

**The original documents are located in Box D32, folder “Dinner Honoring Clair W. Burgener, San Diego, CA, December 3, 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**

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Friday, Dec. 3, 1971

Excerpts from a speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford at a dinner honoring Clair W. Burgener at San Diego, Calif.

Clair Burgener has dedicated his life to public service. I know all of you here hope he will continue to do so, but in a higher capacity.

Like Clair, I also was once selected by the Junior Chamber of Commerce as an outstanding young man. Do you suppose in mentioning this that I am being prophetic?

I am very much impressed by Clair's civic and community activities. His leadership in Heart Fund and United Fund campaigns and his work on behalf of retarded children mark him as a man of great compassion, a man who truly cares about people. He is just the kind of man we want in high public office.

Clair has occupied various roles in public office dating back to 1957. As a councilman, state representative and state senator he has always been a fighter for what is right. Currently his party also is engaged in a battle for what is right. We are fighting a massive raid on the U.S. Treasury, the campaign contribution scheme hatched by Senate Democrats and solidly backed by all of the Democratic presidential hopefuls.

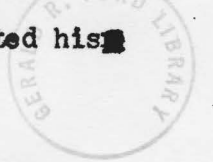
It's natural that the Democratic presidential aspirants would back the give-a-tax-buck-to-the-Democrats scheme. It means one of them will buy his party's nomination with private contributions and then use tax funds to try to buy the White House.

It's natural that it was the Democrats who came up with this tax bucks-for-the-Democrats proposition. After all, they've been buying votes for years with tax money.

The tax bucks for presidential electioneering plan would produce some dire consequences. It would undermine the two-party system. By putting millions of dollars in the hands of minor candidates, it would lead to proliferation of political parties. This is a monstrous proposal. While it masquerades behind the merit of taking campaign funding away from party donors, it destroys the two-party system as we know it.

I applaud the President for announcing his intention to veto the tax bill if it contains the campaign checkoff provision. He is striking a blow for what is right.

The President was not making an idle threat. Dick Nixon keeps his promises. He has, for instance, kept every promise he made back in 1968 when he accepted his party's nomination for President of the United States.



In his acceptance speech, Richard Nixon said: "I do not promise the millenium in the morning. I don't promise that we can eradicate poverty, and end discrimination, and eliminate all danger of war in the space of four, or even eight years. But, I do promise action--a new policy for peace abroad; a new policy for peace and progress and justice at home."

Has Dick Nixon delivered on his promise of action aimed at peace abroad and peace, progress and justice at home? The answer is a resounding "yes."

It was the Nixon Administration that reversed the course of the war in Vietnam and is ending U.S. involvement there in a way that gives a non-Communist South Vietnam a chance to survive,

It was the Nixon Administration that reached agreement in principle with the Soviet Union on access to West Berlin.

It ~~was~~<sup>is</sup> the Nixon Administration that is engaged in promising talks with the Soviet Union on the limitation of strategic arms.

It was the Nixon Administration that brought about ratification of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

It was the Nixon Administration that renounced biological weapons and the first use of chemical warfare.

It was the Nixon Administration that achieved a treaty prohibiting the emplacement of nuclear weapons in the world's seabeds.

It is President Nixon who has transformed the world scene from one of confrontation between the major powers to one of negotiation--who is even now planning summit meetings in Peking and Moscow.

It is President Nixon who has developed a new strategy for peace in the world centered around the doctrine of helping those nations willing to help themselves.

Ah, but these are all actions aimed at promoting peace abroad. What about peace, progress and justice at home?

It was the Nixon Administration that reordered our national priorities by devoting a greater part of the Federal budget to human needs than to defense.

It was the Nixon Administration that achieved the most significant improvements in unemployment insurance in our entire history.

It was the Nixon Administration that brought about a massive increase in our manpower programs to provide work experience and training for young people of all races.

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It was the Nixon Administration that quadrupled minority hiring for government jobs in higher grades and expanded aid to minority enterprises by more than half and has since proposed an even greater expansion in such aid.

It was the Nixon Administration that tripled food assistance programs for the needy from \$1.1 million to \$3.5 million a year.

It was the Nixon Administration which proposed \$1.5 billion in funding for school districts with a high concentration of low income families and the doubling of aid to black colleges.

It was the Nixon Administration which reformed our draft laws to make them more equitable and began moving toward an all-volunteer Army.

It was the Nixon Administration that acted to protect the environment by creating a new Council on Environmental Quality and a new Environmental Protection Agency.

It was the Nixon Administration that won passage of legislation to improve on-the-job safety for America's working men and women.

It was the Nixon Administration that put together an organized assault against organized crime and turned the syndicate into an empire in deep trouble.

It was the Nixon Administration that trebled Federal aid to local communities for law enforcement and court improvements.

It was the Nixon Administration that launched the most progressive and far-reaching Federal attack on drug abuse ever undertaken in the United States.

It was the Nixon Administration that adopted a bold New Economic Policy to fight Democrat inflation and the unemployment brought on by mistaken Democrat policies of the Sixties and a winding down of the war a Democrat President led us into.

Now we look to the future. <sup>We can expect</sup> ~~to look for~~ more progress--progress toward

peace at home and abroad, and progress toward prosperity in peacetime ~~because~~

~~Richard Nixon keeps his promises. <sup>But</sup> Now they pose as~~

~~It was the Democrats who took us into the Vietnam War. Now they pose as the party of peace. It is easy to have peace if you are willing to make peace on the enemy's terms.~~

~~It was a great Roman, Cicero, who said: "What then should be the objective of those who are at the helm of government, which they should never lose sight of, toward which they ought to set their course? It is peace with dignity."~~

~~That is the kind of peace Richard Nixon is steering us toward in Vietnam. Peace with dignity. Peace with honor.~~

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