

The original documents are located in Box D26, folder “Christian High Schools Fund Drive Kickoff Meeting, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, January 27, 1969” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOLS FUND DRIVE KICKOFF
MEETING, 8:30 P.M. JAN. 27, 1969, AT
KNOLLCREST FIELD HOUSE, CALVIN COLLEGE,
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

*Thank you for
Wendell
Senator, habits of
gentleman.*

THIS KICKOFF OF YOUR FUND-RAISING
DRIVE IS A GREAT OCCASION, TO BE GREETED
WITH THE UTMOST OPTIMISM AND ENTHUSIASM.

IT HAS BEEN EXACTLY ONE WEEK SINCE
THE UNITED STATES INAUGURATED A NEW
PRESIDENT AND EMBARKED ON A NEW ERA IN AMERICAN
HISTORY. FIVE CLERGYMEN TOOK PART IN THE
INAUGURAL CEREMONY. SOME PEOPLE ^{in a} JOKINGLY
REMARKED / THAT MR. NIXON WAS THE MOST
PRAYED-OVER NEW PRESIDENT IN THE HISTORY
OF OUR NATION. WHETHER OR NOT THAT WAS SO,
THE THOUGHT STRUCK ME THAT THE HEAVY
EMPHASIS ON PRAYER DURING THE NIXON
INAUGURAL CEREMONY CONSTITUTED A SPLendid
AND SIGNIFICANT LINK WITH AMERICA'S RELIGIOUS



HERITAGE -- THE DESIRE OF OUR EARLY
SETTLERS TO LIVE GOD-CENTERED LIVES AND TO
WORSHIP GOD AS THEY SAW FIT.

May 2
Lipson
DLB-8
League etc.
Chavator insidit.
R.N.

I BELIEVE WE NOW ARE ENTERING
INTO A NEW ERA IN AMERICA'S RELIGIOUS LIFE.
NEW ATTENTION IS BEING FOCUSED ON THE ROLE
OF THE PRIVATE SCHOOL IN EDUCATION... BOTH
BY THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT ROLE SHOULD BE
STRENGTHENED / AND THOSE WHO BELIEVE IT SHOULD
BE DIMINISHED. I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THE TIDE
OF THE TIMES IS ROLLING IN FAVOR OF NEW
GROWTH AND VIGOR FOR OUR PRIVATE SCHOOLS --
AND PROPERLY SO.

HERE IN GRAND RAPIDS THE PRIVATE
AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS HAVE MADE A TREMENDOUS
CONTRIBUTION TO THE WELL-BEING AND THE
BETTERMENT OF THE COMMUNITY. THEY THEREFORE
DESERVE THE WIDEST POSSIBLE CITIZEN SUPPORT,

Constitutional
1

IN WASHINGTON A FEW YEARS AGO A FORMULA WAS DEVISED TO MAKE FEDERAL AID *as the*
non-public
school people have
supported public
education.

AVAILABLE TO PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS, AS WELL AS TO THOSE WHO ATTEND THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THIS SYSTEM HAS WORKED WELL. THE FORMULA IS SOUND AND COULD APPROPRIATELY BE USED IN PROGRAMS OF STATE SCHOOL AID.

Even though I must fly back tonight to attend a breakfast at the White House with President Nelson
I FIND MUCH PLEASURE IN BEING HERE TONIGHT, I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE *+ Senator B. Sherman.*
FOR ³~~TWO~~ REASONS -- ¹ *To see many good friends!* BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN YOUR CAUSE, AND BECAUSE I HAVE THE HIGHEST REGARD FOR THE MAN WHO WILL BRING YOU THE PRINCIPAL MESSAGE OF THE EVENING AND OF THIS CAMPAIGN YOU NOW ARE LAUNCHING. CAMPAIGNS ARE NOT NEW TO THIS MAN, AND NEITHER ARE GOD-CENTERED SCHOOLS.

SENATOR MARK HATFIELD IS A BAPTIST -- BUT DON'T HOLD THAT AGAINST HIM.
HE IS A GOOD BAPTIST -- AND, AFTER ALL, THE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOLS ARE OPEN TO STUDENTS OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS.

I DON'T KNOW ANY JOKES ABOUT



BAPTISTS AND SO I'LL JUST TELL A LITTLE
STORY ON MARK. MARK CAME TO THE SENATE
AS A HANDSOME, ARTICULATE, RISING POLITICAL
STAR....PROMINENTLY MENTIONED FOR A SPOT
ON THE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL TICKET.
WELL, WHEN MARK FIRST ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON
HE WENT DOWNTOWN SHOPPING....AND FOUND THAT
NOBODY RECOGNIZED HIM. AND YOU KNOW WHAT?
THE NEW SENATOR FROM OREGON WAS DELIGHTED.
FOR YEARS AS GOVERNOR OF OREGON HE HAD NOT
HAD A MOMENT TO HIMSELF. ^{in informal} SO HE WAS REAL
HAPPY TO ^{just} WALK AROUND ^{town} WITHOUT INSTANTANEOUS
RECOGNITION.

MARK IS A MODEST PERSON ^{+ modesty is a fine characteristic. A modest person is}
PRIVATE AS WELL AS A PUBLIC PERSON. AND HE
KNOWS THE VALUE OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

SENATOR HATFIELD IS A STRONG
CHURCHMAN, VERY ACTIVE IN THE BAPTIST
CHURCH, AS ACTIVE AS A PUBLIC OFFICIAL CAN ^{possibly}
BE. HE SPEAKS FREQUENTLY AT CHURCH



very

CONFERENCES, AND HE IS ^{very} ACTIVE IN THE CONGRESSIONAL AND PRESIDENTIAL PRAYER BREAKFAST GROUPS WE HAVE IN WASHINGTON.

YOU KNOW YOUR SPEAKER TONIGHT IS A POLITICIAN. HE'S A POLITICIAN IN THE BEST SENSE OF THE WORD. HE STARTED OUT AS A STATE REPRESENTATIVE IN OREGON IN 1951 AND SINCE HAS SERVED AS A STATE SENATOR, OREGON SECRETARY OF STATE, AND GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OREGON. HE WAS GOVERNOR FOR EIGHT YEARS BEFORE BEING ELECTED TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE IN NOVEMBER 1966.

APPROPRIATELY ENOUGH IN VIEW OF HIS ASSIGNMENT TONIGHT, MARK HATFIELD IS A TEACHER. HE ROSE THROUGH THE RANKS TO BECOME AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AT WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY IN 1949 AND BECAME DEAN OF STUDENTS IN 1950. HE ALSO MARRIED A TEACHER -- A FINE WOMAN WHO ULTIMATELY BECAME COUNSELOR FOR WOMEN AT



PORTLAND STATE COLLEGE BEFORE MARK SPIRITED HER AWAY FROM THE GIRLS.

SENATOR HATFIELD IS A TRUSTEE OF WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY, GEORGE FOX COLLEGE, AND THE WESTERN CONSERVATIVE BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY....AMPLE TESTIMONY OF HIS CONTINUING INTEREST IN EDUCATION -- PRIVATE EDUCATION -- GOD-CENTERED EDUCATION.

AND NOW AS WE STAND ON THE THRESHOLD OF THIS GREAT EFFORT TO MAKE OURSELVES ADEQUATE TO THE EDUCATIONAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, I GIVE YOU YOUR SPEAKER OF THE EVENING....A

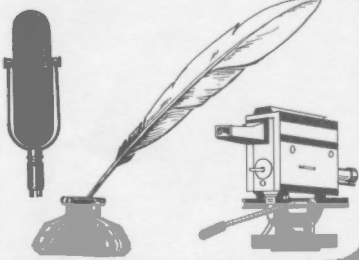
CHRISTIAN, AN ACTIVE CHURCHMAN, AN EDUCATOR, A SOCIAL SCIENTIST AND A TRULY OUTSTANDING PUBLIC OFFICIAL, SENATOR MARK HATFIELD. *J. Oregon.*

-- END --



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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY--
January 27, 1969

Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, at Christian High schools fund drive kickoff meeting, 8:30 p.m. Jan. 27, 1969, at Knollcrest Field House, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

This kickoff of your fund-raising drive is a great occasion, to be greeted with the utmost optimism and enthusiasm.

It has been exactly one week since the United States inaugurated a new President and embarked on a new era in American history. Five clergymen took part in the inaugural ceremony. Some people jokingly remarked that Mr. Nixon was the most prayed-over new President in the history of our Nation. Whether or not that was so, the thought struck me that the heavy emphasis on prayer during the Nixon inaugural ceremony constituted a splendid and significant link with America's religious heritage -- the desire of our early settlers to live God-centered lives and to worship God as they saw fit.

I believe we now are entering into a new era in America's religious life. New attention is being focused on the role of the private school in education... both by those who believe that role should be strengthened and those who believe it should be diminished. I personally believe the tide of the times is rolling in favor of new growth and vigor for our private schools -- and properly so.

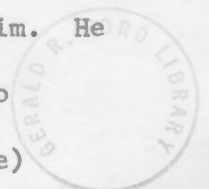
Here in Grand Rapids the private and parochial schools have made a tremendous contribution to the well-being and the betterment of the community. They therefore deserve the widest possible citizen support.

In Washington a few years ago a formula was devised to make federal aid available to private school students, as well as to those who attend the public schools. This system has worked well. The formula is sound and could appropriately be used in programs of state school aid.

I find much pleasure in being here tonight. I am delighted to be here for two reasons -- because I believe in your cause, and because I have the highest regard for the man who will bring you the principal message of the evening and of this campaign you now are launching. Campaigns are not new to this man, and neither are God-centered schools.

Senator Mark Hatfield is a Baptist -- but don't hold that against him. He is a good Baptist -- and, after all, the Christian high schools are open to

(more)



students of other denominations.

I don't know any jokes about Baptists and so I'll just tell a little story on Mark. Mark came to the Senate as a handsome, articulate, rising political star...prominently mentioned for a spot on the Republican presidential ticket. Well, when Mark first arrived in Washington he went downtown shopping... and found that nobody recognized him. And you know what? The new senator from Oregon was delighted. For years as governor of Oregon he had not had a moment to himself. So he was real happy to walk around without instantaneous recognition.

Mark is a modest person -- a private as well as a public person. And he knows the value of private schools.

Senator Hatfield is a strong churchman, very active in the Baptist church, as active as a public official can be. He speaks frequently at church conferences, and he is active in the Congressional and Presidential Prayer Breakfast Groups we have in Washington.

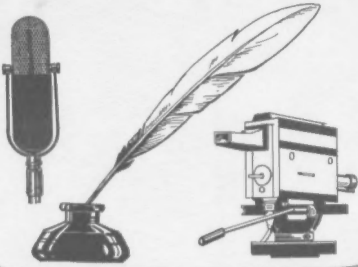
You know your speaker tonight is a politician. He's a politician in the best sense of the word. He started out as a state representative in Oregon in 1951 and since has served as a state senator, Oregon secretary of state, and governor of the state of Oregon. He was governor for eight years before being elected to the United States Senate in November 1966.

Appropriately enough in view of his assignment tonight, Mark Hatfield is a teacher. He rose through the ranks to become an associate professor of political science at Willamette University in 1949 and became Dean of Students in 1950. He also married a teacher -- a fine woman who ultimately became Counselor for Women at Portland State College before Mark spirited her away from the girls.

Senator Hatfield is a trustee of Willamette University, George Fox College, and the Western Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary...ample testimony of his continuing interest in education -- private education -- God-centered education.

And now as we stand on the threshold of this great effort to make ourselves adequate to the educational and spiritual needs of our young people, I give you your speaker of the evening...a Christian, an active churchman, an educator, a social scientist and a truly outstanding public official, Senator Mark Hatfield.

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