

The original documents are located in Box D29, folder “Republican Dinner, Ottawa, IL, April 11, 1970” 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 ON DELIVERY--
April 11, 1970

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, at a Republican Dinner April 11, 1970, at Ottawa, Ill.

With the help of Republicans in Congress, President Nixon is cleaning up the mess the Democrats left behind.

That is the thrust behind the President's Vietnamization program, his reversal of the policies of his Democratic predecessor in Vietnam, his determination to end the war in Vietnam while achieving a sound peace there.

That is the reason for the outcries of pain as the President holds Federal spending to reasonable and responsible limits, fights the inflation he inherited from the Democrats, and looks to a further reduction of the high interest rates that are an inevitable product of the fight against Democratic inflation.

I do not envy the Democrats as the congressional campaign of 1970 gets under way.

What can their propaganda cry be? Only that it is taking some time to clean up the mess they made -- to end the war a Democratic President plunged us into, to curb the inflation brought on by the irresponsible spending policies of the previous Administration, to reorder priorities that were knocked askew by the war we got into under the Democrats, to end air and water pollution that grew steadily worse during the eight years that Democrats controlled both the Congress and the White House, to reduce a crime rate that rose 10 times faster than our population during the eight Democratic years of the Sixties.

It's tough to clean up the Democratic mess, but we are making progress.

We have reduced our commitment in Vietnam from 549,500 men to 434,000, and we can expect to lower that manpower ceiling to about 200,000 in another year or so.

We are curbing inflation.

We have reduced the rate of the crime rise, and we will be doubling our Federal aid to State and local communities for the fight against crime in the streets while smashing at organized crime throughout the Nation.

We have acted to reorder our priorities, reducing defense spending in the President's fiscal 1971 budget to 36.7 per cent of the budget while raising human resource outlays to 41 per cent. And as the President noted in his budget message,

(more)

this is the first time in 20 years that a Federal Budget has provided more funds for human resources than for defense.

We need the cooperation of the Democrats in the battles we now are waging to clean up the mess of the Sixties.

We need help in fighting inflation, not an assault from Democrats employing the same kind of spend-more tactics they used in piling up \$57 billion in Federal deficits in the last decade.

We need all the assistance we can get in fighting crime, not the heel-dragging we are getting from some Democrats who attack nearly every new anti-crime tool as unconstitutional.

We need support in ending the Vietnam War, not the sneers of some Democrats who undermine President Nixon's policy of Vietnamizing the war and urge a settlement on Northvietnamese terms.

We need a bipartisan effort to reorder our priorities and launch a nationwide crusade against air and water pollution, not an attempt by some Democrats to grab the credit by calling for twice as much Federal anti-pollution spending as the President has recommended.

Republicans can approach the 1970 congressional campaign with confidence. The reason -- we are offering the American people sound responsible policies, forward-looking programs that represent the greatest reform of our political and social system since the first term of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

We have rejected the rhetoric that overpromises and underdelivers. We offer instead programs based on realism and reason. And that is why we deserve the support of the American people.

The Republican Party stands before the Nation as the party of reform.

We have instituted a lottery system in a major overhaul of the draft. An all-volunteer Army is our next objective.

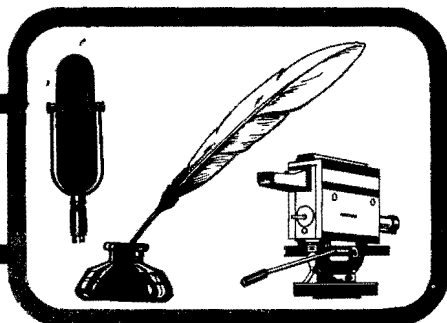
We have accomplished major tax reforms along with tax relief.

We have reformed the anti-poverty program to make it truly innovative, giving the successful operating programs to the old-line departments.

The President's program of Workfare instead of welfare is moving toward congressional passage.

A whole host of reforms still awaits congressional action -- a strengthened and broadened anti-crime program; a postal service authority with broad modernization powers; a consolidation of manpower training programs, to be turned over to the states as they are equipped to handle them; revenue sharing giving the States and cities a percentage slice of Federal income tax receipts; consolidation of Federal grant programs; a re-examination of Federal aid to schools to achieve quality education; revamping of our labor laws for improved handling of national emergency labor disputes in transportation; a crusade to rid ourselves of air and water pollution.

The American people want these reforms. Republicans will deliver on them.



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