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Draft #1
10/13/65
Steve Hess

Eisenhower Birthday Dinner, Omaha, Nebraska,
October 14, 1965

by Congressman Gerald R. Ford, House Republican Leader

I feel honored and privileged to have been asked to take part in this nationwide salute to a great soldier, a great President, and a great human being on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

I think it might be appropriate to begin by telling a little story about the man we have come here to honor, Dwight D. Eisenhower -- a story which was told to me by former Vice President Nixon.

It seems that in early 1953 President Eisenhower called the Vice President into his office. "Dick," he said, "in my short time in politics I've been trying to find a common denominator among the politicians I've met. Yet while some are able speakers, others are virtually inarticulate; while some are bright, others are frankly dull. In fact, the only thing I can see that all politicians have in common is that they all married above themselves!"

Speaking for myself I readily agree that I married above myself. Great, great American!
And as I look around this room tonight at all these very attractive ladies, I can only agree with Ike that our Nebraska political leaders ~~indeed~~



share this ability to marry above themselves!

It is interesting to contrast the magnificent record of President Eisenhower -- a man whose whole life has been dedicated to the use of power for service -- with the record of the present incumbent in the White House -- whose primary goal appears to be the use of power for power's sake.



gm

I have noticed with considerable interest that even Mike Mansfield, President Johnson's leader in the Senate, recently proposed that the next session of Congress (quote) "spend less time on new legislation and more time correcting oversights in legislation we have just passed." (end of quote)

The Democratic Senate Leader also said that Congress has "passed a lot of major bills, some of them very hastily."

It strikes me that this may just rate as the understatement of the decade. Why, it's like saying that Sandy Koufax is just a pretty fair pitcher.

I might also remind you that Vice President Humphrey has spoken of "the huge legislative tonnage dropped on our doorstep." However, knowing the President as I do, I think it would have been more appropriate for Mr. Humphrey to have said, "The huge legislative tonnage shoveled on our doorstep."

Indeed, at the root of the problem is the fact that today we have a President who is more interested in creating a welfare state than in the state of our welfare.



We need only look at the new Poverty Program, which has already become a top-heavy bureaucracy, piling bureau upon bureau. It's time that right-thinking Americans blew the whistle and exposed the termites in the bureaus!

I am told that the Poverty Program in the City of Baltimore, for instance, now spends seventy-five per cent of its funds on personnel (which is just a fancy name for bureaucrats). And that the top personnel receives a salary that is \$7,500 a year more than that paid to the Governor of the State!

Now, we are all against poverty -- Republicans, Democrats and Independents -- but with a situation like this I say that it's time to take the profit out of poverty!

Lyndon Johnson is fond of ringing slogans -- like "The Great Society" -- but have you ever heard him say that his new programs will cost the American taxpayers an estimated additional \$16.7 billion in fiscal 1966 over and above the so-called regular expenditures?

(NO)

Have you ever heard him say that our national debt -- the lien against



our children and grandchildren -- is NOT \$320 billion as it appears on the record, but actually \$800 billion in ~~x~~ commitments for future spending that require no new laws or programs?

(NO)

Has President Johnson ever said that a \$1,000 government bond bought in 1949 is worth only \$730 in buying power today?

(NO)

Or that the 1964-65 federal income tax cut failed to reduce taxes for most Americans?

became 8 new hidden federal taxes

(NO. Of course you have not.)

You will recall that President Truman used to call the 80th Congress the "Do-Nothing Congress." Well, all I can say about the present Congress under the Johnson steamroller is that it should go down in the history books as the "Do-Anything Congress!"

Clap their hands or cheer their heels.

Of course, I admit that Mr. Johnson would not agree with me. He has recently predicted that this Congress "will leap into history as the most effective and most rewarding Congress for all the people in all the



history of America."

Perhaps he believes that it is a "leap into history" to saddle the American taxpayer with a national debt that is greater than that of all other nations in the world combined.

Perhaps the President believes that it is "most rewarding" to have skyrocketing living costs and the threat of spiraling inflation.

Perhaps Mr. Johnson feels that it is "most effective" to have state and local governments crumbling under the heavy hand of federalism.

(And on this point, let me remind you that it was Dwight D. Eisenhower who said that one answer to bigger government in Washington is better government in the States.)

My friends, the record of Lyndon B. Johnson has presented the Republican Party with a magnificent opportunity to return sound, sensible and responsible government to Washington -- first in the Congressional elections of 1966; second in the Presidential election of 1968.

~~First,~~ Lyndon B. Johnson has given us the issue of Lyndon B. Johnson himself, and the necessity of throwing out an administration that puts



personal popularity ahead of statesmanship in the conduct of the Executive Branch.

He has given us the issues of reckless spending, bureaucratic sprawl, inflationary pressures and higher hidden taxes.

And, most important, he has given us the issue of loss of individual freedom, of "big, bigger, biggest" federal government that over-shadows the individual.

I am reminded of the words of a very wise man, who said: "A government big enough to give you everything you want is a government big enough to take from you everything you have."

But, my fellow Republicans, for us to win the chance to restore balance to government and return dignity to the individual -- for us to seize the golden opportunity that the record of Lyndon Johnson has given us -- we must present the American people with one broad-based, united Party.

and
The common cause -- the cause of good government -- is great enough and big enough to over-shadow all the minor differences that sometimes separate us.

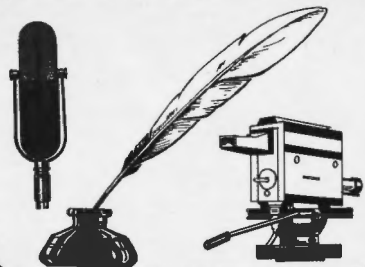


and
There are plenty of Democratic scalps available, my friends, without us having to sharpen our hatchets in each ~~o~~ other's backs.

However, if we go forward united and together -- as I am confident we will -- and if we raise the funds, ring the doorbells, make the telephone calls, infuse our neighbors with ou^R enthusiasm, and get out the votes on election day~~x~~ -- then I know that the precincts of America will join our crusade and reward us with their confidence.

Let's get rolling!





CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

Excerpts from a speech
Omaha, Nebraska Oct. 14, 1965

Release for Ams
Oct. 15, 1965
or at time of
speech delivery

At the root of America's domestic problems today is an Administration more interested in creating a welfare state than in the state of the welfare.

We need only to look at the poverty program, which has already become a top-heavy bureaucracy.

Republicans, Democrats and political independents alike are concerned about poverty, but with the way things are going under the Great Society's plan it is time to take the profit out of poverty.

The Great Society is a shambles of contradiction. Its programs are dressed in purity of name. And, in fiscal 1966 its new programs will cost American taxpayers an estimated additional \$16.7 billion over and above the so-called regular expenditures. Meanwhile, our national debt is not the \$320 billion appearing on the record books. Actually it is \$800 billion in commitments for future spending that requires no new laws or programs.

* * *

The President has predicted that this Congress "will leap into history as the most effective and most rewarding Congress for all the people in all the history of America."

Is it rewarding to have skyrocketing living costs and the threat of spiraling inflation...to have state and local governments crumbling under the heavy hand of federalism? Is it effective to have reckless spending by the Administration and its irresponsible economic policies that could lead the way toward national and personal bankruptcy?

At this point, we recall that it was Dwight D. Eisenhower who said that one answer to bigger government in Washington is better government in the states.

* * *

The record of President Johnson presents the Republican Party with a magnificent opportunity to return sound, sensible and responsible government. It gives us the issues of reckless spending, bureaucratic sprawl, inflationary pressures and higher hidden taxes.....and the loss of individual freedom and identity.

-more-



The common cause---the cause of good government--- is great enough and big enough to over-shadow all the minor differences that sometimes separate us.

There are plenty of Democratic political scalps available without us having to sharpen our hatchets in each other's back.

For us to win the chance to restore balance to government and return dignity to the individual, for us to seize the golden opportunity that the Administration's record has given us, we must present the American people with a broad-based, united Republican Party.

We need to develop strong fund-raising campaigns. We should enlist more articulate, personable and knowledgeable candidates. By our record we must earn the respect of the electorate to regain stewardship of government in state houses, counties, townships and ultimately, in Washington.

I propose a neighbor-to-neighbor crusade to tell the facts of the alleged Great Society. We should ask our neighbors some questions about the Administration's claim of progress.

Is it progress to retreat from the principles of the Constitution? Is it progress to perpetuate poverty by political exploitation and purpose? Is it progress to stifle individual incentive? Is it progress to set a record for a national debt?

We should remind the electorate that millions of Americans, under the Democrat Administration, have less money to spend on necessities, slimmer savings accounts, and more taxes arbitrarily taken from their paychecks.

* * *

With one party dominating Congress and controlling the White House, millions of Americans have nothing to say about the conduct of the Nation's business.

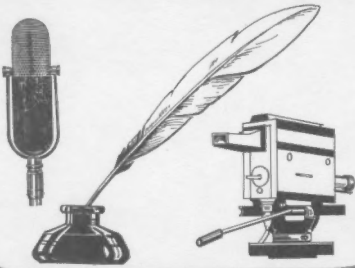
In the coming elections they will have an opportunity to make our society not a Great one, but a good one.

* * *

Let's get on with the job. Let's forget 1964. Let's become once again one Republican Party. This does not mean a huge monolithic political organization. Certainly we can have responsible disagreement. We should have intelligent dialogue.

Together---shoulder-to-shoulder-- we can win Republican victories.

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