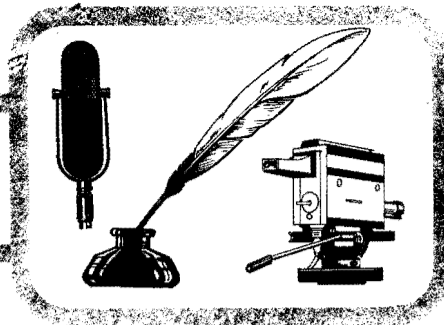


The original documents are located in Box D27, folder “Cumberland County Republican Campaign, Bridgeton, NJ, October 6, 1969” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M. MONDAY--
October 6, 1969

Excerpts from a speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, at a dinner kicking off the Cumberland County Republican Campaign, Monday evening, October 6, 1969, at Bridgeton, New Jersey.

I come to you from the battleground of Washington, D.C., where leading Democrats including the Democratic National Chairman have declared war on President Nixon's Vietnam policy.

That political declaration of war simply proves that politics is a weird business. Imagine the Democrats attacking the Vietnam policy of the first President in this decade to take troops out of Vietnam instead of putting more troops in. Imagine the Democrats climbing into bed with the likes of Dave Dellinger, Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin. They're in fine company, let me tell you!

President Nixon has set out to be a peace-maker, and he is working at the job 24 hours a day and every day of the week. The result is the withdrawal of 60,000 Americans from Vietnam, a drop in the fatality toll last week to the lowest figure in more than two years, a one-third drop in American casualties in Vietnam and a two-thirds drop in enemy infiltration.

If the Democrats and the Hanoi-oriented American radicals will only let the President do the job, peace with honor will come in Vietnam.

I wonder if Americans realize the enormity of what National Democratic Chairman Fred Harris and about a dozen Democratic senators and congressmen plotted behind closed doors on Friday, Sept. 26. What they did was plan to add their voices to those of other demonstrators protesting on Oct. 15 against continued American efforts to bring about peace with honor in Vietnam. They gave their blessing to protests directed at forcing the President of the United States to pull our forces out of Vietnam in a precipitous unilateral fashion that could only be described as capitulation to Communist aggression.

It is because we realized just how tragic was the action taken by this Democratic caucus that President Nixon, Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott and I attacked this attempt to force upon our great Nation a declaration of surrender in Vietnam.

I do not believe the American people are going to be fooled by politicians playing games with the predecessor administration's miserable misadventure in Vietnam.

(more)

How have the Democratic critics of the President responded to a call by Republican leaders for a 60-day moratorium on criticism of the President's Vietnam policies? They have rejected it and called it "a ploy." What a statesman-like response! I had always thought up to this point that partisanship stopped at the water's edge. That has always been a guiding principle for me in my relations with Democratic Presidents.

But now we have the Democratic national chairman saying "it is time to take off the gloves on the Vietnam issue." Did he take off the gloves on Vietnam when Lyndon Johnson was escalating the war? He did not. But he declares that now is the time to take off the gloves on Vietnam, now when a Republican President is winding down the Vietnam War.

Thank goodness not all Democrats are following their national chairman.

I think the best way to answer Chairman Harris and other leading Democrats who are attacking the President is to quote the words spoken recently on the House floor by Rep. Roman Pucinski, Democrat of Chicago, who said: "It is no wonder that our negotiators cannot budge a foot forward in Paris when some of the most outstanding leaders in this country, in the other body and in various other places, are making great big speeches undermining every single effort of this country and its war effort."

Even the President's most vocal critics concede that Mr. Nixon inherited the Vietnam War from the predecessor administration. They don't accuse him of making the mess, just with failing to clean it up overnight.

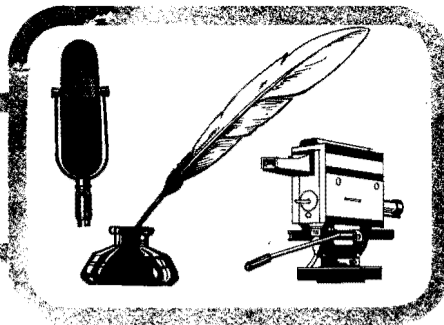
President Nixon did inherit a mess. He promptly plowed into and analyzed that mess, and the result is a batch of reform proposals.

President Nixon has laid an excellent program of reforms before the 91st Congress -- welfare reform which will turn all able-bodied Americans from welfare to Workfare; draft reform which will make the selective service system as fair as possible until we can establish a truly volunteer army; postal reform which will create a government-owned self-supporting postal corporation in place of the present impossible system; poverty program reform which keeps the Office of Economic Opportunity as an innovative agency but spins off successful anti-poverty programs to old-line Government departments; manpower training reform which consolidates Federal manpower training programs for greater flexibility in funding and offers the administration of manpower training centers to the states as they are ready to handle it; tax reform which takes millions of poor citizens off the taxrolls, reduces taxes for millions of other low-income Americans and prevents the wealthy from escaping taxation; a New Federalism which provides a percentage slice of Federal income tax revenue for cities and states with no strings attached.

This promises to be the Age of Reform in America -- under Republican leadership. The times cry out for reform in New Jersey, too, and Republicans will see that you get it.

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GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

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Monday Oct. 6, 1969.

DICK NIXON ASSUMED THE LEADERSHIP OF...

...A COUNTRY ENMESHED IN A JUNGLE WAR HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD

...A COUNTRY WHICH HAD SUFFERED ESCALATING INFLATION FOR NEARLY FOUR YEARS

...A COUNTRY IN WHICH THE CRIME RATE HAD CLIMBED NEARLY TEN TIMES AS FAST AS

THE POPULATION

...A COUNTRY IN WHICH THE PROBLEMS OF THE CITIES THREATENED TO TURN URBAN CRISIS

INTO FLAMING REVOLUTION

...A COUNTRY IN WHICH LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL TAXES HAD DRIVEN TAXPAYERS TO THE

RIM OF REVOLT WITHOUT PRODUCING ENOUGH REVENUE TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS.

DICK NIXON HAS MOVED TOWARD PEACE IN VIETNAM AND ELSEWHERE

...HE IS FIGHTING INFLATION WITH POLICIES THAT WILL -- OVER TIME -- END INFLATION

WITHOUT PRODUCING A RECESSION.

...HE HAS CRACKED DOWN ON ORGANIZED CRIME

...HE HAS SUCCEEDED IN GETTING AMERICANS TO LOWER THEIR VOICES, AND THEIR ARMS TOO.

THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION IS A REFORM ADMINISTRATION. NIXON HAS LAID AN

EXCELLENT PROGRAM OF REFORMS BEFORE THE CONGRESS...

...WELFARE REFORM WHICH WILL TURN ABLE-BODIED AMERICANS FROM WELFARE TO WORKFARE

...DRAFT REFORM WHICH WILL MAKE THE SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM AS FAIR AS POSSIBLE

UNTIL WE CAN ESTABLISH A TRULY ALL-VOLUNTEER ARMY

...POSTAL REFORM WHICH WILL CREATE A GOVERNMENT-OWNED SELF-SUPPORTING POSTAL

CORPORATION IN PLACE OF THE PRESENT INEFFICIENT AND DEFICIT-RIDDEN SYSTEM

...POVERTY PROGRAM REFORM WHICH KEEPS THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AS AN

INNOVATIVE AGENCY BUT SPINS OFF SUCCESSFUL ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMS TO OLD LINE GOVERNMENT ~~DEPARTMENTS.~~

...A NEW FEDERALISM WHICH PROVIDES A PERCENTAGE SLICE OF FEDERAL REVENUE FOR CITIES
AND STATES TO USE AS THEY SEE FIT ON THE PROBLEMS THEY ARE CLOSEST TO.

...MANPOWER TRAINING REFORM WHICH CONSOLIDATES FEDERAL MANPOWER TRAINING PROGRAMS

...TAX REFORM WHICH TAKES MILLIONS OF POOR CITIZENS OFF THE TAXROLLS, CUTS TAXES FOR
MILLIONS OF OTHERS AND PREVENTS THE MOST WEALTHY FROM ESCAPING TAXATION. # #

