

The original documents are located in Box D24, folder “Republican Dinner, Houston, TX, May 24, 1968” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. The Council donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M. FRIDAY--
May 24, 1968

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., House Minority Leader,
at a Republican Dinner Friday evening, May 24, 1968, at Houston, Texas.

America is suffering through a crisis of violence today--growing violence that takes the form of a steadily rising wave of crime, burning and pillaging that have wrecked parts of more than 100 of our cities, and destructive revolutionary activity by student activists on the campuses of some of our universities.

Law-abiding Americans--people who respect the law and believe change should come through peaceful means--are wondering what is happening and what can be done to halt the destruction and disorder.

We all want to build a better society in America. We can build a better society only if we have a lawful society.

This means that every law enforcement agency in the land--federal, state and local--must make it unmistakably clear to every would-be law-breaker that he will be brought to justice and will be punished whether his crime is car theft or armed robbery, arson or looting during a central city riot, or seizure of a university building.

At the same time, government at all levels in partnership with business, industry and the rest of the private sector, must launch a new and massive assault on the social problems which have defied the efforts of Washington bureaucrats dispensing billions of federal tax dollars.

There will be a national crackdown on crime in this country despite the resistance of misguided liberals who are so excessively concerned with the rights of the accused that they sin against the injured.

The clear-headed individual--be he a liberal or a conservative--recognizes that government must provide security for the law-abiding American and his property--and that failure to do this endangers the rights and liberties of us all.

We have had just this kind of failure under the Johnson-Humphrey Administration, and that is why all law-abiding Americans are in danger today...both as to their persons and their property, their families, homes and business.

What have Republicans been doing to halt the crime wave? Despite the limitations on the minority party in the Congress, we shaped a National Law Enforcement

(more)

Assistance Act which passed the House last August 8 and is now nearing final enactment. We sponsored and won passage by the House of an Anti-Riot Act on July 19, 1967, which became law last April 10 only after President Johnson finally embraced it. We initiated legislation which will enable federal agents for the first time to go in hot pursuit of loan sharks with crime syndicate stripes--and this legislation has just passed both houses of the Congress.

The facts are plain. Republicans have moved on anti-crime legislation in the Congress. The Johnson-Humphrey Administration and mistaken liberals have dragged their heels and fought us--fought us because we are determined to get really tough with law-breakers in this country. We must have law and order in America--with justice--and we're going to get it.

The crisis of violence plagues us at the same time that a financial crisis of great dimensions threatens us.

Like the crime crisis, the financial crisis has been building up due to Johnson-Humphrey Administration inaction.

The dollar crisis had its start in 1966 when President Johnson and the huge Democratic majority in the Congress refused to practice restraint in domestic federal spending despite repeated Republican pleas and votes in the Congress for economy.

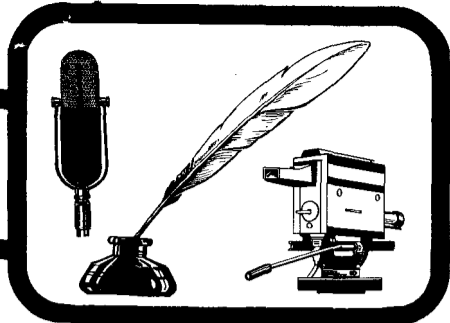
Now we are paying the price for the fiscal excesses and neglect of the Johnson-Humphrey Administration and the Democratic majority in Congress. We are paying the price in a steady increase in the cost of living and an inflationary spiral that has settled into the dangerous pattern of a price rise followed by a wage increase followed by a price rise.

Republicans have sought to hold down federal spending. The Johnson-Humphrey Administration demands a 10 per cent increase in income tax bills. And let me emphasize right now that if there is a tax increase it will be one that the Johnson-Humphrey Administration forced on us.

The Johnson-Humphrey Administration is spending the Nation into a \$20-billion-plus deficit this fiscal year--and there will be a deficit of \$25 to \$30 billion next year unless we act. So we must act, and Congress's tax writers have put together a package containing the President's tax increase, a cut of \$6 billion in fiscal 1969 spending, and cuts in future spending authority.

But the whole package is endangered because the Johnson-Humphrey Administration doesn't want the \$6 billion cut. In fact, some Administration officials have launched a scare campaign against it. Let's get the truth out in the open. The President wants a tax increase but no spending cuts. He wants to follow the old New Deal formula in this election year: Tax and tax, spend and spend, elect and elect. He is inviting financial disaster.

M Office Copy



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M. FRIDAY--
May 24, 1968

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., House Minority Leader, at a Republican Dinner Friday evening, May 24, 1968, at Houston, Texas.

America is suffering through a crisis of violence today--growing violence that takes the form of a steadily rising wave of crime, burning and pillaging that have wrecked parts of more than 100 of our cities, and destructive revolutionary activity by student activists on the campuses of some of our universities.

Law-abiding Americans--people who respect the law and believe change should come through peaceful means--are wondering what is happening and what can be done to halt the destruction and disorder.

We all want to build a better society in America. We can build a better society only if we have a lawful society.

This means that every law enforcement agency in the land--federal, state and local--must make it unmistakably clear to every would-be law-breaker that he will be brought to justice and will be punished whether his crime is car theft or armed robbery, arson or looting during a central city riot, or seizure of a university building.

At the same time, government at all levels in partnership with business, industry and the rest of the private sector, must launch a new and massive assault on the social problems which have defied the efforts of Washington bureaucrats dispensing billions of federal tax dollars.

There will be a national crackdown on crime in this country despite the resistance of misguided liberals who are so excessively concerned with the rights of the accused that they sin against the injured.

The clear-headed individual--be he a liberal or a conservative--recognizes that government must provide security for the law-abiding American and his property--and that failure to do this endangers the rights and liberties of us all.

We have had just this kind of failure under the Johnson-Humphrey Administration, and that is why all law-abiding Americans are in danger today...both as to their persons and their property, their families, homes and business.

What have Republicans been doing to halt the crime wave? Despite the limitations on the minority party in the Congress, we shaped a National Law Enforcement

(more)

Assistance Act which passed the House last August 8 and is now nearing final enactment. We sponsored and won passage by the House of an Anti-Riot Act on July 19, 1967, which became law last April 10 only after President Johnson finally embraced it. We initiated legislation which will enable federal agents for the first time to go in hot pursuit of loan sharks with crime syndicate stripes--and this legislation has just passed both houses of the Congress.

The facts are plain. Republicans have moved on anti-crime legislation in the Congress. The Johnson-Humphrey Administration and mistaken liberals have dragged their heels and fought us--fought us because we are determined to get really tough with law-breakers in this country. We must have law and order in America--with justice--and we're going to get it.

The crisis of violence plagues us at the same time that a financial crisis of great dimensions threatens us.

Like the crime crisis, the financial crisis has been building up due to Johnson-Humphrey Administration inaction.

The dollar crisis had its start in 1966 when President Johnson and the huge Democratic majority in the Congress refused to practice restraint in domestic federal spending despite repeated Republican pleas and votes in the Congress for economy.

Now we are paying the price for the fiscal excesses and neglect of the Johnson-Humphrey Administration and the Democratic majority in Congress. We are paying the price in a steady increase in the cost of living and an inflationary spiral that has settled into the dangerous pattern of a price rise followed by a wage increase followed by a price rise.

Republicans have sought to hold down federal spending. The Johnson-Humphrey Administration demands a 10 per cent increase in income tax bills. And let me emphasize right now that if there is a tax increase it will be one that the Johnson-Humphrey Administration forced on us.

The Johnson-Humphrey Administration is spending the Nation into a \$20-billion-plus deficit this fiscal year--and there will be a deficit of \$25 to \$30 billion next year unless we act. So we must act, and Congress's tax writers have put together a package containing the President's tax increase, a cut of \$6 billion in fiscal 1969 spending, and cuts in future spending authority.

But the whole package is endangered because the Johnson-Humphrey Administration doesn't want the \$6 billion cut. In fact, some Administration officials have launched a scare campaign against it. Let's get the truth out in the open. The President wants a tax increase but no spending cuts. He wants to follow the old New Deal formula in this election year: Tax and tax, spend and spend, elect and elect. He is inviting financial disaster.