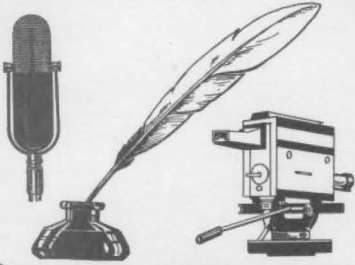


The original documents are located in Box D21, folder “GOP Dinner, Fort Wayne, IN, October 28, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
 HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE AT 7 P.M.
 FRIDAY, OCT. 28, 1966

EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH., AT GOP DINNER, FT. WAYNE, IND.

The supermarket boycotts being staged by housewives here and there throughout America are a natural expression of the anger our citizens feel over high prices. As one who has called for months for government action to fight inflation, I sympathize deeply.

But I would suggest that the real target in the inflation war should be the wild-spending policies of the Johnson-Humphrey Administration and the irresponsible actions of Johnson Democrats in the 89th Congress who have renewed and enlarged the Administration's spending license.

That's who these good ladies should be hounding and hunting down--the big spenders who have recklessly used taxpayer dollars to feed the fires of inflation. These are the villains of the piece--the spenders who have expanded on President Johnson's Great Society schemes instead of fighting inflation by eliminating unnecessary federal spending.

I have enough spark left in me to lead a pretty good revolt--but the revolt is against reckless government spending. Excessive federal spending is the primary cause of inflation; high price tags in the supermarket and elsewhere are the end-product.

The Johnson-Democrat 89th Congress was an Inflation Congress. It fully deserves that name. President Johnson himself hung a spender tag on it and begged his wild Democrat majorities to hold back. But they went right ahead with their spendthrift ways, just as though the taxpayer money well didn't have a bottom.

If there is an income tax increase next year--and President Johnson is almost certain to ask for one--it will be Mr. Johnson and his wild-spending Democrats who will be to blame. I was going to say "responsible"--but that is just what they are not. The Johnson Democrats in Congress are an irresponsible lot, and if there ever was a time when the voters should "turn the rascals out" this is it.

There doesn't have to be a tax increase. You can be sure if the Republicans were in the saddle and not the rancher from Texas, there would be no danger of a tax boost.

(MORE)



SPEECH EXCERPTS

Republicans in Congress tried all this year to hold down their wild-spending Democratic friends, to stop red-ink spending. We tried to stop them because we know that pumping all those billions of printing press dollars into the economy is the force behind inflation.

Some of these billions are being fed into the economy in the name of the poor. And yet the poor, along with Americans on fixed incomes such as Social Security, suffer the most from inflation. It is the poor who are hit hardest by rising prices.

What is the answer? Is it to redistribute the wealth as the Democrats would do? Or is it to restore a sound dollar to the American people and to attack poverty by creating jobs and training the poor to fill them?

Recently Dr. Martin Luther King said he is going to organize massive street demonstrations throughout the country to dramatize the economic plight of the poor. He said the demonstrations will be aimed at arousing support for a guaranteed annual income and Medicare for all ages.

This is what we are headed for under the Great Society. This is why it is so vitally important that the American people elect a Responsible Congress on November 8.

We know that proposals for a guaranteed annual income are being discussed in the Johnson-Humphrey Administration. We know that only Congress as a check-rein on the Executive Branch can stop this wild scheme, this proposal to take part of the earnings of millions of hard-working Americans and pass it along to idle or less-productive citizens. We know, too, that Medicare for all ages is simply socialized medicine under another name. And we know it would be destructive of the high quality medical care we have achieved in this great nation through the American system of individual initiative and standards of excellence.

There now appears to be a moratorium on demonstrations. Dr. King announced that his marches on behalf of guaranteed annual income and socialized medicine will not take place until after the election. Could it be he is afraid the demonstrations would turn the American people against the giveaway artists of the Great Society--the Johnson Democrats in the Congress?

I firmly believe that Americans cannot be bought. That is why I feel the American people will elect a Responsible Congress on November 8. That is why the American voter will turn to the Republican Party on November 8. Only with unbought Americans can we have a sound society; and only with a Responsible Congress can we achieve that sound society.