The original documents are located in Box D22, folder "Los Angeles County Fairgrounds, Pomona, CA, June 3, 1967" of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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EXCERPTS FROM A SPEECH BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH., HOUSE MINORITY LEADER, AT LOS ANGELES COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, POMONA, CALIF.

The American people are going to vote to send in a new team in November, 1968. The voters are going to send in a new team because the Johnson-Humphrey Administration has gotten this country into a mess both at home and abroad.

The Johnson-Humphrey Administration has done a woefully inadequate job of running this country--and the people know it.

The people are sick of an Administration which last year robbed them of prosperity, destroyed the value of the dollar, and touched off the biggest price increases since the Korean War. They are sick of an Administration which even now has placed the country on the edge of another round of inflation and an increase in income taxes.

The people are sick of an Administration which first pretended to be a peace administration and since then has timidly played at war according to the enemy's rules until nearly a half million American fighting men are locked in what seems like an endless struggle in Vietnam.

The people are sick of an Administration which was asleep at the switch in the Mideast and the United Nations and failed to avert still another crisis that could trigger World War 3.

The people remember the eight years of Eisenhower peace and they are sick of the Democratic Party blunders that have produced what President Johnson himself has called the South Vietnam impasse.

The people know that the Johnson-Humphrey Administration should have hit the enemy hard in Vietnam more than a year ago--hit them hard when it would have done the most good. They know that if we had done 12 months ago what we are doing now we would be 12 months closer to the bargaining table in Vietnam, 12 months closer to peace.

* * *

The people have lost confidence in the Johnson-Humphrey Administration.

This is the "business-as-usual Administration" that pretends there isn't a war going on in Vietnam.

This is the Administration that plays politics with the economy and with the war.

(more)

This is the Administration headed by the man who ran for the Presidency as a peace candidate in 1964 with the statement... "We don't want American boys to do the fighting for Asian boys...We don't want to get...tied down in a land war in Asia."

This is the Administration with the Secretary of Defense who said on Nov. 29, <u>1965</u>, "We have stopped losing the war"...and a year and a half later we're still not losing the war. But are we winning?

This is the Administration with the Secretary of Agriculture who said he was delighted when farm prices fell in April, 1966, and whose cup now runneth over.

This is the Administration with an attorney general who recently denied there is a crime wave in this country and says the crime rate has only gone up "a little bit."

This is the Administration which has misled the people so many times that Americans don't know who or what to believe when the Administration speaks.

This is the Administration with the President who is so political that he plunged ahead with huge increases in non-essential domestic spending in 1966 and touched off a damaging spiral of inflation...and now says "let us continue."

This is the Administration with the President who is such a poor manager that this country may go \$24 to \$29 billion in the red in fiscal 1967-68.

This is the Administration that will beg Congress for a tax increase later this year in the name of the Vietnam War when the truth is that non-defense spending has risen by \$21.9 billion since fiscal 1961--a whopping 59 per cent increase.

This is the Administration that is seeking to frustrate Republican efforts to cut non-defense items in its fiscal 1968 budget in the hope of avoiding a tax increase.

This is the Administration that can't shuck off the depression mentality of the Thirties and keeps piling one multi-million-dollar program on top of another without solving the problems of the Sixties. This is an Administration the people can't afford.

* * *

The American people are taking a fresh look at the Republican Party.

They see a party with governors who are doing a great job of running their states, a party which is doing battle for farmers hurt by falling prices and rising costs on the one hand and skyrocketing imports on the other, a party that would return a slice of personal income tax revenue to the cities and states for a direct assault on their problems without a tangle of federal red tape, a party that would enlist the states and private industry in the war on poverty and make it a success.

They see a party that will get this country out of the mess that the Johnson-Humphrey Administration has gotten it into.

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6:30 p.m. Pacific Time, Saturday, June 3, 1967

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