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Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Dr. Galbraith sees control of military power, taxes as big issues in government" (1969). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 4553.

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DR. GALBRAITH SEES CONTROL
OF MILITARY POWER, TAXES
AS BIG ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT

MISSOULA--

Dr. John Kenneth Galbraith told news media representatives here Friday the two main issues in the federal government for the next several years will be "getting military power under control" and establishing a tax reform program.

In a press conference Friday at the University of Montana, Dr. Galbraith, a Harvard University economics professor, referred to the need for controlling the ABM (anti-ballistic missile) system and other phases of military power. And he said tax reform "is going to be a very hot issue in Congress" in the coming months.

Friday was the second day of Dr. Galbraith's visit to UM. Thursday night to a capacity audience of 1,600 in the University Center Ballroom he presented the second lecture in a series entitled the Mansfield Lectures on International Relations, a continuing series established a year ago at UM in honor of Sen. Mike Mansfield's 25 years of congressional service and the University's 75th anniversary.

Dr. Galbraith, who was U.S. Ambassador to India during the Kennedy administration, said President Nixon's decision to deploy the ABM system was a result of "a self-defeating argument produced in desperation" because if China or Russia planned to attack the U.S. either nation "would want to get at the missile sites first" and would take steps to do so regardless of our defense systems.

Concerning the Vietnam situation, Dr. Galbraith said he feels "Nixon sees it as his war" and therefore he may take steps to end the conflict, if possible, since "the war destroyed President Johnson" and could destroy him, too.

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As one indication of this, Dr. Galbraith said the bombing in South Vietnam already has been stepped up since the President took office in January.

Dr. Galbraith said he feels Melvin Laird's qualifications for being U.S. Secretary of Defense are "not high" and he sees Laird's performance as "not good" since his appointment.

Regarding taxes on the federal level, Dr. Galbraith said "taxpayers are always unhappy," largely because high rates in the lower income brackets must be used to make up for taxes not paid by those in the upper income brackets.

He emphasized "there is a very serious situation at the federal level" so far as taxes are concerned because "so many people get out of paying taxes each year."

Dr. Galbraith emphasized that hundreds of people with incomes over \$200,000 each avoided the tax burden altogether last year by employing such methods as oil depletion allowances, tax-sheltered annuities and gifts when filing their forms with the Internal Revenue Service.

Concerning military spending, he said the missile systems, nuclear submarine manufacturing and other types of military expenditures provide a "grave train" for such large corporations as General Dynamics.

Dr. Galbraith said hope for results in the Paris peace talks must be kept alive for as long as possible because "there is no alternative" program for peace should the talks fail. He said he feels the "Soviets are very anxious to have disarmament talks."

Dr. Galbraith said the inflationary period which began during the Johnson administration is still being experienced under Nixon. "The only way to stop it is to produce a mild disaster such as higher unemployment," he added.

Mentioning politics, Dr. Galbraith said, "Nothing improves the Democratic party like being out of office.

"Vietnam split the party right down the ^{middle,} / he indicated, but he said he expects party leaders to reunite and form a strong coalition for the next presidential election.

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