

**The original documents are located in Box D19, folder “Unidentified and undated Speech (probably between October 14 and 19, 1965)” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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

The 89th Congress faces many jobs. We must move ahead with wisdom, vision and dedication to help guide our Nation toward the goals of freedom, security, peace---- at the same time honestly advocating and effectively achieving federal fiscal responsibility.

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

\* \* \*

We should reverse the rapidly expanding trend of having too much federal control over States, counties, cities, towns and small communities.

Centralism will be checked only when national leaders refuse to encourage the "easy way" of federal assistance.

Today, among the giant issues is whether excess concentration of Federal power will 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 in partnership with a federal agency. If there is a will and a capability on the local level, there is no reason to have a federal monopoly that would result in more bureaucracy and red-tape.

The effort must be within the two-party framework, which is so desperately needed for a strong, prosperous, just and honest America.

Too many of my Democratic friends do not seem to realize that a government big enough to provide hand-outs in a broad and sweeping give-away, is big enough to take away the freedom of individuals.

\* \* \*

There is a need to revive patriotism in this country to maintain a society in which each person can have social, political and economic opportunity.

A patriot takes an active interest in government, the issues and politics--- votes in all elections, not just every four years.

\* \* \*

The Republican Party must regain a position I describe as the high middle road of moderation,

We must block any "take-over" attempt by any individuals or small segments of the Party more interested in promoting their own narrow views than in building the Republican Party.

\* \* \*

The Republican Party must earn---and I emphasize "earn"---the confidence and trust of the American people. We must meet difficulties head-on with ideas, with energy, with unity. In so doing, we can and we must give more depth and meaning to the lives of our countrymen and to the people of the world.

The time to start is right now.

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