

The original documents are located in Box D26, folder “Rally for State Assemblyman Leonard Dunavant, GOP Candidate for Congress, Eight Congressional District, Millington, TN, March 21, 1969” 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 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY--
March 21, 1969

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, at a rally at Millington, Tenn. (north of Memphis) in behalf of State Assemblyman Leonard Dunavant, Republican candidate for the U.S. Congress, Eighth Congressional District of Tennessee, in a special election March 25.

Tonight I want to focus on a serious threat to America, an attack on the very foundations of our Republic.

I speak of the militant activists who are turning many of our college and university campuses across the land into battlefields of revolutionary terrorism.

I say it is time -- it is long past time -- that we put a stop to disruption and violence on our college and university campuses.

Let no one misconstrue my words to mean that I do not believe in the right of American citizens to express themselves and to disagree with what is commonly called "the Establishment."

The right of peaceful dissent is a precious right, a constitutional right, a right which must be protected.

But we must protect just as vigorously the right of the moderate majority among our college students to get an education.

The constitutional right of dissent does not give any student or non-student activist the right to engage in fascist tactics aimed at disrupting educational processes.

I personally am convinced that these militant activists have deliberately set out to tear down our political, economic and social system. They want to destroy, not build. And they don't care who gets hurt.

All societies must live by a set of rules or they will perish. Organized societies are based upon order and discipline. If the twin pillars of order and discipline are undermined, an organized society becomes increasingly susceptible to collapse.

On our college campuses we are seeing an unprecedented challenge to discipline and authority and a barbarous disregard for the rights of others. That challenge must be met and overcome.

I recognize the fact that many of the young people involved in the New Left

(more)



movement are idealists who have become impatient with the democratic process and the non-responsiveness of some university administrations. But these young people, yearning desperately to help solve some of our social problems, are being exploited by revolutionaries whose goal it is to destroy existing institutions and, in fact, our entire political system.

President Nixon and Attorney General Mitchell have made it abundantly clear that they will do everything in their power to frustrate the objectives of the revolutionaries.

I can assure you that the Nixon Administration will offer college and university administrators every possible assistance in maintaining discipline and order on college campuses. We will seek to implement the two provisions in Federal law now available to deal with militant activists -- the cutoff of federal aid to any disruptive college student receiving such assistance and the prosecution of anyone crossing a state line with the intent to incite a riot.

The previous Administration did not use these legitimate weapons against campus terrorists. We will do so.

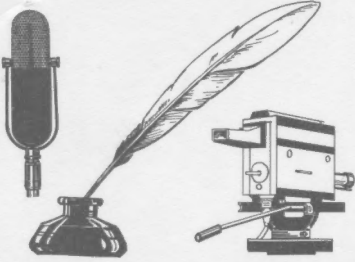
Even our most courageous college and university administrators need help in dealing with the militant conspirators who are out to make trouble on our campuses.

Your fine candidate for Congress, State Assemblyman Leonard Dunavant, fully recognizes this problem. He endorses a forthright and firm approach by the Nixon Administration and any additional necessary legislative authority to cope with the fascist tactics of those who would destroy property or interfere with the right of others to teach or receive an education.

I ask that every voter in the Eighth District of Tennessee, regardless of his political affiliation, take a good look at Leonard Dunavant. What do we see? An outstanding businessman, a fine family man who is a Sunday School superintendent and church choir director and the father-in-law of a Methodist preacher, a legislator with such obvious abilities that he heads the Finance and Ways and Means Committee in the Tennessee State Assembly.

I submit to all of the people of the Tennessee Eighth Congressional District that Leonard Dunavant will be a congressman who will serve them splendidly, a congressman they can be proud of, a congressman the Nixon Administration will be eager to work with.

You want responsible government? You want a Responsible Society? Give us Leonard Dunavant as a colleague. Send Leonard Dunavant to Congress.



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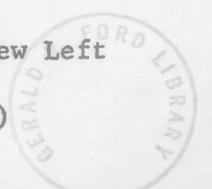
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