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Excerpts from a speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford (R-Mich)

Ashville, N. C. March 27, 1965

This Nation has been described as a place where a man can live deeper, reach higher, see farther, think bigger and grow greater than anywhere else on earth.

The Republican Party---starting at this moment--- must be dedicated to preserve America as just that.

To accomplish the task, we need far more members in the ranks, more unity in the Party, courage, resourcefulness, creative ideas and readiness to work and earn our way.

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There have been strong indications of unity in the Congressional ranks of the Republican Party in recent weeks. It has been evident in the votes we have had since the start of the 89th Congress.

Republican Party shoulder-to-shoulder unity provides some counter-weight to the imbalance of power between the executive and legislative branches of our government, both of which are overwhelmingly dominated by the same political party.

This imbalance must be redressed through the establishment of a strong two-party system to insure Constitutional checks and balances.

Republicans are vastly outnumbered in this Congress, but we can still speak with the voice of a dedicated majority.

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While the President has been badgered by some strong Democrats to withdraw from Viet Nam, he has received strong support from the Republican leadership in both the House and the Senate.

In bargaining with the Communist nations, our country constantly gives much and gets little or nothing in return.

Until we and our allies agree to a "no concession-no deal" policy, we can expect more Koreas and Viet Nams---an ever-widening circle of Communist subversion around the earth.

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At times, Republicans in Congress will oppose both the aims and the methods of the Administration. However, we will not oppose for the sake of opposition. We will continue to support the Administration when it is right, and oppose it when it is wrong.

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The record the minority party will write in the 89th Congress will result in widespread Republican victories in 1966.

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“If you don't like it, don't like it.”

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY----- The duty of Republicans in Congress, as we see it, is to exert our influence in a positive, creative manner to help guide the Nation toward the goals of freedom, security, peace and well-being by adopting legislation based on investing and spending public money wisely.

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A searching and honest analysis can dispel the myth that the President's proposed budget is less than \$100 billion. Including the "new obligational authority"---which means "the right to spend government funds"---the budget total is \$106 billion. Adding the cash budget, federal spending under the present Administration's financial blueprint will be more than \$126 billion a year, a new all-time spending record for Uncle Sam.

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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.

The proposed Administration budget fails to keep these promises, especially when the national debt has increased by \$10 billion in just two years to an all-time high of \$318 billion.

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Republicans believe in the goals of greater efficiency in government and a less burdensome tax system. The proposed budget from the White House omits any reference to fiscal responsibility. This could not have been an oversight. We must keep in mind that this annual report on federal financing has too many political overtones.

HEALTH CARE----- A Republican plan has been drafted that will lighten the burden of health care for senior citizens. The program will provide comprehensive health insurance for all persons age 65 and over on a uniform basis throughout the Nation.

The plan will be entirely voluntary. Costs will be shared by the persons taking part in the plan and the federal government. This new approach is more equitable than the Administration's widely-publicized compulsory "medicare" proposal, which would be financed by a regressive payroll tax with minimum benefits.

The Republican plan will not endanger the social security system. It is fair and voluntary. A decision to participate is an individual choice.

FEDERAL POWER--- We must reverse the trend of having too much federal control over States, counties, cities, towns and small communities. A government big enough to provide hand-outs in a broad and sweeping way, is big enough to take away the freedom of individuals.

The growth of government control and heavy centralization in Washington means that more of our hard-earned substance is seized in taxes and more of our decisions are made by bureaucrats.

Federal government has no business telling States, cities and smaller communities how to think and plan.

URBAN RENEWAL--- The President, in his message on cities, had goals both lofty and humanitarian. He described community problems that do exist in many parts of the Nation.

However, the message to Congress emphasized the Administration's strong desire to create far more federal centralization of power, which is already in too many instances throttling metropolitan initiative and local responsibility.

A Republican proposal---a constructive alternative---will help cities to help themselves without putting the lives of citizens in the hands of federal master-planners.

Under the Administration's plan, another federal agency would be created to command the efforts of urban renewal. The Republican alternative will combine the Urban Renewal and Public Housing Administrations to eliminate costly duplication.

VOTING RIGHTS--- The patience of fair-minded people is wearing thin when after decades of waiting and three Civil Rights Acts the basic right of citizenship is still denied to a substantial number of Americans in brazen defiance of the Constitution.

The Republican platform of 1964 pledged such additional administrative or legislative actions as may be required to end the denial, for whatever unlawful reason, of the right to vote. The present Congress in the current session must enact new voting legislation that will stop discrimination without depriving the States of the right to set reasonable qualifications for the exercise of suffrage.

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