The original documents are located in Box D20, folder “2nd District Republican Dinner, Cedar Rapids, IA, August 27, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M., SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1966

ADDRESS BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.

At

2ND DISTRICT REPUBLICAN DINNER, CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

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What is the state of the Union? Not good with a war in Vietnam and NATO in disarray in Europe. At home we see prices skyrocketing to all-time highs, interest rates going out of sight, mortgage money tight and getting tighter, federal spending out of control, crime soaring and violence spreading across the land.

This is the time for leadership. America needs straight-from-the-shoulder answers, not slip, slide and duck. Despite all the Johnson-Humphrey fanfare and hoopla, this nation is not getting decisive and effective leadership at a time when it's desperately needed. The "big daddy" Johnson-Democrat attitude will not solve the frankenstein mess which is damaging our prestige and power abroad, and ravaging our people at home. Democrats talk like Pollyanna. The White House blows with an uncertain trumpet, with its credibility at an all-time low.

What are we to believe about Vietnam? There the stakes are high; the consequences are great.

Americans are proud of our men in our armed forces. Many of you here have husbands, fathers, sons and brothers fighting for freedom half-way around the world. We must not, we cannot, we will not let them down. Republicans believe we must forthrightly and steadfastly meet the challenge of Communist terror and aggression in Vietnam, Berlin or elsewhere.

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The Democrats have been drowning this country in red ink for six long years. Do you know what the deficit for those six years adds up to? Thirty billion -- an average of $6 billion a year. The last time the Federal budget was balanced was in 1960 under a Republican Administration.

President Johnson pretends to be an economizer. I say "pretends" because I've got the figures to back up what I say. Mr. Johnson is planning to spend 47.5 per cent more in fiscal year 1967 than the federal government spent in 1960. Since fiscal 1965 -- in just two years -- federal spending is up 17 per cent. That's the great economy record compiled during Mr. Johnson's time in office.

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Why, in short, does the Administration pretend that we can fight an all-out war in Vietnam and still pay for any and every sociological brainstorm hatched by the kept economists of the Great Society?

We're bogged down in Vietnam. We're in a mess with inflation. And now we're getting kicked around by high interest rates.

Do you know that the Democrats in their 1960 platform had the unmitigated gall to attack the Eisenhower Administration as a high-interest administration?

Well, after barely five years of Democratic control, interest rates in this country have hit a 40-year high—that's right, a 40-year high—and they're still going up.

This may be news to you, but the Administration can't even be honest about interest rates, much less keep them from going sky-high.

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Here in my hand I hold a United States Savings Bond. My children and your children are buying these bonds. So are farmers and industrial workers, people who are demonstrating their faith in America. The U.S. Treasury pays them about 4.15 per cent interest for the use of their money.

But that's only when it comes to taking candy-money from school kids. In contrast, when the Treasury turns to the big investors, it talks another language. Here I hold a Participation Sales Certificate, which is an interest in various mortgage assets that the federal government owns. Its issuance was authorized by the Participation Sales Act of last May, another Democratic Congress blank check.

Anyone who can afford the $5,000 minimum can buy one of these certificates and will draw interest not at the rate of about 4.15 per cent but 5-3/4 or more. That means the Democratic Administration pays over 40 per cent more to the rich than it pays to the great number of Americans who don't have $5,000 in cash lying around for a safe investment. This is Democrat policy -- low interest returns for the poor; high interest returns for the rich.

That's Robin Hood in reverse. He stole from the rich to give to the poor. The Administration takes from the have-nots and gives to the haves.

What do we have today in the Democratic Party? We've got the Party of Big Business, the Party of Big Government, the Party of Big Bureaucracy, the Party of Big Spending, the Party of Big Deficits, the Party of Big Cost of Living, the Party of Big Labor Troubles, the Party of Big Home Foreclosures, the Party of Big Scandals, the Party with Big Riots in the Streets, the Party of Big Promises.

Riots in the Streets. The Democratic Party promised big but failed to deliver.

There is an atmosphere of lawlessness in this country. It springs from the attitude that Americans should only obey the laws that please them. It stems from the feeling that if you've got more than I have, I can take from you whatever I want. It's the old attitude of 'the-world-owes-me-a-living' gone wild.

You read about the riots, the arson, and the looting in our great cities and you wonder if America has gone mad. This disregard for law and order breeds anarchy.

I have said it before and I say it again. When high-ranking public figures like Vice President Humphrey talk about leading a revolt themselves, they are encouraging a defiance of the law which is inexcusable in a civilized society. Is this a Great Society?

Some of our big cities are rapidly reverting to the jungle. Lawless elements are threatening to make guerrilla warfare with the police a familiar pat-
tern of American life.

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Vietnam. Inflation. High interest. Violence. These are the issues of 1966. We did not create them. They are simply there. We would prefer that the Administration had not let them develop.

But that is where the two-party system comes in.

Winston Churchill once said that democracy had many and serious faults but was better than any other system of government man had devised.

Democracy in America depends on two-party politics. One-party government leads straight to tyranny. A vigorous two-party system is the simplest way of bringing about necessary changes in our government without wrecking the country or resorting to revolution.

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That republic has endured for 177 years...because in every age there have been Americans who gave of their time, of their treasure, and of their faith to keep it.

It is for us, the living, to re-dedicate ourselves to that high purpose. And it is my deep conviction that you—all of you—will pass on the torch of freedom to your children because you dare stand up and be counted for America.

Thank you and God bless each of you.
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"CABBIE'S FARE TURNS OUT TO BE A REAL SLEEPER"

The big man in the back seat of his cab mumbled an address to the cabbie and lost all further interest in the trip home. At the address in upper Northwest Washington the cabbie thought the big man had mumbled - nobody knew him. At the second address the cabbie thought the big man gave it was the same story. It was late in the evening of last Friday night, when the cabbie pulled up in front of the 8th precinct with his problem. Hatless and in shirt sleeves 55-year-old Harold D. Bowers left his desk (sergeant at front) to cope with "cabbie's problem." He tugged at the man but got no response. Down the precinct steps came Robert Donnell and Douglas C. Taylor. Bower, Donnell and Taylor tugged the cabbie's problem and helped him to his feet on the sidewalk. "Before I knew it," Representative John Culver (D-Ia.) said at his press conference yesterday, "there were these three guys I had never seen before pulling and hauling me around." I thought I was being attacked and I resisted accordingly. Briefly, the 32-year-old former Harvard graduate recounted the activities of a hectic week which had culminated for him on that hectic Friday. He had steady rounds of subcommittee work on Foreign Affairs and Economic Policy and after-hour meetings with constituents had taken their physical toll. That night he had had dinner at Le Bistro - couple of drinks afterwards - then he took a cab home.

Red lines were drawn through his name and address in the arrest book.

// I had quite a job explaining it to my wife and mother and if my career is going to be wrecked by this one incident that is they way it is going to be. It's the honest way of doing it. It is the most difficult thing I have had to do in my whole life, but being in public life I must ... face it.
NOTES FOR CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA  
(Jerry: The last sentence is a reference to an incident in which the incumbent, Rep. John Culver, was arrested for drunkenness in April, 1965.  I assume you don’t need anything on Ben Reifel.)

One of the reasons we're going to do very well at the polls in November is because we have outstanding candidates. And one of those outstanding candidates is your own Mayor Bob Johnson. As a top-notch salesman, he's a natural politician. In his work as a news reporter and columnist, he developed a great respect for the truth and the people's right to know. He's just the kind of fellow we need in running against an Administration that misinforms the public, misleads the people and thinks government has the right to lie. And the fact that he has been your mayor since 1962 underscores the great esteem and affection in which he is held by everyone who knows him. I'm sure you'll never find him cruising around Washington, passed out in a taxicab.