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(Draft - R.T.H.)

[1966?]

STATEMENT BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN

It is most reassuring to have the White House announce that President Johnson "is disappointed that the election reform proposal he sent to Congress has not, at this date, received thorough consideration and adequate hearings."

When Mr. Johnson wants the two-to-one majority he commands in this Congress to take action, it usually does so, following his renowned reasoning together with his Texas-style arm twisting.

I hope that the Chairman will continue the one day of hearings the House Administration subcommittee so far has given the President's proposal and the various Republican bills, including my own, which substantially improve upon it.

The public wants action on Campaign reforms by this Congress. Republicans in the House are happy to join President Johnson in pressing for a prompt and exhaustive public airing of the subject.

###



# Ford - Press Release

*The National Broadcasting Company Presents*



## MEET THE PRESS

*America's Press Conference of the Air*

*Produced by* LAWRENCE E. SPIVAK



*Guest* CONGRESSMAN GERALD R. FORD (R. Mich.)  
Minority Leader, House of Representatives

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*Panel:* ROWLAND EVANS, *New York Herald Tribune*  
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RICHARD HARKNESS, *NBC News*  
PETER LISAGOR, *Chicago Daily News*  
ALAN OTTEN, *Wall Street Journal*

*Moderator:* LAWRENCE E. SPIVAK

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## MEET THE PRESS

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**MR. SPIVAK:** Our guest today on MEET THE PRESS is the leader of the Republicans in the House of Representatives, Gerald R. Ford of Michigan. He has been a member of Congress since 1948 and Minority Leader since 1965. We will have the first questions from Richard Harkness of NBC News.

**MR. HARKNESS:** Congressman, you and your counterpart in the Senate, Senator Dirksen of Illinois, are delivering tomorrow night a State of the Union, Republican style. I wonder why; you are a minority, one of two in Congress—are you going to pretend that this is a legislative program, or what?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** First, let me say, Mr. Harkness, we believe that the public needs and deserves the other side of the coin, that they should get both sides of the appraisal of the State of the Union, both domestic and international. We will make some specific recommendations, legislatively speaking. Senator Dirksen will make some observations and comments and perhaps recommendations concerning international affairs.

**MR. HARKNESS:** Would a rude person call this a kind of '66 campaign document, Mr. Ford?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** I hope not. We will try to be objective, we will try to give the American people the other side. We believe this will help to strengthen the American political system, and for that reason we are giving it.

**MR. HARKNESS:** You said that you were going to have specific recommendations. Let's take, for instance, taxes. What do you plan to say about taxes?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** I can't give you the specifics, but I think the Republican Party as a whole believes that the gov-

ernment today can be financed without any additional federal taxes.

**MR. HARKNESS:** I was thinking in terms—isn't the Republican Party on record already as favoring a kind of human-investment tax? For instance, giving business a tax break, a tax credit if that business creates jobs in the private—

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** In both the House and in the Senate, Republican members have introduced what we call the Human Investment Act, which would be a tax incentive for American business to hire untrained people so that they can become trained for productive jobs in America's industry.

This is the approach that Republicans have traditionally taken, I think it is sound, and I hope that the Congress will enact it in the next session.

**MR. HARKNESS:** Don't you have a plan to give parents—to give me, for instance, an income tax deduction, for financing higher education for my youngsters?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** Yes. Again the House and Senate Republicans have pushed on this proposal for several years. We think this is a better way of helping to finance higher education. It gives a benefit to the student, and it gives a great benefit to the parent.

**MR. HARKNESS:** Mr. Ford, Republican leaders have called administration of the anti-poverty program confusing and scandalous. What do you plan to recommend in the anti-poverty program?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** Republicans have joined with the President in trying to combat the war on poverty. On the other hand we believe that the program run by this Administration is top-heavy with administrators. There are many, many instances where the poverty program is scandal-ridden. We think the program can accomplish more for the poor if we eliminate such projects as the one that was financed in New York for \$40,000 where the aim and objective was to spread hate of the Negroes for the whites. We think that the program can be better managed than having the poverty program pay the bail, for example, of Job Corps trainees who get in trouble and who are picked up and put in jail by local authorities. We think this is a waste of money, and we believe very strongly that these illustrations will point out that the program can accomplish its objectives with less funds.

**MR. EVANS:** Congressman, you are regarded as something of a military expert in the House. How long do you think the bombing pause can last without endangering the U. S. military position in Vietnam?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** This is probably the most difficult question, I think, facing the President as Commander in

Chief. The facts are that more Viet Cong and more North Vietnamese regulars are moving from North Vietnam into South Vietnam, and with this continuous flow of men and military equipment into South Vietnam every day, it puts our troops in South Vietnam in greater jeopardy.

**MR. EVANS:** What you are saying, Congressman, is that if you were calling the shots in the White House, you would end the bombing pause tomorrow or today, perhaps?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** No. I think you have made an assumption that isn't necessarily true. I believe that the President, with all the facts on a day-to-day basis, can't help but be concerned about this growing threat to the security of our forces.

I can only say to you that if I were sitting in the position of the President with this responsibility, at a very early date I might have to indicate to the enemy that we could not continue to have our troops put in jeopardy as they strengthened their position.

**MR. EVANS:** Let's assume, Congressman, that the President and his generals decide that there is a chance perhaps in the next two or three months for the effect of the cessation of bombing to be felt in such a way in Hanoi that peace feelers of some kind are made and that they are willing to take that risk of waiting two or three months. What would the Republican position be on that?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** As you well know, the fighting in South Vietnam is going on on a day-to-day basis except for this interim at the present time. If our forces are being put under greater and greater stress and strain, if our losses continue to go up, then I doubt if the Commander in Chief, the President, can wait very long—three or four months—while these casualty rates increase.

**MR. EVANS:** Can you put a time limit on it?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** I don't think I can honestly put a time limit on it. The President, with all the facts at his hand, has to make that decision, but you can't let it go on indefinitely.

**MR. EVANS:** In other words, the Republican party from your vantage point as Leader in the House will accept the President's judgment on the duration of the bombing pause.

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** Unless he gives us certain facts upon which we can make our own independent judgment, and as a matter of fact, I don't think the communication between the Administration and the Minority, with one or two exceptions, has been as good as it ought to be. Therefore, we are not in a position to make a judgment as serious as the one that you are indicating, and it is probably one of the most serious decisions that the Administration has to make.

I hope and trust they make it right because the consequences are very, very important.

**MR. OTTEN:** The President, in his State of the Union message the other night, said in effect that the nation could have both guns and butter, and the Republican position, as I understand it, is that we cannot have as much butter as we would like. But it has been pretty vague on exactly what chunks you would deprive us of. What specific programs do you think should be held down?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** I was surprised to read this morning that the President's proposed budget for the new programs in the Great Society called for an increase of \$3,600 million in the next fiscal year. This includes a great many programs that I think could be deferred.

The President has to give us a priority list. At the top, of course, is the financing of our military effort, our national security, and, as you go down the list or the ladder, there must be some programs that can be cut back or deferred or possibly eliminated.

Until we see the specifics of the budget, I don't think we are in a position to be categorical. Let me say this. Some of the illustrations I gave to Mr. Harkness earlier in the program, those programs can be eliminated and the poverty program as a whole will be better off.

The poverty program, unfortunately, has not given enough of the actual economic aid to the poor. Too much of the federal assistance in dollars has gone to administration. Too much of it has gone to projects that can't possibly be justified.

**MR. OTTEN:** Without getting into specific figures, do you believe, for example, that the poverty program and the education programs that Congress enacted last year should be held at their last year's level, or do you think some increase is possible?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** As a generalization, I would say that the programs for the next year could be held at approximately the level of the programs this year.

You have to go through the process of Appropriation Committee hearings, where the witnesses for the Administration come before us and try to justify every dollar. When that process is completed, we will be in a much better position to be specific.

But the Administration, itself, has to take the responsibility of establishing a list of priorities. I don't think they have done that when they add \$3,600 million to the Great Society programs for next year, over and above the expenditures anticipated this year, and particularly when they are asking for a tax increase over and above the increases in taxes that Congress approved last year. Many, many people don't realize the net effect of the

tax bills last year was to impose a \$3,600 million increase in net taxes on the American people in this calendar year.

**MR. LISAGOR:** Mr. Ford, it is sometimes difficult to know what the Republican position on Vietnam really is because of conflicting statements that you make and Senator Dirksen makes. I'd like to ask you a relatively simple question.

Do you think that the Administration ought to win the war in South Vietnam, doing what the military believe necessary to win it?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** Let me say at the outset, Mr. Lisagor, I don't believe there is any basic difference between the views of Senator Dirksen and myself on the conduct of the war in Vietnam. As a matter of fact, both of us approved of the Republican Committee statement of December, and that statement on Vietnam in effect said this:

The objective is not the unconditional surrender of the North Vietnamese. The objective should be the unconditional security of the South Vietnamese. And in addition, we applauded any efforts on the part of the Administration to achieve a negotiated settlement that would be secure for our allies and for the best interests of the United States.

On the other hand, we cautioned the Administration against getting involved in a large scale ground war on the mainland of China. The Administration tends to be moving in that direction. This would be against the best interests of the United States.

**MR. LISAGOR:** You have advocated bombing what you have called vital military targets in and around Hanoi and Haiphong, and I think you have excepted the cities from bombing. Why has the Administration, in your judgment, been reluctant to bomb these military targets?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** I have never been able to understand why they have not more fully utilized our capability to destroy significant military targets in North Vietnam. This is one way to convince the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong that the price of continuing aggression is too high. I believe as General McConnell, Chief of the Staff of the Air Force believes, that we could more effectively utilize this tremendous power that we have with conventional weapons.

In addition, I'd like to point out that the Republican position is that we should impose a quarantine, a Kennedy-missile-type-crisis quarantine on the port of Haiphong to stop the flow of war materiel into North Vietnam which eventually comes down to be used against our troops in South Vietnam.

**MR. LISAGOR:** Do you have any fears at all, Mr. Ford, that these proposals of a quarantine as well as bombing more extensively in the North might bring Communist China into the war?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** I doubt it.

**MR. SPIVAK:** Mr. Ford, may I ask you a question. What do you think of the President's peace offensive on Vietnam?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** All Republicans, I believe, applaud the efforts of the Administration to find a formula for a secure peace. Unfortunately, this tremendous effort that was made in the latter part of 1965 apparently has produced no results. But this shouldn't deter the Administration from continuing its efforts in this regard. Because it is so vital to our own security, our own best interests, anything that achieves that objective we will certainly support.

**MR. SPIVAK:** At one time you hinted that the Republicans might very well make a campaign issue of Vietnam in 1966. Do you believe that; do you expect they will?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** Mr. Spivak, I have never said the Republicans should make Vietnam a political issue. In fact, I said quite the contrary. The Republicans should not make Vietnam a political issue.

In the first place, the consequences are so serious to the United States, and secondly, I believe it would be bad politics.

The conduct of the war in Vietnam involves our total national security, and I actually regret, for example, that Senator Wayne Morse, a Democrat of Oregon, has called this "McNamara's war." I think that is most unfortunate. I believe if it is to be a political issue, the American people will make it and that we, as Republicans, should give our support to the maximum to the President in this crisis.

**MR. HARKNESS:** Congressman, Mr. Johnson calls Vietnam what it really is: war. He used that phrase in the State of the Union message the other evening.

Would you favor a declaration of war by Congress?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** As you said, Mr. Harkness, the President, in his State of the Union message, and before, has called Vietnam a war, and, as a matter of fact, the record is clear. In the last 12 months we have increased our military personnel commitment on the orders of the President from twenty-some-thousand in Vietnam to 190,000 at the present time. We are now approximating the level of manpower commitment in Vietnam that we had in Korea at the height of that conflict. Whether we call it by name a war or not or whether Congress takes action of that sort, the facts are, it is a war involving the lives of a great many Americans.

The Republican position is that we will support the President with money, with any resolution that he asks us to support. We have in the past and we will in the future, if he can convince us that there should be action to help him in this conflict, we will go sled length to be cooperative.

**MR. EVANS:** Mr. Ford, I want to ask you to be more specific on the Republican position here. You indicate that the pause in the bombing is encouraging the infiltration of North Vietnam troops into South Vietnam, down the Ho Chi Minh trail. Would you favor the use of American troops to cut off that infiltration route if it is that important?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** The flow of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese regulars from North Vietnam to South Vietnam is actually a fact.

There may be means and methods militarily that could be used to stop the flow of these supplies and the personnel, and if our military people believe that this is necessary for the protection of the lives of American soldiers, I think the President ought to undertake that.

**MR. EVANS:** But it seems to me that you put the Administration in an awful bind, Mr. Ford. You say that you fear a ground war in Asia, and you are unwilling to say that at this point we should resume bombing, and yet if the Administration is to deal with the South Vietnamese military situation, it means more troops. Isn't this a contradiction?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** Not at all. There are military means and methods by which the flow of this personnel, these supplies, can be stopped. Mining the Ho Chi Minh trail, for example.

**MR. EVANS:** How do you do that?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** You do that with special forces. You don't need to move a whole regiment or a whole division in to accomplish that objective.

These are highly technical military decisions, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in my judgment, are the best people to make these kinds of recommendations.

**MR. OTTEN:** A moment or two ago you said that Republican relations with the President—or the President's relations with Republicans in Congress were not too good, with one or two exceptions.

Your Senate counterpart, Senator Dirksen, seems to be pretty well tied into the White House phone line. Do you think the President is deliberately slighting the House Republicans, or how would you analyze this?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** We do have some differences of opinion. We certainly fought many of his legislative recommendations last year, and I am certain we will fight his budget proposals in the non-military area in 1966. I have a high personal regard for the President. I just disagree with his philosophy, and I disagree with his dictation to the Congress. I think the Congress ought to make up its own mind rather than have the White House put pressure on the Congress as it did in 1965.

**MR. OTTEN:** You think it would be better if he kept the Republicans in the House better informed, as he does apparently with Senator Dirksen?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** It would be helpful.

**MR. LISAGOR:** Mr. Ford, you said you favored the President's present peace offensive. I want to ask you whether you believe that any negotiations now could or would result in an agreement acceptable to the United States?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** I have not been fully briefed on the precise details of how far apart the Administration may be from the Viet Cong or the Vietnamese—the North Vietnamese.

I would hope that no agreement that was made would be of the Laotian type settlement, because certainly that settlement made in 1962, as I recall, has not worked out nearly as well from our point of view as it should. I think the Administration should take a lesson from the failure to the Laotian settlement and try to do better than that.

**MR. LISAGOR:** Why would you call the Laotian settlement a failure, Mr. Ford? It is a coalition government whose head seems to be at least at the moment favoring the American position in Vietnam. What is so bad about the Laotian settlement in your view?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** As you well know, Mr. Lisagor, Laos is being used by the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong as a means of entry into South Vietnam, and the Laotian government seems to be doing nothing about it. They are making no effort to stop it, so I can't say that was a very good settlement from our point of view.

**MR. LISAGOR:** Mr. Ford, you said earlier that you are not getting the facts from the Administration, and it is difficult for you to make judgments. How do you know that during the present bombing pause regular North Vietnamese units are being infiltrated into the South?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** Within the last week there was a briefing, but this was the first one, as far as I was concerned, for some months. And I think this statement has appeared in print. It has been in the newspapers to the effect that the flow of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong personnel has been coming into South Vietnam. This wasn't any surprise to anybody.

**MR. SPIVAK:** May I ask you a question, Mr. Ford. You said you were in agreement with Senator Dirksen on Vietnam. But Senator Dirksen on Friday, January 7, said there was no substitute for victory and he was for bombing Haiphong. On Wednesday, January 12, he warned Republicans to consider the consequences before advocating bombing Hanoi and Haiphong. He doesn't seem to be in agreement with himself. Which aspect of these are you in agreement with?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** I suspect that those statements made by Senator Dirksen were part of a longer text, and if they were used in relationship to the full text, they might not appear as hard and tough as they do when you read one sentence or several phrases. In fact, I have talked at great length with Senator Dirksen on these problems, as you can imagine, and I really believe that his views and mine, if taken in total, would be in agreement. I think there would be some modification of those statements when you look at the total text.

**MR. SPIVAK:** Gentlemen, we have less than one minute.

**MR. HARKNESS:** A very simple political question, if you please: Would you support Governor Romney for President in 1968?

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD:** I nominated him at the Republican Convention in 1964. I think he has done a great job as our Governor. On the other hand, in my position as the Minority Floor Leader in the House of Representatives for the Republicans, I don't believe at this stage I should announce whom I will support for President in 1968.

Our job in 1966 is to gain more Republican Congressmen and Senators, and if we do that, then we will find a good candidate in 1968.

**MR. SPIVAK:** Gentlemen, our time is up. Thank you, Congressman Ford, for being with us today on MEET THE PRESS.

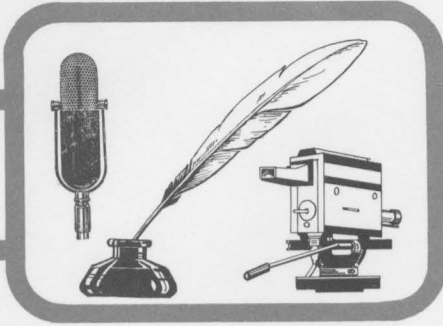
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CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

February 4, 1966  
For Immediate Release

In our Republican appraisal of the State of the Union at the outset of this session, we called upon President Johnson to set realistic priorities for his legislative proposals which would enable the Congress to support a war 10,000 miles away and at the same time continue urgent domestic programs, without an increase in taxes. If the President failed to do so, we called upon our Democratic colleagues who outnumber us two to one in the Congress to join us in cutting or eliminating low priority items.

So what is the first major law enacted by the 89th Congress this year?

Yesterday the House voted final passage of a \$9.5 Million Interama project in Florida, 201 to 140. It is somewhat of a coincidence that the "Noes" on this boondoggle exactly equaled our Republican ranks in the House, because in fact a few of our good Democrat friends also found this expenditure of Federal money on an ambitious Florida tourist attraction too much to swallow. But we were too few.

At the same time the House majority was voting \$9.5 Million for this Interama thing, the Veterans' Affairs Committee voted out a bill for limited GI benefits for veterans of Vietnam and other cold war service. The Johnson Administration has opposed any such action for a year, while Republicans in their State of the Union proposals and through our House Republican Policy Committee have been pressing for it as an act of simple justice.

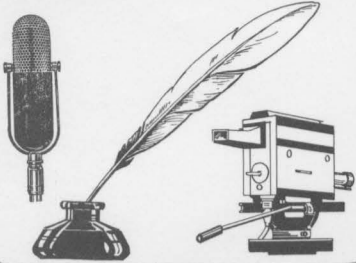
Yesterday the committee rejected every Republican effort to increase the benefits and bring them into line with those already extended to veterans of the Korean war. Unfortunately the bill will be brought to the House Floor Monday under a procedure which bars amendments, so that Vietnam veterans apparently will have to be content with half a loaf, or none.

So the GI is still the forgotten man of the Great Society. "Interama" apparently rates higher.

These two actions taken together clearly show that neither the Johnson Administration nor Lyndon's Landslide Congress have any intention of applying realistic priorities to Federal projects and Federal spending this year. It is incomprehensible that a Democrat-controlled House should shortchange American soldiers in South Vietnam and at the same time subsidize a future dream in Florida with \$9.5 Million taxpayers' dollars -- and don't forget, servicemen also pay taxes.

We Republicans may be too few to stop this sort of shameful steamrolling but we intend to let the people know about it -- and in the next Congress things will be different.

*Excerpt From Newsletter*



CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

For release March 2, 1966

WASHINGTON--- "Why the rush?" in providing a \$750,000 executive mansion for Vice President Hubert Humphrey somewhere in Washington, Congressman Gerald R. Ford asked today.

The House Republican leader indicated he favors adequate housing for U.S. military personnel before Congress spends taxpayer's money for an "expensive new home" for the Vice President,

Reported to be a favored choice is a site at the Naval Observatory in northwest Washington. Sponsors of a bill being considered by a House Public Works subcommittee reportedly favor a "three-story, brick and stone structure, three-car garage, with grounds properly landscaped and fenced."

Ford, who said he hopes the proposal will die in committee, asserted that "some of our servicemen have been living in little more than barns, even in tents" while plans are being pushed to provide a Vice Presidential executive mansion.

Defense Secretary Robert McNamara figured in Ford's critical attack on the "house for HHH" plan.

The Michigan Congressman recalled that McNamara has refused to use funds already appropriated to furnish proper housing for service personnel.

In shelving the military housing appropriation, McNamara was quoted by Ford as claiming the spending "would add to inflation."

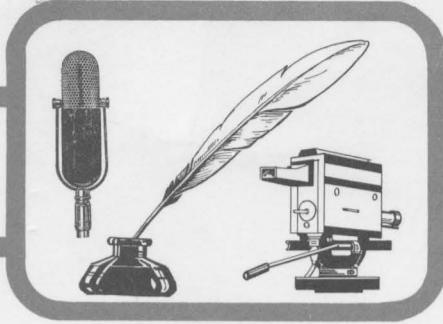
"If this is true, why the rush for an expensive new home for the Vice President?" Ford asked. He concluded, "This is one expenditure that can wait."

The Minority Leader's statements were included in his newsletter to Michigan Fifth District constituents.

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Extra Copy-



CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

March 7, 1966 - L.A. + WASH<sub>2</sub>

For Immediate Release

The people of this Nation are losing patience with the majority party that is bogged down in disagreement on policy and in petty feuds among its leading figures. The people are losing patience with an Administration that vacillates and dodges and shifts position in an attempt to please all the conflicting elements that make up the Democratic Party.

The public has long tolerated the divisions within the majority party that produce conflict in matters of domestic policy--in such fields as economic policy, civil rights, and federal-state relations. Now, however, deep disagreement among leading Democrats on foreign policy has appeared. It leaves the public confused, apprehensive, and angry.

Why the uncertainties and misunderstandings and fears about the war in Vietnam? In great part they are the result of the inability of the party in power to agree on whether Americans should be in Vietnam at all, what our Nation is trying to achieve there, and whether the right means are being used.

Can a party so badly divided, torn internally by disagreement about the path which the Nation should follow, subject to schizophrenic impulses as it tries to satisfy its divergent elements, provide the leadership needed in the present crisis? Let me answer this way:

As a former football player and coach, I cannot help but relate the Democratic division and discord over Viet Nam to a football game.

Imagine if you will the Democratic Administration squad playing a championship game against the Big Red Team. The consequences are great and the stakes high. The head coach, LBJ, before the kick-off is painfully pleading for unity. In the huddle on the first play the team's new quarterback, Hurry-up Hubert, calls the signals.

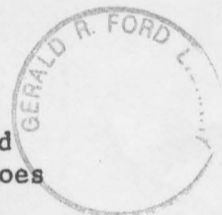
At this moment left guard Fulbright raises his head and with a voice that clearly carries to the opposition, disputes the play called by LBJ and HHH. When the play is run Left Guard Fulbright actually goes off in the opposite direction.

In the second quarter left end Bobby Kennedy stalks from the huddle and announces to all who will listen that he is going to start his own game of touch football with his own team at the other end of the field.

If this isn't enough trouble for LBJ and Hurry-Up Hubert on almost every play the rollout left halfback Wayne Morse deliberately trips that flash ball carrier, Whipping Boy Russell Long.

Whenever there is a time-out, water boy Bill Moyers dashes on the field to save the day by sticking a wet sponge in the mouths of all he can corral.

Just as this lack of teamwork would be disastrous in a football game, in the serious Vietnam situation it can lead only to prolongation of the war, undermining the morale of our fighting men, and encouragement of the Communist aggressor.



File - LA Map 3/7

# GOP Won't Use War as Vote Issue, Ford Says

## But House Leader Warns That If Johnson Bungles Effort Full Debate May Result

BY RICHARD BERGHOLZ

Times Political Writer

Republicans don't intend to call the conflict in Vietnam "Johnson's War," House GOP leader Gerald Ford said here Monday.

But if the Johnson Administration bumbles the

agreement on policy and in petty feuds among its leading figures."

The American people, Ford said, are "losing patience with an administration that vacillates and dodges and shifts position

President Humphrey, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman J. William Fulbright, Sen. Robert Kennedy of New York and Sen. Wayne Morse of Oregon, among others — for their divergent views on Vietnam strategy.

Republicans expect to make substantial political gains this year, the House GOP leader said. Until recently, he had predicted a 30-seat net gain for the GOP in the House this year. Now, he said, the chances look even better and he puts the expected net gain at more than 40 seats.

Neil L. Papiano, an attorney, was installed as

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WASHINGTON  
President awarded distinguished Unit Monday to the 121st Aviation and attached extraordinary in Vietnam.

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# WESTERN UNION

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1206 (4-55)

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

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FULL RATE	<input type="checkbox"/>
LETTER TELEGRAM	<input type="checkbox"/>
SHORE-SHIP	<input type="checkbox"/>

NO. WDS.-CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	TIME FILED
			Gerald R. Ford	

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

March 4, 1966

P. D. Houser  
 Member, Board of Directors  
 Chairman Installation Banquet Committee  
 Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce  
 404 South Bixel Street  
 Los Angeles, California



Congressman Ford has no objection to helicopters. Will meet you airport on arrival 5:05 p.m. TWA #61.

Mildred Leonard  
 Secretary to Mr. Ford

COPY

February 17, 1966



General Dwight D. Eisenhower  
Indio, California

Dear General Eisenhower:

At a recent meeting of the House Republican Policy Committee, the enclosed statement urging the establishment of a new, independent, bipartisan commission, patterned after the two distinguished Hoover Commissions, was adopted. As this statement indicates, we believe there is an urgent need for such a commission. In order to emphasize the importance of this commission and to ensure its success, we would like now to recommend and urge that you be appointed chairman of this commission.

Your experience in the Office of the President and your deep interest in the reorganization of the Executive Department and the implementation of the various recommendations of the first and second Hoover Commissions underscore the fact that you would be an excellent choice for chairman. Also, we have noted with great interest the recommendations for the reorganization of the Executive Department that you have included in your recent book, "Waging Peace - The White House Years - 1956-1961." As you have stated in this book, "Having lived all of my adult years with problems of organization, it was natural that in the White House I should give attention to the possibility of improving organization and management at higher government levels."

Certainly, your experience and ideas regarding this most important matter should not be wasted. As chairman of a new Hoover-type commission, you could do much to bring these ideas to fruition. We know an overwhelming majority of the American people would applaud your selection for this important task.

Therefore, with your permission, and your health permitting, we would like to recommend to the President and to the American people that you be designated as chairman of a commission that would study and recommend essential reorganization and reform in the Executive Branch of our government.

We hope that you are continuing to have a speedy recovery and that you can be present at the next Coordinating Committee meeting in Washington, D. C. on March 28. We need your wise counsel and guidance.

With every good wish.

Sincerely yours,

s/Gerald R. Ford, M. C.

s/John J. Rhodes, M.C.

s/Les Arends, M.C.

s/Charles Goodell, M.C.

s/Melvin R. Laird, M.C.

s/Bob Wilson, M.C.

(over)

COPY

COPY

Box FFF, Indio, California  
February 25, 1966

February 17, 1966

Dear Gerry:

I am more than complimented by your suggestion that I be considered for the Chairmanship of a projected and new-type "Hoover Commission." I personally believe that the work of Mr. Hoover's two Commissions was highly beneficial and I agree with the conclusion that you and your associates in the House Republican Leadership have reached that the proliferation of bureaucratic agencies in the past five years clearly indicates the desirability of a new bipartisan and completely disinterested study of this development.

In considering your suggestion I have a very definite problem. My doctors have urged that I cut down materially on activities that require close attention and supervision of administrative activity. Since I, by nature, dislike intensely to participate in anything to which I cannot give my very best and continuous efforts, I rather think it would be unwise for me to undertake such a position even if it should be tendered me. Moreover, the Congress may well wish to look elsewhere for a Chairman.

All of which does not lessen my sense of pride that you and your associates should consider that I might have special qualifications for such an important task.

With warm personal regard,

Sincerely,

s/ Dwight D. Eisenhower

The Honorable Gerald Ford  
Office of the Minority Leader  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,  
John J. Rhodes, M.C.  
Charles Goodell, M.C.  
Bob Wilson, M.C.

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.  
Les Arends, M.C.  
Melvin R. Laird, M.C.

FOR RELEASE: Tuesday A.M., March 8, 1966



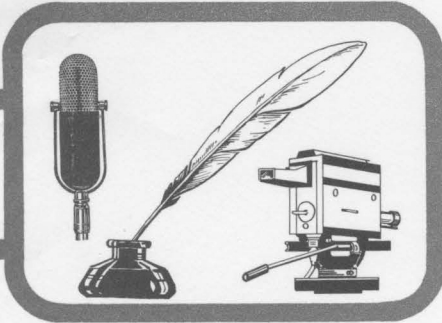
From The Office of  
Rep. Gerald R. Ford of Michigan  
House Republican Leader  
Phone 225-3831

Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower had high praise for a House Republican-sponsored plan to establish a new Hoover Commission on Government Reorganization but declined the GOP suggestion that he head the new Commission because of his health.

In an exchange of correspondence released today by House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, General Eisenhower said he believed the work of the two previous Commissions headed by former President Herbert Hoover "was highly beneficial and I agree with the conclusion that you and your associates in the House Republican Leadership have reached that the proliferation of bureaucratic agencies in the past five years clearly indicates the desirability of a new bipartisan and completely disinterested study of this development." Ford had written Eisenhower on February 17 urging that the General be appointed chairman of a new commission to conduct such a study.

"In considering your suggestion," General Eisenhower said in reply, "I have a very definite problem, my doctors have urged that I cut down materially on activities that require close attention and supervision of administration. Since I, by nature, dislike intensely to participate in anything to which I cannot give my best and continuous efforts, I rather think it would be unwise for me to undertake such a position, even if it should be tendered me. Moreover, the Congress may well wish to look elsewhere for a Chairman."

(Note: The texts of the Ford-Eisenhower correspondence are attached.)



CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

For release at 12 noon  
Tuesday, March 15, 1966

Washington -- House Republican leader Gerald R. Ford today named Paul A. Miltich of Booth Newspapers as his press secretary, effective immediately.

Miltich, 46, succeeds James M. Mudge, who resigned to become chief of the DETROIT FREE PRESS City-County Bureau.

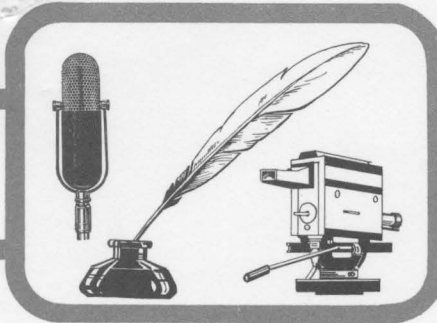
Miltich will be giving up a seat on the House and Senate Press Galleries' Standing Committee of Correspondents. He was elected to the post last January.

Ford's new press man has covered Washington for 8½ years for Booth Newspapers, concentrating on the activities of Michigan members of Congress. Prior to that he worked for 11 years as both reporter and desk man for THE SAGINAW NEWS, one of the nine Booth newspapers.

Miltich was graduated "with distinction" in June, 1941, from the University of Minnesota, where he was elected to honor societies for creative writing and outstanding work in literature and languages. He is a native of Virginia, Minnesota.



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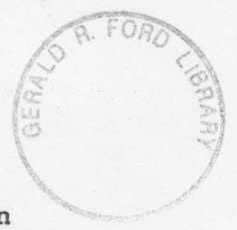
CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

Friday, March 18, 1966

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN



"It would be a shame if the presidential presence on television is blacked out because the White House insists on using Signal Corps' technicians instead of network union engineers to handle pickups of Mr. Johnson's TV and radio broadcasts.

GI's are great fellows, but I don't think men in uniform should be doing jobs that can and should be handled by civilians--and I believe they feel the same way about it.

I'm surprised that the President does not have more concern that the contract between the NBC and ABC networks and the National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians (AFL-CIO) should be honored.

The union points out that presidential use of Signal Corpsmen to handle broadcast pickups violates a network-union contract provision requiring that the union's members handle all technical work at the "point of origination."

Harry G. Schleggle, director of network affairs for the union, contends that non-network personnel have moved into this kind of work more and more in the past two years.

(MORE)

Friday, March 18, 1966

-2-

STATEMENT BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN

Unless there are overriding reasons for this--and I can't see them at this time--I believe the presidential policy is manifestly unfair to the network technicians,

The White House maintains that security is involved and that using network engineers would take up some of the President's time.

For Deputy Presidential Press Secretary Robert H. Fleming to raise the issue of security implies that some of the network technicians may be disloyal to the United States. I don't believe that for one minute.

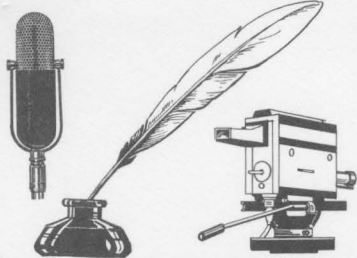
It's difficult to believe the security question is a real problem. Certainly these men can be screened and given security clearance.

As for the union technicians unnecessarily taking up the President's time, we have the word of William McAndrew, President of NBC news, that their own technicians "can be unobtrusive too."

Surely these matters can be worked out to the satisfaction of the President while at the same time the livelihood of the men who work as network technicians is protected."

# # # #





CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

For release Friday, March 18, 1966

WASHINGTON--Medical help for South Vietnamese civilians is woefully inadequate and the Administration must act quickly to meet that need, House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford declared today.

Ford said he has received reports of miserable conditions in Vietnam hospitals and in some cases "absolute filthiness" from a Grand Rapids, Michigan, orthopedic surgeon who has donated his services in Vietnam on three occasions and has just returned from a voluntary tour of duty there.

The surgeon, Dr. Alfred B. Swanson, told Ford he is "appalled by the lack of medical facilities in Vietnam."

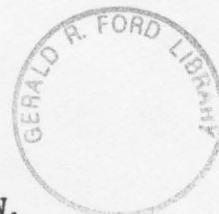
"It's a national disgrace," Dr. Swanson declared.

Ford noted that Health-Education-Welfare Secretary John W. Gardner, now on a Vietnam tour, has found hospital conditions fully as shocking as Dr. Swanson has described them.

He pointed to a news dispatch from Banmethuot, South Vietnam, telling how Gardner visited a 30-bed Banmethuot hospital ward with 70 men and women patients piled into it and muttered to the hospital supervisor: "Impossible, impossible."

Gardner flew to the hospital, 170 miles north of Saigon, to see what medical and educational aid South Vietnam lacks.

(MORE)



Dr. Swanson charges that the Administration has talked for years about giving South Vietnam medical aid but hasn't done anything about it.

Ford said he will raise his voice again and again until the Administration acts. He said he hopes to have Dr. Swanson testify before the congressional committees concerned so they can learn what he has seen in Vietnam.

Of Administration officials, Dr. Swanson said:

"Their charts indicate they're doing a lot (about Vietnam's medical problems) but I've been there three times in four years, and there just haven't been any improvements."

He added:

"In a country that's burning and bleeding to death, it's fantastic we aren't doing more to save the lives of the civilian population. It's just plain wrong."

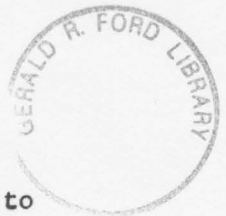
Dr. Swanson said there are many dedicated people providing medical aid in Vietnam but not enough of them.

At the same time, the lack of hospital bed space and other facilities is staggering, Dr. Swanson added.

Dr. Swanson estimated the need for new hospitals at 40 to 50 spotted throughout Vietnam.

He quoted the Vietnamese Army's surgeon general as saying they would cost \$300,000 to \$500,000 apiece and should be designed to include a civilian wing and an army wing with a common laboratory-surgical unit in the center.

(MORE)



"The President should ask Congress to appropriate funds for this program," Dr. Swanson said.

"Congress has just voted \$1.8 billion to replace aircraft shot down over Vietnam. If they would put the same amount of money into social reconstruction, the war would be a lot closer to being won."

"Even now the AID (Agency for International Development) people over there could at least do something about the filthiness in the hospitals--at least get the walls scrubbed down on a regular basis. But they won't do it, and their excuse is that the Vietnamese don't do it and it's their problem.

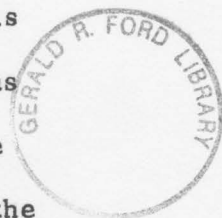
"It's mostly a matter of the guy at the top (President Johnson) saying, 'Let's do something about this; and if there's anything you can do, we'll back you up.'"

Ford emphasized that Congress has just approved \$415 million in special economic aid for Vietnam. He suggested some of this money could be used to improve medical conditions there.

Dr. Swanson recalled that Vice-President Humphrey on his recent visit to Vietnam pledged help on two fronts--social as well as military. If the United States follows through, the surgeon continued, this should mean medical funds equal to the need.

Dr. Swanson currently is trying to put together a polio immunization program for Vietnam with private assistance coupled with the government's blessing.

(MORE)



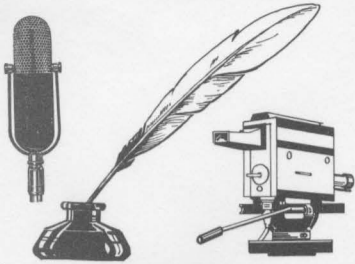
He said all he needs to line up 1 million shots of polio vaccine, to transport it to Vietnam, and to get two deep freezers to store it is a letter of intent from Maj. Gen. James W. Humphreys, Jr., public health chief in Vietnam on loan to AID.

Polio is not an epidemic disease in Vietnam but the people are deathly afraid of it, Dr. Swanson said.

He wants to begin by immunizing the 500,000 children in the Saigon area.

# # # # #





CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

Friday, March 18, 1966

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH,  
HOUSE MINORITY LEADER

Since November, the rate of inflation in this country has climbed at what amounts to an annual rate of 6 per cent.

That is the devastating meaning of the just-released Labor Department figures pointing to the month of February as showing the sharpest rise in the wholesale price index for that month since the Korean War.

Ever since this session of Congress started, I have been talking about inflation because I believe the people of this country are being deluded by the Administration into thinking all is well.

High Administration officials for months have been serving as apologists for inflation, trying desperately to allay the public's fears.

Let them try to explain away the shocking figures in this latest report on wholesale price increases from their own Bureau of Labor Statistics--this disclosure that the lid has blown off wholesale prices.

The Democrats, who for months have pooh-poohed the continuing increase in the cost of living and have blithely ignored their wives' complaints, are now in deep trouble.

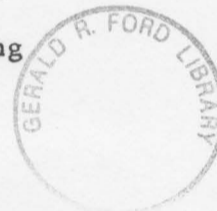
Excessive, virtually unrestrained spending by the Democrats on non-defense programs is a principal cause of inflation. We could cope with inflation if the Administration and spenders in the Congress would make cuts in new and failing programs.

Republicans for months have warned of the serious increase in the cost of living and have urged the President to do something about it.

The inflation we are now experiencing stems from the fact that the Administration has made only tentative steps to fight inflation for fear of a rebuke at the polls in November.

Let's take a close look at the Administration's own figures on the wholesale price rise last month. It was a 7/10ths of 1 per cent increase

(MORE)



increase. Doesn't sound like much? It was the biggest January to February jump since the days of the Truman administration and the Korean War.

Does the Administration need proof that American families are worried about inflation?

Gallup Poll results reported Friday indicated it takes a family of four about \$18 more a week to get along this year than it did a year ago. That's the American public's own view of the climb in living costs.

I'm sure President Johnson is aware that the public's worried. He not only carries important poll results around in his pocket, he loves to be the purveyor of good news.

It's interesting that President Johnson proudly pointed to a 13-year record low in unemployment March 8 but discreetly let the news of the 15-year record high in wholesale price increase emanate routinely from the Labor Department.

It's difficult to see how high Administration officials can continue to wish inflation away now that the record wholesale price rise for February has hit them right between the eyes.

The Administration has cranked some curbs against inflation into the economy. The latest, of course, is the \$6 billion tax bill. But many of the smartest economists in the country don't think these restraints will halt the price climb.

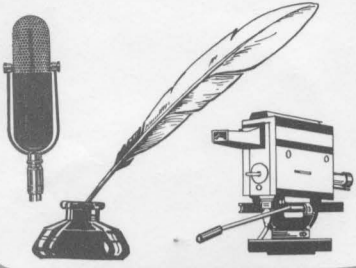
If the Johnson-Humphrey Administration does not take effective action soon, prices are going to rise faster than they have in the past year-- and the February showing is proof of that.

It's a good bet prices will go up faster after the middle of the year than they have in the last few months, and retail price hikes may well surpass wholesale prices.

This situation demands that the Johnson-Humphrey Administration force a cutback in consumer spending or hold down government spending. The President is pretending to do both but is not doing a good job of either one.

# # #





CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

Monday, March 21, 1966

FOR P.M. RELEASE

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.

It's an insult to the intelligence of the American people for Democratic leaders to contend the Republican Party and the press have kidded the public into thinking inflation is here.

The people know that certain prices have been going up steadily and that all the nibbles at the family paycheck have added up to a great big bite. That's why it's ridiculous for any Democrat in Congress to remark casually that price increases since the 1957-59 period have been gradual and to dismiss last month's record jump for a February in the wholesale price index.

In February the wholesale price index registered the sharpest rise for that month since 1951. That is a real danger signal, and no Democrat in Congress can ignore it.

President Johnson recently stated candidly that inflation is "perhaps our most serious economic challenge in 1966." If Mr. Johnson is aware of that--just as we Republicans are and have been for some time--I'm surprised other Democratic leaders are not.

Some Democrats in Congress apparently are not as interested in polls as is Mr. Johnson. They seem not to have seen the latest Gallup Poll results on inflation's impact on the family. That poll showed Americans believe a family of four needs \$18 more a week just to get along this year, as compared with a year ago. That adds up to \$936 more in a 12-month period--or nearly \$1,000 more a year. I'd like to ask Democrats in Congress how many families have an additional \$1,000 net this year to meet the climb in the cost of living.

Democratic leaders say Republicans complaining about inflation are "looking at the stock market and its gyrations rather than the overall economy as it is." The American housewife certainly is not looking at the stock market when she goes to buy necessities for her family and then cries out: "My goodness, the price has gone up again."

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March 21, 1966

FOR MONDAY P.M. RELEASE

**STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.**

I applaud President Johnson's determination to provide safeguards against tragic accidents which have resulted in injury or death to many children throughout the nation.

I strongly favor the child safety legislation outlined by the President in his consumer message, and I believe that we have tarried too long in enacting such a measure.

The President's Consumer Message is a strong and wise one in this regard but he makes certain general statements which only point up an Administration weakness.

He says "the consumer has a right to a dollar of stable purchasing power." The Administration to date has failed to halt the steady rise in the prices of many consumer items, notably food and clothing. The President simply has done too little to cope with the inflationary fever which is depriving wage-earners of much of the real rise in their earnings.

He says, "Our standard of living has never been higher." But what he fails to say is that while Americans are spending more and living better, their standard of living will suffer a sharp setback if the Administration and Democrats in Congress refuse to stem the tide of inflation.

(MORE)

The President calls for swift passage of the truth in packaging and truth in lending bills. Both bills are tied up in Senate committees and there has to be good reason for this.

Nobody's opposed to truth in packaging and truth in lending. That's like being against motherhood.

The truth in packaging bill is a touchy package because there's reason to believe it would result in added cost to the consumer--and we've already had enough of rising prices.

In addition, many of the packaging complaints aired before the Senate Commerce Committee have resulted in remedial action by the producers and packagers.

Advocates of the legislation also are ignoring the fact that the President already has all the power he needs to do the job. Deceptive packaging already is a violation of federal and state law.

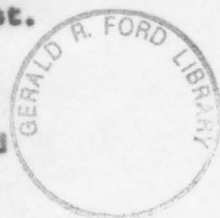
In sort, the legislation just isn't needed.

As for truth in lending, nobody in his right mind wants to see anyone deceived into paying ridiculously high interest charges. But many contend the proposed Douglas bill is unworkable because it's virtually impossible to determine the simple interest rate accurately at the time of purchase.

This legislation also may be unnecessary because the states are moving in on the gougers in the metropolitan areas where the worst practices exist.

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws is expected to report in a short time that any federal law of this type would conflict with state laws. The conference also is expected to report that state laws should be adjusted to apply uniformly to the gougers. This would be far better than federal action in this field.

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March 21, 1966

FOR MONDAY P.M. RELEASE

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.



I like Detroit Mayor Jerome P. Cavanagh because he is a Democrat who apparently doesn't mind helping the Republican Party.

He is befriending the GOP--whether or not that is his intention--by fighting Soapy Williams for the Michigan Democratic Senate nomination.

He and Soapy will be chopping each other up in the August primary, and that will improve chances for the Republican candidate to win in November.

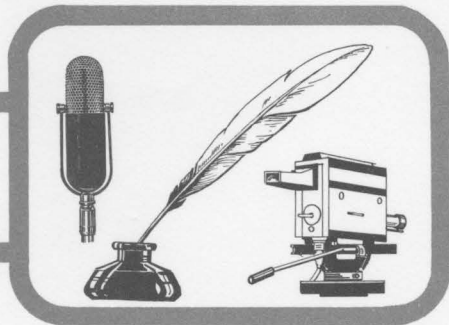
Not only will Democratic ranks be bitterly divided by the Cavanagh-Williams race, but it's obvious that all campaign contributions spent to influence the outcome of that struggle will be lost to the Democratic Party in the general election drive.

All of this promises a Republican victory in the Michigan Senate contest this fall, whether Cavanagh or Williams is the Democratic nominee.

I'm sure the voters of Michigan will recognize Cavanagh for what he is--one of the biggest of the big spenders, a man who as Detroit's mayor keeps begging for more and more federal funds and keeps complaining Detroit isn't getting enough. At the same time, he is collecting Cavanagh's income tax--one per cent from the pay of every Detroit wage earner and of every suburbanite who works in Detroit.

Williams is 55; Cavanagh is 37. Cavanagh himself has tagged Williams as a tired old political warhorse who is back in the starting gate after not having stood election for eight years. When Williams left the Michigan governorship, the state was bankrupt. Now he wants to pull the same sort of stuff in the U. S. Senate.

That's the choice offered Michigan voters by the Cavanagh-Williams primary contest--a choice between a young spender and an old one.



CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FROM THE OFFICE OF HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

MARCH 25, 1966

WASHINGTON--House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., today proposed that Congress investigate the rash of reported sightings of unidentified flying objects in Southern Michigan and other parts of the country.

Ford said he believes a congressional inquiry would be worthwhile because the American people are becoming alarmed by the UFO stories.

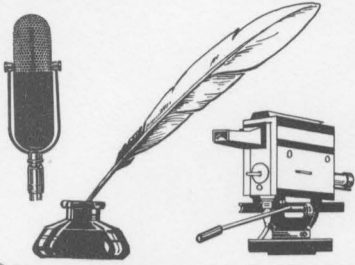
He noted that Air Force investigators have been checking on such reports for years but have come up with nothing conclusive.

"In the light of these new sightings and incidents," Ford said, "it would be a very wholesome thing for a committee of the Congress to conduct a number of hearings and to call responsible witnesses from the executive branch (of the government) and witnesses who say they have sighted these objects."

"I think the American people would feel better if there was a full-blown investigation of these incidents, which some persons allege have taken place."

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CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.

FOR SATURDAY P. M. RELEASE

MARCH 26, 1966

One of the selling points for the \$1.5 billion anti-poverty program launched last year by the Johnson Administration was that it would take people off the welfare rolls and reduce welfare spending.

Yet federal welfare officials have asked a House Appropriations subcommittee for an extra \$381 million to pay welfare bills through June 30 of this year, and this requested \$381 million would be added to the \$3.2 billion Congress voted last year for fiscal 1965-66 welfare payments to the states.

Testimony released Friday showed that subcommittee members were astonished by the Johnson Administration request.

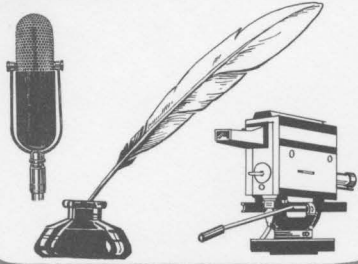
Now the House Ways and Means Committee is demanding to know why welfare spending is mounting during a period of low unemployment--low unemployment partially caused by the manpower needs of a wartime economy.

I also am amazed by the request for more welfare funds, and I hope the hearings planned for this summer by the Ways and Means Committee will produce some answers for the American taxpayer.

This request for more welfare money casts grave doubt on the Administration argument that the anti-poverty war will put welfare families back on their feet. It also reflects on the manner in which the anti-poverty war is being waged. I am talking now not only of political favoritism by the Democrats and obvious misuse of taxpayer money but of the overall strategy being employed in the war on poverty--a strategy that produces frustrating feuding at the local level and blunts or paralyzes an attack on the problem.

# # #





CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY, P.M.

MARCH 28, 1966

NOTE TO ALL NEWS MEDIA: House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford, R-Michigan, today sent the attached letter to the chairmen and the ranking Republican members of the House Committees on Armed Services and Science and Astronautics, urging that one committee or the other investigate the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO's).

Ford is not satisfied with the Air Force explanation of the recent sightings in Michigan and describes the "swamp gas" version given by astrophysicist J. Allen Hynek as "flippant."

Ford has received a number of telegrams and letters from individuals anxious to see a congressional investigation of UFO's.

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C O P Y

March 28, 1966

Rep. George P. Miller, Chairman  
Science and Astronautics Committee  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, Chairman  
Armed Services Committee  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Chairmen Miller and Rivers:

No doubt you have noted the recent flurry of newspaper stories about unidentified flying objects (UFO's). I have taken special interest in these accounts because many of the latest reported sightings have been in my home state of Michigan.

The Air Force sent a consultant, astrophysicist Dr. J. Allen Hynek of Northwestern University, to Michigan to investigate the various reports; and he dismissed all of them as the product of college student pranks or swamp gas or an impression created by the rising crescent moon and the planet Venus. I do not agree that all of these reports can be or should be so easily explained away.

Because I think there may be substance to some of these reports and because I believe the American people are entitled to a more thorough explanation than has been given them by the Air Force to date, I am proposing that either the Science and Astronautics Committee or the Armed Services Committee of the House schedule hearings on the subject of UFO's and invite testimony from both the executive branch of the government and some of the persons who claim to have seen UFO's.

I enclose material which I think will be helpful to you in assessing the advisability of an investigation of UFO's.

May I first call to your attention a column by Roscoe Drummond, published last Sunday in which Mr. Drummond says, "Maybe all of these reported sightings are whimsical, imaginary or unreal; but we need a more credible and detached appraisal of the evidence than we are getting."

Mr. Drummond goes on to state, "We need to get all the data drawn together to one place and examined far more objectively than anyone has done so far. A stable public opinion will come from a trustworthy look at the evidence, not from belittling it."

"The time has come for the President or Congress to name an objective and respected panel to investigate, appraise, and report on all present and future evidence about what is going on."

I agree fully with Mr. Drummond's statements. I also suggest you scan the enclosed series of six articles by Bulkley Griffin of the Griffin-Larrabee News Bureau here. In the last of his articles, published last January, Mr. Griffin says, "A main conclusion can be briefly stated. It is that the Air Force is misleading the public by its continuing campaign to produce and maintain belief that all sightings can be explained away as misidentification of familiar objects, such as balloons, stars, and aircraft."

I have just today received a number of telegrams urging a congressional investigation of UFO's. One is from retired Air Force Col. Harold R. Brown, Ardmore, Tennessee, who says, "I have seen UFO. Will be available to testify."

Another, from Mrs. Ethyle M. Davis, Eugene, Oregon, reads, "Nine out of ten people want truth of UFO's Press your investigation to the fullest."

(MORE)

Rep. George P. Miller, Chairman  
Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, Chairman  
Page Two  
March 28, 1966

Ronald Collier of Los Angeles, who identifies himself as "a scientist from M.I.T.," urges that you "do everything in your power to make Air Force Project Blue Book (the AF name for its study and verdicts on UFO reports) known to the people."

Are we to assume that everyone who says he has seen UFO's is an unreliable witness?

A UPI story out of Ann Arbor, Michigan, dated March 21, 1966, states that "at least 40 persons, including 12 policemen, said today that they saw a strange flying object guarded by four sister ships land in a swamp near here Sunday night."

Matt Surrell of Station WJR, Detroit, cites an eye witness account of a recent UFO sighting by Emile Grenier of Ann Arbor, an aeronautical engineer employed by Ford Motor Company. He points out that an aeronautical engineer can hardly be considered an untrustworthy witness.

In the firm belief that the American public deserves a better explanation than that thus far given by the Air Force, I strongly recommend that there be a committee investigation of the UFO phenomena.

I think we owe it to the people to establish credibility regarding UFO's and to produce the greatest possible enlightenment on this subject.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

/s/

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:plr

Enclosures

# # #

SPEECH BY REP. GERALD R. FORD OF MICHIGAN.

March 29, 1966

Mr. Speaker:

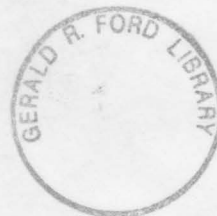
The Republican Coordinating Committee met here yesterday and unanimously adopted a Task Force report on the most pressing domestic problem facing the American people, the fact that the United States is in the treacherous, swirling currents of dangerous inflation as a result of the unrestrained spending policies of the Johnson-Humphrey Administration.

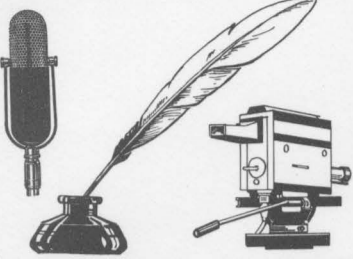
It noted that inflation contains the seeds of recession and called upon the President to re-submit his fiscal 1967 budget after balancing it by elimination or postponement of non-defense expenditures.

The distinguished Task Force which prepared this excellent study on "The Rising Costs of Living" was headed by Mr. Maurice H. Stans, who was the very able Director of the Budget Bureau under President Eisenhower.

I commend it to all who are concerned with this threat to the savings and financial security of every American. Under leave to extend my remarks, I insert the full text of the summary statement adopted by the Republican Coordinating Committee.

\*\*\*





CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

MARCH 29, 1966

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN

Acting like the Air Force with flying saucer reports, Johnson Administration economists are trying to explain away the 0.5 of one per cent increase in the consumer price index for February.

It makes no sense to try to make this bad news less bad. The realist will recognize the February rise in the consumer cost-of-living figures for what it is--the largest since June of last year, which was the same. Last month's consumer price jump also was the biggest for a February since 1951.

If the monthly rise in the consumer price index continues at the February rate, it will result in a nearly six per cent jump in prices at retail for the year.

It should be remembered in this connection that for the November-February period, the wholesale price rise was at a six per cent annual rate.

This is the peril in the February consumer price increase, coming as it does after a wholesale price reading which shows the steepest climb in wholesale prices for a February since the Korean War--0.7 of one per cent.

The consumer price rise for February brings the consumer price index to 111.5. This means it cost \$11.15 last month to buy what \$10 bought in the 1957-59 period, which is used as a base for the index.

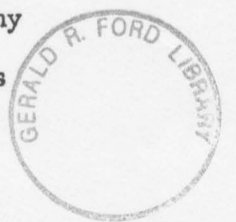
Johnson-Humphrey Administration economists are seeking to calm the public's fears about inflation, so they claim that food prices already have begun to drop.

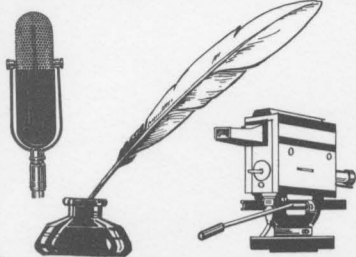
Their forecast of a food price decline may prove no more trustworthy than President Johnson's faulty figures on January-February retail sales announced at his press conference last week.

All the American people have to go on are the government's monthly readings of wholesale and consumer prices. If, indeed, food prices do decline this month, there may well be increases in other items.

This much we know--prices have been increasing and sharply. The Johnson-Humphrey Administration, because it continuously promotes more federal spending, is the prime cause of spiralling costs for every family.

# # #





CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR WEDNESDAY, P. M. RELEASE

MARCH 30, 1966

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN

It is now revealed that President Johnson was the purveyor of misinformation when he told news reporters last week that retail sales for January and February showed a "slight drop" from November and December.

Mr. Johnson was eager to display to inflation-anxious Americans an "indicator" that the economy is cooling off.

Tuesday, we learned that the "flash" figures on which Mr. Johnson based his statement about a drop in retail sales for January and February were cockeyed. Revised Census Bureau figures now disclose that retail sales rose vigorously in January, and the guessing by government analysts is that February sales ran slightly above the \$25.016 billion January figure.

It is a small wonder that the American people are doubting the Johnson-Humphrey Administration's ability to keep the economy from running wild when Mr. Johnson cites faulty figures.

The revised government figures showing an increase in January-February retail sales are another indicator that Republicans are right when they insist upon cutting government spending as an alternative to a tax increase.

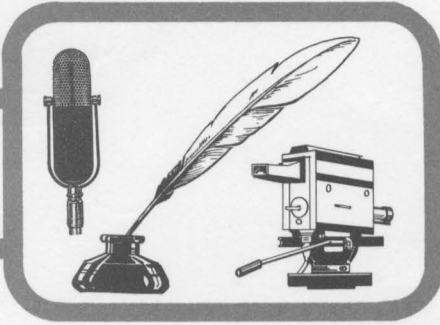
Since Mr. Johnson is so determined to avoid a tax increase, he should submit a revised fiscal 1967 budget to Congress and thus do a service to all Americans who want a tax increase no more than he does.

It is ironic that instead Mr. Johnson is appealing to businessmen to hold off on plant expansion and to governors and mayors to hold back on their governmental spending.

It would doubtless be more effective and have a greater impact on the economy if Mr. Johnson would take the course his cockeyed January-February retail sales figures initially blinded him to take--reductions in non-essential domestic spending by the federal government.

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CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

APRIL 1, 1966

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN

No "April-Fooling" about it--it has now become more and more urgent that Democrats in Congress join Republicans in looking for places to cut the President's \$112.8 billion budget instead of trying to inflate it.

The reason is that French President Charles deGaulle has announced he wants all allied commands and installations out of his country by April 1, 1967. France just announced it will not pay one penny toward the cost of removing the U. S. and other allied NATO bases from French soil, and I don't think there is any way we can force France to assume any of that tremendous expense.

Estimated cost of the move-out runs as high as \$2.5 billion, according to news dispatches from Paris where deGaulle and his cabinet yesterday met on the question for 2½ hours. The cabinet firmly rejected a demand by us and our NATO allies that France pay for removing the NATO bases.

It has been impossible for me to learn the extent to which our 13 NATO allies apart from France will share in the cost of base removal; but since most of the installations are ours, we know the U. S. will pay most of the bill. A good guess is that our share will exceed \$1 billion.

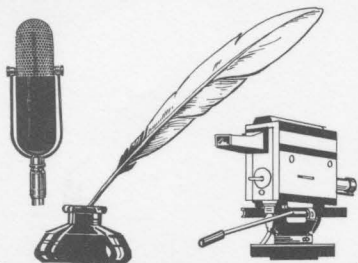
This will create an unanticipated and heavy drain on U. S. defense funds in fiscal 1967 at a time when we are pouring billions of dollars into Vietnam with no end in sight.

This is something that has received little attention, eclipsed as it is by the Vietnam war and by the problem of inflation here at home. It is an added reason why Congress should cut spending as a move to halt inflation and avoid a tax increase.

There is no question that the reorganizing of NATO's supply lines in Europe will require heavy military expenditures by the U. S. I personally am most concerned and feel this is another reason for Congress to cut back non-military spending.

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CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 1, 1966

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN

I am shocked and outraged by the charge reportedly made last night by a John Birch Society official in Arkansas that President Johnson was under Communist influence in civil rights matters.

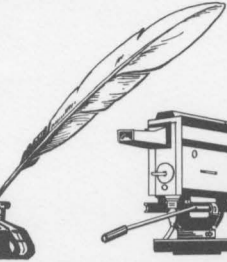
The President and I have had our political differences, as you well know. But if anybody says Lyndon B. Johnson was under Communist influence on this issue, they will have to say the same of all of us who have championed human decency and equal justice in this country.

The author of these remarks in Arkansas, according to the UPI, also smeared the late President Kennedy with the same foul brush just as another John Birch official has smeared former President Eisenhower.

I believe in a good hard political fight and intend to make one this year for a Republican Congress that will keep a close eye on President Johnson for the rest of his term. But I think partisanship should stop far short of the cesspool.

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CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR SUNDAY A.M. RELEASE

APRIL 3, 1966



STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN

As I had expected, some persons have ridiculed my call for a congressional investigation of unidentified flying objects (UFO's). These people are a fraction of those who have given me their reaction to my proposal. The overwhelming majority of those expressing a view in letters to me believe a congressional investigation would be useful and is needed.

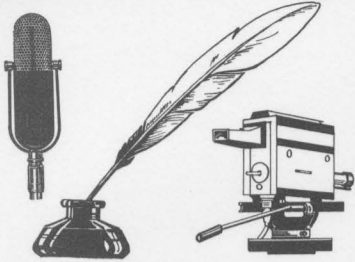
Those who scoff at the idea of a congressional investigation of UFO's apparently are unaware that the House Armed Services Committee has scheduled a closed-door hearing on the matter Tuesday with the Air Force and that Rep. Joseph E. Karth, D-Minn., headed a three-man subcommittee which held two days of hush-hush hearings five years ago on behalf of the House Science and Astronautics Committee. Karth has confirmed in conversation with a member of my staff that he conducted these secret hearings.

The present Science and Astronautics Committee chairman, Rep. George P. Miller, D-Calif., has shied away from a UFO probe at this time, saying his committee does not have jurisdiction over the Air Force. But the late Rep. Overton Brooks, D-La., obviously had different ideas because he tapped Karth to summon Air Force witnesses and question them after a flurry of UFO sightings in 1961.

Karth has informed me that his subcommittee made an oral report to the full committee but never released anything to the public. According to Charles F. Ducander, the committee's staff director, no record was made of conversation between Karth's subcommittee members and Air Force witnesses. The hearings, he said, took place in Karth's congressional office.

I have never said that I believe any of the reported UFO sightings indicate visits to earth from another planet. Apart from pranks and natural phenomena, some of these objects may well be products of experimentation by our own military. If this is so, why doesn't the Air Force concede it and in this way reassure the American people? There would be no need to go into detail on the nature of the experiments.

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CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

APRIL 5, 1966

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN

In line with his "jawbone" campaign to cool off the economy and try to halt inflation, President Johnson is setting an example by postponing construction of "two little rooms to a house that we have down home that we will occupy some of these days."

If Mr. Johnson thinks it important to defer adding "two little rooms" to a house he owns, then it would be only logical for him to veto the Hubert Humphrey House bill now awaiting his signature. By vetoing that bill, the President would deal inflation a much weightier blow than by his deferment of the two-room addition he speaks of. He would be putting off a \$750,000 construction project which hardly falls into the category of essential wartime spending.

In explaining his decision to postpone the two-room addition to his house, Mr. Johnson said: "I asked Mrs. Johnson...to defer those two rooms because the construction people who would be working on them would be very much in demand."

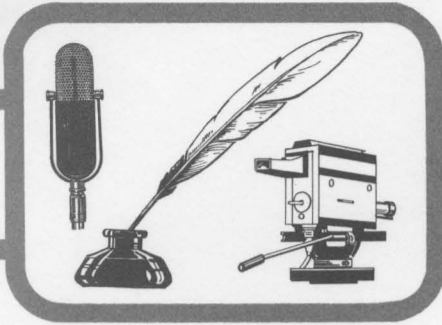
The same is true, of course, about Hubert Humphrey House.

Mr. Johnson said his two-room addition was "a little thing" but added that if everybody postpones non-essential building "the economy won't get out of our hands, and the prices won't go up five per cent in the next five months."

I suggest to the President that he could set an even better example for the people by vetoing the bill which will put Hubert Humphrey House on the drawing boards. He has until Saturday to sign the bill. He can strike a blow against inflation by vetoing it.

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CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR WEDNESDAY P.M. RELEASE

APRIL 6, 1966

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN.

I feel certain the House will pass highway safety and tire safety bills in some form this year. I personally feel there should be action in this area. But it might be useful at this point, when the Senate hearings on highway safety are in progress and House hearings are to start late this month, to try to put auto safety in proper perspective.

There is danger in the sensationalism of the Senate hearings. It tends to distort the auto safety problem, throw it out of proportion. Dramatic testimony has been presented to the effect that 1965 Chevrolets and 1964 and 1965 Chevilles equipped with Powerglide Transmission present a potential hazard--the possibility that the accelerator will stick when kept at the same level for some time under certain winter driving conditions.

Testimony making GM out to be a villain is obscuring the fact that GM knows of only five incidents resulting from this potential hazard. Also drowned out in the tumult and the shouting is the fact that no injuries occurred in any of the five incidents. GM is calling all of these cars back--as, of course, it should--and is installing a splash guard at a total cost of \$3 million to protect against any further incidents.

I am not trying to minimize the seriousness of a development of this kind.

But I do believe there is a temptation under the circumstances to try to pin most automobile accidents on the manufacturer, saying he simply isn't engineering enough safety into his product. Of course, we want safety built into our cars, but we must not lose sight of the fact that auto accidents are caused by a variety of factors--and it is highly unusual to find the kind of potential hazard in new automobiles which GM is now taking steps to eliminate in 1.5 million of its cars.

There is also much to be learned from a four-year on-the-spot study of fatal auto accidents in the Ann Arbor, Michigan, area just completed by University of Michigan scientists Donald F. Huelke and Paul W. Gikas.

(MORE)



AUTO SAFETY STATEMENT

Their study, believed to be the most extensive of its kind ever made, indicated that 71 of the 177 persons killed in the Ann Arbor area auto accidents would have lived had they been wearing seat belts--that's nearly ~~three~~<sup>two</sup> out of ~~four~~<sup>three</sup> of those who died.

The study also showed that an additional 35 of the victims would have survived had they been wearing shoulder harnesses as well as seat belts.

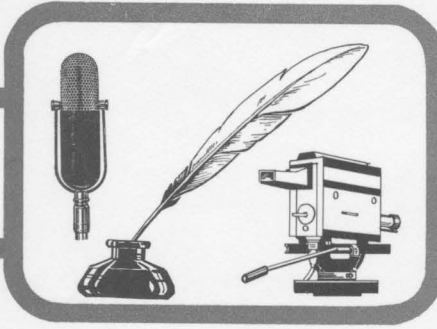
The additional 35 brings to 106 the number of persons among the 177 victims who would have lived had both seat belts and shoulder harnesses been used.

It is difficult, of course, to get people to wear shoulder harnesses. They are extremely uncomfortable. And you and I also know that many people driving cars equipped with seat belts use them maybe half the time. It's easy to point the finger at the auto manufacturers. It's about time we also pointed a finger at ourselves.

There should be a three-pronged attack on the highway safety problem-- by government, by industry, and by the driver.

# # #





CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 7, 1966

House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., will tour the First Congressional District of Wisconsin April 22 and 23 with Henry C. Schadeberg, Republican candidate for Congress.

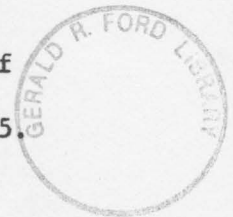
Ford will speak at a campaign kick-off dinner for Schadeberg Friday evening, April 22, at the new Carthage College Field House in Kenosha before an expected audience of 1,600 Schadeberg supporters.

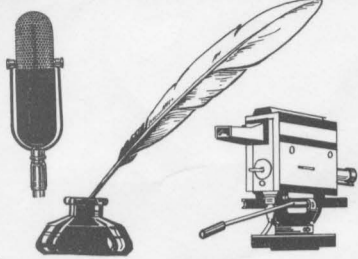
Saturday, April 23, Ford will address a Walworth County breakfast meeting at the Green Shutters Restaurant in Whitewater at 8:30 A. M. and a luncheon rally at the Aero Park hall in Janesville at 12:30 P. M.

Ford, congressman from the Fifth District of Michigan, is in his 18th year in Congress. He was elected Minority Leader of the House of Representatives at the opening of the 89th Congress on January 4, 1965. During the 88th Congress (1963-64) he was Chairman of the Republican Conference of the House. Before becoming Minority Leader, Ford served on the committee on Appropriations, where he was senior Republican on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

Schadeberg is campaigning to return to Congress from the First District of Wisconsin. From 1961 to 1964 he represented the area composed of Racine, Kenosha, Walworth, and Rock counties in the 87th and 88th Congresses. A resident of Burlington, Schadeberg was minister at the Plymouth Congregational Church before his election to Congress.

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CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

APRIL 7, 1966,

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.

I urge this Congress to change its rubber-stamping, loose-spending ways when it returns from Easter Recess.

The 89th Congress in this session has continued to be a rubber stamp for the White House. On critical votes most Democrats have done whatever President Johnson told them to do. They don't seem to have minds of their own.

This Congress in the first three months of this year has resumed the wild spending spree it embarked on in 1965. This has caused painful inflation, increases in automobile and telephone excise taxes, and now the strong possibility of an income tax increase.

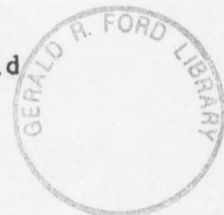
The way the Johnson Administration and the top-heavy Democratic majorities in Congress are throwing the people's money around, one would almost think there was no war going on in Vietnam. It's acting like a business-as-usual Congress, not a war Congress.

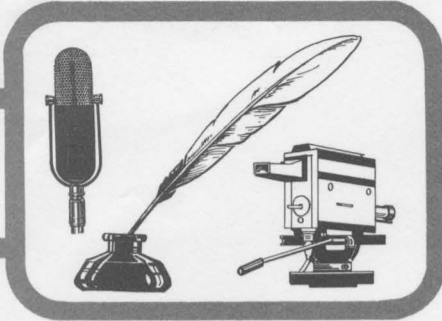
It's claimed this is one of the hardest working of all Congresses. I say the hardest work is being done in certain major committees by those Democrats intent on inflating already bloated Administration spending requests.

It's claimed this has been one of the most productive Congresses. I say this Congress has moved at a rather slow pace, and the product is nothing to be proud of. Apart from quick action on emergency money requests for the multi-billion-dollar Vietnam war, the thing that stands out is Mr. Johnson's \$6 billion tax bill.

It's said this Congress is living up to the reputation it established in the first session. That's true. It is living up to a reputation for big spending and total disregard of the taxpayer's wishes.

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CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE MONDAY P. M., APRIL 11, 1966

WASHINGTON--House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford, Mich., will address the Republican faithful at appreciation dinners for two GOP members of the House in appearances April 15-16 in California.

Ford will speak the evening of April 15 at Santa Rosa on behalf of Rep. Don H. Clausen. The Clausen dinner is sponsored by the First District Republican Committee.

The House GOP leader will be the principal speaker April 16 at a Lincoln-Day-in-April dinner at Burbank honoring Rep. Ed Reinecke of California's 27th congressional district.

Prior to the Clausen dinner, Ford will speak to the Republican Associates of San Diego County at San Diego.

On his swing into Santa Rosa, Ford will arrive at 4:40 p.m. at San Francisco International Airport, where a press conference is scheduled.

He will spend the night of April 15 at San Francisco and will have another press conference at 10:30 a.m. April 16 at the Hilton Inn before departing for Burbank.

Ford will fly from San Francisco to Los Angeles, where he is due at 3:30 p.m. There he will be greeted by a Burbank civic committee. Burbank city officials will be having their own annual dinner-dance that evening and so will be unable to attend the Ford-Reinecke dinner.

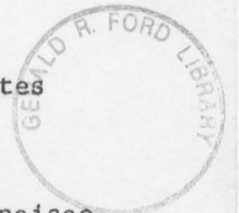
Ford will meet the press at Burbank at 5:30 p.m. and later mingle with guests at a social hour preceding the dinner for Reinecke.

Ford has made more than 200 speeches throughout the country since becoming House Republican leader January 4, 1965. Congressman from Michigan's Fifth District, he is serving his 18th year in the House. During the 88th Congress, he was Chairman of the House Republican Conference. Before becoming Minority Leader, he was ranking Republican on the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

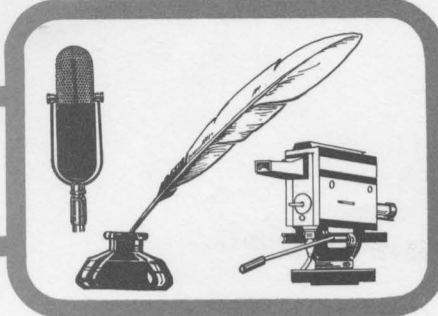
Clausen, of Crescent City, was elected to Congress January 23, 1963, to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Democratic Rep. Clem Miller. He was reelected to the 89th Congress.

Reinecke is a first-termer who was named whip of the California Republican delegation January 6, 1965.

# # #



*RGF*



CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY AT 10:30 A.M.  
THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1966

STATEMENT BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, HOUSE MINORITY LEADER.

Yesterday was the birthday of Thomas Jefferson. Today is the anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's death. Tomorrow, as most of us are unhappily aware even without this reminder is Great Society Tax Day--the deadline for filing your federal income tax returns for 1965.

President Johnson is in Mexico City today unveiling a statue of Abraham Lincoln, so I suppose it will not be amiss for me to say a few words in praise of Thomas Jefferson.

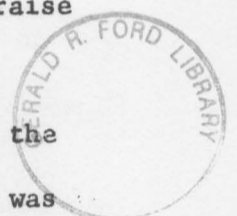
Jefferson, though he called himself a Republican, is regarded now as the Father of the Democratic Party. Lincoln, the first Republican president, was himself a great admirer of Jefferson, saying that "the principles of Jefferson are the definitions and axioms of free society." For his part, Jefferson declared that "every difference of opinion is not a difference of principle... We are all Republicans; we are all Federalists."

So without quibbling about labels, let me merely note that we are all today indebted to Thomas Jefferson for one major contribution to our system of government. He was the Founding Father who started the Two-Party System. You might say that, as Vice-President, he was the first minority leader here on Capitol Hill. And the country has prospered under the two-party system which developed--thanks to Jefferson--outside the provisions of the Constitution. It added another and most important check and balance to our experiment in self-government.

As to Jefferson's principles, during his presidency he cut federal spending, reduced taxes, repaid \$33 million of the national debt, and repealed the excise tax on whisky. Whether he was the last Democrat or the first Republican to do this I will leave for historians to argue.

There certainly can be no argument, however, about the differences of principle that divide our two parties in this lopsided 89th Congress. There is no doubt which is the spending party and which is the prudent party. Nevertheless, we keep hearing noises from the direction of the White House that we 140 Republicans in the House of Representatives, outnumbered more than two to one,

(MORE)



FORD STATEMENT - APRIL 14, 1966

are wrecking the Johnson-Humphrey Administration's earnest efforts to economize and head off higher taxes. The President pleads with us and with the housewives and businessmen and the farmers and labor leaders to sharpen our pencils and help him halt inflation.

Well, I have sharpened my pencil on my income tax forms, so let me show you a little simple arithmetic:

At this moment, there are 293 Democrats and 140 Republicans in the House. That is a two-to-one majority with 13 votes to spare. Even the liberal "Democratic Study Group" in the House of Representatives boasts enough members to outvote the Republican minority.

In the Senate there are 68 Democrats, including Wayne Morse, and 32 Republicans. That's also a two-to-one majority with four votes to spare.

In short, this is a Blank Check Democratic Congress which can do virtually anything it pleases, or anything President Johnson pleases, whether the Republican Loyal Opposition likes it or not. Such lopsided legislative majorities can spend your money, raise your taxes--and that's exactly what this Blank Check Democratic Congress is doing.

And remember, no matter what President Johnson says or how fervently he pleads with the housewives to stop buying steaks, the responsibility for federal spending and for federal taxing rests with the Congress. This Blank Check Democratic Congress will have to face the American voter in November, and the people will know who are the spenders and who are the savers.

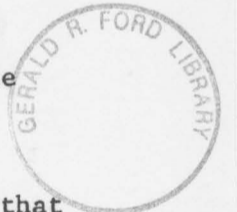
They will know because there will be roll calls on every spending bill that comes to the House of Representatives which offers any hope of saving a single wasted dollar of your money.

We asked President Johnson at the outset of this session to put wartime priorities on ~~his~~ wartime budget requests. So far he has refused. We have gone along with our elected commander in chief on everything he has asked to support our fighting men in South Vietnam--but when I read what is happening over there and how we are running short of bombs despite all the billions we have voted for defense, I wonder how long we can underwrite shocking mismanagement in the name of national unity.

We are certainly going to take hard second looks at all the rest of the Johnson-Humphrey spending proposals when the Congress resumes.

Now here is the record on nondefense spending rolled up by the Blank Check Democratic Congress thus far this session: On six key money measures, an average

(MORE)



FORD STATEMENT - APRIL 14, 1966

of 82 per cent of the Democrats have voted for higher spending and, inevitably, higher taxes. (See Table)

On the same six roll calls in the House of Representatives, an average of 93 per cent of my Republican minority colleagues have stood up for economy and the now dwindling hope of holding off inflation and higher federal taxes for future April fifteenths.

We were faced with 3 new spending proposals, all having some merit in normal times but steamrollered through the Blank Check Democratic Congress by lopsided majorities. Then we tried to trim excess fat from 3 appropriation bills which came to us before the recess. Some of these proposals were worthy, and they had powerful advocates. But we are at war--and not doing too well with it. So again the roll was called. Again the result was the same. Ninety-three per cent of the Republicans were for saving; 82 per cent of the Blank Check Democrats were for more spending.

Who votes for higher taxes? Democrats--four out of five of them. We cannot expect to stop this steamroller without substantial help from any Jeffersonian Democrats still left in the Congress--and it doesn't look like there are very many of them left.

But we are going to make the record clear for the people to judge in November, and I predict that the next Congress will be known as the Check and Balance Congress instead of the Blank Check Congress. I am confident that here in the legislative branch, at least, this country will have the right kind of leadership next year to meet the mounting array of dilemmas and disasters at home and abroad.

# # #



TOTAL STRENGTH: 293 DEMOCRATS VS. 140 REPUBLICANS (Two seats vacant)

SIX ECONOMY ROLL CALLS IN THE HOUSE - 1966

DEMOCRATS VOTING  
FOR SPENDING MORE

82%  
(Average)

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REPUBLICANS VOTING  
FOR CUTS AND SAVING

93%  
(Average)

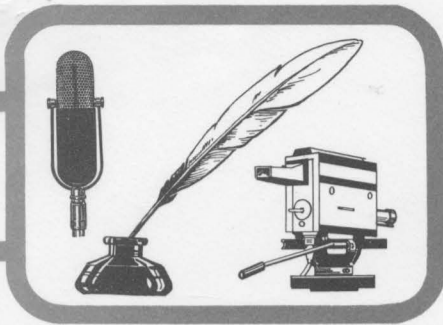
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88%	Five per cent cut in Interior Appropriations. 4/6/66	95%
93%	Five per cent cut in Postal-Treasury Appro- priations. 4/6/66	89%
75%	\$12,000,000 Supplemental for Rent Subsidies. 3/29/66	95%
76%	\$750,000 new authority for H.H.H. House. 3/22/66	95%
79%	\$4,600,000 new authority for Alaska Centennial. 3/2/66	94%
83%	\$9,500,000 new authority for Florida "Interama". 2/3/66	87%

WHO VOTES FOR HIGHER TAXES?



*RFA*



CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

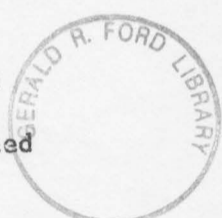
**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT, APRIL 18

President Johnson is going to have to make a big decision soon-whether to make greater use of our air and sea power or to send many more U. S. troops to Vietnam, maybe an additional 200,000 or more.

We apparently must make such a choice to achieve even a stalemate in Vietnam and to gain a cease-fire in a war that now looks like a war without end.

Infiltration of enemy troops from North Vietnam into the south has been officially estimated at 4,500 a month. How should we deal with this continued infiltration?



U. S. combat losses so far this year already have exceeded those for all of 1965--1,361 Army, Marine, Navy, and Air Force men killed in combat between January 1 and April 9 as compared with 1,342 men in all of last year.

This reflects the fact that there were only about 25,000 American troops in Vietnam last year at this time, while there now are more than 240,000 there.

Use of more air and sea firepower would seem preferable to sending more U. S. manpower to Vietnam. Let's try this before sending more of our boys into combat.

I feel use of more air and sea power could save thousands of American lives and hasten the accomplishing of our objective in Vietnam--to stop Communist aggression, persuade the enemy to agree to a negotiated settlement, and promote an honorable and lasting peace.

Is there a shortage of certain kinds of bombs in Vietnam? The Pentagon has acknowledged that our factories will not be turning out new 750-pound bombs until July and that meantime we're resorting to such things as buying back 5,570 750-pounders we sold to a West German fertilizer firm which wanted the nitrate from the explosives.

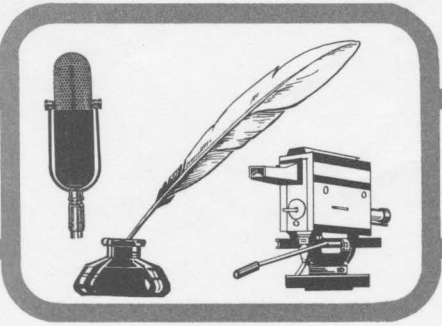
We find that the Pentagon sold these bombs to the West German firm for \$1.20 apiece two years ago and now is buying them back for \$21 apiece. That means the German firm is making a gross profit of \$102,124 on the deal--1,200 per cent profit.

If there is no shortage of 750-pound bombs, then I can't understand why the Defense Department would be willing to buy back its own bombs. Let the Pentagon explain that away.

I say such an incident substantiates my charge of mismanagement. I say it's a glaring example of mismanagement. And I'm sure the American people will feel the same way about it.

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RJA



CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT, APRIL 19, 1966

CBS News Correspondent Peter Kalisher, quoting what he described as an "unimpeachable" source, reported today from Saigon that "a dire lack of ammunition and explosives" has forced a cutback in U. S. Air Force sorties in South Vietnam from over 400 to less than 100 a day in the past week.

Yet the Defense Department keeps issuing denial after denial of any shortages in Vietnam.

I challenge the Pentagon to level with the American people. I demand that the American people be allowed to know just what is happening in Vietnam.

Kalisher states flatly that there is no bomb shortage in Vietnam but there is a shortage of the things that make bombs go off--fuses, pins, and timing devices. There is also a shortage of 20-millimeter cannon shells.

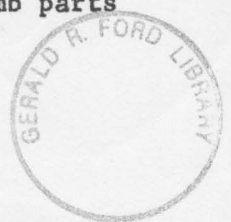
Why do we have to learn these things from "an unimpeachable source," obviously an American Air Force officer who naturally prefers to remain unidentified?

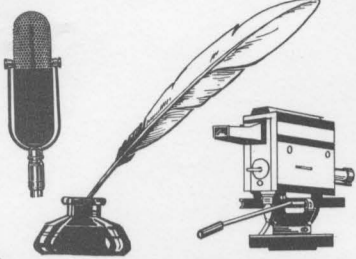
It should not be left to an unidentified but obviously honest officer to report that Air Force bombers have been taking off half-loaded in Vietnam since the middle of April and that only emergency missions and those in direct support of ground force operations are being flown.

Kalisher reports that the bomb parts shortage apparently is about to be met through shipments now on the way. But he notes that the parts are not in Vietnam now and describes the shortage as "foreseen but not avoided."

These are the hard facts about the conduct of the war in Vietnam. There is no reason for any U. S. officer to give out a false report concerning bomb parts shortages. It's time the Pentagon tore away the veil of secrecy.

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CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY P. M.  
APRIL 20, 1966

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN.

President Johnson today asked Congress to give its blessing to a government debt refinancing scheme that resembles a gigantic crap game with the taxpayer the only one who loses.

What the President proposes to do is to dump \$4.2 billion in government loans into a pot at the Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA) and invite investment firms to grab a piece of the action--put some money into a government revolving fund and get paid off with interest by the taxpayer for their trouble.

The conventional way to handle this kind of debt is to sell government bonds. But this would show up in President Johnson's budget. It also would be subject to the debt limit. If Congress refuses to approve the President's refinancing scheme, the projected Johnson deficit for fiscal 1967 will be not \$1.8 billion but \$6 billion.

It costs more in interest to refinance as the President proposes. If Congress rubber-stamps the President's refinancing bill, the taxpayer will pay off to private investors to the tune of up to \$210 million more over the 10-year life of the refinancing game. The lid also will be off the national debt.

Why is Mr. Johnson willing to make a goat of the taxpayer with his refinancing scheme?

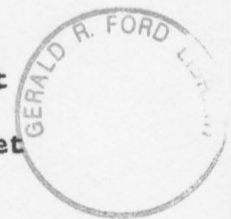
He wants to spend more but make it look like less. He wants a budget that looks smaller on the outside but is bigger on the inside. And he wants to get out from under the debt ceiling with government agency loans.

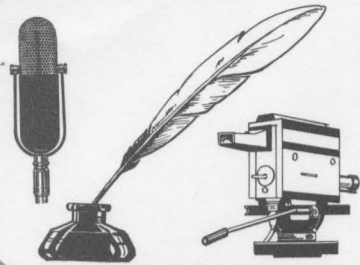
This is the Great Deception of the Great Society. Mr. Johnson found himself with a \$6 billion fiscal 1967 deficit--not a \$1.8 billion red ink figure--until his budget director tucked the ball under his jersey and pulled a sneak run around the budget. Congress has to stop this run around the budget before it crosses the goal line.

This devious financing scheme is just another handle for backdoor spending.

Mr. Johnson is trying to treat the taxpayer like the spendthrift husband who keeps his debts hidden from his wife. That chap runs up a lot of bills, consolidates his debts by borrowing fresh money from a finance company at higher rates and then blithely resumes his role of the big spender.

Unless Congress rejects the President's refinancing plan, the road to greater inflation will be wide open. Congressional appropriations committees will have no say in future lending operations of the agencies involved. The committees will not be standing in the way to say this is as far as you go. They may as well hang up a "gone fishing" sign over their doors. # # #





CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT-APRIL 21, 1966

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN

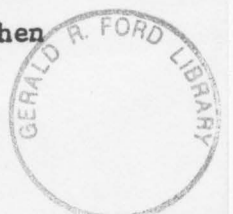
A week ago, in reiterating that the Republican minority in the House had given the President every penny he has asked for defense purposes, I raised a question of serious shortages and inadequate advance planning by the civilian managers in the Penatagon which, according to widely publicized reports by reliable and patriotic Americans close to the scene, have been and still are hampering thestepped-up level of combat operations in Vietnam.

These reports, coincident with serious internal disturbances in that troubled country, came as something of a surprise to me, to a great many members of the Congress, of both parties, as well as to the millions of Americans we are here to represent. We had been told in October 1963, by Secretary of Defense McNamara, that most Americans would be out of South Vietnam by the end of 1965. We had been assured, again by Mr. McNamara early last year that neither more combat troops nor more money would be needed in South Vietnam. Late last year, the Defense Secretary returned from a personal inspection of the situation there to say, "We have stopped losing the war!" And we have been told ever since that the situation was improving day by day.

So it produced something of a sonic shock wave when suddenly the front pages of the newspapers and the radio and television newscasts were full of reports of internal unrest, attacks on Americans, and curtailment of combat operations against the Communist enemy. These were variously attributed to supply tieups, shortages of essential equipment, and civil disturbances in South Vietnam. Evidence mounted, and continues to mount, that the Pentagon planners were not adequately prepared to cope with the kind of limited, non-nuclear type of military operation for which they have supposedly been reorganizing since the end of the Eisenhower administra-tion, with much fanfare about modern management methods.

When I raised the question of mismanagement, Mr. McNamara quickly--perhaps too quickly--sought to smother it by sheer weight of computer-like statistics. He called a quickie press conference that afternoon and personally declassified large areas of secret information about U. S. bomb loads and backlogs. This information was presumably classified on the grounds of national security and potential value to the enemy. It was not the first time he has removed the "secret" label when criticism of the Pentagon came too close for comfort.

(MORE)



REP. FORD STATEMENT - APRIL 21, 1966

In the course of Mr. McNamara's news conference to discredit his critics--who have never supposed or suggested that any of his mistakes were deliberate or dishonorable--the Secretary found himself partially confirming our concern. He admitted that the Air Force had to buy back 750-pound bombs which had originally cost U. S. taxpayers \$330 apiece, were sold as surplus to a West German fertilizer firm two years ago for \$1.70 apiece, and have now been recovered for \$21 apiece. If this is good management, I am mistaken about the meaning of the word. If there was no bomb shortage, was this transaction really necessary?

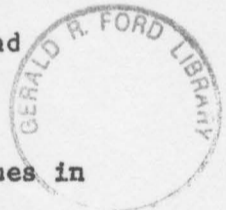
Mr. McNamara also denied there is any shipping shortage affecting Vietnam. Yet only last Monday there were reliable reports--one headlined "U. S. Again Short Of Viet Ships" from the April 18 Journal of Commerce--that the government is trying to get 20 or more additional vessels from private shipping companies. It is a known fact that ships have been stacked up for weeks as far away as Manila waiting to unload their Vietnam cargoes. Mr. McNamara cites figures on Post Exchange supplies delivered to Saigon in answer to allegations that our airmen haven't enough bombs.

He says there is no ship shortage, only shortages of dock facilities. I am not interested in playing word games, nor am I interested in playing politics with this serious situation. I am only interested--and I think every member of the House and Senate, Democrats and Republicans, is also interested--in seeing that the billions for defense we have unhesitatingly voted is well and wisely spent and that every American sent 10,000 miles from home is given all the support and supplies he needs to protect himself, defend all of us, and bring the war to a swift and satisfactory end.

There has never been any doubt in my mind that every one of my colleagues in the House and Senate, regardless of party, agrees completely on this point. I am proud to see such distinguished Americans and distinguished Democrats as Senator Stennis say, as he did on a national television network last Sunday, that his Preparedness Subcommittee has found evidence of "mismanagement" in Pentagon planning for the war. I am encouraged to hear that Mr. McNamara conceded before the Fulbright committee that we have some "temporary dislocations of supplies" in South Vietnam because that means that he is going to do something about it. I am informed that he sent his chief of Air Force logistics to Saigon to investigate what he calls the non-existent bomb shortages and to eliminate them. That's what we want.

But I am deeply concerned that Mr. McNamara, in his Senate testimony yesterday, brushed off the concern of millions of patriotic Americans as "all this baloney." I share this concern, and I shall continue to express it. I think such able members of Congress as Senator Stennis, Chairman Carmatz of the House Merchant Marine

(MORE)



REP. FORD STATEMENT - APRIL 21, 1966

Committee, and Congressman Otis Pike of the House Armed Services Committee share it. I know that many responsible newsmen here, covering the Pentagon and sharing risks with our fighting men in Vietnam will continue to express their concern because that is our obligation to the American people.

Now here are just a few of the reports that have come in to corroborate the question I raised a week ago:

1. New York Times Correspondent Neil Sheehan, in a front page story from Saigon yesterday, reported that since April 6 "the number of Air Force attack sorties in South Vietnam has ~~struck~~ to about 43 per cent of its former level"-- from 185 daily sorties dropping about 1000 bombs on Communist targets to an average of 83 sorties and 400 bombs. Rocket firings, according to this reliable report, have fallen even more spectacularly from 2800 a week to 98. Mr. Sheehan says further that our planes are being sent out against the enemy with light loads--which is another way of saying more American manpower is being exposed to combat risks with less firepower. The New York Times dispatch states that "Air Force officers in Vietnam have repeatedly warned the Pentagon over the last four months that munitions were not arriving fast enough to meet requirements" and so far they are still inadequate. This has nothing to do with recent civil disturbances at South Vietnamese ports nor with the internal distribution system of our fine military field commanders under Gen. Westmoreland, according to Mr. Sheehan's sources. This New York Times report was called to Mr. McNamara's attention in the Senate hearings yesterday and he called it "baloney."

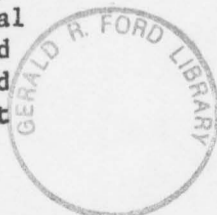
2. Earlier, CBS News Correspondent Peter Kalischer, quoting what he called an "unimpeachable" source, reported from Saigon that "a dire lack of ammunition and explosives" has forced a cutback in U. S. Air Force sorties from over 400 to less than 100 per day. Kalischer said the critical shortage was not in bombs but in fuses and other key parts that make bombs usable. He also reported a shortage of 20-millimeter cannon shells and planes taking off half-loaded. "Only emergency missions and those in direct support of ground forces operations are being flown," CBS News said. This and other careful reports from trained war correspondents on the scene also, apparently, come under Mr. McNamara's category of "all this baloney."

3. The long-range management of our overall defense effort can be faulted for its failure to adequately anticipate the needs of the American Merchant Marine, a subject which we discussed at some length yesterday at the House Republican Policy Committee press conference. As recently as the start of this year, Mr. McNamara testified that our merchant fleet was adequate for our defense needs and reaffirmed his earlier preference for airlift. Yet this week the administration is reportedly trying to scrape up 20 or more additional U. S. flag carriers, and the current budget includes funds for replacement of only 9 to 13 of the World War II merchant ships that form the bulk of our dwindling merchant marine--now fallen to about 1000 vessels, mostly old, while the Soviet Union has 1500, mostly new, and 673 more building or on order. In this connection, I note that Mr. McNamara yesterday brushed off questions by the distinguished senator from Kansas, Senator Carlson, about the resale of surplus items by NATO nations. He said it was all "World War II equipment junk." It's a sad fact this is true of much of the Merchant Marine that he considers perfectly adequate. But our alarm over shipping is more "baloney."

4. The authoritative magazine, Aviation Week, in a series of articles by a Marine Corps Reserve pilot who spent two months in Vietnam reports in technical detail on a wide range of ordnance and ammunition shortages, deficiencies and deterioration. The publication, Aviation Daily, in its April 19 issue summed up the misstatements Mr. McNamara has made in recent weeks and concluded that "he has managed to almost meet himself coming back on some of the stories he has presented to the public."

Mr. McNamara has a great gift for figures. He is extremely agile in the use of words. As I said previously, I am not the least concerned with playing word games. I have not myself used the word "baloney" to characterize disagreements among equally patriotic Americans. We in the minority in this Congress cannot

(MORE)



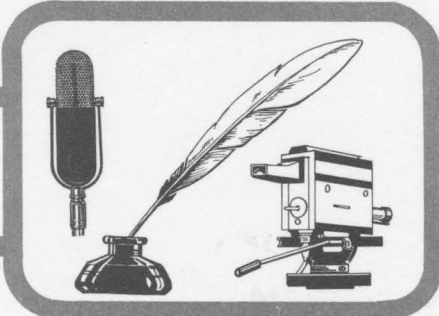
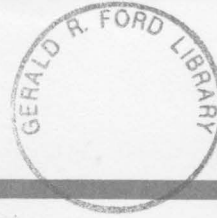
REP. FORD STATEMENT - APRIL 21, 1966

selectively declassify information which has been stamped "Secret" in order to substantiate the serious questions raised about the safety and support of our fighting men in Vietnam and the future security of our country.

We must therefore depend in large measure on the kind of responsible, independent reporters I have cited for firsthand information on the situation in Vietnam. I for one do not regard them as "baloney." Whether you call these examples mistakes of judgment, mismanagement, poor planning, faulty foresight, bad bungling or just plain goofs, I don't care. Whether they are "alarming" or "distressing" or "shocking" or whatever word you prefer--they are intolerable as long as they endanger any American soldier, airman, sailor, or marine. They are intolerable as long as we, by asking questions of the Pentagon and persisting after answers, can compel or speed up remedial action. This is the joint duty of the responsible press and the responsible representatives of the people. I intend and hope they intend to continue this duty. It is not "baloney."

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CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE ON THURSDAY, P.M.,  
APRIL 21, 1966

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN. X

The Air Force has informed me it is arranging for a study by high-caliber scientists of some of the UFO sightings which have never been explained.

This study will be placed under contract soon after July 1, start of the new fiscal year. It will be carried out by a university which has no close ties with the Air Force so that the findings will be completely objective, Air Force officials tell me.

Those people engaged in the study will be high-caliber scientists who have never taken a position on UFO's, the Air Force said. It will be made clear to them that they are not being hired to come up with findings in support of previous Air Force statements regarding UFO's, I am informed.

The Air Force said there is too much effort involved to ask these scientists to make this study without pay.

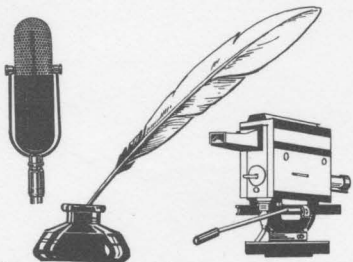
The report will definitely be made public, the Air Force assured me. The whole purpose of the study is to clear the air as far as the public is concerned.

This, of course, was my purpose in recently requesting that public hearings on the subject of UFO's be conducted by either the House Armed Services Committee or the House Science and Astronautics Committee.

It was as a result of my call for a congressional investigation that the Air Force now is arranging for a study of UFO's by topflight scientists not connected in any way with the Air Force.

I would have preferred a congressional investigation with witnesses to include reliable persons from among those who say they have seen UFO's. I still think this would be beneficial. But the UFO study by a panel of scientists, with the report to be made public, is a step in the right direction.

# # #



CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
APRIL 21, 1966



STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN.

The rise in the cost of living for March, the second consecutive monthly jump, is in line with my prediction that consumer prices will climb 3 to 5 per cent this year as compared with a 2 per cent rise in 1965.

It also is proof that the jawbone technique the President is using to try to halt inflation--talk, talk, talk--just isn't working. He is going to have to make a choice within perhaps the next six months on asking Congress for an income tax increase or cutting back substantially on the level of federal spending.

I urge that he resolve to reduce spending and pass that word to Democratic members of Congress. If this is done, there will be no need to impose a second tax increase on the American people this year--and no excuse to do so.

The consumer price index rose four-tenths of 1 per cent in March. In February, it went up five-tenths of 1 per cent. There was no change in January.

The trend is unmistakable. Inflation is here. Averaging in the no-change month of January, we find that consumer prices rose at an annual rate of 3.6 per cent for the first quarter of this year. If there are no more no-change months during 1966, the rise for the year may be considerably greater than that.

It's time the President stopped talking about inflation and did something about it.

# # #