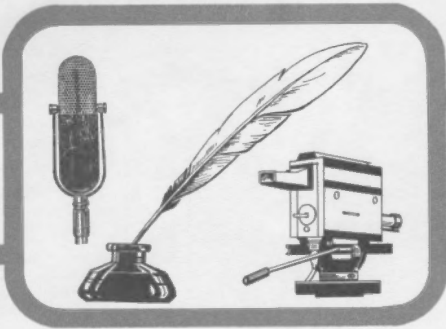


**The original documents are located in Box D19, folder “Erie, PA, February 25, 1965” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

Erie, Pa.  
Feb. 25, 1966

For release at time speech  
is delivered

The people of this Nation are losing patience with the majority party that is bogged down in disagreement on policy and in petty feuds among its leading figures. The people are losing patience with an Administration that vacillates and dodges and shifts position in an attempt to please all the conflicting elements that make up the Democratic Party.

The public has long tolerated the divisions within the majority party that produce conflict in matters of domestic policy--in such fields as economic policy, civil rights, and federal-state relations. Now, however, deep disagreement among leading Democrats on foreign policy has appeared. It leaves the public confused, apprehensive, and angry.

Why the uncertainties and misunderstandings and fears about the war in Vietnam? In great part they are the result of the inability of the party in power to agree on whether Americans should be in Vietnam at all, what our Nation is trying to achieve there, and whether the right means are being used.

These divisions among Democrats became very clear recently when a leading Democratic Senator proposed settling the problem of Vietnam as the problems of Poland, of Rumania, of Bulgaria, of Czechoslovakia were settled after World War II---by admitting the Communists to a share of power and responsibility in government. The Administration's attitude toward this proposal of a coalition government for South Vietnam--which would pave the way for a Communist government as surely as did coalition governments in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, and Hungary---is still not clear. For this proposal has been dealt with by double talk from the White House.

Can a party so badly divided, torn internally by disagreement about the path which the Nation should follow, subject to schizophrenic impulses as it tries to satisfy its divergent elements, provide the leadership needed in the present crisis? The answer is no. And this is the answer which the American people will give at the polls in November.

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