

The original documents are located in Box D20, folder “LeHigh Valley Co-op Farmers Banquet, Allentown, PA, April 26, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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JOKE ABOUT PENTAGON

There must be a short-circuit someplace at the Pentagon...what with all the shocking statements that have been made lately about ~~the situation~~ and by the Defense Department.

First, the sparks were set flying by a celebrated statement about "shocking mismanagement" of the Vietnam war--a high-voltage charge which so electrified Defense Secretary McNamara ~~that~~ that he promptly called a press conference to try to ~~pull a switch.~~ ~~put off the spark that produced the~~

Then a House Armed Services subcommittee last Sunday expressed "shock" at some of McNamara's decisions on bomber development--or lack of it.

Apparently in the interests of trying to shed more light on the subject, McNamara came right back and accused the subcommittee of painting a "shockingly distorted picture" of the Pentagon's position on the manned bomber question.

2//PENTAGON

All the ~~shock~~ shocks seem to ~~have~~ have their power source in the Pentagon, so it must be somebody over there has his wires crossed.

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DAIRY CO-OP SPEECH before Le High Valley (Pa.) Cooperative Farmers --
--30th Anniversary Banquet.

Cards for Insert in speech on "A Republic If You Can Keep It"--

- 1.) American farmer ~~being mistreated~~ has become whipping boy of the Johnson-Humphrey Administration.
- 2.) Embarrassed by ~~the~~ steady consumer price rise, administration officials trying to drive down farm prices.
- 3.) Yet ~~the~~ ^{average} farm prices today are 13 per cent lower than in Korean War year of 1951.
- 4.) ~~The ^{retail} basket of goods and services that ~~the~~ costs \$11.20 today cost \$9.54 in 1951.~~
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- 5.) Maybe administration feels no great political risk in attacking the farmer. Farm population ~~shrank~~ ^{shrank} by 3.2 million persons ~~in~~ between April, 1960, and April, 1965--from 15,635,000 to 12.4 million.

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$$\begin{array}{r}
 1.95 \cdot \sqrt{12.40} \dots \\
 \underline{1170} \\
 70
 \end{array}$$

~~Two-Party System -~~
~~Washington June 17~~

①

Two major goals must be achieved if the American Democracy is to continue to exist and to be strengthened throughout subsequent generations.

First, we must maintain a balance in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government as established by our Constitution.

The parallel task is to preserve the two-party system---the genius of our Democracy.

Enlarging upon the first goal, that of keeping the three branches of government in balance, I believe that if any one of them becomes too strong or too weak, the foundations of our government will crack and our freedom will be threatened.

There are disturbing signs of slow erosion in the power of the Legislative branch, a build-up of awesome strength in the executive arm, and a change from the intended direction in the Federal Judiciary.

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Congress, the legislative branch, has been criticized as being too slow to react in an age of speed. Critics have described the House and Senate as being too cumbersome and too old-fashioned.

Those critics perhaps are unaware that in Congress a system of checks and balances is provided by the Constitution.

When speed is essential, Congress has proved many times that it can react with dispatch to meet a crisis in war or in peacetime, in days of economic depression or in times of glowing prosperity.

It has been said that Congress frequently makes haste slowly. However, the act of deliberate slowness is a safeguard against racing to the brink of decision. It prevents a dangerous plunge. Congress should reach its major decisions only after adequate research, thought, and exhaustive discussion.

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Reflecting on the duties and obligations of the third branch of government, it can be said that the Federal Judiciary's function is to interpret the Constitution and the laws.

There is evidence that the Judicial Branch is arbitrarily elbowing its way to new positions of authority, disregarding the wise suggestions of judicial restraint made by the late Justice Frankfurter and others.

When the Supreme Court ordered states to reapportion on the "one-man, one vote" concept, Justice Frankfurter in a dissenting opinion was critical of an assumption by the Court of "destructively novel judicial power."

"In this situation, as in others of like nature, appeal for relief does not belong here," Justice Frankfurter said. "Appeal must be made to an informed, civically militant electorate. In a democratic society like ours, relief must come through an aroused public conscience that sears the conscience of the people's representatives."

4 2 3

When the balance of power in Congress is steeply tilted by an overwhelming majority in one political party, the system of checks and balances is endangered. This becomes even more serious when the executive branch is dominated by the same party.

Although the President is the chief executive and head of state for all of us, he does represent especially the views of the people who voted for him. Members of Congress, and particularly those in the House of Representatives, are closer to the Nation's citizens because they are chosen by smaller segments of the Nation.

Members of the House are elected every two years, a fact which in itself places Representatives closer to the people. Every two years a Representative must go to his constituents for a mandate to continue in office. His record is placed on the line and he must be endorsed by a majority of the voters in his district.

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5 27-65
As in the Senate, the House is represented by nearly every major profession, national origin, and religion. Congress is a cross-section of the American people. This is your strength. It should not be lessened by an over-balance of power in the executive and judicial branches of government.

The responsibilities of Congress are clearly defined in the Constitution, and include the making of all laws which are necessary and proper for carrying out the duties and powers of government.

Under the Constitution, every statute requiring concurrence of Congress must be presented to the President before taking effect. If the chief executive rejects a proposed act, he can be over-ruled by a two-third majority vote of the Senate and the House.

It is quickly obvious that a crushing over-balance of political power in both Houses of Congress and in the executive branch weakens the safeguards of the Constitution.

Final -

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Justice Frankfurter emphasized that the Supreme "Court's authority--possessed neither of the purse nor the sword--ultimately rests on sustained public confidence in its moral sanction."

I have stressed the need to preserve the two-party system as among the major areas of concern in maintaining our structure of government.

Without any indulgence in partisanship, I am sure we can agree that a strong two-party system is bedrock assurance that our Democracy will survive, prosper, grow, and help others in the world to accept their role in the society of free nations.

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(S) (E)

A crushing over-balance of strength in either party for too long a time makes a mockery of our traditions in government, weakens and softens the voice of the people, and places control in the hands of a comparatively small majority.

These it seems to me are currently the major goals to be sought in the area of government: a sensitive balance in the legislative, executive and judicial branches, and a strong two-party system.

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CARDS

ALLENTOWN, PA.

APR. 26, 1966

Congress of the United States

Office of the Minority Leader

House of Representatives

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

LE HIGH VALLEY CO-OP

Herb R. Ford

M.C.

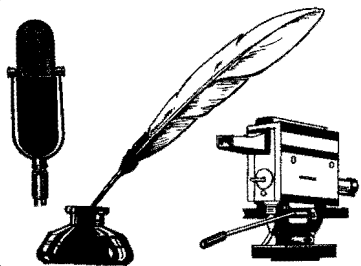
Speech
Cards

Lehigh Valley Co^uops
Banquet

Allentown, Pa.

(April 26)





CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

NEWS RELEASE

SPEECH EXCERPTS --LE HIGH VALLEY CO-OP FARMERS, ALLENTOWN, PA. - APRIL 26, 1966

The American farmer, who has long been treated like an orphan under President Johnson's one-big-happy-family style of consensus government, now has become the whipping boy of the Great Society.

Embarrassed by the steady rise in consumer prices, Johnson-Humphrey Administration officials are engaged in trying to drive down farm prices. They have chosen to blame the farmer for the high cost of food despite the fact that 61 per cent of the cost of the stuff in a housewife's shopping basket is added after it leaves the farm.

Agriculture Secretary Freeman has pointed with great satisfaction to every reported drop in farm prices in recent days. Yet his department's figures show that average prices received by farmers for their commodities were 13 per cent lower in February, 1966, than in February, 1951.

These are the facts, not Johnson-Humphrey Administration fiction. The farmer is not getting rich at the expense of the housewife. The rest of the nation may be sharing in a spurious wartime prosperity, but average farm prices are running 13 per cent under those for the Korean war year of 1951.

* * *

Meantime, consumer prices keep bouncing upward, whipped skyward by the inflationary spending policies of the Johnson-Humphrey Administration.

The consumer price index for March shows it now costs \$11.20 to buy the same basket of goods and services that cost \$10 eight years ago.

Looking back to 1951, when average farm prices were 13 per cent higher than they are now, the same goods and services that now cost \$11.20 at retail then cost \$9.54.

* * *

Perhaps the Johnson-Humphrey Administration feels it can attack the farmer with impunity and run no great political risks in making him the whipping boy of today's inflation.

After all, the farm population of America dropped from 15,635,000 in April, 1960, to 12.4 million in April, 1965--a decline of 3.2 million farm persons.

(MORE)

SPEECH EXCERPT

American farmers can thank God for the common sense of their elected representatives.

The dairy farmer and America's mothers can be assured that the Congress is not going to cut the special milk program for school children by \$82 million next year as proposed by Mr. Johnson.

The sorry aspect of this and other proposed budget cuts which help Mr. Johnson come up with a fictitious \$1.8 billion deficit for fiscal 1967 is that Mr. Johnson could not possibly have believed Congress would vote reductions in these proven and valuable programs.

There are plenty of ways to cut back on Great Society spending but an attack on the American farmer should not be one of them.

It's inconceivable to me that the President wants to chop nearly \$365 million out of agriculture's hide while manipulating markets to drive down farm prices.

Yet he has called for a \$19 million reduction in the school lunch program in addition to the \$82 million cut in school milk funds, a \$26 million slash in agricultural research, a \$100 million drop in the REA loan program, a \$120 million reduction in the agriculture conservation program, a \$7.5 million cut in the cooperative state research program, and a shift of \$9.6 million away from the extension service.

What would the effect of a big cutback in government school milk purchases be? It seems obvious that more milk would move into the marketplace to depress dairy prices and this ultimately would mean fewer dairy farmers.

* * *

Actions now being taken by the Johnson-Humphrey Administration to the detriment of farmers lead to only one conclusion.

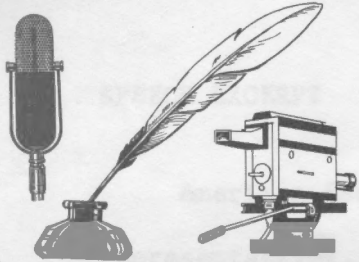
There is danger in an excessively powerful central government, although many Americans seem to have lost sight of that fact.

The American political system now is like a pinball machine that reads "TILT." The people must see to it in November that the machinery is righted and a proper balance restored to it.

The two-party system must function adequately if it is to make its own unique contribution to the American governmental system of checks and balances.

Republicans believe the American electorate will make some much-needed corrections on November 8.

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