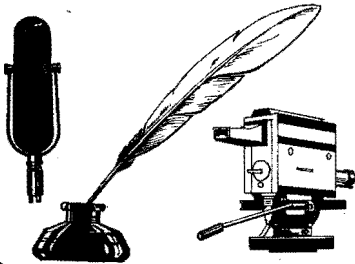


The original documents are located in Box D22, folder “Mahaska County Republican Dinner, Oskaloosa, IA, May 13, 1967” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AT
6:30 p.m., Saturday, May 13, 1967

EXCERPTS FROM A SPEECH BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH., HOUSE MINORITY LEADER,
AT MAHASKA COUNTY REPUBLICAN DINNER, OSKALOOSA, IA., SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1967.

We are on our way. We are on the move. I believe there is a good chance a Republican will be elected President of the United States in 1968 and that the Republican Party will take control of the U.S. House of Representatives and make substantial gains in the Senate.

I believe this because there was widespread dissatisfaction with the Johnson Administration in 1966 and it is continuing and growing.

I believe it because the Republican Party now holds the governorships in 25 states--states with 285 electoral votes.

But most of all I believe it because the Republican Party has become a party of ideas, a party of young people, a party with strong new leadership, a problem-solving party, a party of the future.

Let me emphasize at the outset that no incumbent President is easy to beat. History has proved that. We can never feel we "have it made." It will take tremendous effort on the part of every party worker who wants to see a "New Direction" in Washington.

Republicans will have to pick "the right man" as their candidate in '68. The Party will have to unite behind him. The candidate will have to wage a skillful, well-organized campaign and keep mistakes at a minimum. He will have to offer an appealing domestic program and a viable position on Vietnam. And, assuming that George Wallace is a third-party candidate--and I believe he will be--the Republican candidate will have to overcome certain voter defections to the Wallace camp.

Having sketched this "tall order," I still feel encouraged. After all, the Democrats also have Wallace to contend with--and possibly other splinter group candidates.

I feel encouraged because there is a new spirit pulsing through the Republican Party. There is new young blood in the Party and it is rushing to the surface much faster than many had expected. Look at how far we have come, how fast we have moved up, since the disaster of 1964. And we are continuing to build--in terms of organization, program and ideas.

(more)

Much of this new spirit, this new excitement, is evident in the Congress and, more specifically, in the House of Representatives.

In the House and in the Senate, Republicans have set in motion a swift flow of proposals. This activity stands in sharp contrast to the inaction and inertia of the majority party. Our proposals also contrast sharply in content with those of the majority party. We as Republicans would limit the Federal role and expand that of the private sector and the state and local governments in a fresh assault on problems that have defied attacks by government alone.

Roughly half of all Americans today are under 25 years of age. We are witnessing what might be called a "Youthquake." Most young Americans do not feel a strong allegiance to any political party. They are interested in problem-solving and in programs that actually work.

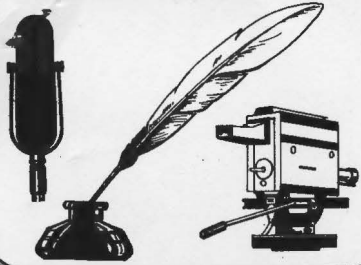
I think the new Republican Party has much to offer young Americans today. The Republican Party is where the action is. Its ideas are not rooted in the Big Depression--a time that is alien to the thoughts and feelings of today's youth. Unlike the present majority party, the Republican Party is eagerly looking for new ideas and new solutions. We are proposing sensible solutions for the Seventies. The other party still relies on the tired theories of the Thirties. They haven't had a new idea in more than 30 years.

The 1968 Republican candidate will need issues. He will find them not only in the other party's blunders and divisiveness but in the bank of new ideas now being built up by Republican activists in the Congress.

You have read of many of these ideas--sharing of federal tax revenue with the cities and states to cut red tape and promote a larger local role in problem-solving, establishment through the Percy-Widnall Bill of a National Home Ownership Foundation which would raise mortgage funds and help slum dwellers become proud home owners, an attack on hard-core unemployment and poverty through tax credits encouraging industry to train the unskilled and make them productive citizens, a movement to raise a majority of Americans to the college level through tax credits for a portion of college expenses, an opportunity crusade enlisting private enterprise in a revamped war on poverty.

This is not rhetoric. This is a program. Republicans in Congress are making a record for their presidential candidate and the party's congressional candidates to run on next year. It will be a record we can win on.

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