

The original documents are located in Box 35, “6/30/76 - Remarks to Attendees at Reception for Republican Leaders” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

REMARKS AT RECEPTION FOR REPUBLICAN LEADERS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 1976

LET ME WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE

THIS AFTERNOON. I AM JUST DELIGHTED TO SEE SO MANY GOOD FRIENDS
FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET
WITH YOU ONCE AGAIN.

AS I LOOK AROUND ME, I CAN SEE THAT OUR PARTY,
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, IS IN GOOD HANDS. YOU REPRESENT
THE VIBRANT, ENERGETIC LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY. YOU REPRESENT
THE BEST OUR PARTY HAS TO OFFER.

THIS YEAR, AS YOU ARE ALL WELL AWARE, WE REPUBLICANS ARE ENGAGED IN A LIVELY CONTEST FOR OUR PARTY'S NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENT. SOME POLITICAL COMMENTATORS ARE SAYING THAT THE VERY COMPETITIVE NATURE OF OUR CONTEST WILL DIVIDE AND DESTROY THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN THIS ELECTION AND FOR YEARS TO COME.

WELL I DON'T BUY THAT AND I KNOW YOU DON'T EITHER. THOSE DIRE PROPHECIES COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG. THE CONTEST AND THE COMPETITION, HOWEVER FIERCE, NEED NOT AND MUST NOT, SPLIT OUR PARTY.

OUR FIGHT, FAIRLY FOUGHT, CAN FOCUS AMERICA'S
ATTENTION ON THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, ITS PRINCIPLES,
ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ITS VITALITY.

1976 IS A VERY SPECIAL ELECTION YEAR. IT IS A YEAR
THAT CAN CARRY OUR PARTY TO A GREAT VICTORY. TO DO IT,
WE MUST BE CERTAIN THAT AFTER THE HARD-FOUGHT BATTLE FOR THE
NOMINATION -- WE CLOSE RANKS AND WORK TOGETHER AS A TEAM
THAT'S GOING TO WIN IN NOVEMBER.

AND LET ME JUST POINT OUT WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN GOOD REPUBLICANS DON'T PULL TOGETHER. LET'S GO BACK
TO 1964.

IN 1964, WE NOT ONLY TOOK A TERRIBLE BEATING
IN THE PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST, WE LOST 38 MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES, WE LOST TWO SENATORS, AND WE LOST OVER
600 STATE LEGISLATORS.

BUT THIS IS NOT 1964. IN 1976 WE HAVE OUR
DIFFERENCES -- BUT THERE IS NO GREAT PHILOSOPHICAL DISAGREEMENT
WITHIN OUR PARTY -- AND THERE IS NO RATIONAL REASON WHY
ANY REPUBLICAN SHOULD THINK OF NOT SUPPORTING OUR NOMINEE
AFTER KANSAS CITY.

FOLLOWING OUR CONVENTION, I LOOK FOR A UNITED,
CONFIDENT AND ENTHUSIASTIC REPUBLICAN PARTY.

WITH UNITY, CONFIDENCE AND ENTHUSIASM, WE CAN'T HELP BUT WIN
IN NOVEMBER! AND WHAT'S MORE, WE'RE GOING TO WIN ALL THE WAY
FROM THE COURTHOUSE TO THE STATE HOUSE TO THE CONGRESS
TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

WE NEED THIS WIN NOT ONLY FOR OUR PARTY BUT FOR
OUR COUNTRY AS WELL. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE MUST HAVE A CLEAR,
VIABLE CHOICE FOR THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF OUR NATION.

WE CAN GIVE THEM THAT CHOICE | IF WE ARE UNITED.

I BELIEVE THIS IS A GREAT YEAR OF PROMISE FOR THE
REPUBLICAN PARTY. ALL OVER AMERICA, PEOPLE ARE TURNING
TO THE SOUND PRINCIPLES THAT REPUBLICANS HAVE ALWAYS STOOD FOR.

NOW, WE MUST STAND TOGETHER AND TAKE ADVANTAGE
OF OUR RECORD. WE ARE THE PARTY OF PEACE, PROSPERITY
AND TRUST.

WITH ALL OF YOU SHOWING THE WAY, I AM CONFIDENT
THAT OUR PARTY'S STORY WILL BE TOLD -- AND TOLD EFFECTIVELY,
ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

THE WARMTH, THE CHEERFULNESS, AND THE SPIRIT
I SEE THIS AFTERNOON TELLS ME THAT REPUBLICANISM IS ALIVE
AND WELL AND FLOURISHING THROUGHOUT AMERICA. NOW LET'S
CARRY THAT MESSAGE TO 215 MILLION OTHER AMERICANS IN THE
CRITICAL MONTHS AHEAD. LET'S WIN AND WIN BIG IN NOVEMBER!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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