

The original documents are located in Box D19, folder “Michigan Association of Nurserymen, Grand Rapids, MI, February 11, 1965” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ADDRESS BY REP. GERALD R. FORD (R-MICH)

February 11, 1965 at Grand Rapids, Michigan

Banquet of the Michigan Association of Nurserymen, Inc.

FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 p.m., Feb. 11, 1965

The theme of your annual convention is to up-grade the landscape and nursery industry. Republican Congressmen are attempting to do the same in federal government... ^{to} up-grade its ~~goals~~ goals at home and abroad, its direction, its efficiency and its ability to function with fiscal responsibility.

As in your businesses, the federal government operates on a ~~budget~~ budget. However, ~~them~~ while you work ^{to} ~~for~~ make a profit, the under the present Administration United States ~~and the present administration~~ spends more than it takes in.

President Johnson's proposed 1966 budget greases the skids for an even longer slide into red ink. Since President Eisenhower left office, the government---in the fiscal years 1962 through this proposed budget for 1966---- has or will have gone ^{more than 32 billion} ~~more than 32 billion~~ dollars deeper in debt.

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A weighty, large and involved document, the President's 1966 budget demands long and careful study. Republican Congressmen are doing just that now.



Recently, in a speech Mr. Eisenhower asked "who is finally to pay the ~~blow~~ piper?" Obviously, this is one of the major tasks facing Republicans in Washington.

Mr. Eisenhower also said that "swollen expenditures are more damaging than merely forcing our voteless children to support ~~the~~ spendthrift parents; living on credit tends to debase our currency and leads to inflation. Yet, anyone who openly opposes deficit spending is charged by the 'sophisticated' theorists of being more 'interested in money than in people.'"

Republicans are interested in both money and people. The financial record of Republican Administrations and a positive, new approach to a large number of problems involving money and people *is the proof,*

involved
A weighty, large and ~~involved~~ document, the President's 1966 budget demands long and careful study. Republican Congressman, I'm certain, are doing just that now.

have discovered quickly.
One thing ~~is~~ the Republicans ~~find~~. We find that this budget is higher than \$100 billion dollars... a figure the Administration is boasting about in trying to figure out ways to create a "Great Society", ~~that they could~~

~~turn out to be a "Great Society"~~

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We must dispel the myth about this proposed budget being below 100 billion dollars. Including the "new obligational authority"-- a phrase when translated into understandable language means "the right to spend government funds"----the budget total is 106 BILLION dollars.

I am not opposing the President's alleged goals of greater efficiency in government and a less burdensome tax system. But, those goals as outlined ⁱⁿ his ~~financial~~ economic report to Congress must be mentally x-rayed. We must dig behind the scenes to see whether the budget will even come close to accomplishing those two goals Mr. Johnson says he hopes to achieve.

I regret that the President--in his deficit budget--- omitted from his list of basic ^{principles} ~~principles~~ any mention of fiscal responsibility. Certainly, this could not have been an oversight.

We must keep in mind that this annual report on financing is political as well as being ~~factious~~ mainly factual. The amount of politicking in the budget is something Republican Congressmen intend to discover as soon as possible. Our discoveries will be made known to the American people.

The President's request for some 45,000 more employees in civilian agencies should have surprised many Americans, ~~and~~ especially since the impression has been given that Mr. Johnson was really hounding agencies

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to cut the corners on civilian employment.

Last ~~year,~~ when we adopted the tax cut bill, the Democratic majority inserted a pledge to give priority to balancing the budget, and to reduce the debt.

This 1966 budget facing exploration in depth by Republicans on Capitol Hill doesn't seem to exactly include those promises. We are not making any progress by increasing the national debt to ten billion dollars in two years.

A recent example of ~~going on a spending spree~~ the Administration going on a spending spree, throwing money away at a rip-roaring and galloping pace, was the President's request for an extra 1.6 billion dollars ~~for~~ to be used by the Department of Agriculture in bailing out the Community Credit Corporation.

This corporation has virtually exhausted its borrowing authority of $14\frac{1}{2}$ billion dollars. It has assets of more than 7 billion dollars, ~~including~~ including ownership of 4.7 billion dollar's worth of agricultural commities.

The agency ~~Security of Food Corporation~~ could sell these products of the soil to get cash, but this would break commodity markets all over the world.



It was clearly evident last year when the Agriculture budget was adopted that the 1.6 billion dollars the President ~~seek~~^{now} ~~was needed~~^{then.} But, the Administration ----deliberately, I believe----~~requested~~ omitted that amount for political reasons. A year ago, the Johnson Administration---- in failing to include a needed 1.6 billion dollars ~~gave~~ the impression that it was cutting down the budget.

This year ~~Within the past few days~~ the 89th Congress by a vote of 204 to 177 clamped down on the use of public money to help ~~Solomon~~^{Col.} Nasser of the United Arab Republic.

In considering the allotment of 1.6 billion dollars for the Department of Agriculture, the House adopted a provision which blocks the Administration from using any of a 200 million portion of this appropriation in the United Arab Republic.

I have always favored the use of surplus agricultural commodities to assist the needy at home and abroad, provided those overseas were not aiming to destroy us.

I am willing to give away our products when it means the preservation of life and health. I can defend the sale of subsidized products to allies and true neutrals.

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But, the sale of tax-subsidized wheat to Communist conspirators who would "bury us" is in an entirely different category *whether done directly or indirectly*

Col. Nasser's aid to the Congolese rebels, whom we oppose, is made easier by the 140 million dollar's worth of surplus wheat, beef and poultry we supply to the United Arab Republic each year under our "food for peace" program.

How else has Nasser's government reacted to the help given to it by the people of the United States under a Democratic Administration?

The past November the John F. Kennedy Memorial ~~Library~~ Library in Cairo was sacked and burned by mobs, which the government of Col. Nasser was either unwilling or unable to control.

A month later, his Air Force shot down an unarmed American-owned commercial plane. Four days after that deplorable action, Nasser admitted he was supplying arms to Congolese rebels. The United Arab Republic leader told the United States to go fly a kite.

~~It is~~
In view of Col. Nasser's attitude, it is very difficult to *white house* understand why the ~~Democratic leadership~~ objected strenuously to ~~the~~ restricting aid to the Arab Republic government.



I strongly urged the adoption of holding the line on helping the government of Col. Nasser and every Republican House member agreed. We are grateful to the 76 Democrats who helped us win a victory for all Americans.

There is no doubt about it. I feel the action of the House was right and sound. Col. Nasser deserves a rebuke for his conduct.

As a matter of fact, the House amendment does not tie the hands of the President. It permits donation of surplus food, and it doesn't affect the sale of agricultural ~~commodities~~ ^{commodities} for foreign currency to Egypt after July 1.

Furthermore, ~~the House amendment~~ the restriction has no impact on the ^{regular foreign} ~~federal~~ aid appropriation.

The House is the voice of the American people, who have the right to an expression on the conduct of foreign affairs. By our ^{a majority} ~~we~~ were expressing the will of the people.

Earlier, I spoke of a positive, new approach ~~to~~ to problems, including the proposed budget, which is already in action under Republican leadership in Congress.

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A ~~few~~ days ago the House Republican Conference Committee announced the establishment of a planning and research group, with Representative Charles E. Goodell of New York as chairman.

This is a major ~~innovation~~ that will help mobilize constructive Republican activity in developing long-term solutions to problems. And the way Congress is to spend public money gets high priority on the list of jobs the Planning and Research committee is already tackling with enthusiasm.

The committee headed by Goodell, will include ~~a~~ research team under the direction of Dr. William Prendergast, former research director of the Republican National Committee.

Dr. Prendergast ~~has~~ ^{has} ~~previously~~ long experience in making carefully documented analyses of federal government operations. He will bring in outside experts as consultants to help Republicans analyze ^{and} critique Congressional action, particularly in budget matters.

Four task-forces ~~are~~ are at work in the areas of agriculture, economic opportunity, minority staffing, Congressional reform and implementation of the 1964 Republican Party platform.

We cannot accept the ~~is~~ claim that the "duty of the opposition party is to oppose." This is too narrow and too negative a formulation of our responsibility.

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Republicans must do more than respond to the initiatives of the Administration. We must take the initiative ourselves in two major ways.

First, we must offer alternative measures to cope with national problems, such as the budget, when the Administration's proposals are unwise.

Secondly, we must press for action to deal with the problems to which the Administration is blind or indifferent.

House Republicans have a major responsibility as the representatives of approximately 43 percent of the electorate, who voted us into office last year.

That duty, as we see it, is to exert whatever influence we can to guide the Nation toward the goals of freedom, security, peace and well-being--- with fiscal responsibility. ^D

This is the positive, new approach. It is based on detailed planning and research by some of the greatest minds in the Nation working as task forces on a number of ~~national problems~~ problems directly involving the lives of the American people.



~~the~~ Fiscal policy is to be given much attention ~~by the~~ ^{by our} new

Planning and ^Research team of ~~Republicans~~ in the House.

The Democrats and the ^Republicans are widely split in their attitudes on budget matters. ~~It seems to me that~~ ^{I believe} that the Democrats tend to look upon government as the only real guardian of our economy.

^{in contrast} Republicans ¹serve as monitors of the Nation's economic inherent strength.

Starting now, Republicans must do a better job of selling the voters on the meaning of ~~individual liberty~~ ^{individual liberty} and responsibility and the dangers of government control.

The formation of the Planning and Research Committee is a major step in that direction. There will be other actions taken, some on a current basis, others during the years ahead.

Up-grading may mean taking the hard way at times. There is no slick, easy method of solving the problems facing our Nation.

Republicans ~~planned~~ in Congress are wary of "easy" way. ^{the one} The tough and difficult task is most often ~~the~~ brings the best results.

We will do everything possible to lower taxes and reduce spending.

We are working to align the very life of government with the good and the true.

Excerpts from a speech
by Rep. Gerald R. Ford (R, Mich)
Banquet of Michigan Association of Nurserymen
Feb. 11, 1965, Grand Rapids, Mich.

FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 p.m., Feb. 11, 1965

The President's 1966 budget demands long and careful study. One thing many of us have discovered quickly. We learned from the Johnson Administration budget last year that by a searching and honest analysis we can dispel the myth about this proposed budget being less than 100 billion dollars.

Including the "new obligational authority"---a phrase when translated into more understandable terms means "the right to spend government funds"---the budget total is 106 billion dollars.

In addition, when we turn to the "cash budget", federal expenditures under the Johnson budget will be over 126 billion dollars in 12 months, a new all-time spending record for Uncle Sam.

* * *

I am not opposing the President's alleged goals of greater efficiency in government and a less burdensome tax system.

These goals as outlined in his economic report to Congress, however, must be mentally x-rayed.

* * *

The President---in the deficit budget---omitted from his list of basic principles any mention of fiscal responsibility. This could not have been an oversight.

We must keep in mind that this annual report on financing is political as well as being mainly factual.

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Last year, when we adopted the tax cut bill, the majority inserted a pledge to give priority to balancing the budget, and to reduce the debt of our country.

This proposed 1966 budget---undergoing exploration in depth by both Republicans and Democrats--- doesn't keep these promises, especially when the national debt has increased to 10 billion dollars in two years.

* * *

We cannot agree that the "duty of the opposition party is to oppose." This thinking is too narrow and too negative. Instead, we must--and are doing-- something constructive by having alternatives when we think they are needed.

* * *

Four of our task forces are at work in the areas of agriculture, economic opportunity, Congressional reform--- all directly linked with the proposed budget. You will hear and read of their recommendations many times this year.

Congress must do more than to respond to the initiatives of the Administration. Both political parties should offer alternative measures to cope with national problems.

* * *

Our duty, as we see it, is to exert whatever influence we can to guide the Nation toward the goals of freedom, security, peace and well-being by adopting legislation with fiscal responsibility.

* * *

There are no slick, easy, catch-word ways of solving national financial problems. The tough and difficult task most often brings the best results.

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