

The original documents are located in Box 15, “9/8/75 - Remarks at a Reception for Members of the Republican National Committee” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU, MARY LOUISE

SENATOR STEVENS

SENATOR DOLE

CONGRESSMAN RHODES

CONGRESSMAN VANDER JAGT

NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THE PRESIDENT HAS ~~SEEN~~

TALKING POINTS:

RECEPTION FOR REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1975

- 1 -

FIRST, LET ME WELCOME YOU ALL TO THE WHITE HOUSE --
FOR THIS NIGHT ONLY, ALSO KNOWN AS KANSAS CITY EAST!

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU TONIGHT.

I REALLY MEAN THAT, BUT IN ALL HONESTY I DO HAVE TO SAY THAT /
AFTER LAST FRIDAY, IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE ANYWHERE TONIGHT!

2. THANK YOU FOR COMING. AS YOU KNOW,
I'VE BEEN DOING A GOOD BIT OF TRAVELLING AROUND THE COUNTRY,
MEETING WITH REPUBLICANS WHENEVER I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY.
WHAT I FIND IS AN ENTHUSIASM AMONG REPUBLICANS THAT MUST BE
CONTAGIOUS -- FOR I SEE IT EVERYWHERE. I LIKE WHAT I SEE.

TO ME, THIS ENTHUSIASM ASSURES THAT 1976 WILL BE A GOOD YEAR
FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.



3. BUT THERE IS MUCH WORK TO DO BEFORE THE 1976 ELECTIONS.

REGISTRATION IS AN EXAMPLE. THERE ARE SOME 50 MILLION POTENTIAL

VOTERS IN THIS COUNTRY WHO JUST DON'T TAKE THE TIME TO REGISTER AND

ANOTHER 25 MILLION WHO REGISTER BUT DON'T VOTE. WE MUST REACH

OUT TO THESE POTENTIAL VOTERS AND TO THOSE WHO CLASSIFY THEMSELVES

AS INDEPENDENTS.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY HAS A LOT TO SAY TO THESE POTENTIAL

VOTERS. THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT ECONOMIC PROGRESS,

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL DEFENSE, THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

AND DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY IN AMERICA -- AND SO ARE WE.

THEY WANT A GOOD EDUCATION FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN,
GOOD HOUSING, GOOD HEALTH CARE AND GOOD FOOD FOR THEIR FAMILIES
-- AT PRICES THEY CAN AFFORD -- AND SO DO WE.

4. THESE ARE BASIC CONCERNS THAT AFFECT ALL OUR LIVES
REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL PERSUASION. THESE ARE THE ELEMENTS
THAT DETERMINE THE QUALITY OF OUR LIVES WHICH IS THE GREAT
CHALLENGE WE FACE AS WE ENTER OUR THIRD CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE.



5. THIS YEAR, 1975, IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT
OFF-YEARS IN THE HISTORY OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. THIS IS THE
YEAR WE MUST LAY THE GROUNDWORK TO RUN THE CAMPAIGNS TO ELECT
REPUBLICANS AT EVERY LEVEL NEXT YEAR.



YOUR LOCAL PARTY ORGANIZATIONS MUST PLAY KEY ROLES IN THOSE
CAMPAIGNS. BUT THEY CAN DO SO ONLY IF PROPER FOUNDATIONS
ARE LAID -- NOW.

6. THE NEW 1974 CAMPAIGN LAW CALLS FOR A STRONGER
WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARTY ORGANIZATIONS AND
CANDIDATES.



BECAUSE OF THIS, THE ABILITY OF REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES TO WIN ELECTIONS AT EVERY LEVEL WILL DEPEND HEAVILY ON HOW SUCCESSFUL OUR REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN IS -- HOW MANY DOORS WE KNOCK ON. EACH POTENTIAL VOTER MUST BE IDENTIFIED AS TO PARTY AFFILIATION, REGISTERED AND THEN GOTTEN TO THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY.

7. MORE THAN AT ANY TIME IN OUR HISTORY, THE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY MATCH THE HOPES AND THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.



OUR REPUBLICAN COMMITMENTS TO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

IN GOVERNMENT, TO A VIGOROUS FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM,

TO A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE, TO LOCAL CONTROL OVER LOCAL

CONCERNS, AND TO PERSONAL FREEDOM FOR THE INDIVIDUAL --

ARE COMMITMENTS SHARED BY THE VAST MAJORITY OF AMERICANS.

WE BELIEVE, AS ABRAHAM LINCOLN SAID, THAT THE LEGITIMATE OBJECTIVE OF GOVERNMENT IS "TO DO FOR THE PEOPLE WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE, BUT WHAT THEY CANNOT, BY INDIVIDUAL EFFORT, DO AT ALL OR DO SO WELL FOR THEMSELVES." WE BELIEVE THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE GROWN WEARY OF GOVERNMENT'S OVERSTATED PROMISES AND OVERBEARING CONTROLS.

WE BELIEVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE READY TO DO GREAT THINGS FOR
THEMSELVES AND FOR THEIR COUNTRY.

8. WE CAN MAKE THESE YEARS GREAT ONES FOR THIS
COUNTRY -- BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP AND THE HELP OF ALL
AMERICANS WHO SHARE OUR VIEW OF THIS COUNTRY AND OUR VISION
OF WHAT'S NEEDED TO MAKE IT EVEN GREATER.



LET'S MAKE SURE WE KEEP THE DOOR OF OUR PARTY OPEN WIDE TO ALL
WHO WANT TO JOIN US IN THIS EFFORT -- INSTEAD OF OPENING IT
JUST A CRACK FOR A FEW. LET US WORK TOGETHER FOR A COMMON
VICTORY RATHER THAN WORKING AGAINST EACH OTHER FOR SURE DEFEAT.

9. I PLEDGE TO DO MY PART: TO WORK WITH YOU TO BUILD
THIS PARTY OF OURS INTO THE MOST EFFECTIVE POLITICAL WEAPON POSSIBLE
IN ADVANCE OF THE 1976 CAMPAIGN. TOGETHER, WE CAN -- WE WILL --
DO IT.

END OF TEXT