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Speech by Gerald R. Ford Jr. - Republican Candidate  
for Congress - Sept. 1948  
Meeting sponsored by Grand Rapids League of Women Voters

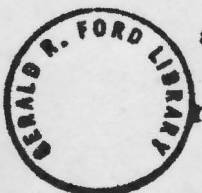
Thank you.

My appreciation is directed at the voters of Grand Rapids who are here tonight out of a desire to get all the facts before voting next Tuesday, and to the Grand Rapids League of Women Voters, who have given me this opportunity to make my position clear.

I for one am grateful for another chance to outline my principles. It is to be regretted that my opponent for the Republican nomination to Congress did not see fit to appear with me tonight to discuss the question, "What Do We Consider the Most Important Issues Facing the Country Which Call for Congressional Action."

The most important issues--indeed, the only basic issues of this or any other campaign--are World Peace, National Security and the stabilization of our domestic economy.

They are the issues that every American Congress will be faced with as long as the American way of life survives. They are the issues that must be met and solved soon if we in this nation are to continue to enjoy the liberties and privileges



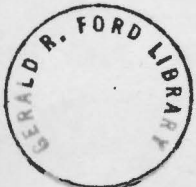
that we so often take for granted.

Lip service to principles is not enough. Presuming a genuine desire for their ~~accomplishment~~ <sup>solution</sup>, a representative in Congress must further KNOW what should be done to accomplish them, and he should have the energy to tackle the job.

I have said often during this campaign that I believe no group or combination of groups in this nation should be permitted to dominate another. That means that white collar workers, industry, labor--all groups must be guaranteed their rights, must be fairly represented in their government.

For example, that means that the labor-management pendulum, which on occasion has swung too far to the left and then again too far to the right, must be stabilized at a point where bargaining is a give-and-take matter with a minimum of government interference except where the public has a vital stake. A good Congressman must fairly consider the merits of any proposed labor-management legislation, and vote on its merits. That is what I propose to do if I am nominated and elected to Congress.

The rights of real representation, and the right to live in and under a free government will be meaningless if the ideal



of peace throughout the world is not preserved. *+ fought for.*

I am convinced that a <sup>bi-</sup>~~non~~-partisan foreign policy in the United States has lighted the path that will lead to eventual peace and security for everyone. That path is the path of economic aid to Europe--with a firm program of military preparedness at home.

The 80th Congress passed that law. The peacetime draft now is an accomplished fact./ If it serves as a warning to the world of our determination for peace it is good; but it also must give something of real value to those young men who must leave civilian life to serve in the Armed Forces. These <sup>young</sup> men must have the opportunity to learn something, to be more than just <sup>military men</sup> ~~militarists~~ trained to fight, ~~and die~~. This important educational phase of military service must be handled by competent ~~and~~ civilian instructors, and I favor a program that will place this kind of training in the hands of non-military personnel.

And with ~~our~~ our increased armed forces must come new equipment, and the best in scientific research, to give our



young men the best--and I mean the best training, the best guns, the fastest and the largest airforce and navy--all of these have become an absolute necessity in winning wars. I know from personal experience how faulty equipment and the lack of equipment caused deaths during World War II.

These suggestions, I think, are practical and vital; yet it is surprising to me that they are not universally accepted, that there are men in Congress who deliberately have voted to withhold this best chance of survival from our fighting men.

Besides the security that comes with peace, America must stabilize its domestic economy--and soon.

At the moment this nation is richer than it ever has been before. But wealth, in terms of national income, is a relative matter.

We must find a way to stabilize our economy, so that the man with a factory job, the office worker and the man who owns and runs the factory can have some guarantee that his labor will produce the purchasing power he needs in our national market.



I do not set myself up as a medicine man who at a stroke can solve the nation's economic problems. But I do think I have some of the answers to the growing inflation threat. Credit controls should be tightened, so that the nation cannot spend itself into next year's income.

Bank reserve ~~require~~ requirements should be increased, so that the United States doesn't spread its dollars too far to support our complicated credit structure.

The reduction of government expenses and an alertness to prevent the federalization of all our governmental functions. The fight against monopoly and ~~protection~~ protection of small business must continue. should be a concern of the 81st Congress.

My allotted time here of course does not permit me to tell you all the things I think are important in this campaign. ~~The fight against monopoly and protection of small business must continue~~ That is why I have chosen to present general objectives.

But throughout the last two months I have conducted a campaign designed to acquaint voters with these problems, and what I think are the answers. I think I have succeeded in letting most Fifth District voters know my views.



I am content to rest my case with them, and confident  
in their decision in the Republican Primary Election next Tuesday.

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There are just arguments presented by some groups in favor of retaining this tax, and there are equally just arguments favoring its repeal.

If I am elected, and if the question comes before Congress next year, I will endeavor to decide on the legislation on the basis of its merits, and on the basis of all the factors involved at that time. It should be remembered that these factors may change greatly by the time this issue is discussed in Congress again.





At the present I favor leaving genuine Farm Co-operatives marketing their own products tax-free. But I feel that business organizations masquerading as farm-cooperatives and in fact doing business in competition with private enterprise certainly should pay their legitimate taxes.



I am definitely opposed to the repeal of the Taft-Hartley bill as matters now stand. I understand it will come up for amendment at the next session of Congress. What those amendments will be no one knows at the present time. If I am elected to Congress I will consider those matters solely upon their merits. I had wished to discuss publicly with Mr. Jonkman the labor and capital controversy in our country but he refused ~~to see~~ the safety and prosperity of our nation depend upon cooperation between capital and labor. Any law that is destructive ~~of~~ this principle should not exist. I will fight for a principle of fairness in all law. I would not permit a lash to be laid on the back of labor nor would I permit an injustice be done an employer by the Taft-Hartley law or any law.



Y.N.

Trade Agreements.

Social Security Act.

Too late - Demo in control.

Taft-Hartley Act

aimed at keeping Reds out

Federal Aid to Education

