The original documents are located in Box D19, folder "Communism, Crime and Civil Disobedience, 1965" of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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READING TEXT

Communism. Crime and Civil Disobddience

Today, the heritage of freedom is the target of vicious attacks at home and abroad. A Communist enemy hacks away at man's choice to be free in the jungles and rice fields of Southeast Asia. The enemy talks of peace in Europe and the Far East while clandestinely plotting against us.

The sinister efforts of Communism spread across the Western Hemisphere ... in Central and South America. In Cuba, the arsonist Castro commands a treacherous headquarters of Communism almost within sight of our shores.

While the Communists claim to be a legitimate political organization. they are active tools of the Soviet Union. They cry for withdrawal. of American military support from South Viet Nam. They argue for noninterference with Communist terrorists in the Domincan Republic. The allegedly want peace....but a peace with a price tag too great to pay. They want world-wide domination as quickly as possible. -mpreThe shocking state of affairs is the existence of politically naive, misinformed, non-Communist fellow travelers who are <u>used</u> as pawns.... the organized and strong attempts to sell Communist propaganda to the youth of America and the world.

Recently, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover warned that the Communist Party has placed "intense emphasis" on a campus speech program.

Of the program, he said, it "has seen skilled hucksters of atheism and treason appear at scores of colleges and universities from New York to California, without objection by the authorities of those institutions of higher learning and often with positive encouragement by members of the faculities..."

Mr. Hoover pointed out what Communist Party spokesmen are telling our young people. They demand withdrawal of our troops from Viet Nam... the describe the United States as the most hated country in the world... they say the Berlin Wall was built to hold back undesirables from the West. The Communists are getting aid from far too many intended victims, as Mr. Hoover revealed. And who are the intended victims of whom he speaks?....the pseudoliberals on the extreme, way-out left... the misguided zealots of the far-right...the Ku Klux Klan...the merchants and spreaders of hate who follow a doctrine of intolerance, bigotry and intimidation....the rabble rousers who defy the law and seek to promote disrespect toward family and all forms of authority.

Civil disobedience, a creeping social cancer in America, is too often hidden under the phony guise of academic freedom... ^Draft cards are burned, riots rip communities, the Nation's tranquility is shattered by sit-ins, sit-downs, lie-downs, picketing with placards bearing disgraceful messages.

Civil disobedience, although the action of very small minorities, cannot become stronger in our society. As Mr. Hoover has said, "we must choose between law and anarchy; freedom and chaos."

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The FBI director reports more than 2,600,000 serious offenses were reported last year in our country...the largest total on record. And, the crime rate continues to soar.

In some big cities, the climate of fear has no boundaries. The victims are rich and poor. They are robbed, beaten, supering assaulted and insulted on street-corners in broad-daylight, in stores, in the center of the city, in their homes.

An assistant district attorney in New York sasy "we're going to have crime forever...but there is a great deal that can be done to reduce the magning rate."

"Somebody has to care," he says. "Everybody has to care."

We must strengthen our civic pride, our righteous indignation. We must change an incredibly indifferent attitude...we must

realistic have more **and action**.

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We should heed the words of wisdom spoken 41 years ago by an experienced attorney and jurist in one of our larger cities.

He warned: "It is not the criminals, actual or potential, that need a neuropathic hospital. It is the people who slobber over them in an effort to find excuses for their crime. The demand of the hour in America, above all countries, is for jurors with conscience, judges with courage, and prisons which are neither country clubs nor health resorts.?

Today, in too many instances some jurors deliberately turn away from the evidence. Too many criminals are free on technicalities. Too often the systems of parole and probation are nothing more than freeways from prisons to the underworld and into the streets and into the homes of America.

Our world must be ruled by law. It must be a place of reasons respect for others, responsibility in changing and turbulent times.

I have spoken with providen pessimism. However, I am optimistic

to a large degree.

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In the fight against Communism, we are following a firm policy in Viet Nam and elsewhere. President Johnson has my personal support and that of most Republicans and Democrats in his actions ordered so far against the enemy. I only question whether we have done too little, too late in the use of air and sea power.

It is refreshing to see young people banding together in so-called "movements" supporting our fight against Communist aggression. A lad in the East lossed many, many pounds by dieting to meet physical requirements for military service. He reflects the patriotism of most young Americans.

The Communist enemy begins to feel the sting of American military support in Viet Nam. I only hope that Feiping and Hanoi do not miscalculate the intentions of the ^United States due to irresponsible actions by some misguided and misdirected young people and dissenters in our country.

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The type of faith that dominated Independence Hall when the Constitution was framed is strongly evident in America. National polls show overwhelming approval of our actions against the Communist aggressors in Viet Nam.

At home in the fight against crime and civil disobedience, local authorities in most cities and communities are seeking and finding solutions to problems of overwhelming magnitudes.

There is a growing civic awareness of the need to do something positive about halting the spiraling rate of crime.

The President has signed the Law Enforcement Assistance Act, which is aimed at strengthening the process of justice. The Congress should continue to keep this vital matter before it for current review and upgrading. More should be accomplished in the next session. The Executive branch should devote even more attention to the national crime problem without assuming federal control over local police

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The administration can expect complete cooperation from our side of the aisle in the House in seeking ways and means to help local authorities and officials turn the tide of crime and lawlessness.

We also pledge to support the President when we think he is right on matters of foreign policy. By the same token, we reserve the right to offer constructive criticism when we think it is required in the national interest.

I believe America will continue to march forward in a golden age of progress with dignity and freedom if the people continue to believe in liberty and justice....and God.

Faith is our strongest bulwark against those who would destroy or rule us, who would turn the tide of civil disobedience into a raging floodwater of turmoil, who would create a kingdom of crime in a nation of law-abiding, God-loving, justice-seeking citizens.

Thank you.

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