

**The original documents are located in Box D30, folder “Campaign Dinner, Luke Atkinson, GOP Candidate for Congress, 11th District, Asheville, NC, August 1, 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 AT 6:30 P.M.---  
Saturday, August 1, 1970

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, at a Campaign Dinner for Luke Atkinson, GOP candidate for Congress in North Carolina's 11th District, at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, August 1, 1970, Battery Park Hotel, Asheville, North Carolina.

I am mighty pleased to be here tonight. I am pleased to be here because I like the people of North Carolina; I like the people of Asheville; and I like Luke Atkinson.

Luke looks like a winner to me. We need a man with Luke's business-like, no-nonsense attitude in the Congress. We need a hard worker like Luke. We need Luke--the people of the 11th District of North Carolina need Luke--because he stands up for the little guy.

I say you should send Luke Atkinson to Congress because he will do right--he will do what's right for the 11th District of North Carolina and he will do what's right for the country.

You won't see Luke Atkinson joining hands with the big spenders in the Congress who are doing their best to wreck President Nixon's fight against inflation. Luke Atkinson is a responsible individual. He knows--and you know--that it was the big spenders in the Congress who brought on the inflation we are still suffering from. They brought it on beginning in 1965 when they took us into the Vietnam War in a big way and told us we could have guns and butter at the same time.

They gave us a no-win war and they gave us inflation. Now they're trying their best to mess up the President as he fights inflation and winds down the war.

It's painful to fight inflation. It's a lot more fun just to let money flow fast and loose and to let prices go up.

But we've got to move this country from wartime to peacetime. We've got to move the economy over that hump. We've got to take some lumps because we have got to lick the inflation brought on by the big spenders. And the fact is we are succeeding in slowing inflation without the kind of recession that usually follows the sort of wild Federal Government spending spree we saw in the Sixties.

And although unemployment has been up, it is a lot less nationwide than the 6.7 per cent unemployment under a previous Administration in 1961. The previous Administration was in office for 3 1/2 years before they got the unemployment rate down to 5 per cent. Right now the unemployment rate is 4.7 per cent--and the big

(more)

spenders are trying to talk us into a recession. But the economy is sound and healthy--healthier than when our last President "solved" unemployment by sending more than 500,000 Americans off to war in the jungles of Southeast Asia.

President Nixon isn't going to solve unemployment by sending men off to war. He's going to give us a strong, stable economy--and Luke Atkinson is going to be in Congress to help him.

We need Luke in Congress to help in the fight against crime, too.

Did you know that the Senate of the United States last Jan. 23 passed an omnibus bill to control organized crime only to have it gather dust in the House at the hands of the Democratic national leadership?

The same thing happened to the Drug Abuse Control Act passed by the Senate. It came over to the House and just sat there for more than three months on the Speaker's desk. Why? Because they couldn't decide what committee to send it to. Now, is that the way to fight crime?

We need more men like Luke Atkinson on the Congress--firm-minded men who are concerned about the public safety.

The public safety. Another way to say it is peace in the streets.

We hear a lot about peace these days. But what peace is more important to the American citizen than peace in his own backyard and peace on the street in front of his home?

You know, it constantly amazes me that there are some Americans, badly misguided Americans, who call policemen fascists.

The truth is that fascism will only come to America if there is a complete breakdown of law and order. If that happens, the American people will demand a tight and brutal centralization of governmental authority in order to ensure their own bodily safety. So, actually, our police serve as the front line troops against fascism. They are protecting us against a breakdown of law and order.

It is the ridiculous revolutionaries who pelt police with rocks and bottles who are creating the threat of fascism in America. They are creating situations which could lead to the very oppression they falsely complain about.

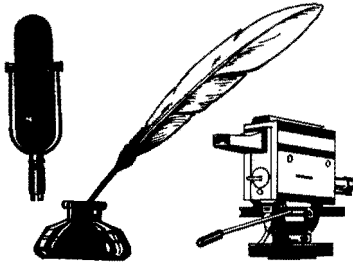
President Nixon has sent the Congress 13 major anti-crime bills, including bills to fight organized crime and the narcotics peddler. The Congress must act affirmatively on these bills. These are matters of the highest priority.

I think it is helpful that the makeup of the U.S. Supreme Court has changed. We must attach far more importance to convicting the lawbreaker than to assisting his efforts to "beat the rap."

I think the Nixon Administration is moving this country forward. And the pace of that forward progress can be improved with the election of men like Luke Atkinson. Help send Luke Atkinson to Congress, and you will be helping your country.

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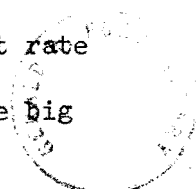
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