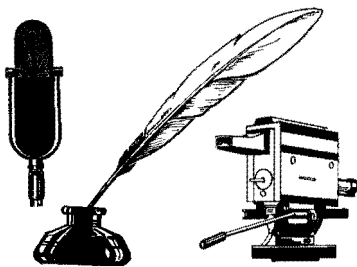


**The original documents are located in Box D24, folder “Republican Fund-Raising Dinner, Richmond, VA, for Congressional Candidates William Whitehurst (2nd District), John Hanson (3rd), Weldon Tuck (5th), and Pete Giesen (7th), May 3, 1968” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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

--FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M. FRIDAY--  
MAY 3, 1968

*Office Copy*  
**NEWS  
RELEASE**

Excerpts from a Speech by House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., at a Republican Fund-Raising Dinner at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 3, 1968, at the John Marshall Hotel, Richmond, Va., for Congressional Candidates William Whitehurst (2nd district), John Hansen (3rd), Weldon Tuck (5th), and Pete Giesen (7th).

As we move through this Presidential election year, every voter in America should ask himself which political party it is which has spent this Nation into a financial crisis without solving the people's problems.

Which party is it which has poured billions of dollars into the problems of the cities only to have them erupt in riots snuffing out more than 100 lives and costing hundreds of millions of dollars?

Which party is it which has pumped billions of dollars into a War on Poverty-- in which the opening gun was fired just before the 1964 election--only to have the Poor march on Washington and demand more meaningful results.

Which party is it which has bogged this Nation down in a land war in Vietnam, where more than 25,000 Americans have lost their lives and some \$70 billion of our wealth has been dissipated?

Which party is it which is about to impose an income tax increase on the American people to offset its extravagant federal spending?

The Democratic Party not only has failed to solve America's problems, it has created crushing new ones.

I ask every American to look at what has happened to America in the last seven years.

We have become involved in a no-win war which two aspirants for the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1968 would end by bringing the Communists into a coalition government while the Southvietnamese Government arrests a former Presidential candidate for making such a proposal.

The cost of living has raced upward by nearly 20 per cent and while it used to be said that a fool and his money are soon parted now this happens to all of us.

The national crime rate has jumped 83 per cent while our population has increased 11 per cent.

Europeans have lost confidence in the dollar and are draining this country of its gold supply.

Our paper money has become exactly that--because the Democratic Party has

(more)

removed the 25 per cent gold backing from our currency.

For more than three months a fourth-rate Communist power has held a United States intelligence ship and 82 crewmen captive after attacking the vessel with impunity and killing one of the crew.

Perhaps Republicans should begin their 1968 campaign by crying "Remember the Pueblo." No politics this--but a deep inner fury over the humiliation visited upon the United States by North Korea and a vow that an incident of this kind will never happen again.

There is no question in my mind that it was a lack of preparedness by the Johnson-Humphrey Administration to deal with an incident like the Pueblo affair that resulted in the capture of the ship and the crew.

This is all part of the record of the Democratic Administrations and the Democratic-controlled Congresses which have guided this country's fortunes and misfortunes since January 1961...the fiasco at the Bay of Pigs, the costly stalemate in Vietnam, the shame of the Pueblo, the deterioration of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization which has been kicked out of France and forced to take refuge in Belgium, the U.S. non-policy in the Mideast which failed to prevent the lightning war of June 1967 and now hinders face-to-face peace negotiations between the Israelis and the Arabs while Soviet influence in the Middle East grows, the continuing failure of the Alliance for Progress, the waste and corruption in the foreign aid program, the threat that the Soviet Union is overtaking us in nuclear capability if she has not already passed us.

The only answer two of the Democratic presidential hopefuls have for all of these foreign policy failures is to urge we give the Viet Cong's National Liberation Front a share of the government in South Vietnam. The answer of the third candidate--the man who earlier said a coalition government in South Vietnam would be like putting a fox in with the chickens--is that he would accept a coalition government if the South Vietnamese would accept it.

This is the kind of bankrupt government that the Democratic Party would like to sell the American people for another four years--a party that has already plunged the Nation into bankruptcy in foreign affairs and near-bankruptcy in its financial affairs.

The American people are coming to realize that the Democratic Party has mismanaged our foreign affairs and our domestic affairs and brought this Nation to the brink of ruin. I am confident they will turn to the Republican Party in November.

EXCERPTS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U.S.

OFFICE OF THE MINORITY LEADER

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

RICHMOND, VA.

MAY 3, 1968

Herold R. Ford  
M.C.

[Empty when arrived]

FRIDAY

7:30 P.M.

GOP FUND-RAISING DINNER  
FOR CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES

WHITEHURST

HANSEN

TUCK

GIESEN

JOHN MARSHALL HOTEL

