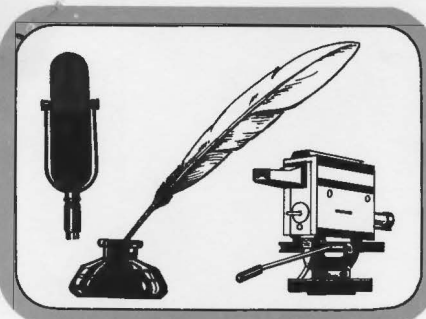


The original documents are located in Box D25, folder “Dinner Honoring Republican Congressional Candidate Earl Ruth, Salisbury, NC, September 23, 1968” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M. MONDAY--
September 23, 1968

Excerpts from a Speech at a dinner honoring Republican congressional candidate Earl Ruth Monday evening, Sept. 23, 1968, at Salisbury, N.C.

The people of America today are looking for new leadership in Washington-- leadership that will correct the tragic mistakes and misguided policies of the past five years and bring this Nation peace, both at home and abroad.

This is why the voters on Nov. 5 will elect Dick Nixon as the 37th President of the United States. And this is why the people will elect a Republican House of Representatives to work with Dick Nixon. It is why they will send fine, right-thinking men like Earl Ruth to Washington to serve in the House and give the folks back home the responsible representation they want and need.

You know you can't do better than Earl Ruth, and Earl Ruth can do better by you. He wants to help you, and he needs your help to do it. So let's all line up behind Earl and give him the push he needs to wind up in Washington. I'm looking forward to welcoming him there next January.

You know that Dick Nixon and Ted Agnew are running ahead in the polls. And I am predicting the Republican Party will make a net gain of 40 or more House seats and thus take control of the U.S. House of Representatives.

My own reading of the polls is that the American people desperately yearn for peace--peace at home and peace abroad. And they are convinced--rightly so--that the Republican Party can best achieve those precious goals.

Order is the number one issue in America today--order at home and order in the world.

America does not have the capacity, singly, to maintain order in the world but certainly the American people have the capacity to keep order among themselves.

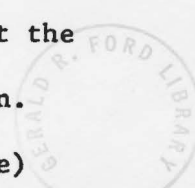
When I speak of order at home, I talk of order, with justice, under law--as does any decent American.

I speak for the overwhelming majority of Americans who want to live at peace with their fellowmen and to get ahead in this world.

I speak for all the law-abiding Americans who are shocked by violence in the streets and on the campuses and by the 89 per cent rise in the national crime rate in the last seven years.

I speak for all of those Americans who know that blind repression is not the answer to violence in America but that permissiveness likewise is no solution.

(more)



I speak of all those Americans who are horrified by slum conditions but who know it is wrong to lay the blame for riots on everyone except the rioters.

I speak of all those Americans who believe that anyone who breaks the law should pay the appropriate penalty.

I speak for all those Americans who believe it is wrong for anyone, including a Vice-President of the United States, to say at any time that if he had to live under slum conditions he could "lead a mighty good revolt" himself.

This is not to excuse slum conditions. We must attack social ills with the same dedication and fervor with which we seek order in this country. Progress and order go hand in hand.

But order is the first requisite, because there can be no progress without order. There can be no progress under conditions of chaos, confusion and destruction.

This is the year of change in American politics. It is the year of change because the American people know they must have a new kind of leadership to meet the challenge of America's problems. The old kind of leadership has been tried and found sorely wanting. The old politics--offered to this congressional district in the persons of Hubert Humphrey and the incumbent congressman--has produced more problems than it has solved.

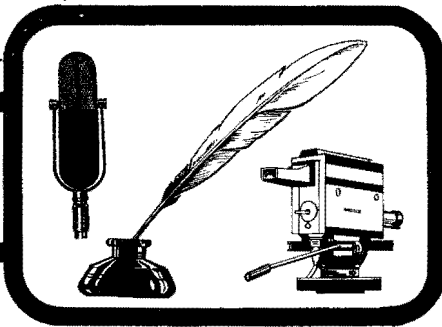
The people are rejecting the old politics because they want to win the peace in Vietnam and restore domestic tranquillity at home. They want a strong leader, a man of reason and responsibility who knows how to deal with the Communist leaders of the world and the apostles of violence in America.

They want to improve the moral tone of our society, to erase the attitude that whatever you can "get away with" is all right, the atmosphere of governmental permissiveness and self-permissiveness. They want a disciplined society in America, and they know that will require a strong leader. They know that the LBJ Society has become the LSD Society--license, sin and destruction--and that just elevating the No. 2 man to the top spot wouldn't change a thing.

I think the people know, too, that a new Republican President will need a Republican House of Representatives to work with him--to implement a sensible war on poverty, fight crime effectively and not just talk about it, clean up our air and streams, make real problem-solving partners of our cities and states by sharing federal income tax revenue with them, rebuild our central cities and the people of the inner cities by using tax credits to enlist industry in a war against slummism, stop federal government waste and give the taxpayers their money's worth, and in time cut taxes so people can keep more of what they make.

A Republican House working with a Republican President will keep these promises. And we need Earl Ruth to help us make good on them. Won't you help him?

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