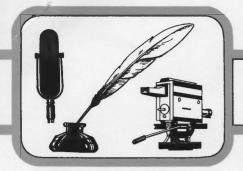
The original documents are located in Box D25, folder "Dinner Honoring Representative George A. Goodling, York, PA, October 5, 1968" of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN GERALD R. FORD HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

NEWS RELEASE

--FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M. SATURDAY--October 5, 1968

An Address by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives at a dinner honoring Rep. George A. Goodling, R-Pa., Saturday evening, Oct. 5, at York, Pa.

It is wonderful to be in George Goodling's district talking with all you fine people.

It is always a pleasure for me to be in George Goodling's company because George is one of the really solid members of the U.S. House of Representatives, a man who is keenly attentive to the needs of his congressional district and an honest spokesman for the people there. I can assure all of the voters of the 19th Pennsylvania District that George Goodling is doing a great job on the House Agriculture Committee and that nobody excels him as a conscientious and hard-working legislator.

If anyone knows what's best for this congressional district, George Goodling does. He is looking out for his people every minute of the day. And he handles every dollar of the taxpayer's money just as though it were coming out of his own pocket. I can personally testify to the fact that George Goodling is a great champion of government economy, and the record of the votes he cast in the 90th Congress will bear me out.

We need men like George Goodling in the Congress--men who will turn over a tax dollar at least twice before they spend it and then try to make it go twice as far; legislators who believe ours is a government of laws and not of men and who will never turn our country over to the forces of anarchy; men who love the tillers of the soil and all those who work hard and are proud of working for a living; legislators who believe that the states and local communities should be strong and vigorous units of government and not appendages of the federal bureaucratic octopus.

Yes, we badly need men like George Goodling in the House of Representatives, and so I ask you tonight to do everything possible to return George to Washington next January. Dick Nixon will need a Republican Congress to carry out his program. He needs men like George Goodling in Congress.

Tonight I would like the people of Pennsylvania's 19th District to ask themselves these questions:

(more)

Which political party is it which spent this Nation into a financial crisis without solving the people's problems?

Which party is it which poured billions of dollars into the problems of the cities only to have them erupt in riots snuffing out 123 lives and costing nearly a billion dollars just in the last year and a half?

Which party is it which 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 four years later and threaten to turn the Nation's capital upside down?

Which party is it which has bogged this Nation down in a massive land war in Vietnam, where more than 32,700 Americans have lost their lives and some \$70 billion of our wealth has been dissipated?

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

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

I ask the people of this district to look at what has happened to America in the last seven years.

We have become involved in a no-win war halfway around the world.

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 tragedy happens to all of us under Democrat inflation.

The national crime rate has jumped 89 per cent while our population has increased 10 per cent.

Our paper money has become exactly that--because the Johnson-Humphrey Democratic Party has removed the 25 per cent gold backing from our currency.

For more than eight 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.

It was clearly 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.

This is the kind of bankrupt government that Hubert Humphrey 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 National 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.

Johnson-Humphrey Administration mismanagement of our national affairs clearly extends to agriculture. It is utterly fantastic that the Administration would ask Congress to write into permanent law a farm program that has produced one of the lowest parity ratios of all time.

The Food and Agriculture Act of 1965 has not worked well, and that is why George Goodling and other Republicans are insisting on something better. When the Act became effective, the farm parity ratio stood at 81. Since then it has dropped steadily to the ridiculously low figure of 73. Even the adjusted parity ratio—the one which includes direct payments to farmers—has dropped to 79 after reaching 87 in January 1966. That's an eight-point drop in two years. We must do better. Turn the leadership of this country over to the Republican Party and we will do better.

This is what the Nation desperately needs--a change in national leadership, Republican leadership that will steer this country in a New Direction, away from \$25 billion deficits and away from the permissiveness that breeds riots, away from a rising national crime rate and the philosophy that whatever you can get away with is all right.

We all want a better society. You know and I know that we can build a better society only if we have a lawful society.

We all want progress. You know and I know that we can make progress only with a sound dollar, not with the deteriorating dollar of the Johnson-Humphrey Administration.

This is a crucial year for America. I hope that every American who is inclined to vote Democratic will look at the two major parties and ask himself, honestly, which party best represents his own thinking. If he will do that, I do not fear for the outcome--either in the 19th District of Pennsylvania or elsewhere in America.

I am convinced that America cannot afford another four years of Democratic rule in Washington.

We need Republican leadership in Washington. We need Republican control of the Congress. We need Dick Nixon in the White House. We need George Goodling in the "People's House."

In this age of crisis the Nation sorely needs a new leader with a strong sense of mission--and that leader is Dick Nixon.

We need Dick Nixon because we need a mature and clear-thinking leader to bring the Vietnam War to an honorable conclusion, to steer us clear of humiliating incidents like the Pueblo affair, to curb inflation, to restore world confidence in the dollar, to turn the national crime rate downward, and to build a new America.

I say the November election is crucial because this country has come to a fork in the road and the people must decide--will it be revolution or a new forward burst of progress for <u>all</u> our people generated by a reaffirmation of the principles which have made America the great and glorious land that it is?

I think the American people will come up with the right answer on November 5.



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