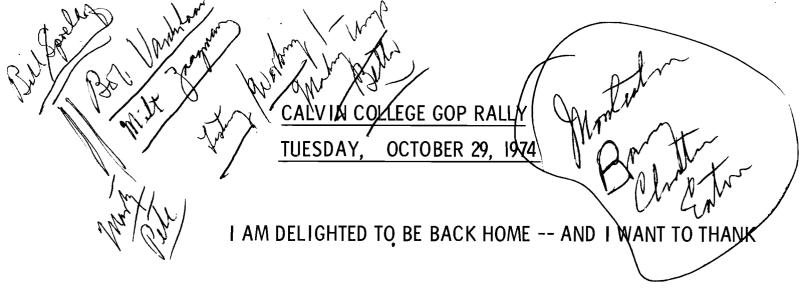
The original documents are located in Box 2, folder "10/29/74 - Calvin College GOP Rally" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.



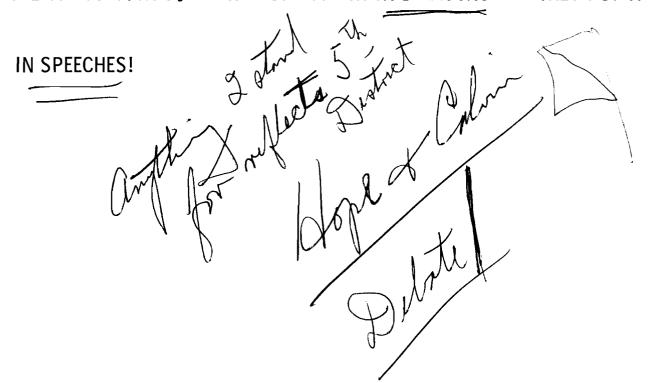
YOU ALL FOR MAKING THIS A VERY MEMORABLE HOMECOMING.

I PARTICULARLY GOT A BIG KICK OUT OF WATCHING ALL THOSE BALLOONS

COME DOWN FROM THE CEILING AT THE START OF THE PROGRAM.

YOU MIGHT SAY THAT'S THE BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR POSITION AND

THE OPPOSITION'S. WE PUT HOT AIR IN BALLOONS ---- THEY PUT IT



COMING BACK TO MY HOME STATE OF MICHIGAN AS PRESIDENT

OF ALL THESE UNITED STATES CREATES A BIT OF A PROBLEM. FOR ONE THING, IT IS HARD TO REMAIN NON-PARTISAN -- PARTICULARLY WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO SUCH BASIC MATTERS AS FOOTBALL.

JUST A FEW MORE WEEKS. PEOPLE KEEP ASKING ME WHO I'LL BE

ROOTING FOR. WELL, I THINK THE LATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY HANDLED

THIS PROBLEM VERY WELL. HE WAS IN IOWA JUST BEFORE THEIR BIG

GAME WITH NOTRE DAME -- AND SOMEONE ASKED HIM THAT SAME QUESTION:

"WHO WILL YOU BE ROOTING FOR?" AND JOHN KENNEDY SAID,

"I'LL BE ROOTING FOR IOWA!"

AND A TREMENDOUS CHEER WENT UP. THEN HE ADDED,

"BUT I'LL BE PRAYING FOR NOTRE DAME!" SO COME THE

MICHIGAN - OHIO GAME, I'LL LET YOU FIGURE OUT WHO I'LL BE ROOTING

AND PRAYING FOR.

EVERY TWO YEARS FOR MORE THAN A QUARTER-CENTURY.

I HAVE CAMPAIGNED IN THIS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, SEEKING

June for all Jym - Republishers | Independents

of Dameston.

I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE TODAY, FOR THREE REASONS:

FIRST, HAVING SERVED TWELVE FULL TERMS IN THE

U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, I AM CONVINCED THAT ONE OF THE MOST
IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES OF A PUBLIC OFFICIAL IS TO DEFEND HIS PROGRAMS
AND POLICIES AND ACTIONS BEFORE HIS CONSTITUENTS AND, IN TURN, TO
OBTAIN FIRSTHAND THEIR VIEWS ON VITAL ISSUES. I BELIEVE THIS
YARDSTICK SHOULD APPLY TO PRESIDENTS AS WELL AS TO CONGRESSMEN.

THAT IS WHY I HAVE TRAVELED SOME 16,900 MILES

SO FAR AS PRESIDENT AND MET WITH THOUSANDS OF CITIZENS FROM

EVERY PART OF THE COUNTRY AND FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

SECOND, AS ON OTHER OCCASIONS, I AM HERE TO SEEK

YOUR SUPPORT -- THIS TIME FOR THE ELECTION OF A CONGRESSMAN FROM

THIS DISTRICT WHO WILL TRULY REPRESENT YOU AND WHO WILL JOIN

WITH $\underline{\mathsf{ME}}$ IN MAKING THE TOUGH DECISIONS NECESSARY TO SET OUR ECONOMIC HOUSE IN ORDER.

THAT IS WHY I HAVE VISITED I6 STATES SO FAR IN THIS

CAMPAIGN -- TO ELECT A CONGRESS THAT WILL HELP ME MAKE SURE YOUR

PAYCHECK BUYS AS MUCH ON THE DAY YOU CASH IT AS ON THE DAYS YOU

EARNED IT.

THERE IS A SPECIAL KIND OF SPIRIT THAT ALWAYS

INSPIRES ME WHEN I VISIT GRAND RAPIDS. THIS IS ANOTHER REASON

WHY I AM HERE TODAY.

THAT SPECIAL GRAND RAPIDS SPIRIT IS THE CONVICTION

THAT PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED. AND THERE IS NO TIME MORE

APPROPRIATE FOR PROBLEM-SOLVING THAN RIGHT NOW.

AS PRESIDENT, I AM ADDRESSING MYSELF TO THE SERIOUS

PROBLEMS FACING AMERICA -- PARTICULARLY OUR NO. I DOMESTIC

PUBLIC ENEMY. WITH YOUR HELP, AND WITH THE ELECTION OF A

COOPERATIVE CONGRESS, I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN WHIP INFLATION

IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. WE HAVE ALREADY MADE A GOOD START.

BUT WE NEED HELP.

I WANT THE VOTING PUBLIC TO KNOW PRECISELY WHAT I

AM SAYING SO THERE IS NO DANGER OF MISUNDERSTANDING. THE

MESSAGE IS THIS: INFLATION IS THE CHIEF PROBLEM WE FACE IN THIS

COUNTRY AND THROUGHOUT THE FREE WORLD. AND THE BIG SPENDERS

IN THE CONGRESS ARE THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO INFLATION.

THIS CONGRESS IS CONTROLLED BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY --

AND HAS BEEN FOR 38 OUT OF THE LAST 42 YEARS AND FOR THE PAST 20

CONSECUTIVE YEARS. IF WE HAVE A PROBLEM WITH INFLATION IN

AMERICA -- AND WE CERTAINLY DO -- THE DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSES OVER

THE YEARS HAVE EITHER CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROBLEM OR DONE NOTHING

TO SOLVE IT. OR BOTH. IF THERE EVER WAS TIME FOR A CHANGE IN

CONGRESS. IT IS THIS YEAR!

NEVERTHELESS, SOME ELEMENTS IN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

NOW WANT MORE THAN MAJORITY CONTROL. THEY WANT -- AND HAVE SAID

SO OPENLY -- TO ELECT A "VETO-PROOF CONGRESS" -- ONE WHICH HAS THE

OVERWHELMING NUMBERS TO OVERRIDE ANY PRESIDENTIAL VETO. IN MY

VIEW, THAT WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO A LEGISLATIVE DICTATORSHIP

IN THIS COUNTRY -- SOMETHING WHICH COULD UPSET THE PROVEN SYSTEM

OF CHECKS AND BALANCES WHICH HAS SERVED US SO WELL FOR SO LONG.

SEAT BELTS -- FOR THE DEMOCRATS' IDEA OF CHECKS AND BALANCES IS

DIFFERENT FROM OURS: THEY WRITE THE CHECKS EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE

NEVER ANY BALANCES.

AND FROM YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, YOU KNOW WHERE THAT CAN LEAD.

A RECENT GALLUP POLL SHOWS THAT BIG GOVERNMENT

SPENDING IS VIEWED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS THE CHIEF CAUSE OF

THE RAMPANT INFLATION WE ARE NOW EXPERIENCING.

HERE TONIGHT TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON THAT BELIEF -- TO MAKE YOUR VOTES

CONSISTENT WITH YOUR VIEWS, TO SEND TO CONGRESS A REPRESENTATIVE

LIKE PAUL GOEBEL, JR., WHO IS COMMITTED TO FIGHTING BOTH SPENDING

AND INFLATION.

TO QUOTE THE GREAT BRITISH PARLIAMENTARIAN,

EDMUND BURKE: ''THE ONLY THING NECESSARY FOR THE TRIUMPH OF EVIL

IS FOR GOOD MEN TO DO NOTHING.''

THAT SAYING APPLIES TO THE ELECTORATE IN GENERAL AND

TO REPUBLICANS IN PARTICULAR. THE WORD WE RECEIVED BACK IN

WASHINGTON IS THAT REPUBLICANS HERE IN GRAND RAPIDS AND IN

MICHIGAN MAY SIT THIS ELECTION OUT -- THAT THEY ARE TURNED OFF BY

POLITICS.

FRANKLY, I DO NOT BELIEVE IT. AND THIS TURNOUT HERE
TODAY DOESN'T INDICATE IT.

WITHOUT QUESTION, APATHY HAS BEEN THE CHIEF VILLAIN

IN THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SCENE. SOME PEOPLE SEEM TO THINK IT

JUST HAPPENED IN THE LAST YEAR OR TWO. I SUGGEST THAT THE

STATISTICS HAVE BEEN REFLECTING IT SINCE 1960.

FOR EXAMPLE, TAKE THE NATIONAL PERCENTAGES OF VOTES

CAST IN CONGRESSIONAL OFF-YEAR ELECTIONS LIKE THIS ONE COMING UP.

BASED ON THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS, ONLY 46.3 PERCENT

TURNED OUT TO CAST BALLOTS IN 1962; ONLY 45.6 PERCENT TOOK THE TIME

TO DO SO IN 1966, AND THE PERCENTAGE OF ELIGIBLES WHO VOTED IN THE

LAST OFF-YEAR ELECTION -- 1970 -- WAS EVEN LOWER -- 43.8 PERCENT.

AND IN THE SPECIAL ELECTION HERE IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT LAST MARCH,

ONLY ABOUT 35 PERCENT WENT TO THE POLLS.

ON THE BASIS OF THOSE FIGURES, ONE COMPUTER PROJECTION HOLDS THAT ONLY 42 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS WILL CAST BALLOTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES NEXT TUESDAY.

THE 94TH CONGRESS WILL BE DECIDED BY SLIGHTLY MORE THAN TWO OUT

OF EVERY TEN ELIGIBLE VOTERS. IN SHORT, THE MAJORITY WOULD LET

THE MINORITY DECIDE.

I URGE YOU TO MAKE SURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN HERE
IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT. WITH ONE WEEK TO GO UNTIL THE ELECTION,
GET INVOLVED IF YOU AREN'T NOW.

WORK AS YOU NEVER HAVE BEFORE FOR PAUL GOEBEL'S

VICTORY. WORK ON THOSE THOUGHTFUL INDEPENDENTS AND WISE

DEMOCRATS WHO BELIEVE AS YOU DO OR ARE AT LEAST SUFFICIENTLY

OPEN-MINDED TO BE CONVINCED. AND MAY I ADD, WORK TO SEND

ECONOMY-MINDED REPUBLICANS TO LANSING AS WELL.

ELECTING PAUL GOEBEL -- A MESSAGE THAT SAYS THAT YOU, THE AMERICAN CONSUMER, THE WORKING MAN AND WOMAN, THE HOUSEWIFE, THE SOLID CITIZENS ARE SICK AND TIRED OF RISING PRICES AND WANT SOMETHING DONE ABOUT IT. LET THE CONGRESS KNOW THAT YOU WANT ACTION ON THE 31-POINT PROGRAM WHICH I REQUESTED TO HELP US WHIP INFLATION AND CONSERVE ENERGY.

THE FIRST THING REQUIRED IN COPING WITH A TOUGH

PROBLEM LIKE INFLATION IS A GOOD PLAN. THAT IS THE WAY WE

STARTED. A MONTH AGO THE CONFERENCE ON INFLATION WAS

CONCLUDED. WE CALLED TOGETHER THE BEST ECONOMIC BRAINS IN THE

COUNTRY AND SPOKESMEN FOR ALL THE VARIED VIEWS OF AMERICAN

ECONOMIC GROUPS. PEOPLE SPOKE THEIR MINDS. WE SELECTED THE

VERY BEST IDEAS AND MOLDED THEM INTO A PACKAGE OF ACTIONS THAT

COULD WORK, IF EVERYONE COOPERATED.

I AM CONFIDENT THE ECONOMIC PACKAGE SENT TO THE

CONGRESS WILL WORK. WE CAN WIN AGAINST INFLATION; WE CAN

GET OUT OF THIS SPIRAL OF EVER-RISING PRICES; WE CAN RESTORE A

HEALTHY ECONOMY IN WHICH EVERYONE HAS A DECENT JOB AND A DECENT

PAYCHECK. IT CAN BE DONE.

MUST ACT. HOWEVER, CONGRESS CAN CHANGE THE PLAN, MODIFY IT,

REFINE IT IF BETTER ALTERNATIVES DEVELOP. IF, WHILE CONGRESS

DELIBERATES, ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE, I WILL BE OPEN-MINDED.

BUT LET US GIVE THIS BASIC PLAN A CHANCE. IT COMES FROM THE

BEST ECONOMIC THINKING THAT AMERICA HAS TO OFFER.

AS I STATED EARLIER, I AM HERE SEEKING YOUR

SUPPORT -- SUPPORT IN THIS BATTLE AGAINST INFLATION, IN KEEPING
THE GRAND RAPIDS SPIRIT ALIVE IN WASHINGTON, IN MAKING SURE WE
HAVE A VIABLE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM IN WASHINGTON THAT CAN KEEP THE
BALANCE IN OUR CHECKS AND BALANCE SYSTEM. AND THE BEST WAY
TO DO THIS IS TO ELECT PAUL GOEBEL TO CONGRESS NEXT TUESDAY.

I KNOW PAUL. I KNOW THAT WE CAN WORK TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FIFTH DISTRICT AND A BETTER GRAND RAPIDS. PAUL'S EXPERIENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE ON THE COUNTY COMMISSION HAS BEEN VALUABLE TRAINING. HE WRESTLED WITH THE PROBLEM OF "INCREASING TAX REVENUES WITHOUT RAISING TAXES." PAUL HAS BEEN IN THE PRESSURE COOKER OF PUBLIC LIFE. HE KNOWS THERE ARE NO MAGIC ANSWERS OR INSTANT SOLUTIONS. PAUL GOEBEL KNOWS HOW TO FACE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS HONESTLY AND REALISTICALLY -- BECAUSE HE IS AN HONEST AND REALISTIC PERSON.

PAUL HAS NOT MADE ANY CAMPAIGN PROMISES HE

CANNOT KEEP. HE HAS NOT BEEN AFRAID TO TELL THE TOUGH,

UNVARNISHED TRUTH.

YOU HERE IN GRAND RAPIDS HAVE HAD ENOUGH CONFIDENCE
IN THE PAST TO ELECT HIM TO PUBLIC OFFICE. NOW, I ASK YOU TO DO
IT AGAIN. PAUL GOEBEL WILL VOTE IN WASHINGTON THE SAME WAY HE
TALKS IN GRAND RAPIDS.

SO I ASK YOU, FOR AMERICA'S SAKE, FOR GRAND RAPIDS'

SAKE, FOR YOUR SAKE, WHEN YOU GO INTO THE VOTING BOOTHS NEXT

TUESDAY, MARK YOUR BALLOT FOR PAUL GOEBEL, JR., FOR CONGRESS -
AND THEN WATCH THE ACTION.

#