

**The original documents are located in Box 127, folder “Oct. 18, 1973 - Speech, 27th Annual Al Smith Dinner, New York, NY” of the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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27TH ANNUAL AL SMITH DINNER AT THE  
WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL, NEW YORK CITY,  
NEW YORK, THURSDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 18,  
1973, EXPECTED AT 10:10 P.M.



CARDINAL COOKE, JUDGE MULLIGAN,  
*Senators Javits, Buckley, Congressman Casey, Bragge & Budello*  
GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS  
AND FRIENDS: IT IS A PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO  
BE WITH YOU. *As you can imagine Human solidarity or stories on past 6 days.*


1) Telephone call - *Extensive*

2) *Division* Words *came back to HAVN.* (ANECDOTES) *This story is relevant to my nomination + my pledge that I have no intention etc.*

AS YOU MAY KNOW, THE PRESIDENT  
HIMSELF WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING HERE  
TONIGHT, *as I left my first cabinet meeting* AND HE ASKED ME TO BRING YOU  
HIS BEST WISHES FOR THE OCCASION AND  
HIS REGRETS THAT THE CRISIS SITUATION IN  
THE MIDDLE EAST WILL NOT PERMIT HIM TO  
ENJOY YOUR FINE COMPANY.



HAVING ATTENDED THESE DINNERS WHEN HE WAS A PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE IN 1960 AND 1968, PRESIDENT NIXON TOLD ME IT WOULD BE GOOD LUCK FOR ME TO DO THE SAME AS THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE IN 1973. I ASKED HIM HOW HE COULD SAY IT WAS GOOD LUCK AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM IN THE 1960 ELECTION, BUT ~~HE SAID~~,  
"DON'T WORRY, JERRY -- YOU'RE NOT RUNNING AGAINST AN IRISHMAN."

*the President replied*

? BEFORE COMING UP HERE FROM WASHINGTON THIS AFTERNOON, A MEMBER OF MY STAFF REMINDED ME TO BE SURE AND ACKNOWLEDGE IN MY REMARKS THAT 1973 IS THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF AL SMITH'S BIRTH. I SAID TO HIM, I WONDER HOW IT WOULD FEEL TO BE A HUNDRED YEARS OLD.



*my staff member*

HE SAID, "AFTER YOU GET THROUGH WITH YOUR  
CONFIRMATION HEARINGS YOU ~~MAY~~ <sup>will</sup> ~~WELL~~ KNOW  
HOW IT FEELS."



BUT THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS  
THAT I AM ON VERY GOOD TERMS WITH MEMBERS  
OF BOTH PARTIES IN BOTH HOUSES OF  
CONGRESS, AND THAT'S ~~IS~~ THE WAY I HOPE  
IT WILL REMAIN. I ENCOURAGE AND WELCOME  
THE CLOSEST SCRUTINY BY THEM OF MY  
QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE JOB THE PRESIDENT  
HAS ASKED ME TO FILL, <sup>2 and the Congress</sup> ~~I THINK WE OWE~~  
THAT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

AND WHEN THAT PROCESS IS  
COMPLETED, I LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING THE  
NATIONAL INTEREST AND SERVING THE  
PRESIDENT BY DOING EVERYTHING I CAN TO



MOVE THE LEGISLATIVE-EXECUTIVE RELATIONSHIP  
IN WASHINGTON AWAY FROM <sup>narrow</sup> PARTISANSHIP AND  
POLARIZATION ONTO A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE  
BASIS OF PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION.



I BELIEVE THAT IS PART OF WHAT  
THE PRESIDENT MEANT WHEN HE SPOKE OF A  
NEW BEGINNING FOR AMERICA ON FRIDAY  
NIGHT. A NEW BEGINNING IS BOTH NECESSARY  
AND POSSIBLE, AND IF WE WORK TOGETHER  
IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, NOT AS REPUBLICANS AND  
DEMOCRATS BUT AS AMERICANS, WE CAN MAKE  
IT HAPPEN.

THE GREAT TASK WE FACE IS THAT  
OF REASSURING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT  
THEIR SYSTEM OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT  
STILL WORKS -- THAT IT WORKS / NOT JUST FOR



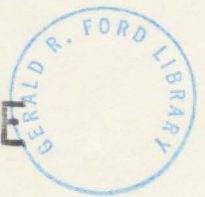
THE SELF-INTEREST OF THOSE IN OFFICE, BUT  
PRIMARILY FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST OF ALL  
THE PEOPLE. NO ONE, AS THIS AUDIENCE  
WELL KNOWS, UNDERSTOOD BETTER/HOW TO MAKE  
THAT SYSTEM WORK THAN ALFRED E. SMITH.

AL SMITH STARTED OUT, OF COURSE,  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW YORK STATE.  
THROUGHOUT HIS LONG SERVICE THERE, HE  
NEVER LET PARTISANSHIP STAND IN THE WAY  
OF PUBLIC SERVICE, NO MATTER WHETHER A  
DEMOCRAT OR A REPUBLICAN WAS OCCUPYING  
THE GOVERNOR'S CHAIR, NO MATTER WHETHER  
AL SMITH HAPPENED TO BE SERVING AS  
SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY OR IN THE OPPOSITE  
ROLE -- AND MIGHT I ADD, THE EQUALLY  
HONORABLE ROLE -- OF MINORITY LEADER.





LATER IN HIS CAREER, THIS  
GIFTED MAN MOVED OVER FROM THE  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT INTO  
THE EXECUTIVE, AS I <sup>State</sup> NOW HOPE TO DO, <sup>at the federal level.</sup> ~~WHAT~~  
I ADMIRE ~~ABOUT~~ THE WAY AL SMITH MADE THAT  
TRANSITION, ~~IS THAT~~ THE CHANGE IN JOBS  
MADE NO CHANGE WHATEVER IN HIS OUTLOOK AS  
A PUBLIC SERVANT. I HOPE TO EMULATE HIM  
IN THAT REGARD. HE DID NOT SUDDENLY  
BECOME AN ADVERSARY OF THE LEGISLATURE --  
RATHER HE REMAINED A LEADER AND PARTNER  
IN THE STATE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. HIS  
EXAMPLE IN THE 1920'S, I SUBMIT, IS ONE  
THAT ALL OF US CAN PROFIT FROM IN THE  
1970'S.



HE WAS THE HAPPY WARRIOR, AND  
MILLIONS OF AMERICANS IN BOTH PARTIES  
~~WILL ALWAYS~~ <sup>still</sup> REMEMBER HIM THAT WAY, WITH  
THE WARMEST AFFECTION AND WITH THE  
GREATEST RESPECT.

WE ~~WILL~~ ALSO REMEMBER THAT THIS  
HAPPY WARRIOR OF THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL WAS  
ALSO A GENEROUS PEACEMAKER AFTER THE VOTES  
WERE COUNTED, AND A SKILLED CONCILIATOR  
WHEN THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE WAS AT STAKE.  
HE WAS TOO BIG A MAN FOR PARTISANSHIP  
WHEN PRINCIPLE WAS ON THE LINE, AND TOO  
PATRIOTIC FOR PETTY POLITICS WHEN HIS  
COUNTRY'S SECURITY WAS THREATENED.





LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, TO THE GREAT CHALLENGES CONFRONTING AMERICA AT HOME AND ABROAD -- THE CHALLENGES OF REDEEMING THE INTEGRITY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, PROTECTING OUR PROSPERITY, EXPANDING OUR ENERGY SUPPLY, AND PRESERVING THE PEACE OF THE WORLD THROUGH STRENGTH AND NEGOTIATION -- MY ~~OWN~~ GREAT HOPE IS THAT ALL OF US ~~MAY DO~~ HONOR ~~TO~~ THE MEMORY OF ALFRED E. SMITH BY LOVING THIS COUNTRY AS DEEPLY AS HE DID, AND BY SERVING HER AS FAITHFULLY.

THANK YOU.

-- END --



*Galleries & with*

*M OFFICE COPY*

REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE GERALD R. FORD  
AT THE 27th ANNUAL AL SMITH DINNER  
AT THE WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL  
NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK  
THURSDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 18, 1973

Hold for release on delivery,  
expected at 10:10 p.m.



Cardinal Cooke, Judge Mulligan, Governor Rockefeller, distinguished guests and friends: It is a privilege for me to be with you.

As you may know, the President himself was looking forward to being here tonight, and he asked me to bring you his best wishes for the occasion and his regrets that the crisis situation in the Middle East will not permit him to enjoy your fine company.

Having attended these dinners when he was a Presidential nominee in 1960 and 1968, President Nixon told me it would be good luck for me to do the same as the Vice Presidential nominee in 1973. I asked him how he could say it was good luck after what happened to him in the 1960 election, but he said, "Don't worry, Jerry -- you're not running against an Irishman."

Before coming up here from Washington this afternoon, a member of my staff reminded me to be sure and acknowledge in my remarks that 1973 is the one-hundredth anniversary of Al Smith's birth. I said to him, I wonder how it would feel to be a hundred. He said, "After you get through with your confirmation hearings you may well know how it feels."

But the fact of the matter is that I am on very good terms with members of both parties in both Houses of Congress, and that is the way I hope it will remain. I encourage and welcome the closest scrutiny by them of my qualifications for the job the President has asked me to fill; I think we owe that to the American people.

And when that process is completed, I look forward to serving the national interest and serving the President by doing everything I can to move the legislative-executive relationship

(more)



in Washington away from partisanship and polarization onto a more constructive basis of partnership and cooperation.

I believe that is part of what the President meant when he spoke of a new beginning for America on Friday night. A new beginning is both necessary and possible, and if we work together in the months ahead, not as Republicans and Democrats but as Americans, we can make it happen.

The great task we face is that of reassuring the American people that their system of representative government still works -- that it works not just for the self-interest of those in office, but primarily for the public interest of all the people. No one, as this audience well knows, understood better how to make that system work than Alfred E. Smith.

Al Smith started out, of course, in the legislature of New York State. Throughout his long service there, he never let partisanship stand in the way of public service, no matter whether a Democrat or a Republican was occupying the Governor's chair, no matter whether Al Smith happened to be serving as Speaker of the Assembly or in the opposite role -- and might I add, the equally honorable role -- of minority leader.

Later in his career, this gifted man moved over from the legislative branch of government into the executive, as I now hope to do. What I admire about the way Al Smith made that transition is that the change in jobs made no change whatever in his outlook as a public servant. I hope to emulate him in that regard. He did not suddenly become an adversary of the legislature -- rather he remained a leader and partner in the State legislative process. His example in the 1920's, I submit, is one that all of us can profit from in the 1970's.

He was the Happy Warrior, and millions of Americans in both parties will always remember him that way, with the warmest affection and with the greatest respect.

We will also remember that this Happy Warrior of the campaign trail was also a generous peacemaker after the votes were counted, and a skilled conciliator when the good of the people was at stake. He was too big a man for partisanship when principle was on the line, and too patriotic for petty politics when his country's security was threatened.

(more)

Looking to the future, to the great challenges confronting America at home and abroad -- the challenges of redeeming the integrity of public service, protecting our prosperity, expanding our energy supply, and preserving the peace of the world through strength and negotiation -- my own great hope is that all of us may do honor to the memory of Alfred E. Smith by loving this country as deeply as he did, and by serving her as faithfully.

Thank you.

# # #



October 17, 1973

5:30 pm

THE WHITE HOUSE

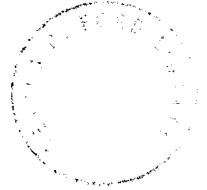
WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE

VICE PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE FORD'S ATTENDANCE AT  
THE AL SMITH DINNER

Waldorf-Astoria Hotel  
New York City  
Thursday, October 18, 1973

ATTIRE: White Tie for Head Table Guests  
Black Tie for all others



4:35 pm  
(EDT)

ARRIVE Andrews AFB and board Convair.

4:40 pm

DEPART Andrews AFB via Convair en route  
La Guardia Airport, New York City.

[Flying time: 55 minutes]  
[No time change]

5:35 pm

ARRIVE La Guardia Airport and board  
motorcade.

5:40 pm

DEPART via motorcade en route Waldorf-  
Astoria Hotel.

[Driving time: Approximately 30 min.]

6:10 pm

ARRIVE Waldorf-Astoria Hotel and proceed  
to Suite.

PERSONAL/STAFF TIME  
[30 minutes]

NOTE: Room 7T has been  
reserved for Mr. Hartmann  
and Mr. Miltich.

6:40 pm

DEPART Suite and proceed to Regency Suite  
(Fourth Floor).

6:43 pm

ARRIVE Regency Suite.

You will be met by:

Terence Cardinal Cooke, Archbishop  
of New York.

Judge William Mulligan, 2nd U.S.  
District Court of Appeals.

Mr. Charles Silver, Dinner Host.

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Cox.

They will accompany you to the  
Astor Gallery for Photo Opportunity.

6:45 pm

ARRIVE Astor Gallery for Press Photo  
Opportunity with Cardinal Cooke, Judge Mulligan,  
Mr. Silver and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cox.

#### PRESS PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Photo Opportunity concludes.

6:55 pm

DEPART Astor Gallery and proceed to  
Basildon Room for dinner reception, escorted  
by Cardinal Cooke, Judge Mulligan, Mr.  
Silver and Mr. and Mrs. Cox.

7:00 pm

ARRIVE Basildon Room and form receiving  
line to receive dinner guests.

Receiving line as follows:

Terence Cardinal Cooke

Vice President-Designate Gerald Ford

Mr. Charles Silver

Judge William Mulligan

Mrs. Tricia Nixon Cox

Mr. Edward Cox

Governor Nelson Rockefeller (R-N. Y.)

Mayor John Lindsey (D-N. Y. C.)

Senator Jacob Javits (R-N. Y.)

Senator James Buckley (R-C, N. Y.)



7:45 pm

Receiving line concludes.

DEPART Basildon Room en route Jade Room escorted by Cardinal Cooke, Judge Mulligan, Mr. Silver, and Mr. & Mrs. Edward Cox.

NOTE: Guests will proceed to dinner seats, while Head Table guests will proceed to Jade Room to prepare for entry to Grand Ballroom.

7:50 pm

ARRIVE Jade Room and await entry to Grand Ballroom.

7:55 pm

Proceed to Head Table seat with other guests.

8:00 pm

Dinner begins.

9:45 pm

Program begins.

9:50 pm

Cardinal Cooke remarks.

9:55 pm

Judge Mulligan remarks.

10:10 pm

Vice President-Designate Ford remarks.

10:15 pm

Remarks conclude.

DEPART Grand Ballroom escorted by Cardinal Cooke en route motorcade for boarding.

NOTE: Mr. & Mrs. Edward Cox will depart Grand Ballroom at same time.

10:20 pm

ARRIVE motorcade and board.

10:25 pm

DEPART via motorcade en route La Guardia Airport.

[Driving time: 30 minutes]

10:55 pm

ARRIVE La Guardia Airport and board Convair.

11:00 pm

DEPART La Guardia Airport via Convair en  
route Andrews AFB.

[Flying time: 55 minutes]

[No time change]

11:55 pm

ARRIVE Andrews AFB.