The original documents are located in Box D34, folder “Lock Haven State College, Lock Haven, PA, February 14, 1973” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Jerry:

The Lock Haven State College people want you to talk about Indochina, further developments in U.S.-Chinese relations, the new budget and fears of cutbacks (Lock Haven Penn State is in a marginally Appalachian region), and the economy. Speech, ½ hr.; Q&A, ½ hr.

The audience will be primarily college students with a good sprinkling of townspeople...and also some high school students. The school is located in good GOP territory.

--Paul
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of 1972, which authorized $11 billion over two years in environmental spend-
ing. The President, invoking the dan-
ger of higher taxes and inflation, ulti-
mately impounded more than half of
that money. Said Albert: "It is obvious
that what Congress has refused him, the
President has undertaken to seize. The
time has come for the Congress to call
a halt to these wholesale Executive in-
vasions of legislative powers and re-
 sponsibilities."

The speakers agreed that Congress
itself must change in order to regain
power; already the concern over erod-
ing strength has generated some re-
forms. Speaker Albert listed the most
important: subcommittee chairmen-
ships have spread out to include newer
members, party caucuses will elect com-
mittee chairmen and ranking minority
members, committee and voting proce-
dures have been opened up to provide
greater accountability, standards of
conduct have been tightened.

Still more changes are necessary,
however, if the Congress is to achieve
equality with the Executive Branch.
Some proposed by last week's speakers
sounded relatively simple. "Congress,"
said Scott, "spends too much time read-
ing the minutes and squandering the
hours. It needs the aid of computers and
experts to operate them. In many ways
we are still marching to the measured
beat of another century's drums."

Ultimately, some speakers agreed
reluctantly that Congress could not re-
gain power until it demonstrated a
greater sense of responsibility. Illinois
Congressman Anderson stressed a re-
curring criticism that the Legislative
Branch still acted too often as a col-
lection of regional blocs. "It is the
failure of the Congress to develop a
rational approach to the budgetary pro-
cess that has produced this crisis," he
said. Hollings added: "The issue is
whether the Congress itself will get off
its duff and do its job. The President
has impounded the issue after we both, on
a four-year binge, have expended some
$100 billion more than we brought in.
We are equally guilty."

Whether or not Congress recovers
power also depends in a sense upon the
conduct of Congressmen and Senators
as individuals. Said Illinois Senator Ste-
venson: "We must not only have men in
the Congress—and in all our institu-
tions of government—of the highest
character, integrity, ability, but we must
also have..."

I have seen it exercised within the Sen-
ate. In the words of Walt Kelly's Pogo:
"We met the enemy and...

The Issue of Impounding

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H
E Constitution seems clear enough. It says that Con-
gress "shall have power to lay and collect taxes...and pro-
vide for the common defense and general welfare of the
United States." But when Congress has appropriated mon-
ey, must a President spend it? Yes, say most congressional
leaders. No, says President Nixon.

The constitutional conflict could end up before the Su-
preme Court, but a clear-cut answer is unlikely. "Great or-
dinances of the Constitution," wrote Oliver Wendell Holmes,
"do not establish and divide fields of black and white. We can-
ot cut..." Between the distinction between legislative and exec-
utive action with mathematical precision and divide the
branches into watertight compartments."

Over the years, laws have been passed to give the Pres-
ident considerable discretion in handling congressional ap-
propriations. The Anti-Deficiency Act of 1966 permitted the
Chief Executive to set aside appropriations because of "some
extraordinary emergency or unusual circumstances." In 1950
the President was granted further power to withhold reserves
or make savings after funds were voted by Congress.

Recent Presidents have not hesitated to impound when
it suited their purpose. In 1942 Franklin Roosevelt ordered
the Secretary of War to establish monetary reserves by the
"deferment of construction funds not essential to the war ef-
fort." A year later the Senate was disturbed enough by F.D.R.'s
impoundment policies to impose some restrictions
on them. But the House would not go along, arguing that in
time of war, the Chief Executive's power over the budget
should not be restrained. In 1949 Harry Truman withheld
funds to build a 58-wing Air Force when he thought a 48-

THE NATION

The Hour Haven State College

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TIME MAG. 12/1/73
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we did not win a military victory there, we succeeded in thwarting a Communist
takeover of South Vietnam by force.

Consider the conditions which existed when the Vietnam venture began.
Then -- 12 years ago -- the vast periphery of Asia, from Japan through the
Philippines, Indochina, the rest of Southeast Asia, and the great expanses of
Indonesia up to the shores of Australia, was under imminent threat of Communist
expansion and intimidation.

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Cambodia. No pressure on Australia or Japan. No serious Communist insurgency in
the Philippines. A relatively secure Thailand. A ceasefire in Vietnam, probably
to be extended to Laos and Cambodia -- and a limit to the North Vietnam-based
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considerable Federal dollars must be used to win the peace there. Meantime, defense
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reverse. Of total Federal outlays budgeted for fiscal 1974, 47 per cent would go into human resource programs and 30 per cent into defense.

What about the current cutbacks in Federal spending? The President is trying to hold Federal spending to $250 billion this fiscal year. Even if he succeeds in doing that, the Federal deficit for fiscal 1973 will total $25 billion. And, mind you, our national debt presently totals roughly $450 billion.

It's true that the President's fiscal 1974 budget would eliminate some programs and cut back others in an attempt to hold Federal spending next fiscal year to $268.7 billion. Even if we hold Federal spending to $268.7 billion, we will incur an estimated deficit of $13 billion.

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REMARKS BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.
REPUBLICAN LEADER, U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

LOCK HAVEN STATE COLLEGE
LOCK HAVEN, PENNSYLVANIA
8:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1973

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

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