

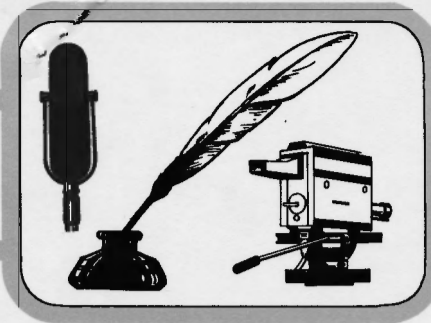
The original documents are located in Box D34, folder “Republican Rally, Kankakee, IL, October 28, 1972” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M. SATURDAY--
October 28, 1972

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford at a Republican Rally at Kankakee, Ill.

As Nov. 7 nears, every American should be asking himself this question: Which of the two Presidential candidates is more likely to secure peace with honor for our country, and which is better qualified to offer new hope to the whole world?

Nowhere is the choice facing America this November more clear--or more crucial--than on the foreign policy stands taken by President Nixon and Sen. McGovern.

In the era from World War II to the present, America has been led by six Presidents of both parties. And all of these Presidents believed that America had to remain strong if the United States was to negotiate effectively for peace and the American people were to remain secure in their freedom.

The need for strength is no less today than it was under Roosevelt or Truman or Eisenhower or Kennedy or Johnson. As President Nixon has said: "A strong America is not the enemy of peace; it is the guardian of peace."

President Nixon has made this sound observation: "In negotiations between great powers, you can only get something if you have something to give in return." In other words, you can only negotiate successfully if you have something to negotiate with. You cannot hope to negotiate a mutual reduction of arms or of troop strength if you begin by throwing away the arms you have and cutting your troops in half.

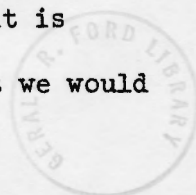
But listen to Sen. McGovern. In 1969 he said: "I am convinced that we will some day rue the phrase, 'negotiate from strength,' as one of the most damaging and dangerous cliches in the American vocabulary."

McGovern has backed away from nearly every one of the proposals he made during the Presidential primaries, but on defense cuts he has been the very model of consistency.

He has spelled out his formula for defense: Don't wait to negotiate; cut the defense budget by \$32 billion; strip away our strength--cut the Air Force by a third, the Navy by a quarter, our aircraft carriers from 16 to 6, and our Marines by a third.

One has to believe that he means what he says when he asserts that it is dangerous to negotiate from strength--because his program would assure that we would have no strength to negotiate from.

(more)



Would the Russians be more or less anxious to sign a second SALT agreement if we had a McGovern unilaterally putting his massive defense cuts into effect?

Would the Chinese be more or less eager to work for peace in the Pacific--if McGovern was already "coming home" to Hawaii and Alaska?

McGovern's foreign policy calls for a program that flows from the benign but naive assumption that peace can be built on nothing more substantial than good intentions.

No delusion could more dangerous in the office of the Presidency.

McGovern tells us to "Come home, America"--home from Asia, home from Europe, home from those outposts in which our forces guard the defenses of freedom. No wonder our allies quake at the thought of a McGovern Presidency.

The world knows what McGovern apparently does not--that peace and freedom still depend on a strong America.

Let's look at another aspect of the proposed McGovern cuts in America's defenses and what this would mean in the event of an international crisis.

The strength he proposes to cut away is conventional, tactical strength. He would bring home the men, the tanks, the guns, the fighter aircraft from Western Europe. He would bring home the aircraft carriers that support our allies in the Mediterranean and give muscle to our commitment to Israel.

Stripped of these conventional forces--left to rely on nuclear power--how would the United States handle a sudden confrontation?

I submit that the future George McGovern offers the American people is not one of peace, but of deadly danger.

McGovern is an isolationist--and as such he is a dangerous man.

There is a long isolationist tradition in this country--the 19th century Populists, the recalcitrant Republicans at the time of Versailles, the pre-World War II appeasement lobby. And what all of these representatives of the isolationist stream had in common is that they were all wrong.

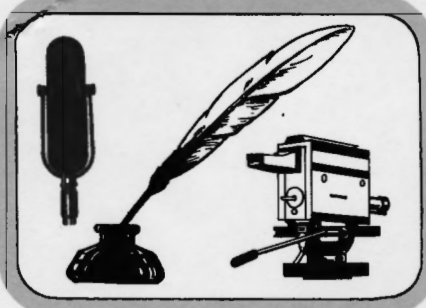
Modern America cannot afford to be alone in the world, cannot afford to shirk its responsibilities for the peace and freedom of men everywhere, cannot allow one error in world affairs to obscure its broader mission.

Yet George McGovern would take us down the isolationist path once again. He would leave the fate of Israel in the hands of the Kremlin. He wants to cut and run in Vietnam, pull back in Europe and weaken our commitments to our other allies around the world. In my view, he is supporting a posture of surrender.

The true peace candidate in this election is the man who truly understands the world and who has already done more to build a generation of peace than any other President in modern times--Richard Nixon. # # #

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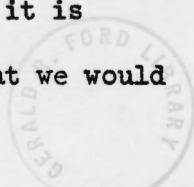
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