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Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford
Salisbury (Md) Chamber of Commerce
April 14, 1965

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April 14, 1965

In the profession of Washington politics, we meet the press--or vice versa--daily and sometimes hourly. As Rog Morton can testify, these are sometimes experiences to try a man's soul.

This is not to say that I am being critical of the press corps. I think that the late Franklin Roosevelt gave an excellent description when he introduced the Washington press to Winston Churchill as "my beloved wolves."

Of course, television news has brought a strong impact to the American press scene. The effect of TV on children is illustrated by a conversation a neighbor of mine had with his young son David the other night.

"Goodnight, David," the father said. The boy answered, "Good night, Chet."
My friend's name is John.

I know that editorial management of newspapers is not a profession where every day is coming up roses. In fact, if you ever see an editor who pleases everybody, he will be neither sitting nor standing---and there will be

-more-

a lot of flowers around him. The same is true of the columnists, who often have advice--- especially for politicians.

The other day one of them said in print: "Please, Mister President, no more talk about cutting taxes..... we can't afford it!"

You hear a lot of advice these days. ~~I have some for you tonight.~~
The Internal Revenue Service, with which I'm sure you are familiar, has stern advice. At the top of the income tax return forms is a small block of space with the warning--- do not write here. I'm told that many Americans each year, boldly and ^{courageously} ~~carelessly~~ scrawl this message when they ~~send in~~ their tax returns---- "I'll write anywhere I please!"

You may recall that I was elected Minority Leader of the House by a landslide vote of 73 to 67. Because of this smashing victory, I can appear here tonight as an authority----on the problems of the oppressed minorities.

As some of you may know, football is really my first love. I am only a politician because of job security!

Since Michigan--my alma mater-- beat Oregon State in the Rose Bowl by 27 points, and, three days later Ford beat his opponent by only 6 points, perhaps I chose the wrong profession.

I have often wondered where I would now be if I had accepted Curly Lambeau's offer ~~in~~ in 1934 to play pro ball with the Green Bay Packers,--- perhaps on the Supreme Court bench!

Those of you in the audience who are Democrats might be interested to know that I have learned from ~~an~~ ^{a reliable} ~~source~~ source--- as the press corps says--- that the President has no plan to change the name of the Nation's Capitol to "Austin-East."

Before discussing the subject of imbalance in government at present, I believe you should know that in Russia, all the towels in the bathrooms are simply marked "theirs."

Coming here from Washington and the Congress, I figure to let you in on a classified secret----- I've learned what a government bureau is.....that's where the ~~taxpayer's~~ ^{taxpayer's} shirts are kept.

Another thing I've finally learned after 16 years in Congress. This isn't such a bad world after all---once you get used to being nervous about everything.

* * * * *



I intend to be non-partisan in speaking tonight about the two major goals which I believe must be achieved if the American Democracy is to live on and be strengthened throughout subsequent generations.

First, we must maintain a balance in the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government as established by our Constitution.

The ~~parallel~~ parallel task is to preserve the two-party system--- the genius of our Democracy.

The foundations of our government will crack and our freedom will be threatened if any one of the government's three branches becomes too strong or too weak.

There are disturbing signs of slow erosion in the power of the Legislative branch, a build-up of awesome strength in the executive arm, and a change from the intended direction in the Federal Judiciary.

When one party controls Congress by a crushing 2 to 1 majority, legislation favored by the White House is ram-rodged through to approval....

this disregards the 43 percent of the electorate who voted for the party in the minority⁴ at the present time.



There is a step to be taken that would remedy the ~~situation~~ ~~in which~~ in which the Executive and Legislative branches are dominated by the same political party.

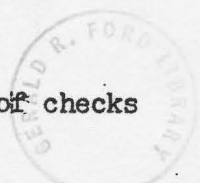
The ~~solution~~ ~~solution~~, was we see it, is to permit the minority party to control the Committees on Government Operations of the House and the Senate. These groups have broad investigating authority.

You see at present---with the over-balance of strength in the control of one party----it smacks of legalized collusion when we find the suspect and the District Attorney are blood relatives.

To make our Federal government function better, to help you get the facts, Republicans in Congress believe ~~that~~ ~~that~~ designating the minority party to handle this important assignment would permit our Federal government to function better and would get the facts to the public.

Congress, the legislative branch, has been criticized as being too slow to react in an age of speed. Critics have described the House and Senate as being too ~~slow~~ ~~slow~~ cumbersome and too old-fashioned.

These critics perhaps are unaware that in Congress a system of checks and balances is provided by the Constitution.



When speed is essential, Congress has proved many times that it can react with dispatch ~~to~~ to meet a crisis in war or in peacetime, in days of economic depression or in times of glowing, golden prosperity.

It has been said that Congress frequently makes haste slowly. However, the act of deliberate slowness is a safeguard against racing to the brink of decision. It prevents a dangerous plunge. Congress should reach its major decisions only after adequate research, thought, and exhaustive discussion.

When the balance of power in Congress is steeply tilted by an overwhelming majority in one political party, the system of checks and balances is endangered. This becomes even more serious when the executive branch is dominated by the same party.

Although the President is the chief executive and head of state for all of us, he does represent especially the views of the people who voted for him. Members of Congress, and particularly those in the House of Representatives, are closer to the Nation's citizens because they are chosen by smaller segments of the Nation.



Members of the House are elected every two years, a fact which in itself places Representatives closer to the people. Every two years a Representative must go to his constituents for a mandate to continue in office. His record is placed on the line and he must be endorsed by a majority of the voters in his district.

As in the Senate, the House is represented by nearly every major profession, national origin and religion. Congress is a cross-section of the American people. This is your strength. It should not be lessened by an over-balance of power in the executive and judicial branches of government.

The responsibilities of Congress are clearly defined in the Constitution, and include the making of all laws which are necessary and proper for carrying out the duties and powers of government.

Under the Constitution, every statute requiring concurrence of Congress must be presented to the President before taking effect. If the chief executive rejects a proposed act, he can be over-ruled by a two-third majority vote of the Senate and House.

It is quickly obvious that a crushing over-balance of political power



in both houses of Congress and in the executive branch weakens the safeguards of the Constitution.

Reflecting on the duties and obligations of the third branch of government, it can be said that the Federal Judiciary's function is to interpret the Constitution and the laws.

There is evidence that the Judicial Branch is arbitrarily elbowing its way to new positions of authority, disregarding the wise suggestions of judicial restraint made by the late Justice Frankfurter and others.

When the Supreme Court ordered states to reapportion on the "one-man, one vote" concept, Justice Frankfurter in a dissenting opinion was critical of an assumption by the Court of "destructively novel judicial power."

"In this situation, as in others of like nature, appeal for relief does not belong here," Justice Frankfurter said. "Appeal must be made to an informed, civically militant electorate. In a democratic society like ours, relief must come through an aroused public conscience that sears the conscience of the peoples representatives."

Justice Frankfurter emphasized that the Supreme Court's "authority--- possessed neither of the purse nor the sword---ultimately rests on sustained public confidence in its moral sanction."

I have stressed the need to preserve the two-party system as among major areas of concern in maintaining our structure of government.

Without any indulgence in partisanship, I am sure we can agree that a strong two-party system is bedrock assurance that our Democracy will survive, prosper, grow, and help others in the world to accept their role in the society of free nations.

These it seems to me are currently the major goals to be sought in the area of government: a sensitive balance in the legislative, executive and judicial branches, and a strong two-party system.

As businessmen, industrialists, merchants and professional men, what can you do to reach these goals? Where do you start? What might be your guidelines for action?

First, you must have the mental and moral courage to become involved in the political world as voters, as taxpayers, as partisans, as candidates for office, as office-holders---yes, as patriots.

Those who sit on the sidelines, uttering harping criticism, fail to strengthen the foundations of our Nation.

By being a citizen-participant in our Democracy and not a mere spectator, you develop a stronger loyalty to your community, your State and Nation. (more)

Patriotism in action demands loyalty to a philosophy, to a set of ideals, to our Nation. It begins at home in your local environment.

Certainly, not all businessmen can take front-line positions in government as did George Romney, Robert McNamara and others.

But you as leaders of your community can fulfill your public responsibilities by establishing closer contact with government officials, encouraging your associates to become more active in practical politics--- and by speaking out with courage as individuals on major public issues.

Business executives often discover that their counterparts in government have many things in common----dedication, concern and a heavy workload.

Practical politicians welcome expert advice, but they don't get it often enough. Perhaps you as businessmen and we as politicians need better communications.

In becoming part of what Justice Frankfurter described as an "informed, civically militant electorate," you discover the meaning of service and true citizenship.



~~Members~~ of the Salisbury business community, as elsewhere in the Nation, have the knowledge; ~~and the~~ ^{you have the proved} willingness to give more of yourselves than you receive in order to make this a better Nation and a better world for others and yourselves.

The Nation needs you and your readiness to accept challenges as loyal citizens of a free society to maintain and strengthen the two-party political system.

I am confident that you are accepting, and will continue to accept, your responsibilities in an exciting, turbulent, demanding and changing time.

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1

The 89th Congress faces giant-sized jobs and some of the most important decisions in modern history.

We must move ahead with vision, dedication and wisdom to help guide our Nation toward the goals of freedom, security and peace. At the same time we must honestly advocate and effectively achieve federal fiscal responsibility.



2

* * *

The national debt has increased by \$10 billion in two years to an all-time high of \$318 billion.

At the present rate of spending by the government, our children and the generations to come will be buried under a financial load that can only adversely affect their way of life.



④

Do we appreciate America

⑤

We should throttle the rapidly-expanding trend of too much federal control over States, counties, cities and smaller communities.

Among the major issues today is whether excess concentration of federal power and sovereignty is to destroy State, local and individual freedom and responsibility,

State and local officials have the answer. Simply stated it is---"We will do the job." Perhaps, it must be done at times in partnership with a federal agency.

If there is a will and capability at the local level, there is no reason to have a federal monopoly with a bureaucratic jungle and a tangle of red tape.



Two Party System

Is it the best -

One party govt - no freedom
no comparable progress

Multi party govt - chaos + confusion

Excess Power in the hands of an individual
or a group invites abuse

Unless you have a 2 Party System there
is no opportunity for redress of grievances
1 day in it.



A bi-partisan effort is needed in two major areas.

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At the same time, we must preserve the two-party system, which has been called the genius of the American Democracy.

Under our political system, the President represents the views of the people who elect him. There is great power in the executive branch.

Congress is the voice of the people. It cannot experience a slow erosion of its balanced power without cracking the foundations of our Democracy.

The Federal Judiciary's function is to interpret laws, not to make them. There is evidence that the Judiciary Branch is arbitrarily elbowing its way to new positions of authority, disregarding the wise suggestions of judicial restraint made by the late Justice Frankfurter and others.

② Limitation of Powers - Responsibility for govt ⁽⁴⁾
between "state + federal"

Theory + original practice. -

Current condition - because state + local
subdivisions will not or are prepared to
assume responsibility, Federal Govt has
moved in.

Manpower Retraining




When either party has iron-fisted control of both the executive and legislative branches of government, the tradition of checks and balances as spelled out in the Constitution loses its meaning.

A crushing over-balance of strength in either party puts control in the hands of a comparatively small, but powerful, majority.

A strong two-party system is assurance that our Democracy will survive, prosper, grow and help others in the world to accept their responsibilities in the society of free nations.

At the same time the people of our country benefit by creative ideas for better government, carefully thought-out alternative plans and proposals for legislation that have a more even chance of being adopted.



System of Checks + Balances

(3)

Forefathers built in -

① Executive / Legislative / Judicial

Separation of Powers - { each a responsibility,
neither a supremacy,

① "First - Executive demanding & getting
for more power, funds & troops."

"A govt big enough to give us
everything we want is a govt etc."

② Judicial obstinately elbowing
its way.



I urge a strengthening of citizenship and patriotism, including a great devotion to moral and spiritual values which are translated into nobility of character, social justice, national righteousness.

This is neither a time to stumble, nor to falter, nor to fear in accepting the responsibilities of citizenship to face the challenges of this age of speed and space, turbulent events and perplexing problems.

* * *

The party out of power must earn its way to more strength at many levels of government by seeking more efficiency and a less burdensome tax system.

* * *

Charlotte Executives Club.

Introduction - Three Cornerstones of American Govt -

- ① Fiscal Integrity
- ② System of Checks + Balances
- ③ Two Party System

Chas Jonas - Annie Elliott

K155

Great, Great man

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State and local officials have the answer. Simply stated it is---"We will do the job." Perhaps, it must be done at times in partnership with a federal agency.

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