

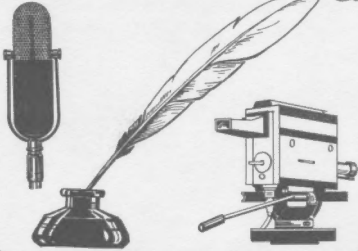
The original documents are located in Box D26, folder “Metropolitan Dinner Club, Sarasota, FL, April 18, 1969” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY--
8:30 p.m. Friday, April 18, 1969

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, before the Sarasota, Fla., Metropolitan Dinner Club, at 8:30 p.m. Friday, April 18, 1969, at the Sarasota (Fla.) Motor Hotel.

After careful study and deep thought, President Nixon has sent Congress the outlines of his domestic program -- a program which I believe marks a turning point in American life.

The President's program marks a turning point because if it is implemented by the Congress it will take this Nation into new paths leading to a better life for all our citizens.

After seeing America explode in bitter frustration because ambitious programs have fallen far short of objectives, President Nixon has charted a bold new course. It is a common sense course directed toward attainable goals.

To reach those goals, the President has assumed the role of crusader and reformer.

The President is blazing a new trail into the jungle of the urban crisis, a trail he believes will cut through to the hard core of our urban problems.

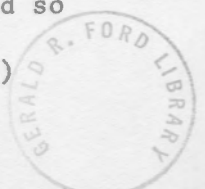
To get the fullest possible aid from business and industry in attacking our social ills, Mr. Nixon has asked Congress to provide tax credits to businesses tackling urban and ghetto projects. The aim is to bring massive amounts of private funds into a large-scale attack on this country's most urgent social problems.

Nixon the crusader also seeks to give the states and cities more financial muscle to fight problems that have plagued them for decades. And so he has proposed the sharing of Federal income tax revenue with the states and local units of government, confident that administrators at those levels know best how to use the additional funds.

These are New Directions -- a course the Congress may resist unless the American people strongly support a President seeking new solutions for persistent problems that have defied total government approaches.

Nixon the crusader also proposes new programs of airport and mass transit development. These will be based on the trust fund concept which has proved so

(more)



successful in the interstate highway program launched by the late President Eisenhower.

Nixon the reformer has taken up the sword against another wide range of problems which continue to plague the American people.

He is the first President to personally tackle the thorny problem of tax reform.

He has set forth a responsible tax policy and has lopped \$4 billion from President Johnson's fiscal 1970 budget. The goal: To bring inflation under control and save the dollar. President Nixon will be successful in battling inflation only if Americans join the fight, recognizing as Mr. Nixon does that if we do not save the dollar we will be inviting economic collapse and deep unemployment.

Nixon the reformer has set out to revamp the Nation's welfare system and end the dismal cycle of dependency.

Nixon the reformer is determined to reorganize the Post Office Department from top to bottom and improve mail service for us all.

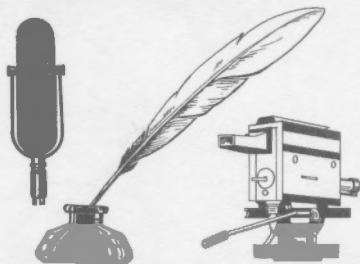
Nixon the reformer is determined to shackle the mobsters, the narcotics traffickers, and the pornography peddlers...and he has already moved to expand the FBI and other Federal law enforcement forces in his drive to do so.

Nixon the reformer has consolidated the eight manpower training programs operated by the Department of Labor and has greatly expanded the on-the-job training program directed by the National Alliance of Businessmen, knowing full well that the way to bring a dropout citizen into our society is to give him a stake in it.

Our new President has carefully studied the staggering array of problems he inherited and has come up with a carefully planned domestic program after dealing initially with problems demanding immediate action.

Promptly upon assuming office, President Nixon began laying down and pursuing a strategy designed to end United States involvement in the Vietnam War. Peace has been his first priority. And, I am sure the American people agree, properly so.

There is a new atmosphere of calm and confidence in America despite the great problems facing us and the fresh crises that arise. That atmosphere emanates from the new man in the White House. Let us help him move America forward.



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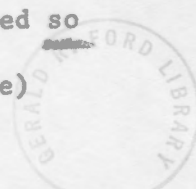
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