

The original documents are located in Box 129, folder “Feb. 15, 1974 - Speech, Everett Dirksen 500 Luncheon, Chicago, IL” of the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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EXCERPTS FROM A SPEECH BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
AT A DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA, REPUBLICAN FUND-RAISING DINNER
AT THE HILTON HOTEL, OMAHA, NEBRASKA
7:30 P.M. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1974



FOR RELEASE AT 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY

The Administration is aware of the concern in the Omaha area --- the Nation's beef center --- over the issue of trucking products to interstate markets.

Any disruption in the regular flow of transportation not only seriously affects farmers, the meat industry, and related businesses but also exerts an impact on America's consumers. When beef does not move, you suffer and the consumer suffers.

The Administration has worked day and night to get the trucks rolling again. We think that the problem, a temporary manifestation of the energy crisis, is being worked out for the benefit of all truckers, for your benefit, and for the benefit of consumers throughout the country.

We are striving to avoid and minimize the negative effects the energy crisis can cause. Our economy is vulnerable to dislocations. We are dealing with the crisis.

Petroleum needs have surpassed supplies. We cannot turn the clock back to what used to be. But we can move forward to a hopeful future. America will retain its world leadership.

We are taking measures to meet the temporary emergency. The Administration is aware of hardships and anxieties. We are moving to close the transitional gap.

Efforts range from the realm of international relations --- where we seek cooperative world energy action and have offered to share technology and resources --- to the impact on individual Americans who face loss of employment and rising prices.

This Administration has moved forward to create a climate of world peace --- extricating ourselves from the war in Vietnam, improving

(more)

relations with Moscow and Peking, and nurturing a peace settlement in the Middle East. Our stock in the world is high. We are seeking to moderate and conciliate in the strife over oil just as we have in the strife over territory.

The Nation is aware that international security and economic considerations are inextricably linked. We are cautioning other governments of the consequences of go-it-alone policies in the field of energy. Short-term expediency by individual nations can destroy internationally-related economies and drive friendly nations apart.

Federal administrative machinery is being reorganized to deal more effectively with short and longterm energy requirements. Steps are being taken to speed up approval of sites for energy facilities and to accelerate construction of nuclear power plants. Substantial increases in Federal leases for exploration and development of offshore resources by private companies is facilitating increased domestic output of oil and gas. Work is progressing on offshore resources while steps are taken to enable industry to develop our Western oil shale deposits.

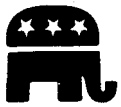
These and other measures, including work on such advanced energy potential as nuclear fusion, geothermal, and solar sources, is going forward.

Research and development for Project Independence, which will free us from the threat of blackmail by any foreign nation by 1980, will produce vast new industrial activity and millions of new jobs.

America is not finished. Our lifestyle is changing and we are going through growing pains. We will transcend the transitional torment that is causing suffering to too many of our citizens.

There is no ground for a psychological complex of defeat. We have run short of gasoline. But we have not run short of American initiative. Or American self-confidence. Or American courage. Or American know-how.

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Republican
National
Committee.

R. L. "Dick" Herman
Member for Nebraska
Executive Committee
Republican National
Committee
Post Office Box 189
Omaha, Nebraska 68101
(402) 346-8092

Omaha, Neb.
Feb. 15, 1974



SCHOOL : Park Elementary School

TEACHER: Mrs. Marjorie Spicka
(Class of '22. Combination of 4th & 5th
graders. A great solid teacher, 50 years
of age.)

PRINCIPAL: Mr. Robert Womacque

SCHOOL IS DISMISSED AT 3:10 PM.

SUMMARY OF REMARKS BY WOW RADIO, LEN ZI-CHECK,
ATTACHED, AS WELL AS NEWS CLIPPINGS.

29th & Woolworth

WOW RADIO

3501 FARNAM STREET OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68131 402/346-3400

February 15, 1974



Dear Dick:

The kids were just great and Mrs. Spicka "super"....and they did the cleaning of the lot on their own because as one kid put it: "Mr. Ford is real cool!" That's high praise, indeed from an eight year old! Moreover, they'd like to see the Vice President come back....they'd clean the lot again...wouldn't charge, either...

Dick...it made my heart feel good. That's middle class America... and her kids are just fine, thanks...

Enclosed....two UPI wires stories I filed, along with TV script that ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Gary Kerr wrote and telecast Thursday night...

Len Zi-Check....

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OMAHA (UPI)-- ABOUT 20 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS SPENT PART OF THEIR VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY THURSDAY AFTERNOON CLEANING UP A VACANT LOT " JUST IN CASE THE VICE PRESIDENT STOPS BY. "

HOUSE

THE LOT USED TO HOLD THE ~~HOUSE~~ WHERE VICE PRESIDENT GERALD FORD LIVED BEFORE HE MOVED TO MICHIGAN AS A YOUNGSTER. FORD WAS TO ARRIVE IN OMAHA EARLY FRIDAY FOR A SPEECH TO A \$100 A PLATE REPUBLICAN PARTY FUND RAISER.

"WE WERE QUITE CONCERNED WHEN WE FOUND OUT THE LITTER IN THE LOT HADN'T BEEN PICKED UP," SAID MRS. MARGE SPICKA, A TEACHER AT THE PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

MRS. SPICKA ASKED FOR VOLUNTEERS AMONG HER FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADERS DURING A VALENTINE PARTY " TO GET THE PLACE CLEANED UP JUST IN CASE THE VICE PRESIDENT STOPS BY. "

" WE FOUND AN AWFUL LOT OF STUFF," SHE SAID. " WE FILLED ABOUT
BAGS WITH LIMBS, CANS, BOTTLES AND EVERYTHING ELSE. I THINK
THE CHILDREN LIKED IT BETTER THAN THE PARTY. "

ONE STUDENT, JIMMY ALLEN, SAID HE "SORTA" LIKED THE
CLEANUP EFFORT, ADDING, "IF I HAD TO DO IT OVER AGIN I WOULD BECAUSE
I LIKE GETTING OUT OF SCHOOL."

" I LIKE THE VICE PRESIDENT. I'VE SEEN HIM ON TV WITH PRESIDENT NIXON," SAID ANOTHER YOUNGSTER. " I THINK THE VICE PRESIDENT IS COOL. "

ANOTHER STUDENT NOTED " THE VICE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE GONE TO OUR SCHOOL IF HE HAD STAYED IN OMAHA. "

ONE YOUNGSTER THOUGHT HE SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED " ABOUT 50 CENTS" FOR HIS EFFORT, BUT ONE OF HIS FRIENDS ADMONISHED , " I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD CHARGE THE VICE PRESIDENT ANYTHING."

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— 10 —

READ LONG LINE ABOVE: THE VICE PRESIDENT IS COOL."

575216PCS



(CLEANUP)

(OMAHA)-- ABOUT 20 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN OMAHA SPENT PART OF THEIR VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY THIS AFTERNOON CLEANING UP A VACANT LOT.. " JUST IN CASE THE VICE PRESIDENT STOPS BY. "



THE LOT USED TO HOLD THE HOUSE WHERE VICE PRESIDENT GERALD FORD LIVED BEFORE HE MOVED TO MICHIGAN AS A YOUNGSTER. FORD WAS TO ARRIVE IN OMAHA SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT TONIGHT FOR A SPEECH TO A 100- DOLLAR A PLATE REPUBLICAN PARTY FUND RAISER TOMORROW NIGHT.

A TEACHER AT THE PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL... MRS. MARGE SPICKA... SAID... SHE AND OTHERS BECAME-" QUOTE CONCERNED" WHEN THEY FOUND OUT THE LITTER IN THE LOT HADN'T BEEN PICKED UP.

MRS. SPICKA ASKED FOR VOLUNTEERS AMONG HER FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADERS DURING A VALENTINE PARTY.

AS SHE PUT IT.. " WE FOUND AN AWFUL LOT OF STUFF... WE FILLED ABOUT 12 BAGS WITH LIMBS, CANS, BOTTLES AND EVERYTHING ELSE... I THINK THE CHILDREN LIKED IT BETTER THAN THE PARTY. "

ONE STUDENT... JIMMY ALLEN... SAID HE " SORTA" LIKED THE CLEANUP EFFORT... ADDING... " IF I HAD TO DO IT OVER AGAIN I WOULD... BECAUSE I LIKE GETTING OUT OF SCHOOL. "

ANOTHER YOUNGSTER SAID.. " I LIKE THE VICE PRESIDENT... I'VE SEEN HIM ON T-V WITH PRESIDENT NIXON... I THINK THE VICE PRESIDENT IS COOL. "

ANOTHER STUDENT NOTED THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE GONE TO THE PARK SCHOOL IF HE HAD STAYED IN OMAHA.

ANOTHER THOUGHT HE SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED " ABOUT 50 CENTS" FOR HIS EFFORT... BUT ONE OF HIS FRIENDS ADMONISHED.. " I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD CHARGE THE VICE PRESIDENT ANYTHING. "

2-K 10 p.m. 7/11/76

Re: Ford was born in Omaha on July 14th, 1913 to Mrs. Leslie King. They moved away when he was only a few months old and, after a divorce, married a Ford.

His file. --- This family lived in a house at 32nd and Woolworth. It's now a vacant lot. If he had stayed here he might have attended school at Park Elementary, so about 20 4th and 5th graders from the school, along with their teacher, Mrs. Martha Spica, decided to spruce-up the lot today!....a gesture in honor of Ford's visit to Omaha.

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Excerpts from a Speech by Vice President Gerald R. Ford
At a Douglas County, Neb., ~~Food and Drug Administration~~
Republican Fund-Raising Dinner
At 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15, 1974, at the Hilton Hotel, Omaha, Neb.

~~EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD~~

~~OMAHA, NEBRASKA~~

FOIE RELEASE AT 7:30 p.m. FRIDAY



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--- the Nation's beef center --- ^{over} the issue of trucking products
to interstate markets .

^{affects} Any disruption in the regular flow of transportation ^{not only} ~~is~~ ^{by} serious
~~not only~~ farmers, the meat industry, and related businesses
but also exerts an impact on America's consumers. When beef does ~~not~~ not
move, you suffer and the consumer suffers.

The Administration has worked day and night to get the trucks
rolling again. ~~WE~~ think that the problem, a temporary manifestation
of the energy crisis, is being worked out for the benefit of all truckers,
for your benefit, and for the benefit of consumers throughout the country.

We are striving to avoid and minimize the negative effects the
energy crisis can ~~cause~~ ^{be} cause. Our economy is vulnerable to
dislocations. We are ^{dealing with} ~~mindful~~ of the crisis ~~and not moving through a~~
~~period of transition~~

Petroleum needs have surpassed supplies ~~to the extent that we~~
cannot turn the clock back to what used to be. But we can move forward
to a hopeful future. America ^{will retain its world leadership} ~~is moving forward~~

^{are} We ~~are~~ taking ~~a wide range of contingency~~ measures to meet the
temporary emergency. The Administration is aware of hardships and
anxieties. We are moving to close the transitional gap.



Efforts range from the realm of international relations ~~where~~ ^{we} ~~in which~~ seek cooperative world energy action and have offered to share technology and resources --- to the impact on individual Americans who face loss of employment and rising prices .

This Administration has moved forward ~~to~~ ^{to} create ~~a~~ ^a world climate of peace ---- extricating ourselves from the war in Vietnam, improving relations with Moscow and Peking, and nurturing a peace settlement in the Middle East. Our stock in the world is high . We are seeking to moderate and conciliate in the strife over oil just as we have in the strife over territory.

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We ^{have run} short of gasoline. But we have not run short of American initiative. Or American self-confidence. Or American courage. Or American know-how.


[Handwritten signature]



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

7 February 1974



MEMORANDUM FOR: ROBERT HARTMANN
FROM: RED CAVANEY 
SUBJECT: THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO
OMAHA, NEBRASKA
Friday, February 15, 1974

Attached at TAB A is the proposed schedule for the Vice President's activities while in Omaha. It is our understanding that each of these events had been previously approved in concept. Mr. Dick Herman, State National Committeeman, will act as the Vice President's unofficial host during his stay in Nebraska.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

GENERAL MEYER MEETING

Warren Rustand related that the Vice President would meet privately with General Meyer on Friday morning between 8 and 10:30 a.m. This meeting is not reflected in the schedule as it was decided by Warren that no advancement would be needed.

PRESS CONFERENCE

In conjunction with the members of the Nebraska Congressional delegation [list of participants follows], a press conference will be held for the Vice President at the Hilton Hotel. All members of Congress will be seated at a table with the Vice President with questions being directed at any of the six participants.

LUNCHEON

A very informal luncheon for approximately 120 party workers and officials will be held at the Hilton. No press coverage will be afforded and all comments are off the record. There will be no head table.

EDITORS REVIEW BOARD

The Vice President will attend an Editors Review Board at the Omaha World Herald Building. The Nebraska Congressional delegation has indicated they will not participate in this activity. It is suggested that the Vice President begin this meeting by stating that his comments will be on the record but stating that he on occasion may be desirous of speaking off the record and that in those instances he will so state.

ISSUES AND ANSWERS

The Vice President will visit KMTV studio and participate in a 30-minute taping that will be aired later at prime time. Mr. Terry Forsberg will act as moderator in this one-on-one situation. Dick Herman related that Mr. Forsberg is a very fair individual. In view of some local sensitivities, Mr. Herman has requested that this taping be kept private and not mentioned when discussing the Vice President's itinerary in Nebraska. He has also requested that if the Press Secretary receives any inquiries from other TV stations in Omaha that they be referred to Mr. Herman.

PRESS CLUB GREETER

Mr. Herman has asked that on return to the Hilton, the Vice President briefly tour the Omaha press club adjacent to the Hilton.

RECEPTION/PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Approximately 100 local incumbents and candidates plus wives will be meeting with the Vice President and have their pictures taken with him. This activity will be afforded no press coverage other than the GOP photographer.

DINNER

Approximately 600 guests will be in attendance at this \$100 a plate dinner. Proceeds principally will be for the Douglas Co. GOP organization. Approximately 20 persons, including the Nebraska Congressional delegation will be seated at the head table with the Vice President. As some time during the dinner, possibly at the meal portion, Mr. Herman is hopeful that the Vice President will greet approximately 25 YRs who will be in attendance as guests of the event hosts.

Attire for all of the events is business suit.

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

For most of the activities cited, the Vice President will be accompanied by the following members of the Nebraska Congressional delegation:

Roman L. Hruska
Carl T. Curtis
Dave Martin
Charles Thone
John Y. Mc Collister