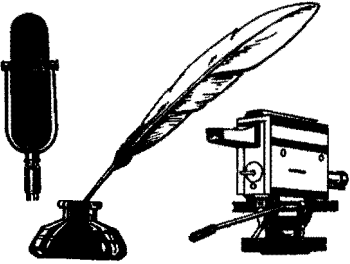


The original documents are located in Box D20, folder “Onondaga Council of GOP Organizations, Syracuse, NY, June 2, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
 HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
 RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY AT 7 P.M.
 JUNE 2, 1966

SPEECH EXCERPTS--ONONDAGA COUNCIL OF GOP ORGANIZATIONS, SYRACUSE, N. Y.

Bothered by inflation, just as the rest of us are, President Johnson recently indulged in a neat little trick. He sought to minimize cost of living increases in this country by averaging them out over a six-year period and comparing them with inflationary increases in Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Japan.

What Mr. Johnson should explain to the American people is how it helps them if the people of five other countries have been even harder hit by inflation.

Mr. Johnson should also explain to the American people how this takes the curse off a 1966 cost-of-living increase which is running at an annual rate of 3.9 per cent for the first four months of this year.

Mr. Johnson should also explain to the American people what satisfaction there is in pointing to an average U.S. price increase of less than 1½ per cent a year since 1960 if price increases during the first four months of this year have been the greatest for any four-month period since the Korean War.

Mr. Johnson also should explain to the American people just how they should take satisfaction in his figures while considering that the dollar that was a dollar eight years ago now is worth just 89 cents.

Mr. Johnson should also explain to the American people why they should take comfort in his dissertation while realizing that it now takes \$11.25 to buy the same basket of goods and services that cost \$10 in 1957-59.

Johnson-Humphrey Administration officials are pointing with pride to what they call a near-leveling off of food prices. But they might well view with consternation the fact that consumers are paying more for phone calls, mortgages, used cars, shoes and a host of other items.

Mr. Johnson contended that wage increases are staying ahead of price increases. It's true that more than one million workers will receive cost-of-living pay increases because of clauses in their contracts. But what about the millions of others who have no such insurance against inflation?

* * *

(MORE)

SPEECH EXCERPTS--INFLATION

Mr. Johnson's devious pooh-poohing of the inflation which is plaguing us may satisfy some but I'm sure it provides no solace to the unorganized 38.9 million Americans on fixed pensions.

The inflation we are now experiencing is especially serious to those people living on fixed incomes.

Americans are deeply concerned about inflation. The President says he also is concerned. But after asking everyone else to cut back on spending he has failed to set a proper example. He in effect has said: Do as I say, not as I do.

I have talked with working people. They are willing to cooperate. But they'd like the federal government to do the same, and they don't see that happening. They want the federal government to tighten its belt if they are called upon to do it.

Mr. Johnson is seeking increases of \$3.2 billion in Great Society spending in his fiscal 1967 budget. He has not tightened any kind of belts. He has simply criticized the overwhelmingly Democratic Congress for approving spending bills which indicate his budget will be exceeded by \$3 billion.

* * *

Mr. Johnson's criticism of the heavily Democratic Congress for the spending spree it has embarked on in this election year should weigh heavily on the American people.

If the voters grasp the significance of it, they will realize that Mr. Johnson would be better off with a Republican Congress.

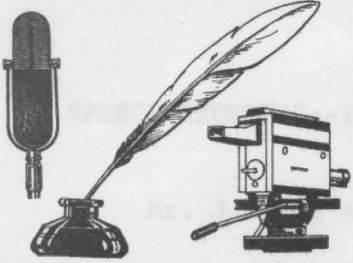
Americans must recognize that there is great danger in a lopsided Congress, a Congress which is so completely dominated by one of the two major parties that there is no restraint on its actions except a veto by the President.

It is too much to expect a Democratic president to overturn the actions of vote-hungry Democrats in Congress who are pursuing the Democratic Party's old political formula of spend and spend, elect and elect.

In the midst of this fiscal madness, let Americans ask themselves if there will not come a day of reckoning and whether it can be far off.

They can only conclude that the way to return to sound government is to elect more Republicans in November and restore our two-party system to proper balance.

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