

The original documents are located in Box D25, folder “Columbia County's Annual GOP Picnic, Hudson, NY, June 22, 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 IN SATURDAY PM'S--
June 22, 1968

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., House Republican Leader, at Columbia County's annual GOP Picnic, at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 22, at Hudson, N.Y.

A Republican picnic is always a happy affair--if the weatherman votes with us--and I take this opportunity to invite you to another joyous get-together, a GOP victory celebration after the election on Nov. 5.

I am becoming increasingly convinced as the days go by that the American people in November will pick a Republican to sit in the White House and will turn control of the United States House of Representatives over to the Republican Party.

We have an excellent chance here in the 28th Congressional District of New York to send a Republican to the House next January. I am sure, as you are, that Hamilton Fish Jr. will make a great congressman, and I certainly will enjoy serving with him.

New York is a state where we have a big potential for congressional gains. Rightfully we should pick up about six seats now held by the majority party. We can do it if every active Republican in New York State will get out and work for the cause of good government, recruit new support and get those supporters to the polls on Election Day.

I said earlier that I am becoming more and more certain of a Republican victory in November. Now, why is that?

It is because the American people are becoming more and more aware that the new leadership that will replace the present caretaker government in Washington must be Republican leadership.

They have seen the results of eight years of Democratic rule in Washington, and they know the country cannot afford another four years of it.

They have lived under the Johnson-Humphrey Administration since November 1963 and they have seen their Nation sorely hurt by war, inflation and a vicious rise in individual and organized crime.

They have seen the Johnson-Humphrey Administration fight a "limited" war in which nearly 30,000 young Americans have lost their lives with no hope of victory--25,000 of them in combat and the rest from other causes.

The American people have seen the cost of living go up 10 per cent in just the last three years.

(more)

What the average housewife paid \$10.89 for in January 1965 now costs her \$12.

A \$10 bill acquired in January 1965 now is worth \$9.08.

A savings account with \$500 in it as of January 1965 now is worth just \$454.

A \$10,000 insurance policy of three years ago now is worth a little over \$9,000.

A retired American with an income of \$2,500 three years ago finds that his income has shrunk today to \$2,295, a loss of more than \$200.

This is what is happening among the 224 million citizens of this country because the Johnson-Humphrey Administration has fostered an inflationary spiral which is robbing the dollar of its value. The Johnson-Humphrey Administration is to blame--because of mistakes in fiscal strategy, excessive federal spending and downright deception.

Now the American people are being called upon to pay a tax increase on top of higher prices. The people are being called upon to pay for Johnson-Humphrey Administration inflation--to pay twice--because the foolish inflation fostered by the Johnson-Humphrey Administration must be halted or we'll have an economic collapse.

Republicans tried to stop reckless spending in Washington but the majority party, the big spenders, beat us time and again on economy votes. Now the day of reckoning has arrived.

Republicans have succeeded in imposing sharp restraints on future spending. This means the heavy Democratic tax burden can be lightened in future.

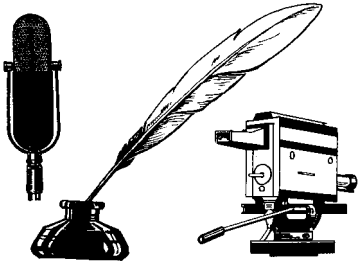
The most tragic aspect of Democratic rule in Washington since 1960 is the Performance Gap--the fact that Democratic programs have never caught up with the extravagant promises of the Johnson-Humphrey Administration regardless of the billions poured into them.

It is tragic, too, that under the Johnson-Humphrey Administration an atmosphere of lawlessness has sprung up in this country and produced the mass crime known as riots while individual crimes have climbed at a record rate.

With a strong push from Republicans, Congress has passed an omnibus anti-crime bill reluctantly signed by the President. If individual Americans now will join in demanding and supporting law and order accompanied by equal justice, we can make ourselves proud of this country again.

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