

The original documents are located in Box D18, folder “Livingston County, Caledonia, NY, August 21, 1965” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Coming directly from Washington I can tell you some of the things going on along the banks of the Potomac River.

For example..there's a rumor about a new book about to be published. It is reported to be the smallest and thinnest books in years. It's title, I'm told, is: "Secrets Jerry Ford Learned at the White House and Leaked to the Press."

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You may have seen the Joint Leadership news conferences on television. With my friend Senator Everett Dirksen, I answer questions on what is known as the Ev and Jerry Show...Most of ~~the time~~ Ev and I agree on issues. However, it is obvious we cannot agree on barbershops.



Livingston County N.Y. Aug 21 1965

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The Nation cannot afford bureaucracy as usual. Its continuation would overburden the economy, weaken the military effort in Viet Nam, and lead to damaging inflation.

Business as usual in non-defense spending is contrary to the best interest of the United States. It cannot be justified in light of the rapidly increasing financial demands of the war in Viet Nam.

The cost of the war could go as high as \$12 billion a year. And, the war has already pushed the federal budget above the so-called \$100 billion ceiling. The result is an alarmingly high national debt.

The Johnson Administration's initial budget this year, in view of the President's escalation of the war, under-funded defense needs by at least five billion dollars to clear the way for Great Society spending schemes.



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Wherever possible, dollar amounts for non-defense programs should be cut back or eliminated.

A hard decision must be made on programs which may be desirable in the short run but can in the long run contribute to the further deterioration of what is essential in time of war---a sound dollar and a sound economy.

We are nearing the brink of decision between guns and butter, between absolutely vital war needs and some desirable domestic programs.

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Speaking of Viet Nam, the President has said "...this is really war." His public statement suggests the need for the submission to the Congress of the full facts so that the appropriate committees can determine the "state of the emergency." Secretary McNamara and Secretary Rusk should fully testify "on the record" so that the Congress, representing the people, can debate U.S. commitments and policies in Viet Nam.



The Republican Party has many things going for it in this significant year, including signs that the glittering boom may fizzle. An economic flame-out would be the result of the Democrat Administration--headed by President Johnson, the biggest spender of them all---throwing away money faster than it comes in.

The present Administration operates on the theory that to keep the boom in high gear it has to spend all the time on many unsound non-defense programs that cannot be justified. Under this philosophy, the Nation is without a financial cushion for bad times.

It is impossible to expand anti-poverty programs, double funds for area developments on top of last year's Federal bulldozing, reduce taxes on one hand and jump them on the other to finance a health-care program without ruining the value of a dollar.

Rapidly, economic experts are seeing the danger signals that point toward a serious decline similar to the one that brought the Nation to its knees in 1929. Even though today's economy has some built-in stabilizers---unemployment insurance, social security payments, welfare, and agriculture hand-outs---the Federal Government is leading the way to the poor-house.

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During times of high national economic activity and unprecedented earnings, this Administration has piled up \$28 billions in new debt. Then along comes President Johnson asking Congress for another increase in the debt limit that would push us into the red up to \$328 billion. Meanwhile, interest payments on the national debt have jumped 10 percent in just the past two years.

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I emphasize that extravagance has been displayed in a non-defense spending spree by the Administration. There should be no cutback in responsible and essential military funding. In fact, the President took his cue from Congressional Republican Leadership in getting a \$700 million increase for the defense budget.

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Domestically, Uncle Sam is living on a gigantic national credit card, borrowing billions of dollars and hoping tomorrow will be better than today. There is nothing wrong with responsible credit. But, there's a great difference between living within our budget and plunging headlong into debt beyond our means.

Debt piled on debt has created a threatening menace---inflation. No longer lurking in the background, inflation has emerged as a genuine possibility, thanks to the free-wheeling spending policies of the Democrat Administration.

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~~Don't know what to do~~

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Discuss: Several basic concepts of our govt. in some jeopardy today

1. Checks and balances
2. Two-party system

What GOP leadership attempting to do:

1. Constructive alternatives
2. Selective opposition (Oppose on some domestic issues, support Vietnam policy---reminding that President makes the day-by-day military decisions)

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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. (7)

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 people's representatives."

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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 the 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.

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Members of the ~~Secretary~~ business community, ~~where in the Nation,~~
have the knowledge; you have proved a willingness to give more of yourselves
than you receive to make this a better Nation and a better world.

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 you are accepting, and will continue to do so, your
responsibilities in an exciting, turbulent, demanding and changing time.

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