The original documents are located in Box 130, folder "Mar. 1, 1974 - Speech, Trunk 'N Tusk Dinner, Phoenix, AZ" of the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD AT A TRUNK'N TUSK CLUB DINNER PHOENIX. ARIZONA 7:00 P.M. FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1974

WHEN YOU HAVE HAD A JOB FOR A LONG
TIME AND GIVE IT UP FOR A NEW POSITION, YOU
ALWAYS LEAVE SOME PROJECTS UNFINISHED. I
WAS THEREFORE INTERESTED IN MY SUCCESSOR.
I WANTED HIM TO BE SOMEONE WHO WOULD CARRY
ON WITH MY GREATEST UNFINISHED PROJECT -THAT OF BECOMING MAJORITY LEARER OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

I AM VERY PLEASED THAT JOHN RHODES
TOOK OVER THE MINORITY LEADERSHIP. IF YOU
HAVE HEARD HIM SPEAK RECENTLY, YOU KNOW HE
IS WORKING HARD TO ELECT REPUBLICANS TO THE
HOUSE.

IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT JOHN RHODES
REPRESENTS THE FIRST DISTRICT. WITH HIM,
IT'S ALWAYS ARIZONA FIRST. I KNOW THIS
BECAUSE I WORKED CLOSELY WITH JOHN ON MANY
PROJECTS IN THE HOUSE. WE WORKED VERY
CLOSELY TOGETHER WHEN HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE
HOUSE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE. I CAN
TELL YOU THAT HE NEVER LOST AN OPPORTUNITY
TO PLUG ARIZONA, THE PEOPLE, AND THE SUNSHINE.



JOHN HAS BEEN CONSTANT IN HIS WORK
FOR THE CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT. IF OTHERS
HAVE HEARD ABOUT IT LIKE I HAVE, HE IS KEEPING
CONGRESS FULLY AWARE OF THE NEEDS OF ARIZONA-FOR WATER USE TO BENEFIT THE STATE'S FUTURE
ECONOMY.

YOU CAN BE APPROPRIATELY PROUD THAT

JOHN RHODES WAS PICKED UNANIMOUSLY BY

REPUBLICANS TO BE THEIR SPEARHEAD IN THE

HOUSE. IT IS A TRIBUTE TO HIS QUALITIES OF

LEADERSHIP, HIS UNDERSTANDING, AND HIS PENCHANT

FOR HARD WORK. I KNOW IT IS HARD WORK BECAUSE

I AM FAMILIAR WITH THE JOB.

ABOUT EXTENDING SECRET SERVICE PROTECTION
TO THE MINORITY LEADER. I SAID THAT I DID
NOT THINK IT WAS NECESSARY. "OH, NO" THEY
SAID, "JOHN RHODES DOESN'T NEED PROTECTION.
IT'S FOR HIS GOLF PARTNERS."-

I SIMPLY DO NOT SEE HOW A MAN SO CONCISE AND ACCURATE IN CONGRESS COULD BE SUCH A SCATTER-SHOT ON THE GOLF COURSE.



JOHN RHODES MAY BE A <u>SPRAY</u> SHOOTER ON THE GOLF COURSE, BUT HE IS A REAL <u>STRAIGHT</u> SHOOTER IN CONGRESS. ALL REPUBLICANS CAN BE PROUD THAT HE REPRESENTS US IN THE HOUSE.



TONIGHT I WANT TO EMPHASIZE HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO PREVENT THE NEW LEADER FROM BEING STRIPPED OF THE POWER TO INFLUENCE LEGISLATION. | REFER TO EFFORTS BY THE NATIONAL BUREAUCRACY OF BIG LABOR IN WASHINGTON TO BRING ABOUT A SO-CALLED "VETO-PROOF CONGRESS". THIS MEANS ELECTING A SENATE AND HOUSE THAT CAN MUSTER A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY TO OVERRIDE PRESIDENTIAL VETOES. IT ALSO MEANS THAT WE WOULD WITNESS THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM AND THE SYSTEM OF TRADITIONAL CHECKS AND BALANCES.



LABOR BUREAUCRATS IN WASHINGTON WOULD MOBILIZE MASSIVE SUPPORT TO ELECT WHO WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE CONGRESSMEN RESPONSIVE TO THE RANK AND FILE OF UNION MEMBERSHIP NATIONWIDE BUT WHO WOULD TOE THE LINE OF THE UNION BUREAUCRACY IN WASHINGTON. UNION MEMBERS RECALL THE GREAT INSIGHT OF SAMUEL GOMPERS WHO SAID THAT TIE LABOR TO A SINGLE PARTY WAS TO FOLLOW THE ROAD TO DISASTER. BUT THE UNION BUREAUGRACY SEEMS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN SAMUEL GOMPERS.

I WANT A CONGRESS THAT TRULY REFLECTS
ALL AMERICANS, INCLUDING THE MEMBERS OF
UNIONS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. I DO
NOT WANT A SITUATION IN CONGRESS IN WHICH
THE LABOR BUREAUCRATS IN WASHINGTON WILL
EXERCISE MORE POWER THAN THE PRESIDENT.

A CONGRESSMAN SHOULD BE BEHOLDEN ONLY TO HIS CONSTITUENTS -- AND TO THE WHOLE SPECTRUM OF PEOPLE HE REPRESENTS. HE SHOULD NOT BE BEHOLDEN SOLELY TO THE LABOR BOSSES.

WE CANNOT TRANSFER POWER FROM THE PEOPLE TO A SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP OF LABOR BUSSES AND LABOR BUREAUCRATS.

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS QUESTIONED
THE ROLE OF THE OIL INDUSTRY AND DEMANDED
ACCOUNTABILITY. WE HAVE AT LEAST THE SAME
RIGHT TO QUESTION THE MOTIVES OF THE LABOR
BUREAUCRACY.



I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT A RUNAWAY, VETO-OVERRIDING CONGRESS WOULD UNDERMINE OUR TWO-PARTY SYSTEM. SUCH A CONGRESS WOULD NOT POSSESS THE NORMAL LEGISLATIVE CHECKS AND BALANCES. IT WOULD TAKE POWER AWAY FROM OUR TRADITIONAL STRUCTURE OF SELF-GOVERNMENT AND MAKE THE UNION BUREAUCRACY IN WASHINGTON THE REPOSITORY OF ULTIMATE GOVERNING POWER. UNION BUREAUCRATS COULD DICTATE POLICY WITHOUT THE AGREEMENT OF THE MILLIONS WHO PAY UNION DUES. CONGRESS WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO THE LABOR BUREAUCRATS, NOT TO PEOPLE BACK HOME IN THE DISTRICTS.



IF THE GOAL OF A VETO-PROOF CONGRESS IS REACHED, WE WILL RETURN TO THE RUBBER STAMP CONGRESS THAT LYNDON JOHNSON CONTROLLED IN THE ERA OF THE 1960'S WHEN SPENDING AND WASTE KNEW NO BOUNDS -- AND WHEN THE FOUNDATION WAS LAID FOR SOME OF OUR PRESENT DIFFICULTIES. INSTEAD OF A RUBBER STAMP CONGRESS CONTROLLED BY THE PRESIDENT, WE WOULD HAVE A RUNAWAY CONGRESS CONTROLLED BY THE BIG LABOR BUREAUCRACY IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

TAKE OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IS IN TROUBLE. IT WOULD BE A TRAVESTY ON THE SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES. THEY WILL WRITE THE CHECKS -- BUT WE WILL NOT HAVE THE BALANCE IN OUR BANKBOOKS. WE WOULD NO LONGER HAVE THE ITEM BY ITEM SCRUTINY THAT HAS TRADITIONALLY PROTECTED THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE VIGOROUS COMPETITION OF TWO VIABLE PARTIES.

I FEAR THAT UNWISE SPENDING AND THE WILD ADOPTION OF UNSOUND PROGRAMS WOULD BRING ABOUT A FINANCIAL RAMPAGE THAT WOULD NOT SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS BUT WOULD ESCALATE AN INFLATIONARY SPIRAL. AN UNBALANCED CONGRESS WILL LEAD TO AN UNBALANCED ECONOMY.



CLIMATE PREVALENT IN THIS NATION IS BEING EXPLOITED BY BIG LABOR TO OBTAIN A CONGRESS SUBSERVIENT TO IT. SUCH A CONGRESS MIGHT FIND THE REPUBLICAN MEMBERS SO OVERWHELMED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO BALANCE REMAINING WITHIN THE INTERNAL CONGRESSIONAL SYSTEM. THE CONCEPT OF A BALANCE OF POWER WOULD BE DESTROYED.

AMERICA HAS FLOURISHED AS A FREE SOCIETY BECAUSE OF THE BALANCE OF POWER INHERENT IN THE THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF A BALANCE WITHIN THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH. IF ONE BRANCH IS OUT OF HARMONY, THE TOTAL BALANCE IS IN TROUBLE.

THE CONCEPT OF A VETO-PROOF CONGRESS WOULD DISTORT THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS, TAKING IT AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE AND TOWARD A CONCENTRATION OF BUREAUCRATIC POWER IN THE HANDS OF LABOR BOSSES FINANCING CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGNS.

! AM CONFIDENT THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL NOT BE MANIPULATED INTO SURRENDERING, IN EFFECT, THEIR FULL RIGHT TO CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION. I KNOW THAT DIFFERENCES -- SERIOUS DIFFERENCES --EXIST BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT. BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT CONGRESS IS COMMITTED TO RESOLVING THE IMPEACHMENT ISSUE THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANNELS AND NOT THROUGH SOME CONCEPT OF STRIPPING THE PRESIDENT'S LAWFUL POWERS BY PACKING CONGRESS SO AS TO NULLIFY THE VETO.

I WANT TO PRESERVE THE CONGRESSIONAL
SYSTEM -- AND THE AMERICAN SYSTEM -- BECAUSE
I AM PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN.

THEREFORE, I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU MY
OPTIMISM ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR GRAND OLD
REPUBLICAN PARTY -- AND OF OUR NATION. I
BELIEVE THAT JOHN RHODES CAN NOT ONLY
COMMAND AN EFFECTIVE MINORITY IN THE HOUSE
BUT ALSO THAT HE CAN AND WILL BECOME
MAJORITY LEADER.

ALTHOUGH I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE TRENDS I HAVE MENTIONED, I DO NOT SHARE THE PESSIMISM OF THOSE WHO SOW DOUBT AND DESPAIR.

I BELIEVE IN MY PARTY AND MY NATION.

I BELIEVE IN THE CLIMATE OF PEACE THAT WE HAVE GENERATED WORLDWIDE.

WE EXTRICATED OURSELVES FROM THE WAR IN VIETNAM -- ACHIEVING PEACE WITH HONOR.

WE LIBERATED THE BRAVE MEN WHO FOR SO LONG WERE PRISONERS OF WAR.

WE ENDED THE DRAFT.

WE SEPARATED THE WARRING PARTIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BRINGING THE WORLD BACK FROM THE BRINK OF CATASTROPHE.

WE CREATED A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

WE ARRIVED AT A DEGREE OF UNDER-STANDING WITH THE SOVIET UNION THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNTHINKABLE 20 OR EVEN 10 YEARS AGO. WE CANNOT TURN THE CLOCK BACK
TO WHAT USED TO BE. BUT WE CAN MOVE FORWARD
TO A HOPEFUL FUTURE.

THAT THE PROPER FUNCTION OF GOVERNMENT IS TO DO FOR PEOPLE THOSE THINGS THAT HAVE TO BE DONE, BUT CANNOT BE DONE AS WELL BY INDIVIDUALS FOR THEMSELVES.

OUR GOALS IN THE YEAR 1974 ARE TO:
SURMOUNT THE ENERGY CRISIS AND
BUILD A LONGTERM CAPACITY FOR MEETING ALL
OUR OWN NEEDS.

PROMOTE LASTING PEACE BY NURTURING THE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.

MAINTAIN ECONOMIC GROWTH WHILE WINDING DOWN INFLATION.

STIMULATE EMPLOYMENT.



OF NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE AT A REASONABLE COST.

REDUCE FEDERAL CONTROL AND OPEN
A NEW ERA OF ACHIEVEMENT AND RESPONSIVENESS
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I BELIEVE THAT FREE ENTERPRISE
AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL
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RETAINING AND ALWAYS RECEPTIVE TO NEW
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PERFORMANCE AS WE APPEAL TO ALL SEGMENTS
OF THE POPULATION.

AND I BELIEVE THAT ONLY THROUGH
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LET US TAKE A NEW LOOK AT OURSELVES
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THROUGH OUR OWN EYES AND NOT THROUGH THE
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VICE PRESIDENT IN AN ADMINISTRATION THAT
IS IMPLEMENTING THE OBJECTIVE STATED BY
ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN HIS SECOND INAUGURAL
ADDRESS: TO SEEK "A JUST AND LASTING
PEACE, AMONG OURSELVES, AND WITH ALL
NATIONS."

THE VICE PRESIDENT IN AN ADMINISTRATION WHICH IS SERVED BY A BRILLIANT HOUSE MINORITY LEADER WHO IS GOING TO TRIUMPH IN PRESERVING THE GREAT TRADITIONS OF OUR LEGISLATIVE BRANCH.

I THANK YOU.

TRUN'K TUSK

Introduction -

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1) Outstanting Compressional

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REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD ATTRUNK'n TUSK CLUB DONNER

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

FORRELEASE AT 7PM. PRIDAY

When you have had a job for a long time and give it up for a new posstion, you always leave some projects unfinished. I was therefore interested in my successor. I wanted him to be someone who would carry one with my greatest unfinished project --- that of becoming Majority Leader of the House of Representatives.

I am very pleased that John Rhodes took over the Minority Leadership. If you have heard him speak recently, you know he is working hard to elect the publicans to the House.

It is appropriate that John Rhodes represents the First District.

With him, it's always Arizona first. I know this because I worked closely with John on many projects in the House, We worked very closely together when he was Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee. I can tell you that he never lost an opportunity to plug Arizona, the people, and the sunshine.

John has been constant in his work for the Central Arizona Project.

If others have heard about it like I have, he is keeping Congress fully aware of the needs of Arizona --- for water use to benefit the State's future economy.

You can be appropriately proud that John Rhodes was picked unanimously by Republicans to be their spearhead in the House. It is a tribute to his qualities of leadership, understanding, and penchant for hard work. I know it is hard work because I am familiar with the job.

hey were talking to me the other day about extending Secret Service protection to the Minority Leader. I said that I did not think it was necessary.

"Oh, no, " they said, "John Rhodes despot need protection. It's for his golf partners." I simply do not see how a man so concise and accurate in Congress could be such a scatter-shot on the golf course.

John Rhodes may be a spray shooter on the gold course, he is a real straight in Congress. All Republicans can be proud that he represents us in the House.

Tonight I want to the emphasize how important it is to prevent the new Minority Leader from being stripped of the power to influence legislation. I refer to efforts the national bureaucracy of Big Labor in Washington to bring about a so-called "Veto-Proof Congress". This means electing a Senate and House that can muster a two-thirds majority to override Presidential vetoes. It also means that we would witness the destruction of the TWO-PARTY SYSTEM AND THE SYSTEM OF traditional checks and balances.

Labor bureaucrats in Washington would mobilize massive support to elect Congressmen who as at necessarily to responsive to the rank and file of union membership nationwide but who support the line of the union bureaucracy in Washington. Union members recall the great insight of Samuel Gompers who said that to tie labor to a single party was to follow the road to disaster. But the union bureaucracy seems to have forgotten Samuel Gompers.

Tel me illustrate my concern by recalling a situation that existed in my own

State of Michigan. The union burequeacy in Washington advocated busing
of children to public school away from their homes neighborhoods. A

Vest majority of union members in Michigan let me knew that they opposed

busing

But their bureaucraey in

Concernes.

Washington was telling Congress that if the did not support busing, Big

I want a Congress that truly reflects all Americans, including the members of unions throughout the United States. I do not want a situation in Congress in which the labor bureaucrats in Washington will exercise more power than the President.

The Congressman should be beholden only to his constituents --- and to the whole spectrum of people and the herepresents. He should not be beholden solely to the self arms to be a self per product of the huracueracy that lives off labor bosses.

We cannot transfer power from the people to a special interest group of bureaucrats.

demanded accountability. We have at least the same right to question the

I am deeply concerned that Congress would undermine
our two party system. Such a Congress would not possess the normal
legislative checks and balances. It would take power away from traditional trad

If the goal of a value Congress is reached, we will return to the rubber stamp Congress that Lyndon Johnson controlled in era of the 1960's when spending and waste knew no bounds --- and when the foundation was laid for some of our present difficulties. Instead of a rubber stamp Congress controlled by the President, we would have a runaway Congress controlled by the big labor bureaucracy the National capital.

A Congress that lacks the give and take of the legislative process is in trouble. It would be a travesty on the system of checks and balances.

They will write the checks --- but we will not have the balance in our bankbooks.

We would no longer have the item by item scrutiny that has traditionally protected the public through the vigorous competition of two viable parties.

I fear that unwise spending and the wild adoption of unsound programs would bring about a financial rampage that would not solve our problems but would escalate an inflationary spiral . An unbalanced Congress will lead to an unbalanced economy .



It appears to me that the emotional climate prevalent in this

Nation is being exploited by Big Labor to obtain a Congress subservient to it.

Such a Congress might find the Republican members so overwhelmed that there would be no balance remaining within the internal Congressional system.

The concept of a balance of power would be and reminded.

America has flourished as a free society because of the delicate or chestration of the balance of power inherent in the three branches of Government against the background of a balance within the legislative branch. If one branch is out of/harmony, the thin is in trouble

The concept of a veto-polynomers would distort the decision-making process, taking it away from the people and toward a concentration of bureaucratic power in the hands of the financing Congressional campaigns.

Rank and file union measures have little or no cay on the stidates

and policies selected by labor bureaucrats in Washington. The process of

popular electron is risus dispurted. We cannot permit decision or dispute the nalls of Georgress to one oruces of the late.

I am confident that the American people will not be manipulated into surrendering, in effect, their full right to Congressional representation.

I know that differences -- serious differences --- exist between the Congress and the President. But I also know that Congress is committed to resolving the impeachment issue through the appropriate Constitutional channels



lawful

and not through some concept of stripping the President's powers by

I want to preserve the Congressional system --- and the American system --- because I am proud to be an American.

I am also proud to be a Republican. Therefore, I want to share with you my optimism about the future of our grand old Republican Party

--- and of our Nation. XX I believe that John Rhodes can not only command an effective minority in the House but also that he can become

Majority Leader.

Although I am concerned about the trends I have mentioned, I do not share the pessimism of those who sow doubt and despair.

I believe in my Party and my Nation . I believe in the climate of peace that we have generated worldwide .

We extricated ourselves from the war in Vietnam -- achieving peace with honor.

We will liberated the brave men who for so long were prisoners of war.

We ended the draft.

We separated the warring parties in the Middle East, bringing the world back from the brink of catastrophe.

We created a new relationship with the People's Republic of China .

We arrived at a degree of understanding with the Soviet Union that would have been unthinkable 20 or even 10 years ago.

TARALO AN BRAYA

we cannot turn the clock back to what used to be. But we can move forward to a hopeful future. This is a like itea.

To meet the temporary emergency, we are taking a wide range of contingency measures. The thrust of our efforts is to preserve jobs. We are striving to prevent shortages from hitting too heavily at key industries to prevent a chain reaction of unemployment.

Workers whose jobs are outmoded will be retrained. New jobs are being created in our ever-expanding technology. A temporary transitional gap has dislocated too many workers here and elsewhere. We regret the existing hardship and uncertainty. We have contingency plans that will be implemented to meet these crises.

Beyond this pre-dawn darkness lies a new creativity for America. Our economists mediate the big car become with the proposition of small or compact cars needed for replacement. For next year, for the years after, the prognosis is excellent.

As lifestyles change, we will build new communities and new types of housing. We will find new resources and new industries. We will be busier and happier and healthier than ever.

Meanwhile, steps are being taken to ease the short-term problem of transition. We have taken a variety of measures to assist the unemployed and temporarily dislocated. We regret the degree of human distress and are doing everything we can to alleviate it.

Administration is asking for special assistance to areas of high juliconess by extending 26 week unemployment benefits an additional law weeks through rememberate joint action.

Workers are entitled to unemployment compensation to include agriculture and other areas not now covered. Individuals would be included regardless of whether their job loss was caused by the energy crisis:

In and nationwide there is a ready supply of

Redenal State Coperation to most the entain-

I believe, as

Abraham Lincoln did, that the proper function of government is to do for people those things that have to be done, but cannot be done as well by individuals for themselves.

Our goals in the year 1974 are to:

Surmount the energy crisis and build a longterm capacity for meeting all our own needs.

Promote lasting peace by nurturing the Middle East settlement.

Maintain economic growth while winding down inflation. Stimulate employment.

Establish a comprehensive system of National Health Insurance to provide medical care at a reasonable cost.

Reduce Federal control and open a new era of achievement and responsiveness in State and local governments.

Reform Federal aid to education.

Achieve better transportation nationally and in each community.

Begin reform of the present demeaning welfare system.

Develop adequate safeguards to protect individual rights against intrusions of new technology.

Through international negotiation, establish a framework for America to share fully in an expanding world prosperity.

The time has come for the nation, the Congress, and the Administration to unite to move America forward. There is no ground for pessimism or a psychological complex of defeat. I say this particularly to Republicans.

A Republican Congressional candidate came so near winning in Pennsylvania special election that we can count it as a moral victory. The difference was a mere handful of votes in a district where Democrats had a registration edge of 8,000. The Republican Party is alive and well.

I believe in the Republican Party because I believe that faith in the individual is the only true foundation of our national strength.

I believe that free enterprise and the encouragement of individual incentive have given this Nation an economic system second to none on earth.

I believe the Republican Party is a party of vision, retaining those things from the past that are worth retaining and always receptive to new ideas in the task of building a better America.

I believe we can win on merit and performance as we appeal to all segments of the population.

And I believe that only through the Republican Party can basic American ideals become active and successful principles of government.

Let us take a new look at ourselves as a political party.

Let us see ourselves throughour own eyes and not through the perceptions of others.

I am proud to be a Republican Vice President in an Administration that is implementing the objective stated by Abraham Lincoln in his Second Inaugural Address: To seek "a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations."

And I am no less proud to be the Vice President in Administration which is served by a brilliant House Minority Leader who is going to triumph in preserving the great traditions of our legislative branch.

I thank you .