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Wisconsin Republican State Convention

Oshkosh, Wis. 5/25/63

⑦

Introduction - Tedas Longhorn  
Great, great man

Honored to be in a State represented by

John Byrnes

Mal Laird

Al O'Hanlon

Bill Van Pelt

Vern Thompson

Henry Schadelberg



In 1968 you can bolster your delegation with  
several additional members of the House & more important elect a new Senator as well.

*estate*  
At this point may I add a special comment about  
one of the members of your Republican delegation in Washington

. . . . .  
The Republican Party in 1964 has a number of top-notch potential  
candidates for the nomination of President and Vice President. I definitely  
include in this list my close personal friend and outstanding legislator,  
Congressman John W. Byrnes. The Republican Party would be honored to have a person  
with his legislative experience, superb judgment and <sup>recognized</sup> leadership ability on the  
ticket.

\* \* \* \* \*



By your participation in this convention, you should  
be proud of your contribution to your state & nation.

On the other hand many of our neighbors & friends  
should be ashamed of their attitude toward  
politics & politicians.

- a). Recent survey of preferred careers.
- b). U.S. Constitution.

It's politics & politicians who put  
blood in the veins & the breath of life  
in the still bones of a Constitutional System.

- c) We honor & are blessed by the Constitution but -





Before scanning the future, let's analyze the past.

1960 - J.F.K. had the barest majority.

1962 - Governors / Senate / House - Democrats - 51%  
Republicans - 49%

Such razor-thin victories do not justify  
the view that America has given an overwhelming  
mandate for the RADICAL programs sponsored  
by the Whig Keds in the White House.



Despite the fact that the radical element of the Democratic Party<sup>②</sup> dominates The White House

② Controls The Senate by a margin of 66 to 34 & The House of Representatives by 254 to 177.

There is substantial evidence, <sup>that</sup> Republicanism is "on the march"

a). In 1963 there have been numerous G.O.P. victories

1) Municipal elections in:

Baltimore  
High Point N.C.  
Connecticut

2). Legislative elections in  
Florida

b). The President's personal popularity has been slipping steadily.



c). Republicans in one state after another are learning that party unity is essential for Republican Victory. And, in my judgment Republican success locally, statewide or nationally results in constructive, progressive & fiscally responsible government.

Where there is disunity We lose & the  
state & people suffer - California & New  
Hampshire in 1962

On the other hand where there is party unity  
& inspirational leadership we win  
Michigan in 1962



With some pride let me say Michigan was an especially bright spot in 1962.

Because the tragedy of Michigan for the past 14 years may have relevance to 1964 let me retrace this sad era in the history of our state.

1946 - G.O.P. held every statewide office - 12 out of 19 Congressmen

1960 - G.O.P. had no statewide official + 11 out of 18 Congressmen

For 14 long, painfully agonizing years Michigan suffered with George Williams & his successors. What result - bankruptcy, loss of industry + jobs, & prestige.



What caused this catastrophe?

Republicans were splintered with personality clashes.

At times it appeared we had more prima donnas in the ranks of the G.O.P. than we had voters.

Republicans were fractured with minute ideological differences.

Why did Republicans elect a Governor in 1962 & approve a new State Constitution in 1963.

Republicans finally learned in Michigan that if you carry differences to the extreme, if you are unwilling to compromise honorably, you carry the "cause" to the grave.

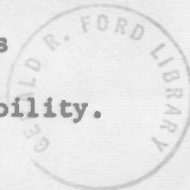
Result of Victory in 1962 - balanced budget + no new taxes

What About 1964 - Republicans can Win.

1. Republicans have an excellent stable of potential candidates.

I note with interest and approval the distinct possibility that Wisconsin Republicans will pledge their delegates to the National Convention in 1964 to a "favorite son," my colleague, Congressman John W. Byrnes. This is proper recognition for his effective record and dedicated service.

The Michigan delegation on the other hand should endorse and support our Governor, George Romney, as a "favorite son" candidate because of his affirmative accomplishments on behalf of Michigan. Under Governor Romney's leadership our state has already moved from bankruptcy to fiscal solvency, from economic stalemate to new heights of economic success. More importantly this has been achieved with less dependence on federal assistance and more emphasis on state and local responsibility.



Excerpts from address by Rep. Gerald R. Ford

Wisconsin State Republican Convention

May 25, 1963

The Republican Party in 1964 has a number of top-notch potential candidates for the nomination of President and Vice President. I definitely include in this list my close personal friend and outstanding legislator, Congressman John W. Byrnes. The Republican Party would be honored to have a person with his legislative experience, superb judgment and leadership ability on the ticket.

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If I am a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1964, I will of course support one candidate over the others, but let me assure you, without hesitation or qualification, if my candidate or candidates lose, I will work and vote for the Republican nominee. We should not be so committed to a single personality or so limited in our Republican ideals and philosophy that we insure victory for the radicals and big-city politicians who now dominate and control the Democratic Party. Let us never forget that the Republican Party is the only vehicle today by which the best traditions of America can be preserved and expanded.

\* \* \* \* \*

A few suggestions for the months ahead:

1). Tell the Truth - Tell it Often - Tell it with Conviction

It is beginning to get through to the American people that there is very little substance to the fog of publicity put out by the mimeograph machines in the White House.

Folks at home are beginning to realize that an Administration can manage the news just so long.

The American people are catching on. By the time of the 1964 election, if we do our job, all Americans will know there is a shaky, shifty foundation

under the House that Jack built.

2). Point out basic differences between Democrats and Republicans

While today's Democratic Party is dominated by radicalism and "big city politicians," the G.O.P. continues to represent modern, progressive, common sense, conservatism with party control resting in the rank and file membership.

The Democratic Party today is the party of "big government" demanding more and more government power over every citizen. As Republicans we defend and insist upon individual initiative, free enterprise, and limited government.

Our Republican Party is a unified, national party with achievable goals. Our opponents form a peculiar coalition with no unity in purpose and little mutual respect.

3). Point out the failure of the Democrats to fulfill their campaign promises.

Let me say with emphasis - - no Administration promised more and produced less.

\* \* \* \* \*

In 1960 during the political campaign the Democrats promised to devise a new national strategy allegedly designed to increase the strength of the non-communist world. Tragically for the United States and our allies, in the past two years and four months the Democratic Administration has simply resurrected the discredited "wait and see" or "let the dust settle" foreign policy that lost China and eastern Europe in the 1940s to the Communist dictators in the Kremlin.

Despite the campaign promises of new prestige the Kennedy Democrat Administration has:

- 1). waited while the Wall was built in Berlin
- 2). waited while Soviet troops and arms were shipped into Cuba
- 3). dilly-dallied in Laos
- 4). made concession after concession in the negotiations for a nuclear test ban
- 5). removed ballistic missiles from Italy and Turkey.

We must remind our fellow citizens that under eight years of the Eisenhower-Republican Administration our military strength and strategy successfully met the Communist challenge in Berlin, at Quemoy and Matsu, and in Lebanon in the Middle East.

We must remind our fellow citizens that America's prestige and success in the 1950's has deteriorated under the vacillating indecision of the "wait and see" policies of the Democrats.

\* \* \* \* \*

What Republicans must do to win

We Republicans must start walking across America block by block, stopping at every home and farm and factory and dockside along the way, pointing out the failure of the Democrats and selling these basic Republican principles I have been talking about.



If we do this, we will retire the Kennedys from the White House to Glen Ora, or Newport, or Hyannis Port, or Palm Beach, or wherever else they may have homes by that time.

The people who are going to put the wheels under the Kennedy rocking chair and push him out of the White House are right here in this room. You have an important state. You have the enthusiasm and the desire. You can get the money. You have the independent spirit of the Abe Lincolns and Teddy Roosevelts and Dwight Eisenhowers and other greats of our Republican Party. You have all the ingredients so that you can bring victory to us and to the nation in 1964. The question is -- will you accept the challenge ??

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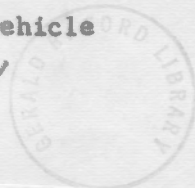
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The people who are going to put the wheels under the Kennedy rocking chair and push him out of the White House are right here in this room. You have an important state. You have the enthusiasm and the desire. You can get the money. You have the independent spirit of the Abe Lincolns and Teddy Roosevelts and Dwight Eisenhowers and other greats of our Republican Party. You have all the ingredients so that you can bring victory to us and to the nation in 1964. The question is -- will you accept the challenge ??

I hasten to add however this footnote

If I am a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1964, I will of course support one candidate over the others, but let me assure you, without hesitation or qualification, if my candidate or candidates lose, I will work and vote for the Republican nominee. We <sup>as Republicans</sup> should not be so committed to a single personality or so <sup>limited</sup> ~~limited~~ in our Republican ideals and philosophy that we <sup>have the right to</sup> ~~insure~~ victory for the radicals and big-city politicians who now dominate and control the Democratic Party. Let us never forget that the Republican Party is the only vehicle today by which the best traditions of America can be preserved and <sup>expanded</sup> ~~extended~~.

\* \* \* \* \*



2). Democratic Record is vulnerable.

In this complicated, controversial & turbulent world, Kennedy policies are inadequate at Home & Abroad.

Let me say with emphasis - no Administration promised more & produced less.

Furthermore when The President's policies are weak, vacillating & unusual, Republicans have a responsibility to spotlight errors & be critical of failures.



The record shows  
In 1960

Despite the campaign promises of new prestige the Kennedy Democrat Administration has:

- We must remind our fellow citizens that under 8 years of the Eisenhower-Republican Administration our military strength and strategy successfully met the Communist

wer-Republic  
mmunist

We must remind our fellow citizens that America's prestige and success in the 1950's has deteriorated under the vacillating indecision of the "wait and see" policies of the Democrats in the "60's".

While on the subject of foreign policy it is  
appropriate to ~~reflect~~ <sup>speak</sup> of the tragedy of  
Cuba.

Under The Kennedy Administration it has been  
one nightmare after another.

- 1) Bay of Pigs
- 2) Prisoner Ransom
- 3) Soviet Military Build-up
- 4) Loss of initiative since November 1962

Present Democratic Policy, if there is one, is to let  
the dust settle & hope for a break. This didn't work  
in China in the 1940s. It will ~~be a~~ <sup>be a</sup> failure in Cuba.

Typically in the meantime there is increasing Communist  
infiltration & subversion in all of Latin America which threatens our friends  
in the Caribbean & Central America.





Domestically The Kennedy policies at home deviate widely from the campaign promises

1). This will be the most fiscally irresponsible Administration in the Nations History

a) In the first 30 months the Whig Kids in the White House will have -

1). collected more taxes

2). spent more federal funds

3). accumulated the largest federal deficit

than any other Administration in PEACE or WAR.

b). This Administration will never balance the federal budget - they plan it that way with ever increasing federal payrolls, mounting federal interest payments



2). This Democratic Administrations record on Agriculture is even —

If one takes a careful look at the budgets for the Dept. of Agriculture for the past  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years there is no doubt that Sec. Freeman is the most expensive commodity ever produced by the Dept.

His policies <sup>①</sup> have been no help to the consumer.

<sup>②</sup> disastrous to the taxpayer

<sup>③</sup> ruinous to the Farmer.

I think it significant when the farmers of America had the choice — they voted for FREEDOM & against FREEMAN.



A few suggestions for the months ahead:

1). TELL THE TRUTH - TELL IT OFTEN - TELL IT WITH CONVICTION

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Folks at home are beginning to realize that an Administration can manage the news just so long.

The American people are catching on. By the time of the 1964 election, if we do our job, all American will know there is a shaky, shifty foundation under the House that Jack Built.



2). POINT OUT BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS

While today's Democratic Party is dominated by radicalism and "big city <sup>politics</sup> ~~police~~," the G.O.P. continues to represent modern, progressive, common sense, conservatism with <sup>party</sup> control resting in the rank and file membership.

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3). Our Republican Party is a unified, national party with achievable goals. Our opponents form a peculiar coalition with no unity in purpose and little mutual respect.



*Democratizing the Democratic Party*

Domestically, its policies at home can not meet their Democratic  
campaign promises -

1). the Kennedy Administration will go down in history

*by conclusion what must Republicans do to win*  
On What Republicans must do to win --

We Republicans must start walking across America block by block, stopping at every home and farm and factory and dockside along the way, pointing out the <sup>disposal</sup> failure of the Democrats <sup>at the same time we must</sup> and <sup>1</sup> selling these basic Republican principles I have been talking about.

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