

The original documents are located in Box D22, folder “Saints and Sinners Banquet, Washington, DC, May 3, 1967” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Saints & Sinners Church

Dead Landing - Mayor next of kin!

Walter

SAINTS & SINNERS BANQUET
WASH. D.C.
MAY 3, 1967

Well, I'm glad to see this is Ford country.

I'm not surprised that somebody got me mixed up with Congressman William D. Ford because it happens all the time. I do want to say, though, that even though Bill Ford is a Democrat, we have lots of things in common.

If you'll give me a week or so, I might think of something.

Well, for one thing, we're about the only two Fords in Washington that haven't been called back to Michigan for safety modifications.

But you must never get overconfident in Congress.

Just the other day, I got a letter from an outraged constituent who said, "Congressman Ford, you would sure be a big disappointment to your father, Edsel."

I bucked that letter over to Edsel's real father, Bob McNamara.

My Pentagon spies say he threw it immediately into his credibility gap.

It certainly has been a high honor to be your Fall Guy. A high honor. It reminds me of that fellow who had just been tarred and feathered who said as he was being ridden out of town on a rail: "If it weren't for the high honor, I'd just as soon walk."

This kind of ^{fun} a session is good medicine for egotists.

I suppose Washington has the largest concentration of egotists of any capital in the world, except Paris, where there's only one.

You know how Ambrose Bierce defined an egotist.

"An egotist is a person of very low tastes, more interested in himself than in me."

I don't know what brings LBJ to mind at this moment, but they say President Johnson can't stand kidding, and never attends affairs like this where he's the victim.

Well, I think we have to make an exception for our Commander in Chief.

What a terrible burden the President carries, day and night, all alone!



How would you feel if your daughter were running around with George Hamilton?

They say George Wallace doesn't go for joking either. He's deadly serious about running for President with Lurleen for Vice President. That's a clear case of bedfellows making strange politics.

But Bobby Kennedy, they tell me, is a real sport. He loves Kennedy jokes. Providing the joke's on Teddy, of course. I suppose I shouldn't pick on Bobby when his polls are down. When you drop behind Hubert in the Vice-Presidential surveys, you don't need sarcasm, you need sympathy.

But these quick switches in the popularity polls prove you can never get lazy in politics. Things change too fast.

For instance, nowadays a politician's greatest asset may be his hair-do. Whenever Senator Dirksen and I hold a joint news conference, for instance, the reporters write more about his coiffure than they do about my comments.

But it's Bobby Kennedy's haircut that defies description. He doesn't really have long hair--He just has a short barber. I've heard Bobby's hair-style aptly described as "a haystack in heat."

The emphasis on surplus hair in politics bothers some of us. About 40 of my colleagues voted for "Head Start" because they thought it came in a bottle.

I'm glad you mentioned the Warren Commission because I get a lot of questions about that.

The District Attorney down in New Orleans keeps stirring up scandal, so I checked up on Big Jim Garrison with some of my Louisiana friends.

"Oh, you mean Garrison, the Jolly Green Giant?" they said.

"Why do you call him the Jolly Green Giant?" I asked.

"Well," they said, "He's an expert on canning fruits."

Again, let me say thank you for the fun of being your Fall Guy. I really



Handslide

Board

Int. Rev

Committee

2 yrs

Destruction of checks & balance

1964 - election

Board

Adam Clayton Powell

Foreign Policy

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a clear case of people who swing strange politics.
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Hamilton
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am very grateful. I don't agree with the old saying about "the higher they are, the harder they fall." The way I like to look at it, "The harder you fall, the higher you bounce."

Thank you.

