

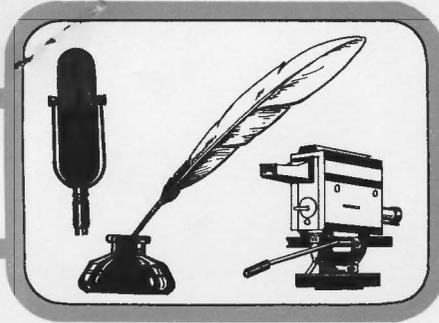
**The original documents are located in Box D25, folder “1968 Election, Austin, TX, August 26, 1968” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M. MONDAY--  
August 26, 1968

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, August 26, 1968, at Austin, Texas.

We are in a pretty pickle in this country, and that is why we need new hands on the reins in Washington.

We need much more than just a change of leadership. We need leadership that will lift the American people out of the fog and frustration of failure--the policy blunders which have bogged us down in a no-win war in Vietnam, a no-win war against poverty, and a potential war between the races. The American people deserve better.

What have our people done to deserve what has happened to them...more than 30,000 American dead in Vietnam, a national crime rate rising nearly nine times as fast as the population, taxes and a cost of living that go up faster than their income, 238 riots resulting in more than 200 deaths and more than \$800 million in property damage. It is not the American people who have failed, it is their leaders.

That is why I think the voters will clean house, from top to bottom, in November. They will sweep out all the incompetents and those derelict in their duty. They will demand and get good, clean, efficient government. They will send to the Congress capable young men like Ray Gabler.

Americans have always been dedicated to progress. Progress can only be built on a foundation of order. That foundation must be fashioned with the building blocks of justice.

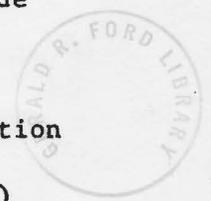
Order and justice go hand in hand--but the law must be upheld. There can be no peace, no safety, no progress in a land where the law is scoffed at and law enforcement officials are attacked in the exercise of their duties.

A good place to start is for public officials to say what they mean and to mean what they say.

The leading candidate for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination had a few words to say the other day about crime in this country. He told members of two Chicago labor unions that if elected President he would direct a nationwide mobilization against violence, looting and crime.

This is the same man who on August 14, 1966, told the National Association

(more)



of County Officials in New Orleans that if he had to live in a slum "you would have had a little more trouble than you have had already, because I have enough spark left in me to lead a mighty good revolt under those conditions." Since those words were spoken, the American people have suffered through more than 225 riots.

There is no excuse for slum conditions. But neither is there any excuse for violence. And, furthermore, there is no excuse for the Vice-President of the United States inviting violence by condoning it.

Look at what is happening in Chicago. The party that has led this country into stalemate in Vietnam and bloodshed and destruction in our cities is engaged in internecine warfare. The Democratic Party is divided; the country is divided. There is a desperate need in this country for unity--unity that only the Republican Party can provide.

All Americans are concerned about the direction in which this country is heading. We can change that direction; we must change that direction. It will take a Republican President and a Republican House of Representatives to do it.

What will a Republican majority in the House mean to the country?

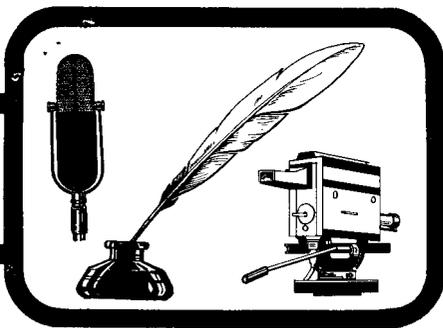
In 1966 Republicans made a net gain of 47 seats in the House. We were still a minority but we had with us such dynamic new congressmen as George Bush and Bob Price, men who have proved themselves most valuable additions to our forces.

And we produced. All House Republicans produced. We rewrote the Administration's weak anti-crime bill and made possible a sweeping anti-crime crusade. We wrote anti-riot provisions into federal law. We cracked down on loan-sharking. We barred from the 90th Congress a former House member guilty of flagrant misuse of public funds. We forced the Johnson-Humphrey Administration to go ahead with an anti-ballistic missile system for the protection of the American people. We fashioned a program of home ownership for low-income families. We moved to revitalize state and local government by taking the strings off federal funds to fight crime, combat juvenile delinquency, improve the health of the nation and the quality of our schools.

Think what we could do with just 31 more Republican congressmen--a majority in the House--with fine young men like Ray Gabler working in tandem with George Bush, Bob Price and others under Republican committee chairmen.

I think the American people are going to elect that kind of a Congress in November--a Congress that will tell the American people the hard truth about their problems and work with the people back home to solve them. I feel sure that with your support outstanding young men like Ray Gabler will be sitting in the House of Representatives...a Republican House...when the 91st Congress convenes next January.

And let me say now to the people of the 10th Congressional District of Texas that Ray Gabler will get a House committee assignment of direct benefit to his constituents. I say, "Go with Gabler." You'll be glad you did.



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