

**The original documents are located in Box D33, folder “Trunk ‘n Tusk Dinner, Phoenix, AZ, September 16, 1972” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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For Release at 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday, Sept. 16, 1972

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., before a Trunk 'n Tusk  
Dinner at Phoenix, Ariz., Saturday, Sept. 16, 1972.

Republicans have two things going for them Nov. 7.

The President has written a splendid record of achievement during his first term -- and the vast majority of Americans don't like McGovern.

The majority of Americans know that George McGovern wouldn't just redistribute the wealth. He wouldn't just soak the rich. He'd raise everybody's taxes.

What about this business of redistributing the wealth? What about the fellow who spent long years in school and then worked his fingers to the bone to get where he is? Why should the McGovernites pick his pockets to put more people on public assistance and raise the ante?

Take a hard look at McGovern's major spending and tax proposals. We Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives did and we found that if all of McGovern's proposals were implemented the result would be a staggering Federal deficit and a massive tax increase that would bankrupt America's middle class. The upshot would be runaway inflation followed by economic stagnation. McGovern wouldn't just wipe out the rich; he would wipe out middle America.

Take a hard look at McGovern's foreign policy proposals. He would make peace in Vietnam on the enemy's terms. He would also cut off all aid to Greece, which supplies us with naval bases in the eastern Mediterranean. It doesn't seem important to George McGovern that without these naval bases the Soviet Union would have control over the waters nearest the Middle East, much to the detriment of Israel.

Sen. McGovern has proposed cutting our armed forces by 40 per cent--cutting the Navy in half and the Air Force by more than half--without any similar force reductions by the Russians. He would unilaterally pull out more than half of our forces in Europe. He would wreck the Atlantic Alliance. He would risk the safety of every man, woman and child in this country.

Now do you see why I call McGovern an extremist? He's Jerry Rubin's candidate--the candidate of those who espouse victory for the other side and peace at any price. He's the author of the most inflationary and socialistic economic schemes ever put forth by a major American Presidential candidate in modern political history.

(more)

That's Sen. McGovern's track record as culled from the statements he has made in the Senate and in seeking his party's Presidential nomination.

A man should run on his record. And we--all of us Republicans who are seeking public office--invite inspection of our records.

The Republican record during the entire time that Richard Nixon has filled the Presidency is a basis for pride. This is a truth we are going to have to carry to the American people this election year.

We can be proud because we are successfully fighting an inflation that roared ahead almost unchecked under the Democrats between 1965 and 1969. The inflation rate fell to 1.8 per cent in the second quarter of 1972. This means we stand a good chance to hold the overall rise in 1972 to 3 per cent, a sharp improvement over the 4.3 per cent increase in 1971, the 5.5 per cent rise in 1970 and the 6.1 per cent climb in 1969. There's no doubt about it. The President's bold program of price and wage controls is working. In fact, it's working mighty well.

We can be proud of the President's New Economic Policy, which will push unemployment down toward the 5 per cent mark by the end of this year. We have 83 million people at work--an alltime record. In July of 1972 we had 2.6 million more people at work than in July 1971--the greatest creation of jobs in any 12-month period in our postwar history. And at the same time the rate of inflation slowed down.

Under President Nixon we are building genuine prosperity--prosperity without war.

We have reason to be proud of the Nixon Administration, and we should let the American people know the truth of it.

The truth is it was the Nixon Administration that brought more than a half million men home from Vietnam and ended the U.S. ground combat role there while seeking an honorable peace.

It is the Nixon Administration that produced a cease-fire in the Middle East and prevented a U.S.-Soviet confrontation there.

It is the Nixon Administration that reached an historic agreement with the Soviet Union, limiting strategic weapons in the first arms freeze of the nuclear age.

It is the Nixon Administration that reached agreement in principle with the Soviet Union on access to Berlin.

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It is the Nixon Administration that brought about ratification of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

It is the Nixon Administration that renounced biological weapons and the first use of chemical warfare.

It is the Nixon Administration that achieved a treaty prohibiting the emplacement of nuclear weapons in the world's seabeds.

It is President Nixon who transformed the world scene from one of confrontation between the major powers to one of negotiation--who traveled to Moscow and Peking on missions for peace.

It is President Nixon who developed a new strategy for peace in the world centered around the doctrine of helping those nations willing to help themselves.

These, of course, are all actions aimed at promoting peace abroad. What about progress at home?

It was the Nixon Administration that reordered our national priorities by devoting a greater part of the Federal Budget to human needs than to defense.

It was the Nixon Administration that achieved the most significant improvements in unemployment insurance in our entire history.

It was the Nixon Administration that brought about a massive increase in our manpower programs to provide work experience and training for young people of all races.

It was the Nixon Administration that quadrupled minority hiring for government jobs in higher grades and expanded aid to minority enterprises by more than half--and has since proposed an even greater expansion of such aid.

It was the Nixon Administration that tripled food assistance programs for the needy from \$1.1 million to \$3.5 million a year.

It was the Nixon Administration which proposed \$1.5 billion in funding for school districts with a high concentration of low income families and the doubling of aid to black colleges.

It was the Nixon Administration which reformed our draft laws to make them more equitable and now is ending the draft.

It was the Nixon Administration that acted to protect the environment by creating a new Council on Environmental Quality and a new Environmental Protection Agency.

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Now we look to the future. We look for more progress--progress toward peace at home and abroad, and progress toward prosperity in peacetime.

We can realize that progress by electing Richard Nixon to another four years in the White House and giving him a Republican Congress to work with.

The best way to help Dick Nixon lead this Nation to new greatness is to elect Republicans to every office in the land--from the court house to the White House. That's the team we need to keep America headed in the right direction.

The hour of truth is upon us, and the time is now. Truth is our greatest weapon in the 1972 campaign. Our success at the polls Nov. 7 will be measured by our success in impressing the truth upon the American people.

So tell the Republican story. Tell the Richard Nixon story. Let the American people know what Dick Nixon has done to bring them peace abroad and progress at home.

That is the truth you must make clear. So let us do the job. Together we can. We are on the march--we and Dick Nixon. Let us prove that our party is a winning one. Let us move forward together.

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