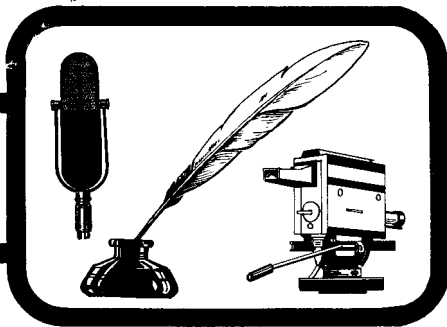


The original documents are located in Box D25, folder “Dinner Honoring Representative Barber Conable, Batavia, NY, October 3, 1968” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY--
October 3, 1968

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, at a dinner honoring Rep. Barber Conable, R-N.Y., Thursday evening, Oct. 3, at Batavia, N.Y.

The saddest song a band can play today is "Happy Days Are Here Again."

Are you happy with what is happening to our country?

Are you happy that America is bogged down in a no-win war which has taken the lives of more than 32,700 of our young men?

Are you happy that our land is torn by lack of respect for law and order and a lack of respect for the rights of others?

Are you happy that the national crime rate has gone up 89 per cent since 1960, nearly nine times faster than the population?

Are you happy that the cost of living is climbing faster than at any other time since the Korean War?

Are you happy that the Johnson-Humphrey Administration has run the Treasury deep in the hole, so that just the interest on the federal debt costs us more than \$15 billion a year?

Are you happy that the Johnson-Humphrey Administration's fiscal mismanagement has brought us higher federal income taxes this year?

No, of course you're not. And all across this country the cry is going up that it's time for a change.

Now, how do you change Washington policies? You don't change them by passing the power on to the No. 2 Guy in the White House, the man who has been part and parcel of all the bad decision-making and the reckless spending that have plunged us into a mess.

The way to change policies is to change the men at the top.

And it isn't enough to say you want a change. You have to decide what kind of change. In what direction do you want this country to go? And who is best equipped to lead us in that New Direction?

I say if you search your minds and your hearts you can come up with only one answer. That answer is: Dick Nixon. And Dick Nixon will need the help of Barber Conable. Dick Nixon and Barber Conable are action men, but men of Reason and Responsibility.

That's your answer because you want the kind of changes that Barber Conable and I have been working for. The kind of changes that a Nixon Administration

(more)

and Republican control of the Congress would bring.

We want to end the war in Vietnam--as quickly as possible, as honorably as possible.

We want to restore law and order in this country. There is no greater problem in our Nation today.

We want a nationwide crackdown on organized crime, led by a new attorney general, because organized crime feeds on both the poor and the rich and spawns a multitude of evils.

We want progress in America, but we believe you get progress by working for it and not just by trying to buy it with federal dollars.

We want to hold down federal spending so that in future years we can cut the federal income tax, not raise it. And we would remind you that since the Federal income tax went into effect in 1913, Democrats have raised the rates 13 times, and the Republicans only once. Republicans have cut income taxes six different times; the Democrats, only four times.

We want to bring the federal budget under control and hold down prices, so that a working man can see some real gains in his pay envelope. We know, and the working man knows, that the wage gains the average worker thought he had made over the past two years were wiped out by a combination of higher taxes and higher prices.

No amount of double-talk can change what's been happening in America, and the Flip-Flop Candidate for the Presidency can't talk his way out of it. In fact, the more he talks the more trouble he's in.

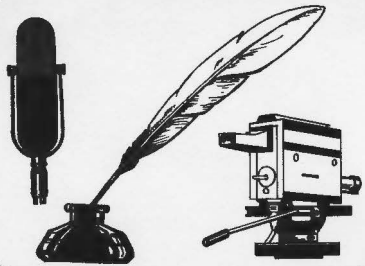
There's been a lot of talk about war in this country the last five years. War has become a household word in America. There's the war in Vietnam, the war on poverty, the war against crime--and the war of words and worse between those who disagree over these wars.

The way the Johnson-Humphrey Administration has run the Vietnam War, most of us are agreed there will have to be a negotiated settlement of it. But there can be no negotiated settlement in the war against the lawless and criminal elements in our society.

We will either succeed in restoring respect for law and order in America or we will fall into the ways of the jungle.

We must achieve order with justice under law. And we can do this only if all law-abiding citizens demand that governments at all levels measure up to their most important responsibility--insuring domestic tranquillity.

What do you say we do something about it? Give your support to Dick Nixon and Barber Conable -- and we'll change America for the better. We'll fight for you.



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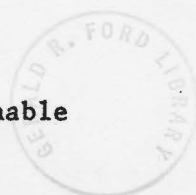
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