

**The original documents are located in Box D27, folder “Annual Dinner, Hatboro Republican Club, Hatboro, PA, April 18, 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. SATURDAY---  
April 18, 1970

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, at the annual dinner of the Hatboro Republican Club, April 18, 1970, at Hatboro, Pa.

With the help of Republicans in Congress, President Nixon is cleaning up the mess the Democrats left behind.

That is the thrust behind the President's Vietnamization program, his reversal of the policies of his Democratic predecessor in Vietnam, his determination to end the war in Vietnam while achieving a sound peace there.

That is the reason for the outcries of pain as the President holds Federal spending to reasonable and responsible limits, fights the inflation he inherited from the Democrats, and looks to a further reduction of the high interest rates that are an inevitable product of the fight against Democratic inflation.

I do not envy the Democrats as the congressional campaign of 1970 gets under way.

What can their propaganda cry be? Only that it is taking some time to clean up the mess they made -- to end the war a Democratic President plunged us into, to curb the inflation brought on by the irresponsible spending policies of the previous Administration, to reorder priorities that were knocked askew by the war we got into under the Democrats, to end air and water pollution that grew steadily worse during the eight years that Democrats controlled both the Congress and the White House, to reduce a crime rate that rose 10 times faster than our population during the eight Democratic years of the Sixties.

It's tough to clean up the Democratic mess, but we are making progress.

We have reduced our commitment in Vietnam from 549,500 men to 434,000, and we can expect to lower that manpower ceiling to about 200,000 in another year or so.

We are curbing inflation.

We have reduced the rate of the crime rise, and we will be doubling our Federal aid to State and local communities for the fight against crime in the streets while smashing at organized crime throughout the Nation.

We have acted to reorder our priorities, reducing defense spending in the President's fiscal 1971 budget to 36.7 per cent of the budget while raising human resource outlays to 41 per cent. And as the President noted in his budget message,

(more)

this is the first time in 20 years that a Federal Budget has provided more funds for human resources than for defense.

We need the cooperation of the Democrats in the battles we now are waging to clean up the mess of the Sixties.

We need help in fighting inflation, not an assault from Democrats employing the same kind of spend-more tactics they used in piling up \$57 billion in Federal deficits in the last decade.

We need all the assistance we can get in fighting crime, not the heel-dragging we are getting from some Democrats who attack nearly every new anti-crime tool as unconstitutional.

We need support in ending the Vietnam War, not the sneers of some Democrats who undermine President Nixon's policy of Vietnamizing the war and urge a settlement on Northvietnamese terms.

We need a bipartisan effort to reorder our priorities and launch a nationwide crusade against air and water pollution, not an attempt by some Democrats to grab the credit by calling for twice as much Federal anti-pollution spending as the President has recommended.

Republicans can approach the 1970 congressional campaign with confidence. The reason -- we are offering the American people sound responsible policies, forward-looking programs that represent the greatest reform of our political and social system since the first term of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

We have rejected the rhetoric that overpromises and underdelivers. We offer instead programs based on realism and reason. And that is why we deserve the support of the American people.

The Republican Party stands before the Nation as the party of reform.

We have instituted a lottery system in a major overhaul of the draft. An all-volunteer Army is our next objective.

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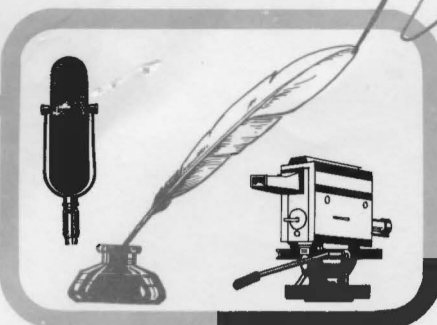
The President's program of Workfare instead of welfare is moving toward congressional passage.

A whole host of reforms still awaits congressional action -- a strengthened and broadened anti-crime program; a postal service authority with broad modernization powers; a consolidation of manpower training programs, to be turned over to the states as they are equipped to handle them; revenue sharing giving the States and cities a percentage slice of Federal income tax receipts; consolidation of Federal grant programs; a re-examination of Federal aid to schools to achieve quality education; revamping of our labor laws for improved handling of national emergency labor disputes in transportation; a crusade to rid ourselves of air and water pollution.

The American people want these reforms. Republicans will deliver on them.

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**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M. ~~WEDNESDAY~~ <sup>THURSDAY</sup>--

~~March 13,~~ 1970  
*April 18,*

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich. Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, at a dinner honoring Rep. ~~Edward G. Biester, Jr., R-Pa., at Hatboro, Pa.~~

*Edward G. Biester, Jr., R-Pa., at Hatboro, Pa.*

We are in an election year--a crucial election year.

Control of the Congress is at stake. To say it another way, what is at stake is the direction the country will travel in the years ahead.

Finger-pointing has begun. This is the way of politics. It is important for the people to get the facts. Tonight I intend to help them.

There are many major issues in this election--the fight against pollution; the war on crime; inflation; and national emergency strikes.

No greater challenge faces us than 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, yet already the other major party has gone in for credit-grabbing by calling for spending programs 2½ times as large as those of the President. This is the old formula of the Democrats--spend more so it will look like you're doing more.

We now have a President--a Republican President--who is vigorously on the side of clean air, clean water and abundant recreation land, and that is what makes the difference as we move now 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.

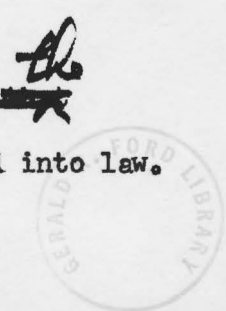
~~Look at the eight Democratic years of the Sixties and you see years of minimal effort by the men in the White House. Look now at Richard Nixon, and you see the difference. Look at the 37-point program for cleaning up America, and you see the difference. That difference is Presidential leadership. It is now up to Congress to give the Chief Executive the tools he needs to put his grand cleanup plan into practice.~~

*President Nixon's*

*real hope for progress in the fight against pollution.*

Let us hope we will not see the kind of delay that has hampered the fight against crime.

The entire first session of the 91st Congress slipped by without ~~the~~ Democratic-controlled Congress enacting a single Nixon anti-crime bill into law. That is absolutely inexcusable.



The Congress has before it a major program aimed at making our streets safe from the criminal, speeding the work of the criminal courts, and improving the correctional systems that too often are only breeding grounds for further lawlessness by released prisoners.

The President's program would beef up the fight against organized crime, double the Federal assistance to states and local communities in the war against crime, and cut down the shocking crime rate in the Nation's capital. Yet the Democratic-controlled Congress has not yet approved this legislation--delay which I think should give every American cause for concern.

The American public should not have to live in fear, and Republicans are determined to see that they don't.

As urgent as the war against crime is, there is no problem greater today than inflation. The inflation plaguing us today began to take hold early in 1965. It was triggered and fueled by the Vietnam War, that war we were taken into by the previous Democratic Administration. And instead of dealing adequately with the problem of inflation when it was more manageable, the previous Democratic Administration accelerated the inflation and let the problem grow larger and larger.

It is tough now to bring inflation under control, but President Nixon is ~~doing~~ <sup>doing</sup> it. He knows that a major cause of our current inflation traces back to an irresponsible Democratic Congress and a Democratic President who spent a staggering \$57 billion more during the Sixties than the Federal Government took in. And so Republicans are balancing the budget, holding down on Government spending despite the efforts of Democrats to continue overspending on old programs, to preserve the status quo, and to deny the Nixon Administration the fiscal elbow room needed to move forward with the great reforms the President has recommended. Well, we are ~~going to lick~~ <sup>licking</sup> inflation in spite of the Democrats in Congress.

One of the great Nixon reforms I have in mind tonight is labor law reform--new legislation to deal with national emergency labor disputes.

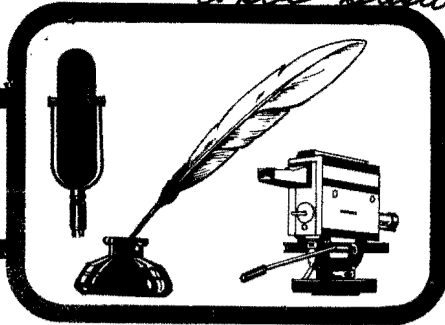
The Democrats to date have shirked the responsibility for helping enact major new laws to improve the handling of national emergency labor disputes. ~~When this issue recently was joined with the threat of a nationwide rail strike, all the Democrats did was postpone the strike deadline for 97 days.~~

By contrast, the President, ~~offered a sound way to settle the railroad dispute~~ <sup>has</sup> laid before the Congress an excellent program of three options for handling ~~the~~ national transportation emergencies ~~in the future~~. For my own part, I think the President deserves the support of every American who is concerned about the public interest. We must reach a consensus on labor law reform--reform aimed at protecting the national health and safety while promoting collective bargaining as free as possible from government interference.

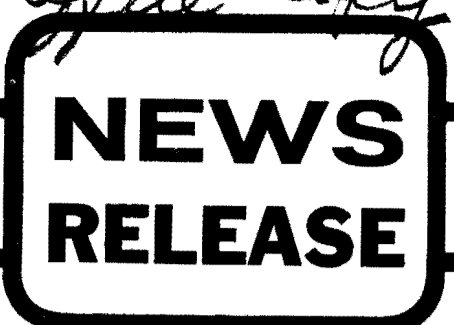
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