

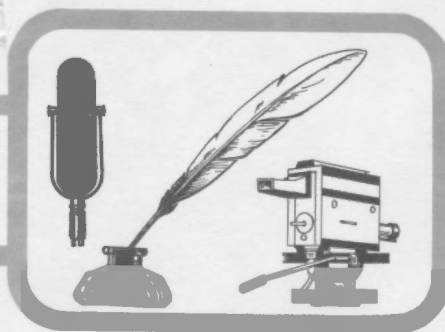
The original documents are located in Box D28, folder “Winston-Salem, NC, January 31, 1970” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M. SATURDAY--
January 31, 1970

Excerpts from a Speech by House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford at Winston Salem, N.C.

In 1960 more than two million serious crimes were committed in the United States. For 1969 the figure may be three times that total when the final statistics have been gathered.

Yet the first session of the Democratic-controlled 91st Congress passed into the history books without final action on any of the major anti-crime measures proposed by President Nixon. And it took the Democratic-controlled Congress nearly a year to approve--with the greatest reluctance--the full \$268 million asked by President Nixon for use in beefing up local law enforcement.

That is why I charge that the Democratic-controlled Congress has stalled the Nixon Administration's efforts to implement a national anti-crime campaign.

The Administration has cracked down on corruption in New Jersey, has busted up major dope smuggling and peddling activities, and has helped strengthen local police forces.

But we can and should do much more. We will do much more if the Democratic-controlled Congress will cooperate with a Republican Administration for the good of the Nation.

Nineteen crime war measures sponsored by the Nixon Administration are marking time in the Democratic-controlled Congress. These include vital bail bond reform which would be coupled with court reforms to get speedier trials and keep habitual criminals off the streets while awaiting justice. House Democrats also have failed to act on a Nixon package to make the Nation's capital a safer city and perhaps a model of crime control.

President Nixon wants to put more judges in the courts to speed up the handling of criminal cases. But the Democrats have sat on the judgeship legislation because they don't want a Republican President appointing additional judges.

This is how the Democrats are playing politics with crime.

At the same time they express loud alarm over the fact that crime rose by 11 per cent across the Nation during 1969. If they are so concerned about the crime rate--a rate that jumped 11 times faster than our population during the Sixties--then why have they failed to act? Could it be because passage of major Administration bills would reflect credit on a Republican President?



And while Democrats in Congress stall the President's anti-crime package, they also conveniently forget that crime rose by 19 per cent in 1968 as compared with the 11 per cent recorded last year. What I am saying is that the rate of the crime rise slackened in 1969, compared with the showing for 1968 when the Democratic Party controlled the White House as well as the Congress.

I submit to you that Democrats in the Congress have been stalling in the war on crime.

They have been holding up the anti-crime campaign at the same time that they have tossed a monkey wrench into President Nixon's fight against inflation.

This kind of stuff is just political monkey-shines. And it makes abundantly clear why Democratic National Chairman Fred Harris has said his party wants to make crime and inflation the big issues in the congressional elections this fall.

I welcome that challenge sounded by the Democratic national chairman.

I welcome the opportunity to tell the American people what the Democrats in Congress have not done to fight crime.

I welcome the opportunity to tell the American people how the Democrats in Congress fed inflation throughout the Sixties by spending \$50 billion more than the Federal Government was taking in.

I welcome the opportunity to tell the American people how the Democrats in Congress cut Federal revenue last year and went on a spending spree while cutting that revenue.

I welcome the opportunity to tell the American people how the Democrats in Congress bragged about phoney cuts in defense spending while the Nixon Administration cut actual Federal spending by \$7 billion and reduced military manpower by 200,000 to 300,000 men.

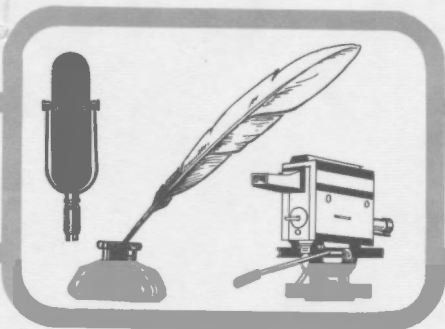
I welcome the opportunity to tell the American people how the Democrats in Congress continued their traditional role of tax spenders while consumer prices rose at a rate of 6.1 per cent, the worst inflation since 1951.

I welcome the opportunity to tell the American people how the Democrats in Congress kept on with their irresponsible spendthrift ways while the purchasing power of the Nation's rank-and-file workers continued to fall because of steadily rising prices.

Sen. Harris and other Democrats in Congress won't fool the people. The people are too smart for that. They know who is fouling up the war on crime and feeding the fires of inflation.

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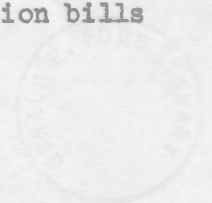
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