

The original documents are located in Box D19, folder “Republican Associates of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, CA, November 9, 1965” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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READING TEXT

Los Angeles Nov. 9, 1965
Republican Associates of Los Angeles County luncheon

When Bill Woolson invited me to speak today, his letter was quite unusual. It went something like this:

"Dear Congressman Ford:

"Our group has built a reputation for having outstanding programs and exceptional speakers."

Then, Bill listed several notable orators.

His letter concluded: "We hope you will accept the invitation...for until now we have enjoyed excellent programs."

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Among my non-legislative duties as House Republican Leader is speech-making. When the year ends I will have appeared in more than 35 states making nearly 135 speeches, some of them to help the Republican Party raise money.

When I appear at a fund-raising event, I'm reminded of the talking pig and the talking hen walking down ~~and~~ a road.

They came to a restaurant. In the window was a sign advertising "ham and eggs."

"Isn't that sign interesting?" asked the hen.

The pig replied: "I'm not so sure. For you it's only a contribution.

But for me it means total commitment."

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The late President John Kennedy and I served together in the Congress.

His office was once down the hall from mine and we used to walk together to the House chamber.

One day we were talking about making speeches at fund-raising dinners. He recalled something he used to say that was appreciated by his audiences. I'll share it with you.

In warming up his audience, he would say: "I am touched to be here...but not have as much as you have been."

I thank the toastmaster for that gracious introduction. The truth is... he read it exactly as I wrote it.

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The other night after making a speech, I was standing with the dinner chairman shaking hands with people as they filed out. Many people were complimentary, except for the last man. He told me:

"I think your speech was terrible. It was the worst we've ever had."

And, he went on and on.

Of course, I was surprised. The chairman was very upset and apologized.

"Don't pay any attention to that fellow," he said. "He's a nit-wit who never had an original thought in his life. All he does is listen to what other people say and then goes around repeating what he hears."

In a more substantive manner, today I will discuss with you the state of our Republic.

INTO BALANCE IN GOVT. SPEECH