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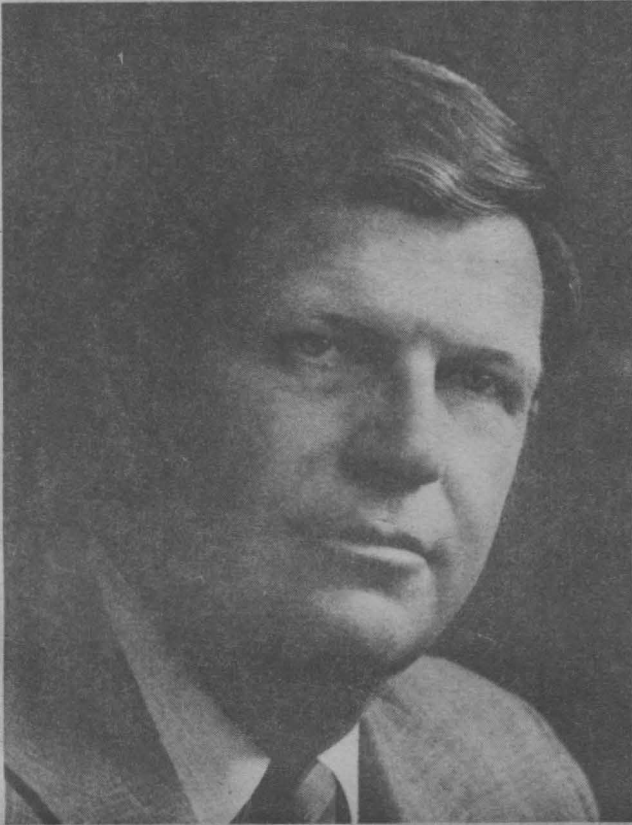
2-B The Grand Rapids Press, Thursday, October 24, 1974

Ford Was 'Junie' to Siki McGee

By Tom Limmer



Campaign Sharpens Focus On Differences Between Candidates



PAUL GOEBEL JR.



RICHARD VANDER VEEN

Ford Endorses Paul Goebel

Following is a telegram President Ford sent Paul Goebel on the occasion of a Republican fund raising dinner.

Dear Paul:

I am most pleased to join your many friends and admirers who are gathered with you tonight in expressing my utmost confidence in your election. You have demonstrated that you are an outstanding candidate, and I am certain you will be an outstanding congressman.

I am fully confident that your diligence and the hard work of my fellow Michiganders in the Fifth Congressional District will result in your well-deserved victory in November.

Warmest Personal Regards

Gerald R. Ford

Senator Robert Vander Laan Calls Vander Veen 'The Great Pretender'

As the campaign enters the final stretch there is much evidence that there are real and distinct differences between the two candidates for the Fifth District Congressional seat . . . evidence that proves that the voters *do* have a choice. The choice is exemplified in a speech State Senator Robert Vander Laan gave on Oct. 1 as an introduction to Paul Goebel in which he referred to Rep. Vander Veen as "The Great Pretender." Following are excerpts from that speech.

"I would like to take a minute or two of your time to speak very candidly with you. I have in the last year been as deeply involved in the political developments in Kent County and this district as anyone has. I would like to share a few thoughts on this matter with you. These thoughts are taken from my heart and I trust that they will be taken that way.

"First, allow me to state two examples which I hope will help me make my point understandable. I have had the privilege to serve in the Michigan Senate for 12 years. I have served with and learned to know approximately 100 senators, members of both parties, very well. I found that many Democrats were very smart senators. Many were hard working. Many were skillful legislators. Many were dedicated family members.

"I worked with Sander Levin and found him to be one of the most personable, intelligent, and hard working senators I have ever worked with. The problem was, however, that on the crucial issues he voted wrong. And that was the important thing.

"Also, during those twelve years in the Michigan legislature, I received many resolutions from groups

asking us to vote for, or oppose, certain issues. On some occasions these resolutions came from cities. Once such resolution came from a city in my district, which urged the Michigan legislature to oppose, with all our strength, the type of gun legislation which was being promoted by U. S. Senator Phil Hart.

"I checked the voting record in that city and found that Senator Hart had received almost 70 percent of the vote in the last election. In addition, based on party affiliation, past actions, and contributions, all but one of those commissioners supported Senator Hart.

"Now my point is this: Voters get what they vote for. If they vote for Phil Hart because he is likeable, hardworking, a family man with a father image, and a far out liberal, voters will receive public policy from a likeable, hardworking, father image, which will be liberal.

"Again, to the point. During the last 12 months, we have heard and read a lot about the present incumbent congressman. A successful businessman, a prominent attorney, lives on the right side of town,

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 29, 1974

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Grand Rapids, Michigan)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT
CALDER PLAZA

5:35 P.M. EST

Thank you very, very much, Governor Milliken, Mayor Parks, Jack Root, every one of you for being here. Nobody can accuse any of you of being fair weather friends. Thank you very much.

But let me say somewhat inadequately, there is no way in which I can personally express my gratitude, my appreciation, my indebtedness to all of you who are here in this difficult weather to say hello, to warmly welcome me. I am just overwhelmed and words are inadequate to express everything that I feel deep down in my heart. Thank you very, very much.

There was a wonderful crowd at the airport, and we stopped at one of the crowds on the way in. I just cannot believe so many are here in these circumstances, and as I shook hands, either at the airport or on the way in or with those that I have had the privilege of saying hello to here tonight, I saw friends that I went to Madison School with, friends that I went to South High with, friends that I worked with in many, many scientific projects--Democrats, Independents, Republicans young and old--there is nothing I can say except thank you, every one of you, for being here.

And may I thank Althea Bennett here for the box of cookies which she has given me. As was indicated, I used to stop in at Petersen's Drug Store for an early breakfast, and she was there to help prepare it, and I used to enjoy those cookies very much then, and I am sure I will now.

But I must tell Althea, I have a big appetite. It is a long trip back to Washington. They may all be gone before Betty sees a single one. (Laughter)

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Now, let me talk about why I am here. I came back to Grand Rapids because on 13 different occasions in the past over a period of 26 years, I campaigned in the Fifth Congressional District--which originally was Ottawa and Kent counties and is now Kent and Ionia and four other counties -- because I love the communities and whether it was Ottawa, Kent, Ionia, Clinton, Montcalm, et cetera. I love the communities and the people.

And as many of you know, I have taken Jerry Ford's Main Street office to Byron Center, Standale, Caledonia, Alto, Rockford, Kent City, Sand Lake, Ionia, Belding, Wells, Portland and everyplace else, and it was a great privilege for me to talk with you in the trailer.

It was a great privilege to go to your service club, to your farm bureau community meeting, to go to your churches, to your city hall, to meet you on the street, to go to the Lowell Showboat, rodeo, the Red Flannel celebration -- well, you name, wherever you had five people, I went there because I like you and I am back here today because I just could not stay away from this area one more time. I thank you again for the opportunities of the past.

As I have seen so many of you here today and as I said a moment ago, Grand Rapids, Kent County, Ionia, Ottawa County and the others, you are a good cross-section of America. You represent all segments of our society.

We have some wonderful farms, we have some excellent businesses, we have some tremendously productive working people in this community. I am prejudiced, but I think we have the best here, and all of you who are here represent the best in America.

As I have said to our good friend, Mayor Lyman Parks, Grand Rapids is big enough to have many of the problems of some of the major metropolitan areas. We have enough diversification in agriculture, so that I learned from firsthand experience the problems of the dairymen, the cattlemen, the apple grower, and other people that produce so all of us can eat.

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But the main thing that I loved about this area was we had some big city problems, but we were small enough so that you got to know people. You have got to love them. You have got to enjoy working for whatever the problem was. I do not know how many times I walked down Cedar Springs behind about five bands in that Cedar Springs Red Flannel Parade, or how many times I have had the privilege of visiting one community or another.

It is the warmth, it is the friendliness, it is the look in the eye of people that makes you welcome. And the most important thing is that people in this area seem to want to work out the problems that they have, whether they are labor and management on the one hand, or consumer and producer on the other.

I cannot help but make a comment, Lyman, about that Calder that you gave me. I was in Chicago a couple of days ago, and some of my friends over there were kidding me about Grand Rapids being a small town. And some of the commentators and writers were kidding me about perhaps the lack of culture in Grand Rapids.

Well, I happen to think -- if my memory is correct -- we had a Calder in Grand Rapids before Chicago thought of it.

And then I have had some friends from various parts of the country tell me that, well, Grand Rapids was a little on the conservative side. Well, I cannot help but ask them in good conscience what they mean. Do they mean the people here have a healthy skepticism of quick and easy solutions? If that is a definition of conservatism, yes, we are skeptical. We are a little conservative about some of the superficial answers that some people try to sell us.

But if they mean that Grand Rapids and its environs are skeptical about new ideas, the answer is no. We are broad minded. We have a good outlook. And when a new idea comes along that is constructive, that is fair to everybody, we, in Grand Rapids, embrace it and make it work. And that is what we have done all my lifetime.

Let me reminisce a moment, if I might. Some of us in the audience here can remember when the old B. F. Keith Theater was down here on Lyon Street, and some of us can remember when the Regent Theater was right over there, just where the Federal Building was, I guess, and some of the other old broken-down business places that needed to be removed -- and this wonderful Vandenberg Center constructed.

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And in honor of one of Grand Rapids' outstanding citizens, in my judgment, probably the outstanding Senator that I have known in Washington, we built this Vandenberg Center in honor and in tribute to Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg.

And you know that Federal Building -- I used to have an office right up there in the corner. I used to look down here, and I could see at various times of the day there would be periodic meetings and wonderful luncheon gatherings. Occasionally we had a demonstration or two, and sometimes in the moonlight, I could look down and see a few friendly people holding hands. And what is wrong with that?

But the point is that this great Vandenberg Center with the Calder Stabile is, in my opinion, a tribute to a great Senator, a tribute to a great people. It is a product of a community that has the vision and the foresight to do something for themselves in conjunction or a partnership with the Federal Government.

And that is the way Arthur Vandenberg believed. He was receptive to new ideas. He was a senior Senator in Washington when Betty and I first went to the Nation's capital. He and his wonderful wife, Hazel, could not have been kinder, could not have been more receptive to two newcomers to the Nation's capital.

He gave me, in all honesty, the inspiration to take a look at the world as a whole. Arthur Vandenberg, some of you may recall, was former -- with former President Harry Truman -- was the architect of a bipartisan foreign policy following World War II.

The two of them -- a great Democratic President, Harry Truman, and a great Republican Senator, Senator Arthur Vandenberg -- worked together, hand-in-glove, following World War II when the world was in devastation, when a good share of the world was on its back, and other nations -- like our own -- had serious problems.

But from those ashes, Harry Truman and Arthur Vandenberg put together a foreign policy that brought allies together, presented a common front against potential adversaries, helped under-developed nations grow, and become a vital part of our world society.

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And that bipartisan foreign policy, which I learned and fortunately learned from one of the masters, I think is the future of the world.

And we in Washington today, representing all of you -- Democrats, Republicans, Independents -- should march shoulder to shoulder to make sure that our country, our great United States of America, gives the leadership in consolidating friends, and gives leadership in trying to make new contacts, broader contacts, with potential adversaries.

What we want to build is a world of peace so that your children and my children and their children can live in safety and security and a better world wherever they might live -- Grand Rapids or elsewhere.

And I pledge to you, as President of the United States -- believe me, folks, my friends at home -- I never thought for one minute, when Betty and I left here in December of 1949, that I would be coming home to all of you as your President.

But as President, I will pledge to you, as I have pledged to you in 13 previous elections, that I will do my best, I will be fair, I will be open, I will work, and I will continue the love and affection and the dedication that I have, that all of you have, for your community, for your friends, for your State, and for your Nation. This is what you can give and what I can give, and on behalf of Betty and myself, I pledge you nothing but all I can do for all of you and many like you.

Thank you very, very much.

END (5:50 P.M. EST)

O.C.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 29, 1974

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Grand Rapids, Michigan)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
GOP RECEPTION

HOSPITALITY INN

6:40 P.M. EST

May I say just a word, and it will be very, very short, because it has been a long day, but a wonderful day, and there is no way I can express in words or sentences or in paragraphs or a speech, the appreciation that I have for all of the wonderful people who are here.

I look at so many of you, and I cannot help but be appreciative of what you have done for Betty and for me over the 13 past elections where, you know, without your support, I could not have been in the Congress and therefore could not have been in a position where I finally got where I am today.

But without all that you have done -- and I don't mean financially, because I know how hard most of you have worked in the vineyards as precinct people, as party workers, as well as donors, and this kind of just deep feeling, whether you agreed with me on every issue -- and as I look around the room, I see some people who have written some critical letters from time to time -- but at least you had an open door then, and the truth is you will have an open door now.

So on behalf of Betty -- and I will say to you that she is deeply apologetic -- this is not quite the right word -- that she is not out here, but she is doing great -- she is just coming along fine. She is giving me a few harsh words, and I know that is the fact that she is getting better and better. And I am being silenced more and more, and that is a sign that I am noticing that she is better and better.

So on behalf of Betty and myself, I thank you all for coming.

Now let me make one quick observation. I used to be, as an outside observer, as Minority Leader in the House of Representatives, going down to talk with Democratic Presidents and Republican Presidents. And I wondered how the Office operated. Well, I am learning.

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And as Harry Truman once said, "The buck stops here." And the trouble is that you have to say yes or no, you cannot say maybe. And the net result is that you have to disappoint some, and hopefully please a few others. But what I am pledged to do -- to you and to millions of others -- I am going to do it as I see best from the point of view of anybody and everybody.

I think most of you knew my working schedule when I was around Grand Rapids, and the surrounding area. It started very early and ended very late. It has not changed, and it is not going to change. I love it. I thrive on it. And the net result is that you can get a lot more work done in 12 and 14 hours than you can in 8, and we are going to keep working at it, and we are going to do the very best we know how. And we are going to call them as we see them.

There are some tough decisions, but I happen to believe, despite some of the comments, that we are making headway overseas. I have gotten not one but several reports from Henry Kissinger every day he has been gone. We are encouraged, whether it is in Moscow, whether it is in India -- and I am confident that we are going to continue to make progress in the solution of the difficult problems in the Middle East, between Greece and Cyprus and Turkey.

I am confident we are going to strengthen and solidify the Western Alliance. We are looking forward to the trip to Vladivostok to meet Mr. Brezhnev. We hope to have a successful, and I believe we will, meeting in Japan as well as South Korea.

All of this is aimed at peace, not only for this year, but for a long, long time. And that is what our objective is.

Now, I am not going to stand here in front of so many of you and deny that we are having some troubles, economically, at home. I never tried to kid anybody when I was campaigning on 13 different occasions. I am going to tell you the truth. We have some problems at home, economically, both because the economy is a little soft on the one hand, and inflation is a little high on the other.

But the program I submitted to the Congress -- if it is enacted, if it is implemented in its entirety -- will get over both problems, will strengthen the economy, and will whip inflation. So let's work for that kind of a program.

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Now, if I could conclude with one political observation. I have known the Goebel family a long time. I first knew that family when Paul Goebel, Sr. was officiating high school games around Grand Rapids and I was a beginner in the football arena in this area.

I have to tell you a personal story. Paul, one time when he was officiating a game -- this is Paul, Sr., who is about five inches taller than I -- I must have made some infraction of the rules and he grabbed me and said, "Ford, you did this." I did not argue with him. (Laughter)

But Paul Goebel, Sr. set a great example for his son, as my father did for me. As you know, my father, I think, was one of the great citizens of this community, our State, and the Nation.

And I think Paul Goebel, Sr. fits the same pattern and the same category, but he has got a great son in Paul, Jr. I hope and trust that Paul, Jr. will be elected to the Congress.

I know Paul. I have known him from his early youth. I watched his political progress. I have seen what he can do, and how he has made honest, conscientious, tough decisions.

I cannot imagine someone doing a finer job in this Congressional district than Paul Goebel, Jr., and I strongly urge you, from the depth of my conviction and dedication, urge you to maximize your efforts on behalf of Paul. He is the kind of guy I would like in Washington.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 7:07 P.M. EST)

O.C.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 29, 1974

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Grand Rapids, Michigan)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
REPUBLICAN RALLY

KNOLLCREST FIELDHOUSE, CALVIN COLLEGE

9:02 P.M. EST

Thank you very much, Paul. Thanks Bill Farr, Bob VanderLaan, Bill Zaagman, Pete, Marty, all of the other candidates at the State and local level, all of you who in all honesty overwhelm me as they did down at the Vandenberg Plaza.

I have been in a good many States in recent weeks, and I am going to a couple more the latter part of this week and the first of next. And let me say that this is beyond -- above and beyond the call of duty. I thank you. It is just wonderful to be here. I am deeply indebted to each and every one of you.

You know Bill Spoelhof, the great President of Calvin College. Bill and I started out as precinct workers together a long time ago. I was always scared to death that he would be a candidate for Congress. Thank goodness he did not, after that reaction.

But, Bill, I want to thank you for always making the Calvin facilities available. I have been here a number of times. As you know, I have always had a warm welcome, and this crowd tonight reminds me of a good Calvin-Hope basketball contest. Since I did not go to either one, I could be completely objective, pulling for both.

But I did see something that was on the chair as I sat down. It has been sort of a tradition of my campaign to put out these hot pads, or whatever they call them. And they were always gobbled up by thoughtful women who wanted to be reminded what a good Congressman would do. And we always used to put on those hot pads, "Vote for some Congressman by the name of Ford who works for you in Congress." That is what we emphasized -- work for you in Congress. And that is what Paul Goebel will do for you. He will work for you in Congress.

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I can see, as I look around this great crowd, some wonderful people from Ionia, from Montcalm, from Barry, from Eaton, from Clinton, as well as from Kent County. I love you, and it is just great to see you all. Naturally, I am delighted to be back home. I just wish Betty were here. But she did ask me to extend to you, one and all, her gratitude for the many prayers, many thoughtful messages, all of which have been extremely helpful to her and to us during this difficult period.

I thank you very much on her behalf.

I think all these wonderful balloons -- she is the best part of the family; I always said that -- but I got a big kick out of watching all these balloons come down from the ceiling at the start of the program. You might say this is the big difference between our position and our side of the aisle, and their position on the other side of the aisle. We put hot air in the balloons, and they put it in their speeches.

You know, a few weeks ago the Ohio State University was thoughtful enough to ask me to -- I said they were thoughtful enough to invite me to come and give a commencement address. And, gee, they could not have been nicer. But it does create a bit of a problem, with this contest coming up in a couple of weeks with the Buckeyes and the Wolverines. I try to be non-partisan as I go from one State to another, but it is particularly difficult to be non-partisan when it comes to such basic matters as football.

Now take this game between Ohio and Michigan in a couple of weeks. People keep asking me who I will be rooting for. Well, I think the late President Kennedy had a real good answer. He handled the problem extremely well. He was in Iowa, just before their big game with Notre Dame. And someone asked him the very same question, "Who will you be rooting for, Mr. President."

And Jack Kennedy said, "I will be rooting for Iowa."

And then he added, after a tremendous cheer went up, "But I will be praying for Notre Dame."

So come the Michigan-Ohio game, I will let you figure out who I will be rooting for, and who I will be praying for.

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Every two years for the last 25, for 13 campaigns, I have come back to your Congressional district seeking your support and gratefully receiving it. I have never been disappointed. I have always been most appreciative.

I guess it is kind of a habit to come back, and on the 14th it just seemed to me, even if I could come back for just one day it would be like coming home. It does not mean I can go from Kent to Ionia, to Montcalm to Eaton, to Clinton to Barry County.

That would be quite a bit in the limited time available, but whether I am in all six counties or not, my heart, my soul, my conviction, my dedication is there for the purpose of electing Paul Goebel to Congress from the Fifth Congressional District.

I thought it was very wonderful for the Governor to come to Grand Rapids today to participate in our ceremonies down at Vandenberg Center and to thoughtfully introduce me.

I have known Bill Milliken for a long time. I knew him when he was a State Senator. I knew him in his other responsibilities, and I watched him very carefully and extremely closely as Governor of our great State, and in the process, over the last months, I have had the opportunity of looking -- and I say this to anybody who has any doubt whatsoever -- I have had the privilege of looking at Governors from many States -- Democrats, Republicans -- and Bill Milliken by any standard -- and I say this as strongly, as vigorously as I can -- Bill Milliken by any standard is at the very top, and I hope he is re-elected.

I guess I am prejudiced, but for good reasons. If Bill Milliken is going to do the job that he is expected to do as Governor of our great State, then Bill needs support in the State Legislature.

You know the ones that have served you well, the ones who are seeking to serve you well, and I just hope that Bill gets the team that he deserves to do the best job for the great Wolverine State. Do your best, if you possibly can, for this great group of State legislative candidates.

You know, I have gotten a lot of advice lately from friends and foes and neutral observers. They said, "Mr. President, you ought to stay in Washington, surround yourself with that beautiful atmosphere at the White House, spend some time with your new dog Liberty, and cogitate over these great decisions that are presented to you, and then let the voters out in the respective areas of this country make up their own minds."

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I respectfully disagree with that view. I happen to believe that a President of the United States who has conviction and dedication ought to go out and talk to the people and listen to them instead of sitting in the Oval Office at the time of a great campaign.

It is my deep belief, it is my honest conviction, that we are doing right, both at home and abroad. We have some tough hurdles to cover, but as you look across the spectrum internationally or domestically and compare the role of our country with other countries, the problems of our country with other countries, the United States is doing well and we should be darned proud to be Americans and to participate in our society.

In the last three months since I became President, I have traveled almost 17,000 miles, met literally hundreds and thousands of citizens in many, many States, and I think it is the most refreshing, the most helpful experience, because there are literally, unbelievably, great numbers of wonderful people who have some thoughts and ideas and suggestions and contributions to make.

I think their help and assistance is just as vital as what I can get sitting in the White House looking at a lot of memorandums and papers that come from a fine staff or come from others.

This group here has got the power, the genius, the drive, the help, and I am darned fortunate to be here and to see you all and to get the message that you are giving me, which is the message you gave me in 13 previous elections -- integrity, dedication, work, objectivity and a love for America as much as you have it, and I hope I do, and I believe I do.

I am here tonight for a particular purpose, but I must express my gratitude to the local officials, Jack Root of the county, Lyman Parks of the city, and their respective associates for the unbelievable reception down at the Vandenberg Center and in the Calder area.

You know, the weather was a little bad, but I think it is fair to say that they were not good weather friends. They were there because we had a rapport, and I did not ask that group because it is a nonpartisan group, but I am here to ask every one of you to help in any way you can -- and this is a message from Betty as well as from me -- to elect Paul Goebel on November 5 so I can have the good help that I need from the Fifth District in Washington, D.C.

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I said a moment ago I traveled almost 17,000 miles, 16 States. My hope is that to some extent I can be beneficial, helpful in electing a Congress that will help me in the battle we are undertaking to lick inflation and to strengthen our economy.

What I want is a Congress that will help me make sure -- and let me emphasize this very perfectly, very categorically -- I want a Congress that will help me make certain and positive that your paycheck buys as much on the day you cash it as on the day that you earned it. That is our program.

If I know anything about the people of this district, whether you are in business or on the production line or on a farm or in the service, or in a service organization, the people of this district understand the sound fundamentals of how to run a business, a church, a school, a PTA or the Government.

I want to, if I might, address a few observations and comments to what I believe, and I hope you believe, is public enemy number one -- inflation. With your help and with the election of a cooperative Congress, I am confident that we can whip inflation and this button, WIN, means Whip Inflation Now, and we can with a good program, which I have submitted to the Congress and with the cooperation of 213 Americans, we can do it, but we need the Congress and we need the help of all of you.

And as I look around here, I see a great many people who have the WIN button on them, and if you don't have one, write us and the White House will see that you get it as long as you enlist in that army to Whip Inflation Now.

But let me make this observation: When I talk about a cooperative Congress, I am talking about a Congress that will be conscientious about how they handle your tax dollars.

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In the Congress, from 25 years' experience, I could pick out the big spenders and the savers, and the record clearly shows that in the Congress of the United States the majority of the big spenders are on the Democratic side of the aisle.

The majority of the savers are on our side of the aisle. It is just that simple.

Now, I admit there are a few crossovers on one issue, or perhaps on the overall. But I am talking to you very pragmatically, that this district has consistently had a Congressman who is in the category of a saver, not a spender. And if you want to restore that reputation, you darn well better vote for Paul Goebel in the next election.

Now, I have been reading newspapers, and listening to some of the commentators recently, and I have noticed that everybody is predicting the worst possible results from the Republican point of view. They say we are going to be clobbered, we are going to be wiped out. There is going to be a catastrophic defeat for the Republican party. We are going to have a terrible time in this election.

I respect those who want to vote for a legislative dictatorship. I don't agree with it, because the balance in our Government is predicated on what our forefathers wrote in the Constitution and what we have adopted by practice over the last 200 years, of a balance between the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial Branches, so that no part of our Government, no individual could control the destinies, the fate of people in this great land.

And this system of checks and balances, this finely-tuned system of balance between our three coordinate branches of Government, has given us more freedom, more opportunity, and more blessings than any people in the history of mankind. And we have got to keep that balance.

But you can destroy that balance. You can destroy that balance if the opposition were to gain a net of 50 in the House or 7 or 8 in the Senate. It would put a strangle hold on the legislative process because it would mean the inevitable election of those of the most liberal persuasion in the Democratic party.

I am not condemning all Democrats because some of them have been extremely helpful, and particularly the Democratic leadership in the House and the Senate. But their troops run wild. They are like a commander who tells them to do what is right, and then they scatter all over the ballpark.

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And so what I am saying to you is what we really need is competition in the Congress, not an overwhelming majority in the ranks of one political party, because if you get that kind of 2-to-1, 3-to-1, 4-to-1 strength in one political party, inevitably you have this legislative dictatorship which destroys that very fundamental concept that has made it so great for all of us in America, a balance.

So a veto-proof Congress is not what we want. I have got a better idea, this forecast: We want an inflation-proof Congress, not a veto-proof Congress. And Paul Goebel will give us that result.

Now if you get a veto-proof Congress, if you get a legislative dictatorship, as I have indicated, the whole system of checks and balances go out the window.

Now some of my good Democratic friends have a different idea of checks and balances -- a little different from mine. They write the checks even though there are never any balances. (Laughter)

And from your own personal experience, you know where that could lead. But let me make this observation, if I can. I am told that there is a great degree of apathy in America, and yet when I go to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, they have 10,000 in an auditorium like this and 5,000 people who could not get in. When I went to Lincoln in Nebraska, they had 5,000 or 6,000 at an airport rally. We have been to other communities where the crowds have been good. We have had a few disappointments, but we have had good reception.

Tonight is the best, and I thank you for it.

But do you realize that all of you here tonight can directly affect this election come November 5? You have it within your own grasp. You have it by your own vote, and how you can persuade, how you can help, by just what this group does here tonight.

On the other hand, if some of you sit it out, this election can be lost. I do not think you are going to be the kind of a villain who won't participate.

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I don't think you are going to be apathetic or you would not be here tonight, but there are many of your neighbors and your friends who, according to the statisticians, are not going to participate.

Let me give you something that is terribly disturbing -- it ought to scare you as it does me -- that the national percentage of votes cast in the Congressional off-year elections, like the one that is coming up next week, based on the total number of eligible voters, only 46.3 percent cast their 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.

Now, in this last special election that was held in February, about 35 percent in this district went to the polls. According to the statisticians, the computer projection, only 42 percent of your fellow Americans are going to vote in this election in all fifty States on November 5.

I made a speech earlier this week at Arlington Cemetery. I made a speech there because it was Veterans Day. We were paying tribute to and memorializing the hundreds and hundreds who have been buried in this wonderful cemetery. It gave me an inspiration to say to you that if they could give their lives to give you the right to vote, you ought to exercise that right to vote.

I cannot imagine an election that is more important to this district, to this State, than what will take place and transpire right here in the Fifth District next week.

Paul Goebel I have known since he was just a lad. His dad knew me when I was back at South High -- an inspired if not very competent football player. I have known the Goebel family a long time, and they are strong and they are tall, and they are the kind of people who are dedicated to public service. Paul Jr's. father was; Paul Jr. himself is.

And I have seen nothing but the finest in that family and young Paul, he epitomizes all the great characteristics of that family.

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And therefore, on the basis of quality as a person and experience in business and government, you have a great candidate. You have the kind of candidate that will do a job for all of you and for our State and for our country.

I know that he will stand up when the going is tough in the House of Representatives, and I know that the trials and the tribulations that a Member of Congress goes through when he has to decide what is good and what is bad, and it is not always black or white, there is a little gray here and there.

But Paul has the brains and the conscience and the understanding to sift out the good from the bad and to give you a right answer and, therefore, without hesitation, reservation or qualification, I can tell you I have already voted for Paul by absentee voter's ballot.

I am not going to try and vote again. Once is enough to show my support for a darned good Congressional candidate.

Now, let me add one final word, if I may. There are some people on the dias here who, to some extent, began politics about the same time I did or had an interest in it.

We are sort of -- that generation that came along after World War II -- most of us came back from some military service. Most of us saw the mistakes that our country made in the twenties when we thought, mistakenly, that the Atlantic Ocean on one side and the Pacific on the other would be an adequate protection and we, as a Nation, could close our eyes, close our ears and not pay attention to the problems in the rest of the world and let them fight it out, or whatever they wanted to do.

That was the mistake of the twenties, and the thirties, and the consequence was between Hitler and Mussolini and others. We got involved in a contest between freedom on the one hand, and the effort on the part of some to subjugate people on the other.

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Whether it was in Hitler Germany or Mussolini Italy or elsewhere, the issue was clear-cut, and 16 million Americans went to war in the Pacific or in the Atlantic. And you know, most of us came back convinced that this was a glow, and we had to live together and work together to find peace together, to build together, to help one another in one way or another.

As I sat down at Calder, the one that convinced me that this approach was right, the approach of cooperation, was Arthur Vandenberg, a great Senator from our city and from our State.

And Arthur Vandenberg convinced me if we were going to solve the problems of the Mediterranean, we had to support Harry Truman's program of Greek-Turkey aid; that we had to help a Democratic President even though both Senator Vandenberg and I were Republican, by helping the rehabilitation, the reconstruction of Western Europe, including the Netherlands.

And he convinced me that we, on the other side of the political aisle, had to help a Democratic President build a sufficiently strong defense program, not for aggression, but for the maintenance of peace. So Arthur Vandenberg was a great, great leader for our country, and a great inspiration to me.

He taught me how to work with Democrats. He taught me the right approach as far as foreign policy was concerned. And the net result was we have had, relatively speaking, in Western Europe and many other parts of the world, a policy that was basically bipartisan--some variations, some deviations--and all of us, in my judgment, have been better off. It has led to peace in Europe. It has led to the detente that was initiated in the last five years. It has led to the achievements of a new approach to our relations with the People's Republic of China.

This bipartisanship under the leadership of our party has given to us, I think, the most solid foundation for peace over a longer period of time.

Now this last session of the Congress was very difficult. The Democratic leadership and the Republican leadership have worked with me, a Republican President. But unfortunately, too many of the troops have gone in a hundred different directions.

And the consequence is, we have not had the support to find the proper answer to help the Greeks and Turks resolve their problems in Cyprus. There has not been the kind of support which we need to keep a sound policy in Southeast Asia. There has not been the kind of support that I think is needed to help us find the difficult key to the problems of the Middle East. And they are tough and they are treacherous, and they are explosive.

What I am saying is we have got some tough problems overseas, and Paul Goebel -- because I know him, I have talked to him, and because I have looked at the record of his opponent -- in my judgment is the best man to help me keep the peace and strengthen the peace in the months ahead. And I hope you will support him.

Well, it has just been wonderful to be here. I love every one of you. You have put up with me in the past. You have been kind to me when you thought I was wrong. You supported me much too often for which I am grateful. But I hope and trust that in the months ahead, whatever I do will justify your faith, because I promise you, as I did the day I was sworn in, that I will do everything I can to make America strong and good, and do everything I can to make America for the best of all.

Thank you very, very much.

END

(9:40 P.M. EST)