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First, we must maintain a balance in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government as established by our Constitution.

The parallel task is to preserve the two-party system---the genius of our Democracy.

Enlarging upon the first goal, that of keeping the three branches of government in balance, I believe that if any one of them becomes too strong or too weak, the foundations of our government will crack and our freedom will be threatened.

There are disturbing signs of slow erosion in the power of the Legislative branch, a build-up of awesome strength in the executive arm, and a change from the intended direction in the Federal Judiciary.

Congress, the legislative branch, has been criticized as being too slow to react in an age of speed. Critics have described the House and Senate as being too cumbersome and too old-fashioned.

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Those critics perhaps are unaware that in Congress a system of checks and balances is provided by the Constitution.

When speed is essential, Congress has proved many times that it can react with dispatch to meet a crisis in war or in peacetime, in days of economic depression or in times of glowing prosperity.

It has been said that Congress frequently makes haste slowly. However, the act of deliberate slowness is a safeguard against racing to the brink of decision. It prevents a dangerous plunge. Congress should reach its major decisions only after adequate research, thought, and exhaustive discussion.

When the balance of power in Congress is steeply tilted by an overwhelming majority in one political party, the system of checks and balances is endangered. This becomes even more serious when the executive branch is dominated by the same party.

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Although the President is the chief executive and head of state for all of us, he does represent especially the views of the people who voted for him. Members of Congress, and particularly those in the House of Representatives, are closer to the Nation's citizens because they are chosen by smaller segments of the Nation.

Members of the House are elected every two years, a fact which in itself places Representatives closer to the people. Every two years a Representative must go to his constituents for a mandate to continue in office. His record is placed on the line and he must be endorsed by a majority of the voters in his district.

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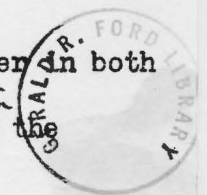
As in the Senate, the House is represented by nearly every major profession, national origin, and religion. Congress is a cross-section of the American people. This is your strength. It should not be lessened by an over-balance of power in the executive and judicial branches of government.

The responsibilities of Congress are clearly defined in the Constitution, and include the making of all laws which are necessary and proper for carrying out the duties and powers of government.

Under the Constitution, every statute requiring concurrence of Congress must be presented to the President before taking effect. If the chief executive rejects a proposed act, he can be over-ruled by a two-third<sup>s</sup> majority vote of the Senate and the House.

It is quickly obvious that <sup>if one party gains</sup> a crushing over-balance of political power <sup>this</sup> in both houses of Congress and in the executive branch <sup>can</sup> weakens the safeguards <sup>of</sup> the Constitution.

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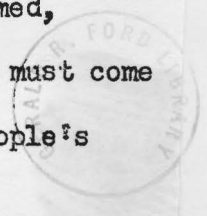
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Reflecting on the duties and obligations of the third branch of government, it can be said that the Federal Judiciary's function is to interpret the Constitution and the laws.

There is evidence that the Judicial Branch is arbitrarily elbowing its way to new positions of authority, disregarding the wise suggestions of judicial restraint made by the late Justice Frankfurter and others.

When the Supreme Court ordered states to reapportion on the "one-man, one vote" concept, Justice Frankfurter in a dissenting opinion was critical of an assumption by the Court of "destructively novel judicial power."

"In this situation, as in others of like nature, appeal for relief does not belong here," Justice Frankfurter said. "Appeal must be made to an informed, civically militant electorate. In a democratic society like ours, relief must come through an aroused public conscience that sears the conscience of the people's representatives."



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Justice Frankfurter emphasized that the Supreme "Court's authority--possessed neither of the purse nor the sword--ultimately rests on sustained public confidence in its moral sanction."

I have stressed the need to preserve the two-party system as among the major areas of concern in maintaining our structure of government.

~~With the same intelligence and patriotism,~~ I am sure we can agree that a strong two-party system is bedrock assurance that our Democracy will survive, prosper, grow, and help others in the world to accept their role in the society of free nations.

Young Republicans---all <sup>R</sup>epublicans---- must dedicate themselves to this cause---and the time to start is right now.

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*Gerald R. Ford*  
M.C.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MARYLAND YOUNG REPUBLICAN MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 12, 1965

SPEECH CARDS



MICHIGAN.