

The original documents are located in Box D16, folder “No Occasion, 1964?” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Ladies and gentlemen, fifteen years ago a legislative proposal was prepared in the Executive Branch and sent to Congress after many months of intensive study. It was a massive bill, numbering several score pages and containing extremely complex language.

Far off in an obscure part of this measure was a one-sentence item. It provided that when and if any President declared an emergency for any reason whatsoever, he could thereupon expend every dollar in the US Treasury, and more besides, and the Congress would be obligated to restore the funds so expended.

That does us come to relinquishing completely control by the people over the public purse.

Your Congress denied this request. Control still resides in the people. Adgment the executive's branch and all control will disappear.

We have to decide. Trust the people. Or trust unbridled power.

I think I know your choice. Like mine, it surely is to keep our Congress strong.

