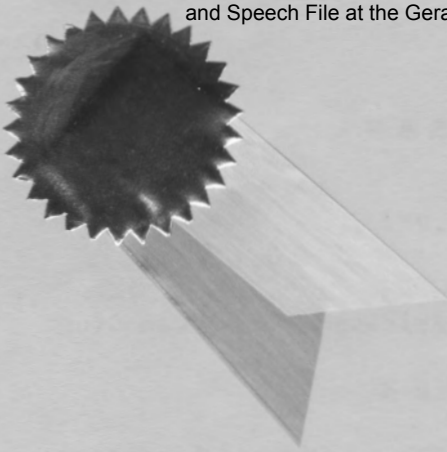


The original documents are located in Box D19, folder “John Ericson Republican Club Annual Pig Roast, Rockford, IL, October 25, 1965” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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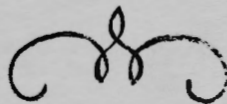
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John Ericsson Republican Club

of Winnebago County

Annual Pig Roast



MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1965

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

P R O G R A M

INVOCATION.....Dr. Joseph C. Cleveland
WELCOME.....Lyle Olesen, President
John Ericsson Republican Club

D I N N E R

SINGING.....Howard Lindstrom
Accompanied by Henry Carlson, Accordionist

ORGANISTEdwin Kotche

INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL JOHN ERICSSON CLUB OFFICERS -
Lyle Olesen, President

INTRODUCTION OF STATE LEAGUE OFFICERS.....
Stuart B. Nordquist..... State President
Leland J. Nordlund..... State Treasurer

RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS-David L. Martenson,
Chairman Republican Central Committee

INTRODUCTION OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN B. ANDERSON.....
Lyle Olesen, President

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER BY CONGRESSMAN ANDERSON..

SPEAKER.....The Honorable GERALD R. FORD
Minority Leader House of Representatives

BENEDICTION Dr. Joseph P. Cleveland

Organ.....Courtesy Jackson Piano Company

Floral Decorations..Courtesy Alpha Floral Company

* * * *

D I N N E R M E N U

ROAST PORK

APPLE SAUCE

BEETS

COLE SLAW

HOT VIENNA BREAD

APPLE CRISP

COFFEE



**1965 OFFICERS OF JOHN ERICSSON REPUBLICAN CLUB
OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY**

PRESIDENT..... Lyle D. Olesen

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT..... Ralph C. Glans

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT.....Roy E. Gustafson

SECRETARY.....Corbin B. Munson

TREASURER..... Stanley W. Palmer

COUNTY CHAIRMAN.....Robert K. Skolrood

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT.....Bertil T. Rosander

* * * *



JOHN ERICSSON REPUBLICAN CLUB
OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY

"PIG ROAST - COMMITTEES

October 25, 1965

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Howard Nordvall, Chairman

Roy E. Gustafson	Thorsten Thorstenson
Leland J. Nordlund	Leonard A. Friberg
Gust E. Lindstrom	Carl Ecklund
William G. Davidson	

SPEAKERS COMMITTEE

Bob Skolrood - Chairman

David L. Martenson	Merle K. Anderson
Bertil T. Rosander	John W. Nielsen

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

Walter Staff - Chairman

Doral L. Falconer	Ross Oldenburger
Lawrence Gustafson	Sol Stern
Arnold Moen	John Ghent

TICKET COMMITTEE

Corbin Munson - Chairman

Walter A. Olson	Roy J. Capron
Tagee Bengston	Fred F. James
Charlotte Becker	Peter Perrecone
Mrs. Lyle Olesen	Ralph W. Walquist

* * *



READING TEXT

Rockford, Illinois
October 25, 1965

It is an extraordinary experience to be in Rockford, which I understand is an outstanding example of Swedish industry and culture.

I regret not being able to accept the invitations of several factories and schools to visit them while I am here ^{because of} ~~a~~ tight and inflexible schedule.

Since my election as House Republican Leader I have traveled to more than 35 states making speeches as part of my extra-legislative activities. If traveling is broadening, I should be 10 feet wide.

John Anderson's kind remarks remind me that introductions often are more interesting than the speeches that follow.

VIRGIN ISLANDS GOVERNOR



John's invitation to be with you tonight was somewhat unusual.

It went something like this:

"Dear Jerry:

"The John Ericsson Republican Club of Winnebago County

by tradition has enjoyed outstanding programs and speeches."

John then listed several distinguished orators including

Senators Dirksen, Morton and Scott.

John concluded his letter: "We hope you will accept the

invitation. Until now, the programs have been exceptionally

good!"

- - -

I will follow the advice of my wife Betty.

K I S S

(into GOP speech)



Rotary
Only 2 remembered you
had been there
No one remembered
what you said

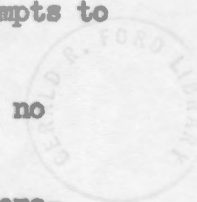
The Executive branch of the federal government, the alleged Great Society, the erosion of the rights of local governments, and the loss of individual identity in America are the issues that will bring widespread Republican victories.

I will share with you some of my views based on 16½ years in the Congress *as to* where we stand as a Nation at this fateful time in history and how the Republican Party will again have stewardship of government---in state houses, in counties, in townships--- in Washington.

Let us carefully examine the Executive Branch under a Democrat Administration.

The use and misuse of power by the White House is terrifying.

This awesome strength is used to crush all opposition to a scheme that would concentrate all power in central government. It attempts to abolish responsible dissent, and thus gags the American people, no matter their partisan political affiliations.



The present Administration rode into office on a landslide characterized by pre-empting the middle of the road without justification; by promoting a glittering scheme with an appealing name; by capitalizing on the weakened emotions of a Nation in sorrow.

Behind the facade of the Great Society, the President is actually more interested in being known as the most popular President in history than he is in true progress.

Unfortunately for the Nation, the White House has a headlock on the subservient 89th Congress, which might be given the title---

"the speed-of-sound Congress." It takes only a few telephone calls from the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue to pass White House-pampered legislation.

The President also is a master of the silent treatment. He throttles open debate on vital and controversial issues.

One of the most brazen uses of gag rule was the restriction clamped on debate in the House before a vote on repealing Section 14-B of the Taft-Hartley Act.



Without discussing the merits, or lack of merits, of the proposal,

I do say that the Nation was the victim of gag-rule on this issue.

Fortunately, Republican Senator Everett Dirksen ^{reversed} ~~reversed~~ the situation
in the Senate!

The result of use and misuse of power by the White House is causing deep concern even among close political friends of the President.

Senator Mansfield, the Majority Leader, says he hopes Congress next year will---in his words---"spend less time on new legislation and more time correcting oversights in legislation we have passed."

The distinguished Senate leader notes that the Congress "very hastily" passed many major bills. This may be the understatement of the year!

Vice President Humphrey has pointed to "the huge legislative tonnage dropped on our doorstep." Perhaps it would be more appropriate to say "huge legislative tonnage shoveled to our doorstep."



The Great Society claims it makes progress.

What is progress?

Is it progress to retreat from the principles of the Constitution?

Is it progress to perpetuate poverty for political exploitation and purpose?

Is it progress to destroy incentive?.....to take one man's taxes to pay another man's rent?.... to have a national debt greater than that of all the other nations in the world combined?

Is it progress to have a steady growth of hidden and direct taxes?... to have living costs high and going higher?... to have state and local governments crumbling under the iron fist of federalism?

The Great Society is more interested in a welfare state than in the state of the general welfare.

From it comes the haunting shadow of inflation, reckless spending, the spawning of the most gigantic bureaucracy in world history.



Millions of Americans are rapidly learning that they have less to spend on necessities, slimmer bank accounts, and more taxes arbitrarily taken from their paychecks!

And why?

The price of an alleged Great Society runs high into the billions.

It's based on the theory of take more and the government spends more....borrow against tomorrow and spent it all today.

Based on estimated figures, federal spending from the year Lyndon Johnson took office until 1968 will have soared to the almost unbelievable total of \$149 billion annually....an increase of \$40 billion in cash. ~~and more...~~... and all of it from the American taxpayer!

Let us consider the relationships of federal government and the states.

I believe governors in many states now realize that if their units of government are to be strong partners in the republic, their constitutions must be modernized. More governors are strengthening their desire to assume responsibilities and not pass them off to Washington.

max



However, the issue remains. State and local governments are being blacked by the Administration from following the advice of Abraham Lincoln when he said..."the best rule, after all, is to let the people do pretty well as they please with their own business."

I have outlined the issues...our ammunition in the coming campaigns.

The situation today is comparable to the story of David and Goliath.

The towering tyrant, the bully with the power---the Goliath is the Administration...the Democrat organization.

We Republicans are in the role of a David..... courageous, anxious to tackle Goliath and confident we will win.

I believe our plan of battle is a direct and orderly one.

We must be a broadly-based, united Republican Party.

Republican victories must be won in the state houses, counties and townships.

We must develop strong fund-raising campaigns.

And, I recommend a neighbor-to-neighbor crusade to get this message across to the electorate.



The message I will give to you is supported by the issues I have discussed with you here.

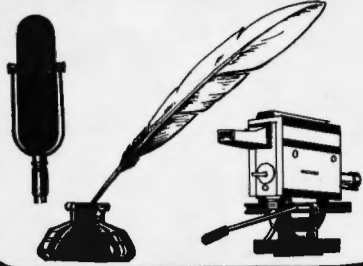
It is easily understood. I believe it will be readily acceptable by the electorate.

This is the message: a government big enough to give us everything we ^{want} ~~have~~ is big enough to take from us everything we have.

Thank you.

#





CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

Excerpts from a speech
Rockford, Ill. Oct. 25, 1965

Release for Ams
or at time of
speech delivery

At the root of America's domestic problems today is an Administration more interested in creating a welfare state than in the state of the welfare.

We need only to look at the poverty program, which has already become a top-heavy bureaucracy.

Republicans, Democrats and political independents alike are concerned about poverty, but with the way things are going under the Great Society's plan it is time to take the profit out of poverty.

The Great Society is a shambles of contradiction. Its programs are dressed in purity of name. And, in fiscal 1966 its new programs will cost American taxpayers an estimated additional \$16.7 billion over and above the so-called regular expenditures. Meanwhile, our national debt is not the \$320 billion appearing on the record books. Actually it is \$800 billion in commitments for future spending that requires no new laws or programs.

* * *

The President has predicted that this Congress "will leap into history as the most effective and most rewarding Congress for all the people in all the history of America."

Is it rewarding to have skyrocketing living costs and the threat of spiraling inflation...to have state and local governments crumbling under the heavy hand of federalism? Is it effective to have reckless spending by the Administration and its irresponsible economic policies that could lead the way toward national and personal bankruptcy?

At this point, we recall that it was Dwight D. Eisenhower who said that one answer to bigger government in Washington is better government in the states.

* * *

The record of President Johnson presents the Republican Party with a magnificent opportunity to return sound, sensible and responsible government. It gives us the issues of reckless spending, bureaucratic sprawl, inflationary pressures and higher hidden taxes.....and the loss of individual freedom and identity.

-more-



The common cause---the cause of good government--- is great enough and big enough to over-shadow all the minor differences that sometimes separate us.

There are plenty of Democratic political scalps available without us having to sharpen our hatchets in each other's back.

For us to win the chance to restore balance to government and return dignity to the individual, for us to seize the golden opportunity that the Administration's record has given us, we must present the American people with a broad-based, united Republican Party.

We need to develop strong fund-raising campaigns. We should enlist more articulate, personable and knowledgeable candidates. By our record we must earn the respect of the electorate to regain stewardship of government in state houses, counties, townships and ultimately, in Washington.

I propose a neighbor-to-neighbor crusade to tell the facts of the alleged Great Society. We should ask our neighbors some questions about the Administration's claim of progress.

Is it progress to retreat from the principles of the Constitution? Is it progress to perpetuate poverty by political exploitation and purpose? Is it progress to stifle individual incentive? Is it progress to set a record for a national debt?

We should remind the electorate that millions of Americans, under the Democrat Administration, have less money to spend on necessities, slimmer savings accounts, and more taxes arbitrarily taken from their paychecks.

* * *

With one party dominating Congress and controlling the White House, millions of Americans have nothing to say about the conduct of the Nation's business.

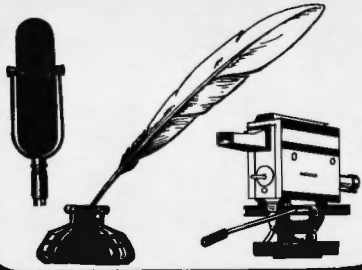
In the coming elections they will have an opportunity to make our society not a Great one, but a good one.

* * *

Let's get on with the job. Let's forget 1964. Let's become once again one Republican Party. This does not mean a huge monolithic political organization. Certainly we can have responsible disagreement. We should have intelligent dialogue.

Together---shoulder-to-shoulder-- we can win Republican victories.

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