

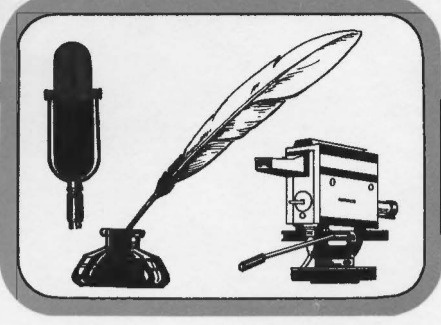
The original documents are located in Box D25, folder “GOP Tea, Red Hook, NY, June 22, 1968” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE IN SATURDAY PM'S--
June 22, 1968

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., House Republican Leader, at a GOP Tea at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, June 22, at Red Hook, N.Y.

It has been said there is always a woman at the beginning of all great things. Great things are happening in the Republican Party. Women not only were in on the beginning of those things but are going to follow through, I know, until the Republican victory celebration in November.

We need women to reach the goal of victory on Nov. 5--and I know you will be there pitching all the way.

We won some great victories in 1966. We now are only 31 seats away from Republican control of the United States House of Representatives as a result. One of the most important ingredients of those victories was unity. In unity they were conceived, in unity they were pursued and in unity they were achieved. In this most crucial political year of 1968 we must never forget the need for unity. And we must never forget that as we get near the goal line the last five yards are the hardest.

Women's participation in Republican Party politics is the surest way to victory for the GOP.

Devotion, dedication and hard work. These are the qualities that distinguish Republican women, and this is why GOP women are a source of inspiration to all those who carry the standard of the Republican party throughout the nation.

I am sure you are an inspiration, too, to Hamilton Fish Jr. and that he is counting on you to help him win the 28th Congressional District seat. You will do your utmost, I know, to bring him victory on Nov. 5.

Your efforts are vital, for this is a crucial election year not only for the Republican Party but for the Nation.

Our country desperately needs the kind of enlightened and responsible leadership only the Republican Party can provide.

The American people want the Vietnam War ended on honorable and lasting terms. They want proper action taken to halt inflation and fiscal irresponsibility at home. And, above all, they want the kind of national leadership that will return morality and credibility to our government, law and order to our streets and college

(more)

campuses, and a sense of purpose and responsibility to our people and our Nation.

Lyndon Johnson demonstrated once again this week why the American people are eager for new national leadership and why they must look to the Republican Party to restore law and order in the United States.

When Lyndon Johnson signed the omnibus anti-crime bill which Republicans were instrumental in shaping into a strong measure he said the wiretapping provision would not be used to fight crime at the federal level.

Lyndon Johnson made that statement despite the fact that the national crime rate has risen 88 per cent since 1960, nearly nine times faster than our population has grown.

The Johnson-Humphrey Administration will not use electronic surveillance to attack major crime despite the fact that law enforcement officials in metropolitan areas have declared it a valuable weapon against the crime syndicates.

The Johnson-Humphrey Administration refuses to use wiretapping to fight organized crime despite the fact that the President's Crime Commission recommended that electronic surveillance be employed against crime as well as espionage.

In my view, the Johnson-Humphrey Administration is soft on crime.

I say this because the Johnson-Humphrey Administration has demonstrated no real sense of urgency in launching a war on crime.

This is why a strong omnibus anti-crime bill has not been enacted into law until June 19, 1968.

This is why the national crime rate has soared in recent years.

This is why there is a general atmosphere of lawlessness in America, a feeling on the part of some Americans that they can get away with arson and looting in the central cities and seizure of university buildings on college campuses.

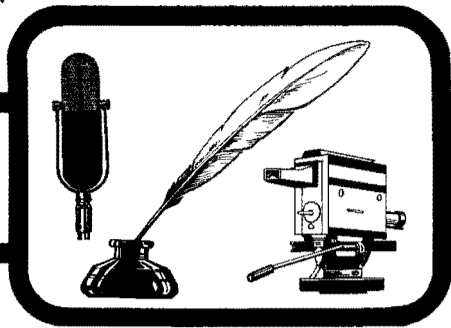
Some social critics have viewed conditions in America today and talked of a "sick society."

I say most American are good, sound people who have no reason to engage in self-recrimination.

Sick? Yes, Americans are sick of an Administration that refuses to get tough with bigtime criminals and lawbreakers who use slum conditions as an excuse for criminal activity.

If violence has become commonplace in America today, it is because those who turn to violence to achieve their ends believe they can get away with it.

The Johnson-Humphrey Administration invited the disorder which plagues America.



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