

**The original documents are located in Box 8, folder “4/26/75 - Virginia GOP Reception” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN



## VIRGINIA GOP RECEPTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 1975

-1-

I ALMOST DIDN'T GET OUT TONIGHT. EVERYBODY

KNOWS VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS -- SO HOW IN THE WORLD

DO YOU TELL YOUR WIFE YOU'RE GOING TO VIRGINIA --

FOR A REPUBLICAN AFFAIR?

I AM HERE TONIGHT FOR A VERY SIMPLE REASON --  
VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS.           AND AS I LOOK ABOUT THIS  
ROOM, I SEE AN AWFUL LOT OF LOVE FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY  
HERE TONIGHT.

IT'S A REAL PLEASURE TO BE HERE TONIGHT.

I UNDERSTAND THAT VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS. WELL,

IF THAT'S SO, ALL I CAN SAY TO ALL YOU LOVERS IS,

"WE CAN'T GO ON MEETING LIKE THIS -- BETTY'S GETTING

SUSPICIOUS."

IN PARTICULAR, I AM DELIGHTED TO SEE MILLS GODWIN

HERE. THE STATE OF VIRGINIA IS VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE A  
MAN OF HIS WISDOM AND TALENT AS ITS GOVERNOR.

AND THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IS PROUD -- AND LUCKY --  
TO HAVE HIM WITH US, INSTEAD OF AGAINST US.

AND LET ME ALSO THANK THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF  
VIRGINIA FOR LENDING THE NATIONAL PARTY THE SERVICES AND  
GREAT LEADERSHIP OF DICK OBENSHEIN, OUR NATIONAL  
CO-CHAIRMAN.

DICK IS DOING AN OUTSTANDING JOB FOR THE PARTY  
AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL.      AND I KNOW THE STATE PARTY IS  
PROSPERING UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GEORGE McMATH.



YOU KNOW, SOME OF THE SO-CALLED "EXPERTS"  
BEGAN TALKING ABOUT THE DEMISE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN  
AMERICA AFTER LAST NOVEMBER'S ELECTIONS. THESE ARE THE  
SAME PUNDITS WHO PREDICTED MUCH THE SAME THING AFTER THE  
1964 ELECTIONS. AND THEY WERE PROBABLY SAYING THE SAME  
THING FORTY YEARS AGO.

BUT WE'RE STILL HERE.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

IS ALIVE AND WELL.

AND AS LONG AS I HAVE ANYTHING

TO SAY ABOUT THE MATTER, IT WILL STAY THAT WAY.

BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP -- THE HELP OF EACH  
OF YOU -- TO BUILD A STRONGER PARTY FOR THE FUTURE  
THAN WE HAVE EVER HAD IN THE PAST. TOGETHER,  
WE CAN DO IT.



THE VICTORIES WHICH YOU ACHIEVE HERE IN  
VIRGINIA NEXT NOVEMBER WILL BE THE MILEPOSTS TOWARD  
EVEN GREATER ONES ACROSS AMERICA IN NOVEMBER OF 1976.

ALTHOUGH I ORDINARILY SHY AWAY FROM PREDICTIONS,  
LET ME GO ON RECORD HERE AND NOW:

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WILL RETAIN CONTROL OF THE WHITE HOUSE

IN 1976. WE WILL MAKE SUBSTANTIAL GAINS IN THE UNITED STATES

SENATE AND HOUSE RACES IN 1976 BUT TO DO SO WE MUST BEGIN TO RECRUIT

CANDIDATES -- NOW. WE WILL ELECT A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF

GOVERNORS TO AT LEAST RESTORE THE BALANCE WE ONCE HELD IN THE

NATION'S STATE HOUSES.

AND, USING THE MARKERS YOU HAVE SET FOR US ON  
THIS ROAD TO VICTORY, WE WILL SUBSTANTIALLY BOOST  
REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATION IN THE STATE LEGISLATURES AND  
IN THE COUNTY AND CITY AND TOWN COUNCILS ACROSS AMERICA.

THE REPUBLICANS OF VIRGINIA CAN SHOW THE REST OF THE  
COUNTRY THE WAY -- WITH THE BEST POSSIBLE CANDIDATES, WITH  
HARD-HITTING ISSUES, WITH EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION. WITH  
WELL-FINANCED TREASURIES -- AND, WITH THE MOST IMPORTANT  
INGREDIENT -- PEOPLE -- PARTY WORKERS -- VOTERS!



IN MY VIEW, THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY REPRESENTS THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF VIRGINIANS FAR BETTER THAN THE OPPOSITION PARTY.

AND FRANKLY, I'M EXCITED ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF REPUBLICAN VICTORIES -- NOT ONLY THIS YEAR IN THIS STATE BUT NEXT YEAR ACROSS AMERICA.

AND I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP.

FOR ONE

THING, I BELIEVE WE'LL BE A NATION AT PEACE.

I BELIEVE

WE'LL HAVE AN ECONOMY THAT'S PROSPEROUS.

IN POLITICS, I BELIEVE WE'LL PROJECT A PARTY IMAGE  
WHICH WILL CAPTURE THE IMAGINATION OF THE VOTERS -- AN IMAGE  
THAT REFLECTS THE INTEGRITY, HONESTY, RESPONSIVENESS AND  
HARD WORK THAT HAVE ALWAYS CHARACTERIZED THE GRAND OLD PARTY.

I BELIEVE THE TRADITIONAL REPUBLICAN COMMITMENTS --  
TO FREE ENTERPRISE, TO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY IN GOVERNMENT, TO A  
STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE, TO LOCAL CONTROL OVER LOCAL CONCERNS,  
AND TO FREEDOM FOR THE INDIVIDUAL -- ARE COMMITMENTS SHARED  
BY A MAJORITY OF VIRGINIANS AND AMERICANS.

THOSE SHARED COMMITMENTS -- THOSE VALUES WHICH HELP  
TIE US TOGETHER -- CAN BE TRANSLATED INTO REPUBLICAN VOTES THIS  
YEAR AND NEXT -- IF WE ARE PREPARED TO CARRY OUR MESSAGE TO THE  
PEOPLE IN A VIGOROUS, WELL-ORGANIZED AND WELL-ARTICULATED  
CAMPAIGN.

AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, I LIVED IN VIRGINIA FOR THE TWENTY-FIVE

YEARS IS SERVED IN THE CONGRESS AND FOR THE FEW MONTHS I SERVED AS

VICE PRESIDENT -- BEFORE MOVING TO MY PRESENT LOCATION. SO,

SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I'D LIKE VERY MUCH TO SEE VIRGINIA REPUBLICANS

LEAD THE REST OF THE PARTY ON THE HIGH ROAD TO VICTORY -- STARTING

THIS YEAR. IF TONIGHT'S MEETING IS AN INDICATOR, WE'RE ON THE WAY.

AND IF YOUR STATE'S GREAT ADVERTISING SLOGAN IS AN INDICATOR,

VIRGINIA ISN'T JUST FOR LOVERS -- IT'S FOR REPUBLICAN LOVERS -- AS

MILLS GODWIN AND BILL SCOTT AND BILL WHITEHURST AND BOB DANIEL AND

CALDWELL BUTLER AND KEN ROBINSON AND BILL WAMPLER AND DOZENS OF

REPUBLICAN STATE LEGISLATORS AND CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIALS HAVE SO

WELL DEMONSTRATED. LET'S SWELL THEIR RANKS THIS YEAR AND NEXT.

TOGETHER, WE CAN DO IT.

THANK YOU.            GOOD NIGHT.

END OF TEXT