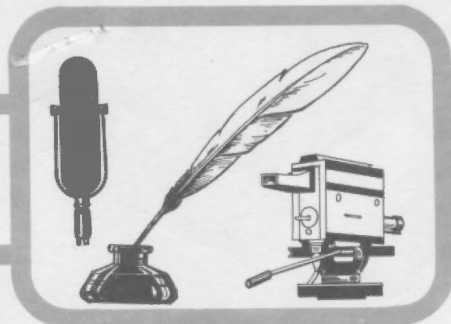


The original documents are located in Box D28, folder “Republican Dinner, Indianapolis, IN, December 12, 1969” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M.--
Friday, Dec. 12, 1969

Excerpts from a Speech by House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., at a Republican Dinner, Friday evening, Dec. 12, 1969, at Indianapolis, Ind.

I feel inspired as I stand before you tonight, but not simply because the Nixon Administration scored a stunning victory last Thursday on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

I feel inspired because each passing day strengthens my conviction that President Nixon has set the proper course, the right course, both in Vietnam and in our domestic affairs. I am convinced he is doing what is right for the Nation, and I am **just as** certain that the Republican Party is "right" for the Nation.

The President is proceeding with a carefully worked out program to end the Vietnam War and he has laid before the Congress a great domestic program rooted in the desperate need for reform in America.

There is a crying need for reform in **this** country, although you would never guess it from the lackadaisical attitude of most Democrats in Congress.

The Democrats have dallied on President Nixon's reform proposals because to move on them would be to admit their past failures and add to Republican Party luster.

I would urge my Democratic friends to stop seeking political advantage long enough to legislate in the best interests of the Nation--long enough to enact the Nixon reform proposals which the American people want and need.

The President has proposed sweeping reforms in a number of problem areas--draft reform, welfare reform, tax reform, revenue sharing reform, postal reform, manpower training reform, social security reform, grant-in-aid reform and electoral reform.

He has also sought to improve the Nation's air facilities, redevelop the country's public transportation system, establish a national occupational health and safety board, broaden the food stamp program, step up the fight against crime, score a breakthrough in the construction of homes for low-income families, and protect the rights of the consumer.

A few days ago the House Democratic Leader invited the press to take a look at the record of the 91st Congress. He was complaining about White House statements implying that Congress had not been working very hard.

I wish the press could take a good, hard look at what the 91st Congress has done to date. Any impartial observer would have to call it a mark-time Congress which has



moved so slowly it has almost been marching in place.

Of the great Nixon reforms, the Congress has completed action on only one--draft reform--and is nearing the finish line on one other--tax reform.

The only draft reform achieved by the Congress was to repeal one sentence in the law so that the President could go ahead with a lottery system, the "luck of the draw" method for selecting draftees.

On tax reform, the Senate has gone far beyond the sound, reasonable House-approved bill and has produced a Christmas tree bill loaded with political goodies. They have taken a tax reform bill and turned it into an irresponsible tax relief bill.

I look to the House-Senate conference committee for salvation on tax reform. They certainly have a job to do. Being an optimist, I think they will do it and the American people will get good tax reform legislation. I think it will be a bill the President can sign.

Members of the Senate may kick aside all concern about inflation. But the President cannot do so. He is only too aware that while our tax cuts may total \$8 billion or more over several years, the cost of six per cent inflation is \$28 billion a year in lost values and dollar erosion. The President is acting for all of us in fighting the heavy tax that is inflation.

So we've looked at the record of the 91st Congress as of this moment, and it is not a pretty one. It is a record of failure--failure to measure up to the mandate of reform that was delivered up by the American people in the last election.

The House Democratic Leader speaks of the "lack" of an Administration program. That is a completely phoney charge. The Administration program of some 40 reform proposals has been laid before the American people for all to see--and the people like it.

In the next election the voters will put the Congress in the hands of representatives who will move that program forward and move America forward with it.

That new team will be a Republican team, for the Republican Party is not a party of promises but a party of action.

The Seventies are a decade of decision. I ask the American people to look closely at what happens to the program shaped to guide us in that decade of decision, the Nixon program. And I ask that they look closely at the Republican Party--a party not only ready and willing to govern the Nation but ABLE to govern the Nation.

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Distributors: 20 copies Mr. Ford

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