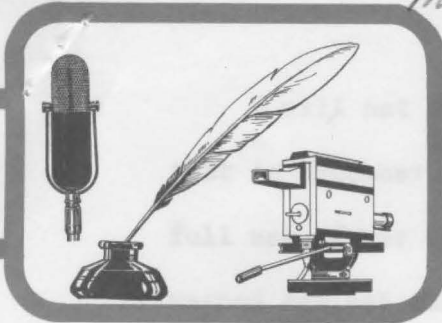


The original documents are located in Box D22, folder “Ohio Association of Insurance Agents, Cleveland, OH, October 30, 1967” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE IN MONDAY PMS--

Excerpts from an Address by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, House Republican Leader, at the 70th annual convention of the Ohio Association of Insurance Agents, to be delivered at 11 a.m. Monday, October 30, 1967, at the Statler-Hilton Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio.

Last January in an appearance before nationwide television, Senate Republican Leader Everett M. Dirksen and I took a look at the State of the Union as it then appeared. It is time, I believe, for a fresh appraisal of the problems that confront our Nation.

Such an appraisal could appropriately be titled: "The Great Society -- Where are we and where are we tending?" I believe the answers, based on unassailable facts, are startling if not downright shocking.

Administration leaders no longer talk about "the Great Society." Perhaps this is because our society is more and more that of a Nation in agony.

The American people established the United States Constitution to "insure domestic tranquillity," among other reasons. Today we find this country torn apart, a Nation in constant turmoil.

The decade of the Sixties, which dawned with such promise, has turned sour. In place of individual and national progress we find ourselves living in an age of protest--not merely rebellion for a cause but rebellion for the sake of rebellion, protest for publicity's sake, and a mass flight from reason, reality, responsibility and human decency. There has to be a reason.

I believe America is erupting for lack of strong leadership, moral leadership, the kind of leadership that creates confidence and makes the people of a Nation believe in a cause, the kind of leadership that produces progress for the deprived without hurting others, decisive, impartial leadership that brings peace, genuine prosperity...and domestic tranquillity.

Look about you and what do you see?

In Vietnam we are fighting a ground war to which 525,000 American military personnel and billions upon billions of dollars have been committed--an Asian land war of the kind the late Gen. Douglas MacArthur and other U.S. military experts constantly warned against.

At home we continue to be plagued by an assortment of ills--grinding poverty, recurring crises in race relations, riots, a steadily mounting crime rate, higher living costs, higher taxes, runaway federal spending.



I will not discuss the Vietnam War at this time except to point out that in December, 1965, the Republican National Coordinating Committee urged full use of our conventional air and sea power in the Vietnam struggle and warned against embroiling this Nation in a huge land war in Southeast Asia. I would add that our pilots only now are permitted to hit significant military targets in North Vietnam--targets we should have struck two years ago--and we still have not shut off the flow of war supplies through the port of Haiphong.

On the domestic scene, the Federal Government has poured out billions in an assault on our urban problems. Yet, as in Vietnam, we see little perceptible progress.

Prominent Democrats as well as Republicans are saying that the Administration's Great Society programs have not worked. They now are urging the Republican approach of individual incentive and private enterprise know-how.

Republicans for years have urged tax credits for employers willing to give on-the-job training to the hard-core unemployed. Reluctant to admit failure, the Administration is scraping together its present programs and spending \$40 million on what it calls a pilot test. In other words, the Administration simply is unwilling to let the private sector grab the ball and run with it. And that is the underlying reason for its failures.

For contrast, look at Detroit where business and community leaders on the New Detroit Committee have launched a major effort to cut unemployment in the Negro ghetto and to improve the ability of Negroes to fill jobs. One of the Big Three auto manufacturers says it has 6,500 job openings in the Detroit area and has sent recruiters into the ghetto to hire the hard-core unemployed. Michigan Bell Telephone Co. will give orientation and job training at a high school near the scene of last July's riot. The Detroit Chamber of Commerce plans to open half a dozen employment offices in the ghetto.

That's the approach that promises truly effective results--a people-oriented program for progress, with full involvement of the private sector. Government's role should be simply to provide incentive and encouragement, not to run the show. This is why I believe the GOP proposal of tax credits for on-the-job training could trigger a nationwide effort patterned after Detroit's. I submit that the Detroit experiment has a far greater potential for success than the Administration's pilot test.

The \$40 million tagged for that pilot test is typical. It ties in with the frightening wave of federal spending now sweeping us along... spending generated by the theory that only the federal government can

solve our problems. This upsurge of federal spending has resulted in eight consecutive annual deficits, beginning in 1960. But the problems remain.

Where do we go from here? Do we continue our headlong plunge down the road of massive federal spending on social welfare programs or do we seek better and less costly solutions to our domestic problems?

Let's look at where we've been and where we're headed. During the nearly eight years that have elapsed in this decade, our population has grown by 10 per cent--but the civilian bureaucracy has grown by 25 per cent, federal payroll costs have climbed by 75 per cent, and total federal spending has jumped 80 per cent.

Is this spending surge due solely to the Vietnam War? While defense spending rose by 68 per cent in the Sixties, nondefense spending went up 97 per cent, and welfare and health spending went up 210 per cent.

We can expect that by the time this decade ends the federal budget will have doubled to \$160 billion from its 1960 level, and the deficits total for the Soaring Sixties will have climbed to nearly \$100 billion. The National Debt---on which we now must pay annual interest charges of \$14.2 billion--will have reached about \$400 billion.

I hope these projections on federal spending and deficits are cockeyed. And they may be if what I see happening in this country continues. Right now the taxpayers are rebelling against excessive federal spending--and that's what we need to bring federal expenditures back to the level of sanity.

That's the meaning of the current economy drive in the House of Representatives. We are trying to bring federal spending under control--not just for this fiscal year but for years to come. Otherwise you will see income taxes go up not only in 1968 but in future years.

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