

The original documents are located in Box 127, folder “Oct. 23, 1973 - Speech, Pennsylvania General Assembly, Harrisburg, PA” of the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Papers 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 Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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.

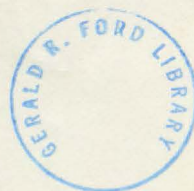
PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE HOUSE
CHAMBER OF THE STATE CAPITOL,
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA, TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 23, 1973.

*Herman Nide
morning meeting
Telephone call*

*Speaker Kenneth Lee
Majority Leader - Robert Butler
Minority Leader - Herb Ginsman*

IT IS A ^{name} PRIVILEGE AND A ^{very high honor} PLEASURE
TO APPEAR BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
PENNSYLVANIA. I CANNOT THINK OF A MORE
APPROPRIATE SETTING THAN THIS GREAT STATE
LEGISLATIVE BODY FOR THE BRIEF REMARKS I
WANT TO DELIVER ON THE SUBJECT OF POLITICS
AND PUBLIC SERVICE.

I DON'T NEED TO REMIND THIS
AUDIENCE OF THE CHALLENGE THAT ELECTED
OFFICIALS FACE TODAY -- THE CRISIS OF



CONFIDENCE CONFRONTING THE WHOLE POLITICAL
PROCESS IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICA. IT IS
SOMETHING EACH OF US HAS TO LIVE WITH AND
DEAL WITH.

FIRST LET ME CONGRATULATE YOU ON
WHAT YOU ARE DOING HERE IN PENNSYLVANIA TO
SHORE UP PUBLIC CONFIDENCE. YOU ARE MAKING
THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN YOUR STATE A
STRONGER, MORE RESPONSIVE PART OF GOVERNMENT.
YOUR WORK IN DEVELOPING A CODE OF ETHICS
FOR STATE LEGISLATORS IS AN EXAMPLE THAT
STATE GOVERNMENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY CAN
PROFIT BY. AND YOU ARE ALSO PROVIDING
MODERN STAFF AND RESEARCH RESOURCES FOR THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY SO THAT IT CAN DO A BETTER



JOB OF SERVING THE PEOPLE.

THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT PUBLIC SKEPTICISM ABOUT POLITICS AND POLITICIANS IS A RECENT DEVELOPMENT. I WAS FIRST ELECTED TO THE CONGRESS A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO, AND I REMEMBER THAT PUBLIC CONFIDENCE AT THAT TIME WAS NOT EXACTLY HIGH. PRESIDENT TRUMAN WAS PLUNGING IN THE POLLS, PUBLIC FAITH IN THE CONGRESS WAS MISERABLY LOW, AND WHEN MOST PEOPLE USED THE WORD POLITICIAN THEY DIDN'T MEAN IT AS A COMPLIMENT.



BUT THANKS TO THE CALIBRE OF MEN
IN PUBLIC SERVICE, AND, EVEN MORE, TO THE
CALM GOOD SENSE OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC,
THE WORLD DIDN'T COME TO AN END. TODAY
WE FIND THAT HARRY TRUMAN -- SO REVILED IN
THE LATE '40s AND EARLY '50s -- IS RECOGNIZED
AS A GREAT LEADER AND A GREAT MAN. HE IS
RECOGNIZED AS A MAN WHO HAD THE COURAGE OF
HIS CONVICTIONS AND WHO WAS WILLING TO MAKE
TOUGH, UNPOPULAR DECISIONS. HARRY TRUMAN
KNEW WHATEVER THE SHORT-TERM CRITICS MIGHT
SAY, HISTORY WOULD VINDICATE HIM. TODAY
ANOTHER PRESIDENT FACES A SIMILAR
SITUATION. I BELIEVE HE HAS THAT SAME



MOCKERS -- OF SKEPTICS -- ALWAYS READY TO
SHOUT DISPARAGEMENT FROM THE SIDELINES.
SOMETIMES THE GADFLY ROLE THEY PLAY IS EVEN
USEFUL. BUT WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN, IT IS
THE MEN AND WOMEN IN THE ARENA, ^{not on the sidelines} -- THE MUCH
SCORNEED POLITICIANS -- WHO HAVE TO MAKE THE
LIFE AND DEATH DECISIONS. AND IN NEARLY
TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF AMERICAN HISTORY,
THOSE MEN AND WOMEN HAVE NEVER FAILED US ON
THE REALLY BIG ISSUES.

THEY HAVE NOT BEFORE, AND THEY
WILL NOT TODAY.



TRUMAN COURAGE AND VISION AND THAT, AFTER THE SMOKE HAS CLEARED, HE, TOO, WILL BE VINDICATED.

BUT THE WHOLE PROBLEM GOES BACK MUCH FARTHER THAN HARRY TRUMAN. SINCE THE BEGINNING OF RECORDED HISTORY, IT HAS BEEN POPULAR IN CERTAIN FASHIONABLE CIRCLES TO BELITTLE PUBLIC SERVICE. FOUR HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST, ONE WRITER IN ^{*Athena*} ATHENS DESCRIBED THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TYPICAL POPULAR POLITICIAN AS "A HORRIBLE VOICE, BAD BREEDING, AND A VULGAR MANNER." THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A SHORTAGE OF



WHEN I FIRST LEARNED THAT I WAS BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE VICE PRESIDENCY I HAD TO DO SOME VERY DEEP SOUL SEARCHING. WHAT, I HAD TO ASK MYSELF, WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT QUALITY THAT I COULD BRING TO THIS SECOND HIGHEST OFFICE IN THE LAND? AFTER A LOT OF THOUGHT I REACHED THIS CONCLUSION. THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION I COULD MAKE TO AMERICA, AND TO THE INSTITUTIONS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE TO ACT AS A HUMAN BRIDGE BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES -- BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS.



YOU DON'T SPEND A QUARTER OF A CENTURY IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS WITHOUT COMING TO UNDERSTAND AND RESPECT THE INSTITUTION. YOU DON'T KNOW AND WORK WITH A MAN LIKE RICHARD NIXON FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS -- AS A CONGRESSMAN, AS A SENATOR, AS A VICE PRESIDENT AND NOW AS PRESIDENT -- WITHOUT COMING TO KNOW AND RESPECT THE MAN AND THE HIGH OFFICES HE HAS OCCUPIED.

IT HAS BEEN MY PRIVILEGE TO KNOW BOTH THE MAN AND THE INSTITUTIONS. MY GREATEST HOPE IS THAT I CAN USE MY KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS TO



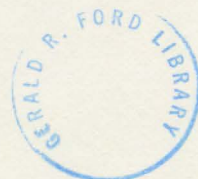
MAKE THE JOB OF BOTH THE CONGRESS AND THE
PRESIDENT EASIER -- AND THE RESULTS FOR
AMERICA BETTER.

THAT IS MY INTENTION -- MY
PERSONAL GOAL. AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT MY
MANY GOOD FRIENDS OF BOTH PARTIES IN THE
CONGRESS WILL HELP ME TO ACHIEVE IT. WE
HAVE BEEN THROUGH A LOT TOGETHER, SOMETIMES
ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE BATTLE LINE. BUT
WHEN THE AMERICAN SYSTEM AND THE WELL-BEING
OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE AT STAKE, A
BI-PARTISAN MAJORITY OF BOTH HOUSES WILL
ALWAYS SET ASIDE PARTISANSHIP AND THINK OF
THE PEOPLE. ^{*of The Country.*} IN THE DIFFICULT DAYS THAT LIE



AHEAD, THIS WILL BE THE TEST THAT SEPARATES
THE PATRIOTS FROM THE PARTISANS -- THE MEN
OF PARTY FROM THE MEN OF PRINCIPLE.

I HAVE FAITH IN THE CONGRESS, THE
PRESIDENT AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. I
BELIEVE THAT PATRIOTISM AND PRINCIPLE WILL
TRIUMPH -- THAT WE WILL EMERGE FROM THIS
LATEST ORDEAL A UNIFIED PEOPLE AND A
UNIFIED NATION. THERE MAY BE A FEW
ROADBLOCKS ALONG THE WAY, AND THERE
CERTAINLY WILL BE A LOT OF NOISE AND
FIREWORKS -- BUT WE ARE GOING TO MAKE IT.



HISTORIANS WILL LOOK BACK ON THIS
AS A MOST REMARKABLE PERIOD -- A TIME WHEN
IN TRYING TO RESOLVE THE WATERGATE ISSUE
IN A JUST AND REASONABLE WAY, OUR PRESIDENT
IS ALSO CLOSE TO PRODUCING A CEASEFIRE IN
THE MIDDLE EAST; A TIME WHEN IN THE MIDST
OF GREAT ^{domestic} TROUBLES WE HAVE ALSO MADE GREAT
ACHIEVEMENTS IN BUILDING PEACE IN THE WORLD
AND A BETTER LIFE FOR AMERICANS AT HOME.
AND THE HISTORIANS WILL REMEMBER NOT THE
MOCKERS, THE SKEPTICS AND THE VOICES OF
DIVISION, BUT THOSE OF US -- REPUBLICANS
AND DEMOCRATS ALIKE -- WHO WORKED TOGETHER
IN A POSITIVE WAY. BLESSED ARE THE



PEACEMAKERS -- NOT THE NOISEMAKERS. THOSE
WHO JOIN TOGETHER NOW IN A SPIRIT OF
COMPROMISE AND RECONCILIATION WILL BE THE
ONES THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS
WILL REMEMBER WITH REVERENCE AND THANKS.

-- END --



Pennsylvania State Joint Legislature Address
Escort Committee

Rep. Robert Butera (R-Pa.)

Rep. Harry Comer (D-Pa.)

Sen. William Lentz (R-Pa.)

Sen. Thomas McCreech (D-Pa.)



SCHEDULE

VICE PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE GERALD FORD'S
VISIT TO HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Tuesday, October 23, 1973



2:05 p.m.
EDT

ARRIVE Andrews AFB and board Convair

2:10 p.m.

DEPART Andrews AFB via Convair en route
Capital City Airport, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

[Flying time: 45 minutes]
[No time change]

2:55 p.m.

ARRIVE Capital City Airport and board motorcade.

To be met by Dauphin County Commissioners:

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Schmidt
Mr. & Mrs. Charles C. Hoy
Mr. & Mrs. W. Crawford Murdoch

PRESS PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

3:00 p.m.

DEPART airport via motorcade en route State
Capital Building.

NOTE: Congressman Schneebeli and
Commissioner Murdoch will ride with you
in your vehicle.

[Driving time: 15 minutes]

3:15 p.m.

ARRIVE State Capital Building (South Plaza
Entrance).

To be met by:

Robert Butera (R-Pa.) House
Majority Leader.

NOTE: Congressman Schneebeli and
Commissioner Murdoch will be escorted
to seats in the House Chamber.

Proceed to House Speaker's Office (First Floor)
escorted by House Leader Butera.

3:20 pm

ARRIVE Speaker's Office.

NOTE: You will hold here for 5 minutes
to allow press to be positioned in House
Chamber.

3:25 pm

DEPART Speaker's Office escorted by House
Leader Butera via elevator en route House
Chamber.

ARRIVE holding area. You will be met by
an escort committee.

3:30 pm

Proceed to House Chamber Rostrum escorted
by the escort committee and Majority Leader
Butera, who will introduce you to House
Speaker Kenneth Lee (R-Pa.).

NOTE: No announcement upon entrance.

3:32 pm

Introduction of Vice President-Designate
Gerald Ford by House Speaker Lee.

3:32 pm

Vice President-Designate Gerald Ford remarks
to Joint Session of Pennsylvania State Legisla-
ture.

FULL PRESS COVERAGE

3:47 pm

Remarks conclude.

DEPART House Chamber escorted by Majority
Leader Butera en route motorcade for boarding.

3:50 pm

DEPART State Capital Building via motorcade
en route Penn Harris Motor Inn, Camp Hill.

[Driving time: 20 minutes]

4:10 pm

ARRIVE Penn Harris Motor Inn.

You will be met by:
W. N. Sweger, General Manager of
Penn Harris Motor Inn.



Proceed to Suite (Room 386/388).

4:15 p.m. ARRIVE Suite.

NOTE: Press will proceed to set-up for
press conference.

PERSONAL/STAFF TIME
[10 minutes]

4:25 p.m. DEPART Suite and proceed to press conference (Cumberland
Room)

4:30 p.m. ARRIVE press conference.

FULL PRESS COVERAGE

4:50 p.m. Press conference concludes.

DEPART press conference room and proceed to Suite.

4:55 p.m. ARRIVE Suite.

PERSONAL/STAFF TIME
[1 hour, 5 minutes]

5:55 p.m. DEPART Suite and proceed to Susquehanna Room for
private reception.

6:00 p.m. ARRIVE reception and meet with guests, (approx. 100)

6:30 p.m. DEPART reception and proceed to Suite.

6:35 p.m. ARRIVE Suite.

PERSONAL/STAFF TIME
[25 minutes]

6:55 p.m. DEPART suite and proceed to main dining room.

NOTE: You will be escorted by Congressman
Herman T. Schneebeli (R-Pa.) and former
Governor Raymond Shaeffer.

7:00 pm	ARRIVE Main Dining Room and be seated at the head table.
7:01 pm	You will be presented the Key to the City of Harrisburg by Paul E. Doutrich ("Tim"), President of City Council.
7:02 pm	Invocation
7:03 pm	National Anthem
7:04 pm	Remarks by Harrisburg Republican Mayoral candidate - Albert Schmidt
7:10 pm	Dinner begins
8:45 pm	Introduction of dignitaries by Commissioner Murdoch.
8:50 pm	Introduction of Vice President-Designate Gerald Ford by Congressman Schneebeli
8:50 pm	Remarks by Vice President-Designate Gerald Ford.
	FULL PRESS COVERAGE
9:10 pm	Remarks conclude.
9:11 pm	Benediction
9:13 pm	"God Bless America"
9:15 pm	DEPART Main Dining Room en route motorcade for boarding.
	DEPART Penn Harris Motor Inn via motorcade en route Capital City Airport.
	[Driving time: 15 minutes]
9:30 pm	ARRIVE Airport and board Convair.
9:35 pm	DEPART via Convair en route Andrews AFB.
	[Flying time: 45 minutes] [No time change]
10:20 pm	ARRIVE Andrews AFB.



Galleries & with

IN OFFICE COPY

AN ADDRESS BY VICE PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE GERALD R. FORD
TO THE PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
IN THE HOUSE CHAMBER OF THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1973



ADVANCE FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY EXPECTED AT 3:30 P.M.

It is a privilege and a pleasure to appear before the General Assembly of Pennsylvania. I cannot think of a more appropriate setting than this great State legislative body for the brief remarks I want to deliver on the subject of politics and public service.

I don't need to remind this audience of the challenge that elected officials face today -- the crisis of confidence confronting the whole political process in contemporary America. It is something each of us has to live with and deal with.

First let me congratulate you on what you are doing here in Pennsylvania to shore up public confidence. You are making the legislative process in your State a stronger, more responsive part of government. Your work in developing a code of ethics for State legislators is an example that State Governments across the country can profit by. And you are also providing modern staff and research resources for the General Assembly so that it can do a better job of serving the people.

This is not to say that public skepticism about politics and politicians is a recent development. I was first elected to the Congress a quarter of a century ago, and I remember that public confidence at that time was not exactly high. President Truman was plunging in the polls, public faith in the Congress was miserably low, and when most people used the word politician they didn't mean it as a compliment.

But thanks to the calibre of men in public service, and, even more, to the calm good sense of the American public, the world didn't come to an end. Today we find that Harry Truman -- so reviled in the late '40s and early '50s -- is recognized as a great leader and a great man. He is recognized as a man who had the courage of his convictions and who was willing to make

(more)

tough, unpopular decisions. Harry Truman knew whatever the short-term critics might say, history would vindicate him. Today another President faces a similar situation. I believe he has that same Truman courage and vision and that, after the smoke has cleared, he, too, will be vindicated.

But the whole problem goes back much farther than Harry Truman. Since the beginning of recorded history, it has been popular in certain fashionable circles to belittle public service. Four hundred years before the birth of Christ, one writer in Athens described the characteristics of the typical popular politician as "a horrible voice, bad breeding, and a vulgar manner." There has never been a shortage of mockers -- of skeptics -- always ready to shout disparagement from the sidelines. Sometimes the gadfly role they play is even useful. But when the chips are down, it is the men and women in the arena -- the much scorned politicians -- who have to make the life and death decisions. And in nearly two hundred years of American history, those men and women have never failed us on the really big issues.

They have not before, and they will not today.

When I first learned that I was being considered for the Vice Presidency I had to do some very deep soul searching. What, I had to ask myself, was the most important quality that I could bring to this second highest office in the land? After a lot of thought I reached this conclusion. The single most important contribution I could make to America, and to the institutions of American government would be to act as a human bridge between the executive and legislative branches -- between the President and the Congress.

You don't spend a quarter of a century in the United States Congress without coming to understand and respect the institution. You don't know and work with a man like Richard Nixon for twenty-five years -- as a Congressman, as a Senator, as a Vice President and now as President -- without coming to know and respect the man and the high offices he has occupied.

It has been my privilege to know both the man and the institutions. My greatest hope is that I can use my knowledge and experience in the next three years to make the job of both the Congress and the President easier -- and the results for America better.

(more)

That is my intention -- my personal goal. And I am confident that my many good friends of both parties in the Congress will help me to achieve it. We have been through a lot together, sometimes on opposite sides of the battle line. But when the American system and the well-being of the American people are at stake, a bi-partisan majority of both houses will always set aside partisanship and think of the people. In the difficult days that lie ahead, this will be the test that separates the patriots from the partisans -- the men of party from the men of principle.

I have faith in the Congress, the President and the American people. I believe that patriotism and principle will triumph -- that we will emerge from this latest ordeal a unified people and a unified nation. There may be a few roadblocks along the way, and there certainly will be a lot of noise and fireworks -- but we are going to make it.

Historians will look back on this as a most remarkable period -- a time when in trying to resolve the Watergate issue in a just and reasonable way, our President is also close to producing a ceasefire in the Middle East; a time when in the midst of great troubles we have also made great achievements in building peace in the world and a better life for Americans at home. And the historians will remember not the mockers, the skeptics and the voices of division, but those of us -- Republicans and Democrats alike -- who worked together in a positive way. Blessed are the peacemakers -- not the noisemakers. Those who join together now in a spirit of compromise and reconciliation will be the ones that future generations of Americans will remember with reverence and thanks.

#