

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

*M Office Copy*  
**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR USE IN SUNDAY AM's JULY 28--

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, at a Wayne County (N.Y.) Republican Picnic at Pultneyville, N.Y., honoring Rep. Frank Horton, at 3 p.m. Saturday, July 27, 1968.

"Wisdom with Vitality." I find the theme of your picnic most appropriate. It is an apt phrase, one that accurately describes the Republican Party today.

To use the language of our young people, the Republican Party of 1968 is "what's happening" because so much is happening in the Grand Old Party.

Ours is a political party which has distilled into its philosophy all the wisdom of the American people. The Republican Party reflects the wonderful good sense of the people, dedicated as it is to the spirit of individual pride and achievement that has made this country great.

We want to preserve all this. We want to preserve the great moral foundation on which this country was built. If we are going to do that, we must recognize that everything changes. Nothing is so certain as change. And Republicans must not only anticipate change but lead and shape it.

Today I see this happening in the Republican Party. I see the kind of vigor and imaginative thinking and leadership you are talking about here with your theme of "Wisdom with Vitality."

For instance, there is Republican wisdom and vitality in much of the major legislation enacted by the 90th Congress although we are still the minority party in Washington.

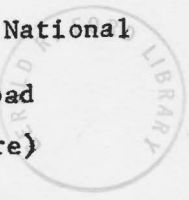
Republican vitality is responsible for the fact that the Housing Act of 1968 contains the first real breakthrough in the housing field and the War on Poverty in years--a program to help low-income families buy their own homes and develop the pride and sense of responsibility that go with home ownership.

Republican vitality is responsible for a new program of FHA loans for hospital construction and purchase of hospital equipment, which I believe will mean greatly improved health care for all the people of this country.

Republican wisdom is responsible for the fact that the trend of federal spending will be considerably slowed in the period immediately ahead so that the sharp rise in the cost of living will at least level off.

Republican wisdom and vitality are responsible for the fact that the National Law Enforcement Assistance and Criminal Justice Act of 1968 provides a broad

(more)



stimulus to the states and local communities to step up the war on crime, and arms our law enforcement officials with wiretapping authority under court supervision in an attack on organized crime.

This, and more, we accomplished in the 90th Congress despite the fact that we are a minority party. We made great contributions for the good of all America.

But we are a minority party, and we must remember that as we go into the 1968 campaign. We have a selling job to do. We must offer the country a program, demonstrate to all Americans that we have positive solutions to the problem of Vietnam, the moral erosion that has sapped the strength of America, the problems of the cities, and the need for a quality education for all our citizens.

Republicans do have a program to move America ahead--and we must let the country know it. We have seen the Democratic Party flounder and fail. Republicans offer a successful approach to America's problems.

Republicans have come up with ideas that will generate a rebirth of genuine progress in America. It remains for the voters to give us the power to put them into execution.

The key elements of the Republican program are revenue-sharing and tax credits. Why revenue-sharing and tax credits? Because these are the tools that will spur problem solving at the local level and improve the quality of education throughout America.

With election of a Republican Congress and a Republican President, I see a basic change in our federal system which will revitalize all America--a change based on returning a percentage of federal income tax revenue to the cities and states, providing federal block grants to the states instead of narrow project grants, and allowing tax credits to help pay the cost of local education and to upgrade workers throughout the country.

The words are not exciting but the results would electrify American life.

Americans want answers for the problems that continue to plague our cities despite the federal billions poured into them by the Johnson-Humphrey Administration.

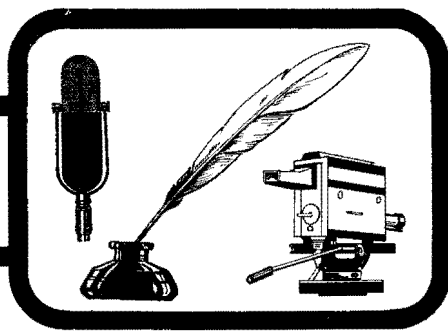
Americans want to live in peace, at home and abroad.

Americans want real progress, not a 20 per cent rise in the cost of Great Society living.

Americans want more real spendable take-home pay, not a 10 per cent rise in federal income tax.

The Republican Party--the party of wisdom with vitality--offers them this... a new America, an America of peace and genuine progress.

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