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National Conference for Businessmen on Election Issues

Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco, Monday, May 27, 1968

**Sponsored by Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Greater
San Francisco Chamber and California State Chamber.**

Substance of remarks to be given by

REP. GERALD R. FORD

Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

As the 1968 election approaches, the American people are deeply troubled and confused -- and very much concerned about the future of their country.

They are anxious and unhappy. Their areas of greatest concern are Vietnam, violence, and the steady erosion in the value of the dollar...in a word, inflation.

Vietnam is a volatile issue which currently has cooled off as Americans wait to see what comes of the peace talks in Paris. But meantime, the Vietnam war has cost more than 26,000 American lives -- from all causes -- and is costing more than \$2 billion dollars a month in American treasure.

The word, "violence," sums up the problems of greatest immediate concern to the American people. This embraces all of the turbulence involved in rising crime rates, racial unrest, large-scale urban rioting and the general breakdown of law and order in America which has turned many of our cities into jungles of fear.

Thirdly, both Americans and Europeans are losing confidence in the strength of the dollar. This is the inevitable result of huge federal deficits, a steady accelerating rise in the cost of living, and discovery that the dollar is not as good as gold.

These are the issues which almost certainly will have a great influence on the vote of the people in November. They are the issues which demand answers if we are to improve the quality of life in America.

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