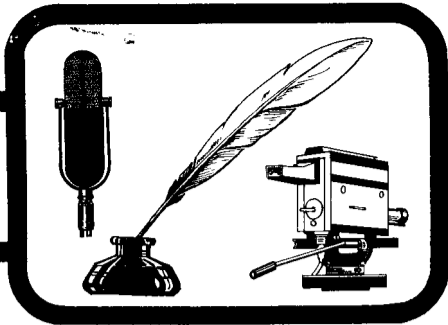


**The original documents are located in Box D25, folder “Virginia Ninth District Republican Convention, Abington, VA, June 29, 1968” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

An Address by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., House Republican Leader, at the Virginia Ninth District Republican Convention at 1:30 P.M., Saturday, June 29, 1968, at Abingdon, Virginia.

It is wonderful to be in Bill Wampler's district talking with all you fine people.

It is always a pleasure for me to be in Bill Wampler's company because Bill is one of the really solid members of the U.S. House of Representatives, a man who is keenly attentive to the needs of his congressional district and an honest spokesman for the people there. I can assure all of the voters of the Ninth Virginia District that Bill Wampler is doing a great job on the House Agriculture Committee and that nobody excels him as a conscientious and hard-working legislator.

If anyone knows what's best for this congressional district, Bill Wampler does. He is looking out for his people every minute of the day. And he handles every dollar of the taxpayer's money just as though it were coming out of his own pocket. I can personally testify to the fact that Bill Wampler is a great champion of government economy, and the record of the votes he cast in the 90th Congress will bear me out.

We need men like Bill Wampler in the Congress--men who will turn over a tax dollar at least twice before they spend it and then try to make it go twice as far; legislators who believe ours is a government of laws and not of men and who will never turn our country over to the forces of anarchy; men who love the tillers of the soil and the miners who dig riches out of the depths of the earth, those who work hard and are proud of working for a living; legislators who believe that the states and local communities should be strong and vigorous units of government and not appendages of the federal bureaucratic octopus.

Yes, we badly need men like Bill Wampler in the House of Representatives, and so I ask you today to do everything possible to send Bill back to Washington next January.

I am very much aware of the heavy Democratic registration in Virginia's Ninth Congressional District. This does not worry me as much in 1968 as in previous election years, and I'll tell you why.

It doesn't worry me because I think we will get the right answers and Republican votes if we just let the voters know what has happened to this country in the last seven years. Just ask the people of the Ninth District these questions:

(more)

Which political party is it which has spent this Nation into a financial crisis without solving the people's problems?

Which party is it which has poured billions of dollars into the problems of the cities only to have them erupt in riots snuffing out 123 lives and costing nearly a billion dollars just in the last year and a half?

Which party is it which has pumped billions of dollars into a War on Poverty--in which the opening gun was fired just before the 1964 election--only to have the Poor march on Washington four years later and threaten to turn the Nation's capital upside down?

Which party is it which has bogged this Nation down in a land war in Vietnam, where nearly 30,000 Americans have lost their lives and some \$70 billion of our wealth has been dissipated?

Which party is it which is about to impose an income tax increase on the American people to offset its extravagant federal spending?

The National Democratic Party not only has failed to solve America's problems, it has created crushing new ones.

Ask the people of your district to look at what has happened to America in the last seven years.

We have become involved in a no-win war which the contenders for the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1968 would end by bringing the Communists into a coalition government--while the Southvietnamese Government arrests a former Presidential candidate for making such a proposal.

The cost of living has raced upward by nearly 20 per cent and while it used to be said that a fool and his money are soon parted now this tragedy happens to all of us under Democrat inflation.

The national crime rate has jumped 88 per cent while our population has increased 10 per cent.

Europeans have lost confidence in the dollar and have nearly drained this country of its gold supply.

Our paper money has become exactly that--because the Johnson-Humphrey-McCarthy Democratic Party has removed the 25 per cent gold backing from our currency.

For more than five months a fourth-rate Communist power has held a United States intelligence ship and 82 crewmen captive after attacking the vessel with impunity and killing one of the crew.

It was clearly a lack of preparedness by the Johnson-Humphrey Administration

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to deal with an incident like the Pueblo affair that resulted in the capture of the ship and the crew.

This is all part of the record of the Democratic Administrations and the Democratic-controlled Congresses which have guided this country's fortunes and misfortunes since January 1961...the fiasco at the Bay of Pigs, the costly stalemate in Vietnam, the shame of the Pueblo, the deterioration of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization which has been kicked out of France and forced to take refuge in Belgium, the U.S. non-policy in the Mideast which failed to prevent the lightning war of June 1967 and now hinders face-to-face peace negotiations between the Israelis and the Arabs while Soviet influence in the Middle East grows, the continuing failure of the Alliance for Progress, the waste and corruption in the foreign aid program, the threat that the Soviet Union is overtaking us in nuclear capability if she has not already passed us.

This is the kind of bankrupt government that Hubert Humphrey would like to sell the American people for another four years--a party that has already plunged the Nation into bankruptcy in foreign affairs and near-bankruptcy in its financial affairs.

The American people are coming to realize that the National Democratic Party has mismanaged our foreign affairs and our domestic affairs and brought this Nation to the brink of ruin. I am confident they will turn to the Republican Party in November.

Johnson-Humphrey Administration mismanagement of our national affairs clearly extends to agriculture. It is utterly fantastic that the Administration would ask Congress to write into permanent law a farm program that has produced one of the lowest parity ratios of all time.

The Food and Agriculture Act of 1965 has not worked well, and that is why Bill Wampler and other Republicans are insisting on something better. When the Act became effective, the farm parity ratio stood at 81. Since then it has dropped steadily to the ridiculously low figure of 73. Even the adjusted parity ratio--the one which includes direct payments to farmers--has dropped to 79 after reaching 87 in January 1966. That's an eight-point drop in two years. We must do better. Turn the leadership of this country over to the Republican Party and we will do better.

This is what the Nation desperately needs--a change in national leadership, Republican leadership that will steer this country in a New Direction, away from \$25 billion deficits and away from the permissiveness that breeds riots, away from

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a rising national crime rate and the philosophy that whatever you can get away with is all right.

We all want a better society. You know and I know that we can build a better society only if we have a lawful society.

We all want progress. You know and I know that we can make progress only with a sound dollar, not with the deteriorating dollar of the Johnson-Humphrey Administration.

This is a crucial year for America. This is a crucial year for the South. Perhaps more than at any other time it is important that Southerners ask themselves whether unquestioning affiliation with the Democratic Party makes sense. I hope that every Southerner who is inclined to vote Democratic will look at the two major parties and ask himself, honestly, which party best represents his own thinking. If he will do that, I do not fear for the outcome--either in the Ninth District of Virginia or elsewhere in this rapidly changing region.

Let him consider, too, that crime is the No. 1 problem in America today and yet the Johnson-Humphrey Administration failed to move with urgency toward a solution to that problem. Let him remember, too, that it was only because of Republicans in Congress that federal grants under the new Omnibus Anti-Crime Bill will go to the states and add to crime-fighting muscle on a statewide basis.

Crime knows no jurisdictional boundaries. It does not stop at the city line. The national crime rate continued to mount while the Johnson-Humphrey Administration and congressional advocates of direct federal funding of local law enforcement withheld anti-crime funds from the states.

Republicans advanced no less than 31 proposals to strengthen law enforcement in this country while the majority party plotted how to bypass the states in the war on crime. This was a shocking exercise in the mis-use of political power. And all America has suffered as a result.

I am convinced that America cannot afford another four years of Democratic rule in Washington.

We need Republican leadership in Washington. We need Republican control of the Congress. We need a Republican in the White House.

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In this age of crisis the Nation sorely needs a new leader with a strong

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We need a mature and clear-thinking leader to bring the Vietnam War to an honorable conclusion, to steer us clear of humiliating incidents like the Pueblo affair, to curb inflation, to restore world confidence in the dollar, to turn the national crime rate downward, and to wipe out the slums and build a new America.

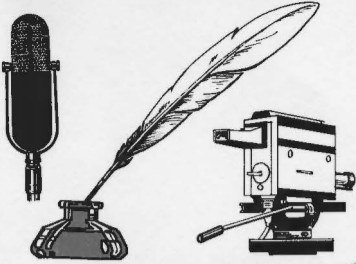
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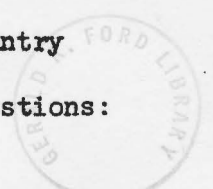
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