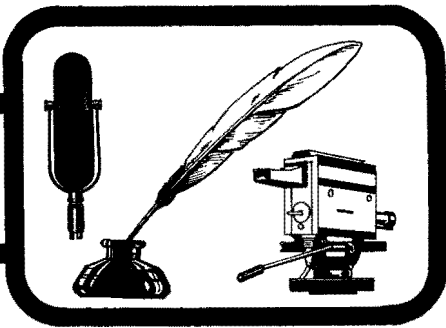


**The original documents are located in Box D21, folder “GOP Fund-Raising Dinner, Peoria, IL, September 26, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M.  
MONDAY, SEPT. 26, 1966

EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH AT GOP FUND-RAISING DINNER, PEORIA, ILL.--BY REP. GERALD R. FORD.

The American people are recognizing the Great Society, Lyndon Johnson style, for what it is--the Great Illusion.

That's the meaning of the precipitous drop in Mr. Johnson's popularity rating as measured by the Lou Harris and Gallup Polls. The people simply have caught on to the Great Juggler.

Webster's Dictionary defines magic as "the art of producing illusions by legerdemain." Legerdemain involves sleight of hand. Sleight of hand is defined by Webster as "skill and dexterity in juggling or conjuring tricks, adroitness in deception, a conjuring or juggling trick requiring sleight of hand."

It has often been said that the Man in the White House should be a consummate politician. This is correct as far as it goes. But it can go too far. The President of the United States must first of all be concerned with what is best for the people of the nation.

It is not best for the people of this nation that President Johnson pretends he can fight a \$2 billion-a-month war halfway around the world without any great impact on the economy.

It is not best for the people of this nation that Mr. Johnson dealt with inflation by blaming the housewife, blaming the farmer, blaming labor, and blaming industry while himself failing to do battle with inflation.

It is not best for the people of this nation that Mr. Johnson sent Congress a budget full of bookkeeping tricks and a plan to sell shares in government-held mortgages in the private money market, all with a view to spending more but showing it less.

It is not best for the people of this nation that Mr. Johnson let interest rates bear the burden of the fight against inflation until those rates soared to the highest point in 45 years.

Mr. Johnson now has belatedly struck a pose as a battler against inflation, with token cuts in federal spending and anti-investment action which will have little immediate impact on high prices. There's an election coming up. Johnson, the politician, had to do something.

(MORE)

SPEECH EXCERPTS--

What does this all add up to?

The people have been deceived. They have been misled by the Great Juggler, the politician who has placed expediency before the good of the country.

The Consumer Price Index revealed a 0.5 per cent rise in the cost of living in August. This was the second consecutive month that the price index showed a 0.5 per cent increase.

The cost of living has gone up 3.5 per cent from August, 1965, through August, 1966. In just the first eight months of this year the rise has been 2.8 per cent. If the rate of increase continues at the July-August pace through the rest of this year, the cost of living jump for the year 1966 will be 4.8 per cent.

Yet the Great Juggler goes around the country telling the people they never had it so good.

Well, I'm telling you the people are on to him, and that flash is going to come through loud and clear on November 8.

President Johnson and the free-spending Democrats in Congress opened the door to inflation when they insisted on ruffles along with rifles at the opening of Congress last January.

They had a real opportunity to dampen the fires of inflation then. That was the time to do it. But they scoffed at us Republicans; they derided those lawmakers who believe the taxpayer's dollar should be spent as though it is their own.

Now they are reaping the harvest of their unconcern, their eagerness to tax and tax, spend and spend, elect and elect.

Of course, they are turning their old formula around in this year 1966. Their plan is to spend and spend, elect and elect, tax and tax. The taxes come after the election under the new political formula conjured up by Lyndon B. Johnson. And that tax increase will give the American economy a tremendous jolt.

There's a turnaround, all right. But it's the people who are going to be changing the formula. That elect and elect bit is going to work only with those who will not see that the Great Juggler has failed the country.

Those of us who aren't wearing blinders, who see that Johnson inflation is eating up workers' wage gains, will see that the Great Juggler is straightened out on November 8. In his kidding way, he has as much as asked for a Republican Congress. Let's do our best to give him one. Let's help him do what's best for the people.



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