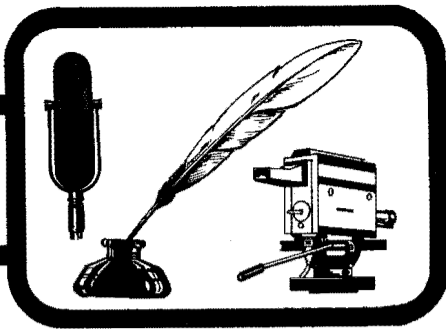


The original documents are located in Box D20, folder “Mobile County GOP Fund-Raising Dinner, Mobile, AL, August 22, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M.
MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 1966

SPEECH EXCERPTS--MOBILE COUNTY, ALA., GOP FUND-RAISING DINNER AT MOBILE.

Our soldiers are performing brilliantly in Vietnam. But it is tragic that more and more of our young men are being sent to fight and perhaps to die there.

It is equally tragic that a few misguided Americans are blind and mistaken enough to wish for a Vietcong victory.

I believe these individuals are nauseously wrong in their views, but they have every right under our Constitution to speak out in protest against U.S. policy in Vietnam. They have every right to demonstrate and to picket peacefully to dramatize their dissent from majority opinion.

But it is absolutely contemptible--and worse--for any American to interfere with vigorous prosecution of the Vietnam War and to seek to impede the movement of U.S. troops and material to Vietnam.

The ruckus created by the jumpers and the screamers at last week's hearings of the House Un-American Activities Committee tended to obscure the actual purpose of the investigation.

What is the objective of these hearings? To smear leftwing students who believe we have no business in Vietnam? Not at all. The Committee is considering the need for legislation to punish American citizens who give active support to the Vietcong.

If the Vietnam War were a declared war, our American fighting men would already be protected from disloyal citizens who are aiding the enemy.

But we are living in a new era of undeclared wars. This is the pattern of Communist aggression. We saw it in the Korean War. We see it now in Vietnam. We may expect more such sneak aggression.

Because the Vietnam conflict is an undeclared war, are the American people to shrug their shoulders while Americans dedicated to victory for world communism actively support the enemy? Are we to blink it and smile tolerantly when wobbly-minded American socialists and Communists obstruct our efforts in a war Communist leaders cynically call a war of liberation?

I say this nation is harboring a viper within its bosom in coddling those of its citizens intent on sabotaging this nation's war effort.

The Communists are playing a new and deadly serious game--the undeclared war. Without sacrificing the precious rights which all Americans should enjoy, it's time we ourselves made some new rules.

If present laws are adequate to deal with disloyal Americans during an undeclared war, then why isn't the Johnson Administration enforcing them?

I would hate to think that the life of even one of our boys in Vietnam was sacrificed on the altar of freedom as perverted by disloyal Americans determined to deliver us all to the enemy.

* * *

Riots in the streets. The Johnson-Humphrey Administration made glorious promises to the poor and then failed to make good on them.

And we have no less a figure than the Vice President of the United States telling the poor that if he lived under slum conditions he might lead a pretty good revolt himself.

When the Johnson-Humphrey Administration promises more than it can deliver and when the No. 2 official in the land talks about leading a revolt, defiance of the law is encouraged.

I say that disregard for law and order breeds anarchy. I say that such deliberate and flagrant flouting of the law is inexcusable in a civilized society. Is this a Great Society?

What touches off this madness? I believe it springs from the attitude that Americans should only obey the laws that please them. It derives from the theory that if your social objectives appear to be beyond the law then you are justified in breaking the law to obtain them. It stems from the feeling that if you've got more than I have, I can take from you whatever I want. It's the old attitude of the-world-owes-me-a-living gone wild.

There is an atmosphere of lawlessness in this country that is making a jungle of some of our big cities.

It is ironic that while the South is beginning to solve its race problems, the North is just beginning to discover it has some.

* * *

The easiest and quickest way for you to clean up Vietnam, stop inflation, bring down interest rates and protect the lives, rights and property of us all is to vote Republicans in in November. I think the American people will demonstrate their great good sense on Election Day.

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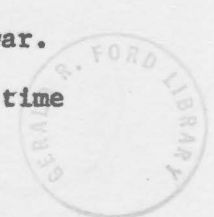
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(MORE)



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