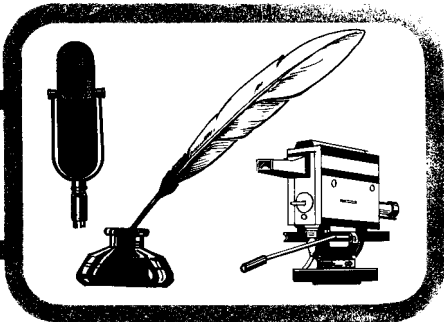


The original documents are located in Box D9, folder “Ford Press Releases - Vietnam, 1969-1973” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
May 15, 1969

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, on the floor of the House, Thursday, May 15, 1969.

Mr. Speaker: President Nixon's Vietnam speech will stimulate progress toward a peace settlement.

It should convince North Vietnam's leaders that they have nothing to gain by delay or by new military offensives.

Americans have always united behind their President in time of war; now we have the nobler privilege of uniting for peace.

President Nixon has taken his countrymen into his confidence in the great tradition of other American Presidents in time of crisis. President Franklin D. Roosevelt in World War II, President Dwight D. Eisenhower in Korea, and President John F. Kennedy in the Cuban missile crisis rallied the American people.

The President made a number of facts plain -- and his firmness in stating these facts should not be lost on North Vietnam and the Viet Cong. Those facts are: There will be no large-scale unilateral withdrawal of American troops in the absence of a peace settlement. Peace in South Vietnam must be based on a free choice by the South Vietnamese people of the government they will live under. The Nixon Administration has ruled out any idea of seeking a military solution in Vietnam. The other side cannot possibly succeed in imposing a military solution in Vietnam. The United States will not sell out South Vietnam.

President Nixon has set forth a simple formula for peace. He has made it obvious to the other side that there is really only one avenue to peace in South Vietnam -- that of national self-determination through free elections.

The President showed himself firm on principle but flexible on means, determined to do all that can be done to bring peace closer and at the same time to do all that must be done to insure that peace, when achieved, is a peace that will last.

This should make "believers" of the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong.

The President's speech was a report to the American people, to North Vietnam, to South Vietnam, and indeed to the world. I believe the American people will respond favorably to the President's quiet appeal for time to build peace on a lasting basis.

I trust Hanoi will show the good sense to negotiate for peace without delay to avoid further destruction and loss of life.

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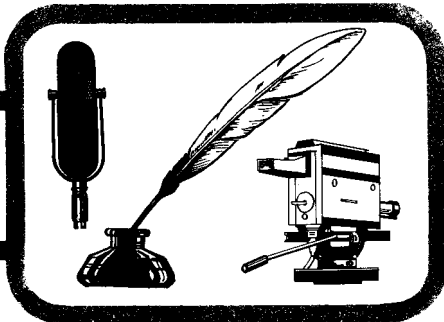
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CONGRESSMAN
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--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
July 15, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

Mr. Speaker, the United States and South Vietnam have taken initiative after initiative for peace in Vietnam without any matching response from Hanoi. In fact, one of the phenomena of the Vietnam War in recent weeks has been the tendency of some Americans to discount U.S. and South Vietnamese peace initiatives and to demand additional concessions to North Vietnam and the Liberation Front.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, for Americans to rise in vocal and ardent support of President Nixon's strategy for peace in Vietnam.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, for members of Congress and all other Americans to ask as with one voice: What is Hanoi doing to bring about peace in Vietnam? Where are Hanoi's initiatives for peace?

President Nixon has worked diligently and carefully toward the goal of peace in Vietnam since assuming office not quite six months ago. He has opened the door to a peaceful settlement of the Vietnam War. He has been joined by the Saigon Government in stepping through that door. Only Hanoi and the NLF remain outside the door of peace, encouraged...I believe...by those critics in America and elsewhere who support the Communist demand for immediate massive unilateral withdrawal of U.S. forces from South Vietnam.

Let us review what President Nixon has done to advance the cause of peace in Vietnam and then ask ourselves whether these critics are helping to end the war by supporting the enemy's unbending demands.

Prior to Jan. 20, the United States halted the bombing of North Vietnam and agreed to sit down at the conference table with the National Liberation Front as well as the government of North Vietnam.

We stayed at the peace table and refrained from a resumption of the bombing despite Hanoi's shelling of major South Vietnamese cities and inhumane slaughter of defenseless civilians, its repeated violations of the Demilitarized Zone, and its refusal to deal with the South Vietnamese government.

On March 25, President Thieu offered to meet with the NLF for private talks without preconditions on a political settlement.

On May 14, with Thieu's support, President Nixon put forward an eight-point plan for peace in South Vietnam. The President ruled out a military solution,

(more)

offered withdrawal of U.S. and allied forces within 12 months under international guarantees, and emphasized that our only objective was to secure the right of the South Vietnamese people to determine their own future without outside interference.

On June 8, President Nixon announced the withdrawal of 25,000 U.S. combat troops and said decisions would be made later on additional troop withdrawals.

At Midway, both Thieu and President Nixon declared their willingness to accept any political result arrived at through free elections in South Vietnam.

Thieu has now outlined plans for the holding of free elections under terms which offer the NLF representation on a national election planning committee and places on the ballot. The only condition is that the NLF end its war against the Saigon Government and renounce the use of violence.

Mr. Speaker, every American who believes that aggression should not be rewarded and that peaceful solutions should be pursued in international disputes should support attempts to arrange for fair and impartial elections in South Vietnam.

I believe President Thieu is to be commended for advancing his elections plan and that the American people should rally behind the strategy for peace being followed by President Nixon.

It is time the American people and free peoples throughout the world demand to know when Hanoi is going to act to further a peaceful settlement in Vietnam.

Both President Nixon and President Thieu have made meaningful moves on behalf of peace in Vietnam. The burden now is on Hanoi, and we should let the world know it.

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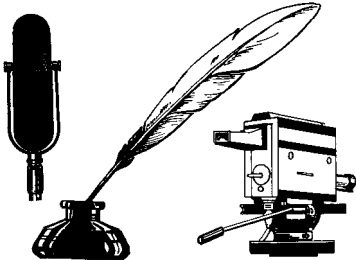
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--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U. S. House of Representatives, on the floor of the House, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 1969.

Mr. Speaker:

President Nixon's statement yesterday concerning further troop withdrawals makes it abundantly clear that the President intends to have peace in Vietnam, but that it will be peace with honor.

Although the emphasis in the press is on the new troop withdrawal, the emphasis in this Administration is that it will not negotiate away the right of the people of South Vietnam to determine their own future, free of outside interference.

In other words, we will not abandon South Vietnam.

However, we will continue to work diligently for peace.

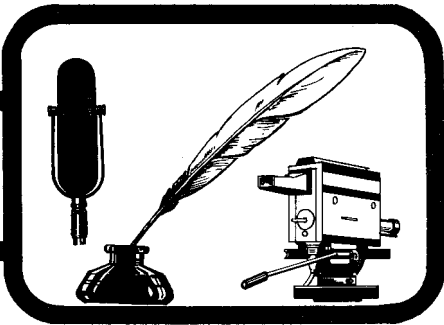
I think, Mr. Speaker, that it would be well to go over the steps this Administration has already taken in that effort.

We have renounced an imposed military solution; we have proposed free elections under international supervision; we have said we will retain no military bases; we have offered to negotiate an internationally supervised cease fire; we are willing to settle for the de facto removal of North Vietnamese troops so long as there are guarantees against their return; we are prepared to accept any results of a free election and we are prepared to discuss the 10-point program put forward by the North Vietnamese.

Mr. Speaker, the President is indeed walking the extra mile in the quest for peace. It is up to the North Vietnamese to see that he does not walk it alone and in vain.

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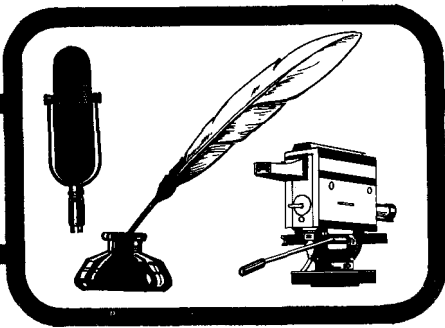
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CONGRESSMAN
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HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
September 18, 1969

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader. U. S. House of Representatives, on the floor of the House, Thursday, September 18, 1969.

Mr. Speaker, if the United Nations is to be more than a debating society and a propaganda forum, the members of that organization must respond meaningfully to President Nixon's urging that they persuade Hanoi to engage in productive peace negotiations at Paris.

I would like at this time to commend President Nixon for going before the United Nations to make this eloquent appeal for peace, this plea that member nations of the U.N. seek to use their good offices on behalf of an early peace in Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, there is no problem facing this Nation that is more pressing than the Vietnam War. Any effort, therefore, that the President makes which may have beneficial results is very much to be applauded.

I mentioned yesterday during House discussion of the prisoner of war issue that world opinion counts for something even among Communist nations. I believe that to be true, and it is for that reason I feel that President Nixon's appeal to the United Nations may have some impact on North Vietnam.

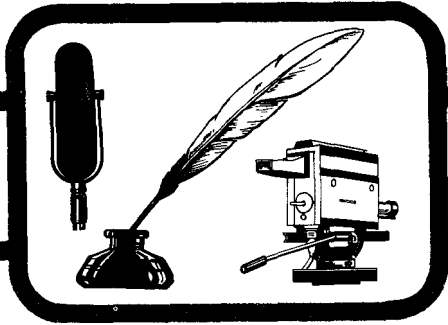
If all 126 members of the U.N. were to pressure North Vietnam for more meaningful peace negotiations, I believe the result would be beneficial in the cause of peace.

If only a fraction of the U.N. members but a sizable number were to raise their voices in protest against the unyielding position of North Vietnam at Paris, the result might be to move the other side to some degree.

Mr. Speaker, I believe President Nixon's initiative in going before the United Nations on behalf of world peace will have a salutary effect. I feel he deserves the commendation of the entire House.

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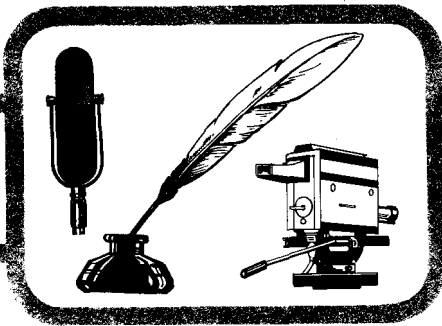
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CONGRESSMAN
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HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
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--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
September 26, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives,
re: President Nixon's press conference comments.

I expect an increasing majority of the American people will support President Nixon's declarations on policy in Vietnam.

The facts cited by Mr. Nixon at his press conference Friday showing progress in Vietnam -- the decline in U.S. casualties, the sharp drop in enemy infiltration as compared with the first nine months of last year, and other indicators -- prove to my satisfaction that the President's Vietnam policy is sound.

I agree with President Nixon that setting an arbitrary date for complete U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam would not only undermine but completely destroy our bargaining position at Paris. Such a pronouncement would be harmful, not helpful.

There is an unfortunate tendency among some Americans to abandon that objective which the President has declared as "non-negotiable" -- the right of the South Vietnamese people to decide for themselves who their leaders shall be.

Any willingness to junk that objective plays into the enemy's hands and encourages them to drag the war out instead of negotiating a political solution.

As President Nixon has repeatedly made clear, we are pursuing a negotiated settlement in Vietnam. The only ingredient lacking at present is enemy willingness to negotiate.

The other side will negotiate, as the President said, when the enemy becomes convinced they have nothing to gain by waiting us out.

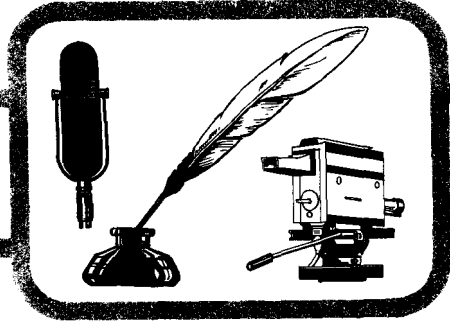
On another subject, I would also like to comment on President Nixon's prospects for winning congressional approval of automatic cost-of-living increases in Social Security benefits.

It should be emphasized that both the Democratic and Republican platforms of 1968 contained planks endorsing automatic rises in Social Security payments to keep pace with the cost-of-living.

Under the circumstances, I think chances for enactment of such legislation are good. Any failure will be the responsibility of the Democratic Congress.

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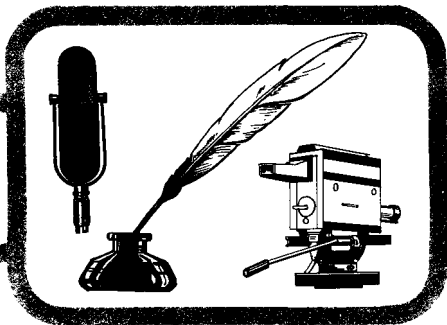
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**NEWS
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---FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE---
September 29, 1969

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives,
on the floor of the House, September 29, 1969.

Last Friday the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee joined a small group of Congressmen who would limit the President's options in Vietnam by demanding a specific timetable for a United States withdrawal -- a withdrawal without terms and without honor, a withdrawal tantamount to surrender.

The National Chairman, who also is a Democratic Senator from Oklahoma, presumably speaks for a segment of the Democratic Party when it is out of power.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe that Chairman Harris speaks or acts for all the members of his Party, or even a majority of it.

I cannot believe he speaks for the Speaker of the House, or for the Majority Leader, or for hundreds of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, there was a time when politics in the Congress stopped at the water's edge. There was a time when Republicans and Democrats alike supported our Presidents in their conduct of foreign affairs and in the waging of war.

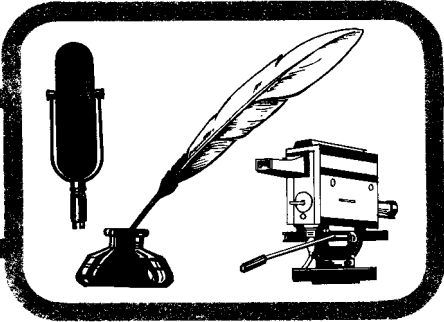
I hope that era has not ended. Today, with a Republican President in office, there are those who would intensify the effort to make war and foreign affairs matters for partisan politics.

But, Mr. Speaker, I still do not believe that any one man, regardless of his party position, does speak or can speak for the Democrats in this Congress and in this nation, especially in an area where national commitments and national integrity are at stake.

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that for most Americans, of both parties, politics still does end at the water's edge. And I am sure that the leadership in both parties agrees with that position.

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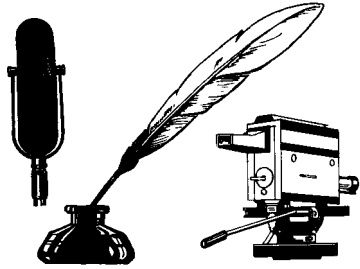
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**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON EDT--
October 15, 1969

HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERS SPONSOR RESOLUTION
REPUDIATING OPEN LETTER FROM NORTH VIETNAM

House Majority Leader Carl Albert, D-Okla., and House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., today joined in sponsoring a resolution calling upon the House of Representatives to repudiate North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong's open letter to the American people.

Ford drafted the resolution in cooperation with Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott, R-Pa. Scott introduced an identical resolution in the Senate.

The resolution resulted from a meeting of House Democratic and Republican Leaders, House Foreign Affairs Chairman Thomas E. Morgan, D-Pa., and House Foreign Affairs ranking minority member E. Ross Adair, R-Ind.

Albert read the resolution to the House, expressing the hope that the House would adopt it later Wednesday under unanimous consent procedure.

The resolution not only repudiates Pham Van Dong's letter but also calls upon the American people to disassociate themselves from "North Vietnam's insolent and intolerable declaration" that the Vietnam Moratorium is "their fall offensive" aimed at forcing immediate U.S. withdrawal from South Vietnam. At the same time, the resolution upholds the right of every American to dissent from public policy.

The resolution is attached.

#

91st Congress
1st Session

House Res. _____

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

October 15, 1969

Mr. Albert, for himself and Mr. Gerald R. Ford submitted the following House resolution; which was referred to the Committee on

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

Relating to demonstrations for peace

Whereas responsible dissent and freedom of speech are among the most sacred traditions of the American people; and

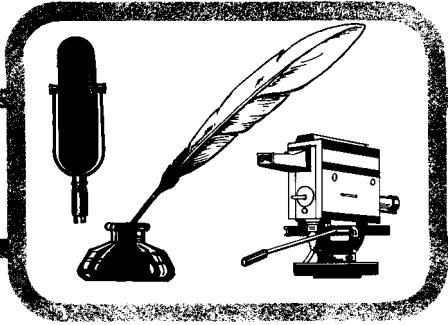
Whereas many Americans are demonstrating their concern for peace pursuant to rights enjoyed under the Constitution of the United States, from which springs our nation's deep commitment to peaceful debate, the essence of our free political system; and

Whereas the Premier of North Vietnam has publicly described the Vietnam Moratorium in an open letter to the American people as "their fall offensive" aimed at forcing the United States "to withdraw completely and unconditionally" from Vietnam; and

Whereas the said Premier greatly misjudges Americans, and deceives himself if he believes that those who demonstrate are doing so with a desire to assist Hanoi; and

Whereas the said Premier's letter to the American people is a blatant and insolent intrusion into the affairs of the American people by an enemy;

Resolved by the H O U S E of Representatives, That we support the inherent right of all Americans to responsible and peaceful dissent, but we abhor the attempt of Premier Pham Van Dong to associate those Americans who demonstrate for peace with the cause of our enemy; and resolved further that we repudiate the premier's letter and call upon all Americans to disassociate themselves from North Vietnam's insolent and intolerable declaration.



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
October 22, 1969

I have been polling my constituents during the past few weeks and have been amazed to find how few Americans are fully aware of what President Nixon has done to promote peace in Vietnam.

There are, in fact, some who profess to see no difference in President Nixon's Vietnam policies and those of his predecessor in the White House. This of course is an unfortunate indication of blindness to the facts.

Now we have a summing up of Nixon Policy facts on Vietnam from the White House, and this White House paper is one which should be studied by all Americans. It spells out succinctly how different the Nixon Policy on Vietnam has been and the results which have been obtained. It is most timely and much needed.

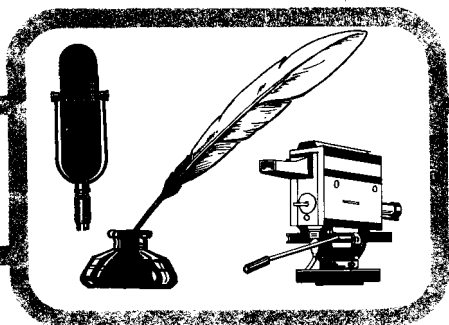
One of the results should have been a breakthrough at Paris. Logic would indicate this, in view of President Nixon's announced willingness to negotiate on every point raised by the other side and his willingness to make every issue negotiable except the right of the South Vietnamese to determine their own future through free elections.

The White House paper makes clear the dual track that the Nixon Administration has followed in pursuing peace in Vietnam -- a wide-open agenda at Paris, and a Vietnamization process that has us turning the war over to the South Vietnamese.

The unspoken element in the White House paper is this: We will not simply hand over South Vietnam to the Communists -- not at Paris or in the field. And for this as well as his great pursuit of an honorable peace I salute the President.

#

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

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
October 22, 1969

I have been polling my constituents during the past few weeks and have been amazed to find how few Americans are fully aware of what President Nixon has done to promote peace in Vietnam.

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###

AFTER HEARING PRESIDENT NIXON'S ADDRESS TO THE NATION, I AM MORE CONVINCED THAN EVER OF THE RIGHTNESS OF HIS COURSE ON VIETNAM.

I FULLY AGREE WITH MR. NIXON'S REJECTION OF IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL AND HIS POLICY OF PHASING OUT AMERICAN TROOPS AND PHASING IN SOUTH VIETNAMESE, WITH A CONTINUED PUSH TOWARD MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS. WE MUST NOT HAVE AN AMERICAN DUNKIRK IN VIETNAM.

MR. NIXON'S SPEECH LEADS ME TO BELIEVE WE CAN ACHIEVE A PEACE IN VIETNAM THAT WILL DISCOURAGE COMMUNIST AGGRESSION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD. THE BEST WAY FOR AMERICANS TO REALIZE THAT OBJECTIVE IS TO SHOW STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT IN THIS TIME OF CRISIS. PRESIDENT NIXON HAS MADE A FRANK AND FORTHRIGHT STATEMENT ON VIETNAM. HE IS FULLY DESERVING OF THE PEOPLE'S TRUST AND CONFIDENCE.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
November 5, 1969

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U. S. House of Representatives, of the floor of the House, Wednesday, November 5, 1969.

Mr. Speaker, we have all heard considerable comment recently about special election trends, so perhaps I may be permitted to do some vote analyzing of my own today, on the first anniversary of President Nixon's victory in 1968.

It seems plain to me that the great silent majority of Americans who went to the polls yesterday continued and intensified the Republican tide which began to flow in the Congressional elections of 1966 and will inevitably lead, I am confident, to further gains in the 92nd Congress and in other State and local elections next year.

While a spot poll shown me at the White House this morning showed that 77 percent of the American people rallied behind President Nixon on his Vietnam policy of peace with honor, it is hard to say what effect, if any, this had on yesterday's balloting. What is obvious is that the impressive Republican victories rolled up were not restricted to any local district or to one region of the country. As David Broder observed in this morning's Washington Post:

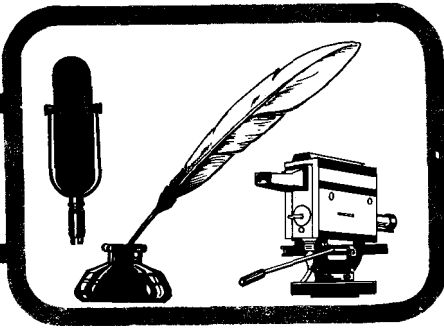
"Republican candidates have won important victories in two important states, one the most urbanized state of the populous Northeast, and the other a former Democratic bastion in the South. Local GOP candidates ran well in Philadelphia, Newark and a number of other major cities."

Republicans will now hold 32 of the 50 State governorships, and I want to congratulate our colleague, Bill Cahill, on his impressive victory in New Jersey (where the contest for a vacant Democratic seat in the House is still a cliff-hanger) and also Lin Holton, and the other successful Republicans in Virginia, for their fine showing.

One further point: let it be remembered that President Nixon campaigned vigorously and personally for both Governors-elect. Had either of these candidates been defeated, it certainly would have been widely interpreted as a rebuke to the President and a repudiation of his Republican Administration policies.

Since they were not defeated, but instead were elected by larger-than-expected majorities, I hope the opposite conclusion will be conceded. It was a great victory for the Nixon Administration and a great day for the Republican Party.

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HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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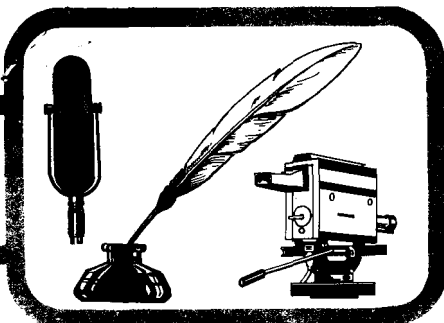
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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

November 8, 1969

NOTE TO NEWS MEDIA: This radio script taped by Rep. Gerald R. Ford for use by Fifth District stations the weekend of November 8-9 is being made available to you for use as you see fit beginning Saturday, November 8.

Today I want to talk with you about a variety of topics...action by the Congress and other important developments here in the Nation's Capital.

The most significant happening here, of course, has been President Nixon's address to the nation on Vietnam, and the show of support for him that followed that speech.

As you know, thousands of telegrams in support of the President's Vietnam policy poured into the White House after Americans heard Mr. Nixon explain why he has chosen to pursue his plan for peace in Vietnam and has rejected immediate withdrawal and surrender.

I think this tremendous show of support for the President was primarily in response to four sentences in his Vietnam speech. "Let us be united for peace. Let us also be united against defeat. Because let us understand: North Vietnam cannot defeat or humiliate the United States. Only Americans can do that."

I agree completely with this statement by President Nixon. And I feel sure that a solid majority of all Americans agree with him too.

That is why I believe the second Vietnam Moratorium, planned for Nov. 13 through 15 will not only fail to arouse greater support for immediate U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam but will boomerang on those who urge a U.S. surrender in Vietnam.

One reason I believe the Vietnam Moratorium next week will boomerang is that while some of the leaders are simply idealistic young men others are dedicated American Communists. It is Communists like David Dellinger and other members of the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam who will be leading the Moratorium demonstration in Washington on Nov. 15. I believe the American people will feel repelled by this demonstration and will make their feelings known.

President Nixon has made clear what the choice for America is in Vietnam: Defeat by the Communists -- what I call an American Dunkirk in Vietnam -- or his pursuit of a peace with honor either through negotiations or through Vietnamization of the war.

(more)

As the President has said, the consequences of an American defeat in Vietnam would be a disaster of the greatest magnitude -- "a collapse of confidence in American leadership not only in Asia but throughout the world," and, ultimately, it would not bring peace but more war.

Now there are a number of other items to which I would like to call your attention.

The House of Representatives, by an overwhelming vote, has passed a bill which would allow President Nixon to establish a lottery system -- a true random selection system -- for picking draftees. Unfortunately, the Democratic leaders in the Senate have indicated there will be no Senate action on this bill. I hope the members of the Senate will enter into a gentlemen's agreement to approve the one change in the draft law the President is asking for now and to take up comprehensive reform of the draft law next year. This is the course of action which is indicated now. It is vital for the Nation.

In recent actions, the House of Representatives passed a long-needed measure to protect coal miners. It requires mine owners to adopt safety practices recommended by President Nixon and the House Education and Labor Committee.

The House also has passed a bill providing Federal funds to help schools educate their pupils on the dangers of drug abuse. This is a much-needed three-year program in drug abuse education.

Finally, I want to point out that President Nixon has sent the Congress proposals to greatly strengthen protection for the American consumer. He is asking for a fair deal for the consumer in the market place. He proposes a Buyer's Bill of Rights that would set up a new Office of Consumer Affairs, strengthen the Federal Trade Commission, and in other ways protect the consumer against fraud and dishonesty. I hope the Congress acts soon on the President's consumer proposals.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
November 24, 1969

Remarks prepared for delivery by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, Monday, Nov. 24, 1969.

Mr. Speaker: The march of an estimated 250,000 Vietnam demonstrators down Pennsylvania Avenue on Nov. 15 was a peaceful protest sanctioned by the Constitution. Because it was peaceful, little attention has been paid to the destruction and violence engaged in by the relatively small radical element among the demonstrators.

I take this opportunity to inform the House that the three-day Vietnam Moratorium cost the taxpayers over one and a half million dollars and cost private business interests an estimated \$240,000 to boot.

In addition to detailing these costs, the Justice Department reports that 606 persons were injured during the Moratorium and it was necessary to arrest 361 individuals.

Treatment was administered to individuals at six area hospitals and various first-aid stations for everything from trauma to the effects of tear gassing. Twenty-six police officers were among those receiving treatment.

Total estimated cost of the Moratorium is placed at \$1,816,622 on the basis of reliable estimates made by the Federal Government, the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, and knowledgeable business firms.

In the aftermath of the demonstrations, 503 area firms placed orders for replacement of broken glass. Of that number, 25 were downtown financial institutions.

In government buildings, 111 windows were broken. There also was paint damage and damage to nine glass doors. Twenty buildings owned or leased by the government were involved. Greatest damage was to the Justice Department and Internal Revenue Service buildings. Repairs will cost an estimated \$10,000.

Damage of up to \$12,000 was done to United States parks property, and \$6,000 damage to 76 law enforcement vehicles.

Overall costs included \$936,088 for standby military support of civil authority; \$473,776 in overtime pay for members of the three major metropolitan area police departments during the three-day Moratorium; \$91,760 in General

(more)

Services Administration costs; \$38,497 for support personnel for the United States Marshals Service and Justice Department legal divisions; and \$8,500 for debris removal.

The Moratorium record in terms of injuries, arrests, damage and other costs is as follows:

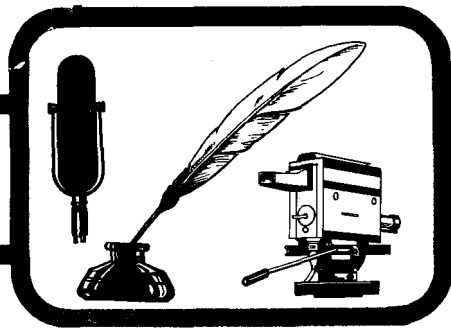
SUMMARY

Injured	606
Arrests	361
Damage to 503 private buildings	\$240,000
Damage to 20 government buildings	\$ 10,000
Damage to 76 law enforcement vehicles	\$ 6,000
Damage to park property	\$ 12,000
Military operations costs	\$936,088
Law Enforcement overtime pay	\$473,776
Department of Justice support personnel	\$ 38,497
General Services Administration	\$ 91,761
Debris removal	\$ 8,500
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TOTAL	\$1,816,622
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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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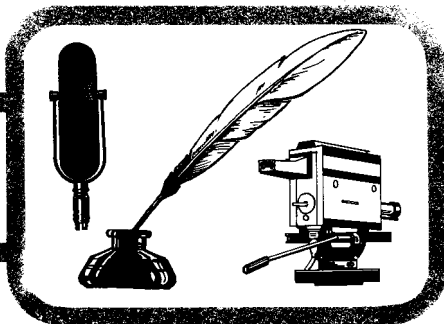
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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

NEWS
RELEASE

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
December 15, 1969

I applaud the 50,000-man U.S. troop cut announced by the President and suggest that the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong can expect to deal with a stronger South Vietnam in the future.

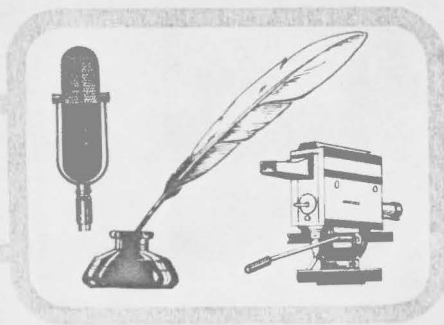
The President's latest cut in U.S. troops in Vietnam should convince even the "most doubting of Thomases" that he has a carefully drawn program to end the Vietnam War and that he is proceeding with that plan on schedule.

It is difficult to understand why the North Vietnamese leaders do not seek to hasten U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam by meaningful steps toward a military and political settlement of the conflict.

The evidence to date indicates that the South Vietnamese are measuring up to what is being demanded of them in connection with Vietnamization of the war. To that the North Vietnamese should pay heed.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
April 30, 1970

A Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U.S. House of Reps.

The President made the right choice regarding Cambodia if we are to continue to bring American G.I.'s home from Vietnam.

This was a very courageous action on his part--an act of great statesmanship. It took courage for him to take this hard, difficult and temporarily unpopular course.

Actually, this may be a great opportunity to shorten the war.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

RELEASE ON RECEIPT

May 2, 1970

House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford today said that statement by some Senate Democrats that they might refuse to attend a Presidential briefing on Cambodia are "too arrogant by double." Ford made the remark in response to press reports that an unidentified Senator called the President's decision to invite both House and Senate members of the Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees to the White House briefings "too clever by half."

"Any Senator who criticizes the President for deciding to brief the pertinent members of both houses on matters of great importance is "too arrogant by double," Ford said.

Ford strongly endorsed the President's invitation to meet committees next Tuesday, emphasizing the responsibility of the House to participate in such discussions of major military and foreign policy matters.

Ford said he has read reports that some Senators "might find the joint meeting unacceptable" and that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman, William Fulbright, "could not accede" to the invitation without consulting his committee first. He noted that Senators are quoted as saying that the proposed meetings are a "farce" and a "slap in the face."

Ford declared, "Just as the Constitution provides for three branches of government -- Legislative, Executive and Judicial -- it also sets up two co-equal branches of Congress -- The Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate has special prerogatives regarding confirmations and advise and consent to treaties, just as the House has special prerogatives in other areas, but it is nonsense to contend that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has a monopoly on foreign relations. Furthermore, the President is not seeking the advice and consent of the Senate to a treaty; he has offered to discuss with affected committees of Congress the use of American military forces in Cambodia. He is to be commended for offering to do this and his invitation very properly included both the Senate and the House.

"I trust that members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee do not feel too self-important to sit in the same room with the President of the United States and their colleagues from the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Any suggestion of that kind by some individuals in the other body is repugnant to everyone of the 435 legislators in the House.

(more)

If there are to be objections to joint meetings of these committees with the President, I suggest it is the House Committee that has been insulted and is entitled to an apology from the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

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Official Copy

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., prepared for delivery on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, Thursday, June 4, 1970.

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

Mr. Speaker: I was most pleased to see the President make an interim report to the American people last night on the results of the Cambodian operation.

I was personally impressed by that report and I feel certain that most other Americans were also. It seemed to me that President Nixon's presentation could not help but reassure the Nation regarding the Cambodian Operation.

The President's report was a dramatic outline of the facts surrounding events in Cambodia. I agree with the President that the Cambodian Operation must be described as the most successful military mission we have ever undertaken in the Vietnam War.

I was glad the President reviewed the reasons for our attack on the Communist sanctuaries in Cambodia. Americans now recognize the necessity for the Cambodian Operation since, as the President explained last night, the Communists were making the entire 600-mile Cambodian-South Vietnamese border a launching area for attacks on American and allied forces in Vietnam.

There is no question but that we have achieved the basic objectives of the Cambodian Operation. And those Americans concerned about a widening of the war should be reassured by the President's promise that the only U.S. activity in Cambodia after July 1 will be air missions to interdict the movement of enemy troops and materiel. They should also be reassured by the President's statement that the door to a negotiated peace is "wide open."

Mr. Speaker, the President deserves the broadest possible public support for his continuing efforts to win a just peace in Vietnam. I believe his report to the Nation last night will earn him support except from those persons and groups who would be satisfied with nothing less than immediate withdrawal from Vietnam, regardless of the consequences.

President Nixon has kept his word to the American people. He has demonstrated himself to be a strong leader, a man the people can look to for strong decision-making, a man they can trust, a man in whom they can believe. The American people should give peace a chance by giving the President a chance.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
June 30, 1970

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives.

The time has come to launch a new effort to get the Paris peace talks moving toward a negotiated settlement of the Vietnam War.

Our present top negotiator, Philip C. Habib, has been doing an excellent job under most difficult circumstances. It seems wise at this point to broaden the U.S. negotiating team by the appointment of high level advisers to those who have carried the burden in Paris. The top level adviser group should come from among the most highly respected and knowledgeable negotiators in the country.

This, I believe, would be the logical follow-through for President Nixon after his impressive report to the Nation on our Cambodia Operation.

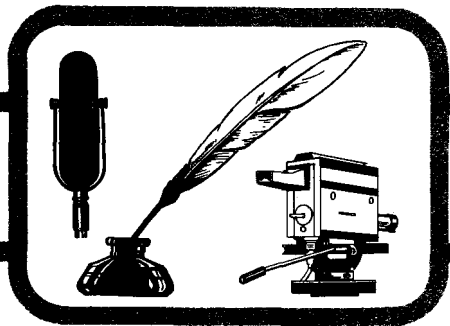
As the President said, the Vietnam War has reached another crossroad. This is a juncture at which the Communists should opt for a negotiated settlement and an early peace rather than a protracted struggle.

I strongly believe, along with the President, that the Cambodian Operation was necessary and that it has proved a solid success. There are those who persist in calling the Cambodian Operation a failure because they favor immediate withdrawal from Indochina and want our military operations there to fail. It is impossible for me to understand how anyone could call our Cambodian Operation an invasion of Cambodia when the North Vietnamese were already there and we simply crossed the border to attack them.

One of the most encouraging results of the Cambodian Operation is that it showed the South Vietnamese to be increasingly able to handle the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong in sustained combat.

This is a big plus and one which indicates to me that withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Vietnam can be speeded up.

#



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
July 2, 1970

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives.

There is real hope for some movement in the Paris peace talks.

The North Vietnamese negotiators at Paris have complained for months that the U.S. downgraded the talks by leaving the post of permanent chief negotiator in the U.S. delegation vacant.

Now that President Nixon has named Ambassador K. E. Bruce to the position of U.S. delegation chief, the North Vietnamese should reciprocate with some gesture on their part which might break the long impasse.

Certainly the President has made a fresh move in the direction of peace by the appointment of Ambassador Bruce and his offer to remove all U.S. troops from South Vietnam within a year "if the enemy will negotiate with our new ambassador."

The demand by the Senate doves for equal time to reply to the President is ridiculous on the face of it. If the television networks are to respond to such demands every time the President makes a TV appearance we soon will have government by equal time -- a constant squaring off of the President and certain members of the Senate. That does not make sense to me. It is simply divisive. The President has every right to make periodic reports to the American people without being subjected to political sniping immediately afterward.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT--

Issued August 14, 1970

A local chapter of the Michigan Prisoner of War Committee has been established in Grand Rapids. I would like to urge that the people in our area respond to the fullest extent possible to the local POW chapter's request that they write letters to Hanoi asking humane treatment and complete information on American POWs in North Vietnam and our men missing in action.

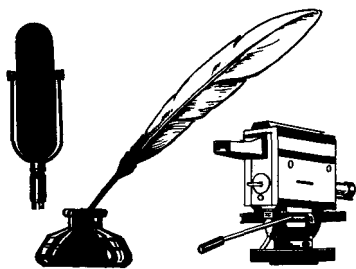
What is needed is full and continuing public demands that Hanoi live up to the terms of the Geneva Convention regarding prisoners of war. Letters from the Grand Rapids area can help. Every letter counts.

I personally have written to the ambassadors of four countries--France, Sweden, India and Poland--asking that their governments urge Hanoi to provide humane treatment for the POWs and "to inform our government of their condition so that their families may be given a report on their health and welfare." These letters were written just recently. All of the countries involved except Poland have responded affirmatively.

Something which is not generally known is that the prisoner of war issue has been put forward as a central topic by the United States at the peace talks in Paris. I fully endorse this approach and I hope and pray it produces beneficial results. Our chief negotiator at Paris, Ambassador David K.E. Bruce, declared in his first statement at Paris recently: "As a result of the discussion thus far, we know what the central issues are to which we must now turn our attention with renewed vigor. These issues are the withdrawal of troops, a political settlement and prisoners of war."

The Congress also has been focusing attention on the prisoner of war issue and turning the heat on Hanoi. I co-sponsored a prisoner of war resolution which was adopted by the House of Representatives Dec. 15, 1969, and approved by the Senate Feb. 18, 1970. I also joined with other House members in speaking out on the issue of our prisoners of war and men missing in action. The resolution calls on President Nixon, the Departments of State and Defense, the United Nations, and the citizens of the world to appeal to the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong for humane treatment of American prisoners. Technically, it asks the Communists to accept the tenets of the Geneva Convention concerning prisoners of war and to take steps to obtain the humane treatment and prompt release of all members of the Armed Forces of the United States now held as prisoners of war.

The wives and families of the U.S. servicemen who are prisoners of war or are missing in action know the problem. They deserve the respect, support and admiration of all our citizens.



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

NEWS RELEASE

--FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT--

Issued August 14, 1970

A local chapter of the Michigan Prisoner of War Committee has been established in Grand Rapids. I would like to urge that the people in our area respond to the fullest extent possible to the local POW chapter's request that they write letters to Hanoi asking humane treatment and complete information on American POWs in North Vietnam and our men missing in action.

What is needed is full and continuing public demands that Hanoi live up to the terms of the Geneva Convention regarding prisoners of war. Letters from the Grand Rapids area can help. Every letter counts.

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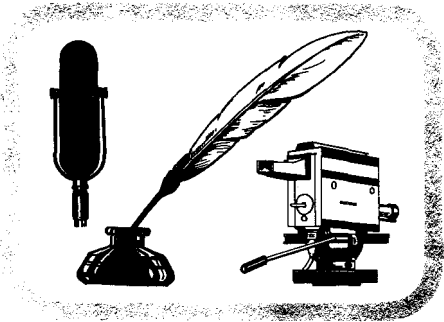
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**CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS
RELEASE**

**--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
October 8, 1970**

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, prepared for delivery on the Floor of the U.S. House of Representatives Thursday, Oct. 8, 1970.

Mr. Speaker: President Nixon has advanced a dramatic new bid for peace in all of Indochina. The President's five proposals for peace place the onus for a continuing war in Indochina squarely on the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong.

Despite the initial negative reaction of the North Vietnamese and Vietcong at Paris, Mr. Speaker, I do believe the President's peace proposals may ultimately produce a breakthrough that could lead to any one or all of his objectives--a silencing of all guns in Indochina, an Indochina peace conference, a mutual withdrawal of all forces, release of prisoners of war, and a political settlement of the conflict.

Mr. Nixon's offer to negotiate a supervised standstill cease-fire and a firm time-table for withdrawal of all U.S. forces is most significant. This could be the trigger for meaningful talks in Paris.

I am pleased that the President has called for a supervised cease-fire rather than one like the 14 holiday cease fires we have agreed to in the past. The previous cease fires have been used by the North Vietnamese and Vietcong as a pause that refreshes.

With his five proposals for peace, the President has now laid on the negotiating table the basis for both a military and political settlement of the war in Indochina. The door to negotiation is wide open.

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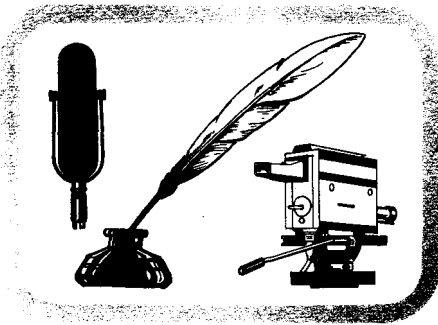
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**CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

February 8, 1971

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford

I strongly support the South Vietnamese incursion into Southern Laos and President Nixon's decision to provide the South Vietnamese with the air support they need to destroy vitally important North Vietnamese bases.

The objective of the operation is to disrupt the supply and infiltration network of the North Vietnamese forces in Laos and thus to ensure the continued withdrawal of U.S. forces from Vietnam. The operation by South Vietnamese forces not only will achieve this objective but will open the door to accelerated withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam.

Like the Cambodian venture, the incursion into Southern Laos promises to destroy the enemy's ability to mount a major new offensive against South Vietnam, taking us into a new monsoon season and ensuring continued success of President Nixon's Vietnamization program.

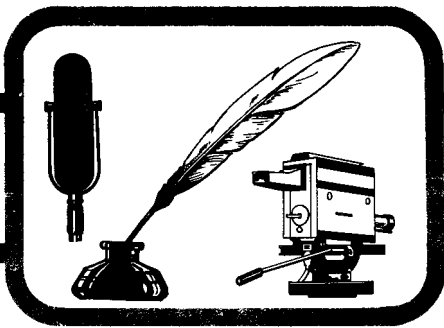
The North Vietnamese forces and military supplies in Laos posed an increasing threat to U.S. forces as they were being withdrawn. Their supply and infiltration network has been used for many years to launch attacks against U.S. and South Vietnamese forces in South Vietnam.

The territory in which this action is taking place has been subjected to U.S. air attacks since 1965 and is therefore not a new theater of military operations.

While the South Vietnamese incursion into Laos is a new development, the government of Laos has candidly stated that this incursion has been forced by the North Vietnamese. I fully agree with that view of the situation.

All Americans should applaud the determination of the South Vietnamese to protect their own vital interests and should applaud the Laotian incursion as an assist to U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam.

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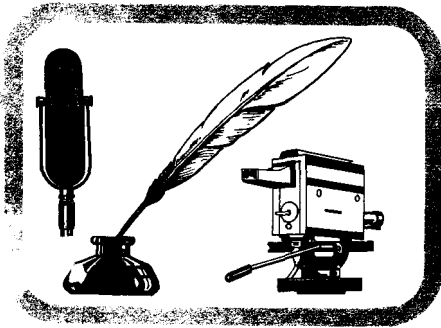
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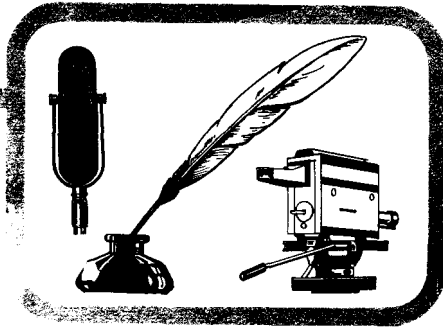
March 31, 1971

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford

I applaud the action of the Democratic Caucus of the House of Representatives in urging full support of President Nixon's initiatives for peace in Vietnam and the release of all prisoners of war. The President will be strengthened by the support of all Americans in the courageous course he is pursuing.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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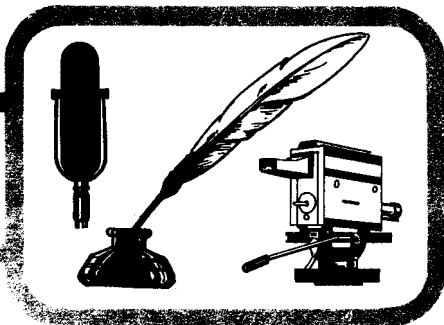
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**CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS
RELEASE**

---FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON WEDNESDAY---

June 23, 1971

I agree with the Senate's policy resolution on Vietnam in the sense that it reflects a desire to withdraw from Vietnam at a pace faster than the present withdrawal rate.

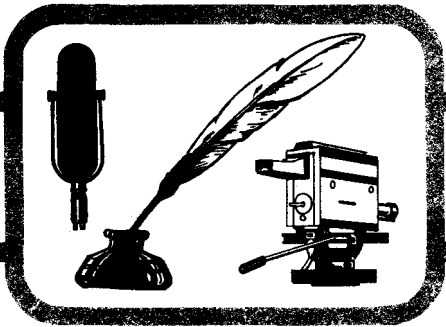
However, I do not believe the Congress should as a matter of policy lay down any kind of a deadline for the President on total withdrawal from Vietnam. I am opposed to this because it tends to deprive the President of the flexibility he needs to manage our withdrawal from Vietnam properly and possibly to bring about a negotiated settlement. It is deficient in that there is no requirement for a Communist withdrawal from South Vietnam.

I said earlier that I favor a faster withdrawal from Vietnam. I do believe the rate of withdrawal can and should be speeded up, and I am urging the President and the Secretary of Defense to accelerate it.

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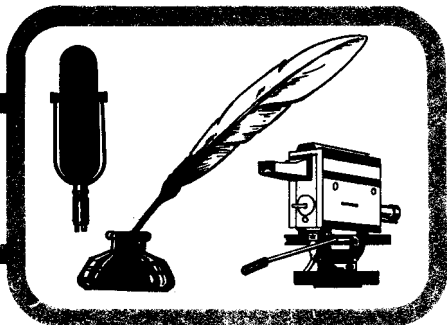
Thursday, July 1, 1971

The latest North Vietnamese peace proposal is an encouraging development.

Because the United States has remained firm, the North Vietnamese have moved closer to terms acceptable to us.

The negotiators on both sides should now seek to resolve all problems standing in the way of a secure and permanent peace.

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HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS
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Thursday, July 1, 1971

The Supreme Court decision in the Pentagon Papers Case bears out a belief I have long held--that there is an unhealthy tendency for Government documents to be overclassified. During the same period covered by the Pentagon Papers, I often fought with Defense Department officials to declassify testimony presented to the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, of which I was a member.

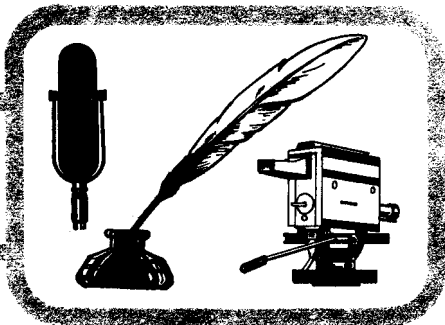
I urge that the Secretary of Defense immediately declassify the Pentagon Papers so that members of Congress will be under no more restraint than the press with regard to the information contained in them. I also urge the declassification of House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee transcripts for the same period.

I do not believe it makes sense for the Defense Department to provide each member of Congress with a set of the 47-volume Pentagon Papers. This should be ruled out on the grounds of expense. A few more copies for the House and Senate would be sufficient.

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**CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
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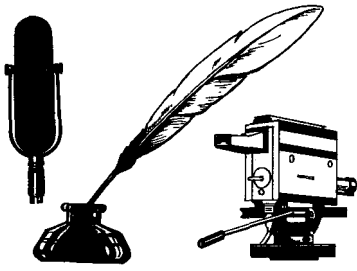
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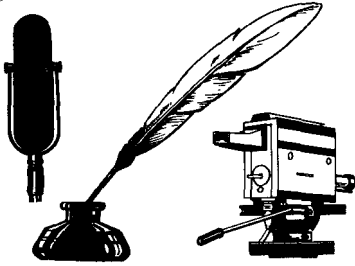
January 13, 1972

The President's latest Vietnam troop withdrawal announcement is clear evidence of his determination to end our involvement in Vietnam contingent upon release of American prisoners of war. It is ironic that a number of Democrats now seeking their party's presidential nomination are demanding an even faster pullout and yet said nothing when U.S. troop levels were escalated beyond 500,000 by the previous Administration. This is the height of hypocrisy.

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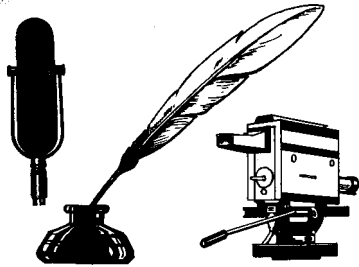
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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

Wednesday, January 26, 1972

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford

The President has set the record straight by revealing his vigorous efforts to end the Vietnam War through broad and comprehensive secret negotiations.

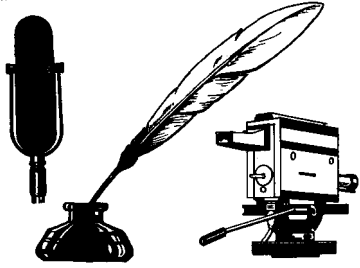
The North Vietnamese have not categorically rejected the President's latest offer.

Hopefully the President's peace plan, now made public, will be a start toward an ultimate settlement.

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

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
February 2, 1972

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford

Senator Muskie's foreign policy address this morning is a blatant misrepresentation of the President's peace initiatives, aimed at furthering the senator's political ambitions.

Can we attribute anything other than pure political motives to such statements when they come from a United States senator who voted for between 92-100% of the foreign policy legislation of the 1960's; who voted yes for the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and for every piece of Vietnam aid legislation until President Nixon took office; and who supported the escalation of the Vietnam War every inch of the way?

The President has asked that partisan politics be kept out of the important business of ending the war, and I would urge that the Maine senator take heed of that request.

The search for peace is too delicate and too important to be impeded by such partisan attacks.

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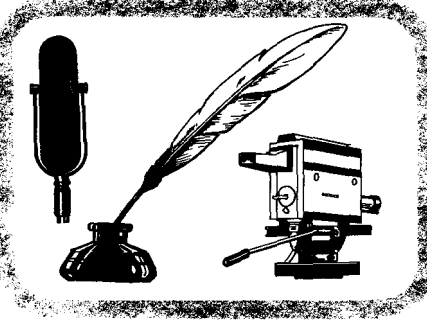
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**CONGRESSMAN
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HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

April 17, 1972

The U.S. raids on Hanoi and Haiphong are a completely justified and justifiable response to the North Vietnamese invasion of South Vietnam.

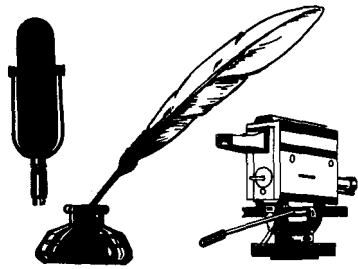
Hanoi has offered to resume the Paris peace talks if we will halt the bombing. Our answer to that should be that we will stop the bombing if Hanoi will stop the invasion.

This is a most logical quid pro quo. After all, it was the invasion that triggered the bombing.

We should also be mindful of the fact that North Vietnamese and Viet Cong negotiators have been meeting with the allies in Paris for three years with no appreciable results. Resumption of such stalemated talks is an inadequate exchange for a bombing halt.

Nothing less than a halt in the invasion would justify a halt in the bombing.

###



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

NEWS RELEASE

--FOR RELEASE IN FRIDAY PM's--
April 21, 1972

(For further information
contact: Paul Miltich
225-3831.)

I am astounded that members of the Congress of the United States would respond to a full-scale enemy invasion, an invasion which threatens the lives of American forces, by condemning the government of the United States. It is not the American government that invaded another country, it is not the American government that covets anybody else's territory or threatens anybody else's freedom. It is not the American government that has nearly its entire military forces operating beyond its own borders in calculated aggression against another people. It is Hanoi. What, then, is the reasoning behind the condemnation of the American government?

There can be no reasoning based on the military realities in Vietnam. The facts there speak for themselves -- telling us who seeks to destroy freedom in South Vietnam, and who seeks to defend it.

The reasoning must be sought elsewhere, and I believe it is to be found in the realities of domestic politics in a campaign year.

Unfortunately a majority of the Democrats are now doing what Richard Nixon has always steadfastly refused to do -- they are injecting politics into the war.

It is a fundamental fact of the long survival of this nation that politics has always stopped at the water's edge. How much more critical it is that we stand united now -- that politics stop at the water's edge when the President is doing everything in his power to end a war and preserve a people's freedom. I don't think that deserves condemnation. I think it deserves praise.

In these last crucial months, while Vietnamization and American withdrawal are going through their final phases, let us keep partisanship out of the war.

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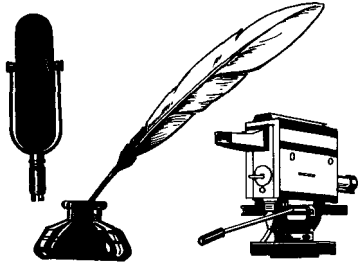
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**CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M.--

Wednesday, April 26, 1972

Madame Binh's attempt to win Congress' support for the Communist position in the Vietnam War is disgusting evidence of how poor the judgment of the Congress appears to be in the eyes of the Communist world.

It is hard to believe that the Communists would take the liberty of seeking House and Senate support against our own President at a time when virtually the entire North Vietnamese Army is engaged in a wholesale invasion of South Vietnam across the DMZ.

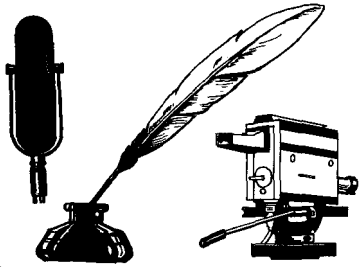
However, the statements made by certain Democratic presidential candidates and other members of Congress since the onset of the North Vietnamese invasion must have convinced Mrs. Binh that we are ready to make peace on Communist terms.

We must reject the attempted lobbying by the Communists as wholly inappropriate, and should say to Madame Binh that her efforts are repugnant to the people of the United States.

American foreign policy should be made by the President of the United States, without the interference of Communist lobbyists such as Madame Binh.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

NEWS RELEASE

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

April 27, 1972

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives,
on the floor of the House, Thursday, April 27, 1972.

MR. SPEAKER: We are met in an hour of crisis in the Vietnam War.

The President has risen to meet the crisis with a courage and resoluteness we would all do well to emulate.

The President has resolved to continue the bombing in the Vietnam War until the Communists halt their invasion of South Vietnam. I believe that is the right course for this Nation to pursue.

The President has announced he will continue to withdraw American ground troops from South Vietnam. Our ability to continue troop withdrawals despite the enemy invasion gives me confidence in the President's leadership and in the wisdom of his Vietnam policy.

The President's determination to hew to the course he has set on Vietnam is tempered by the apprehension that Congress may undercut that policy. Madame Binh is lobbying the Congress because certain members of the Congress have led Hanoi to believe the United States will make peace in Vietnam on North Vietnamese terms -- that we will simply hand South Vietnam over to the North.

Capitulation can be avoided if we demonstrate the same brand of courage displayed by the President at this time of crisis. Let the Communists know the Congress wants a peace which is fair and just to both sides. Let the Communists know we will never hand them at the negotiating table what they cannot win on the battlefield.

Let the Communists know that peace will come in Vietnam when they are prepared to negotiate seriously on the basis of the generous terms offered them by our President.

This we must do, for the credibility of the United States is at stake, and the future peace of the world hangs in the balance.

#

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

April 27, 1972

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives,
on the floor of the House, Thursday, April 27, 1972.

MR. SPEAKER: We are met in an hour of crisis in the Vietnam War.

The President has risen to meet the crisis with a courage and resoluteness we would all do well to emulate.

The President has resolved to continue the bombing in the Vietnam War until the Communists halt their invasion of South Vietnam. I believe that is the right course for this Nation to pursue.

The President has announced he will continue to withdraw American ground troops from South Vietnam. Our ability to continue troop withdrawals despite the enemy invasion gives me confidence in the President's leadership and in the wisdom of his Vietnam policy.

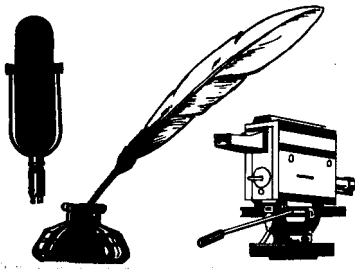
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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON EDT--

Tuesday, May 9, 1972

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford on the floor of the House, Tuesday, May 9, 1972.

MR. SPEAKER: Americans were surprised by the President's firm announcement last night that the United States will mine and blockade North Vietnamese ports to shut off the supplies feeding the North Vietnamese invasion of South Vietnam.

Now that we have had a chance to reflect on the meaning of this Presidential action, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me there is only one response which would be proper and right for the American people--that is, to support the President.

Dean Acheson, a lifelong Democrat and Harry Truman's Secretary of State, has said he is inclined to "support the President whatever the issue, until we come to the quadrennial donnybrook and get it out of our system."

I urge today, Mr. Speaker, that Americans back the President because what he has done is right.

In my view, Mr. Speaker, the President was forced to choose between surrender and a decisive action aimed at ending the war. I am proud that he chose the latter. I think all Americans should be.

The alternative was for us to slink out of Vietnam like a beaten dog with his tail tucked between his legs. At the same time we would have been risking a Dunkirk-like evacuation of the 60,000 ground troops we still have in Vietnam.

It took great courage for the President to do what he has done. However, I am sure that more than courage was involved. I am certain the President has made an informed judgment that the risks attached to his decision are not as great as feared by those who now are uttering doomsday cries.

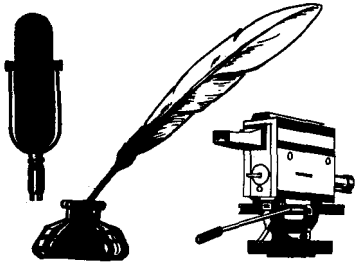
Mr. Speaker, the President is proving to the world that the United States is not a pitiful giant. He is proving to the world that America's word is good, that it is clothed with integrity. He is proving to the world that Americans are people who are determined that justice and fair-dealing shall prevail in world affairs as in person-to-person relationships.

This is a time of crisis, Mr. Speaker. This is a time for all of us to stand up for America. It is a time when all of us should come forward to be counted.

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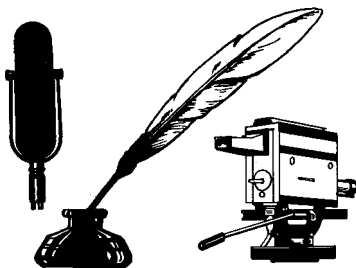
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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

NEWS RELEASE

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
Wednesday, May 10, 1972

On Tuesday, Senate Democrats meeting in caucus voted 29 to 14 to condemn President Nixon's decision to mine North Vietnamese ports in an effort to choke off the supplies feeding the North Vietnamese invasion of South Vietnam.

On Tuesday, 10 Democratic members of the House took the floor to attack the President for his action while, commendably, eight Democratic House members voiced support of the President.

I was struck by the appropriateness of a comment made by Rep. Wayne Hays of Ohio, third-ranking Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Said Mr. Hays: "I think it is significant there has been no reaction from the Kremlin so far except for the usual propoganda statements. I think they are waiting to see how much support they are going to get from the U.S. Congress."

Less than 2 hours after the attacks by some Democrats on the President of the United States, Soviet Ambassador to the United Nations Jacob A. Malik said: "I agree with the many American congressmen who condemn the new act of aggression."

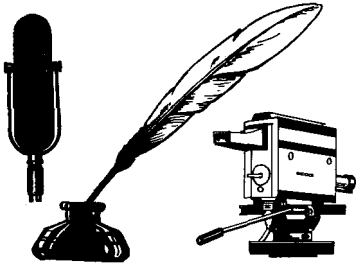
I think it is shocking that Ambassador Malik could point to statements made by some members of the U.S. Congress to back up a statement of censure made by himself concerning an act by the President of the United States.

I find it incredible that some members of Congress would align themselves with a nation which is seeking to defeat the United States by supplying the North Vietnamese with sophisticated weapons of war used to invade a neighboring country simply fighting for its survival.

Those who are condemning the President in this hour of crisis are clearly providing the enemy with the basis for propoganda statements. # # #

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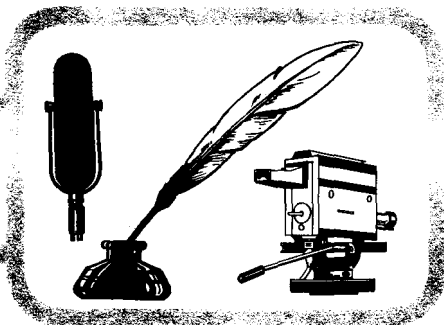
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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

Thursday, June 1, 1972

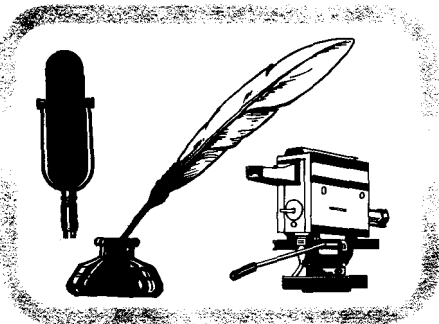
The running of a two-page advertisement in the Wednesday edition of the New York Times by the so-called National Committee For Impeachment is a disgraceful act which should be revolting to all Americans.

I commend the New York Times pressmen for protesting the printing of this disgusting ad, this affront to the President of the United States and to all Americans who respect his high office.

I particularly wish to commend Richard Siemers, chairman of the New York Printing Pressmen's Union No. 2, who termed the ad "traitorous" and "detrimental to the boys in Vietnam and prisoners of war."

For the congressmen and others associated with the so-called National Committee For Impeachment to have run this ad at this particular time, when the President is winding up a journey for peace to Moscow, is peculiarly inappropriate. It deserves the most wide-spread condemnation.

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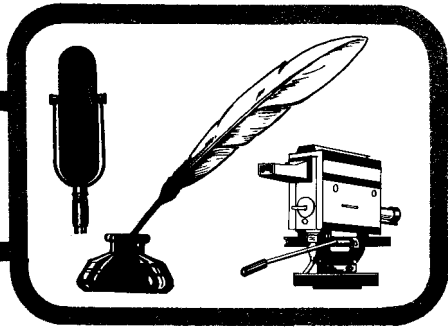
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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
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--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

August 11, 1972

Comment on Shriver statement re: Vietnam peace

I challenge Democratic vice-presidential candidate R. Sargent Shriver to back up his unsupported statement that "Nixon had peace handed to him literally in his lap" in 1969.

This is a frivolously political statement by a man who had nothing to do with the Paris peace negotiations and never called attention to those alleged proposals by the other side while he was ambassador to France under President Nixon.

Anybody can make the McGovern-Shriver kind of peace--peace on enemy terms.

President Johnson could have made the McGovern-Shriver kind of peace in 1965 simply by letting South Vietnam fall victim to Communist aggression.

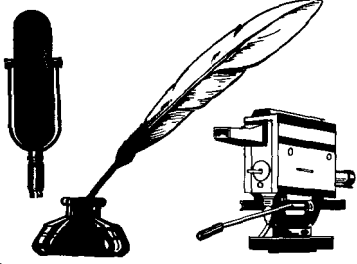
The late President Kennedy could have made the McGovern-Shriver kind of peace in 1962 simply by refusing to send South Vietnam any aid against Communist aggression.

I don't believe a majority of the American people favor making peace on enemy terms. I don't believe they want the McGovern-Shriver kind of peace--peace at any price. I believe they want an honorable peace in Vietnam, the kind of peace President Nixon is seeking.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

October 11, 1972

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford

George McGovern's formula for peace in Vietnam is simply a formula for a Communist takeover in Saigon.

George McGovern is unreal.

He would cut off all aid to Saigon while Soviet and Communist Chinese aid to Hanoi continued. He says not a word about a cease-fire. He would leave South Vietnam to sink.

There would be no coalition government in Saigon under McGovern's peace plan. The Communists would simply move in.

We have ended our ground combat role in Vietnam, and yet George McGovern talks as though we still had more than half a million men there instead of 35,000.

If George McGovern had been elected President in 1968, all of Indochina would now be in Communist hands.

George McGovern clearly prefers the Communist government in Hanoi to the Saigon government of Gen. Thieu. It obviously does not concern him whether all of Southeast Asia comes under Communist rule.

George McGovern calls the Vietnam War a "wrong war" but never explains why it is wrong to try to halt Communist aggression.

The election of George McGovern as President would be an open invitation to Communist aggression throughout the world.

###



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

NEWS
RELEASE

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

Thursday, October 26, 1972

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford

The White House announcement that an agreement is at hand to end the Vietnam War and bring back U. S. prisoners of war is the greatest possible news.

Tremendous credit is due President Nixon for seeing us through the Vietnam crisis, achieving peace with honor and assuring that our POW's will be coming home.

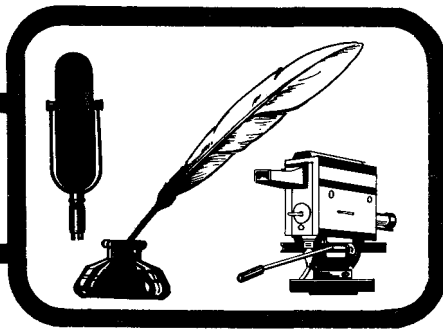
George McGovern's statement that we could have obtained the same peace terms four years ago is pure partisan politics. The basic terms of the agreement are President Nixon's, offered to the enemy months ago. These are not North Vietnamese or McGovern terms, which ignored our POW's. Four years ago North Vietnam was bent only on military victory and a complete takeover of South Vietnam. Its leaders now are shifting their sights from the military to the political scene. Under the Nixon peace terms, there is at least a chance that South Vietnam will survive as a non-Communist entity. These peace terms are in line with President Nixon's objective that the South Vietnamese be free to choose their own political future.

Summing up, I think the Vietnam peace agreement plus the SALT agreement with Russia and the opening of communications with the People's Republic of China will establish President Nixon as the greatest peacemaker of all American Presidents.

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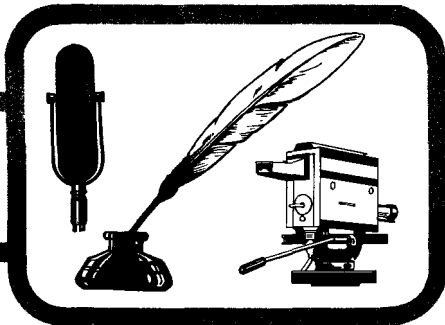
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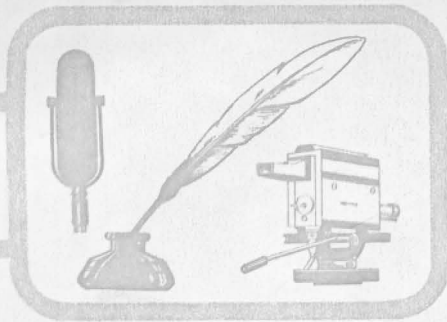
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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Friday, Nov. 3, 1972

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford re: McGovern comments on Vietnam

Sen. George McGovern has reached the heights of irresponsibility in his handling of the Vietnam War issue.

In saying the tentative agreement to end the Vietnam War "seems to be falling apart," McGovern clearly is hoping the agreement comes unglued.

Amazingly enough, McGovern has made statements throughout the Presidential campaign which amount to sabotage of America's hopes for an honorable peace. McGovern's views on Vietnam are so distorted that he seems angered by any prospects for a peace settlement which is not based on a U.S. surrender.

By contrast, President Nixon is refusing to play politics with the Vietnam War. He is insisting on tying up all the loose ends of the 9-point peace agreement--and properly so--before we sign it. He is doing this without any regard for the election next Tuesday. He wants South Vietnam to have a chance to survive as a non-Communist entity.

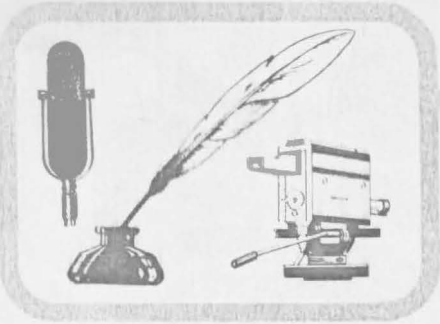
This is yet another reason--if more reasons are needed--why the voters will overwhelmingly prefer Richard Nixon to George McGovern on Nov. 7.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

January 15, 1973

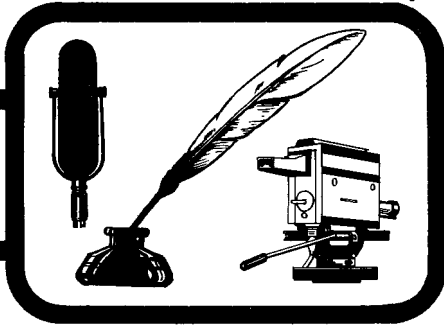
The action of President Nixon in halting the bombing and shelling of North Vietnam and the mining of Haiphong harbor is an indication of solid progress toward a ceasefire and a formula for peace in Vietnam. I am most gratified by this movement toward an end to the fighting.

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House Galleries & GOP Members

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

**NEWS
RELEASE**

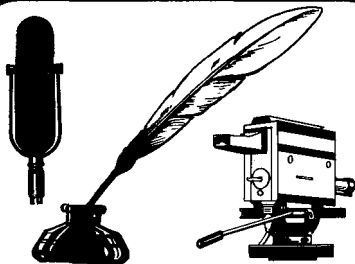
--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

January 24, 1973

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford

President Nixon's moving announcement that peace is coming to Vietnam is news that all the world has been agonizingly awaiting. That this peace is an honorable peace is due solely to one man -- the resolute man who is Richard Nixon, the man with the courage to do what was necessary and right in Vietnam. I devoutly hope and pray -- and I believe -- that this peace will last. And I thank God that it will mean the return of our prisoners of war and an accounting of our missing in action.

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CONGRESSMAN
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HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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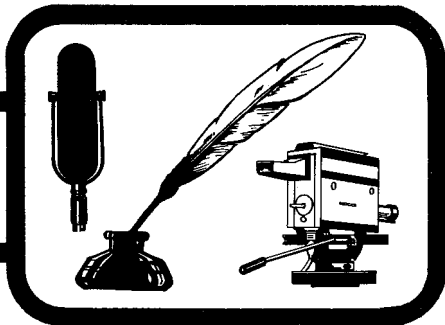
June 13, 1973

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford

I find the new peace-pledge agreement negotiated by Henry Kissinger encouraging. It is a signal achievement if the Vietnamese signatories to the pact abide by it.

As Kissinger has said, one would have to be naive to believe that a simple restatement of the Jan. 27 ceasefire agreement will end ceasefire violations. But a new effort had to be made, and the new agreement holds fresh promise that maybe all fighting will end. We can only hope and pray that this will be so.

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HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
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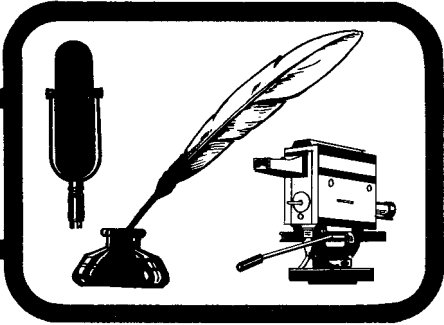
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