

The original documents are located in Box D32, folder “GOP National Leadership Conference, Washington, DC, March 3, 1972” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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GOP NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE,
WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL, WASH., D.C.
FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1972.

IT IS NOT THAT I HAVE BEEN SWEEPED UP IN THE CHINA TRIP EUPHORIA, BUT FROM WHERE I STAND I LOOK UPON 1972 WITH A GREAT SENSE OF CONFIDENCE IN TERMS OF THE OUTLOOK FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, THE NATION AND THE WORLD.

LOOKING FIRST AT THE SITUATION IN CONGRESS AND SPECIFICALLY IN THE HOUSE, I COULD SPEND THE NEXT FEW MINUTES CRITICIZING THE DEMOCRATS FOR NOT MOVING MORE QUICKLY ON WELFARE REFORM, FEDERAL REVENUE SHARING, HEALTH CARE, AND REORGANIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. BUT I WON'T.

I COULD ALSO FIND FAULT WITH THE DEMOCRATS FOR NOT SIGNING, IN MORE THAN



IN MORE THAN A HANDFUL OF NUMBERS,
A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT BACKING THE
PEACE PROPOSAL HE REVEALED ON JANUARY 25.
BUT I WON'T.

I WILL NOT ENGAGE IN THE KIND
OF CARPING CRITICISM INDULGED IN DAILY
BY THE DEMOCRATS -- BECAUSE TIME AND TIDE
ARE ON OUR SIDE.

PRESIDENT NIXON'S AGENDA FOR
AMERICA, HIS AGENDA OF PEACE AND
PROSPERITY, IS MOVING AHEAD. I BELIEVE
THE PRESIDENT HAS AN OVERWHELMING NUMBER
OF AMERICANS BEHIND HIM WITH EVERY
IMAGINATIVE INITIATIVE HE HAS TAKEN TO
BUILD PEACE AND PROSPERITY IN THE
SEVENTIES. I SPEAK NOT ONLY OF HIS
SENSATIONAL SURPRISE, THE UNPRECEDENTED
EVENT OF HIS TRIP TO CHINA -- FROM WHICH
WE KNOW ALL THE WORLD HAS GAINED AND



THE CAUSE OF WORLD PEACE HAS MOVED
FORWARD. I SPEAK ALSO OF THE PRESIDENT'S
FORCEFUL ACTS TO BRING PRICE STABILITY
TO OUR ECONOMY AND FRESH ONGOING IMPETUS
TO OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH.

I DO NOT DESPAIR ABOUT THE
PRESIDENT'S MAJOR MEASURES IN THE CONGRESS,
BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE
PEOPLE. THIS MEANS THESE BILLS EITHER
WILL BE ADOPTED THIS YEAR -- AND I BELIEVE
MOST OF THEM WILL BE -- OR THEY WILL
BECOME ISSUES THAT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY
WILL TAKE TO THE VOTERS THIS FALL.

THE DEMOCRATS KNOW THAT THE
ADMINISTRATION'S MAJOR MEASURES ENJOY
POPULAR BACKING, AND SO THEY WILL ACT
ACCORDINGLY. FOR THE MOST PART THEY WILL
SEEK TO RESHAPE THEM AND TO TAKE THE
CREDIT FOR THEIR ENACTMENT. BUT I FEEL SURE

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL REMEMBER WHO
THE AUTHOR OF THIS LEGISLATION ACTUALLY
WAS.


I FEEL SURE, TOO, THAT THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL RECOGNIZE IN THIS
ELECTION YEAR WHO THE TRUE PEACEMAKER
IS IN AMERICA. AND THEIR VOTE WILL NOT
GO TO ONE WHO REJECTED PRESIDENT NIXON'S
VIETNAM PEACE PROPOSAL BEFORE THE NORTH
VIETNAMESE DID AND THEN FOLLOWED UP BY
URGING A PEACE SETTLEMENT ON THE ENEMY'S
TERMS.

AT HIS JANUARY 1969 INAUGURAL,
RICHARD NIXON SAID: "THE GREATEST HONOR
HISTORY CAN BESTOW IS THE TITLE OF
PEACEMAKER." I AM CERTAIN THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE WILL BESTOW THAT TITLE ON OUR
PRESIDENT. NO MAN HAS WORKED HARDER TO
DEVELOP INITIATIVES TOWARD THAT GOAL



AT THE SALT TALKS, IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
THROUGH DE-ESCALATION, VIETNAMIZATION AND
NEGOTIATIONS, IN MIDDLE EAST PROPOSALS,
AND IN THE CHINA DOOR-OPENING. NEVER HAS
A PRESIDENT BEEN SO HAMPERED BY DOMESTIC
POLITICAL CARPING, AND YET MANAGED TO
TAKE SUCH GIANT STRIDES TOWARD WORLD PEACE
AND STABILITY.

AS I SAID AT THE OUTSET, I AM
OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE
REPUBLICAN PARTY, THE NATION AND THE WORLD.
I BELIEVE IN 1972 THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL
SEE THE VIRTUAL END OF THIS COUNTRY'S
INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM. I BELIEVE
PRESIDENT NIXON'S NEW ECONOMIC POLICY
WILL HAVE BROUGHT INFLATION LARGELY UNDER
CONTROL. I BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT'S
STRONG MEDICINE TO STIMULATE THE ECONOMY
WILL PROVIDE MORE JOBS AND CUT UNEMPLOYMENT.



I BELIEVE WE WILL SEE THE TURNING POINT
IN THE BATTLE TO CONTROL DRUG ADDICTION,
THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT'S WAR AGAINST
DRUG ABUSE.

ALL THIS HAS COME ABOUT BECAUSE
WE HAVE RESPONSIVE AND CREATIVE LEADERSHIP
AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. WE HAVE A GREAT
NATIONAL LEADER IN RICHARD NIXON.

THE THEME OF THIS GATHERING IS
"TOGETHER . . . AGAIN."

LET US GO FORWARD TOGETHER
TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND
STABLE PEACE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF
RICHARD NIXON.

LET US GO FORWARD TOGETHER IN
DEVELOPING A GENUINE PEACETIME PROSPERITY.

LET US GO FORWARD TOGETHER TO
BUILD PROGRAMS WHICH RECOGNIZE THE NEEDS
AND ASPIRATIONS OF A DYNAMIC PEOPLE IN A
TIME OF CHANGE.

LET US RECOGNIZE THAT UNDER THE
EXCITING LEADERSHIP OF RICHARD NIXON WE
ARE TAKING PART IN ONE OF THE GREAT
MOMENTS OF HISTORY. AND SO WE GO FORWARD.....
TOGETHER.

--END--



Distribution: 50 copies w/ Mr. Ford only M Office Copy

REMARKS BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.
REPUBLICAN LEADER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AT A GOP NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL
WASHINGTON, D. C.
FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1972

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY EXPECTED AT 9:30 A.M. FRIDAY

It is not that I have been swept up in the China trip euphoria, but from where I stand I look upon 1972 with a great sense of confidence in terms of the outlook for the Republican Party, the Nation and the world.

Looking first at the situation in Congress and specifically in the House, I could spend the next few minutes criticizing the Democrats for not moving more quickly on welfare reform, Federal revenue sharing, health care, and reorganization of the Federal Government. But I won't.

I could also find fault with the Democrats for not signing in more than a handful of numbers a letter to the President backing the peace proposal he revealed on Jan. 25. But I won't.

I will not engage in the kind of carping criticism indulged in daily by the Democrats--because time and tide are on our side.

President Nixon's agenda for America, his agenda of peace and prosperity, is moving ahead. I believe the President has an overwhelming number of Americans behind him with every imaginative initiative he has taken to build peace and prosperity in the Seventies. I speak not only of his sensational surprise, the unprecedented event of his trip to China--from which we know all the world has gained and the cause of world peace has moved forward. I speak also of the President's forceful acts to bring price stability to our economy and fresh ongoing impetus to our economic growth.

I do not despair about the President's major measures in the Congress, because they have the support of the people. This means these bills either will be adopted this year--and I believe most of them will be--or they will become issues that the Republican Party will take to the voters this fall.

The Democrats know that the Administration's major measures enjoy popular backing, and so they will act accordingly. For the most part they will seek to

(more)

reshape them and to take the credit for their enactment. But I feel sure the American people will remember who the author of this legislation actually was.

I feel sure, too, that the American people will recognize in this election year who the true peacemaker is in America. And their vote will not go to one who rejected President Nixon's Vietnam peace proposal before the North Vietnamese did and then followed up by urging a peace settlement on the enemy's terms.

At his January 1969 inaugural, Richard Nixon said: "The greatest honor history can bestow is the title of peacemaker." I am certain the American people will bestow that title on our President. No man has worked harder to develop initiatives toward that goal--at the SALT talks, in Southeast Asia through de-escalation, Vietnamization and negotiations, in Middle East proposals, and in the China door-opening. Never has a President been so hampered by domestic political carping, and yet managed to take such giant strides toward world peace and stability.

As I said at the outset, I am optimistic about the future of the Republican Party, the Nation and the world. I believe in 1972 the American people will see the virtual end of this country's involvement in Vietnam. I believe President Nixon's New Economic Policy will have brought inflation largely under control. I believe the President's strong medicine to stimulate the economy will provide more jobs and cut unemployment. I believe we will see the turning point in the battle to control drug addiction, thanks to the President's war against drug abuse.

All this has come about because we have responsive and creative leadership at the national level. We have a great national leader in Richard Nixon.

The theme of this gathering is "Together...Again."

Let us go forward together toward the establishment of a just and stable peace under the leadership of Richard Nixon.

Let us go forward together in developing a genuine peacetime prosperity.

Let us go forward together to build programs which recognize the needs and aspirations of a dynamic people in a time of change.

Let us recognize that under the exciting leadership of Richard Nixon we are taking part in one of the great moments of history. And so we go forward...together.

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