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For Telelecture to New Providence H.S.,

9:30 a.m. Thursday
April 25, 1968

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

~~AT THE WASHINGTON-HILTON HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D.C.
APRIL 23, 1968~~

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~~I welcome you to this most important conference and honored guests,
I am pleased to have you here. I want to express my appreciation for the
have now underscored the power of a woman. I am deeply grateful for the
and the ladies have been making to a stronger and more
winning Republican Party.
Secondly, I want to express the House Leadership's appreciation of all of
you from the various states for the help and assistance that you gave us,
particularly in the victorious year of 1966. We made significant gains, as you
know. Your contribution to a net gain of 47 has made a tremendous difference in
the House of Representatives in the last 15 months. We're grateful for your help.
May I add a footnote, we're counting on your additional assistance between now
and November 1968.~~

I believe that 1968 is one of the most important election years in the history of the United States. In the first place ~~we have~~ ^{the Republican Party has} an opportunity to change the administration, elect a Republican President and Vice President. Secondly, we have an opportunity to make very significant gains in the United States Senate. Thirdly, we have an opportunity to get a majority in the House of Representatives on that fateful day in November of this year.

Obviously it's important ^{to Republicans} to win the Presidency, and to make those gains in the Senate, but there is a special significance in ^{the struggle for control of} ~~winning a Republican majority~~ in the House of Representatives. Apparently 1968 is going to be a political year where there will not be just the two ^{major political} parties contesting with one another. There is the distinct possibility ~~and probability~~ that there will be a third ~~or even~~ party in all or most of the states of the Union in the presidential race. The net result is that under the Constitution of the United States the election of the President for the next four years could be determined in the House of Representatives in January of 1969.

Under the Constitution if no candidate for the Presidency gets a majority of the electoral votes cast on November 5--and the magic number is 270--then the election of the President goes into the House of Representatives. For that reason it is especially important for us to make significant gains and get a majority in at least 26 of the States of the Union because to be elected (more)



president in such a contest a candidate must get a majority of the votes of the 50 States in the House of Representatives.

If the election were held in the present House of Representatives, a Democrat would be elected because there are 29 States today with Democratic-controlled ^{House} delegations and 18 States where the Republicans have control of the delegation. In three states--Oregon, Illinois and Montana--they are tied. Under the Constitution those three States would lose their vote entirely, because if this election does fall into the House each State casts one vote. The vote of the five states with one congressman is as important as large states like California, New York, Illinois, Ohio, etc. because the vote for President is cast state by state.

Let me point out that we have certain states where the delegations are controlled by one party or another by a margin of one.

We have 10 states where the margin is 1 vote; 4 of those are controlled by the Democrats and 6 by the Republicans.

There are 17 states where the delegations are controlled by a margin of 2 congressmen; 11 such states are Democratic-controlled, 6 are Republican.

What I'm saying is that we must be cognizant of the need to protect the vote of the people on November 5 ~~and that the Democrats will win~~

~~the Republican Party by having a majority~~
[REDACTED]

In 1948 a shift of less than 1 percent in 3 or 4 states would have thrown the election into the House of Representatives. I think all of us here are cognizant of ~~the possibility of~~ what might happen with ~~the~~ a third ~~and~~ ~~possibly a fourth~~ party in the race this year.

deciding the Presidential election in the House
Now some people will say that ~~that~~ isn't too bad. But in the two instances that we've had it happen in America, 1800 and 1824, the circumstances that developed in the House of Representatives were not in the best tradition of the United States. Let me quickly review what took place in those two instances

(more)



where the election of the President was determined in the House of Representatives.

In 1800 Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr both had 73 electoral votes. It became the responsibility of Alexander Hamilton, who was in the opposition party, to make the decision as to which of those two men would be the President of the United States. They actually ~~total of 35 ballots~~ ^{voted 35 times} in the House of Representatives without a decision from February 11, 1801 until February 17. Finally Hamilton threw his support to Thomas Jefferson.

All kinds of deals were proposed while the 35 indecisive ballots were taken.

Hamilton was in the unhappy role of choosing between two men he thoroughly disliked. There was for him, however, but one choice, according to historians. Burr was the Catiline of America, a man devoid of scruples and possessed of an inordinate ambition and the boldness and daring necessary to give success to the Jacobin system. Hamilton said in reference to Jefferson (and, I repeat, these are Hamilton's words, not mine), "Jefferson at least had pretensions of character though he was unscrupulous, not very mindful of the truth and was a contemptible hypocrite."

Despite those last observations concerning Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton supported him, and Jefferson was elected President of the United States on the 36th ballot, *in the House of Representatives.*

When we turn to 1824 we find four candidates seeking the Presidency: Andrew Jackson, ^{Quincy} John Adams, Crawford and Henry Clay. Jackson got the biggest popular vote and he had the most electoral votes. But the election was thrown into the House of Representatives because Jackson lacked a majority of the electoral vote. Again we had a circumstance where propositions, schemes, deals were floating around the Nation's Capitol. In this case Henry Clay gave his support to Adams in exchange for appointment as Secretary of State. And so Adams became president although Jackson had the largest popular vote and the greatest number of electoral votes.

What I'm saying is that first we must try to avoid having to bring the election to the House of Representatives. That could be accomplished if either the Republican or the Democratic candidate receives more than 270 electoral votes on November 5. Naturally, I personally want to see the Republican candidate win. In



seats we need for control is a net gain of 31. I think we can get more. I'm optimistic--with the kind of Republican candidates I see and the support the Republican Party received in the 1966 congressional elections. I think it will be a great day for the country and for the Free World if Republicans can convince the American people that it is in their best interests to move this country in New Directions--to move toward a New America--when they go to the polls in November.

Above all, I hope the people speak with a firm, true voice and keep the election out of the House of Representatives. I want the people themselves to elect the next President of the United States.

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