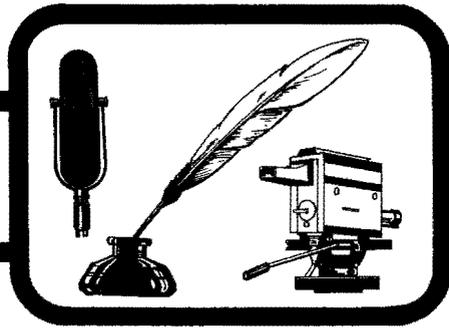


The original documents are located in Box D20, folder “Republican Dinner for Representative William E. Brock, Chattanooga, TN, May 6, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M.
Friday, May 6, 1966

SPEECH EXCERPTS--REPUBLICAN DINNER FOR REP. W. E. BROCK, R-TENN., AT CHATTANOOGA.

Our entire war effort in Vietnam is chugging along like an old coal-burner in this day of the diesel locomotive. The more than a quarter of a million men we have there want to end the war and achieve an honorable peace, but their commander-in-chief is keeping the damper on.

Under President Johnson's direction, our magnificent military machine resembles a car with a sparkplug missing. It isn't going very far or very fast. It's under wraps.

This is the policy Mr. Johnson calls "measured response." It might more aptly be named "the holdback policy."

The president appears to have no clear idea about how to end the Vietnam War. Under his present policy, it could go on and on, endlessly.

That is mismanagement.

* * *

It is mismanagement, too, to pull troops and equipment out of Europe and send them to Vietnam--and still find ourselves short.

This is a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul. Those men and material might very well be needed in Europe, particularly at a time when NATO has been plunged into crisis by the Johnson-Humphrey Administration's failure to hold on to France as a military partner.

It can be said that French President Charles deGaulle is a fanatic nationalist and a most difficult man with whom to deal. But the fact remains that in its preoccupation with Vietnam the Johnson-Humphrey Administration did far too little to hold NATO together. That also is mismanagement.

* * *

It is mismanagement, and not merely excusable wartime inefficiency, when the Defense Department buys back bombs from a West German fertilizer firm and from our allies--bombs that have been disposed of as surplus.

It is mismanagement, not just one of those things, when military cargoes destined for Vietnam are stacked up for weeks as far away as Manila.

(MORE)

SPEECH EXCERPTS

It is mismanagement, not cause for the Johnson-Humphrey Administration bragging we have heard, when the military cargo pileup is reduced from three months to 20 or 30 days only to be succeeded by a tie-up in the unloading of Vietnam economic aid cargoes.

It is mismanagement, not something to be shrugged off, when the paralysis in the unloading of aid cargoes costs the United States millions of dollars in special fees paid the ship owners because the vessels are delayed longer than chartered for.

* * *

Leading Democrats in Congress who became alarmed have dug up increasing evidence of mismanagement in the Defense Department--mismanagement that goes beyond bomb shortages into other supply problems and basic decision-making.

It was a Democrat, Sen. Ernest Gruening of Alaska, who on May 3 charged that the Defense Department has spent hundreds of millions of dollars to replace still useful Army equipment and kept it from going to Vietnam where it was badly needed.

It was a Democrat, Sen. John C. Stennis of Mississippi, who warned of a shortage of trained manpower for Vietnam and revealed that more than half of the 55,000 reservists whose units were abolished by Defense Secretary Robert McNamara have simply discontinued their training.

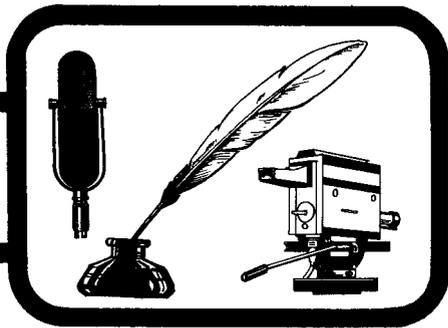
It was a Democrat, Rep. Otis G. Pike of New York, whose House Armed Services subcommittee found that our ground forces in Vietnam were not getting adequate tactical air support.

It was a Democrat, Rep. Edward Hebert of Louisiana, who demanded that Congress review all Defense Department decisions on weapons systems for fear the nation might be "stripped of its defenses."

These Democrats have charged the Johnson-Humphrey Administration with poor planning or poor carrying out of operations or poor judgment or worse.

I applaud these Democrats who are digging up the facts on our conduct of the Vietnam War. They are helping to bring truth to the American people out of the bureaucratic recesses of the Pentagon.

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