CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

NEWS RELEASE

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

Three weeks have passed since Senator Dirksen and I gave our Republican Appraisal of the State of the Union. We have been very gratified by the news coverage and thoughtful editorial treatment it has received, and by the interest in a positive Republican program which our mail reflects.

In many of the comments I read the idea was expressed that our Republican proposals had much merit IF they were actually incorporated into legislation. Now, as 187 Republicans in the House are about to go home to their districts and around the country for Lincoln Day meetings, people will surely ask us: Well, what have you done about all those good ideas you proposed in your State of the Union program?

Our researchers tell us there were 39 points in our domestic State of the Union appraisal which require specific legislative action. They also report that two-thirds of these positive, constructive Republican goals already have been reflected in bills introduced in the first month of this 90th Congress.

Republican bills listed in the background memo attached cover these 26 subject areas, but the list is by no means exhaustive since in many cases numerous other Republicans have introduced identical or similar bills. I have introduced some of them myself.

I think starting the legislative ball rolling on two-thirds of our positive Republican proposals within the first month of the Congress is a pretty good record to take back to the people who elected us last November. During the 18 years I have been a Member of the House, I can't remember a harder-working or more businesslike group of Republicans; and if we get any kind of cooperation from the Democratic majority, we are going to write many of these proposals into law.

The big difference between this Congress and the last one is that the normal legislative process has been restored. This will mean better government for all Americans. Last year laws were passed without full hearings and with only scant floor debate--the people sensed this and stopped that steamroller cold.

By giving you this run-down of Republican bills implementing two-thirds of our domestic State of the Union proposals--26 out of 39 legislative goals--I don't mean to say they all have the 100% endorsement of all House Republicans or of the Republican leadership. The details will be ironed out in the normal process. The House Republican Policy Committee, however, has acted on two of the most urgent items--an Election Reform Law and a House Ethics Committee.

REPUBLICAN BILLS INTRODUCED - 90TH CONGRESS

1. Tax Sharing (HR 784-Laird; HR 4070-Goodell)
2. National Commission on Urban Living (HR 3155-Quie)
3. Tax Credits for Higher Education Costs (HR 781-Laird)
4. Increase Earnings Limit for Social Security Recipients (HR 297-Bolton)
5. Eight Percent Increase in Benefits Retroactive to Jan. 1) (HR 31-Byrnes)
6. Increase Social Security Benefits with Living Costs)
7. Increase Benefits for Veterans and Widows (HR 1307-Saylor)
8. Human Investment Act (HR 4574-Curtis)
9. Hoover-Type Commission (HR 69-Mathias-M.D.)
10. Merit System for Postmasters (HR 425-Cunningham)
11. Fair Farm Prices in Market Place (H. Con. Res. 96-Dole)
12. House Ethics Committee (H. Con. Res. 42-Reid, N.Y.; H. Res. 71-May)
13. Minority-Controlled Investigating Committee (H. Res. 52-Dwyer; HR 873-Michel)
14. Clean Elections Law (HR 806-Lipscomb; HR 631-Goodell)
15. Repeal Long Amendment (HR 465-Davis)
16. Citizens' Rights Act (HR 421-Cramer)
17. Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense (H. J. Res. 2-Lipscomb)
18. Independent Maritime Agency (HR 841-Maillard)
19. Congressional Reorganization (HR 2925-Curtis)
20. Tax Credit for State-Local Taxes (HR 1047-Poff)
21. Strengthen Reserves and National Guard, Draft Revisions (HR 422-Curtis)
22. Electoral College Reform (H. J. Res. 40-Davis)
23. Block Grants for Education (HR 308-Brock)
24. Opportunity Crusade (Goodell)
25. Repeal Participation Sales (Goodell)
26. Restore Investment Tax Credit (Goodell)

(NOTE: This list is far from complete. In many instances, identical or similar bills have been introduced by numerous other Republican members. The somewhat arbitrary selection is intended only to show the general subject areas which have been implemented by Republican-sponsored bills.)

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