

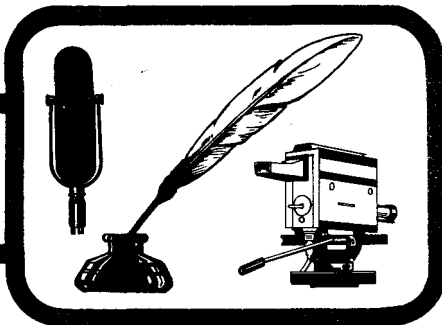
The original documents are located in Box D35, folder “American Business Clubs, Spartanburg, SC, September 15, 1973” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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**CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6 P.M. SATURDAY--
September 15, 1973

Excerpts from a speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, House Republican Leader, before a regional meeting of American Business Clubs, at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15, 1973, at the Sheraton Motor Inn, at Spartansburg, S.C.

Something exceedingly good for the country may be happening in Washington.

The Congress may be turning away from confrontation with the President to cooperation with him.

This is a development fervently to be desired, because it is the spirit of confrontation exhibited by the Congress which has produced stalemate of late in this country--far more so than any actions taken by the so-called Watergate Committee.

There is a burning need at present to put partisanship behind us and to dedicate ourselves to the welfare of all the people.

There is a need, too, for honesty and accuracy on the part of the news media if this country is to move forward.

It was not helpful, for instance, for the gentlemen of the press to quote the President as saying Congress's record to date has been "very disappointing" when the President was talking only about Congress's handling of Administration legislation.

The press created a new basis for hostility between the President and the Congress by its treatment of the President's press conference remarks of Sept. 5 when in actuality the President was simply holding out an olive branch and a challenge to the Congress.

The Congress does have a respectable record to date--except on Presidential initiatives. The President cited this record in his State of the Union Message of Sept. 10. He noted that the Congress has enacted a new-approach farm bill, a ground-breaking Federal highway bill, an increase in Social Security benefits, airport development legislation, amendments to the Rural Electrification Act, the Economic Development Administration and the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration authorizations, an Older Americans bill, an emergency farm loan bill, a national cemeteries bill, and a medical care bill for veterans.

He also pointed out, however--and every word he spoke hit the mark--that the Congress has much to do before it adjourns if it is to write a truly outstanding

(more)

legislative record this year. At the same time, the President pledged to work closely with members of Congress to reach the compromises which must be hammered out if major legislation is to become law.

It does not detract from congressional accomplishments to date to emphasize that much remains to be done.

Our first goal must be a balanced budget. This is the major contribution that Congress can make toward the fight against inflation. Every dollar of deficit spending weakens us in the anti-inflation fight. Yet Congress has already enacted programs which would exceed the President's budget by \$2 billion and is considering additional legislation which would add another \$4 billion in deficit spending if passed.

Some members of Congress would pad domestic spending and chop the defense budget to make up for it. I am adamantly opposed to slashing defense spending. I will support judicious cuts in military outlays, but to take a meat-axe to the defense budget is to endanger our national security. It would profit us not at all to expand our human resource programs if at the same time we exposed our nation's heart to a fatal thrust.

We must keep our nation militarily strong and we must strengthen our economy. And to build the sinews of our economy we must pass sound trade reform legislation, impose controls on exports of food and other products where necessary, and provide authority for selling those materials in our national stockpile which are no longer needed for national security. Tax reform is another concern--a concern which demands that we provide older Americans with property tax relief.

Another matter of top priority is the energy crisis. We must act swiftly to get the Alaskan pipeline project moving, pass legislation to facilitate construction of deepwater ports capable of off-loading large oil tankers, deregulate natural gas, lay down reclamation standards which make possible expanded coal mining, and reorganize the Federal energy effort under a new, independent Energy Research and Development Administration. We must also encourage the establishment of nuclear power plants by streamlining power plant siting procedures while fully protecting the public safety and environment.

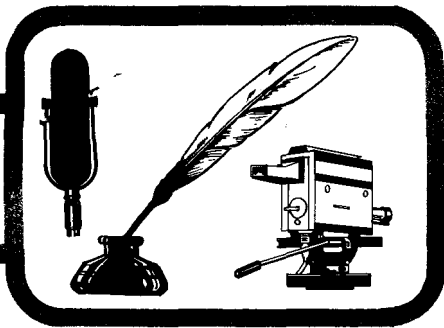
Human resource needs demand our attention. There must be fresh new approaches to problems in the fields of education, housing, welfare administration, manpower training, pensions and health care.

The Administration's proposals in these areas are worthy of the closest possible scrutiny and should not be ignored. They hold the promise of progress toward better schools and better communities. They are building blocks in the fashioning of a better America. Congress would do well to work with the Administration in the human resource areas--and abandon the tactics of confrontation which sullied its performance earlier this year.

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