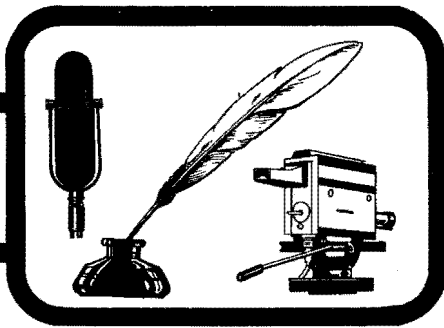


**The original documents are located in Box D20, folder “Moshannon Valley GOP Women's Club, Phillippsburg, PA, August 13, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M.  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 1966

SPEECH EXCERPTS--~~THE~~ MOSHANNON VALLEY GOP WOMEN'S CLUB, PHILIPSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

The people of this nation have always liked what they call "a squareshooter."

They loved John F. Kennedy for his boyish honesty and openness and the delightful wit he displayed at presidential press conferences. Ike is loved by them for his forthrightness, his great personal integrity and his resoluteness in the face of any problem.

The people came to love Harry S. Truman for his willingness to grapple with the thorny problems of his day, his ability to make the big decisions and his earthy, honest manner of telling the people what was what.

Today we do not have that kind of leadership in the White House. We have leadership--if we can call it that--which looks both ways at the same time like Janus. This is why the nation is confused and troubled. This is why the people don't know what to believe about the State of the Nation, foreign and domestic.

President Johnson begs others--the housewife, business, governors, mayors, and the Congress--to hold down on spending. Yet he is spending upwards of \$3 billion more this fiscal year on Great Society programs.

Mr. Johnson talks one week about the dangers of spiralling living costs and pleads with his Democrat-controlled Congress not to exceed his budget. The next week he minimizes the amount of inflation this country is experiencing and tells Americans inflation is a lot worse in other countries.

First he approves as non-inflationary an airline machinists pay boost that plays havoc with his wage-price guidelines. Then the White House denounces as "irresponsible and inflationary" a fractional increase in the price of steel.

Finally, with ostrich-like head-in-the-sand attitude, Mr. Johnson insists that his 3.2 per cent wage-price guidelines are still valid when anyone with a sense of the realities knows they are dead.

What about the little bit of inflation that Mr. Johnson seeks to minimize while acting as his own Minister of Propaganda?

It's not a little bit. It already is hurting the poor and the pensioners a lot. It's going to get much worse for everybody over the next six months.

(MORE)

SPEECH EXCERPTS--

The President said last Tuesday that the cost of living has risen only 2.5 per cent in the last 12 months as compared with an average 2.5 per cent rise in the years since World War II.

What he didn't say is that the cost of living has been climbing almost twice as fast this year as in 1965. The cost of living rose over 2 per cent last year. This year the cost of living is jumping at a rate of 4 per cent, based on official figures for the first six months.

The fact that the Johnson Administration insists on expanding Great Society spending while Vietnam War costs are running \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion a month makes a 4 per cent cost of living rise virtually certain for '66.

How hard will this hit Americans? It will cost the so-called average family with an income of about \$6,500 a year some \$230 more for the goods and services they need. Families of businessmen and others with higher incomes will lay out proportionately more as the price of Johnson-Humphrey inflation.

Mr. Johnson can minimize it all he wants to--you and I know we're in a frightening upsurge of instant inflation. And all of Lyndon's Big Daddyism and soothing syrup isn't going to help.

There's a still more frightening road ahead. Things are going to get much worse. We've already experienced the fastest six-month climb in the cost of living in eight years. Fasten your seatbelts. You ain't seen nothin' yet.

Price tags across the board are going up and up. This could lead to the worst recession we've seen in years.

The Johnson Administration's failure to set an example for the nation by cutting non-defense federal spending is fuel for the fires of inflation. The Johnson-Humphrey atmosphere of "a little inflation is a good thing" promises to touch off an upward spiral of wages and prices in 1967 that will plunge this country over an economic precipice.

Who's to blame? Again we come back to the man in the White House and Democrats in Congress. Until the people send us more troops, Republicans can't do anything in the Democrat-controlled Congress but plead the case for fiscal sanity. Unfortunately, the President and his Party aren't listening. I think the people are.

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