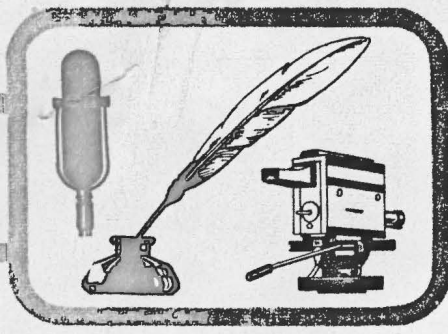


The original documents are located in Box D30, folder “American Restaurant Association, Los Angeles, CA, January 17, 1971” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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M. G. ...



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

Exerpts from a speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford before the American Restaurant Association, Jan. 17, 1971, in Los Angeles, Calif.

The "six great goals" President Nixon announced a year ago in his 1971 State of the Union Message to the Congress remain just that--goals--but we will achieve some of them in 1972 and take large strides toward the others.

You may recall what those goals were: Welfare reform, an environmental program aimed at restoring and enhancing our natural environment, a program improving the availability of health care for all the American people, Federal revenue sharing with the states and local units of government, Federal Government reorganization, and full prosperity in peacetime.

We are already moving toward the achievement of full prosperity in peacetime. The President's New Economic Policy--a combination of tax cuts, price and wage controls and stimulation of trade--is heading us in that direction. All of the business economists are bullish. We can expect 1972 to be a very good year.

I expect 1972 to be not only a very good year for the economy but a good year for President Nixon in his dealings with the Congress.

I am fully aware that Congress acted on less than 10 of the President's major pieces of legislation last year. But twice that many of these major measures have been passed by one house of Congress or the other and appear fairly certain of final passage by both houses in 1972. Adding in other other major bills that I expect to clear the Congress this year, I think the President will move steadily toward his six great goals.

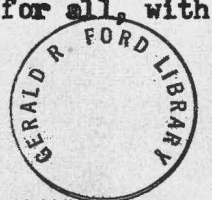
Politics aside, the people will benefit.

President Nixon is seeking the right objectives in the right way at the right time.

With Federal welfare reform, he is seeking to overhaul the scandalous welfare system which has burdened us since the Thirties and has run wild in recent years.

With his efforts to restore the environment, he has given the Nation a common-sense program of air and water pollution control that promises only what it can deliver.

With his new health program, he offers improved health coverage for all, with improvements in the distribution of health services.



With his general revenue sharing proposal, he offers property tax relief for local taxpayers and a ~~rescue~~ rescue from imminent bankruptcy for state and city governments.

With Federal Government reorganization, he moves to make the Executive Branch responsive to the people and truly a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

These are measures that have substantial public support. I think they will move ahead in the Congress in 1972.

Welfare reform passed the House last June 22. Sen. Russell Long, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, has committed himself to bring it before the Senate. I am most hopeful this historic legislation will be on the President's desk before the end of the year.

Our program to restore the environment is moving ahead well. The Environmental Protection Agency is implementing the very strong Clean Air Act Amendments of 1970. In the area of water pollution control there is a ~~danger~~ danger that the Congress will make a gesture far out of keeping with reality. The Senate has passed a bill which the EPA Administrator ~~believes~~ believes sets unachievable goals. The House Public Works Committee has approved similar legislation. We should not promise more than we can deliver. What we need is a strong program that is on target in ~~terms~~ terms of what we can feasibly accomplish. The American people must not be deceived into thinking we can ~~return~~ return all of our lakes and streams to pristine ~~by~~ purity by 1985.

Health care legislation likely will pass Congress in 1972. Hearings have been conducted in both the House and the Senate. The Administration's health insurance proposal will probably be the principal vehicle for such legislation, rather than the costly program of Federalized health care ~~advocated~~ advocated by Sen. Kennedy. America's health care problems can best be met by improving on the present system, not by scrapping it and erecting a massive bureaucratic structure in its place.

As I mentioned earlier, Federal revenue sharing is needed to ease the property tax burden and feed unencumbered Federal dollars to cash-starved state and local governments. House Ways and Means Chairman Wilbur Mills has introduced a bill which is about 80 per cent acceptable to the Administration. So prospects for Federal revenue sharing legislation in 1972 must be rated fairly good.

Another of the President's great goals also is within reach--reorganization of the Federal cabinet departments. There is good reason to believe that this legislation will move in the House this year, and perhaps the logjam will break in the Senate as well.

We must put the Nation on a new course. We must move toward the great goals outlined by the President. The American people deserve no less.

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