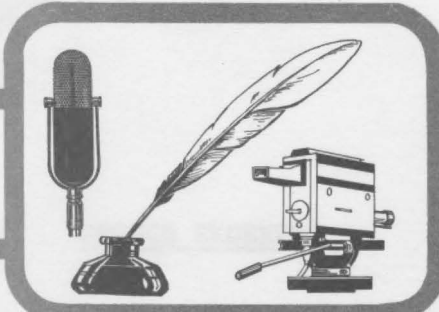


**The original documents are located in Box D21, folder “GOP Dinner, Greensboro, NC, October 7, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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Re: LBJ AMERICA



CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE AT 7 P.M.  
FRIDAY, OCT. 7, 1966

SPEECH EXCERPTS--BY REP. GERALD FORD, R-MICH., AT GOP DINNER, GREENSBORO, N. C.

President Johnson earlier this year indicated he would go into nearly every state in the union to tell the people of the nation what he and his Democratic majorities in Congress have done for them.

Switching campaign tactics, the President now has virtually abandoned his speaking plans. Instead he is seeking to neutralize the major issues of this campaign. He is hoping to fuzz the issues, confuse the people, kid them into thinking he has found the answers.

I don't think the American people will be fooled because as they look at Lyndon Johnson's America and the America of his lopsided Democratic majorities in Congress, they see:

*Official Copy*

A monumental crisis in crime instead of domestic safety and security.

Mobocracy and riots in the streets instead of peace among our citizenry.

History's highest cost of living instead of the price stability of the Eisenhower years.

A shrunken and still shrinking dollar instead of constant buying power and sound money.

The highest interest rates in 45 years instead of reasonable rates equitable to both borrower and lender.

A depression in residential construction instead of a healthy and growing home building pace.

Labor discontent and a rising wave of crippling strikes instead of reasonable labor peace and equitable sharing by labor in the fruits of the economy.

Administration actions to force down farm prices instead of a farm economy based on free and fair market prices.

A crisis of confidence in our President and in our government instead of national trust.

Reckless federal spending on non-essential domestic programs instead of prudent and frugal use of taxpayer dollars.

The prospect of higher taxes instead of possible tax reductions.

War, and stalemate in that war, instead of peace.

(MORE)



SPEECH EXCERPTS

\* \* \*

Not even the greatest master of obfuscation can fuzz the issue of inflation.

I challenge President Johnson to tell the nation's housewives, as did the chairman of his economic advisers, that they are "notoriously poor judges" of food prices.

I challenge President Johnson to tell the average American worker that the combination of higher Social Security taxes, higher income tax withholding and higher consumer prices has not more than wiped out his wage gains this year.

I challenge President Johnson to tell the nation, as did Labor Secretary W. Willard Wirtz recently, that inflation is "just a scare word" being used by Republicans.

Secretary Wirtz didn't say this a year ago, or even six months ago. He uttered those ridiculous words on Sept. 27 in addressing the Michigan AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education in Detroit.

You'd have to be a Rip Van Winkle not to know that the rise in the cost-of-living this year is the greatest since 1957. That's Lyndon Johnson's Great Society for you. Only Willard Wirtz doesn't know it.

The American people know what inflation means. They know it means higher and higher prices in the market place. They're reminded of it everytime they buy something. Only Willard Wirtz doesn't know it.

President Johnson knows it. First he tried to talk inflation to death, but his jawbone technique didn't work. He got so worried he looked for a scapegoat. He blamed the housewife; he blamed the farmer; he blamed industry; and, a bit timidly, he blamed labor. He focused on the farmer and turned Orbiting Orville Freeman loose in a campaign to drive down farm prices. When the farmers rose in political revolt, Mr. Johnson backed off.

The President has fumbled the ball on inflation, and so have all of the players in Congress who wear his uniform--his automatic Democratic Congress.

Let's put the blame for high prices, high interest rates and high taxes squarely where it belongs--on Mr. Johnson and his lopsided Democrat majorities in Congress.

Not only has Johnson's inflation grinder made mincemeat of our pocketbooks, but we're about to get clobbered by higher Democrat taxes.

There's a remedy for this mess. It will soon be available to the American people. The remedy is: Vote Republican on November 8.

# # #



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