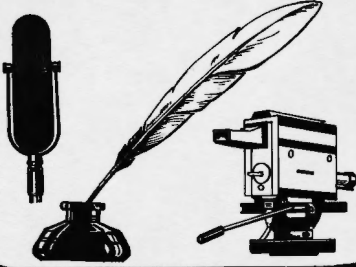


The original documents are located in Box D19, folder “Westbury, NY, February 12, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

Westbury, N. Y.
Feb. 12, 1966

For release at time speech
is delivered

As a minority party, it is our task to carry the torch of dissent responsibly and constructively. This is our duty to all Americans.

Republicans are leading the way toward making America united, strong and free. This is the always unfinished task.

The American people are restless and impatient with problems too long unsolved and too often compounded by bad laws and bureaucratic failings.

Three types of problems in domestic policy need to be solved. The goals are:

- how to increase jobs and output without inflation;
- how to move ahead toward equality for all citizens;
- how to improve government and its services.

While there are courses of action that strike at each of these problems, the common remedy that effects all three is education.

Unemployment is particularly the problem of the young, inexperienced, unskilled person of inadequate schooling. More and better schooling will reduce racial tensions and speed the Negro's economic and social progress. Improved education will help to solve the problems of government by enlightening the electors and the elected.

Republicans believe every youth must be encouraged to pursue his education as far as his talents will take him. Drop-outs must be encouraged to go back to school for an education or training to fit their ability. Curricula must be enriched. People already working should be given the chance to retrain and upgrade their skills and earning power. Vocational rehabilitation for the handicapped must be expanded.

The Federal government alone cannot, and should not, achieve these goals. But there is much that the national government can do without the heavy hand of federal control.

For example, the Congress should ease the financial burden of going to college, opening the door to education on a wider basis. Therefore, Republicans propose a federal income tax credit for college students and their parents.



"Republican Torch of Dissent"

We must liberate the War on Poverty from waste, controversy, and the bad odor of political bossism. Management of the poverty program is a national disgrace. Republicans are working very hard to expose the mistakes and the poor administration.

These are a few examples of poor management of the war on poverty:

--- in Newport, Rhode Island, enrollees in the Youth Corps included the sons of businessmen, a surgeon, an executive, a school official, and Naval officers.

--- The New York Times reported that in our largest city the Harlem Youth project had overspent \$2 million in funds contributed to the program by taxpayers.

--- The director of the Camp Breckinridge, Ky., Job Corps training center was fired when it was learned his wife and the wives of 51 other middle management employees were on the payroll. The camp had 350 staff members for the 358 trainees.

The poor themselves must have an important role in policy decisions at the community level. The States should be partners in this War on Poverty. It is time the poverty fighters stopped fighting each other.

Republicans are offering specific proposals to redirect this program to achieve its goals without waste, scandal and bureaucratic infighting. Without such changes, the good will fall with the bad under the fiscal pressures created by Vietnam and the massive new domestic spending programs.

* * *

The Executive Branch of Federal government has become a bureaucratic jungle. It needs reform, not Presidential repatching or piecemeal creation of new departments. The time has come to explore its wild growth and to cut it back.

Republicans urge a new independent bipartisan Commission, patterned after the two distinguished Hoover Commissions, to recommend substantial reforms in the Executive Branch.

* * *

Healthy, steady economic growth with price stability is seriously endangered by the threat of inflation. The Eisenhower dollar is now worth 90 cents.

The cost of living is 2 percent higher than a year ago. The price rise is a secret sales tax silently stealing some \$8 billion annually from the pockets of the American people.

-more-

"Republican Torch of Dissent"

Inflationary policies of the President have a major impact on the cost of living. This Administration uses a double standard. With one hand it creates upward pressure on prices and with the other bludgeons workers and businessmen for responding to that pressure.

* * *

Congress and the people have not been given a straight-forward and realistic assessment of our Federal budget problems. Republicans are giving the President's budget a searching examination.

Whatever is needed---really needed---for national security must be provided. Urgent domestic programs that truly help the needy, that contribute to real economic growth, that significantly advance the cause of equal opportunity, need not be sacrificed.

* * *

Laws passed last year, supposedly reducing taxes, actually impose a net increase in Federal taxes for 1966 of \$3½ billion. The President now advocates additional tax burdens to finance added costs both at home and abroad.

With prudent restraint on spending, we believe no new taxes are now needed.

* * *

Ways must be found to eliminate vote fraud, curb the cost of political campaigns, and expand the franchise. Republicans propose:

- * to guard against abuses in the raising and use of political funds;
- * to raise the ceiling on political expenditures to realistic levels;
- * to bar effectively political contributions from corporations and unions;
- * to require meaningful reporting of political contributions and spending.

* * *

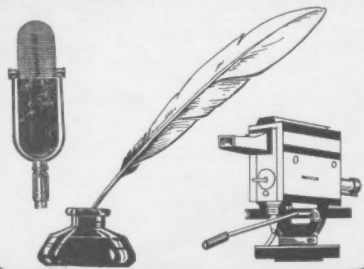
The Congress has enacted four civil rights acts since 1957. There is a need to review these laws, and especially tighten those designed to prevent violence and intimidation of citizens who exercise their constitutional rights. Hesitant administration of existing laws has made them less effective than they should be.

* * *

We are outnumbered two to one in this Congress. But we will continue to speak out for the things in which we believe.

We will not sacrifice the ideals that make us Republicans!

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