

FOR THE SENATE:

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of Illinois
Thomas H. Kuchel
of California
Bourke B. Hickenlooper
of Iowa
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of Massachusetts
Thruston B. Morton
of Kentucky

PRESIDING:

The National Chairman
Ray C. Bliss

**THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP
OF THE CONGRESS**

Press Release

Issued following a
Leadership Meeting

September 22, 1966

**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

STATEMENT BY REPRESENTATIVE FORD:

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mr. President, our Question-of-the-Week:

Can We Afford Your Automatic-Democratic Congress?

This may be, in some respects, a push-button world. It may be, in some respects, a computer civilization. It may be, here and there, that the rubber stamp has its proper place and function. But, the push-button, the computer and the rubber stamp wielded in the White House have not yet won the approval of the American people where their Representatives and Senators in the Congress are concerned.

Does the Johnson-Humphrey Administration want not only a blank check but push-button, computerized, rubber stamp voting in the Senate and in the House? This the American people will no longer tolerate.

Proof positive of this Administration's push-button psychology is the voting record of those forty-five freshman Democrats, elected in 1964 from districts formerly Republican, whose automatic responses to the wishes of the Johnson-Humphrey Administration are recorded for all to see.

Item: On reduction of foreign aid (authorization), 1965. This was defeated by 41 votes. 38 of these were automatic-Democratic freshman votes.

Item: On foreign aid authorization (recommittal), 1966. Recommittal failed by 2 votes. 36 of the automatic-Democratic freshmen voted against recommittal.

Item: On anti-poverty program expansion (recommittal). Recommittal was defeated by 49 votes. 39 of these were automatic-Democratic freshman votes.

Item: On the repeal of 14B -- the right to work. The bill passed by 18 votes. 41 votes for it were automatic-Democratic freshman votes.

Item: On rent subsidies (recommittal). The margin was 8 votes. 36 automatic-Democratic freshmen voted to keep this bill alive.

Says Fortune Magazine (September, 1966);

". . . those forty-five provided the saving margin for a number of the more expansive and expensive Administration programs"

This automatic-Democratic response by new members of the House was echoed by that of the rest of the top-heavy Democratic majority in the House. The push-button, the computer, the rubber stamp wielded by the Johnson-Humphrey Administration were in full force in every instance. The result: a travesty on the legislative process, a gross disservice to the will and the wishes of the American people.

No free society can long survive dominance by an unthinking computer, nor dominance by an unthinking, unrestrained, top-heavy legislative majority. This Democratic Congress, with its 294 to 139 majority in the House and its 67 to 33 majority in the Senate, has lost its independence. It is the tool of the Johnson-Humphrey Administration. The Administration and this Democratic Congress must bear full and joint responsibility for the failures and the continuing problems we face. This fact cannot be contradicted. Its simple arithmetic cannot be argued.

In our great tradition, the will of the majority must prevail, yet the will of the minority must both be respected and remain vital if, as has invariably happened in world history, an overwhelming majority, seeking unreasoning power, is not to silence, subdue and then suffocate the essential minority.

We cannot believe for a moment that the American people will any longer accept a push-button Congress or consensus by computer. We believe they agree increasingly that only in a healthy balance of numbers and opinions can this free land survive and prevail.

Therefore, Mr. President: Our Question-of-the-Week:

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Seldom has the hypocrisy of numbers been better illustrated than in the voting during this past week on the Civil Rights bill. The Republican minority and its Leadership in the Senate have been indicted and damned by the Johnson-Humphrey Administration and its Democratic majority for having killed the Civil Rights bill. How, conceivably, can men of intelligence and good-will so overlook that same simple arithmetic to which Mr. Ford has just made reference?

There are 67 Democrats in the Senate. There are 33 Republicans. This being so, how under Heaven, can it be concluded that the Republicans defeated Civil Rights? Had the Johnson-Humphrey Administration truly wished it, had the Democrats in the Senate truly sought it, the proposed Civil Rights Act of 1966 would, without doubt, at this very moment, be the law of the land. As one writer put it in comment on the classic question of "Who killed Cock Robin?" it had to be a Democratic arrow -- not that of the Republican minority.

Happily for the nation's best interest, fortunately for the freedom of the individual, the Republican minority, outnumbered as it was, reflected the will of our people to a degree that made converts of regular Democrats and resulted in a vote that assured the right of every American to preserve the integrity of his own judgment and to determine the future of his own home.

The will of the people in this instance prevailed, but it could never have done so if a determined minority had not made clear the issues involved and in so doing won the respect and the response of many others.

It is unwise, it is dangerous and it can be disastrous, when an overwhelming majority is permitted to prevail without question or hindrance. Only as a majority is repeatedly questioned and checked by a strong minority can the foundations of this Republic be preserved. That we, a present minority, would welcome majority status is undeniable, but until that inevitable day we believe it all-important to the American people that our numbers and our hand be strengthened sufficiently to outlaw forever from Capitol Hill the push-button, the computer, the soulless rubber stamp.

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