

The original documents are located in Box 17, “9/30/75 - Remarks of the President at the Illinois State GOP Fundraiser” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS -- ILLINOIS GOP DINNER

THANK YOU, JIM BERE (Dinner Chairman) (Phonetic: BEAR-RAY)

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE

- CHUCK PERCY
- BOB MICHEL
- JOHN ANDERSON
- BOB McCLORY
- GEORGE O'BRIEN

BILL SCOTT

DON ADAMS (State Chairman), JERIMIAH MILBANK,

HAROLD SMITH (Finance Chairman)

MY GOOD FRIENDS, LES ARENDS, MARGUERITE CHURCH,

and DICK OGILVIE

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
ILLINOIS STATE GOP FUNDRAISER

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1975

THIS HAS TURNED OUT TO BE A RATHER UNUSUAL EVENING
FOR ME. ONE OF YOUR NEWSPAPERS SUGGESTED VERY STRONGLY
THAT I NOT COME TO CHICAGO AND MAYOR DALEY SUGGESTED
VERY STRONGLY THAT I DO COME. I HOPE YOU GOOD
REPUBLICANS DON'T MIND IF ON THIS OCCASION I CAME DOWN
ON THE SIDE OF MAYOR DALEY.

I'M ESPECIALLY PLEASED TO BE HERE AT A TIME WHEN THE
OUTLOOK FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN ILLINOIS IS SO BRIGHT.
YOU ARE DEVELOPING A STRONG STATE TICKET. YOU HAVE
EXCELLENT CANDIDATES FOR LOCAL AND STATE OFFICES AND FOR THE
CONGRESS. YOUR PARTY LEADERS HERE ARE ENTHUSIASTIC AND
SO AM I.

LET'S REMEMBER THIS -- AS REPUBLICANS, WE HAVE ONE

POWERFUL RESOURCE WHICH THE DEMOCRATS LACK: THE MAJORITY

OF AMERICANS -- REPUBLICANS, INDEPENDENTS AND DISCERNING

DEMOCRATS -- BELIEVE IN THE SAME BASIC PRINCIPLES WE DO.

THEY WANT FISCAL SANITY RESTORED TO OUR NATIONAL
GOVERNMENT. \ THEY WANT THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM FREED
FROM THE SHACKLES OF OVER-REGULATION. \ THEY WANT A STRONG
NATIONAL DEFENSE WHICH IS STILL THE BEST ASSURANCE OF PEACE. \
THEY WANT LOCAL PEOPLE TO HANDLE LOCAL AFFAIRS. \ AND THEY
WANT TO PRESERVE AND EXPAND THE DIGNITY AND THE FREEDOM
OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

THE FRENCH HAVE A SAYING THAT THE MORE THINGS CHANGE,

THE MORE THEY ARE THE SAME. THE PLATFORM ADOPTED BY THE

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION OF 1860 -- HELD RIGHT HERE

IN CHICAGO -- ATTACKED -- IN THESE WORDS -- "...THE

RECKLESS EXTRAVAGANCE WHICH PERVADES EVERY DEPARTMENT

OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT."

IT COMMENDED THE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM,
ADVOCATED LOCAL CONTROL OVER LOCAL AFFAIRS AND STRESSED
INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AS BASIC "TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR
REPUBLICAN INSTITUTIONS."

I AM PROUD TO ADVOCATE THESE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH

ABRAHAM LINCOLN CAMPAIGNED IN 1860.

I INVITE EVERYBODY

WHO BELIEVES IN THEM TO JOIN US IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AND

TO FIGHT FOR THEM TODAY.

THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT OFF-YEARS IN THE
HISTORY OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. THIS IS THE YEAR WE MUST
ORGANIZE TO ELECT REPUBLICANS AT EVERY LEVEL NEXT YEAR.
YOUR PARTY ORGANIZATIONS WILL PLAY A VITAL ROLE.

THROUGH SUCH PROJECTS AS YOUR "TASK FORCE 75-76" --

WHICH WAS HEADED BY BILL DuVALL AND INSPIRED BY CHUCK PERCY --

YOU ARE LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR THE VICTORIES OF 1976.

SUCCESSFUL REGISTRATION DRIVES THIS FALL IN EVERY

SECTION OF THIS STATE AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE ESSENTIAL.

WE MUST FIND PARTY WORKERS. WE MUST IDENTIFY OUR

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES. WE MUST FINE-TUNE OUR PARTY'S

ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE CAMPAIGNS AHEAD. WE MUST

DEMONSTRATE THAT OUR PARTY IS DETERMINED TO SELECT AND ELECT

THE BEST POSSIBLE CANDIDATES AND THAT THE PARTY ORGANIZATION

IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER BEFORE.

THE NEW 1974 CAMPAIGN LAW REQUIRES A STRONGER WORKING

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARTY ORGANIZATIONS AND CANDIDATES.

THE ABILITY OF REPUBLICANS TO WIN ELECTIONS AT EVERY LEVEL

WILL DEPEND ON THE SUCCESS OF OUR REGISTRATION DRIVE AND

ON OUR DETERMINATION TO KNOCK ON DOORS. IT WILL DEPEND

ON STRONG PARTY ORGANIZATION AND ON GOOD FINANCING.

IT WILL DEPEND ON YOU.

SINCE TAKING OFFICE AS PRESIDENT, I HAVE GONE TO

38 STATES TO LET PEOPLE KNOW WHAT THIS ADMINISTRATION IS TRYING

TO DO IN WASHINGTON -- AND TO LEARN WHAT CONCERNS

our
~~MY~~ FELLOW AMERICANS.

*Obviously, I can't discuss
all of the Issues & Problems
both at home & abroad / So
let me concentrate on abroad.*

Agriculture is a great industry & farmers are wonderful people

ONE OF THESE CONCERNS IS FARM PRICES.

LAST YEAR,



AMERICAN FARMERS RESPONDED TO MY CALL FOR FULL PRODUCTION.

THIS YEAR, THEY HARVESTED A RECORD WHEAT CROP. THEY EXPECT

A RECORD CORN CROP BY THE END OF THE HARVEST YEAR.

AMERICAN FARMERS WANT -- AND HAVE EVERY GOOD REASON
TO EXPECT -- TO SELL ALL THEY PRODUCE EITHER AT HOME OR ABROAD.

I INTEND TO SEE THAT THEY DO -- IN A FREE MARKET AND AT FAIR

PRICES. PROFITABLE AND STEADY GRAIN TRADING RELATIONS

HAVE BEEN BUILT WITH BUYERS IN EUROPE, JAPAN AND ELSEWHERE.

WE CAN COUNT IN ADVANCE ON REGULAR PURCHASES BY THOSE
+ significant
1

FOREIGN CUSTOMERS.

WITH THE SOVIET UNION, A RELATIVELY NEW CUSTOMER, WE DO NOT

YET HAVE THAT ASSURANCE. SOVIET GRAIN PURCHASES HAVE

FLUCTUATED GREATLY IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

Let me illustrate:

IN 1971 - 72, THE RUSSIANS BOUGHT 182 MILLION BUSHELS

OF GRAIN FROM US. IN 1972 - 73, THE FIGURE SOARED TO

524 MILLION BUSHELS. IN 1973 - 74, IT DROPPED TO 252 MILLION

BUSHELS, AND THEN FELL SHARPLY TO ABOUT 74 MILLION BUSHELS

IN 1974 - 75. DURING THIS CROP YEAR, THE RUSSIANS HAVE

ALREADY BOUGHT 399 MILLION BUSHELS AND WANT TO BUY MORE.

THESE WIDE FLUCTUATIONS DISRUPT OUR MARKETS AND

MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR FARMERS TO PLAN PROPERLY. *Furthermore,*
these wide fluctuations have an undesirable
impact on our overall economy.

To achieve a better result for - 17 -
the farmer, the consumer, our economy as a whole

THAT'S WHY I AM GIVING PRIORITY ATTENTION TO

AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION THAT WILL PUT AGRICULTURAL

far more certain &
TRADE ON A PREDICTABLE BASIS -- AN AGREEMENT ALONG THE

LINES OF THE ONE WE ARE NOW CONCLUDING WITH POLAND TO

ASSURE GRAIN SALES OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS AT LEVELS

CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN IN THE PAST.

I AM CONFIDENT WE WILL SOON REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE

RUSSIANS TO FACILITATE THE SALE OF THIS YEAR'S BUMPER CROP

WITH ASSURANCES OF SIMILAR SALES IN FUTURE YEARS --

ALL WHILE MEETING NEEDS AT HOME AND KEEPING FOOD PRICES STEADY,

Certainly within reasonable limits.

ANOTHER PROPER CONCERN OF ALL AMERICANS IS THE
CONDITION OF OUR ECONOMY.

TONIGHT, I CAN TELL YOU THIS: THE RECESSIONARY TREND
We are the right track.
HAS BEEN REVERSED. [^] THERE IS ENCOURAGING NEWS FROM THE
SUPERMARKETS AND OTHER RETAIL STORES OF AMERICA.

A YEAR AGO -- IN SEPTEMBER OF 1974 -- THE COST
OF LIVING WAS RISING AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF MORE THAN 15 PERCENT.
FOR ALL OF LAST YEAR, THE RATE ROSE BY MORE THAN 12 PERCENT.
YET, THE FIGURES JUST IN FOR AUGUST SHOW THE COST OF LIVING
ROSE ONLY TWO-TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT -- AND THAT IS
ENCOURAGING NEWS.

BUT THIS DOESN'T MEAN THE BATTLE AGAINST INFLATION

IS WON. FAR FROM IT. WE MUST CONTINUE TO APPLY

RESTRAINT, PARTICULARLY ON INFLATIONARY SPENDING BY THE

DEMOCRATIC-CONTROLLED CONGRESS. WITH THE REPUBLICANS

IN THE CONGRESS OUTNUMBERED ALMOST TWO TO ONE, ^{*Presidential*} MY VETO

IS OFTEN THE ONLY WEAPON AVAILABLE TO DEFEND FISCAL

RESPONSIBILITY AGAINST THE ASSAULTS OF THE BIG SPENDERS.

*The veto must be used and will be used
to maintain America's financial integrity.*

LET ME EMPHASIZE THIS: / THE EXERCISE OF A

PRESIDENTIAL VETO IS A POSITIVE ACTION, AS THE FRAMERS

OF OUR CONSTITUTION INTENDED IT TO BE. FOR ONE THING,

THE LEGISLATION I HAVE VETOED TO DATE WILL SAVE THE TAXPAYERS

MORE THAN SIX BILLION DOLLARS BY 1977 -- AND THAT'S POSITIVE!

FURTHERMORE, WHEN THESE VETOES WERE SUSTAINED --

AS MOST OF THEM WERE -- THE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY WAS

FORCED TO COME BACK WITH REASONABLE LEGISLATION WHICH

in Congress

REPUBLICANS ₁ COULD SUPPORT.

AND THAT'S POSITIVE ACTION.

IT NOT ONLY SAVED THE TAXPAYERS BILLIONS, BUT RESULTED

IN BETTER LEGISLATION.

BUT THE VETO ISN'T THE LONG-TERM ANSWER.

THE LONG-TERM ANSWER IS FOR REPUBLICANS IN ILLINOIS AND

IN EVERY STATE TO ELECT MORE REPUBLICANS TO THE CONGRESS.

THE WAY TO ELECT MORE REPUBLICANS TO THE CONGRESS

IS THE SAME WAY WE CAN ELECT MORE REPUBLICANS TO STATE

GOVERNORSHIPS, STATE LEGISLATURES AND OTHER ELECTIVE OFFICES

HERE IN ILLINOIS AND ACROSS AMERICA. THAT IS BY EFFECTIVE

ORGANIZATION AND HARD WORK. IT IS BY SUPPORTING STRONG

CANDIDATES BOTH FINANCIALLY AND WITH UNITED PARTY EFFORT.

IT IS BY CONCENTRATING OUR RESOURCES ON DEFEATING

DEMOCRATS RATHER THAN DISCREDITING OTHER REPUBLICANS.

LET'S START WINNING ELECTIONS INSTEAD OF ARGUMENTS.

I HAVE READ A LOT OF COLUMNS AND ARTICLES LATELY
ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. MANY OF THEM
ARE, YOU MIGHT SAY, GLEEFULLY PESSIMISTIC. THEY CITE
THE DWINDLING PERCENTAGES OF VOTERS REGISTERED BY BOTH
MAJOR PARTIES AND THE INCREASING NUMBERS OF AMERICANS WHO
PREFER TO CALL THEMSELVES INDEPENDENTS.

THEY CONCLUDE THAT THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM IS JUST ABOUT DEAD IN
THE UNITED STATES, WHERE IT HAS WORKED SO WELL FOR ALMOST
TWO CENTURIES.

FOR MY PART, I BELIEVE OUR REPUBLICAN PARTY WILL
BOUNCE BACK DRAMATICALLY IN 1976 AS WE DID IN 1966. I SAY
THIS NOT BECAUSE WE POSSESS ANY MONOPOLY OF POLITICAL
WISDOM AND VIRTUE BUT BECAUSE WE ARE MOVING TO MEET THE
DEEPLY-HELD DESIRES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR FISCAL
RESPONSIBILITY IN GOVERNMENT, FOR FIRM BUT RESTRAINED
LEADERSHIP IN WORLD AFFAIRS, FOR DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY AT
HOME, FOR FREEDOM IN PERSONAL DECISION-MAKING, FOR PRACTICAL
COMMON-SENSE SOLUTIONS TO LONG-RANGE PROBLEMS FACING OUR
NATION.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE NOT ONLY GOOD PEOPLE -- THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE SMART PEOPLE. NEITHER THE REPUBLICAN
PARTY NOR ANY OTHER PARTY CAN REPEATEDLY SELL THEM A BAD BILL
OF GOODS. BUT IF THEY GET THE SIMPLE TRUTH AND THE PLAIN
FACTS THEY WILL MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS, AND IF YOU DON'T
BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS IN POLITICS.

I HAVE BEEN TRAVELLING AROUND THIS GREAT COUNTRY

TRYING TO TALK STRAIGHT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. I HAVE

ALSO DONE A LOT OF LISTENING.

IF I WERE AN ORATOR PERHAPS I COULD SAY MORE

ELOQUENTLY WHAT I FORESEE FOR AMERICA, AND IF I WERE A POET

PERHAPS I COULD SUM UP MORE MOVINGLY WHAT I HEAR.

BEING WHAT I AM, I CAN ONLY SAY THAT TWO-WAY

COMMUNICATION WITH MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW-AMERICANS IS FOR

ME AN ESSENTIAL PART OF DOING MY JOB PROPERLY. I INTEND

TO KEEP MY COMMUNICATIONS OPEN, NOT IN ANY FOOLHARDY SPIRIT,

BUT BY EVERY PRUDENT AND PRACTICAL MEANS.

I HAVE COMPLETE FAITH IN THE GOOD WILL AND GOOD SENSE OF

AMERICA AND IN THE ABILITY OF OUR COMPETITIVE POLITICAL SYSTEM

TO PRODUCE RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP FOR OUR

COUNTRY'S FUTURE.

THAT FUTURE WILL BE FAR BRIGHTER THAN OUR PAST,

IF WE ALL PITCH IN AND WORK AT IT. I KNOW THAT ILLINOIS

WILL SET THE PACE.

THAN YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT