

The original documents are located in Box D23, folder “Ohio 11th Congressional District GOP Fund-Raising Dinner Honoring Representative J. William Stanton, Painesville, OH, November 13, 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 AT 6:30 P.M. MONDAY--
November 13, 1967

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, House Republican Leader, at an Ohio 11th Congressional District GOP Fund-Raising Dinner, Monday, Nov. 13, 1967, in honor of Rep. J. William Stanton.

President Johnson recently repeated a favorite theme of his--that the United States is rich enough to fight a costly war halfway around the world and to fight poverty at home at the same time.

I agree--to a point--and thereafter I find myself in sharp disagreement with this country's chief executive.

We should be fighting poverty, and now, even while we are forced to fight Communist aggression in Vietnam. But there is a better way than LBJ's, and he refuses to admit it.

We are rich enough to battle poverty while fighting in Vietnam, but not with extravagant outlays of taxpayer dollars. We are rich in other resources--in the strength of our private enterprise system, the ability of private employers to train men and women for good-paying jobs and in the power of our private enterprise system to create those jobs.

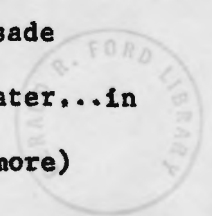
Currently the enemies of the Republican Party are peddling the big lie--the lie that Republicans want retreat in the war on poverty. That is the grossest bit of deception that any political party ever tried to palm off on the American people.

Republicans simply agree with the American people that the anti-poverty program as directed and administered by the Johnson Administration is a big boondoggle in some instances and a fouled-up flop in others. Where success has been achieved--and there are some good local programs--it is primarily due to good local leadership.

The federal anti-poverty program as presently operated attests to the fact that never before has an American president spent so much of the taxpayers' money and produced such meager results.

Republicans want an anti-poverty program, but they want to move it in a New Direction. We would use it to train people for jobs and to place them in those jobs, to make them taxpayers instead of tax-eaters. We would accomplish this by enlisting private enterprise as a full-fledged partner in a crusade against poverty. The federal outlay would be less; the results far greater...in

(more)



benefits to the poor and to the Nation. It would be a people's program, not an exclusively government program, dominated and directed by Washington.

It's true that we can't afford the Johnson Administration's war on poverty. We can't afford it because some of its programs are a fraud and a failure. Let's revamp it. Let's redirect it. Let's make it a success.

If we don't, the cost of the failure must be counted in more than the tax dollars shot directly into the anti-poverty war.

We must remember that some of the cities hardest hit in last summer's riots had received huge amounts of anti-poverty aid. We can only conclude that the kind of aid they received was not the answer. The federal dollars poured into those cities did not give the underprivileged a stake in our society. And we must give the poor a stake in our society if we want to build a good society.

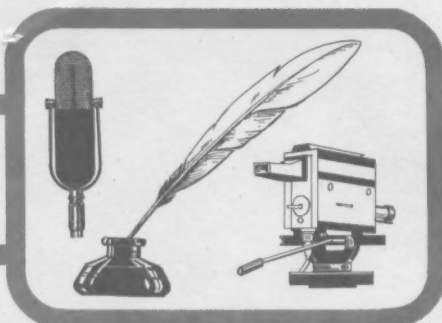
One of the myths the Democratic Party has tried to sell to the American people is that the more federal dollars are spent on a program the better. A corollary to this has been that any and all cuts in a Democratic president's spending request are a move to "gut" a program. What nonsense! These are blatant falsehoods, repeated by Democratic politicians from the President on down in an attempt to mislead the people.

But the people are wise to this phony baloney. They have finally realized that federal dollars alone are not the answer to America's problems. And they are sick of a President who wastes their dollars on ineffective programs, spends the country deeply and dangerously into debt, and then stretches out his hand for an income tax increase.

Do you know why the President finds it so difficult to sell his tax increase to the American people and the Congress? Because he's not being honest about it and because the American people are fed up with the Johnson Administration.

The people are fed up with the Johnson Administration because Johnson policies have produced a situation where larger paychecks in 1967 won't buy as much as slimmer paychecks two years ago. They won't buy the tax increase because President Johnson says the tax rise is necessary to "avoid" inflation, ignoring the fact that the cost of living right now is rising at an annual rate of more than 4 per cent. Mr. Johnson talks of "avoiding" inflation through a tax increase when he knows full well that inflation is here, it was brought on by his policies, and a lot of people are going to be hurt no matter what we do.

That's why I say we need a New Direction in Washington. Some Democratic liberals are saying it, too. I believe we will see a repudiation of this Administration and its policies in the 1968 elections. America desperately needs and wants new leadership.



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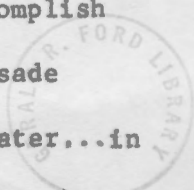
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