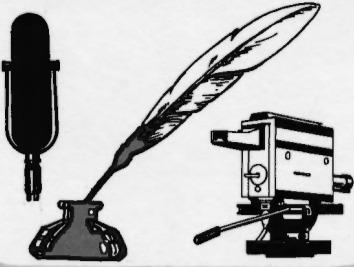


The original documents are located in Box D31, folder “Annual Richmond County Republican Campaign Dinner, Staten Island, NY, October 14, 1971” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 p.m. THURSDAY--
October 14, 1971

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford at the annual Richmond County, N.Y., Republican Campaign Dinner, at Staten Island, N.Y.

Peace and prosperity will be the key political issues in 1972, as they are in every national election. These issues are naturally of overriding concern to the American people.

Whatever cosmetics are applied to the two major political parties regarding these two vital issues, the facts will break through. However heavy the political oratory, the American people will see through it to the truth at the core of the election fight.

I submit to you that the Republican Party is looking good on the peace and prosperity issues, and I am not bashful about saying so. I say it only because the facts are there to bear me out, and the facts make me hopeful of a solid Republican victory at the polls next year.

Let's look at the peace issue first. What have we accomplished in seeking to find our way to peace in the world? To answer that question, we must look at the situation which existed when Richard Nixon assumed the Presidency on Jan. 20, 1969.

After eight years with a Democrat in the White House, we were deeply involved in a seemingly endless war in Vietnam. There were nearly 535,000 Americans on that battleground, and our battle-related casualties were averaging more than 5,000 a month. The draft was placing an average of 25,000 young men a month into military uniform.

Today the number of Americans in Vietnam has dropped to roughly 213,000 and that figure will drop to 184,000 by Dec. 1. The middle of next month the President will announce a new schedule of troop reductions, and I predict that he will step up the withdrawal rate. Next spring the U.S. combat role in Vietnam will end and we will continue moving steadily toward a complete windup of our role in Vietnam.

The Democratic Party took us into the Vietnam War. The Republican Party is getting us out. The Republican Party is the party of peace.

Our Republican Administration has taken many other initiatives for peace.

We have signed a nuclear non-proliferation pact with the Soviet Union and have entered into serious negotiations with Russia on the limitation of strategic arms (the SALT talks).

With his visits to Peking and to Moscow, President Nixon is seeking resolution of the great East-West political issues.

(more)



Our Republican Administration initiated a cease-fire in the Middle East, and although our peace-making efforts in that part of the world have had their ups and downs we have succeeded in averting a new war there.

Our Republican President has developed a new strategy for peace in the world centered around the Nixon Doctrine.

Our Republican Administration has renounced the use of biological weapons and the first use of chemical warfare.

We have achieved a treaty prohibiting the emplacement of nuclear weapons in the seabed.

We are negotiating rather than confronting, wherever and whenever possible.

But we must negotiate from strength, just as we did during the Cuban missile crisis of 1962--and this our Republican President understands better than anyone else in the country today.

In this way--by this manner and means--we are moving to achieve a lasting peace throughout the world. That is the Republican record on peace.

What of prosperity? This Nation has seldom known real prosperity in peacetime. The Democratic Party did not bring about prosperity after the Great Depression. It was the boom conditions of World War II that erased depression era unemployment. And the facts are that the Democrats did not produce prosperity in the Sixties. They generated a false prosperity, an inflationary boom, by taking us into the Vietnam War and refusing to pay for it.

After eight years with a Democrat in the White House in the Sixties, we were not only deeply mired in a war in Vietnam, we were caught up in a roaring inflation. Between 1965 and 1969, hard-won wage increases were completely eaten up by price increases and taxes.

Our new Republican President tried to bring inflation under control gradually as he wound down the Vietnam War. He met with some success but it was not good enough. As a political goad, the Democrats offered him price and wage controls they thought he would never use. He seized on this authority and fashioned a New Economic Policy, initially grounded in a Price-Wage freeze.

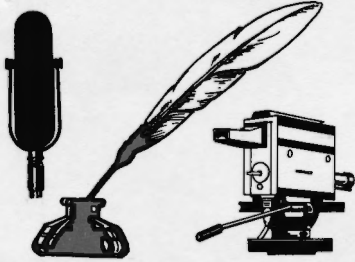
We are now moving toward Phase 2 of the President's Price-and-Wage Stabilization Program and the other aspects of his new economic program also are moving ahead on target.

I predict that the new economic program will place us on the path to high economic growth. I predict that unemployment will drop below 5 per cent by the middle of next year and that prices will be stabilized under the new economic program.

I welcome the test at the polls that will come in November 1972 on the twin issues of peace and prosperity. I think we'll have a lot going for the Republican Party.

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Distribution: 20 copies of Mr. Ford only M Office Copy



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