

FOR THE SENATE

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Thomas H. Kuchel, *Whip*
Bourke B. Hickenlooper, *Chr*
of the Policy Committee
Leverett Saltonstall, *Chr.*
of the Conference
Thruston B. Morton,
Chr. Republican
Senatorial Committee

PRESIDING OFFICER.
The Republican
National Chairman
Dean Burch

THE JOINT SENATE-HOUSE
REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

Press Release

Issued following a
Leadership Meeting

March 18, 1965

NO FURTHER
FOR THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Gerald R. Ford, Jr.,
Leader

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Melvin R. Laird,
Chr of the Conference
John J. Rhodes, *Chr.*
of the Policy Committee

Clarence J. Brown,
Ranking Member
Rules Committee

Bob Wilson,
Chr. Republican
Congressional Committee

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT BY REP. FORD:

In a series of messages to Congress that are almost encyclopedic in the listing of problems purportedly to be solved by the Federal government, President Johnson proposes enactment of laws and the appropriation of funds that will place the Federal foot in the door of every important function now reserved to the states and local communities.

The formula is ingenious. The future needs of every local community for the next 10 to 20 years are fed, computer-like, into the Federal maw to arrive at a gigantic nationwide figure calculated to stagger the imagination and reduce the citizen to a feeling of utter helplessness. The heroic answer is of course the one now being set forth almost daily by the Johnson Administration: Only the Federal government can handle the problem.

Had our founding fathers examined the problems confronting them on the same basis, this country probably would have remained a British colony with the Crown handling everything. The fact that the states and local communities have been meeting these problems in their relatively simple locales for nearly two centuries of unequalled progress is ignored.

Federalized schools, text books, and teachers, Federalized zoning building codes, health centers, and transportation, Federalized libraries, laboratories, auditoriums and theaters -- all these and much more are now in prospect for our states and local communities. In time our state and local governments can only be reduced to resident agents for the huge central authority in Washington.

Perhaps the American people want to abandon a proven system that has worked as no other on earth. We do not believe it. The Johnson program has been so disguised by platitudes and Madison Avenue adjectives that its real aim has not been recognized. We are told we are approaching the "Great Society."

We deem it our obligation to provide our citizens with full knowledge of the direction in which their Federal administration is heading our nation. The end of this road is complete Federal control.

(Dirksen statement - pg. 2)

March 18, 1965

The unveiling of President Johnson's "Great Society" makes it starkly clear that the Federal government has only begun to grow in size, power and cost.

The central thesis of the "Great Society" is that bigger and bigger government means better and better health, better and better education, better and better transportation and better and better environment. It resembles political "perpetual motion."

How big is big government today? The answer is: It's enormous.

Here are some samples of the combined impact of Federal, state and local governments: Taxes and other government levies now consume 35 percent of total national income. One out of every six workers in the United States is a government employee. One out of every five dollars spent in the United States for goods and services is spent by government. One dollar out of every four dollars and a half of personal income in the United States is accounted for by direct government payments.

The impact of the Federal government alone is startling: Federal aid to State and local governments has risen from \$3.8 billion in 1956 to \$13.6 billion for 1966 -- an increase of nearly 260 percent. Federal funds now amount to 14 percent of total state-local revenue.

These figures give some idea of the size of government today. Right now the Federal government has more civilian employees in 30 of the 50 states than do state governments themselves, including the five biggest in the Union -- California, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Ohio.

To all this we are now going to add President Johnson's "Great Society." There is no conceivable way to estimate its future cost. The sky's the limit.

The President has already told us that balancing the budget "too quickly" can be "self-defeating." Thus the Congress and the nation have been put on notice that the "Great Society" will be financed by ever-increasing Federal deficits and, although not predicted by the President, these deficits could break all records, wartime or peacetime, if the "Great Society" expands as projected. It is time all Americans took a look at the hard facts.