

The original documents are located in Box D33, folder “Henry County GOP Smorgasbord, Kewanee, IL, September 25, 1972” 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 P.M.--

Monday, September 25, 1972

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford at the Henry County GOP Smorgasbord at Kewanee, Ill.

This is Lincoln country, so let's talk about truth.

You know, someone must have said to Sen. McGovern, "George, your credibility just ain't credible any more."

George used to talk about a credibility gap in the Nixon Administration. He's not doing that any longer. Have you wondered why?

Well, first there was the Tom Eagleton affair. Remember Tom? George said he supported him 1000 per cent -- and then he dumped him.

You know what would scare the dickens out of me? If McGovern said he was 1000 per cent for America.

Then there was the day that George McGovern and Chicago Mayor Richard Daley were both in New Orleans for a meeting of the U. S. Conference of Mayors -- and reporters asked McGovern if he'd be seeing Daley. "I have no plans to meet with Mayor Daley," said McGovern as he moved down a hotel corridor with his staff. The truth is that at that very moment McGovern was on his way to a closed-door meeting with the mayor at Daley's suite in the Hotel Roosevelt.

And we mustn't forget the famous mission to Paris of McGovern campaign aide Pierre Salinger. Salinger, you'll remember, asked the North Vietnamese -- on McGovern's behalf -- for the release of U. S. war prisoners. The plea was rejected. McGovern at first denied any knowledge of the Salinger mission and said he had given him "no instructions whatsoever." About two hours later, McGovern issued a three-paragraph statement admitting that Salinger had met with North Vietnamese representatives at his direction.

Then there is the case of the thousand-dollar handout -- the famous McGovern plan to give everybody \$1,000 apiece but make only certain people pay for it. When McGovern saw that this crazy scheme wouldn't wash, he backed away from it and Sargent Shriver insisted George never said it. Shriver apparently doesn't know that the Jan. 19, 1972, Congressional Record contains a statement by McGovern proposing "that every man, woman and child receive

(more)

from the Federal government an annual payment." McGovern went on to say that "a payment of almost \$1,000 per person would be required."

They say George McGovern has the cleanest mind in Washington. No wonder -- he changes it so often.

So much for George McGovern's credibility -- and Sargent Shriver's.

Yet McGovern and Shriver attack Nixon Administration economic policy -- a policy which has generated 2,600,000 new jobs in the past 12 months and has pushed employment to a record high of nearly 82 million.

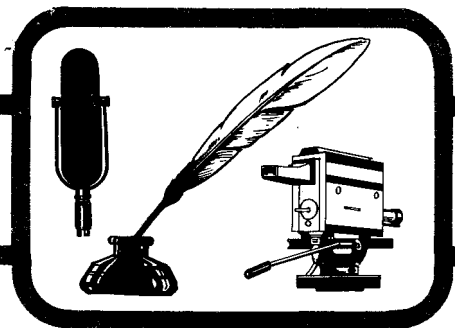
In attacking the Administration on its economic policy, McGovern has opened even wider the credibility gap of his promises versus his performance. He reflects the consistency of a chameleon. He simply engages in whatever irresponsible campaign rhetoric best suits the whims of a particular audience. Only that way can he talk about cutting defense spending and defense jobs in one location and providing new jobs when he talks to aerospace and defense workers in another.

But Americans aren't buying it. They know McGovern means misgovernment -- and they want no part of it.

So we Republicans invite all other right-thinking Americans -- Democrats and Independents -- to join us in voting for good government, to join us in reelecting Richard M. Nixon and giving him a Republican Congress to work with during the next four years.

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