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REMARKS BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.
REPUBLICAN LEADER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
BEFORE THE MANUFACTURING CHEMISTS ASSOCIATION CHEMICAL FORUM
AT THE MADISON HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D.C.
12 NOON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1972

FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON, TUESDAY, JAN. 11, 1972

This will be a tough year politically but I look at it with anticipation and with hope.

I see 1972 as a year for cleaning up the unfinished congressional business of 1971--the nation's business--and in doing that we will be achieving great objectives.

You may recall that President Nixon went before the Congress roughly a year ago and sketched out some great goals for the country.

Unfortunately, the President's major legislative objectives--revenue sharing, welfare reform, and quality health care--are still in congressional limbo. They deserve to be enacted into law. For the good of the American people they must be enacted into law this year. I think they will be.

There is little doubt that the President's proposals in these three areas will be modified before final enactment. But I think they will survive in essentially the same form as cast by the Administration.

Welfare reform already is through the House. It should make it through the Senate this year.

The House Ways and Means Committee has conducted hearings on revenue sharing and health care. The need for action in both of these areas has been fully established. Ways and Means Chairman Wilbur Mills recognizes the imperatives in both cases. Mills has introduced revenue sharing legislation which goes about 80 per cent of the way with the President. Surely a compromise is possible.

Although there are some who view the prospects for health care legislation as dubious, I do not. I think the chances are good that a bill closely resembling the Administration's proposal in this field will pass both houses of Congress this year.

There are some bills which look like sure bets this year--at least a modest increase in Social Security, consumer protection on warranties, the creation of a

(more)

consumer advocacy agency, campaign spending reform, a multi-billion-dollar program aimed at fighting water pollution, an increase in the minimum wage, pension legislation, and additional aid for colleges and universities.

President Nixon's bills to reorganize the cabinet departments of the Federal Government may prove to be the sleeper of this Congress's second session.

While many observers don't give government reorganization much of a chance, I think there is a strong possibility that one or more of the departmental reorganization bills will emerge from committee and be enacted into law.

I look for an increase in defense spending in fiscal 1973. Observers are predicting a tough fight on this issue, but I don't see it that way. I believe the need for a rise in defense spending will be so apparent as to obviate a bruising battle.

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①
Happy N.Y.
Asa
Vigil
②
Surprises - 1971

- 1) Paying
- 2) Moscow
- 3) Wage - Price

- 4) Campaign Spending
- 5) 18 yr old

Surprises - 1972
Track Record?
Will be some

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LABOR/MANAGEMENT

Legislative Action
1) Welfare
2) Revenue Sharing
3) Reorganization
4) Pension
5) Pollution
6) Consumer Protection
7) Defense
8) Manner
WAGE

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