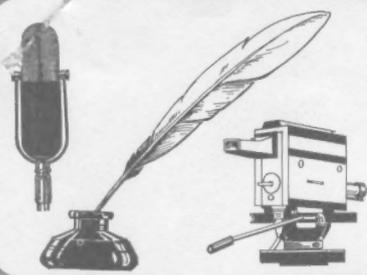
This is the man President Johnson named as his crime war chief, calling him "Mr. Big" in the federal government's moves against crime.

Naming Ramsey Clark "Mr. Big" in the crime war is like picking Dr. Spock to head up the Department of Defense.

The President appeared eager to have Congress pass an anti-riot bill. The other day Ramsey Clark said he attaches a "low priority" to such legislation. What goes on here? Who's in charge? Whom do we believe? The Credibility Gap widens to canyon proportions.

Of course, when you analyze the President's Crime Message you're reminded that 1968 is a presidential election year. Most of what the President proposes already is in the mill or on tap.

The President now recognizes that many people in this country feel there has been a complete breakdown of law and order in America. This is one of the great tragedies of the Johnson Great Society--that it has become a permissive society in which nearly anything goes. We are learning with great pain an obvious lesson. Once a government allows respect for the law to be destroyed, it is an almost impossible task to restore that respect. And without respect for the law, we become a nation of savages. This is what the Great Society of Lyndon Johnson hath wrought. This, too, is why the times--among the saddest, not happiest of times--the times demand a strong new leader, a leader who can restore the Nation's soul.



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--For Release at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday--
February 13, 1968

Excerpts from a Lincoln Day Dinner Speech Feb. 13, 1968, at Palm Beach, Fla.

I would like to make a prediction. Unless they are all wearing blinders, delegates to the Democratic national convention will not use "Happy Days Are Here Again" as their theme song next August in Chicago.

Only an American who insisted upon shutting his eyes and living in a dream world could tell himself that this is the best of times. The State of our Union in the time of Lyndon Johnson, 1968, is best described in words employed by Abraham Lincoln nearly 112 years ago:

"We live in the midst of alarms; anxiety beclouds the future; we expect some new disaster with each newspaper we read."

We have lived under Democratic administrations for seven years. Where have we made gains? In what have we advanced?

Postmaster General Larry O'Brien says President Johnson will seek reelection solely upon his record--the record of his and the preceding Democratic administration. Look at that record if you will. Look, and compare.

Today we are at war in Vietnam. Not seven years ago!

Today serious trouble brews in the Middle East. Not seven years ago!

Today violent civil disorders ravage our cities. Not seven years ago!

Today Communists steal our ships. Not seven years ago!

Today we approach runaway inflation. Not seven years ago!

Today we have the Bobby Bakers, the Tom Dodds and the Adam Clayton Powells and on and on. Not seven years ago!

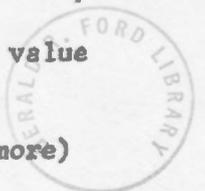
Today we have lost the respect America had throughout the world. Not seven years ago!

In Asia our team is on the field. The game is not going well. It's time to pick a new coach...one who won't tell the other side to write all the rules on how to end the contest.

Here at home we often wonder who's calling the signals.

The President recently sent the Congress his recommendations for fighting crime. He made no mention of the Republican-sponsored anti-riot bill which passed the House last year. He proposed his own anti-riot bill. He seemed to value such legislation highly.

(more)



The President also failed to mention that the House last year passed a Law Enforcement Assistance Act, greatly strengthened by Republican amendments, to help the states and cities in the war against crime. He ignored the fact that liberal Democrats in the Senate sat on that bill instead of giving the states and cities the added tools they need to fight crime--tools largely fashioned by Republicans.

Instead the President a few days ago signed an executive order making Attorney General Ramsey Clark the coordinator of all federal anti-crime efforts.

You remember Ramsey Clark. He's the fellow who said last year, and I quote: "The level of crime has risen a little but there's no wave of crime in the country."

It seems the attorney general does not read the reports of J. Edgar Hoover's FBI. The FBI recently stated that crime rose by 16 per cent in just the first nine months of 1967 as compared with the like period in 1966. FBI statistics also show that crime has risen 67 per cent since 1960 while the population has increased only 10 per cent. Yet Ramsey Clark says the level of crime has gone up only "a little."

This is the man President Johnson named as his crime war chief, calling him "Mr. Big" in the federal government's moves against crime.

Naming Ramsey Clark "Mr. Big" in the crime war is like picking Dr. Spock to head up the Department of Defense.

The President appeared eager to have Congress pass an anti-riot bill. The other day Ramsey Clark said he attaches a "low priority" to such legislation. What goes on here? Who's in charge? Whom do we believe? The Credibility Gap widens to canyon proportions.

Of course, when you analyze the President's Crime Message you're reminded that 1968 is a presidential election year. Most of what the President proposes already is in the mill or on tap.

The President now recognizes that many people in this country feel there has been a complete breakdown of law and order in America. This is one of the great tragedies of the Johnson Great Society--that it has become a permissive society in which nearly anything goes. We are learning with great pain an obvious lesson. Once a government allows respect for the law to be destroyed, it is an almost impossible task to restore that respect. And without respect for the law, we become a nation of savages. This is what the Great Society of Lyndon Johnson hath wrought. This, too, is why the times--among the saddest, not happiest of times--the times demand a strong new leader, a leader who can restore the Nation's soul.

#