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READING TEXT

National Association of Retail Druggists
Washington, D. C. October 12, 1965
Washington Hilton

Governor of The Virgin Islands

When Willard Simmons, the executive secretary of your organization,
invited me to be with you today, his letter went something like this:

"Dear Congressman Ford:

The National Association of Retail Druggists by tradition

has outstanding convention speakers."

He listed several illustrious orators.

His letter concluded: "I hope you will accept. Up until

now our programs have been outstanding!"

By the handwritten margin 7/73 to 67

Since my election as House Republican Leader, speech-making is

among my added duties. By the end of this year I will have made 150

speeches in more than 35 states, which should make me a calm,

If travel is broadening I should
be 10 ft wide. Let me assure you I no longer have
cool, experienced orator.

a 32 inch waist of 30 yrs ago.

However, appearing here today is a somewhat rugged experience.

+ preceding Vice President Humphrey

Following glamorous singer Marguerite Piazza, isn't easy!

(more)



However, I do have one advantage. I don't have to follow

Secretary of State Dean Rusk!

- - -

I've been in Congress more than 16 years. But, football is my

As I look around at my friends of the coaching profession

first love. I'm a politician only because of job security!

Following graduation from The University of Michigan I attended Yale Law School & coached football to help defray my law school expenses. Whizzer White was a classmate in law school.

Many times through the years I have wondered which direction my

life would have taken had I accepted an offer to play professional

football with the Green Bay Packers----- I would have landed on perhaps ~~the~~ the Supreme

Court bench!

- - -

~~Today in speaking with you, I will try to follow the advice~~

~~of my wife Betty. (KISS STORY)~~

I notice that the topic of a panel discussion on your program is "Blueprint for Success." Right after I finish here, I'll call Ray Bliss and recommend

-more-

that he attend the session----- and take detailed notes!

-more-



who did play pro-football

In my substantive remarks today, I will discuss "balance in government", a topic of vital concern at this crucial time in our history.

The past clearly indicates that imbalance in government results in ~~loss~~ of liberty and a slow-down of true progress.

Three cornerstones are important in our American political society.

Two of them are constitutionally ordained. They are the relationship between the Executive, the Legislative and the Judicial branches of our Federal government.....and the establishment of the Federal, State and local government relationships. The third cornerstone of our Democracy is the two-party system.

The first cornerstone was built by the wise drafters of our Constitution,

Fortunately, they made an important decision to give specific responsibilities to each branch of government...to give each of them strength, but *not* superiority *over the other branches.*

This provision was designed to be a lasting bulwark against the

concentration of power in the hands of one man, one group of persons, or one segment of our government.

(more)

under the theory of the separation of powers



In my judgment, today we find an erosion of the Legislative branch's power, a change of intended direction in the Judiciary, and a build-up of strength in the Executive arm.

David

The Legislative branch represented by the Congress is being squeezed. We have 535 elected officials representing Americans and about 9,000 employees. We have a rather small budget compared to the Executive branch. We are shorthanded in the kind of people who can help provide the tools needed by the Legislative branch.


Holcomb

In contrast, the Executive branch has possibly five million employees with a total payroll of nearly \$29 billion a year and the right to spend out of the Federal treasury approximately \$127 billion every twelve months. The payroll total includes nearly three million military personnel with a payroll of something more than \$14 billion annually.

In many respects the Congress is like David & the Executive branch like Goliath.

Those in the Legislative branch rightfully put their records on the line every two years in the House and every six years in the Senate.

The vast group of employees who work for our Federal government are never challenged by the voters. *Out of the vast bureaucracy in the Executive only the President & the Vice President put their record*



Druggists

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Democrats & R. Republicans

I was pleased and encouraged to see that 37 governors have joined together to object and to fight this bypassing action.

There are signs that if the present trend continues, states will lose their *traditional role* ~~potency~~ and in effect become a mere adjunct to the Federal Government.

The third cornerstone is not Constitutionally ordained, but early in America's history our forefathers decided that the two-party system was for the best interest of all the people. As a result we have avoided the loss of freedom that exists in one-party governments throughout the world. We have avoided the chaos and confusion that results from multi-party government.

Yes, I believe a strong two-party political system is an important cornerstone in the American society.

-more-



Today I am sorry to say that for more reasons than one, we don't have a strong two-party system, particularly in the Congress.

When I sit on our side of the aisle in the House with a small band of 141 members and look at the mass of humanity on the other side,

I am a little jealous and at times have been discouraged.

I have been particularly discouraged when I saw those ^{many many legislative} messages

come from the White House and watched many of my Democrat friends

not knowing whether to clap their hands or click their heels!

Vice President Humphries has referred to the huge legislative tonnage dropped on our doorstep. Perhaps a better word would be
When there is awesome power in the Executive branch and a complete shoveled.

imbalance in the House and Senate, I believe some of the ideals

we know are important are in jeopardy.

A question to be answered under the current circumstances is----

does the Congress operate merely as a limp arm of government,

bending like a weed in the wind when the President has a two to one

majority in the House and Senate?

In my judgment this Congress has been long on quantity but short on quality, -more- Under the prodding of the White House the emphasis has been on haste rather than quality.



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MANFIELD

What are the practical applications of this situation?

Without commenting on the merits, or lack of merits of legislative proposals, I think you will be interested in the mechanics used too often to adopt vital public laws.

In too many instances, the Congress adopted legislation supported by the White House without conducting extensive, responsible debate.

Dissent was muffled. No opportunity was given to expose proposed legislation to searching questions,

In my judgment these were issues that should have been given complete and open debate. The muting of dialogue falls far short of serving the best interests of the American people!

Now, I have talked as though I am fearful, apprehensive, and pessimistic.

I am but to a very limited extent. On the other hand, I am optimistic and let me tell you why.

-more-



See 146
Senate

I have a strong abiding faith in the good judgment of the American people and in those who are giving leadership to our country.

^{As}
~~I am convinced that Congress will take~~ steps to improve its image,

to improve its day-to-day working habits.

Right now a Joint Bi Partisan Committee is studying our methods & procedures. I am certain corrective proposals will be forthcoming.

And, I believe most Americans are realizing that they have to help

the Congress become a stronger partner in the relationship of the

Executive and Judicial branches of government.

I believe our governors in many states now realize that if their units

are
of government ~~to~~ to be a strong partners, their constitutions must be

modernized. More governors must ~~strengthen~~ their desire to assume

responsibilities and not pass them off to the federal establishment!

I am optimistic for another reason.

^{realization}
There is a growing ~~apprehension~~ that our system is the finest in the

history of mankind. We believe in our Constitution. Those wise men who

put it together almost 200 years ago created an historic document.

I emphasize at this point.....it is politics and politicians that have put the breath of life and the blood in the veins of the still bones of a constitutional system.

In closing, I refer the the 13th objective included in the National Association of Retail Druggists' list of goals adopted by your executive committee. It urges ~~pharmacists~~ pharmacists to participate in civic affairs and to become active in local, state and national political---and other agencies.

Churchill
Franklin
I echo this recommendation and I conclude with these observations.

Each of you in your own way must be a politician or in politics--- as voters, as active members of a political party, as candidates, or yes, as office-holders.

For you Nation, for your State, for your community---you must participate, and I am certain you will. Thank you.

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