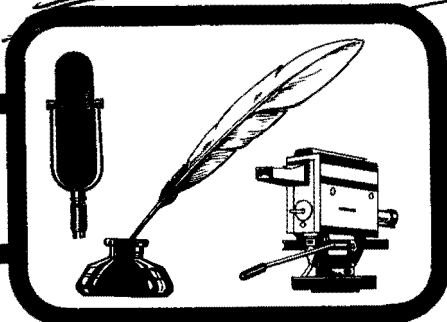


**The original documents are located in Box D21, folder “GOP Dinner, Ridgefield, CT, September 30, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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*R. W. Peters* *Ab. Subal* / *James DeAngelis* *Philly*



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

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AT 7 P.M.  
FRIDAY, SEPT. 30, 1966

EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH BY REP. GERALD R. FORD AT GOP DINNER, RIDGEFIELD, CONN.

The tiny band of 139 Republicans in the 89th Congress may come to be known in future years as the mighty minority. We need recruits; we need a beefing-up of our forces to make our presence truly felt in the Congress.

But even with our meager numbers we have on occasion managed to strike a blow for the good of the nation. The action taken in the House this afternoon is a case in point.

In voting to suspend the 7 per cent investment tax credit as an anti-inflation measure, the House approved a Republican move to continue that tax credit for industry investments in air and water pollution control.

This was done on Republican initiative because Republicans are deeply concerned about the fouling of the air we breathe and the water we drink.

The nation is being suffocated with pollutants in the air. It is no exaggeration to say that those of us who are being subjected to heavy contamination of the air we breathe are being slowly killed off.

Water is this nation's most precious resource. It has been the key to man's advancement since the first days of recorded history. But for water to be useful it must be clean. We have all seen too many of our once-clear rivers and lakes turn sludgy brown or slimy green with human and industrial waste. We have seen our beaches fouled by detergents and waste materials.

The combined resources of the nation must be wheeled into line in an all-out war on air and water pollution. We are faced with a crisis which demands not only a partnership of federal, state and local governments but the greatest possible cooperation of private industry and of the entire American citizenry.

That is why House Republicans were determined that the tax credit incentive for industry in the war against air and water pollution not be removed.

Our states and cities have been fighting a losing battle against pollution. They need help. They need the help of private industry, with an assist from the federal government. A continuation of the 7 per cent tax credit for investments in water and air pollution is a small enough contribution for the nation to make in the interest of health and safety, the cause of clean water and pure air.

(MORE)

President Johnson's move to suspend the investment tax credit and certain accelerated depreciation on buildings is a so-called anti-inflation move. It may prove bad medicine for the country. There is good reason to believe it will have no appreciable impact on inflation for at least six months. It is intended to slow down building. What it may do is to aggravate present depressed conditions in the construction industry and cause widespread unemployment among construction workers.

\* \* \*

War has become a household word in America under the Johnson Administration.

We are fighting a stalemate war in Vietnam. We see guerilla war being waged in the streets of our cities. We have seen an Administration war on the farmer as the scapegoat of inflation. We are engaged in a multi-billion-dollar war on poverty, with precious little to show for it after two years of effort and the expenditure of at least \$2 billion. We are engaged in a war on crime, but the crime rate has reached mammoth proportions and keeps right on rising.

We continue to be mired down in Vietnam. We are locked in combat with a nation about the size of Oregon, with dim prospects for victory or an honorable peace. An election is coming up. So President Johnson calls a peace conference with seven Asian nations for late October in Manila, shortly before the election.

A "momentous criminal crisis" confronts this nation today, the FBI has just reported. This is the same crisis that confronted the nation in 1965--only worse. An election is coming up. President Johnson has called another conference. Not in Manila. This one is on crime. It will take place at the University of Maryland on October 15--three weeks before the election.

Inflation is robbing American workers of their hard-earned wage gains. President Johnson has failed the country. He failed to cope with inflation early this year when the time was right, but he feared for political reasons to take vigorous action. An election is coming up. Mr. Johnson has come forward with his anti-investment proposals as anti-inflation measures. Nobody can get sore about that but the businessman. But as a remedy for inflation? Too little and too late.

An election is coming up, Mr. President. And on Nov. 8 the American people will let you know they have recognized your Great Society for what it is, nothing but a political catchphrase--a Great Illusion. They will brand your Great Society for what it is, LBJ's high-priced, high-interest High Society, a high and mighty mess.

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mess.

for what it is, the "middle-class" perspective of society, a right and right  
but a political catchphrase--a Greek illusion.

Will let you know they have recognized your  
in election is coming up. Mr. Brewster has been the American people

too late.

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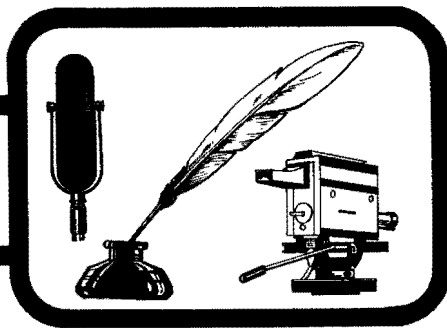


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no experience in the industry for at least six months. It is important to  
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Stop the World  
We want to get off  
after the election



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