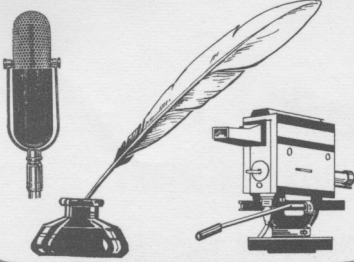


The original documents are located in Box D19, folder “Akron, OH, October 14, 1965” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

Excerpts from an address

Akron, Ohio Oct. 14, 1965

Without over-indulgence in political partisanship, I am sure we can agree that a strong two-party system and a meaningful balance in government are best for the national interest.

When the balance of power is critically and steeply tilted by an overwhelming majority in either political party, we have collective conformity in government.

Today one political party controls Congress by a two to one majority. The situation prompted one Washington quipster to comment: "When the President sends a message to Congress, his political partisans don't know whether to clap their hands or click their heels."

The President recently predicted that this Congress "will leap into history as the most effective and most rewarding Congress for all the people in all the history of America."

His praise is understandable. This Congress has given him almost everything he wants.

The President has virtually unlimited resources for working his will--- a veritable army of experts, authorities, researchers and the like. This establishment is available to every Chief Executive, no matter his political party.

At this point in history, the President commands a branch of government that employes more than 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -million civilians and controls the destiny of 2 million 600-thousand military personnel. These two groups have a payroll cost totalling \$28 billion. Together they will spend more than 127-billion tax dollars in fiscal 1966.

For the sake of comparison in establishing the slanted balance of power in government, it can be pointed out that the number of employes in the Congressional legislative branch total little more than 9,000 persons.

-more-



The question to be answered is whether the Congress operates merely as a limp arm of government, bending like a wet noodle to the will of a President armed with a 2 to 1 majority in the House and Senate or whether it is to be a strong, coordinate branch of government exercising fair but independent judgment.

Within the intent of the Constitution has the present Congress been effective? Has there been independent judgment? Has there been enough questioning and investigation of proposed legislation?

The documented record provides the answers.

The federal school aid bill, which will cost \$1.3 billion in the first year of operation, is a good example of the silence imposed on the elected representatives on Capitol Hill by the existence of political power and the brutal use of such power.

House Republicans prepared 29 amendments each aimed at making the proposed legislation more sensible, more meaningful and more within the guidelines of the Constitution.

Of these, four were debated only five minutes and 14 were allowed no debate. Authors of the latter amendments were given no opportunity to explain them to their colleagues.

The silent treatment was given to several amendments that would have concentrated \$200 million in Federal funds on the education needs of economically-deprived children.

The silent treatment was ordered for another amendment requiring state approval of supplementary educational centers to assure coordination of Federal activities with state plans and policies.

The silent treatment was given to an amendment demanding that Federally-financed local education centers be conducted in accordance with State law.

The silent treatment was given to an amendment to remove the Federal government from involvement in buying textbooks.

The silent treatment was given to an amendment that would remove Federal standards of approval for local educational centers.

The silent treatment prevented exhaustive debate on at least three vital and controversial issues involved in the education bill.

In my judgment, there were other issues that should have been given complete and open debate. The throttling of dialogue falls short of serving the best interests of the American people. When Congress is gagged, the American people are gagged.

* * *

There are reasons for being optimistic.

I have a strong faith in the good judgment of the American people.

Congress is taking steps to improve its image, to improve its day-to-day working habits.

I believe most Americans are realizing that they have to help the Congress become a stronger partner in the relationship of the Executive and Judicial branches of government.

Governors in many states now realize that if their units of government are to be strong partners, their constitutions must be modernized. More governors are strengthening their desire to assume responsibilities and not pass them off to the federal establishment.

There is a growing realization that our system of government is the finest in the history of mankind. We believe in our Constitution. Those wise men who put it together created an historic document.

I emphasize...it is politics and politicians that have put the breath of life and the blood in the veins of the still bones of a constitutional system.

* * *

The responsibility of the American people is to help keep our republic strong, progressive and free.

To accomplish this goal, we must all remember that a government big enough to give us everything we want is a government big enough to take from us everything we have.

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