

The original documents are located in Box 130, folder “Feb. 22, 1974 - Speech, Citizens' Committee for Fairness to the Presidency, Washington, DC” of the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CITIZENS' COMMITTEE FOR THE FAIRNESS TO THE
PRESIDENCY, MAYFLOWER HOTEL, FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 22, 1974, 12:00 P.M.



RABBI KORFF, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
AND ALL FRIENDS OF FAIRNESS: *+ enthusiastic supporters*
of a great President Richard Nixon
2 minutes
let you see a result I THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS
INTRODUCTION, BUT I MUST WARN YOU THAT I
DID NOT COME HERE TODAY TO MAKE A SPEECH.

I HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS GOING TO MAKE THE SPEECH AND ALL THE VICE PRESIDENT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO DO WAS APPLAUD, HOWEVER, I HAD A POWERFUL PURPOSE IN COMING ANYWAY. I HAVE BEEN TAKING MY ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS MY DOCTOR HASN'T LET ME EAT ANYTHING EXCEPT LIQUIDS. HE JUST FINISHED UP WITH ME AT THE CAPITOL AN HOUR AGO SO I REALLY RUSHED DOWN HERE TO GET A SQUARE MEAL.

*which I do
by reflecting
down the
hand*



SERIOUSLY, I WANT TO COMMEND THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE COME FROM ALL OVER THIS COUNTRY AT CONSIDERABLE EXPENSE TO EXPRESS YOUR CONCERN HERE IN YOUR NATION'S CAPITAL ON THE ISSUE OF FAIRNESS TO THE PRESIDENCY. IT WAS SUGGESTED TO ME THAT I MIGHT WISH TO COMMEND THE PRESIDENT ON OUR TREMENDOUS PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IN THE WORLD DURING HIS ADMINISTRATION. BUT I BELIEVE THAT RICHARD NIXON'S PLACE IN HISTORY AS A PEACEMAKER ALREADY STANDS SECURE. IT NEEDS NO ADORNMENT BY ME.



INSTEAD OF RESTRICTING MY BRIEF REMARKS TO THE REALM OF PEACE, I WOULD PREFER, WITH YOUR INDULGENCE, TO BROADEN THE SUBJECT OF FAIRNESS TO THE PRESIDENCY AND TO APPEAL TO YOU AND TO ALL OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN FOR FAIRNESS TO THE INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT UNDER WHICH WE LIVE HERE IN AMERICA.



IT IS A FITTING COINCIDENCE THAT WE MEET ON THE BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON HERE IN THE FEDERAL CITY NAMED IN HIS HONOR. FOR WHILE GENERAL WASHINGTON IS BEST REMEMBERED FOR HIS MILITARY LEADERSHIP AND AS THE FIRST OCCUPANT OF THE PRESIDENCY, IT WAS PERHAPS AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION THAT HE RENDERED HIS GREATEST SERVICE TO THE YOUNG REPUBLIC.



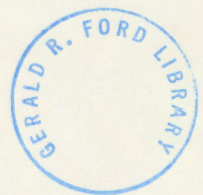
OUT OF THE TEDIOUS DEBATES AND
TORTUOUS COMPROMISES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION, MASTERFULLY GUIDED BY WASHINGTON,
A NEW KIND OF GOVERNMENT WAS FORMED WHICH
HAS LASTED, WITH EVOLUTIONARY CHANGES,
NEARLY 200 YEARS. WHAT HAS NEVER
FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGED IS THE CONSTITUTIONAL
PRINCIPLE OF SEPARATION OF POWERS AND
BALANCE OF POWERS AMONG THE EXECUTIVE,
LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES.



AS ONE WHO IS STILL LEARNING, THROUGH ON-THE-JOB TRAINING, THE CURIOUS ROLE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT -- THE ONLY OFFICE WHERE THE FOUNDING FATHERS VIOLATED THEIR OWN PRINCIPLE OF SEPARATE BRANCHES AND LEFT HIM WITH ONE FOOT IN THE SENATE AND THE OTHER IN THE WHITE HOUSE ANNEX -- I FEEL EMBOLDENED AND ENTITLED TO SAY TO THIS AUDIENCE: OF COURSE THIS COUNTRY NEEDS FAIRNESS TO THE PRESIDENCY IF IT IS TO SURVIVE IN A DANGEROUS WORLD.



SOME SEGMENTS OF AMERICAN SOCIETY WERE GROSSLY UNFAIR TO PRESIDENT WASHINGTON AND TO PRESIDENT LINCOLN AND TO PRESIDENT TRUMAN AND ARE TODAY TO PRESIDENT NIXON. BUT DO WE NOT ALSO NEED FAIRNESS TO THE CONGRESS? DO WE NOT ALSO NEED FAIRNESS TO THE COURTS -- AS WE EXPECT FAIRNESS FROM THE COURTS? OUGHT WE NOT TO STRENGTHEN AND SUSTAIN EACH AND ALL OF THE INSTITUTIONS OF CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT WHICH GEORGE WASHINGTON AND HIS COLLEAGUES GAVE US TO ENSURE THE FREEDOM FOR WHICH THEY HAD FOUGHT?



I AM CONCERNED, AS YOU ARE, THAT UNDER THE HAMMERING OF HOSTILE CRITICS THE PRESIDENT'S RATING IN THE POPULARITY POLLS HAS DROPPED SO LOW. BUT ONE OF THE MAJOR POLLS RECENTLY FOUND THAT WHILE THE PRESIDENT'S SCORE WAS 68 TO 30 PERCENT NEGATIVE IN JANUARY, THE CONGRESS FARED EVEN WORSE -- 69 TO 21 PERCENT NEGATIVE.



HAVING BEEN A MEMBER OF CONGRESS FOR 25 YEARS AND KNOWING MOST OF ITS INCUMBENT MEMBERS AS PERSONALLY AS I HAVE KNOWN THE PRESIDENT FOR THE SAME PERIOD, I SAY IT IS TRAGIC AND TREMENDOUSLY BAD FOR AMERICA WHEN ONLY 20 TO 30 PERCENT OF ITS CITIZENS -- IF THE POLLS ARE ANYWHERE NEAR CORRECT -- HAVE A GOOD WORD TO SAY FOR THEIR ELECTED OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. I SAY WE NEED TO ENCOURAGE FAIRNESS CLEAR ACROSS THE BOARD OR WE STAND IN DANGER OF LOSING THE GREATEST FREE GOVERNMENT THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN.



REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
TO THE CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE FOR FAIRNESS TO THE PRESIDENCY
MAYFLOWER HOTEL

12:00 noon, FEBRUARY 22, 1974

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY



Rabbi Korff, Distinguished guests, and all friends of fairness:

I thank you for your generous introduction, but I must warn you that I did not come here today to make a speech. I had understood that the President was going to make the speech and all the Vice President would be required to do was applaud. However, I had a ~~powerful~~ powerful purpose in coming anyway. I have been taking my annual physical examination and for the past two days my doctor hasn't let me eat anything except liquids. He just finished up with me ~~at the Capitol~~ ^{at the Capitol} an hour ago so I ~~hurry~~ really rushed ~~down~~ down here to get a square meal.

Seriously, I want to commend those of you who have come from all over ~~this country~~ ^{at considerable expense} to express your concern here in your nation's capital on the issue of ~~fairness~~ ^I to the Presidency. It was suggested to me that I might wish to commend the President on ~~his~~ ^{our} tremendous progress toward peace in the world during his administration. But I believe that Richard Nixon's place in history as a ~~peaceamker~~ ^{peacekeeper} already stands secure. It needs no adornment by me. In ~~stead~~ ^{the realm of peace} of restricting my brief remarks to ~~the subject of fairness to the Presidency~~ I would prefer, with your indulgence, to broaden the subject of fairness to the Presidency and to appeal to you and to all our fellow countrymen for fairness to the institutions of government under which we live here in America/.

It is a fitting coincidence that we meet ~~on the birthday anniversary~~ ^{on the birthday anniversary} of George Washington here in the Federal city named in his honor. For while General Washington ~~is~~ ^{is} best remembered for his military leadership and as the first occupant of the Presidency, it was ~~perhaps as~~ ^{perhaps as} chairman of the Constitutional Convention that ~~he~~ ^{his} rendered ~~the~~ ^{his} greatest service to the ~~Republic~~ ^{young} Republic.



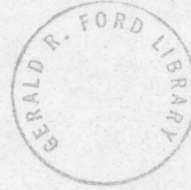
(Out of
~~During~~ the tedious debates and tortuous compromises of the Constitutional Convention, masterfully guided ~~and guided~~ by Washington~~er~~, a new *kind* ~~model~~ of government was formed which has lasted, with evolutionary changes, nearly 200 years. What has never fundamentally changed ~~is~~ ^{is} Constitutional principle of separation of powers and balance of powers ~~among the~~ ^{among the} executive, legislative and judicial branches.

(As one who is ^{still} ~~learning~~ through on-the-job training, the curious role of the Vice President -- the only office ^{where} ~~in~~ the Founding Fathers violated their ~~own~~ ^{own} principle of ~~separation~~ ^{branches} and left him with one foot in the Senate and the other in the White House annex -- I feel emboldened and entitled to say ~~this~~ to this audience: Of course this country needs fairness to the Presidency if it is to survive in a dangerous world. Some segments of American society were grossly unfair to President Washington and to President Lincoln and to President Truman ^{are today} and to President Nixon. But do we not also need fairness to the Congress? Do we not also need fairness to the Courts ~~as we expect~~ ^{as we expect} ~~fairness from~~ ^{sustain} the Courts? Ought we not to strengthen and ~~sustain~~ ^{sustain} each and all of the institutions of Constitutional government which George Washington and his colleagues gave us to ensure the freedom for which they had fought?
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I am concerned, as you are, that under the hammering of hostile critics the President's rating in the popularity polls had ~~dropped~~ ^{dropped} so low. But one of the major polls recently found that while the President's score was 68 to 30 percent negative in January, the Congress fared even worse -- 69 to 21 percent negative. Having been a member of Congress for 25 years and knowing most of its incumbent members as personally as I have known the President for the same period, I say it is tragic and tremendously bad for America when only 20 to ~~30~~ ³ percent of

anywhere near
its citizens -- if the polls are ~~correct~~ -- have a good word to say for
their elected officials in Washington. I say we need to encourage fairness
clear across the board or we stand in danger of losing the greatest free
government the world has ever known.

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1969-1977

Marking The 242nd Birthday
THE FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY



*The Pioneering Spirit
of the First President Built America*



*The Pioneering Spirit
of the Thirty-Seventh President Will Preserve America*



*Friday, the Twenty-second Day of February
Nineteen Hundred Seventy-Four
twelve o'clock*

MAYFLOWER HOTEL
Grand Ballroom
Washington, D. C.

**THE NATIONAL CITIZENS' COMMITTEE
FOR FAIRNESS TO THE PRESIDENCY**
Nine Hundred Eighteen Industrial Bank Building
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

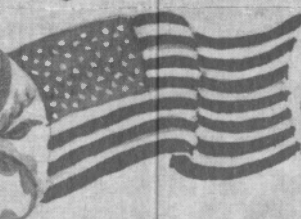


To the President of the United States
from the People of the United States

On the day we gather to pay homage to the
Father of his Country and the Founders and
Builders of this Nation, we gratefully acknowledge your
valiant leadership, your courage and vision leading to a new
era of peace, freedom and opportunity.

We are grateful for the faith that makes you
fearless and the strength that equals your responsibilities.
We pray that you continue to lead our country and the
world in the advancement and fulfillment of peace and human
welfare.

Presented to President Richard M. Nixon this
twenty-second day of February, nineteen hundred seventy four by
the National Citizens Committee for Fairness to the Presidency in assembly
at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C.





Program

A TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON

MR. OLOF V. ANDERSON..... *LUNCHEON CHAIRMAN*
Vice-Chairman NCCFP

RABBI BARUCH KORFF..... *PRESIDING*
General Chairman NCCFP

MR. STANLEY LIPP..... *NATIONAL ANTHEM*
..... *INVOCATION*

Luncheon

MR. OTHAL BRAND..... *GREETINGS*
Committee to Support the President

MISS MARCIA ANN FERNANDES..... *INTRODUCTION*
NCCFP

THE HONORABLE STROM THURMOND..... *GREETINGS*
U. S. Senate

MRS. BENJAMIN STEIN..... *GREETINGS*
on behalf of the Cabinet wives

MR. JOHN TUNIS BOTTOMLY..... *INTRODUCTION*
NCCFP

THE HONORABLE EARL L. BUTZ..... *ADDRESS*
Secretary of Agriculture

MISS CARMEL A. J. MOTHERWAY..... *GREETINGS*
NCCFP

MR. BARRY PAUL COOPERSTEIN..... *INTRODUCTION*
NCCFP

THE HONORABLE GERALD R. FORD..... *ADDRESS*
Vice President of the United States

Presentation of Scroll

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES..... *RESPONSE*

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Receiving Line

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(more)

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