

The original documents are located in Box D19, folder “Republican Dinner, Zion, IL, October 16, 1965” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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READING TEXT

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Gov. J. U. ...

Republican Dinner
Zion, Illinois
October 16, 1965

The man with the warm Irish grin and a quick wit we salute tonight was a newcomer to Capitol Hill when he was asked ^{how} ~~why~~ he came to Congress.

The question was raised during a briefing in the Pentagon. It was asked by Cyrus Vance, Secretary of the Army at the time.

Freshman Congressman Bob McClory was attending his first briefing on military affairs. He ^{remained} ~~remained~~ modestly in the background while secrets and grave problems were discussed by Vance.

When the session ended, Vance asked Bob whether he had taught in a French School in Switzerland at one time.

Bob said that he had been a teacher. Vance then recalled that he had been one of Bob's students. Then the Army Secretary asked: "How did you ever get to Congress?"



Zion, Ill.

Gov. J. V. ...

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I don't know how Bob answered the Army Secretary, but I do know we are mighty glad he made it!

Bob operates on the theory that all work and little play is the way to get things done in the House of Representatives. His personality and persistence have won unusual prestige for him in the House.

The invitation to speak with you tonight and to salute Bob was somewhat unusual. The letter went something like this:

"12th Congressional District Republicans of Illinois have a tradition of hearing outstanding speakers at their dinner-meetings."

Then the letter listed several fine orators.

The invitation concluded: "We hope you will accept. Up until now our programs have been exceptional!"

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Tonight I will follow the advice of my wife Betty.

Bureau of Internal Revenue

K I S S STORY

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One evening I was a guest at a banquet without being scheduled to make a formal speech. The toastmaster--like myself--- was a graduate of Yale University. For some reason he decided to call upon me to make an impromptu address.

I quickly decided to talk about Yale. It was a non-partisan audience.

I told how "Y" stands for youth... "A" for appreciation... "L" for loyalty...and "E" for efficiency...The words came easily and time flew by.

As I concluded my speech, someone in the rear of the auditorium said in a loud voice, "It's a good thing he didn't graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology!"

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Today in speaking with you, I will try to follow the advice of my wife Betty. (K I S S story)

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He warned, in effect, that the representatives of the American people abandon the reckless and swift manner used this year to adopt legislation long on quantity and short on quality.

The Senate leader noted that the Congress so far has ^{"passed"} ~~"pass"~~ a lot of bills, some of them very hastily. "...I nominate this remark, by the way, as the under-statement of the year!

Senator Mansfield also proposed that the next session of the 89th Congress "spend less time on new legislation and more time correcting oversights in legislation we have just passed."

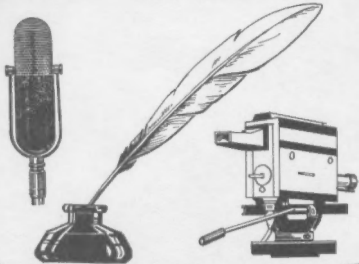
He also showed an awareness of what he said is the "current and ultimate cost" of Great Society schemes.

Perhaps the distinguished Senate leader and close political friend of the President is somewhat shaken by some financial facts of life.

This year ~~alone~~, 20 major public laws spawned in the White House authorize new spending of an estimated \$16½ billion dollars for only Great Society programs. This fantastic spending is over and above so-called regular expenditures.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

Excerpts from a speech
Zion, Ill. Oct. 16, 1965

Release for Ams
Oct. 17, 1965
or at time of
speech delivery

At the root of America's domestic problems today is an Administration more interested in creating a welfare state than in the state of the welfare.

We need only to look at the poverty program, which has already become a top-heavy bureaucracy.

Republicans, Democrats and political independents alike are concerned about poverty, but with the way things are going under the Great Society's plan it is time to take the profit out of poverty.

The Great Society is a shambles of contradiction. Its programs are dressed in purity of name. And, in fiscal 1966 its new programs will cost American taxpayers an estimated additional \$16.7 billion over and above the so-called regular expenditures. Meanwhile, our national debt is not the \$320 billion appearing on the record books. Actually it is \$800 billion in commitments for future spending that requires no new laws or programs.

* * *

The President has 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."

Is it rewarding to have skyrocketing living costs and the threat of spiraling inflation...to have state and local governments crumbling under the heavy hand of federalism? Is it effective to have reckless spending by the Administration and its irresponsible economic policies that could lead the way toward national and personal bankruptcy?

At this point, we recall that it was Dwight D. Eisenhower who said that one answer to bigger government in Washington is better government in the states.

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The record of President Johnson presents the Republican Party with a magnificent opportunity to return sound, sensible and responsible government. It gives us the issues of reckless spending, bureaucratic sprawl, inflationary pressures and higher hidden taxes.....and the loss of individual freedom and identity.

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The common cause---the cause of good government--- is great enough and big enough to over-shadow all the minor differences that sometimes separate us.

There are plenty of Democratic political scalps available without us having to sharpen our hatchets in each other's back.

For us to win the chance to restore balance to government and return dignity to the individual, for us to seize the golden opportunity that the Administration's record has given us, we must present the American people with a broad-based, united Republican Party.

We need to develop strong fund-raising campaigns. We should enlist more articulate, personable and knowledgeable candidates. By our record we must earn the respect of the electorate to regain stewardship of government in state houses, counties, townships and ultimately, in Washington.

I propose a neighbor-to-neighbor crusade to tell the facts of the alleged Great Society. We should ask our neighbors some questions about the Administration's claim of progress.

Is it progress to retreat from the principles of the Constitution? Is it progress to perpetuate poverty by political exploitation and purpose? Is it progress to stifle individual incentive? Is it progress to set a record for a national debt?

We should remind the electorate that millions of Americans, under the Democrat Administration, have less money to spend on necessities, slimmer savings accounts, and more taxes arbitrarily taken from their paychecks.

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With one party dominating Congress and controlling the White House, millions of Americans have nothing to say about the conduct of the Nation's business.

In the coming elections they will have an opportunity to make our society not a Great one, but a good one.

* * *

Let's get on with the job. Let's forget 1964. Let's become once again one Republican Party. This does not mean a huge monolithic political organization. Certainly we can have responsible disagreement. We should have intelligent dialogue.

Together---shoulder-to-shoulder-- we can win Republican victories.

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