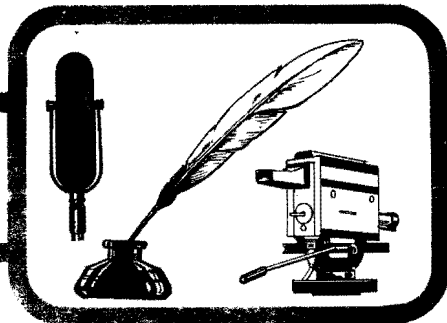


The original documents are located in Box D30, folder “Kiwanis Club, East Grapids Rapids, MI, September 3, 1970” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON--
Thursday, September 3, 1970

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford before the East Grand Rapids Kiwanis Club

The whole direction of our national policy has been turned around. In spite of critics and prophets of doom and the peace-at-any-price people, we are making great progress on the two major problems confronting us--Vietnam and inflation.

Although many difficulties lie ahead, we are getting out of Vietnam and the pace of inflation has been slowed. Ironically, the same kind of people who got us deeply involved in Vietnam and set us on the road to runaway inflation are now advising extreme solutions to extricate us from those troubles.

These people are extremists--recognized for what their actions demonstrate. They supported President Lyndon Johnson when he escalated the Vietnam War. Now they want to cut and run, making a mockery of our sacrifices in Vietnam. They supported Lyndon Johnson's policy of guns and butter, which touched off and fed our inflationary spiral. Now they want to put Americans into the costly bureaucratic straitjacket of wage and price controls.

Steady as she goes is more than just a seaman's call. It can be, and should be, a trait of government. And this is the kind of national government we have now--a government which is hewing firmly to sound policies. These policies, let it be emphasized, are taking us out of Vietnam on a sound basis and dampening down the fires of inflation.

At the same time, the Nation must deal with still another great problem--the need for basic reform in our national government, the need to restore faith in government by making government effective through reform.

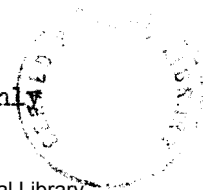
The opposition party long has worn the mantle of reform but currently they are resisting it, apparently because the White House is held by the Republican Party.

Yet we are achieving reform--achieving it in spite of the heel-draggers.

Reform isn't easy; opponents of any change in the status quo are always vigorous and loud, especially in defense of policies which they have advocated for years but which simply haven't worked. Yet progress is being made. I have personally been involved with the two major reforms of the 91st Congress--postal reform, which has already been enacted, and welfare reform, which has passed the House. I also expect that broad changes in Social Security, including my proposal for automatic cost-of-living benefit increases, will be enacted this year.

While the job of reforming government programs and institutions has only

(more)



begun, we are on the way toward making government more effective.

Unfortunately, the Democratic-controlled Congress has refused to move on a key element in making government work better at all levels. This is what is called revenue sharing, a program I and others advocate to return a percentage slice of Federal income tax revenue to the States and local units of government to use on their problems as they see fit. This plan would work something like the sales tax rebate in Michigan except that it would be far more flexible and have greater impact.

Congress itself, as an institution, cannot stand still either. It must adapt its procedures to the needs of 20th Century America, to the new complexities of the legislative role and to new technologies. I have long sought legislative reform, and this effort now is bearing fruit. The House has been considering a legislative reorganization bill after a long delay, and it may be that this session will see the adoption of the first congressional reforms since 1946. If it doesn't happen, it won't be the fault of House Republicans.

Much will remain to be done to fully modernize Congress. Congress, for example, has not developed a workable mechanism for controlling the overall amount of government spending. This is why we find the Democratic-controlled Congress imposing a \$205 billion spending limitation on the President and then proceeding to bust his budget.

This also has given rise to the great myth that America is spending most of its money on the military while neglecting social programs.

As a matter of fact, fiscal 1971 expenditures for health, education and welfare, retirement and related programs will exceed \$83 billion while defense is moving down to only \$71.2 billion.

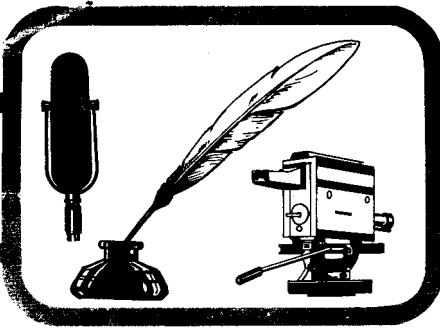
The education budget includes \$3 billion for elementary and secondary schools, \$1.5 billion for higher education, \$1.2 billion for vocational, science and other special education programs, and \$2.7 billion for manpower training. The health programs in the Federal budget add up to \$14.9 billion.

Public assistance funds in the Federal budget total \$5.4 billion. Food and nutrition will cost \$1.5 billion and welfare services another \$1.5 billion. This adds up to more than \$32 billion for direct health, education and welfare expenditures. To that sum you can add \$41.8 billion in Social Security, Civil Service and military retirement payments, and \$8.5 billion in benefits and pensions for our veterans. Housing programs, many of them welfare-related, add another \$4.3 billion to the total.

The Nixon Administration has trimmed defense spending by \$12 billion. For the first time in 20 years, spending for human resources will exceed defense spending.

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