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SPEECH BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH., UPON ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL
GEORGE WASHINGTON AWARD PRESENTED BY THE AMERICAN GOOD GOVERNMENT SOCIETY,
SUNDAY EVENING, MAY 1, 1966, AT THE SHERATON PARK HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Senator Egan

Mr. Mahon, Mr. Chairman, my colleagues, honored guests, and good friends ~~and~~:

May I express my heartfelt appreciation for having been selected to
receive the George Washington Award of the American Good Government Society.

This honor is especially satisfying ~~to me~~ when I look back to January, 1965.

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~~It was then~~ I was elected *to this new job in* ~~minority leader~~ of the House by the landslide
margin of six votes--73 to 67. It is really gratifying ~~to me~~--here tonight--
to be a unanimous choice for something.

I am most happy to accept this award from the hands of my good friend,
George Mahon of Texas. Let me tell you a little secret. When the Good
Government Society trustees told me I was to receive this award, they asked
me whom I wanted to make the presentation, and I picked George--another
unanimous choice--for many, many reasons.

George and I have been friends for a long time. He became chairman
of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee the year I took my seat
in Congress--1949. I went on the Appropriations committee in 1951, and

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GEORGE WASHINGTON AWARD SPEECH

George, who had been on the Committee many years helped me immeasurably in the years to follow!
George taught me much of what I know today.

George is a great Texas Longhorn. And one of ^{his characteristics} ~~the things~~ I appreciate most about ~~him~~ is that, unlike a fellow Texan who lives at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, George has never given me a real hard time.

I became the senior Republican on the Defense Subcommittee in 1959, and for years George and I worked together most harmoniously ^{help in a legislative way} to build our nation's military security... ^{Perhaps this proves I can} ~~Who says I can't~~ get along with Texans?

George has said so many nice things about me tonight I am positive he didn't clear his speech with the White House or my good friend, Bob McNamara, either.

In looking over the list of previous recipients of the Good Government Society's George Washington Award, I noted with pleasure the names of my colleagues, Wilbur ^{Robinson} Mills and John ^{Wescrow} Byrnes. Both have had a major role in drafting most of our present-day tax legislation.

With the problems of April 15 just past and some new problems just beginning this very day--higher income tax withholding rates, ~~you know~~--it seems appropriate to tell you a story about the spirit of independence that burns in the breasts of thousands of our taxpayers.

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We are indebted to rugged individualists of this stripe. It is this spirit of independence that has made America great. *A mighty cornerstone of our nation - our people.*
It is a great pleasure ~~to me~~ to see so many ~~people~~ from Michigan in the audience here tonight.

There are thousands of other fine people back in the fifth congressional district of Michigan who have seen fit to send me to Congress ever since I ran mighty scared for a seat in the House in 1948. *Frankly* I've been running scared *and intend to in the future.*
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she is certainly is a tremendous help, ~~to me in my role as minority leader.~~

The fact that I have survived in the House for nine terms shows that all you really need to be successful in politics is an allegation of virtue, a moderate amount of hard work, and lots of luck.

~~This is my 18th year in Congress.~~ The American Good Government Society is presenting these awards for the 14th time, having begun the tradition in 1953 by honoring two great Americans--Mr. Republican, the late Sen. Robert A. Taft, and a strong advocate of economy in government, former Democratic Senator Harry F. Byrd.

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There are many ingredients & they may vary from time to time.

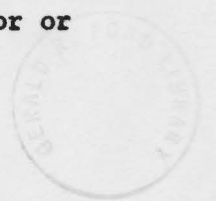
There is no fixed formula for good government. It is really something of a miracle that we have fared as well as we have. That miracle has been shaped from the dreams of people who fled from the old world to the new in quest of something precious called freedom.

Freedom is still the essential ingredient today--the never-to-be-forgotten element that pervades the constitutional form of government which has made us a proud republic. It is the hallmark of a system designed to make government the servant and not the master of the people.

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Good Government follows no fixed formula but it flows--as the Good Government Society knows--from adherence to this country's established constitutional system, from the good sense of the American people, and from men like Washington--men who provide this country with moral leadership in a time of crisis, men who unselfishly give of themselves so that freedom, law and order, good government, shall flourish.

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