

The original documents are located in Box D28, folder “Introduction of Rogers Morton at GOP Dinner, Grand Rapids, MI, November 12, 1969” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Introduction of Rogers Morton at GOP Dinner November 12, 1969
at Grand Rapids, Michigan

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: WE HAVE WITH US TONIGHT A
MAN I CONSIDER TO BE A CONSUMATE POLITICIAN -- THAT IS, A
MAN TO WHOM POLITICS IS AN ART, AS INDEED IT SHOULD BE TO ALL
WHO PRACTICE THE ART OF GOVERNMENT. ROGERS MORTON IS A MAN
TO THE MANNER BORN. IN SHORT, HE WAS BORN TO BE A POLITICIAN...
BORN TO POLITICS IN THE BLUE-GRASS COUNTRY OF KENTUCKY...AND
RAISED ON POLITICS IN THE BORDER STATE OF MARYLAND.

Rogers Morton/2

ROGERS MORTON IS A REMARKABLE MAN -- THE KIND OF MAN WHO MAKES A MARK FOR HIMSELF REGARDLESS OF WHAT HE PUTS HIS HAND TO. FOR INSTANCE, WHEN THE UNITED STATES ENTERED WORLD WAR II, ROGERS MORTON ENTERED THE ARMY AS A PRIVATE. WHEN HE WAS SEPARATED FROM THE SERVICE, ROGERS MORTON WAS A CAPTAIN. AT THE AGE OF 33, HE WAS ALREADY PRESIDENT OF A MAJOR BUSINESS FIRM.

IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1962 THAT ROGERS MORTON WENT INTO POLITICS. BUT WHERE OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS GRADUALLY WEAR

Rogers Morton/3

A GROOVE IN THE POLITICAL POWER STRUCTURE JUST BY BEING AROUND FOR A LONG TIME, ROGERS MORTON HAS BECOME A POWER IN JUST A FEW YEARS TIME.

YOU'D BETTER BE NICE TO ROGERS. NOT ONLY IS HE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CHAIRMAN; HE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, WHICH HANDLES ALL TAX LEGISLATION.

SERIOUSLY, ROGERS' RISE IN POLITICS IS QUITE REMARKABLE. SINCE 1964 HE HAS BEEN CHAIRMAN OF A BUSINESSMEN'S "LUNCH WITH JERRY FORD" PROGRAM AT THE U.S. CAPITOL IN WASHINGTON,

Rogers Morton/4

A PROGRAM AIMED AT ACQUAINTING BUSINESSMEN WITH REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP. IN 1967 HE BECAME CHAIRMAN OF A PROGRAM KNOWN AS REPUBLICANS SPEAK ON VITAL PROBLEMS, WHICH SCHEDULED REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMEN TO SPEAK ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES. HE ALSO HAS SERVED AS SECRETARY OF THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE AND THE CAPITOL HILL CLUB, A SOCIAL CLUB FOR REPUBLICANS IN WASHINGTON.

ONE OF THE THINGS WE'VE LEARNED FROM ROGERS IS HOW A REPUBLICAN GETS ELECTED TO CONGRESS IN A DEMOCRATIC DISTRICT,

BECAUSE THAT'S HIS OWN SITUATION IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF MARYLAND. SO IN THE SPRING OF 1968 ROGERS WAS DIRECTOR OF THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES CONFERENCE.

ROGERS' MOST EXCITING TIME IN POLITICS CAME A BIT LATER. HE SERVED AS FLOOR MANAGER FOR RICHARD NIXON AT THE 1968 CONVENTION AT MIAMI BEACH AND DELIVERED THE SPEECH WHICH PLACED SPIRO AGNEW IN NOMINATION FOR THE VICE-PRESIDENCY. DURING THE CAMPAIGN THAT FOLLOWED, ROGERS WAS COORDINATOR OF THE NIXON FOR PRESIDENT COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

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**ROGERS MORTON IS A TAKE-CHARGE GUY. WHEN HE BECAME
REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CHAIRMAN LAST SPRING, HE IMMEDIATELY BEGAN
REORGANIZING THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND BROUGHT FORTH A
SHINY NEW STREAMLINED PRODUCT.**

**HERE HE IS...A BIG MAN IN FAR MORE THAN PHYSICAL
STATURE...THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CHAIRMAN AND OUR SPEAKER FOR
THE EVENING, CONGRESSMAN ROGERS C. B. MORTON.**

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CARDS

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH

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House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

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INTRODUCTION OF ROGERS MORTON

AT GOP DINNER

