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1968 GOP CONVENTION SPEECH

(From Official Report of the Proceedings
of the 29th Republican National Convention
held in Miami Beach, Florida,
August 5, 6, 7, 8, 1968)



THE HONORABLE GERALD R. FORD of Michigan
Permanent Chairman of the Convention



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At the opening of the 89th Congress he was elected our Minority Leader. At the opening of the 91st Congress, next January, we will elect him Speaker of the House of Representatives. (Applause)

Presiding over this convention is but preliminary to presiding over the House of Representatives.

At this convention we will adopt the platform that will give true meaning to our traditional American ideals. Lasting peace, freedom and opportunity, rights and responsibilities, the common defense, domestic tranquility and the general welfare.

We will do more than that. At this convention, we will nominate the next President of the United States to translate our platform into executive action. We must do even more than that. We must have a Republican Congress to support our Republican President. Let this be our promise to our Minority Leader: That in the next Congress we will have a majority. Without control of the legislative machinery there can be no assurance that our President will be able to effectuate our programs, even though we were in the minority by a ratio of two to one in the 89th Congress and in the minority by a ratio of three to one in this, the 90th Congress, much has been accomplished under the able leadership of the gentleman from Michigan.

Indeed, our record in this Congress is so impressive, with so many of our objective proposals adopted in lieu of President Johnson's recommendations, that many people have the impression that we Republicans have actually been in control of the legislative machinery. Our's has been not only a united minority; it has also been a responsible minority. Our's has been not opposition for opposition's sake. We have not only opposed that which we considered wrong, we have proposed that which we considered to be right. We are indeed grateful for the truly effective constructive leadership of our minority leader.

He has worked tirelessly, both in Congress and on the public platform, for advancing the Republican cause. He has taken our case to the people.

Mr. Chairman, fellow Delegates, I have the privilege and the great personal pleasure to present to you as our Permanent Chairman, House Minority Leader, Gerald R. Ford of Michigan. (Standing Ovation)

ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE GERALD R. FORD, MEMBER OF
CONGRESS FROM MICHIGAN, MINORITY LEADER OF THE
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE
PERMANENT CHAIRMAN OF THE 1968 REPUBLICAN
NATIONAL CONVENTION

THE PERMANENT CHAIRMAN. — Delegates and fellow Americans:

I am deeply honored to have been selected as the Chairman of this, the 29th Republican Convention.

I am very grateful for the generous words of my good friend and strong right arm in the House of Representatives, Congressman Les Arends of Illinois. (Applause)

And I am sure I speak for everybody here in congratulating Senator Ed Brooke of Massachusetts on the outstanding job he has done as Temporary Chairman. (Applause and Cheers)

Tonight, and throughout the next three months, the magic word is choice. A choice between the party which blundered into a war in Vietnam, and a party with a record of peace through strength.

A choice between a party which debases the dollar, and a party which defends it.

A choice between a party that raises income taxes, and a party that lowers taxes.

A choice between a party which spends the country deeper and deeper into inflation, and a party that puts the brakes on inflation.

A choice between a party which wastes your tax dollar and a party which is dedicated to efficiency in government—a party that remembers that every dollar the government spends comes out of your pocket, and mine too.

Republicans aim at helping all Americans get ahead—but not at the expense of each other.

A Republican Administration will mean that human rights and human dignity will be shared by all Americans.

It will mean an America where a growing economy provides new jobs and new markets. An America where consumer prices are not inflated beyond the reach of your family pocketbook.

It will mean an America where the farmer will get a fair return for what he produces, the businessman will make a fair profit, and the worker will make a fair wage. (Applause)

And nobody will go hungry.

Tonight all Americans are hungry—hungry for peace. (Applause)

The people of America are appalled by the Johnson-Humphrey Administration's mishandling of the war in Vietnam.

Republicans stand ready to achieve peace through strength.

Under the Democrats, our military strength has dangerously declined compared to that of the Communist world. We must rebuild our military power to the point where no aggressor will dare attack us—or seize our ships. (Applause)

Now and in the future let us negotiate peace from strength and not from fear. (Applause)

This is the policy that kept the peace for eight years during the strong Administration of Dwight D. Eisenhower—who is very much in our thoughts and prayers tonight.

America must always be Number One among the nations of the world. Only an America that is a resolute champion of freedom can lead the war-weary world to peace.

Tonight all Americans are hungry—hungry for new leadership and for new courage that will make them proud of their country again.

Americans are turning away from the past. They are turning away from—

The lowest world prestige in American history.

The biggest deficit since World War II.

The most riots and civil disorders in American history.

The highest crime rate in American history.

The highest interest rates in a hundred years.

The highest cost of living and the heaviest tax burden in American history.

The most dangerous military capability gap and the worst credibility gap in American history.

And the longest way in American history.

Who isn't fed up to here with all this? (Applause)

All those who are fed up say aye. (Chorus of ayes.)

Apparently the ayes have it.

Did I hear somebody out there shout "No?" Well, thank you, Hubert Humphrey.

All Americans are concerned about the direction in which this country is heading. To change this direction we must win not only the White House but the people's house.

What would a Republican majority in the House of Representatives mean in setting a new course for this Nation?

Because the voters in 1966 greatly strengthened the Republican majority in the House of Representatives, the result has been one of the astounding success stories of our times.

We completely rewrote the crime bill for a sweeping anti-crime crusade.

We created a corps of community service officers to assist overburdened city police.

We gave law enforcement officials new weapons against the crime syndicates.

We wrote strong anti-riot provisions into Federal law.

We cracked down on loan-sharking.

We passed sane and sensible programs to protect the consumer with truth in lending, cleaner meat and poultry, cleaner water and cleaner air.

House Republican pressure created a permanent Committee on Ethics.

House Republicans demanded and won a six billion dollar cut in non-essential Federal spending. (Applause)

House Republicans joined with their Senate colleagues to pass the first major housing legislation opening the door to home ownership for low-income families—A Republican program from start to finish. (Applause)

Republicans in the House and Senate again made possible meaningful advances in equal rights for all citizens.

House Republicans succeeded in getting the Johnson-Humphrey Administration to stop dilly-dallying and to go ahead with the ballistic missile defense for the protection of the American people.

House Republicans moved to revitalize state and local government by taking the strings off funds to fight crime, to combat juvenile delinquency, to improve the health of the nation and the quality of our schools.

These are just a few of the Republican constructive accomplishments since the 1966 election—with just forty-seven more Republicans in the House of Representatives. Elect thirty-one more Republican congressmen—a majority—and we'll work with a Republican President to really move this country forward. (Applause and cheers)

It would mean an end to the feeling on the part of the American people that the world is coming apart before their very eyes.

It would bring an end to the feeling of drift—the lack of national purpose.

It would give the Nation new leadership and new dedication to

meaningful ideals. Leadership which would draw on all sectors of American life and all constructive minds for workable solutions.

It would mean that laws already on the statute books would be enforced. Criminals and crime bosses would come under massive attack, led by a Republican President and a real Attorney General who would recognize a crime when he sees it. (Applause and Cheers)

It would mean new Republican programs.

Legislation to meet the problems of the cities and depressed rural areas, the problems of welfare, the problems of unemployment and underemployment, the problems of crime, the need for better education, better housing, better health, the need for a workable program for the efficient family farmer and for greater achievement opportunities for all Americans.

New Republican programs would mean an automatic cost of living adjustment and other improvements in Social Security.

A program to share federal income tax revenue with the states and the cities.

Legislation to invest in human beings through on-the-job training programs in industry, with a good-paying job when the trainee "graduates."

Republican tax incentives to spur new industrial growth and new jobs in our cities and depressed rural areas.

Laws to assure clean elections in America.

Reforms to reorganize the Congress and to make certain that federal programs work and not waste.

Legislation to overhaul our costly and failure-ridden welfare system and move ahead with a work-incentive program—programs that will make taxpayers out of able-bodied taxeaters. (Applause)

The country needs Republican leadership—a Republican President, and a Republican Congress. (Applause)

The country wants a change. That became clear in 1966 when the voters changed the complexion of the House. That was a demand for new directions in this country. Now I see that response growing and swelling into a cry for a change of command in 1968. (Applause and Cheers)

Even our President says these are troubled times. Now we face the heavy task of leading our country to greatness. It is a monumental task, but the President we nominate at this convention will meet the challenge.

He will catalyze the strength and character of our people.

Ours will be a Republican campaign dedicated to freedom.

We will free the American people from the Vietnam war.
(Applause)

We will free the American economy from the bankrupt policies of the Johnson-Humphrey Administration. (Applause)

We will free the economy from the disastrous policy of high interest. A policy which is a crushing burden on the small businessman, the farmer, your communities which must build new schools, the home builder and the home buyer.

We will free the efficient family farmer from the Democrats' cost-price squeeze. (Applause)

We will free American families from the deliberate policy of price inflation which continuously pinches their pocketbooks.

This convention marks the beginning of a long and hard campaign. With the help of the people, it will mark the birth of a new America.
(Applause)

Together let us show our countrymen a Republican Party that is a faithful reflection of the real America

—the America that not only preaches but practices decency and order;

—the America that not only expects but extends courtesy and respect;

—the America that combines freedom and self-discipline, justice and mercy, compassion and reason;

—the America that cherishes the dignity, and honors the opinion of others;

—the America that rejects alike the violent weapon and the vicious whisper.

Together let us show our pride in being Americans—(Applause)—and in being Republicans. (Applause)

Our pride in our magnificent heritage of free political competition and choice. Our pride in our ancient, but adaptable, system of majority rule with minority rights. (Applause)

Our goal is peace and understanding—at home and abroad. No more platitudes, no more unkept promises, no more politics as usual. Honesty, realism, decision and action.

Let us demonstrate here and now that the Republican Party has the integrity, has the intelligence, has the courage to save the Union once again. (Standing Ovation)

PRESENTATION OF ORANGEWOOD GAVEL TO THE
PERMANENT CHAIRMAN BY THE HONORABLE
EDWIN H. MAY

THE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN.—A presentation will be made to our distinguished Permanent Chairman by a distinguished former Congressman from the great State of Connecticut and the next Senator from that great state—Congressman Edwin H. May, the next Senator from Connecticut.

MR. MAY.—My fellow Republicans, nothing could please me more than the great honor that you have accorded me tonight—presenting the gavel of this great convention to a dear friend and former colleague, Congressman Jerry Ford from Michigan and, Jerry, I ask you to mark this gavel well for it will become in your hands an instrument of history; and as you call the Delegates of this convention to order, this gavel will point the way to a new order of government, a better way for a better day for all Americans, and as you adjourn this convention a few days hence, the sound of this gavel will signal the nomination of the next President of the United States. (Applause)

You know I come from the great state of Connecticut, the Constitution State, which this year is going to swing back to the Republican column. Yes, Connecticut is going to support the nominee of this convention and do our part in regaining control of the United States Congress.

The people of Connecticut, like people all over America, have had just about as much as they can take of the bedazzling promises and the fizzling performances of the Johnson-Humphrey Administration. They are tired of a blundering foreign policy which has cost our Nation over 25,000 young men. They are tired of being afraid to walk down their own streets at night for fear of being robbed, beaten or attacked and they are tired of the endless cycle of poverty and urban decay to which no effective response has been produced by the Democratic Administration.

Yes, the average Americans, the forgotten citizens, who work for a living, who pay their taxes, who are dedicated Americans and obey the law, loyal citizens of America, have had it. They cry out to the Republican Party to bring back to America its senses, its integrity, a faith and a moral tone to the leadership of the country they see is lacking and to instill in all Americans a new sense of purpose for the years ahead. This is our challenge. This is our mandate; and on Election Day, November 5, Connecticut, traditionally one of the first states to report its results will signal to all the Nation that a massive victory is on the way, not only

(Dictated over phone to Gail)

1972 CONVENTION SPEECH OF GERALD R. FORD

Governor Reagan, delegates and fellow Americans, let me express my deep appreciation for the superb job that Governor Reagan has done as temporary Chairman of this Convention, and I ask each and every one of you to join with me in giving a special round of applause for Ron Reagan.

Once more I am deeply honored to have been chosen ~~to be~~ the permanent Chairman of the National Convention of the Republican Party. The record shows that over 70% of the delegates here today and 85% of the alternate delegates with us are participating for the first time in a ~~National~~ ~~Convention~~. Only a very few of you were here when I banged down the gavel to adjourn our 1968 ~~Convention~~ four years ago. No wonder I got elected today ^{so} ~~as~~ easily.

I want to express my deep appreciation and to thank the old timers and also the first termers. We need both and we want both in this great campaign in 1972.

Furthermore, I am very proud to be the choice of delegates freely selected through the open door policy of our Republican Party.

Republicans have done this without the heavy ^h ~~band~~ of arbitrary quota, without discrimination or drumming anybody out of our ^k ~~rank~~s, and I might add, without highest pretensions.

← We have gathered here, a greater and more representative convention than ever before in the history of the Republican party.

Thirteen percent young, five percent black, thirty-four percent of the sweeter and ^{the} stronger sex. More importantly, we are all 100% dedicated to a better future for all Americans.

Yes, there is a very big difference here in Miami in 1972. If I might, let me say something quite personal. There is also a very big difference in my own feeling as I assume this responsibility this afternoon. Four years ago, I presented our candidate to the cheers that shook this convention hall. I felt then that his election in 1968 was essential for the survival of the Republican Party. This year, my fellow Americans, I feel with all of my heart, that the re-election of Richard Nixon is absolutely essential to the survival of the United States of America.

There is a big difference in 1972 to our party but an even bigger difference to our country and millions and millions and millions of Americans know this -- Democrats, Independents and Republicans.

Four years ago we campaigned on promises as Republicans. This year we campaigned on performance, on promises President Nixon has kept to the American people.

Four years ago, we had a fine candidate with long experience in government and world affairs. This year we have a proven candidate, a proven President, the seasoned statesman of the world as a whole.

Recently I returned from a 19,000 mile journey to the Great Wall of China following the peace-making path set by President Nixon and our wonderful First Lady. There was, however, one part of China, that part which we used to call Manchuria, where we, our Party, were the very first official Americans as visitors for 24 years.

In the seal making center in far northeast China one afternoon, I took a casual stroll after lunch. I came upon a row of bulletin boards along the sidewalk displaying photographs of current events. The Chinese call this display the People's Newspaper. The crowd was clustered tightly around just one of the many boards and I as a stranger pressed closer to see what caused their curiosity, to see what they were looking at. Can you imagine what they were looking at? They were looking at the pictures of President Nixon's historic visit to Peking. They turned to me, a lone American, with smiles that shattered the language barrier and defied a full generation of suspicion.

At that very moment, it was a very funny thing for me to think of but I did. Surrounded by Chinese of all ages in a far away city I thought back to January 3, 1949, when I had just lowered my right hand after being sworn in as a freshman Member of the House of Representatives. One of the first hands that grasped mine was that of a very, very, very senior Congressman from California -- he had been in the House one full term. He said to me, "Jerry, I 'm Dick Nixon;

we are glad to have you here."

And there was Richard Nixon, President of the United States, on a Chinese bulletin board 23 years later, making friends for me in the middle of Manchuria.

My fellow Americans, I have had the privilege of seeing first-hand what tremendous things Richard Nixon has done for all of us at home or abroad. Let me speak now for just a moment freely. From my vantage point in the Congress and specifically in the House of Representatives, I have also seen what he has tried to do for America but unfortunately, could not do. President Nixon could not do it because, for the last four years, he has had to work with a majority of the other party in control of the House of Representatives and the same problem in the Senate with a whole fistful of would-be President's and self-appointed Secretaries of State.

Let me ask all of you delegates and alternates and guests a question. Doesn't President Nixon deserve a Republican Congress for the next four years?

Really, truly, that could be the biggest difference of all between 1968 and 1972. This year a Republican Congress is not an impossible dream. Let's do it, starting right tonight.

As Republicans, we seek not power but responsibility to finish the work we are in to bind up the nation's wounds, to return problem-solving to the people themselves, to serve the common causes of order as well as justice, to increase the opportunity and the prosperity of all, and to make certain a full generation of peace worldwide, and we so pray. In this task

we welcome the help of all Americans, and we pray for the blessing of Almighty God.

Thank you very much.

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1 (Applause and standing ovation)

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25 the Great Wall of China following the peace making path set

1 by President Nixon and our wonderful First Lady. There was,
2 however, one part of China, that part which we used to call
3 Manchuria, where we, our party, were the very first official
4 Americans as visitors for 24 years.

5 In the seal making center in far northeast China
6 one afternoon I took a casual stroll after lunch. I came
7 upon a row of bulletin boards along the sidewalk displaying
8 photographs of current events. The Chinese call this display
9 the people's newspaper. The crowd was clustered tightly
10 around just one of the many boards and I as a stranger pressed
11 closer to see what caused their curiosity, to see what they
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13 They were looking at the pictures of President Nixon's historic
14 visit to Peking. They turned to me, a lone American, with
15 smiles that shattered the language barrier and defied a full
16 generation of suspicion.

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18 me to think of but I did. Surrounded by Chinese of all ages
19 in a far away city I thought back to January 3, 1949, when I
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21 freshman member of the House of Representatives. One of the
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15 of State. (Applause)

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4 pray. In this task, we welcome the help of all Americans, and
5 we pray for the blessing of Almighty God.

6 Thank you very much. (Applause)

7 (Musical interlude)

8 (Showing of film of President Nixon arriving at
9 Miami International Airport)

10 CHAIRMAN FORD: Delegates, Alternates, and guests,
11 wasn't that a fabulous welcome for a great President to the
12 State of Florida? (Applause)

13 Delegates and Alternates, at this point Mrs. Ranny
14 Riecker, National Committeewoman for the State of Michigan,
15 has requested permission for a special presentation to the
16 Republican Party.

17 MRS. RIECKER: Thank you, all of you.

18 Mr. Chairman, a special gavel has been carved this
19 year from a limb of an oak tree growing at the site and time
20 of the first Republican Convention, on July 6, 1854, at
21 Jackson, Michigan. A month ago, Michigan Republicans dedi-
22 cated ground, "Under the Oaks," in Jackson for a political
23 museum.

24 We would like this gavel, deep with historical sig-
25 nificance, to become the permanent gavel for all future


(From RNC files)

REMARKS OF MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD
PERMANENT CHAIRMAN
OF THE
1972 GOP NATIONAL CONVENTION
MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

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17 guests a question. Doesn't President Nixon deserve a Republi-
18 can Congress for the next four years? (Applause)

19 Really, truly, that could be the biggest difference
20 of all between 1968 and 1972. This year a Republican Congress
21 is not an impossible dream. Let's do it, starting right
22 tonight. (Applause)

23 As Republicans, we seek not power but responsi-
24 bility to finish the work we are in to bind up the Nation's
25 wounds, to return problem-solving to the people themselves,

h 2 1 to serve the common causes of order as well as justice, to
2 increase the opportunity and the prosperity of all, and to
3 make certain a full generation of peace worldwide, and we so
4 pray. In this task, we welcome the help of all Americans, and
5 we pray for the blessing of Almighty God.

6 Thank you very much. (Applause)

7 (Musical interlude)

8 (Showing of film of President Nixon arriving at
9 Miami International Airport)

10 CHAIRMAN FORD: Delegates, Alternates, and guests,
11 wasn't that a fabulous welcome for a great President to the
12 State of Florida? (Applause)

13 Delegates and Alternates, at this point Mrs. Ranny
14 Riecker, National Committeewoman for the State of Michigan,
15 has requested permission for a special presentation to the
16 Republican Party.

17 MRS. RIECKER: Thank you, all of you.

18 Mr. Chairman, a special gavel has been carved this
19 year from a limb of an oak tree growing at the site and time
20 of the first Republican Convention, on July 6, 1854, at
21 Jackson, Michigan. A month ago, Michigan Republicans dedi-
22 cated ground, "Under the Oaks," in Jackson for a political
23 museum.

24 We would like this gavel, deep with historical sig-
25 nificance, to become the permanent gavel for all future



1976 Republican National Convention



Mr. Bob Hartmann
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Attention: Neta

WHITE HOUSE MAIL
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Municipal Auditorium, Room 600, 1310 Wyandotte, Kansas City, Missouri 64105

600

AUGUST 19, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Kansas City, Missouri)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE
1976 REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

KEMPER ARENA

10:40 P.M. CDT

Mr. Chairman, delegates and alternates of this Republican Convention:

I am honored by your nomination, and I accept it, with pride, with gratitude and with a total will to win a great victory for the American people. We will wage a winning campaign in every region of this country from the snowy banks of Minnesota to the sandy plains of Georgia.

We concede not a single State. We concede not a single vote. This evening I am proud to stand before this great Convention as the first incumbent since Dwight D. Eisenhower who can tell the American people: America is at peace.

Tonight, I can tell you straightaway this nation is sound, this nation is secure, this nation is on the march to full economic recovery, and a better quality of life for all Americans.

I will tell you one more thing. This year the issues are on our side. I am ready, I am eager to go before the American people and debate the real issues face to face with Jimmy Carter.

The American people have a right to know first hand exactly where both of us stand. I am deeply grateful to those who stood with me in winning the nomination of the party whose cause I have served all of my adult life. I respect the convictions of those who want a change in Washington. I want a change, too. After 22 years of majority misrule, let's change the United States Congress.

My gratitude tonight reaches far beyond this Arena to countless friends whose confidence, hard work and unselfish support have brought me to this moment. It would be unfair to single out anyone, but may I make an exception for my wonderful family -- Mike, Jack, Steve and Susan, and especially my dear wife Betty.

MORE

(OVER)

We Republicans have had some tough competition. We not only preach the virtues of competition, we practice them. But tonight, we come together not on a battlefield to conclude a cease-fire, but to join forces on a training field that has conditioned us all for the rugged contest ahead.

Let me say this from the bottom of my heart. After the scrimmages of the past few months, it really feels good to have Ron Reagan on the same side of the line.

To strengthen our championship line-up, the Convention has wisely chosen one of the ablest Americans as our next Vice President, Senator Bob Dole of Kansas. With his help, with your help, with the help of millions of Americans who cherish peace, who want freedom preserved, prosperity shared, and pride in America, we will win this election.

I seek not a Republican victory, but a victory for the American people. You at home listening tonight, you are the people who pay the taxes and obey the laws. You are the people who make our system work. You are the people who make America what it is.

It is from your ranks that I come and on your side I stand. Something wonderful happened to this country of ours the past two years. We all came to realize it on the Fourth of July. Together, out of years of turmoil and tragedy, wars and riots, assassinations and wrongdoing in high places, American recaptured the spirit of 1776.

We saw again the pioneer vision of our revolutionary founders and our immigrant ancestors. Their vision was of a free man and free woman enjoying a limited Government and unlimited opportunity.

The mandate I want in 1976 is to make this vision a reality, but it will take the voices and the votes of many more Americans who are not Republicans to make that mandate binding and my mission possible.

I have been called an unelected President, an accidental President. We may even hear that again from the other party, despite the fact that I was welcomed and endorsed by an overwhelming majority of their elected representatives in the Congress who certified my fitness to our highest office.

MORE

Having become Vice President and President without expecting or seeking either, I have a special feeling toward these high offices. To me, the Presidency and the Vice Presidency were not prizes to be won, but a duty to be done.

So, tonight, it is not the power and the glamor of the Presidency that leads me to ask for another four years. It is something every hard-working American will understand -- the challenge of a job well begun, but far from finished.

Two years ago, on August 9, 1974, I placed my hand on the Bible, which Betty held, and took the same Constitutional oath that was administered to George Washington. I had faith in our people, in our institutions, and in myself.

"My fellow Americans," I said, "our long national nightmare is over." "It was an hour in our history that troubled our minds and tore at our hearts." Anger and hatred had risen to dangerous levels, dividing friends and families. The polarization of our political order had aroused unworthy passions of reprisal and revenge. Our governmental system was closer to a stalemate than at any time since Abraham Lincoln took that same oath of office.

Our economy was in the throes of runaway inflation, taking us headlong into the worst recession since Franklin D. Roosevelt took the same oath. On that dark day I told my fellow countrymen, "I am acutely aware that you have not elected me as your President by your ballots, so I ask you to confirm me as your President with your prayers."

On a marble fireplace in the White House is carved a prayer which John Adams wrote. It concludes, "May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof."

Since I have resided in that historic house, I have tried to live by that prayer. I faced many tough problems. I probably made some mistakes, but on balance, America and Americans have made an incredible comeback since August, 1974.

Nobody can honestly say otherwise, and the plain truth is that the great progress we have made at home and abroad was in spite of the majority who run the Congress of the United States.

For two years, I have stood for all the people against a vote-hungry, free-spending Congressional majority on Capitol Hill. Fifty-five times I vetoed extravagant and unwise legislation; 45 times I made those vetoes stick. Those vetoes have saved American taxpayers billions and billions of dollars. I am against the big tax spender and for the little taxpayer.

MORE



I called for a permanent tax cut, coupled with spending reductions, to stimulate the economy and relieve hard-pressed middle income taxpayers. Your personal exemption must be raised from \$750 to \$1,000.

The other party's platform talks about tax reform, but there is one big problem -- their own Congress won't act.

I called for reasonable Constitutional restrictions on court ordered busing of school children, but the other party's platform concedes that busing should be a last resort. But their's is the same problem -- their own Congress won't act.

I called for a major overhaul of criminal laws to crack down on crime and illegal drugs. The other party's platform deploras America's \$80 billion cost of crime. There is the problem again -- their own Congress won't act.

The other party's platform talks about a strong defense. Now, here is the other side of the problem -- their own Congress did act. They slashed \$50 billion from our national defense needs in the last ten years.

My friends, Washington is not the problem, their Congress is the problem. You know, the President of the United States is not a magician who can wave a wand or sign a paper that will instantly win a war or cure a recession or make bureaucracy disappear. The President has immense powers under the Constitution, but all of them ultimately come from the American people and their mandate to him.

That is why, tonight, I turn to the American people and ask not only for your prayers, but also for your strength and your support, for your voice and for your vote. I come before you with a two-year record of performance, without your mandate. I offer you a four-year pledge of greater performance with your mandate.

As Governor Al Smith used to say, "Let's look at the record." Two years ago, inflation was 12 percent. Sales were off, plants were shut down, thousands were being laid off every week. Fear of the future was throttling down our economy and threatening millions of families.

Let's look at the record since August of 1974. Inflation has been cut in half. Payrolls are up. Profits are up. Production is up. Purchases are up. Since the recession was turned around, almost 4 million of our fellow Americans have found new jobs or got their old jobs back. This year, more men and women have jobs than ever before in the history of the United States.

MORE

MORE

Confidence has returned and we are in the full surge of sound recovery through steady prosperity. Two years ago, America was mired in withdrawal from Southeast Asia. A decade of Congresses had short-changed our global defenses and threatened our strategic posture. Mounting tension between Israel and the Arab nations made another war seem inevitable. The whole world watched and wondered where America was going. Did we, in our domestic turmoil, have the will, the stamina and the unity to stand up for freedom?

Look at the record since August, two years ago. Today, America is at peace and seeks peace for all nations. Not a single American is at war anywhere on the face of this earth tonight.

Our ties with Western Europe and Japan, economic as well as military, were never stronger. Our relations with Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and Mainland China are firm, vigilant and forward-looking. Policies I have initiated offer sound progress for the peoples of the Pacific, Africa and Latin America.

Israel and Egypt, both trusting the United States, have taken an historic step that promises an eventual just settlement for the whole Middle East.

The world now respects America's policy of peace through strength. The United States is again the confident leader of the free world. Nobody questions our dedication to peace but nobody doubts our willingness to use our strength when our vital interests are at stake, and we will.

I called for an up to date, powerful Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines that will keep America secure for decades. A strong military posture is always the best insurance for peace. But America's strength has never rested on arms alone. It is rooted in our mutual commitment of our citizens and leaders in the highest standards of ethics and morality and in the spiritual renewal which our Nation is undergoing right now.

Two years ago, people's confidence in their highest officials, to whom they had overwhelmingly entrusted power, had twice been shattered. Losing faith in the word of their elected leaders, Americans lost some of their own faith in themselves.

Again, let us look at the record from August, 1974. From the start, my Administration has been open, candid, forthright. While my entire public and private life was under searching examination for the Vice Presidency, I reaffirmed my life-long conviction that truth is the glue that holds Government together -- not only Government, but civilization, itself. I have demanded honesty, decency and permanent integrity from everybody in the Executive Branch of the Government. The House and Senate have the same duty.

MORE

The American people will not accept a double standard in the United States Congress. Those who make our laws today must not debase the reputation of our great legislative bodies which have given us such giants as Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, Sam Rayburn and Robert A. Taft.

Whether in the nation's capital, the State capital or city hall, private morality and public trust must go together. From August of 1974 to August of 1976, the record shows steady progress upward toward prosperity, peace and public trust.

My record is one of progress, not platitude. My record is one of specifics, not smiles. My record is one of performance, not promises. It is a record I am proud to run on. It is a record the American people -- Democrat, Independent and Republicans alike -- will support on November 2.

For the next four years I pledge to you that I will hold to the steady course we have begun. But, I have no intention of standing on the record alone. We will continue winning the fight against inflation. We will go on reducing the dead weight and impudence of bureaucracy.

We will submit a balanced budget by 1978. We will improve the quality of life at work and play and in our homes and in our neighborhoods. We will not abandon our cities. We will encourage urban programs which insure safety in the streets, create healthy environment and restore neighborhood pride.

We will return control of our children's education to parents and local school authorities. We will make sure that the party of Lincoln remains the party of equal rights. We will create a tax structure that is fair for all of our citizens, ones that preserve the continuity in the family home, the family farm and the family business.

We will ensure the integrity of the Social Security system and improve Medicare so that our older citizens can enjoy the health and the happiness that they have earned. There is no reason they should have to go broke just to get well.

We will make sure that this rich nation does not neglect citizens who are less fortunate, but provide for their needs with compassion and with dignity. We will reduce the growth in the cost of Government and allow individual breadwinners and businesses to keep more of the money that they earn.

MORE

We will create a climate in which our economy will provide a meaningful job for everyone who wants to work and a decent standard of life for all Americans. We will insure that all our young people have a better chance in life than we had, an education they can use and a career they can be proud of.

We will carry out a farm policy that assures a fair market price for the farmer, encourages full production, leads to record exports and eases the hunger within the human family. We will never use the bounty of America's farmers as a pawn in international diplomacy. There will be no embargoes.

We will continue our strong leadership to bring peace, justice and economic progress where there is turmoil, especially in the Middle East. We will build a safe and saner world, through patient negotiations and dependable arms agreements which reduce the danger of conflict and horror of thermonuclear war.

While I am President, we will not return to a collision course that could reduce civilization to ashes. We will build an America where people feel rich in spirit as well as in worldly goods. We will build an America where people feel proud about themselves and about their country.

We will build on performance, not promises; experience, not expediency; real progress instead of mysterious plans to be revealed in some dim and distant future.

The American people are wise, wiser than our opponents think. They know who pays for every campaign promise. They are not afraid of the truth. We tell them the truth.

From start to finish, our campaign will be credible; it will be responsible. We will come out fighting, and we will win. Yes, we have all seen the polls and the pundits who say our party is dead. I have heard that before. So did Harry Truman. I will tell you what I think. The only polls that count are the polls the American people go to on November 2.

Right now, I predict that the American people are going to say that tonight, "Jerry, you have done a good job. Keep right on doing it."

MORE

As I try in my imagination to look into the homes where families are watching the end of this great Convention, I can't tell which faces are Republicans, which are Democrats and which are Independent. I cannot see their color or their creed. I see only Americans.

I see Americans who love their husbands, their wives and their children. I see Americans who love their country for what it has been and what it must become. I see Americans who work hard, but who are willing to sacrifice all they have worked for to keep their children and their country free.

I see Americans who in their own quiet way pray for peace among nations and peace among themselves. We do love our neighbors and we do forgive those who have trespassed against us.

I see a new generation that knows what is right and knows itself, a generation determined to preserve its ideals, its environment, our nation and the world.

My fellow Americans, I like what I see. I have no fear for the future of this great country. As we go forward together, I promise you once more what I promised before: To uphold the Constitution, to do what is right as God gives me to see the right and to do the very best that I can for America.

God helping me, I won't let you down.

Thank you very much.

END

(AT 11:18 P.M. CDT)

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Kansas City, Missouri)

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God helping me, I won't let you down.

Thank you very much.

END

(AT 11:18 P.M. CDT)

AUGUST 19, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(Kansas City, Missouri)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
KEPPER ARENA
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

(7:05 P.M. CDT)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Delegates to the convention, fellow Americans, last night in this hall the Republican Party made history. First, it endorsed the solid achievements of the first person ever to hold the office of President of the United States by appointment.

(Applause.)

The man who brought this Nation successfully through one of the gravest constitutional crises, Gerald R. Ford.

(Applause.)

Second, in the spirit of spirited contest, it showed everyone how in our society a political party can choose its standard bearer by open balloting with the world watching.

(Applause.)

Third, it showed how the contest was resolved. The contenders could meet afterwards with mutual respect and good will and pledge their joint efforts for the party and for the Nation.

(Applause.)

I ask you, ladies and gentlemen, where else in the world would the winner go to call on the runner-up?

(Applause.)

And in how many places in the world would he be received by the runner-up at all, much less be greeted so graciously as was Gerald Ford last night by Ronald Reagan.

(Applause.)

When we came here, it was my hope, and I believe the hope of most Americans, that out of this convention would come a re-united, re-invigorated Republican Party; a party determined to meet the Nation's problems with new solutions, grounded on historic American principles.

A giant step was taken in that direction last night. Tonight we take another such step, for tonight we choose a running mate for our Presidential candidate.

And for that, we need to choose first and foremost a person who could serve as President if, God forbid, the President himself could no longer serve. Secondly, a person who is devoted to the principles of the Republican Party and

MORE

not only the fundamental principles of our American system of government, but also the principles of our unique enterprise system, to our personal liberty, and our individual economic freedoms. Third, a person who can be a partner of our President and our Presidential candidate in this election and an aid to our President in the discharge of his duties.

You and I know such a man. If emergency required, he could serve as our Chief Executive, for he knows the ways of government. He has served local government as a County Attorney for four years. He has served his State as a Legislator. He has served in the Federal Government; first elected as a member of the House of Representatives, serving for eight years, and thereafter elected as a Senator, a United States Senator, now serving in his second term.

He knows our economic system. He has served in two of the most important committees of the Senate -- the new Budget Committee and the Senate Finance Committee.

He understands the complexities of modern economic life. He never loses sight of what really makes our enterprise system tick. He knows what it takes to have a healthy farm economy.

(Applause.)

He knows how vital America's farm families and their productivity are to feeding the world. He knows that our founding fathers did not ordain that all wisdom should be derived from the District of Columbia, but that the great driving force of this Nation was to be found in the common people of America -- in their cities, in their home towns, and their farms, in our individual enterprise system. in our voluntary efforts.

He has lived this knowledge, not only in his public life but in his civic associations, his professional activities, and in his philanthropic causes.

He is a person of compassion. He has never forgotten the sacrifices of others -- our Vietnam POWs, the families of our men missing in action, the handicapped who have no greater champion.

He knows, too, how precious is the gift of freedom, He knows that every generation of Americans must secure that freedom, again and again, by its own sacrifices.

He has lived this knowledge, too, through five and a half years of combat in World War II, twice wounded and twice decorated for heroic achievement.

He has that quality of candor, of openness, forthrightness, so needed in our times, in the Executive posts of our government, in the Legislative process, and in our political campaigns and our political candidates.

He is able, articulate, courageous, and decisive. He is a man who can pass the test once put out by that great and beloved Missourian from Independence who said so aptly: "If you can't take the heat, get out of the kitchen."

(Applause.)

The man of whom I speak can take the heat, ladies and gentlemen, and if you ask those of us who really know him, he cannot only take it, believe me, he can really dole it out.

(Applause.)

I have the honor to nominate as the Republican candidate for the Vice Presidency of the United States the distinguished Senator of Kansas, Senator Robert J. Dole.

(Applause.)

END

(AT 7:20 P.M. CDT)