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MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 10, 1969 AT ILLINOIS
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

*Roger
J. Fisher*

*Nov. 21/2
Interactions more
memorable*

GOOD EVENING. I MUST TELL YOU WHAT
A THRILL IT IS FOR A GOOD REPUBLICAN TO BE
VISITING YOU HERE IN THE LAND OF LINCOLN. I AM
DELIGHTED TO BE HERE AT ILLINOIS WESLEYAN, A
FINE SCHOOL OF WHICH MY GOOD FRIEND CONGRESSMAN
ARENDS IS A TRUSTEE.

YOU KNOW, I JUST RECENTLY LEARNED
SOMETHING NEW ABOUT THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. THE
NAME OF YOUR STATE COMES, I UNDERSTAND, FROM THE
INDIAN AND THE FRENCH, AND IT MEANS THE DWELLING
PLACE OF THE TRIBE OF SUPERIOR MEN.

*My STATE + Abner Mathis
Beamp + Pete Elliott*

NOW, HAVING HAD LES ARENDS SERVE WITH
ME AS HOUSE REPUBLICAN WHIP FOR FOUR YEARS I CAN
WELL BELIEVE THAT ILLINOIS IS PEOPLED WITH
SUPERIOR MEN. HE HAS BEEN A TREMENDOUS HELP TO
ME IN MY POST AS HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER AND IT
IS WITH DEEP SINCERITY AND APPRECIATION THAT I
CALL HIM MY STRONG RIGHT ARM.

OF COURSE ILLINOIS HAS OTHER
SUPERIOR MEN, TOO. TONIGHT WE WILL BE DEALING
WITH POLITICAL HEROES. YOU HAVE YOUR OUTSTAND-
ING NEW GOVERNOR, DICK OGILVIE; YOU HAVE THE
SUPERIOR MAN WHO MADE A HIT WITH HIS RECORDING
OF THE "GALLENT MEN," SEN. EVERETT M. DIRKSEN;
YOU HAVE THE RISING YOUNG POLITICAL STAR, THE
JUNIOR SENATOR FROM ILLINOIS, CHUCK PERCY; AND
YOU HAVE YOUR FINE GROUP OF AN EVEN DOZEN
REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMEN, INCLUDING THAT SUPERIOR
GENTLEMEN FROM THE 17TH DISTRICT, LES ARENDS.

ILLINOIS CLAIMS LINCOLN AS THE GREAT-
EST OF ITS SONS. THIS IS NATURAL, SINCE
LINCOLN LIVED IN SPRINGFIELD FOR 17 YEARS AND
RODE THE CIRCUIT--THE (EIGHTH) JUDICIAL CIRCUIT--
ALL THROUGH THIS AREA AS A PRACTICING ATTORNEY.
SO ABE LINCOLN IS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH
BLOOMINGTON, TOO.

ABE LINCOLN WAS ONE OF MY BOYHOOD
HEROES, PERHAPS THE GREATEST. NOT JUST BECAUSE

HE AND HIS COUSIN WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE SPLIT 3,000 RAILS IN MACON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, BUT BECAUSE ABE MADE IT THE HARD WAY TO THE BIGGEST JOB IN THE WORLD, THE PRESIDENCY OF THE UNITED STATES. I ADMIRER HIM FOR MANY QUALITIES--HIS HUMILITY, / HIS DEVOTION TO HARD WORK, / HIS DRY SENSE OF HUMOR, / HIS GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT, / HIS LOVE OF GOD AND COMMON MEN.

WRITING OF LINCOLN'S DEATH ON APRIL 15, 1865, THE GREAT POET WALT WHITMAN SAID OF HIM: "HE LEAVES FOR AMERICA'S HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY, SO FAR, NOT ONLY ITS MOST DRAMATIC REMINISCENCE--HE LEAVES, IN MY OPINION, THE GREATEST, BEST, MOST CHARACTERISTIC, ARTISTIC, MORAL PERSONALITY."

LINCOLN WAS THAT. HE WAS A MORAL MAN, A MAN WITH THE KIND OF CHARACTER / AND INTEGRITY AND / COMPASSION THAT MADE HIM A UNIQUE MAN--A GREAT LEADER WHO SEEMED CREATED FOR HIS TIMES.

AND WE HAVE NOW...TODAY...IN OUR
NEW PRESIDENT A MAN WHO SEEMS CREATED FOR HIS
TIMES, A MAN WHO IS DESTINED TO LEAD THE UNITED
STATES THROUGH SOME OF THE MOST CRITICAL MOMENTS
IN OUR HISTORY.

*As we need history
in many situations
today* THERE ARE STRIKING SIMILARITIES
BETWEEN THE PERIOD WHEN ABRAHAM LINCOLN SERVED
AS 16TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THIS
ERA WHEN RICHARD M. NIXON SERVES AS OUR 37TH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

IN 1860, AS NOW, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
WERE SORELY DIVIDED AND BITTERNESS TORE AT THE
HEART OF THE COUNTRY.

IN THE RACE FOR THE PRESIDENCY IN
1860 THERE WERE FOUR CANDIDATES, SO THAT THE
VOTE WAS EVEN MORE SPLINTERED THAN IN THE THREE-
MAN 1968 RACE.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN RECEIVED SLIGHTLY
LESS THAN 40 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL POPULAR VOTE
BUT WON A MAJORITY OF THE ELECTORAL VOTES.

RICHARD NIXON RECEIVED 44 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL POPULAR VOTE AND WON A MAJORITY OF THE ELECTORAL VOTE. SO HE DID BETTER THAN LINCOLN, PERCENTAGE-WISE.

to day
THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY PRESIDENT NIXON DOES NOT HAVE A MANDATE, I SAY ^{*because Nixon lost 500,000 out of 40 million*} MR. NIXON DOES HAVE A MANDATE--A MANDATE FOR CHANGE, A MANDATE FOR THE NEARLY SIX OUT OF 10 AMERICANS WHO VOTED FOR A CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATIONS IN WASHINGTON. *Only 4 out of 10 Americans wanted what we had had for the past 4 years.*

IT IS TRUE/PRESIDENT NIXON FACES MONUMENTAL TASKS IN RALLYING SUPPORT FOR HIS PROGRAM FROM A COUNTRY WHICH GAVE HIM, PERSONALLY, LESS THAN A MAJORITY OF ITS VOTES AND A CONGRESS CONTROLLED BY THE OPPOSITION PARTY.

BUT MR. NIXON IS A MAN ACCUSTOMED TO MONUMENTAL TASKS, AS HE HAS PROVED IN THE PAST. AND I BELIEVE HE IS ALREADY PROVING HIS METTLE IN THE GREATEST JOB HE HAS EVER HAD, *probably as tough a job as any President has ever had.*

YOU KNOW, FIVE CLERGYMEN TOOK PART IN THE NIXON INAUGURAL CEREMONY. THIS PROMPTED SOME PEOPLE TO REMARK THAT MR. NIXON IS THE MOST PRAYED-OVER PRESIDENT THIS COUNTRY HAS EVER HAD. I PERSONALLY THINK / THAT'S GOOD. //

THIS REMINDS ME OF A LINCOLN STORY. DURING THE CIVIL WAR, LINCOLN LEARNED THAT THE AUTHORITIES AT A ^{military} HOSPITAL HAD FORBIDDEN ANYONE TO RECITE PRAYERS FOR THE PATIENTS OR EVEN TO READ THE BIBLE TO THEM. *Sounds a bit like the present day U.S. Supreme Court.* LINCOLN REMOVED THE BAN AND SAID: "IF THERE WERE MORE PRAYING AND LESS SWEARING, IT WOULD BE FAR BETTER FOR OUR COUNTRY." AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING SANCTI-MONIOUS, I SAY, "AMEN."

Without apology, when I see America's problems at home & abroad
I BELIEVE THIS COUNTRY HAS MUCH NEED OF PRAYER.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY HISTORIANS AS A SOMETIMES UNCOUTH MAN AND A TELLER OF OFF-COLOR STORIES. HE IS ALSO KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN A MAN OF DEEP RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS AND A STUDENT OF THE BIBLE, / THE BOOK OF TRUTH.

HE WAS A SIMPLE MAN, A MAN OF PEACE.

I SAID EARLIER THAT I BELIEVE PRESIDENT NIXON, LIKE ABRAHAM LINCOLN, IS A MAN UNIQUELY SUITED TO SERVE OUR NATION IN THIS TIME OF CRISIS.

EVERY ACTION TAKEN BY MR. NIXON SINCE HE TOOK THE OATH OF OFFICE AS PRESIDENT BEARS OUT THE CONFIDENCE, THE FEELING OF TRUST I HAVE IN THE MAN WHO NOW LEADS THIS NATION. *Press conferences / D.C. anti-crime program / foreign policy*

HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS WAS UNUSUAL, PERHAPS THE MOST UNUSUAL EVER DELIVERED IN THIS COUNTRY.

IT WAS UNUSUAL BECAUSE IT WAS A QUIET SPEECH QUIETLY DELIVERED. THERE WERE NO GLORIOUS PROMISES CLOTHED IN GLOWING RHETORIC. THERE WAS NO BOMBAST. THERE WERE NO STRIDENT PARTISAN PHRASES.

IT WAS A MESSAGE OF PEACE. IT CONTAINED WORDS OF GREAT PORTENT FOR PEACE

BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD.

IT WAS A MESSAGE OF THE SPIRIT,
FOR IT EXTOLLED THOSE QUALITIES AMERICA
HUNGERS FOR TODAY -- "GOODNESS, / DECENCY, /
LOVE / AND KINDNESS." / MR. NIXON APPEALED, AS
DID ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN HIS FIRST INAUGURAL
ADDRESS, TO "THE BETTER ANGELS OF OUR NATURE."

I BELIEVE PRESIDENT NIXON WILL BE
NUMBERED AMONG THE PEACEMAKERS. I BELIEVE
HE WILL FIND AN HONORABLE COMPROMISE TO END
THE KILLING IN VIETNAM / AND AN ACCEPTABLE
FORMULA FOR AN ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT WHICH
WILL AVERT A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE NUCLEAR
POWERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. *Negotiation*
not confrontation

I BELIEVE, TOO, THAT HE WILL
SUCCEED HERE AT HOME IN ESTABLISHING "THE
DECENT ORDER THAT MAKES PROGRESS POSSIBLE AND
OUR LIVES SECURE."

THERE ARE SOME WHO SAY THE NEW
PRESIDENT IS ACTING TOO SLOWLY IN "SETTLING

IN" HIS ADMINISTRATION AND SETTING NEW POLICY. I SAY / THAT THIS KIND OF DELIBERATENESS IS ALL TO THE GOOD. WE HAVE HAD ^{much} TOO MUCH OF THE HASTE THAT MAKES WASTE IN RECENT YEARS.

WHEN SWIFT DECISIONS ARE NEEDED, THEY WILL BE MADE. BUT, OVERALL, THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION WILL BE MARKED BY CALM DELIBERATION / AND STABILITY. ^{and progress.} IT WILL BE A "COOL" ADMINISTRATION, A COMMON SENSE ADMINISTRATION. *Isn't that what America so badly needs.?*

COMMON SENSE CAN BRING US GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS. IT MAY EVEN CONFOUND OUR ENEMIES. FOR AS RALPH WALDO EMERSON ONCE WROTE: "NOTHING ASTONISHES MEN SO MUCH AS COMMON SENSE AND PLAIN DEALING."

AS A NATION AND A PEOPLE WE ARE FACED WITH GREAT PROBLEMS AT THIS POINT IN HISTORY.

WHAT WAS THE LEGACY LEFT TO MR. NIXON BY THE OUTGOING ADMINISTRATION? WHAT

PROBLEMS DID THE REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION INHERIT?

① THE LONGEST FOREIGN WAR IN AMERICAN HISTORY, WITH CASUALTIES NOW TOTALLING MORE THAN 31,000 G.I.'S KILLED IN COMBAT AND NEARLY 200,000 WOUNDED.

② A CAULDRON OF CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST THAT THREATENS TO BUBBLE OVER INTO A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE TWO MAJOR NUCLEAR POWERS, THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA.

③ A THREE-YEAR-LONG INFLATIONARY SPIRAL WHICH IN 1968 PRODUCED THE SHARPEST INCREASE IN THE COST OF LIVING IN 17 YEARS

④ RECORD-HIGH INTEREST RATES, PUSHED UP BY EXCESSIVE FEDERAL SPENDING.

⑤ A MOUNTING TIDE OF CRIMINALITY, RISING BY NEARLY 90 PER CENT IN THE PAST EIGHT YEARS.

⑥ RIOTS, CAMPUS REBELLIONS AND A NEAR-BREAKDOWN IN LAW AND ORDER ACROSS THE

1961-1969 \$74 billion annual interest \$15 to

COUNTRY.

① POCKETS OF POVERTY IN THE MIDST OF PLENTY, DEALT WITH UNDER A PROGRAM WHICH GAVE RISE TO THIEVERY, EMBEZZLEMENT AND CORRUPTION.

② A COST-PRICE SQUEEZE ON THE FARM THAT SHUTS FARMERS OUT OF THEIR FAIR SHARE OF OUR ECONOMIC WEALTH.

THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS MOVED CAREFULLY AND FIRMLY TO TAKE ON ALL OF THESE HORRENDOUS PROBLEMS. PRESIDENT NIXON VIEWS THEM AS A CHALLENGE FROM WHICH WE CANNOT AND MUST NOT SHRINK. INDEED, HE HAS OPENED FOR US THE VISTAS OF OPPORTUNITY -- THE OPPORTUNITY TO RE-ORDER OUR PRIORITIES AND TO GET ABOUT THE BUSINESS OF BUILDING A NEW AND GREATER AMERICA.

In the short span of 3 weeks
WE ARE GETTING A RE-ORDERING OF OUR PRIORITIES.

WHAT IS OUR CHIEF DOMESTIC CONCERN?

THERE IS NONE GREATER / THAN THAT OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY -- THE CONCERN OVER VIOLENCE IN THE STREETS AND THE STILL-ROCKETING RISE IN CRIME. PRESIDENT NIXON IS ACTING TO ANSWER THAT CONCERN.

*Social causes
plus
Order with justice under law.*

ABRAHAM LINCOLN PREACHED

"REVERENCE FOR THE LAW" AND URGED THAT IT BECOME "THE POLITICAL RELIGION OF THE NATION," FOR HE KNEW, AS WE DO, / THAT WITHOUT ORDER THERE CAN BE NO PROGRESS.

WITHOUT ORDER / THERE CAN ONLY BE ANARCHY, CHAOS AND CONFUSION.

WE MUST ATTACK CRIME WITH ALL THE MANPOWER AND THE WEAPONS AND THE FIRMNESS REQUIRED TO CURB IT -- AND WE WILL DO SO.

Bail reform / rehabilitation / more prosecutors + judges.
WE MUST LAY A FOUNDATION FOR ORDER BY IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND DIRECTION OF LIFE IN AMERICA AND THE RESPONSIVENESS OF ITS INSTITUTIONS -- AND WE WILL DO THAT ALSO.

THE PRESIDENCY / IS A POWERFUL

OFFICE. ITS OCCUPANT GENERATES AN ATMOSPHERE WHICH MYSTERIOUSLY / BUT UNMISTAKABLY AFFECTS THE LIVES OF MOST AMERICANS. THE PRESIDENT SETS A TONE FOR THE COUNTRY.

HAVING ASSUMED THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT WHEN THE PAGES OF AMERICAN HISTORY WERE FLOODED WITH A SWELLING TIDE OF CRIME AND VIOLENCE, RICHARD NIXON HAS RESOLVED TO COOL THE VIOLENT PASSIONS THAT HAVE ENGULFED THIS COUNTRY AND TO ROLL BACK THE RISING WAVE OF CRIME. HE HAS MADE AN EXCELLENT START.

THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION IS BUILDING A PROGRAM, / A REPUBLICAN PROGRAM IN THE IMAGE OF THE FIRST AND GREATEST REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT, THAT GREAT SON OF ILLINOIS, ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

WE ARE BUILDING A REPUBLICAN PROGRAM IN THE IMAGE OF HIM WHO SAID:

"THE LEGITIMATE OBJECT OF

GOVERNMENT IS TO DO FOR A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE WHATEVER THEY NEED TO HAVE DONE, BUT CANNOT DO AT ALL, OR CANNOT SO WELL DO, FOR THEMSELVES, IN THEIR SEPARATE AND INDIVIDUAL CAPACITIES."

WE ARE BUILDING A PROGRAM IN THE IMAGE OF HIM WHO SAID: "THERE IS NO GRIEVANCE THAT IS A FIT OBJECT OF REDRESS BY MOB LAW."

I BELIEVE THAT REPUBLICAN PROGRAM WILL BRING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TOGETHER IN PURSUIT OF GREAT NATIONAL GOALS, GOALS THAT WILL BE ACHIEVED BY THE QUIET COOPERATION OF GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS, AND THE VOLUNTARY EFFORT OF PRIVATE CITIZENS -- AND NOT BY SHOUTING OR ^{not by} ROCK-THROWING.

OUR REPUBLICAN PROGRAM WILL PRODUCE UNITY AT HOME, / CURB THE INFLATION THAT MOCKS OUR SEEMING PROSPERITY, / GIVE THE FARMER 100 PER CENT OF OPPORTUNITY AND HIS

FAIR SHARE OF OUR ECONOMIC WEALTH, / REDUCE
CRIME AND RESTORE RESPECT FOR LAW AND ORDER, /
RESOLVE THE URBAN CRISIS AND EASE RACIAL
TENSIONS, / REFORM THE ENTIRE WELFARE CONCEPT, /
AND END THE PARADOX OF MALNUTRITION IN THE
MIDST OF PLENTY.

THE BEST ANSWER TO UNREST // IS TO
RECOGNIZE LEGITIMATE PROBLEMS, / ANTICIPATE
LEGITIMATE DEMANDS, / AND MOVE AHEAD WITH
APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS BEFORE TROUBLE BEGINS.

WHAT ALL OF US MUST DO IS TO JOIN
IN A GREAT CRUSADE TO TURN THIS COUNTRY
AROUND, TURN IT AWAY FROM THE SOAP BOX
PHILOSOPHY OF GOVERNMENT-SOLVE-ALL / AND TURN
IT TOWARD THE NEW DIRECTION OF INDIVIDUAL
RESPONSIBILITY AND PERSONAL DEDICATION TO
SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF OTHERS.

THIS IS THE PATH / ON WHICH
PRESIDENT NIXON WILL LEAD US. THIS IS THE
COURSE HE WILL SET.

PRESIDENT NIXON, OF COURSE, IS A POLITICAL LEADER AS WELL AS PRESIDENT OF ALL THE PEOPLE. HE IS A GREAT REPUBLICAN, AS WAS ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

IN 1862, TWO YEARS AFTER LINCOLN WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT, THE REPUBLICAN PARTY SUFFERED A SETBACK. THE DEMOCRATS TOOK THE GOVERNORSHIP OF NEW YORK AND ADDED SOME CONGRESSIONAL SEATS.

WHEN ASKED HOW HE FELT ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE NEW YORK ELECTION, ABRAHAM LINCOLN SAID: "SOMEWHAT LIKE THE BOY IN KENTUCKY WHO STUBBED HIS TOE WHILE RUNNING TO SEE HIS SWEETHEART. THE BOY SAID HE WAS TOO BIG TO CRY AND FAR TOO BADLY HURT TO LAUGH."

SO LINCOLN WAS KEENLY AWARE OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING POLITICALLY IN HIS DAY AND HE CARED WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, *just as our new President does.* HE WAS A GREAT STUMP SPEAKER -- MADE *Lincoln*

50 SPEECHES FOR THE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, JOHN C. FREMONT, IN 1856 AFTER MISSING OUT HIMSELF ON THE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION.

Do REMEMBER HOW DICK NIXON CAMPAIGNED FROM ONE END OF THE COUNTRY TO THE OTHER ON BEHALF OF CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES IN 1966? THAT WAS WHEN WE MADE A NET GAIN OF 47 SEATS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. WE'VE MADE AN OVERALL GAIN OF 52 SINCE THE DARK DAYS OF 1964. ~~BUT~~ WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO.

THE MAGIC NUMBER NOW IS 26. ASSUMING REPUBLICAN SUCCESS IN SPECIAL ELECTIONS IN WISCONSIN AND CALIFORNIA, WE STILL HAVE 26 SEATS TO GO TO WIN CONTROL OF THE HOUSE.

SENATE I AM NOT DISCOURAGED, AND I'M SURE LES ARENS ISN'T EITHER. *We can break the precedents of the past + make gains in the off year elections - HOW?*
I FEEL CERTAIN THAT IN 1970 WE WILL RECEIVE TREMENDOUS HELP FROM PRESIDENT NIXON.

NOW THAT WE HOLD THE WHITE HOUSE,
THE TOP OF THE HILL ^{a majority of 218} IN THE FIGHT TO WIN THE
PEOPLE'S HOUSE DOESN'T SEEM QUITE SO HIGH.

IF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION IS
SUCCESSFUL -- AND I BELIEVE IT WILL BE
SUCCESSFUL -- I THINK THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
WILL WANT TO GIVE MR. NIXON A REPUBLICAN
CONGRESS TO WORK WITH HIM IN CARRYING OUT
HIS PROGRAM. ^{This means a cooperative leadership in the Congress &}
~~WE MAY NOT MAKE IT ALL THE WAY~~
^{Committee Chairman who will help not hurt}
~~IN 1970 BUT WE'LL HIT THAT GOAL LINE YET.~~

^{you should be PROUD} HERE IN ILLINOIS, YOU HAVE ELECTED
A REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR. YOU HAVE TWO
REPUBLICAN SENATORS. YOU HAVE A GREAT
REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, A
DELEGATION WHICH SHOULD BE ENLARGED.

LET'S MOVE AHEAD. LET'S BEGIN
ZEROING IN ON 1970 RIGHT NOW. IT'S NOT TOO
EARLY TO LAY PLANS FOR EXPANDING THE ILLINOIS
REPUBLICAN DELEGATION AND BREAKING THE
DELEGATION'S 50-50 DEADLOCK WITH THE DEMOCRATS.

~~IF WE CAN'T WIN A MAJORITY OF THE HOUSE SEATS
TWO YEARS HENCE, LET'S AT LEAST WIN A MAJORITY
IN THE ILLINOIS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION.~~

MEANTIME I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT
EVEN AS A MINORITY, REPUBLICANS IN THE HOUSE
ARE HAVING A MARKED IMPACT ON FEDERAL
LEGISLATION. WE PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN
SHAPING LANDMARK LEGISLATION ENACTED BY THE
90TH CONGRESS.

WE PRESSED CONSTANTLY FOR FISCAL
RESPONSIBILITY, FOR A HOLD-DOWN IN FEDERAL
SPENDING, AND NOW WE HEAR THAT A SURPLUS IS
ANTICIPATED FOR FISCAL 1969. I FEEL THE
REPUBLICAN PARTY IS PRINCIPALLY RESPONSIBLE
FOR TURNING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AROUND
FROM A \$25.4 BILLION DEFICIT IN FISCAL 1968
TO A SURPLUS SITUATION IN 1969. Anti-Cornie bill

AND SO WE HAVE THIS AND OTHER
GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO CITE AS WE MOVE
TOWARD MAJORITY STATUS IN THE COUNTRY.

AND WE ARE MOVING TOWARD MAJORITY STATUS -- BECAUSE WE ARE OFFERING NEW SOLUTIONS TO OLD PROBLEMS, / ORDER IN PLACE OF TURMOIL, / PEACE IN PLACE OF WAR.

WE HAVE TURNED ON THE LIGHTS AT THE WHITE HOUSE, AND WE WILL TURN ON THE LIGHTS IN THE NATION. WE WILL STRIVE MIGHTILY FOR UNITY. WE WISH PEACE FOR EVERY CITY IN THIS GREAT COUNTRY.

WHEN I TALK OF POLITICS, I SPEAK OF IT AS DEMOCRACY'S LIFE BLOOD AND / NOT AS THE SEED OF DISUNITY. I SPEAK OF IT AS THE HEALTHY COMPETITION WHICH SERVES TO DEFINE THE ISSUES AND STIR UP INTEREST IN THE PROCESSES OF GOVERNMENT.

LET US AS REPUBLICANS 'BE FAIR, BUT ALWAYS FIRM IN WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE THE RIGHT. AND LET US BE EVER MINDFUL OF THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE.

AS ABRAHAM LINCOLN SO APTLY PUT

IT IN A SPEECH TO CONGRESS: "WE HOLD THE TRUE
REPUBLICAN POSITION. IN LEAVING THE PEOPLE'S
BUSINESS IN THEIR HANDS, WE CANNOT BE WRONG."
THANK YOU.

-- END --

Distribution: 20 Copies Mr. Ford

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A LINCOLN DAY SPEECH
BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.
REPUBLICAN LEADER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 10, 1969
ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

Good evening. I must tell you what a thrill it is for a good Republican to be visiting you here in the Land of Lincoln. I am delighted to be here at Illinois Wesleyan, a fine school of which my good friend Congressman Arends is a trustee.

You know, I just recently learned something new about the state of Illinois. The name of your state comes, I understand, from the Indian and the French, and it means the dwelling place of the tribe of superior men.

Now, having had Les Arends serve with me as House Republican Whip for four years I can well believe that Illinois is peopled with superior men. He has been a tremendous help to me in my post as House Republican leader and it is with deep sincerity and appreciation that I call him my strong right arm.

Of course Illinois has other superior men, too. Tonight we will be dealing only with political heroes. You have your outstanding new governor, Dick Ogilvie; you have the superior man who made a hit with his recording of the "Gallant Men," Sen. Everett M. Dirksen; you have the rising young political star, the junior senator from Illinois, Chuck Percy; and you have your fine group of an even dozen Republican congressmen, including that superior gentleman from the 17th District, Les Arends.

Illinois claims Lincoln as the greatest of its sons. This is natural, since Lincoln lived in Springfield for 17 years and rode the circuit -- the Eighth Judicial Circuit -- all through this area as a practicing attorney. So Abe Lincoln is closely associated with Bloomington, too.

Abe Lincoln was one of my boyhood heroes, perhaps the greatest. Not just because he and his cousin were supposed to have split 3,000 rails in Macon County, Illinois, but because Abe made it the hard way to the biggest job in the world, the Presidency of the United States. I admired him for many qualities -- his humility, his devotion to hard work, his dry sense of humor, his generosity of spirit, his love of God and common men.

(more)

Writing of Lincoln's death on April 15, 1865, the great poet Walt Whitman said of him: "He leaves for America's history and biography, so far, not only its most dramatic reminiscence -- he leaves, in my opinion, the greatest, best, most characteristic, artistic, moral personality."

Lincoln was that. He was a moral man, a man with the kind of character and integrity and compassion that made him a unique man -- a great leader who seemed created for his times.

And we have now...today...in our new President a man who seems created for his times, a man who is destined to lead the United States through some of the most critical moments in our history.

There are striking similarities between the period when Abraham Lincoln served as 16th President of the United States and this era when Richard M. Nixon serves as our 37th Chief Executive.

In 1860, as now, the American people were sorely divided and bitterness tore at the heart of the country.

In the race for the Presidency in 1860 there were four candidates, so that the vote was even more splintered than in the three-man 1968 race.

Abraham Lincoln received slightly less than 40 per cent of the total popular vote but won a majority of the electoral votes. Richard Nixon received 44 per cent of the total popular vote and won a majority of the electoral vote. So he did better than Lincoln, percentagewise.

There are those who say President Nixon does not have a mandate. I say Mr. Nixon does have a mandate -- a mandate for change, a mandate for the nearly six out of 10 Americans who voted for a change in administrations in Washington.

It is true President Nixon faces monumental tasks in rallying support for his program from a country which gave him, personally, less than a majority of its votes and a Congress controlled by the opposition party.

But Mr. Nixon is a man accustomed to monumental tasks, as he has proved in the past. And I believe he is already proving his mettle in the greatest job he has ever had.

You know, five clergymen took part in the Nixon inaugural ceremony. This prompted some people to remark that Mr. Nixon is the most prayed-over President this country has ever had. I personally think that's good.

This reminds me of a Lincoln story. During the Civil War, Lincoln learned that the authorities at a hospital had forbidden anyone to recite prayers for the patients or even to read the Bible to them. Lincoln removed the ban and

(more)

said: "If there was more praying and less swearing, it would be far better for our country." At the risk of sounding sanctimonious, I say, "Amen."

I believe this country has much need of prayer.

Abraham Lincoln has been described by historians as a sometimes uncouth man and a teller of off-color stories. He is also known to have been a man of deep religious convictions and a student of the Bible, the Book of Truth. He was a simple man, a man of peace.

I said earlier that I believe President Nixon, like Abraham Lincoln, is a man uniquely suited to serve our Nation in this time of crisis.

Every action taken by Mr. Nixon since he took the oath of office as President bears out the confidence, the feeling of trust I have in the man who now leads this Nation.

His Inaugural Address was unusual, perhaps the most unusual ever delivered in this country.

It was unusual because it was a quiet speech quietly delivered. There were no glorious promises clothed in glowing rhetoric. There was no bombast. There were no strident partisan phrases.

It was a message of peace. It contained words of great portent for peace both at home and abroad.

It was a message of the spirit, for it extolled those qualities America hungers for today -- "goodness, decency, love and kindness." Mr. Nixon appealed, as did Abraham Lincoln in his first inaugural address, to "the better angels of our nature."

I believe President Nixon will be numbered among the peacemakers. I believe he will find an honorable compromise to end the killing in Vietnam and an acceptable formula for an Arab-Israeli settlement which will avert a confrontation between the nuclear powers in the Middle East.

I believe, too, that he will succeed here at home in establishing "the decent order that makes progress possible and our lives secure."

There are some who say the new President is acting too slowly in "settling in" his Administration and setting new policy. I say that this kind of deliberateness is all to the good. We have had too much of the haste that makes waste in recent years.

When swift decisions are needed, they will be made. But, overall, the Nixon Administration will be marked by calm deliberation and stability. It will be a "cool" Administration, a common sense Administration.

(more)

Common sense can bring us great achievements. It may even confound our enemies. For as Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "Nothing astonishes men so much as common sense and plain dealing."

As a Nation and a people we are faced with great problems at this point in history.

What was the legacy left to Mr. Nixon by the outgoing Administration? What problems did the Republican Administration inherit?

The longest foreign war in American history, with casualties now totalling more than 31,000 G.I.'s killed in combat and nearly 200,000 wounded.

A cauldron of conflict in the Middle East that threatens to bubble over into a confrontation between the two major nuclear powers, the United States and Russia.

A three-year-long inflationary spiral which in 1968 produced the sharpest increase in the cost of living in 17 years.

Record-high interest rates, pushed up by excessive federal spending.

A mounting tide of criminality, rising by nearly 90 per cent in the past eight years.

Riots, campus rebellions and a near-breakdown in law and order across the country.

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The Nixon Administration has moved carefully and firmly to take on all of these horrendous problems. President Nixon views them as a challenge from which we cannot and must not shrink. Indeed, he has opened for us the vistas of opportunity -- the opportunity to re-order our priorities and to get about the business of building a new and greater America.

We are getting a re-ordering of our priorities.

What is our chief domestic concern? There is none greater than that of the public safety -- the concern over violence in the streets and the still-rocketing rise in crime. President Nixon is acting to answer that concern.

Abraham Lincoln preached "reverence for the law" and urged that it become "the political religion of the nation," for he knew, as we do, that without order there can be no progress.

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We must lay a foundation for order by improving the quality and direction of life in America and the responsiveness of its institutions -- and we will do that also.

The Presidency is a powerful office. Its occupant generates an atmosphere which mysteriously but unmistakably affects the lives of most Americans. The President sets a tone for the country.

Having assumed the office of President when the pages of American history were flooded with a swelling tide of crime and violence, Richard Nixon has resolved to cool the violent passions that have engulfed this country and to roll back the rising wave of crime. He has made an excellent start.

The Nixon Administration is building a program, a Republican program in the image of the first and greatest Republican President, that great son of Illinois, Abraham Lincoln.

We are building a Republican program in the image of him who said:

"The legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all, or cannot so well do, for themselves, in their separate and individual capacities."

We are building a program in the image of him who said: "There is no grievance that is a fit object of redress by mob law."

I believe that Republican program will bring the American people together in pursuit of great national goals, goals that will be achieved by the quiet cooperation of government and business, and the voluntary effort of private citizens -- and not by shouting or rock-throwing.

Our Republican program will produce unity at home, curb the inflation that mocks our seeming prosperity, give the farmer 100 per cent of opportunity and his fair share of our economic wealth, reduce crime and restore respect for law and order, resolve the urban crisis and ease racial tensions, reform the entire welfare concept, and end the paradox of malnutrition in the midst of plenty.

The best answer to unrest is to recognize legitimate problems, anticipate legitimate demands, and move ahead with appropriate solutions before trouble begins.

What all of us must do is to join in a great crusade to turn this country around, turn it away from the soap box philosophy of government-solve-all and turn it toward the New Direction of individual responsibility and personal dedication

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to solving the problems of others.

This is the path on which President Nixon will lead us. This is the course he will set.

President Nixon, of course, is a political leader as well as President of all the people. He is a great Republican, as was Abraham Lincoln.

In 1862, two years after Lincoln was elected President, the Republican Party suffered a setback. The Democrats took the governorship of New York and added some congressional seats.

When asked how he felt about the results of the New York election, Abraham Lincoln said: "Somewhat like the boy in Kentucky who stubbed his toe while running to see his sweetheart. The boy said he was too big to cry and far too badly hurt to laugh."

So Lincoln was keenly aware of what was happening politically in his day and he cared what happened to the Republican Party. He was a great stump speaker -- made 50 speeches for the Republican presidential candidate, John C. Fremont, in 1856 after missing out himself on the vice-presidential nomination.

Remember how Dick Nixon campaigned from one end of the country to the other on behalf of congressional candidates in 1966? That was when we made a net gain of 47 seats in the House of Representatives. We've made an overall gain of 52 since the dark days of 1964. But we still have a long way to go.

The magic number now is 26. Assuming Republican success in special elections in Wisconsin and California, we still have 26 seats to go to win control of the House.

I am not discouraged, and I'm sure Les Arends isn't either.

I feel certain that in 1970 we will receive tremendous help from President Nixon.

Now that we hold the White House, the top of the hill in the fight to win the People's House doesn't seem quite so high.

If the Nixon Administration is successful -- and I believe it will be successful -- I think the American people will want to give Mr. Nixon a Republican Congress to work with him in carrying out his program. We may not make it all the way in 1970 but we'll hit that goal line yet.

Here in Illinois you have elected a Republican governor. You have two Republican senators. You have a great Republican congressional delegation, a delegation which should be enlarged.

Let's move ahead. Let's begin zeroing in on 1970 right now. It's not too

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early to lay plans for expanding the Illinois Republican delegation and breaking the delegation's 50-50 deadlock with the Democrats. If we can't win a majority of the House seats two years hence, let's at least win a majority in the Illinois congressional delegation.

Meantime I want you to know that even as a minority, Republicans in the House are having a marked impact on federal legislation. We played a major role in shaping landmark legislation enacted by the 90th Congress.

We pressed constantly for fiscal responsibility, for a hold-down in federal spending, and now we hear that a surplus is anticipated for fiscal 1969. I feel the Republican Party is principally responsible for turning the Federal Government around from a \$25.4 billion deficit in fiscal 1968 to a surplus situation in 1969.

And so we have this and other great accomplishments to cite as we move toward majority status in the country.

And we are moving toward majority status -- because we are offering new solutions to old problems, order in place of turmoil, peace in place of war.

We have turned on the lights at the White House, and we will turn on the lights in the Nation. We will strive mightily for unity. We wish peace for every city in this great country.

When I talk of politics, I speak of it as democracy's life blood and not as the seed of disunity. I speak of it as the healthy competition which serves to define the issues and stir up interest in the processes of government.

Let us as Republicans be fair, but always firm in what we consider to be the right. And let us be ever mindful of the best interests of the people.

As Abraham Lincoln so aptly put it in a speech to Congress: "We hold the true republican position. In leaving the people's business in their hands, we cannot be wrong." Thank you.

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Official Copy

A LINCOLN DAY SPEECH
BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.
REPUBLICAN LEADER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 10, 1969
ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

Good evening. I must tell you what a thrill it is for a good Republican to be visiting you here in the Land of Lincoln. I am delighted to be here at Illinois Wesleyan, a fine school of which my good friend Congressman Arends is a trustee.

You know, I just recently learned something new about the state of Illinois. The name of your state comes, I understand, from the Indian and the French, and it means the dwelling place of the tribe of superior men.

Now, having had Les Arends serve with me as House Republican Whip for four years I can well believe that Illinois is peopled with superior men. He has been a tremendous help to me in my post as House Republican leader and it is with deep sincerity and appreciation that I call him my strong right arm.

Of course Illinois has other superior men, too. Tonight we will be dealing only with political heroes. You have your outstanding new governor, Dick Ogilvie; you have the superior man who made a hit with his recording of the "Gallent Men," Sen. Everett M. Dirksen; you have the rising young political star, the junior senator from Illinois, Chuck Percy; and you have your fine group of an even dozen Republican congressmen, including that superior gentleman from the 17th District, Les Arends.

Illinois claims Lincoln as the greatest of its sons. This is natural, since Lincoln lived in Springfield for 17 years and rode the circuit -- the Eighth Judicial Circuit -- all through this area as a practicing attorney. So Abe Lincoln is closely associated with Bloomington, too.

Abe Lincoln was one of my boyhood heroes, perhaps the greatest. Not just because he and his cousin were supposed to have split 3,000 rails in Macon County, Illinois, but because Abe made it the hard way to the biggest job in the world, the Presidency of the United States. I admired him for many qualities -- his humility, his devotion to hard work, his dry sense of humor, his generosity of spirit, his love of God and common men.

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Writing of Lincoln's death on April 15, 1865, the great poet Walt Whitman said of him: "He leaves for America's history and biography, so far, not only its most dramatic reminiscence -- he leaves, in my opinion, the greatest, best, most characteristic, artistic, moral personality."

Lincoln was that. He was a moral man, a man with the kind of character and integrity and compassion that made him a unique man -- a great leader who seemed created for his times.

And we have now...today...in our new President a man who seems created for his times, a man who is destined to lead the United States through some of the most critical moments in our history.

There are striking similarities between the period when Abraham Lincoln served as 16th President of the United States and this era when Richard M. Nixon serves as our 37th Chief Executive.

In 1860, as now, the American people were sorely divided and bitterness tore at the heart of the country.

In the race for the Presidency in 1860 there were four candidates, so that the vote was even more splintered than in the three-man 1968 race.

Abraham Lincoln received slightly less than 40 per cent of the total popular vote but won a majority of the electoral votes. Richard Nixon received 44 per cent of the total popular vote and won a majority of the electoral vote. So he did better than Lincoln, percentagewise.

There are those who say President Nixon does not have a mandate. I say Mr. Nixon does have a mandate -- a mandate for change, a mandate for the nearly six out of 10 Americans who voted for a change in administrations in Washington.

It is true President Nixon faces monumental tasks in rallying support for his program from a country which gave him, personally, less than a majority of its votes and a Congress controlled by the opposition party.

But Mr. Nixon is a man accustomed to monumental tasks, as he has proved in the past. And I believe he is already proving his mettle in the greatest job he has ever had.

You know, five clergymen took part in the Nixon inaugural ceremony. This prompted some people to remark that Mr. Nixon is the most prayed-over President this country has ever had. I personally think that's good.

This reminds me of a Lincoln story. During the Civil War, Lincoln learned that the authorities at a hospital had forbidden anyone to recite prayers for the patients or even to read the Bible to them. Lincoln removed the ban and

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said: "If there was more praying and less swearing, it would be far better for our country." At the risk of sounding sanctimonious, I say, "Amen."

I believe this country has much need of prayer.

Abraham Lincoln has been described by historians as a sometimes uncouth man and a teller of off-color stories. He is also known to have been a man of deep religious convictions and a student of the Bible, the Book of Truth. He was a simple man, a man of peace.

I said earlier that I believe President Nixon, like Abraham Lincoln, is a man uniquely suited to serve our Nation in this time of crisis.

Every action taken by Mr. Nixon since he took the oath of office as President bears out the confidence, the feeling of trust I have in the man who now leads this Nation.

His Inaugural Address was unusual, perhaps the most unusual ever delivered in this country.

It was unusual because it was a quiet speech quietly delivered. There were no glorious promises clothed in glowing rhetoric. There was no bombast. There were no strident partisan phrases.

It was a message of peace. It contained words of great portent for peace both at home and abroad.

It was a message of the spirit, for it extolled those qualities America hungers for today -- "goodness, decency, love and kindness." Mr. Nixon appealed, as did Abraham Lincoln in his first inaugural address, to "the better angels of our nature."

I believe President Nixon will be numbered among the peacemakers. I believe he will find an honorable compromise to end the killing in Vietnam and an acceptable formula for an Arab-Israeli settlement which will avert a confrontation between the nuclear powers in the Middle East.

I believe, too, that he will succeed here at home in establishing "the decent order that makes progress possible and our lives secure."

There are some who say the new President is acting too slowly in "settling in" his Administration and setting new policy. I say that this kind of deliberateness is all to the good. We have had too much of the haste that makes waste in recent years.

When swift decisions are needed, they will be made. But, overall, the Nixon Administration will be marked by calm deliberation and stability. It will be a "cool" Administration, a common sense Administration.

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Common sense can bring us great achievements. It may even confound our enemies. For as Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "Nothing astonishes men so much as common sense and plain dealing."

As a Nation and a people we are faced with great problems at this point in history.

What was the legacy left to Mr. Nixon by the outgoing Administration? What problems did the Republican Administration inherit?

The longest foreign war in American history, with casualties now totalling more than 31,000 G.I.'s killed in combat and nearly 200,000 wounded.

A cauldron of conflict in the Middle East that threatens to bubble over into a confrontation between the two major nuclear powers, the United States and Russia.

A three-year-long inflationary spiral which in 1968 produced the sharpest increase in the cost of living in 17 years.

Record-high interest rates, pushed up by excessive federal spending.

A mounting tide of criminality, rising by nearly 90 per cent in the past eight years.

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