

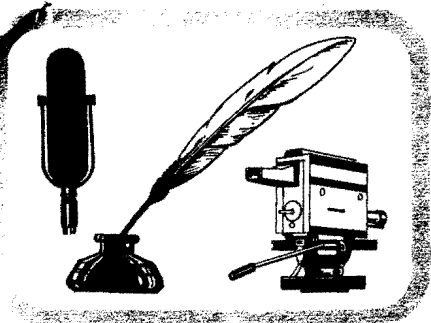
The original documents are located in Box D30, folder “Michigan Republican Women's Club Dinner, Sparta, MI, September 29, 1970” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M.--
Tuesday, September 29, 1970

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, at a dinner sponsored by the Sparta, Mich., Republican Women's Club Tuesday evening, Sept. 29, 1970, at Sparta United Methodist Church.

I come before you as a staunch supporter of economy in government. I make no apologies for it. I am pledged to hold down government spending--to back up every effort by President Nixon to hold Federal spending in check.

Why is it particularly important to fight the big spenders in Congress at this time?

It is important because years of increasing government costs with an uncontrolled \$25 billion in Federal red-ink spending in 1968 produced a nearly runaway inflation in this country--inflation that hurt us all and hit farmers and old folks on fixed incomes the hardest.

We have got to stop spending more than we take in at the Federal level. If we fail to keep government spending within revenues, the price for the American people will be catastrophic in the end.

The big spenders in Congress cause inflation. Their over-spending pushes up the price of everything. And yet they pretend to be the friends of the people. Their generosity with the taxpayers' dollars puts an ever-increasing burden on generations yet to come and requires an ever-increasing appropriation just to pay the interest on the national debt. In fact, the interest we now pay on the national debt is a major government expense--second only to spending for national defense.

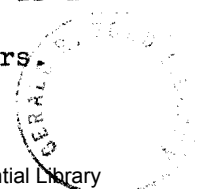
Today President Nixon and Republicans in Congress are locked in battle with the big spenders. It's a fight to control inflation. You know whose side I'm on. Help me and the President fight the big spenders, the radical liberals who vote for every spending bill they can trot out.

Now let me tell you that we have turned the corner on inflation in spite of the big spenders. We are making progress against inflation, and at the same time the economy is in the early stages of an upswing.

If there is any segment of the economy which deserves greater rewards in terms of performance it is agriculture.

Everyone will agree that one of the basic defects in the economy today is a failure to achieve substantial gains in industrial productivity in recent years.

(more)



By contrast, the American farmer's record of productivity is nothing short of fabulous, and it continues on the increase.

Productivity has risen faster in agriculture than in any other sector of the economy. In the past two decades alone, farm output per manhour has almost quadrupled, while nonfarm productivity has just about doubled.

Last year, despite a sharp rise in production costs, farm operators posted an 8 per cent increase in realized net income. Total net farm income was \$16 billion, based on substantial gains in both marketing receipts and government payments. I hope the new farm bill will be a plus.

How can the farmer do better? One way is to make himself more friends in Congress. Another way is to work for the election of a Responsible Congress.

We are making progress under the Nixon Administration on the problems of the farmer and the problems of all the people.

We are moving toward peace in Vietnam despite the tactics of the congressional sellout crowd. Vietnamization is ahead of schedule, and we will end our front-line ground combat role in South Vietnam by next May.

The situation in the Middle East is tenuous, but at least the Nixon Administration has produced a cease-fire there. Administration initiative in the Middle East has averted a possible confrontation there with the Soviet Union.

We are making progress in fighting crime, too--no thanks to the weak-kneed radical-liberals in the Congress.

The Administration has struck strong blows against organized crime, staging massive raids on narcotics traffickers and producing shock waves felt throughout the underworld.

The Administration has also sent 13 major anti-crime bills to the Congress. I predict that most of these bills will be written into law by the end of this session despite heel-dragging by those overly concerned with the rights of the criminal.

President Nixon badly needs more support if he is going to turn America around. He needs the help of sound-thinking people like the women here assembled. Give him your help. Give me your help. Add to the strength of responsible government in America.

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