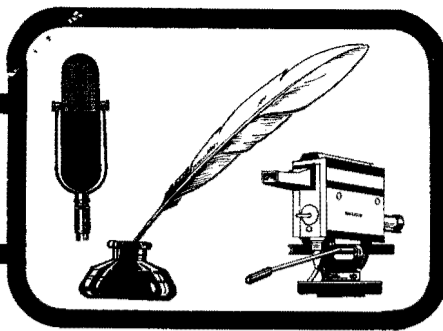


The original documents are located in Box D25, folder “Republican Dinner Honoring Representative Edwin D. Eshleman, Lancaster, PA, October 2, 1968” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY--
October 2, 1968

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, at a Republican dinner honoring Rep. Edwin D. Eshleman, Wednesday evening, Oct. 2, at Lancaster, Pa.

We need more than just a change of leadership in this country. We need leadership that will lift the American people out of the fog and frustration of failure--the policy blunders which have brought us a no-win war in Vietnam and the alienation of our young people.

The American people deserve better.

What have our people done to deserve what has happened to them...more than 30,000 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 elect outstanding, dynamic Republicans like your congressman, Ed Eshleman, to the United States House of Representatives.

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.

This is the house we must build if we are not to live...and perish...in a house divided against itself. We must build a house that rests on the cornerstones of law, order, justice and equal opportunity.

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.

The place to start is for public officials to say what they mean and to mean what they say. The American people must be able to have confidence in their government again, to trust in their government.

The Democratic Party's presidential candidate has had a few words to say about crime in this country. He has promised that if elected President he would

(more)

direct a nationwide mobilization against "violence, looting and crime."

This is the same man who on August 14, 1966, told the National Association 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 United States has witnessed 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.

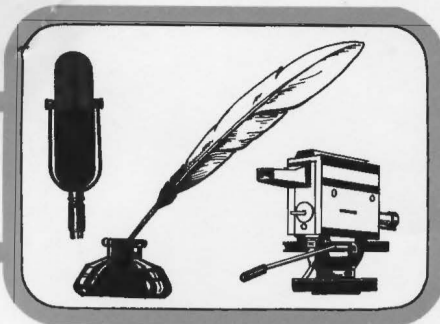
It is time for plain talk in America. Honesty tells us law and order must be maintained. Our streets must be made safe for law-abiding citizens.

Honesty also tells us that the Johnson-Humphrey Administration committed a blunder of colossal proportions in committing American troops to a massive land war in Vietnam.

We must now do everything necessary to back up our men in Vietnam while seeking an honorable political settlement of the bloody conflict there. Let us pray for our men in Vietnam and also for our negotiators in Paris. And let us resolve that there shall be no more Vietnams, no more no-win wars in which American boys will be sacrificed for murky objectives never quite explained.

The day of the half-truth must end. We need no more of an Administration which promises that American boys will never be sent to do the job that Asian boys should be doing...and then commits more than 500,000 of our young men to duty in Vietnam. We need no more of an Administration that tells us a little inflation is a good thing...and then forces upon us a 10 per cent tax increase to help stop galloping inflation. We need no more of an Administration that tells us we are not experiencing a crime wave...then reveals that the crime rate has shot up 89 per cent since 1960.

We do need an Administration and a Congress that will put government back in the hands of the people, an Administration and a Congress that will tell the people the hard truth about this country's problems and will work with the people back home to solve them. I think the American people are going to elect that kind of leadership--Dick Nixon leadership--and that kind of a Congress, a Congress with Ed Eshleman in it, in November. I feel sure that with your support more fine young men like Ed Eshleman will be sitting in the House of Representatives...a Republican House...when the 91st Congress convenes next January.



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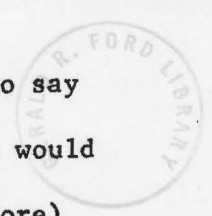
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