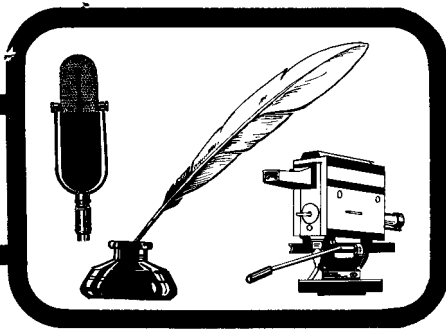


The original documents are located in Box D25, folder “Law and Order, Oshkosh, WI, June 14, 1968” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M. FRIDAY--
June 14, 1968

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, Friday evening, June 14, 1968, at Oshkosh, Wisc.

A wave of revulsion against violence is sweeping this country as an aftermath of the tragic and senseless slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

I think that feeling of abhorrence of violence to attain a political or social objective signals the beginning of the end of such tactics in America. I think the people will win this contest between the forces of democracy and the devotees of violence and anarchy.

I see the people of America rising up--in spirit--against the haters, the criminals and the practitioners of violence for political and social goals.

We all want progress for America. Each of us wants to get ahead. To do that each of us must dedicate himself to the truth that progress can be achieved only within the framework of law and order. The alternative is anarchy and destruction.

I believe the American people are going to move ahead. They are going to insist on law and order. They are going to insist on equal justice before the law. Most important, they are going to insist that the law be carried out...because they know that fear of punishment is a deterrent to law-breaking.

The American people are going to insist that every law enforcement agency in the land make it unmistakably clear to every would-be lawbreaker that he will be brought to justice and will be punished whether his crime is car theft or armed robbery, looting during a central city riot, or seizure of a university building. To condone one offense is to invite another.

We all want to build a better society in America, but we can build a better society only if we have a lawful society.

The clear-headed individual--be he a liberal or a conservative--recognizes that government must provide security for the law-abiding American, for his life and for his property, and that failure to do this endangers the rights and liberties of us all. That kind of security has not been provided under the Johnson-Humphrey Administration. The Johnson-Humphrey Administration has failed the American people. And that is why all law-abiding Americans are in danger today...as to their persons and their property, their families, their homes and their businesses.

Since 1960 the national crime rate has climbed 88 per cent--nearly nine times

(more)

faster than the population of this country. The biggest one-year rise was 16 per cent, just last year.

Yet it is only now--in June 1968--that an Omnibus Crime Control Bill has finally passed the Congress.

The House passed a Crime Control Bill last August. Why the delay?

The facts are plain. Republicans worked hard to push strong anti-crime legislation through the Congress. But the Johnson-Humphrey Administration and mistaken liberals dragged their heels and fought us--fought us because we were determined to get really tough with law-breakers in this country.

What have Republicans been doing to halt the crime wave? Despite our limitations due to lack of a majority, we beefed up the bill that passed the House last year and helped shape the tough bill that passed both Houses recently.

We sponsored and won House passage of an Anti-Riot Act as long ago as July 19, 1967. It became law last April 10 after President Johnson finally saw the light and embraced it.

We initiated legislation which will enable federal agents for the first time to go in hot pursuit of loan sharks with crime syndicate stripes--and this legislation recently passed both Houses of Congress.

It was Republicans who first pressed for court-supervised wire-tapping as a weapon against organized crime as well as subversion, because we know we need that tool to get at the Mafia.

We must have law and order in America--with justice--and we are going to get it.

We have been plagued by a crisis of violence in America. At the same time, a financial crisis of great dimensions threatens us.

What has brought on our financial troubles? Like the crime crisis, the financial crisis has been building due to Johnson-Humphrey Administration inaction.

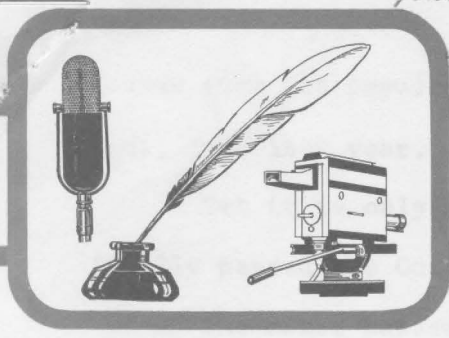
The dollar crisis has been building up since 1966 when President Johnson and the huge Democratic majority in the Congress refused to practice restraint in domestic spending despite repeated Republican pleas and repeated Republican moves in favor of economy.

Now we are paying the price for the fiscal excesses of the Johnson-Humphrey Administration and the Democratic majority in the Congress. We are paying it in high consumer prices, high interest rates and a steady drop in the purchasing power of the dollar. The farmer is paying in high production costs that have caught him in a cost-price squeeze. We are all--and most of all the pensioners and the poor--the victims of Johnson-Humphrey inflation.

And still we must pay--pay with a Johnson-Humphrey tax increase--for that will be the crowning cost of Johnson-Humphrey inflation. That is the full cost of Johnson-Humphrey inflation--more taxes on top of higher prices.

Distribution: House Side 9:30 a.m. 6/14/68
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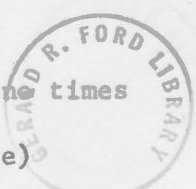
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