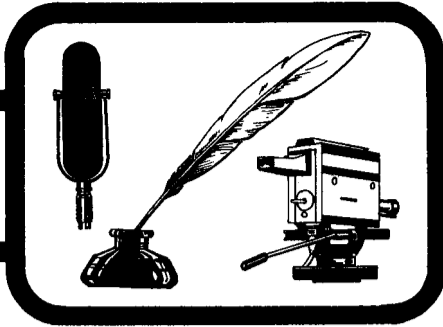


The original documents are located in Box D20, folder “Steuben County Republican Dinner, Corning, NY, June 4, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. The Council donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
 HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
 RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AT 7 P.M., SATURDAY
 JUNE 4, 1966

SPEECH EXCERPTS--STEUBEN COUNTY REPUBLICAN DINNER, CORNING, N. Y.

President Johnson has proved himself guilty of an arrogance of power--arrogance toward the press and the American people.

Mr. Johnson demonstrates this arrogance through his penchant for quickie news conferences attended only by the small corps of regular White House correspondents.

The quickie news conference that Mr. Johnson is so fond of serves his purposes admirably. It is held without ample advance notice, so that newsmen who are specialists in various matters and are not assigned to cover the White House regularly do not have time to make it. Often these specialists ask questions that are tough for a president to answer--but they also are questions a president should answer if the American people are to have confidence in their government.

By contrast, the late President John F. Kennedy held regularly scheduled press conferences in the spacious new State Department auditorium and invited questions from hundreds of Washington newsmen.

In five months this year President Johnson has had only one full-fledged press conference. In all of 1965 he held only nine.

Lay this alongside the record of Mr. Johnson's immediate predecessors--men who were not afraid to subject themselves to the most probing questions from news reporters and who were willing to let the American people in on what was happening in Washington and the world.

Mr. Kennedy averaged roughly one news conference every other week. President Eisenhower had about 200. President Truman held over 300. And President Franklin D. Roosevelt held 998 press conferences, meeting the press twice a week before the war and once a week during the war.

Mr. Johnson usually adds insult to injury by saying mighty little at his so-called press conferences. The press session he called after his meeting with the Cabinet last Wednesday was an excellent example of his skill in saying exactly nothing.

* * *

(MORE)

SPEECH EXCERPTS--

The American people are losing confidence in the Johnson-Humphrey Administration. Mr. Johnson's vaunted consensus is slipping away, steadily and surely. This is not at all surprising, because it is only a matter of time before the American people lose faith in a president who acts as though he can do no wrong, refuses to take the people into his confidence, and countenances no criticism.

The President of the United States tries to shut off all criticism of his Vietnam policies by implying that his critics are something less than patriotic. He does this despite the fact that most criticism of his basic policy in Vietnam has come from Democrats, not Republicans.

It seems clear to me that Mr. Johnson is uneasy over mounting pressure by the American people to find an honorable solution to the war in Vietnam.

The people are disturbed by the continued political strife in South Vietnam and by the increasingly large commitment of U.S. ground troops there.

The President has not offered the people an adequate explanation for the dispatch of more of our men to Vietnam, a troop movement which reportedly will bring our strength in Vietnam to 400,000 men or more.

The President has never said it, but Brig. Gen. Keith L. Ware, the Army's chief of information, has--the Vietnam war is "our war." I had always believed, as I am sure the American people have, that we were in Vietnam only to help the South Vietnamese halt Communist aggression.

But Gen. Ware has said flatly in answer to a newsman's questions: "It is our war."

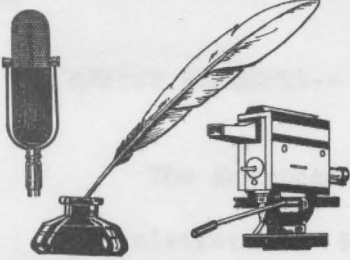
Gen. Ware also said our men do not know why they are in Vietnam. I find that incredible.

Said Gen. Ware in an interview: "They do not know why they are fighting, but our American troops have fantastically high morale. Some kind of strange chemistry happens when they get to that country, but don't ask me why."

The tragic truth is the Vietnam war has become our war. The South Vietnamese have been so busy fighting among themselves that our men have had to carry the brunt of the battle. For several weeks U.S. casualties have been much larger than theirs.

Criticism of Vietnam war developments is certainly justified when it is inspired by concern for our fighting men there. Let the President dare deny any American the right to express that concern!

RE: LBJ "PRESS"



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AT 7 P.M., SATURDAY
JUNE 4, 1966

SPEECH EXCERPTS--STEUBEN COUNTY REPUBLICAN DINNER, CORNING, N. Y.

President Johnson has proved himself guilty of an arrogance of power--arrogance toward the press and the American people.

Mr. Johnson demonstrates this arrogance through his penchant for quickie news conferences attended only by the small corps of regular White House correspondents.

The quickie news conference that Mr. Johnson is so fond of serves his purposes admirably. It is held without ample advance notice, so that newsmen who are specialists in various matters and are not assigned to cover the White House regularly do not have time to make it. Often these specialists ask questions that are tough for a president to answer--but they also are questions a president should answer if the American people are to have confidence in their government.

Free Copy

By contrast, the late President John F. Kennedy held regularly scheduled press conferences in the spacious new State Department auditorium and invited questions from hundreds of Washington newsmen.

In five months this year President Johnson has had only one full-fledged press conference. In all of 1965 he held only nine.

Lay this alongside the record of Mr. Johnson's immediate predecessors--men who were not afraid to subject themselves to the most probing questions from news reporters and who were willing to let the American people in on what was happening in Washington and the world.

Mr. Kennedy averaged roughly one news conference every other week. President Eisenhower had about 200. President Truman held over 300. And President Franklin D. Roosevelt held 998 press conferences, meeting the press twice a week before the war and once a week during the war.

Mr. Johnson usually adds insult to injury by saying mighty little at his so-called press conferences. The press session he called after his meeting with the Cabinet last Wednesday was an excellent example of his skill in saying exactly nothing.

(MORE)



SPEECH EXCERPTS--

The American people are losing confidence in the Johnson-Humphrey Administration. Mr. Johnson's vaunted consensus is slipping away, steadily and surely. This is not at all surprising, because it is only a matter of time before the American people lose faith in a president who acts as though he can do no wrong, refuses to take the people into his confidence, and countenances no criticism.

The President of the United States tries to shut off all criticism of his Vietnam policies by implying that his critics are something less than patriotic. He does this despite the fact that most criticism of his basic policy in Vietnam has come from Democrats, not Republicans.

It seems clear to me that Mr. Johnson is uneasy over mounting pressure by the American people to find an honorable solution to the war in Vietnam.

The people are disturbed by the continued political strife in South Vietnam and by the increasingly large commitment of U.S. ground troops there.

The President has not offered the people an adequate explanation for the dispatch of more of our men to Vietnam, a troop movement which reportedly will bring our strength in Vietnam to 400,000 men or more.

The President has never said it, but Brig. Gen. Keith L. Ware, the Army's chief of information, has--the Vietnam war is "our war." I had always believed, as I am sure the American people have, that we were in Vietnam only to help the South Vietnamese halt Communist aggression.

But Gen. Ware has said flatly in answer to a newsman's questions: "It is our war."

Gen. Ware also said our men do not know why they are in Vietnam. I find that incredible.

Said Gen. Ware in an interview: "They do not know why they are fighting, but our American troops have fantastically high morale. Some kind of strange chemistry happens when they get to that country, but don't ask me why."

The tragic truth is the Vietnam war has become our war. The South Vietnamese have been so busy fighting among themselves that our men have had to carry the brunt of the battle. For several weeks U.S. casualties have been much larger than theirs.

Criticism of Vietnam war developments is certainly justified when it is inspired by concern for our fighting men there. Let the President dare deny any American the right to express that concern!