

FOR THE SENATE:

Everett M. Dirksen  
of Illinois

Thomas H. Kuchel  
of California

Bourke B. Hickenlooper  
of Iowa

Margaret Chase Smith  
of Maine

George Murphy  
of California

Milton R. Young  
of North Dakota

Hugh Scott  
of Pennsylvania

PRESIDING:

The National Chairman  
Ray C. Bliss

# THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS

## Press Release

Issued following a  
Leadership Meeting

October 26, 1967

FOR THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Gerald R. Ford  
of Michigan

Leslie C. Arends  
of Illinois

Melvin R. Laird  
of Wisconsin

John J. Rhodes  
of Arizona

H. Allen Smith  
of California

Bob Wilson  
of California

Charles E. Goodell  
of New York

Richard H. Poff  
of Virginia

William C. Cramer  
of Florida

BY THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP:

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The demonstrations that have taken place in Washington and across the nation in recent months have given the American people increasing and even frightening concern for the future. We share that concern, since never before in our history has lack of confidence in America's leadership been so evident.

We believe, very strongly, that the hour has now passed when firmness must continue to yield to tolerance in dealing with these violent few. They are unwilling to demonstrate peacefully. They are unwilling to debate without violence. They are permitted, nevertheless, to disturb the public peace, to endanger their fellow-citizens in their lives and property, and to undermine the very well-being of the nation itself by giving aid and comfort to our enemies.

We are well aware, as all Americans must be, of the Constitutional rights of freedom of speech and peaceable assembly which are so great a part of our treasured heritage. We are equally aware, however, that there is no right to act against the public safety by anyone, anywhere, any time -- for any reason.

This nation had its origin in dissent. We have always believed in unlimited criticism -- in time of war and in time of peace. Free speech -- without violence -- must always be permitted and approved. But law-breaking and violence can never be condoned. Our country has prospered and survived as a democracy, in great part through peaceful, even if at times heated, discussion among men of good-will. Its future will be equally dependent upon the maintenance of this great tradition.

(con't)

Oct. 26, 1967

It is our conviction that it is the malcontent, the misguided and, yes, the malicious, who form the greatest part of these demonstrations. Fortunately, they represent only a very small fraction of our population. That there may be many others who share their views on particular issues is very possible. But it is these, and these alone, who see fit to breach the public peace, break the nation's laws, defy established authority, and destroy public property.

These wretched few can no longer be tolerated. They must be held in check hereafter and, when necessary, be brought to justice, legally but firmly by the scruff of their collective necks. The safety and the peace of mind of all decent, hard-working, law-abiding millions of other Americans must be preserved.

The first duty of those in authority -- in Washington and in every community throughout the land -- is the preservation of public order and the firm enforcement of the law. The rights and the privileges of those countless millions of good Americans who obey the law and keep the peace must be given priority above all others, at all times. Tolerance of marchers and demonstrators is all very well -- up to the point at which they defy the law and endanger the public safety. We call upon those in authority everywhere to enforce the law, with our full backing, in the public interest. We urge them to do so without undue concern hereafter as to the protests and whinings of these law-breakers, who have no regard whatever for the good of the community and who in our view, seek only publicity and selfish personal privilege.

We repeat, there is no right to act against the public safety by anyone, anywhere, any time -- for any reason.

It is the conviction of the Republican Leadership of the Congress -- and, we believe, of all good Americans everywhere -- that the law must be enforced and the safety of our people preserved. We pledge our utmost efforts to this end.