

The original documents are located in Box D19, folder “Independent Mutual Insurance Agents Association of New England, Boston (telephone message), October 1, 1965” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. The Council donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Telephone message
October 1, 1965
11 a.m. EDT

Tomorrow : Friday
Oct 1

Independent Mutual Insurance Agents Association of New England
meeting in Boston

It is a pleasure to be the lead-off man in this telephone conversation with you to discuss the topic---"The Future."

I am speaking from my office in The Capitol...about 100 yards from the floor of the House of Representatives. Here at my desk the view is magnificent. In the House when I sit on our side of the aisle with a small band of 141 Republicans and look at the mass of humanity across the aisle, I am a little jealous---and at times discouraged.

Particularly I am discouraged when I see so many messages come from the White House and observe my Democratic friends not knowing whether they should clap their hands or click their heels!

When you have such awesome power in the Executive branch, coupled with a 2 to 1 majority in the House and Senate today, I believe some of the things we believe to be important are in jeopardy.

Unfortunately, we do not have a strong two-party system in America, particularly in the Congress. The net result is the loss of many traditional safeguards which benefitted all segments of our society.

A strong two-party system is an important cornerstone in the American political system. It is not constitutionally-ordained, but early in our Nation's history our forefathers decided that a two-party system was the best for all the people.

-more-

As a result, we have avoided the loss of freedom that exists in one-party governments throughout the world. We have also avoided the chaos and confusion that results from multi-party government.

I have talked as though I am fearful, apprehensive and pessimistic. I am--but to a very limited ~~extent~~ extent.

On the other hand, I am optimistic about the future.

In the first place, I have a strong abiding faith in the good judgment of the people of America.

our citizens as a whole group
I have a strong abiding faith in those giving real leadership in our country. And...I am convinced that Congress will take steps to improve its image, to improve its day to day workings.

It seems to me most Americans are realizing that they have to help the Congress become a stronger partner in the relationship of Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches of government.

Governors in many states are realizing that if their unit of government is to be a strong partner, their constitutions must be modernized. They are learning to assume responsibilities instead of passing them off to the federal government.



I am optimistic for another reason.

There is a growing realization that our system is the finest in the history of mankind. We believe in the Constitution...the historic document put together almost 200 years ago by very wise and patriotic men.

But, let me say, it is politics and politicians that have put the breath of life and the blood in the veins of the still bones of the constitutional system.

And so I conclude by asking each of you in your own way to be a politician or in politics.

For yourself, for your state, for your Nation, you must participate... and I am sure you will. Thank you.

" # # #