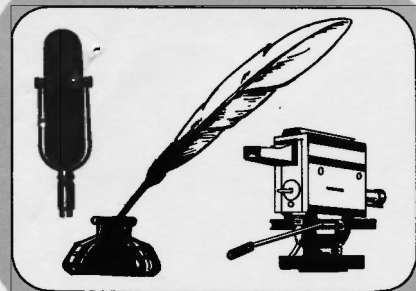


The original documents are located in Box D34, folder “GOP Dinner, St. Johns, MI, April 13, 1973” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6 P.M. FRIDAY--

April 13, 1973

Excerpts from a Speech by House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford at a GOP Dinner at 6 p.m. April 13 at St. Johns, Mich.

There will be no increase in Federal income taxes this year or for the next three years.

That will be the upshot if the American people continue to support President Nixon and the Republican Party in their efforts to hold back on Federal spending.

I firmly believe the people are with us in our current series of confrontations with the big spenders among the Democrats in Congress. This, I feel, is the reason for the remarkable party discipline that has been exhibited by Republicans in the House and Senate alike on the attempts made to date by Democratic leaders to override Presidential vetoes of budget-busting bills.

It has been mighty tough for Republicans in the Congress to vote to sustain Presidential rejection of bills like the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1972 and the Rural Sewer and Water Act. But they have sensed that the people are behind them, and that gave them the backbone to stand up for fiscal sanity.

They know, too, that we in the Congress who believe in fiscal responsibility have to stand up against the whole flood of budget-busting bills the big spenders among the Democrats are throwing at us or the dam will break and all semblance of fiscal order will be swept away.

The April 15 deadline for filing Federal income tax returns dramatizes this Battle of the Budget. The stakes are clear. What is at issue is simply whether we will hold the line against a Federal tax increase.

The need is for enough disciples of fiscal responsibility in the Democratic-controlled Congress to make the President's spending holdback stick and thus hold taxes down. They need your support.

You know what the score is. People can argue until they are blue in the face about the right of the President to impound funds. But the fact remains that if the President had not slapped a \$250 billion ceiling on Federal outlays for fiscal 1973, we would be spending \$11 billion more than that this fiscal year. Instead of an estimated deficit of \$25 billion, we would have a fiscal 1973 deficit

(more)

of \$36 billion. And then the wheels would really fly off the economic buggy.

Let's project that built-in spending a bit. The momentum of it would have pushed Federal outlays in fiscal 1974 to \$19 billion above the President's 1974 request, and it would have shoved Federal spending \$24 billion above the President's proposals for fiscal 1975.

That \$24 billion is an interesting figure, especially when you lay it alongside the estimate that American taxpayers will receive Federal income tax refunds totalling \$20 to \$22 billion this year. Think of it! The excess of spending that the liberal Democrats in Congress wanted to commit us to for fiscal 1975 would have topped this year's \$22 billion in income tax refunds. Let American taxpayers think about that a little as they fill out their income tax forms this year.

It's not just taxes we should be concerned about. Consider the fact that Federal spending is a principal cause of inflation. Add all of the Democrats' budget-busting bills together and you come up with a figure that would contribute substantially to inflation. This kind of spending hurts the very people we are trying to serve, those at the lower income levels who are most affected by runaway inflation.

I am deeply committed to programs like vocational rehabilitation. But I am just as deeply committed to the principle that these programs must be carried forward at a fiscally responsible spending level. I believe we should produce 100 cents worth of human benefits for every tax dollar we spend.

In that connection, don't let anybody tell you the President just blindly ordered cuts in Federal programs. He proceeded only after the Office of Management and Budget had conducted the most exhaustive evaluation of Federal programs ever undertaken. And do you know what that study showed? Of the more than 1,000 Federal grant programs reviewed, 115 were found to be riddled with waste and inefficiency. There is no money for such programs in President Nixon's budgets.

As I said earlier, the American people have repeatedly shown they want to hold the line on both prices and taxes. Republicans are helping them do that. So I think Republican prospects are good for 1974. I think our efforts on behalf of the people will show up in the vote totals posted after the balloting is done.

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