

The original documents are located in Box D33, folder “Schuylkill County Republican Committee Campaign Kickoff Dinner, Pottsville, PA, September 23, 1972” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Press Releases

SCH. CO. REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE
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FOR RELEASE AFTER 9 P.M. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1972

Congressman Gerald R. Ford, House Republican Leader, Saturday night described George McGovern as "dangerous" and added that the polls are showing him up for what he is---a fumbler and a bumbler.

Ford was the main speaker at the Schuylkill County Republican Party's Annual Campaign Kick-Off Dinner at Lakewood Park Ballroom before an audience of 1,000 at which Dr. Ivor D. Fenton, former Congressman and Mahanoy City physician, was honored for distinguished service to his former constituents and the county GOP.

The Michigan Congressman charged that McGovern is dangerous because he ^{would} greatly expand welfare rolls and double the taxes of the average American to pay for it; beg for peace in Hanoi and make peace on the enemy's terms; slash defenses unilaterally and trust the Soviet Union to follow suit.

He said that McGovern "would cut our armed forces by 40 per cent without any similar force reductions by the Russians" and wreck the Atlantic Alliance which would "risk the security of every man, woman and child in this country."

"So we need President Nixon more than ever," Ford declared and added that President Nixon needs a Republican Congress.

(more)



Turning his attention to the McGovern campaign, Ford said that to date it has been a mess of miscalculations, blunders, confusion, disorder, waffling, opportunism and demagoguery.

"Is it any wonder that the polls show him lagging far behind President Nixon," Ford asked, then added, "The American people don't want a man to run the country who can't even run his own campaign."

The House Minority Leader pointed out that a victory in Pennsylvania is crucial to a national victory for President Nixon on November 7th and urged the County GOP to get its organization in high gear by getting Republicans and anti-McGovern Democrats registered and to the polls on Election Day.


Ford noted that President Nixon badly needs a Republican Congress because the Congress he now has has made good on only 20 of the Nixon Administrations' 62 major legislative proposals and regarded this as "a lousy track record in anybody's book."

He pointed out that America has had a Democratic Congress for 36 out of the past 40 years and that Democrats have controlled Congress for the past 18.

"This is the reason why we're still talking about tax reform instead of doing something really meaningful about it; why there was no real help for the cities until Nixon beat the Democratic Congress over the head with his revenue-sharing proposal.

"No wonder we still haven't reformed the scandalous welfare system...no wonder we still haven't reorganized the sprawling Federal Bureaucracy...no wonder we still haven't reformed our pension programs," Ford declared.

(more)



He urged his audience to help President Nixon lead this nation by electing Republican to every office in the land, from the court house to the White House.

Congressional Candidate in the Sixth District, Gene Hubler, Berks County, presented Dr. Fenton with a set of cordial glasses on a tray bearing the message, "In grateful appreciation for distinguished service."

Hubler told the audience that Dr. Fenton's 24-year record of service to his former constituents was characterized by love of his fellow man.

"Through his eventful 24 years of service," Hubler said of Dr. Fenton, "he served with distinction, not only as a law maker, but with a deep, abiding interest in people and their well-being."

Hubler noted that Fenton's interest in flood control in Sunbury and the construction of the wall there was an example of his concern for people and observed that this concern dramatically paid off last summer when tropical storm Agnes caused extensive flooding along the banks of the Susquehanna River.

"The flood waters at Sunbury reached within two inches of the Dr. Fenton's flood wall, but it held and Sunbury was spared from what could have been extensive damage," Hubler said.

In response, Dr. Fenton touched briefly on the highlights of his career in Congress from 1938 to 1962 and expressed his gratitude to the county GOP for the gift.

County Chairman Michael Kitsock opened the speaking program by describing the county Republican Party as an organization of "ever-increasing growth, strength and genuine solidarity and predicted a return to "our former total winning ways in November."



Kitsock charged that in 1970 the voters of Pennsylvania had been badly duped and that "the hope and trust in which they had vested in the Shapp Administration two years ago has been continuously and cynically violated ever since."

Kitsock said that political sharpshooters and opportunists, in the shabby guise of reformers have taken over the state, promising economies, fiscal responsibility and integrity in government, all of which have been callously discarded by the wayside.

"Instead, cronyism and patronage now reign supreme in our state and a result, state payrolls are swollen far beyond the ability of long suffering taxpayers to pay," Kitsock declared, then added, "and still Pennsylvania taxpayers will have to face the grim prospects of even high state taxes right after November's election."

The GOP leader urged the election of President Nixon, Glenn Williams for State Treasurer, Frank McCorkle for Auditor General and the entire Republican legislative team in order to "put the brakes on the governor's runaway fiscal policies."

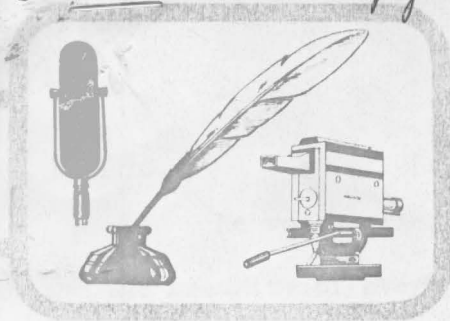
Kitsock introduced Congressional candidate Gene Hubler, State Senator Fred Hobbs and Legislative candidates Jack Dixon, William Klingaman, Atty. William Hutchinson and Paul Ruane.

W. Alan Williams, Esq., Schuylkill Haven, was toastmaster; Senator Hobbs introduced the main speaker; Dan West, Frackville and Emil Simedejka, Minersville, led group singing and Helen Monahan, Tamaqua, was at the console of the organ.

The invocation was given by Rev. Richard L. Hinkle, pastor of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tamaqua; the benediction by Rev. Basil Zeleniak, pastor of St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, Mahanoy City.



Distribution: Copy to Scheykill Co. GOP Comm. only M Office Copy



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6 P.M.--

Saturday, September 23, 1972

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford at the Scheykill County, Pa.,
Republican Committee's campaign kickoff dinner in Pottsville, Pa.

The polls are showing George McGovern up for what he is -- a fumbler and a bumbler.

The entire McGovern campaign to date has been a mess of miscalculations, blunders, confusion, disorder, waffling, opportunism and demagoguery.

Is it any wonder that the polls show him lagging far behind President Nixon?

The American people don't want a man to run the country who can't even run his own campaign.

Democrats as well as Republicans feel this way. They don't like McGovern either. And so we welcome them to vote with us -- to vote for good government and for continued progress toward peace and prosperity.

Let me say at this point that a victory in Pennsylvania is crucial to a national victory for President Nixon on Nov. 7. I urge you to get your organization in high gear. Get Republicans and anti-McGovern Democrats registered and get them to the polls on Election Day.

Let everyone know what an on-again, off-again candidate George McGovern is -- and what a danger he is to sound progress in this country. Then see that they cast their votes for Richard M. Nixon and against McGovern. A vote against McGovern is a vote against misgovernment.

You know why George McGovern is dangerous.

He would greatly expand our welfare rolls and double the taxes of the average American to pay for it.

He would beg for peace in Hanoi -- make peace on the enemy's terms.

He would slash our defenses unilaterally -- and trust the Soviet Union to follow suit.

He would cut our armed forces by 40 per cent without any similar force reductions by the Russians.

(more)



He would wreck the Atlantic Alliance -- and in so doing he would risk the security of every man, woman and child in this country.

So we need President Nixon more than ever.

And President Nixon badly needs a Republican Congress.

The Congress he has now has made good on only 20 of the Nixon Administrations' 62 major legislative proposals. That's a lousy track record in anybody's book.

We've got to focus on electing a Republican Congress this year.

Do you realize the Democrats have controlled Congress for the past 18 years? In fact, America has had a Democratic Congress for 36 out of the past 40 years.

No wonder we're still talking about tax reform instead of doing something really meaningful about it.

No wonder there was no real help for the cities until President Nixon beat the Democratic Congress over the head with his revenue-sharing proposal.

No wonder we still haven't reformed the scandalous welfare system.

No wonder we still haven't reorganized the sprawling Federal bureaucracy.

No wonder we still haven't reformed our pension programs.

Let's look to the future. Let's give President Nixon a second term and a Republican Congress to work with. This Republican team will make things better.

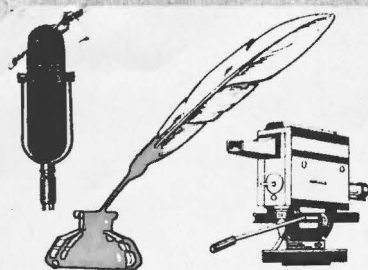
Let's help Dick Nixon lead this nation to new greatness by electing Republicans to every office in the land -- from the court house to the White House. That's the team we need to keep America headed in the right direction.

So let's do the job. Together we can. We are on the march -- we and Dick Nixon. Let's move forward together.

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