

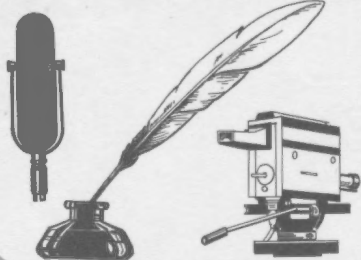
**The original documents are located in Box D28, folder “Fund-raising Dinner for Representative Lawrence Hogan of Maryland, Washington, DC, March 17, 1970” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M. TUESDAY--  
March 17, 1970

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, at a fund-raising dinner for Rep. Lawrence Hogan, R-Md., at the Sheraton Park Hotel, Washington, D. C.

No greater challenges face us as we move into the decade of the Seventies than clearing the criminal from our streets and clearing the poisons and solid waste from our environment.

There is no more deeply disturbing problem before this Nation today than that of the ever-rising crime rate--and nowhere is that problem more pressing than in the Nation's capital.

I am pleased to impress upon you here tonight that Congressman Larry Hogan has been in the forefront of the fight against crime in the District of Columbia and the Washington metropolitan area, just as he has been one of the foremost fighters in the crusade to clean up our environment.

The House will soon have before it an Omnibus D.C. Crime Bill. Larry Hogan helped to shape that bill. In fact he was the only Republican lawyer on the subcommittee which drafted it and reported it out.

The bill that Larry Hogan helped draw up will restructure the D.C. courts, create a vastly improved bail agency to supervise pretrial release of criminal defendants, permit pretrial detention of dangerous hard-core repeat offenders, establish a full-fledged public defender office to serve indigent adult and juvenile offenders, and revise the D.C. Juvenile Procedures Code to update and improve the handling of juvenile and family matters.

The Omnibus D.C. Crime Bill will give law enforcement officers and the courts tools they sorely need to combat crime in the District of Columbia. It will significantly improve the administration of justice in the Nation's capital.

Nearly every American city is experiencing a rising crime rate but in D.C. the rate has soared far faster--until recently. I say "until recently" because the Nixon Administration has given the D.C. Government a big assist on law enforcement and that big lift has paid off in a falling crime rate over the last few months. What the President did was to give D.C. extra funds to put an additional 200 policemen on the streets each day by working regular officers on their days off as overtime. Meantime the recruiting of added new policemen is

(more)



going great, as Police Chief Jerry Wilson pushes toward higher authorized police force strength.

This is the kind of action Larry Hogan has pressed for. He has been right in there pitching. Larry will tell you, as I do now, that what happens in the District of Columbia is vitally important to Prince Georges and Charles Counties and all the Washington suburbs.

Let me tell you that street crime in D.C. is a first-hand problem for the Congress--a problem of the greatest urgency. In addition, anti-crime techniques being proposed for Washington have national significance. They might well serve as models for the rest of the Nation.

I ask immediate action on lawlessness in the Nation's capital and I attach the same sense of urgency to proposals the President has made for fighting street crime and organized crime throughout the country.

The Democratic-controlled Congress let the first session slip by without enacting any of the President's anti-crime proposals into law, but currently I believe prospects are good for approval of at least some of the Nixon legislation aimed at fighting crime in D.C. and throughout America.

Let me turn now to the problem of cleaning up our environment--making our skies blue again, our waters clear again, and our land a better place in which to live and grow.

This should not be a partisan issue. We are ready to move ahead in the crusade for a clean America--and we will move ahead because we now have the leadership we need to take a giant leap for all mankind.

We now have a President who is vigorously on the side of clean air, clean water, and abundant recreational land, and that is what makes the difference as we begin to pay for years of neglect.

For the first time in recent history we have a President who has called for a national commitment to restore our environment and return to the day when our air was pure, our water was clean, and our land was uncluttered.

Look now at Richard Nixon's 37-point program for cleaning up America, and you see the difference. That difference is Presidential leadership.

This is the kind of leadership America cries out for as we move into the Seventies--leadership looking toward reform programs that will carry this Nation in a New Direction. I believe the forward-looking programs proposed by the President herald a new era of advancement, a decade of unparalleled progress.

A whole host of reforms still awaits Congressional action. The Congress must get cracking on them. # # #