

The original documents are located in Box D15, folder “Lincoln Day Speech, Public Finances, February 12, 1962” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Lincoln Day
Speeches
1962

The President's State of the Union message was a document that included something for everybody with no real concern for the taxpayer or the fiscal stability of the nation. It reminded me of something else--an article I recently read, "The Aerosol Age," on push-button spray cans:

"A chemically-created 'sales scent' is enticing super-market customers toward particular display counters. Odors that can be sprayed from cans include chocolate, vanilla, banana, lemon, licorice, fresh bread, tobacco, and hickory barbecue. They're counted on to sharpen shoppers' buying impulses."

Everyone could find their favorite flavor in the President's message. The starry-eyed architects of the New Frontier had sprayed it with sweet scented proposals, hoping their heady aroma would beguile the Congress and the people into buying them all.

The message called for Federal pay increases, more unemployment pay, mass transit, urban renewal, conservation, recreation, air pollution, new health programs, new educational programs, more subsidies for farmers, and even subsidies for industry.

It boils down to this: An expected upsurge in business may give the government \$11 billion added revenue in the coming year. Now when a nation is in debt, its taxes heavy, and the spending urge great, what does it do with a windfall? It can make payment on its debt, it can reduce the tax burden, it can spend it on new programs--or a little of each. The President earmarks the whole amount for new spending, less than one-quarter of which is for defense. If we hasten to squander every gain in advance, what do we do when comes a rainy day?



The real dynamite in the message, however, is the demand for new powers for the President -- more power to lower or abolish tariffs on foreign imports -- power, hitherto undreamed of, to lower and raise taxes -- power to launch public works, *To spend public funds by "budgetary spending."*

We fought the Revolution to take the taxing power from the King and put it in the hands of the people's representatives. What a lovely campaign weapon it would be for a President to lower taxes just before election, or hand out million-dollar public projects to doubtful states at his own sweet will, as casually and with less restrictions than he now appoints postmasters!

*Threat of erosion of "legislative authority."
Tyranny from gov't
checks & balances.*

*President wants to put more control in
Executive - where only 1 person out
of 2.4 to 2.8 or 5 million stands
for election every 4 yrs.*

*For the protection of our citizens it is
better for legislature to restrain
constitutionally granted authority.*

*437 - 2 yrs.
100 - 6 yrs.*



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