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WINTER REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE
STATE DINNER, HOLIDAY INN RIVERMONT,
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, 1000 P.M. MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 19, 1973.

Halter
Gov. Danner
Gullickson
Sec. Monton

Telephone



IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO ATTEND
THIS MEETING OF THE REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS.
FOR ME, AND FOR MANY OF YOU, THIS IS MORE
THAN JUST AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL MEETING --
IT IS A GATHERING OF OLD FRIENDS WHO HAVE
BEEN THROUGH A LOT TOGETHER. AS HARRY
TRUMAN ONCE SAID, "THERE IS ALWAYS ANOTHER
CRISIS AROUND THE CORNER," SO I AM SURE

WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO MORE MEETINGS LIKE THIS, AND MORE EXCITEMENT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.



AS THE RESULT OF ONE RECENT CRISIS I AM HERE IN A NEW ROLE TONIGHT, ~~THAT OF VICE PRESIDENT DESIGNATE OF THE UNITED STATES.~~ ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT WHILE THE TITLE MAY HAVE CHANGED, JERRY FORD HASN'T. I INTEND TO KEEP ON EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR PARTICIPATION ^{as Governors} IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AND IN NATIONAL AFFAIRS JUST AS VIGOROUSLY IN MY NEW JOB



AS I HAVE FOR THE PAST NINE YEARS AS
MINORITY LEADER IN THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES.

*We've worked successfully on some
important matters:
General Revenue Sharing
New Hopeful Special
new and strong
1) Elementary
+ Secondary
2) Higher*

THERE WAS ANOTHER RECENT EVENT
THAT UNDERSCORED THE OLD FRIENDSHIP THAT
SO MANY OF US SHARE HERE TONIGHT. I'M
REFERRING TO THE DECISION TO REVITALIZE THE
REPUBLICAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE, AND TO
GIVE THE REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS AN IMPORTANT
ROLE IN IT.



ORIGINALLY, THE REPUBLICAN
COORDINATING COMMITTEE WAS SET UP AS A
RALLYING POINT FOR THE GOP AS LOYAL
OPPOSITION. I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING
WITH THE LATE EV DIRKSEN AND ANOTHER GREAT
REPUBLICAN, RAY BLISS OF OHIO, IN GETTING
IT ON THE ROAD BACK IN 1965. AT THAT TIME
WE WERE IN THE MINORITY IN THE CONGRESS AND
THE DEMOCRATS WERE IN THE WHITE HOUSE. SO,
NATURALLY, THE ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE WAS
SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE -- ATTACK-ORIENTED MIGHT
BE THE BETTER TERM.

according to some
but in my view
it was ism &

BUT I FELT THEN, AND I FEEL JUST AS STRONGLY NOW, THAT THERE IS AN IMMENSELY IMPORTANT POSITIVE ROLE FOR THE COMMITTEE AS WELL. I SEE IT AS A MOLDING, UNIFYING FORCE NOT ONLY FOR THE GOP BUT FOR THE COUNTRY.



THAT IS WHY I AM SO HAPPY ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT DECISION TO HELP REVIVE IT AND GEORGE BUSH'S ENTHUSIASTIC IMPLEMENTATION OF AN IDEA THAT STARTED US ON THE WAY UP FROM THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR IN 1965.

How far down - 1964
House 295/140
Senate 64/32
Gov. 33/17

~~WELL, THERE IS A LOT OF TRUTH~~
~~IN THE SAYING "BETTER LATE THAN NEVER"~~ AND
NOW THAT THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE IS BACK
IN FULL SWING, I AM CONFIDENT THAT GEORGE
BUSH, THE GOVERNORS, THE CONGRESS AND THE
PRESIDENT CAN PULL TOGETHER TO MAKE IT THE
GREAT SUCCESS IT DESERVES TO BE. AND I
PROMISE YOU THAT I PERSONALLY INTEND TO DO
EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO SEE TO IT THAT
WE ACHIEVE THIS GOAL.



THIS GREAT COUNTRY OF OURS HAS BEEN THROUGH A LOT OF TURMOIL IN THE LAST DECADE AND, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, HAS COME THROUGH WITH FLYING COLORS, DESPITE A FEW SCARS AND BRUISES. WE STILL HAVE SOME MAJOR CHALLENGES TO MEET -- TOUGH, GRUELING CHOICES AND DECISIONS. BUT I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN AND WILL SUCCEED.



AND ONE OF THE REASONS AMERICA WILL SUCCEED IS BECAUSE OF THE CALIBER OF LEADERSHIP THAT OUR PARTY HAS PRODUCED -- IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY;

IN GOVERNORS' MANSIONS FROM CALIFORNIA TO NEW YORK; IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES; AND IN THE WHITE HOUSE ITSELF.



IF I MAY BORROW A FAMOUS PHRASE FROM A GREAT AMERICAN WHO NEVER ATTENDED A REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS CONFERENCE, I WOULD EMPHASIZE THAT AT THIS CRITICAL TIME "THE ONLY THING WE HAVE TO FEAR IS FEAR ITSELF." FEAR, DISUNITY, AND LOSS OF CONFIDENCE AND BELIEF IN OURSELVES -- THAT IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN STOP US NOW. AND WE CAN'T ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN.

TO ME, THERE WAS ONE MAN ABOVE OTHERS IN THIS CENTURY WHO KNEW THE MEANING OF LEADERSHIP, BOTH IN PEACE AND IN WAR. THAT MAN WAS PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AND I RECENTLY REREAD SOMETHING HE HAD TO SAY ABOUT CRISIS AND THE CRISIS MENTALITY THAT I THINK BEARS REPEATING TONIGHT.



“A CRISIS MAY BE FATAL,” IKE SAID,
“WHEN, BY IT, UNSTABLE MEN ARE STAMPEDED
INTO HEADLONG PANIC.....BUT A CRISIS IS
ALSO THE SHARPEST GOAD TO THE CREATIVE

ENERGIES OF MEN, PARTICULARLY WHEN THEY
RECOGNIZE IT AS A CHALLENGE TO THEIR VERY
RESOURCE, AND MOVE TO MEET IT IN FAITH,
IN THOUGHT, IN COURAGE. 22



FAITH, THOUGHT AND COURAGE. THESE
WERE THE THREE INDISPENSABLE QUALITIES IKE
POINTED TO -- AND HE EXEMPLIFIED THEM
DURING HIS LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER.

I SEE THOSE SAME QUALITIES HERE IN
THIS ROOM AMONG THE MEN WHO ARE LEADING
THEIR STATES TODAY.

I HAVE SEEN IT IN MY COLLEAGUES
IN THE CONGRESS DURING THE QUARTER CENTURY
I HAVE SERVED WITH THEM.



AND I ALSO SEE IT IN DICK NIXON,
WHOM I HAVE KNOWN AND RESPECTED FOR ALL OF
THOSE 25 YEARS AND WHOM I HAVE SEEN LEAD
AMERICA FROM A BLOODY AND SEEMINGLY ENDLESS
WAR INTO A NEW ERA OF LASTING PEACE.

Insert

OUR REPUBLICAN PARTY ALSO HAS SOME
REMARKABLE SUCCESS STORIES TO TELL AT THE

It's important that all Americans take note of the President's accomplishments in international and domestic affairs and I'm pleased to learn the strong position of support taken today by the Republican governors. Your applause for his recent efforts to bring peace to the Middle East, to avoid confrontation with the Soviet Union, to preserve the fiscal integrity of the Federal Government and to reduce domestic inflation to level below that of any other major nation, while bringing unemployment to a record peacetime low. Your commendation of his forthright statement to the people in connection with the energy crisis and support his recommendations to the Congress to meet that crisis. And your applause of the determination of the President to make full disclosure to the public concerning Watergate is an outstanding example of the kind of leadership you are providing your states and the nation.



STATE LEVEL -- SUCCESS STORIES WHICH
CONVINCE ME THAT OUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT.



TOM McCALL, FOR INSTANCE, HAS
PROVIDED AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF LEADERSHIP
IN THE ENERGY CRISIS, NOT ONLY FOR HIS OWN
STATE OF OREGON, BUT FOR THE NATION AS WELL.
AND WHEN THE PRESIDENT WANTED TO FIND THE
BEST POSSIBLE MAN TO HEAD THE NATIONAL
ENERGY EFFORT HE FOUND HIM IN ONE OF THE
PAST MEMBERS OF THIS BODY, GOVERNOR JOHN
LOVE OF COLORADO.

IN THE AREA OF FISCAL REFORM AND EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT, MY OLD FRIEND AND FELLOW FOOTBALL PLAYER, DUTCH REAGAN, HAS LED THE FIELD. HE HAS SHOWN THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA, AND THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA, THAT STATE GOVERNMENT CAN AND SHOULD BE ECONOMICAL AND EFFICIENT. AND I AM CONVINCED THAT DESPITE A TEMPORARY SETBACK AT THE POLLS, GOVERNOR REAGAN'S CONCEPT OF CONTROLLED SPENDING -- OF KEEPING THE COST OF STATE GOVERNMENT IN LINE AND KEEPING STATE TAXES DOWN -- IS ONE THAT WILL GAIN, NOT LOSE,



SUPPORT IN THE YEARS AHEAD. I BELIEVE WE WILL SEE HIS VISION VINDICATED BECAUSE RONALD REAGAN'S PHILOSOPHY OF FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY IS NOT A THROWBACK TO THE PAST, IT IS THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE.

SPEAKING OF THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE, WE HAVE ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF IT IN THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THIS ASSOCIATION, GOVERNOR-ELECT MILLS GODWIN OF VIRGINIA. AS A FORMER DEMOCRAT WHO WON REELECTION AS A REPUBLICAN, MILLS GODWIN IS THE EMBODIMENT



OF A POLITICAL TIDAL WAVE THAT IS SWEEPING THE SOUTH. MORE AND MORE, MEN AND WOMEN WHO CHERISH THE VALUES OF THOMAS JEFFERSON AND OTHER GREAT FOUNDERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT THE HOME OF THE GREAT POLITICAL TRADITION TODAY IS THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. THANKS TO THE LEADERSHIP OF MEN LIKE MILLS GODWIN AND HIS PREDECESSOR, LINWOOD HOLTON, THE DAY MAY NOT BE FAR OFF WHEN A NEW "SOLID SOUTH" WILL EMERGE -- A SOUTH THAT IS SOLID IN THE REPUBLICAN CAUSE.



I WOULD[^] LIKE TO TAKE THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO COMMEND A VERY IMPORTANT
NEW PROJECT THAT GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER HAS
UNDERTAKEN. IT IS THE LEADERSHIP OF THE
NEW COMMISSION ON CRITICAL CHOICES FOR
AMERICA. I HAD THE PLEASURE OF SPONSORING
THIS BI-PARTISAN MEASURE IN THE CONGRESS
ALONG WITH MY GOOD FRIEND AND OLD SPARRING
PARTNER, TIP O'NEILL, AND I WILL BE SERVING
ON IT MYSELF IN AN EX-OFFICIO CAPACITY.
BUT GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER IS GOING TO BE
IN CHARGE.



WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND IS A COMMISSION TO EVALUATE THE IMPORTANT CHOICES AND CHALLENGES THAT AMERICA IS GOING TO FACE IN THE YEARS AHEAD -- A REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF NATIONAL RESOURCES AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES. I CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER MAN THAN NELSON ROCKEFELLER, WITH HIS LONG EXPERIENCE IN BOTH STATE AND NATIONAL SERVICE, TO UNDERTAKE THIS IMPORTANT MISSION, AND I THINK THE FACT THAT HE WILL BE IN CHARGE REPRESENTS A SYMBOLIC TRIBUTE TO THE GREAT JOB BEING DONE BY ALL OF YOU AS REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS.



AND THAT IS THE THOUGHT I WOULD
LIKE TO LEAVE WITH YOU TONIGHT. LET'S NOT
LET THE PROBLEMS OF THE PAST BLIND US TO
THE CHALLENGE AND THE PROMISE OF THE
REPUBLICAN FUTURE -- THE AMERICAN FUTURE.

WE HAVE A GREAT PARTY, A GREAT
PRESIDENT AND A GREAT COUNTRY. WE ALSO
HAVE OUR SHARE OF PROBLEMS RIGHT NOW, BUT
WITH THAT WINNING COMBINATION, AS LONG AS
WE ALL DO OUR BEST, THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN
FAIL TO SUCCEED.

-- END --



RESOLUTION BY REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS

NOVEMBER 19, 1973

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE



We, the Republican Governors, commend the President for his outstanding accomplishments in international and domestic affairs.

In particular, we applaud his recent efforts to bring peace to the Middle East, to avoid confrontation with the Soviet Union, to preserve the fiscal integrity of the Federal Government and to reduce domestic inflation to a level below that of any other major nation, while bringing unemployment to a record peacetime low.

In addition, we commend his forthright statement to the people in connection with the energy crisis and support his recommendations to the Congress to meet that crisis.

We applaud the determination of the President to make full disclosure to the public concerning Watergate, and we look forward to his visit to this Conference tomorrow as a part of that effort.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 17, 1973

10:30 am

MEMORANDUM FOR: VICE PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE GERALD FORD

FROM: W. DEWEY CLOWER

REGARDING: YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THE
WINTER REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS'
CONFERENCE STATE DINNER
Memphis, Tennessee
November 19, 1973

You have agreed to attend the Republican Governors' VIP Reception and State Dinner and to deliver brief remarks to the 700 attenders at the dinner.

Your schedule is at TAB A. Your suggested remarks will be delivered to you by a special messenger.

If you have questions or want to discuss your schedule, I can be reached through the White House Signal Board in Washington.

BACKGROUND

Gov. & Mrs. Winfield Dunn are hosting the annual Winter Governors' Conference, held this year in Memphis, Tennessee. All Republican Governors are expected to attend with the exception of Gov. Hathaway of Wyoming, Gov. Sargent of Massachusetts, Gov. Camacho of Guam, and Gov. Hadden of American Samoa. It is expected that Gov. -Elect Mills Godwin of Virginia will attend.

Gov. Linwood Holton is the retiring Chairman of the Conference, with Gov. Winfield Dunn, now Vice-Chairman. It is expected that Gov. Meskill will be elected Vice-Chairman at the Business Meeting on Tuesday morning.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE



VICE PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE GERALD FORD'S
ATTENDANCE AT THE
WINTER REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE
STATE DINNER

Holiday Inn Rivermont
Memphis, Tennessee
Monday, November 19, 1973

ATTIRE: Black Tie

WEATHER: Cloudy with chance of
rain, temperature mid 50's.

4 pm

Leave Capitol for Andrews

4:40 pm
(EST)

ARRIVE Andrews AFB and board Jetstar
en route Memphis International Airport,
Memphis, Tennessee.

[Flying time: 1 hour, 55 minutes]
[Time change: -1 hour]

5:35 pm
(CST)

ARRIVE Memphis International Airport
(National Guard side) and board motorcade.

CLOSED ARRIVAL

5:40 pm

DEPART Memphis International Airport
via motorcade en route Holiday Inn
Rivermont.

[Driving time: 15 minutes]

5:55 pm

ARRIVE Holiday Inn Rivermont.

You will be met by:
Mr. John Nevilles, Innkeeper of
Holiday Inn Rivermont.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Proceed to Hacienda Suite - Room 704.

6:00 pm

ARRIVE Hacienda Suite.

PERSONAL/STAFF TIME
[40 minutes]

6:40 pm

DEPART Suite and proceed to Rivermont Club for VIP Reception.

6:45 pm

ARRIVE Rivermont Club for Reception.

You will be met by:
Gov. & Mrs. Winfield Dunn.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

7:15 pm

Host couples depart Reception and proceed to Ballroom for dinner seating.

7:45 pm

The Governors, their wives and you will form a procession line to proceed to Ballroom.

7:50 pm

DEPART Reception room and proceed to Ballroom for State Dinner.

7:55 pm

ARRIVE entrance to Ballroom. The Governors and their wives will be announced individually and proceed to Head Table.

NOTE: See attachment for order of entry into Ballroom.

8:05 pm


You will be announced and will proceed to Head Table.

8:10 pm

Pledge of Allegiance led by S. L. Kopald, Tennessee Republican Chairman.

8:12 pm

Invocation by the Rev. Paul W. Clayton of Christ United Methodist Church.



8:15 pm	Dinner begins.
10:00 pm	Dinner Concludes.
10:00 pm	Gov. Linwood Holton (R-Va.) introduces Vice President-Designate Gerald Ford.
10:03 pm	Remarks - Vice President-Designate Gerald Ford.
10:15 pm	Remarks Conclude. DEPART Head Table and proceed to motorcade.
10:20 pm	DEPART Rivermont via motorcade en route Memphis International Airport. [Driving time: 15 minutes]
10:35 pm	ARRIVE Memphis International Airport and board Jetstar.
10:40 pm	DEPART Memphis International Airport via Jetstar en route Andrews AFB. [Flying time: 1 hour, 30 minutes] [Time change: +1 hour]
1:10 am (EST)	ARRIVE Andrews AFB.

ORDER OF ENTRY INTO BALLROOM

1. NEW JERSEY - The Garden State
Governor & Mrs. William T. Cahill
2. CONNECTICUT - The Nutmeg State
Governor & Mrs. Thomas J. Meskill
3. MASSACHUSETTS - The Bay State
Governor & Mrs. Francis W. Sargent
4. NEW HAMPSHIRE - The Granite State
Governor & Mrs. Meldrim Thomson
5. VIRGINIA - The Old Dominion State
Governor-Elect & Mrs. Mills Godwin
6. NEW YORK - The Empire State
Governor & Mrs. Nelson A. Rockefeller
7. NORTH CAROLINA - Tar Heel State
Governor & Mrs. James Holshouser
8. INDIANA - The Hoosier State
Governor & Mrs. Otis R. Bowen
9. MISSOURI - Show Me State
Governor & Mrs. Christopher Bond
10. MICHIGAN - The Wolverine State
Governor & Mrs. William G. Milliken
11. IOWA - The Hawkeye State
Governor & Mrs. Robert D. Ray
12. CALIFORNIA - The Golden State
Governor & Mrs. Ronald Reagan
13. WEST VIRGINIA - The Mountain State
Governor & Mrs. Arch A. Moore, Jr.
14. COLORADO - The Centennial State
Governor & Mrs. John D. Vanderhoof
15. WASHINGTON - The Evergreen State
Governor & Mrs. Daniel J. Evans
16. ARIZONA - The Grand Canyon State
Governor & Mrs. Jack Williams
18. VIRGIN ISLANDS
Governor & Mrs. Melvin Evans
19. TENNESSEE - The Volunteer State
The Host Governor & Mrs. Winfield Dunn
20. Ladies and Gentlemen, representing the Old Dominion State,
the 1973 Chairman of the Republican Governors' Association,
Governor Linwood Holton and Mrs. Holton.

NOTE: If there are any changes in the order of entry into the Ballroom you will receive them during your personal time before program begins.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE

VICE PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE GERALD FORD'S
ATTENDANCE AT THE
WINTER REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE
STATE DINNER

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[40 minutes]



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REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE GERALD R. FORD

BEFORE THE
WINTER REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE
STATE DINNER

HOLIDAY INN RIVERMONT
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

10:00 PM MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1973

ADVANCE FOR RELEASE IN TUESDAY AM's

It is a pleasure for me to attend this meeting of the Republican Governors. For me, and for many of you, this is more than just an important political meeting -- it is a gathering of old friends who have been through a lot together. As Harry Truman once said, "There is always another crisis around the corner," so I am sure we can look forward to more meetings like this, and more excitement in the years ahead.

As the result of one recent crisis I am here in a new role tonight, that of Vice President-Designate of the United States. All I can tell you is that while the title may have changed, Jerry Ford hasn't. I intend to keep on emphasizing the importance of your participation in the Republican Party and in national affairs just as vigorously in my new job as I have for the past nine years as Minority Leader in the House of Representatives.

There was another recent event that underscored the old friendship that so many of us share here tonight. I'm referring to the decision to revitalize the Republican Coordinating Committee, and to give the Republican Governors an important role in it.

Originally, the Republican Coordinating Committee was set up as a rallying point for the GOP as loyal opposition. I had the privilege of working with the late Ev Dirksen and another great Republican, Ray Bliss of Ohio, in getting it on the road back in 1965. At that time we were in the minority in the Congress and the Democrats were in the White House so, naturally, the role of the committee was somewhat negative -- attack-oriented might be the better term.

But I felt then, and I feel just as strongly now, that there is an immensely important positive role for the committee

(more)

sharpest goad to the creative energies of men, particularly when they recognize it as a challenge to their very resource, and move to meet it in faith, in thought, in courage."

Faith, thought and courage. These were the three indispensable qualities Ike pointed to -- and he exemplified them during his long and distinguished career.



I see those same qualities here in this room among the men who are leading their States today.

I have seen it in my colleagues in the Congress during the quarter century I have served with them.

And I also see it in Dick Nixon, whom I have known and respected for all of those 25 years and whom I have seen lead America from a bloody and seemingly endless war into a new era of lasting peace.

Our Republican Party also has some remarkable success stories to tell at the state level -- success stories which convince me that our future is bright.

Tom McCall, for instance, has provided an outstanding example of leadership in the energy crisis, not only for his own state of Oregon, but for the nation as well. And when the President wanted to find the best possible man to head the national energy effort he found him in one of the past members of this body, Governor John Love of Colorado.

In the area of fiscal reform and efficiency in government, my old friend and fellow football player, Dutch Reagan, has led the field. He has shown the people of California, and the people of America, that state government can and should be economical and efficient. And I am convinced that despite a temporary setback at the polls, Gov. Reagan's concept of controlled spending -- of keeping the cost of state government in line and keeping state taxes down -- is one that will gain, not lose, support in the years ahead. I believe we will see his vision vindicated because Ronald Reagan's philosophy of fiscal responsibility is not a throwback to the past, it is the wave of the future.

Speaking of the wave of the future, we have another example of it in the newest member of this association,

(more)



Governor-elect Mills Godwin of Virginia. As a former Democrat who won reelection as a Republican, Mills Godwin is the embodiment of a political tidal wave that is sweeping the South. More and more, men and women who cherish the values of Thomas Jefferson and other great founders of the Democratic Party are beginning to realize that the home of the great political tradition today is the Republican Party. Thanks to the leadership of men like Mills Godwin and his predecessor, Linwood Holton, the day may not be far off when a new "solid South" will emerge -- a South that is solid in the Republican cause.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend a very important new project that Governor Rockefeller has undertaken. It is the leadership of the new Commission on Critical Choices for America. I had the pleasure of sponsoring this bi-partisan measure in the Congress along with my good friend and old sparring partner, Tip O'Neill, and I will be serving on it myself in an ex officio capacity. But Governor Rockefeller is going to be in charge.

What we have in mind is a commission to evaluate the important choices and challenges that America is going to face in the years ahead -- a review and evaluation of national resources and national priorities. I can't think of a better man than Nelson Rockefeller, with his long experience in both State and national service, to undertake this important mission, and I think the fact that he will be in charge represents a symbolic tribute to the great job being done by all of you as Republican Governors.

And that is the thought I would like to leave with you tonight. Let's not let the problems of the past blind us to the challenge and the promise of the Republican future -- the American future.

We have a great party, a great President and a great country. We also have our share of problems right now, but with that winning combination, as long as we all do our best, there is no way we can fail to succeed.

#