

The original documents are located in Box D34, folder “Republican Dinner, Ogden, UT, October 27, 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 6:30 P.M. FRIDAY--

October 27, 1972

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford at a Republican Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
October 27, 1972, at Ogden, Utah.

I call George McGovern the "backaway candidate."

He backed away from Tom Eagleton and he has backed away from nearly every proposal he made during the primaries except his proposed \$30 billion cut in defense.

And that's a backaway, too, because McGovern is urging the United States to back away from its commitments all over the world. He wants us to back away from the Atlantic Alliance by unilaterally cutting our forces in Europe by more than half. He wants us to back away from our support of Israel by cutting off aid to Greece and thus losing our naval bases there. He wants us to back away completely from Indochina, thus allowing that entire region of the world to go Communist. He wants us to back away from our policy of flexible response by cutting our armed forces by 40 per cent, thus leaving us with only the alternatives of surrender or nuclear war in the event an aggressor attacks us.

George McGovern is running a completely phony campaign. Do you know what his fund-raising literature says? That George McGovern "wants to cut \$30 billion in fat and waste out of our military spending."

What was Sen. Hubert Humphrey's response to that claim while Humphrey and McGovern were contesting for the Democratic Presidential nomination? Said Humphrey: "I submit that the McGovern defense proposal cuts into the very muscle of our defense. It isn't just cutting into waste; it isn't just cutting into manpower. It's cutting into the very security of this country." On this issue, I agree with Hubert Humphrey.

If anybody needed proof that McGovern is irresponsible all he had to do was listen to McGovern's paid television address on Vietnam. The man is absolutely incredible. He talked about Vietnam as though we still had over a half million men there instead of 35,000. He completely ignored the fact that President Nixon has ended our ground combat role in Vietnam. He moaned and groaned about the bombing of North Vietnam and omitted any mention of atrocities committed

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by the North Vietnamese against the people of South Vietnam. I think George McGovern really believes the Vietnam War is a just war from the standpoint of the North Vietnamese and wants them to win. It seems of no concern to him whether all of Indochina falls into Communist hands.

George McGovern simply is not concerned about communism. I challenge him to deny whether he cares if any given country in the world goes communist or not.

As for amnesty for draft dodgers, McGovern has made it clear he favors a general amnesty for those men who fled the United States to avoid serving their country. He said that he "personally" would want to serve the country in some fashion to make up for draft evasion, but he would not as President demand any such service. How could McGovern take any other position when he keeps calling Vietnam a "wrong war" and feels those who evaded the draft were morally right?

So much for George McGovern's irresponsible foreign policy views.

He would also be a disaster as President in dealing with our domestic problems.

Take his \$4,000-per-family welfare proposal, for example. This really adds up again to his crazy \$1,000 handout scheme on the basis of a family of four. As Hubert Humphrey said in reaction to George McGovern's welfare proposals, "What's new about putting people on relief?"

And that's what McGovern would do with his \$30 billion defense cut, too--put 1.8 million people out of work and then use tax dollars to bail them out.

Sen. McGovern's most recently announced package of economic proposals embodies the same grave risks as his earlier, far-out schemes. His programs would require either huge increases in the tax burden of the average American or massive deficit spending and increased inflation which would disrupt the Nation's economy and erode the purchasing power of the wage earner.

George McGovern would be a disaster as President and a McGovern Congress would also be a disaster for the American people. That's why I urge you to do everything possible to elect Bob Wolthius--and other men like him to the U. S. House of Representatives.

President Nixon has had amazing success in the international arena, where he is able to operate unencumbered by an opposition Congress. Think what he could do in solving domestic problems if he had a Congress that would work with him and help him to succeed rather than seek his defeat.

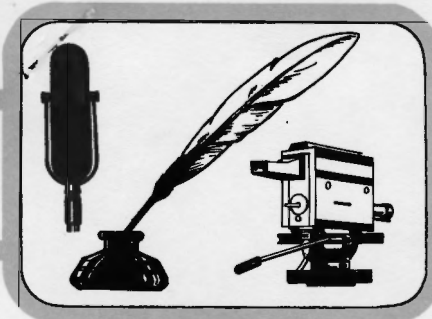
Look at the Congress just ended. That Congress enacted only about half of the President's major proposals.

President Nixon is a reform President, and the 92nd Congress should have been a reform Congress. Instead the 92nd Congress dragged its heels and looked for every possible excuse to thwart or drastically modify Presidential initiatives in the domestic area.

What the President needs now is a Republican Congress made up of men like Bob Wolthius--a Republican Congress which will work with him to move this country forward toward greater progress and a full generation of peace.

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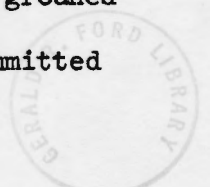
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