

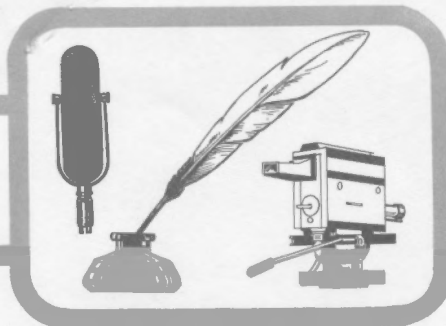
The original documents are located in Box D28, folder “Republican Dinner, Big Rapids, MI, November 4, 1969” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6:00 P.M. TUESDAY--
November 4, 1969

Excerpts from a speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, at a Republican Dinner Tuesday evening, November 4, 1969 at Big Rapids, Mich.

The 1970 campaign is on.

In the words of an outstanding newspaper columnist, the liberal Democrats have plunged headlong into an exercise which he labels, "The Breaking of the President." I can tell them right now, he won't break.

In the words of National Democratic Chairman Fred Harris, "It is time we (Democrats) took the gloves off on Vietnam." With those words, he made a partisan issue of the Vietnam War. If they want it that way, let's get the RECORD straight.

The campaign is on, and the liberal Democrats are employing tactics which demonstrate an amazing disregard for the facts, for cause and effect, for blame and results, in short...for history.

Let me ask you here tonight, and in fact let me pose this question to the Nation: Did you want a continuation of what was happening in this country and to this country in 1968?

The answer given by the people of this country at the polls last November was clearly "no." And it is equally clear that President Nixon has moved to change what was happening in this country -- and it is changing.

When he became President, Dick Nixon began grappling with problems that had accumulated for eight years under Democratic administrations...principally under the immediate precedent administration. Deep involvement in a jungle war halfway around the world. Escalating inflation, price rises that had built up during nearly four years of inflationary pressure. A crime rate which had climbed nearly 10 times as fast as the Nation's population. Cities being put to the torch by black militants. Taxpayers at the point of revolt.

The liberal Democrats would have you believe that President Nixon has done nothing, that nothing has changed in the country since he took office. But the facts show otherwise.

Dick Nixon has cooled it. In both foreign and domestic affairs, the fires have been dampened down.

In Vietnam, Dick Nixon is the first President in eight years to be taking troops out instead of putting more troops in, and American fatalities have dropped to the lowest point in three years.

(more)



Again, in world affairs, Dick Nixon has inaugurated a new foreign policy based on a "do-it-yourself doctrine" for Southeast Asia, a pledge of No More Vietnams, and an innovative policy elsewhere in the world attuned to the concept that all countries, including Communist nations, are responsive to their own nationalistic concerns.

Domestically, President Nixon has succeeded in getting people to lower their voices...and their arms, too.

Again in quest of domestic tranquillity, Dick Nixon has launched a strong crackdown against organized crime and is seeking enactment by the Congress of more major anti-crime legislation. He has sent Congress a detailed program dealing with organized crime and reorganization of the courts. He has made the fight against crime one of his central concerns. The Nixon Administration recognizes, as do all of you, that the first civil right of every American -- black or white -- is the right to protection against crime and violence.

Dick Nixon has greatly expanded and improved the Nation's manpower training programs and has made them a part of his proposal to give the country Workfare instead of Welfare. He is building a better America on the solid American ethic of working for a living. He knows that a man never stands so tall as when he stands on his own two feet. Dick Nixon's way is a hand up instead of a handout. That's the American way. That's the only way to bridge the gap between the Haves and the Have-Nots in America.

The Nixon Administration's policies are taking hold of inflation. This is shown by the economic indicators. What a rotten tactic it is for liberal Democrats to point with alarm at the latest unemployment figures! They know full well it is Democratic inflation that is forcing the Nixon administration to cool off the economy.

We are on the edge of tax reform and tax relief because the Nixon Administration has made it possible.

I really don't think the liberal Democrats would want to go back to the days of LBJ, if they were to tell the truth.

We now have order in this country, because President Nixon has brought order to the Presidency. The days of government by crisis have been replaced by crisis prevention.

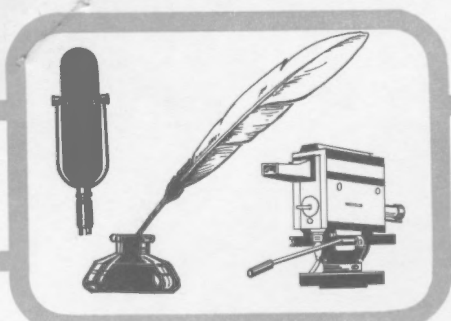
But the greatest problem remains. Vietnam remains.

We are winding down the war; we are Vietnamizing it while seeking a negotiated settlement. And despite what the cut-and-run boys say, the biggest obstacles to peace lie not in Saigon but in Hanoi. I wish the cut-and-run boys and the American radicals who want the Communists to take over South Vietnam would get Hanoi to negotiate in a meaningful way at Paris.

I hope that all Americans, Democrats and Republicans alike, will join ranks behind our President and help him achieve peace with honor in Vietnam.

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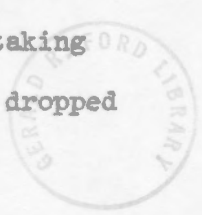
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