

The original documents are located in Box D19, folder “Testimonial Dinner for Representative Stanley R. Tupper, Portland, ME, October 30, 1965” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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READING TEXT

Portland, Maine
October 30, 1965

Testimonial dinner for Rep. Stanley R. Tupper

*Bar 2 Port
Bar 2 Virgin Islands
KISS
Man of Humanity
Clap Hands / click heels
STAN TUPPER*

It is a special pleasure to be in the Pine Tree State with you
to salute Stan Tupper, a fine team-player and a great help in
keeping the Republican oppressed minority in the House in
fighting trim.

*Congress -
Hubert
Manfield
Do it Progress*

The First District of Maine is fortunate to have a man of Stan's
dedication, stature and knowledge as a Representative in Congress.
His warm personality, his quick sense of humor, and his desire to
help his fellowman has won deep respect on both sides of the aisle.

I have high hopes that ~~many~~ Republican ranks in the House will
be increased with the election of many more excellent Representatives
like Stan Tupper!

It will be a real pleasure to watch the Democrats when we can
legislate from a better position of strength. During the past session,
when the White House sent messages to Congress, the Democrats didn't
know whether to clap their hands or click their heels!



The invitation to speak here tonight was quite unusual.

It went something like this:

"Dear Congressman Ford:

" The First District of Maine has by tradition enjoyed
outstanding speakers and programs."

The letter listed several fine orators.

Then the invitation concluded: "We hope you will
accept. Until now we have had exceptionally excellent
programs!"

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I will follow the advice of my wife Betty tonight.

K I S S

(INTO MAIN TEXT)

Among the qualities of virtue is strength. Our Nation is built on a foundation consisting of the people and their strength.

Our Nation's strength has been in its balanced government, in statesmanship at the top of the Executive branch, in a Congress working its will. Please note that I speak in the past tense.

What is the state of our Union today?

Is it strong when a President puts his personal popularity and ambition first?

Is it secure when the common man battles in vain with phantom shadows that emerge from an awesome bureaucracy to cloud his life?

Is it steadfast when the leader orders "get going" instead of saying "let's get going together"?

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Is it financially sound when the national debt is greater than that of all the other nations in the world combined?

Is our Nation headed in the right direction when poverty is perpetuated for political exploitation and purpose?.... when individual incentive is destroyed?.... when one man's taxes are used to pay another man's rent?.... when we have a welfare state?

Where is the liberty envisioned by the founding fathers of this Nation?

Let us carefully examine what has happened to precious liberty in the shambles of contradiction that is the Great Society.

During the next few months the degree of Federal interference and heavy-handedness in individual affairs will dangerously increase.

The voices of the people will be even more muffled and muted.

Potomac paternalism---already stifling and frustrating the states and the people--- will grow and expand.

Fortunately, there are, however, some fresh signs of hope that Congress is beginning to exercise its own right of liberty by stiffening against White House arm-twisting.

Many members on both sides of the aisle have lined up in what amounts to a legislative revolt. And, I'm happy to ^{learn} that even some Democrats are starting to mend their ways and join Republicans in refusing to be rubber stamps for the Administration! It is not enough--but we are making progress.

It is significant that some powerful Democrats are shaken by Executive branch controlled Congressional action.

Senator Mansfield very recently proposed that the next session of the 89th Congress "spend less time on new legislation and more time correcting oversights in legislation" adopted this year.

The Senate Majority Leader also said: "We have passed a lot of major bills at this session, some of them very hastily, and they stand in extreme need of going over for loopholes, rough corners, and particularly for an assessment of current and ultimate cost..."

(more)

It is somewhat assuring to learn that Senator Mansfield apparently is awakening to the shocking cost of the Great Society.

This year alone, 20 major public laws spawned in the White House to maintain its alleged Great Society authorize new spending of an estimated \$16,767,300,000 in fiscal 1966. This fantastic spending is over and above so-called regular expenditures!

Vice President Humphrey is reported as referring to the "huge legislative tonnage dropped on our doorstep." I question his use of the word "dropped." The word really should be "shoveled."

At least some Democrats apparently agree with Republicans that there is a place for responsible dissent and constructive criticism.

The Democrats talk about the independence in their Great Society?

Let's examine the truth of the Great Society in search of the alleged independence.

Its programs are dressed in purity of name. It holds a tempting offer of all the good things in life without bothering to consider the cost to every American and the future generations.

For example, Its czars conduct a so-called war on poverty. They by-pass the states.

Substantial contracts, substantial arrangements, substantial funds are directly linked with Washginton and the local governing units.

The states are forced to stand on the sidelines. Thank goodness for our Republican Governors who work so valiantly to keep a semblance of control over their state's own business.

Republicans have long realized that the way to beat poverty is by providing jobs. The Great Society's remedy is to compensate those who are not working and to blame society for the disadvantaged.

Republicans believe that government can have a heart--without losing its head.

The Office of Economic Opportunity was set up to find jobs for the poor.

And, about all the poor really get is advice.

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One poverty project of \$65,000 gobbled \$57,000 of the money for bureaucratic salaries and spent nearly all the rest for office equipment.

In the Office of Economic Opportunity one of every 18 employees are paid salaries in excess of \$19,000. In the Defense Department, by contrast, one of 1,000 workers is paid \$19,000 a year.

~~Statistical Bureau of the State Department~~

Enough evidence has come to light to raise serious doubts about the Job Corps program. Instances of criminal and immoral behavior suggest inadequate selection processes for trainees and a breakdown of discipline.

Democrats play fast and loose with tax dollars and the haunting shadow of inflation covers the land. Millions of Americans have less to spend on food, clothing, --the necessities---and dwindling savings accounts as inflation works its silent and deadly way into the Nation's economy.

There is strong reason to believe that much Federal spending is mishandled under the Democrat Administration. Along with this misuse of funds has come misleading information and suppression of what should be public records.

In Washington, the symbol of the Administration has become known as Uncle Sham. It is indeed sham. More news releases, but fewer facts, are turned out by Administration propogandists than ever before.

We can conclude that there is no certainty under the Great Society---
except debt and taxes.

The Republican Party moves into a crucial campaign armed with several hard-hitting issues, including the Great Society itself.

The first is President Johnson---his use and misuse of power.

The second is the erosion of the rights of states and local governments to conduct their own business without federal control.

The third is the loss of the identity of individuals who have little to say when one party controls national government by a 2 to 1 majority.

The fourth issue is a combination of inflation and the lack of fiscal sanity on the part of the administration.

Add all the issues and together they spell Great Society-----
our golden opportunity to regain stewardship of government in state houses, counties and townships, and ultimately, in Washington.

Our opportunity is in the growing awareness of Americans that they have nothing to say about the conduct of the Nation's business. They can only sit by and watch with mixed emotions---anger, fear, and a hope for better times.

Millions of Americans are learning that reckless spending by the Administration and its irresponsible economic policies lead the way toward national and personal bankruptcy.

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These, then, are the issues. Each is directly linked with your State's slogan---"virtue, liberty and independence."

Now, what is the course of action for our Republican Party to make our society a good one?

We must be a united, shoulder-to-shoulder political organization.

Our Party must be broadly-based.

We need to develop strong fund-raising campaigns. We should enlist articulate, personable, and knowledgeable candidates. By our record we must earn the respect of the electorate.

I compare the Democrat political machine with its Great Society schemes as a modern-day Goliath...the towering, powerful bully.

The Republican Party is David----- outnumbered, facing overwhelming odds with courage and convictions.

This year, in 1966, and further into the future we will ~~take on Goliath~~

~~take on Goliath~~. And like David, we will win.

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