

**The original documents are located in Box 130, folder “Mar. 16, 1974 - Speech, Hibernian Society, Charleston, SC” 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 Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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.

# 1

Clark  
Dollins  
Davis  
Wooten

I AM HONORED TO CELEBRATE  
ST. PATRICK'S DAY WITH THE  
HIBERNIAN SOCIETY OF CHARLESTON.

ONE OF THE MANY THINGS I  
ADMIRE ABOUT SOUTH CAROLINA  
IS ITS RESPECT FOR TRADITION.  
FOR INSTANCE, 113 YEARS AGO  
CHARLESTON FIRED ON FORT SUMTER.  
AND AS I LOOK ABOUT ME TONIGHT  
-- IT'S GREAT TO SEE THAT  
CHARLESTON'S "BIGGEST GUNS"  
ARE STILL GETTING LOADED.





# 1 A

WHEN SENATOR HOLLINGS INVITED ME,  
HE SAID TO COME DOWN EARLY &  
PLAY A LITTLE GOLF THIS MORNING.  
THE WEATHER WOULD BE PERFECT....

NOW I DON'T WANT TO CRITICIZE  
THE WEATHER MAN WHO GAVE  
SENATOR HOLLINGS THIS FORECAST,  
BUT I THINK <sup>the weather man</sup> HIS LAST JOB  
WAS LOOKOUT ON THE TITANIC.

I'M REALLY SORRY MY DEAR FRIEND  
SENATOR STROM THURMOND ISN'T  
HERE TONIGHT. HE'S ONE OF MY  
FAVORITE & MOST ENVIED FRIENDS.  
I THINK STROM THURMOND IS GOING  
TO LIVE TO BE A HUNDRED & WHEN  
HE DOES GO, IT'S GOING TO BE  
FROM TERMINAL ECSTASY.



YOUR CLUB HAS MANY DISTINCTIONS.  
YOU HAVE SURMOUNTED THE PROBLEMS THEY HAVE  
IN IRELAND BY TAKING TURNS IN YOUR  
PRESIDENCY, ALTERNATING CATHOLIC AND  
PROTESTANT ADMINISTRATIONS. I UNDERSTAND  
THAT YOU ALSO HAVE SOME JEWISH HIBERNIANS.

I AM VERY PROUD TO COME TO THIS HISTORIC  
AMERICAN CLUB WHICH INNOVATED <sup>THE</sup> ~~AN~~ ECUMENICAL  
SPIRIT LONG BEFORE THIS IDEA WAS TAKEN UP  
BY THE WORLD'S CHURCHES. I SEE WHY THEY  
CALL CHARLESTON "THE HOLY CITY".

→ AND MAYBE YOU HAVE SOME  
MOSLEM HIBERNIANS <sup>also</sup> ~~too~~.  
BECAUSE WHEN I GOT UP THIS  
MORNING, THE FIRST THING I  
SAW WAS A FULL TANKER  
GO BY MY WINDOW





*print*

THE CITY OF CHARLESTON HAS A MIND OF ITS OWN. AFTER ALL, YOU FIRED THE FIRST SHOT. NOW I SEE WHO REALLY WON THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES. MENDEL RIVERS MADE THIS THE BEST DEFENDED SINGLE AREA IN THE WORLD WITH SO MANY POWERFUL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS HERE THAT WASHINGTON WAS AFRAID YOU WOULD SINK INTO THE OCEAN. BUT MENDEL RIVERS PREVENTED THAT BY PUTTING POLARIS SUBMARINES UNDER THE WATER TO HOLD CHARLESTON TO THE SURFACE.



*mut*

YES, I AM GLAD TO BE IN THE GREAT  
STATE OF MIND THAT IS CHARLESTON --- WHERE  
THE ASHLEY AND COOPER RIVERS COME TOGETHER  
TO FORM THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.

ARE STILL GETTING LOADED





THE STATE DEPARTMENT INFORMED ME  
THAT YOU SPEAK A STRANGE LANGUAGE CALLED  
GEECHY (GEE-CHEE) TALK. MAYBE I SHOULD  
HAVE BROUGHT SECRETARY KISSINGER TO  
TRANSLATE. BUT I AM SURE THAT FRITZ  
HOLLINGS, IN THE BI-PARTISAN SPIRIT, WILL  
HELP IF NEED ARISES.



AS A REPUBLICAN, I AM GRATEFUL TO  
THE HIBERNIAN SOCIETY FOR PROVIDING  
ACCOMMODATION TO THE 1860 DEMOCRATIC  
CONVENTION. STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS CAME HERE,  
DIVIDED HIS PARTY, AND MADE IT POSSIBLE  
FOR ABRAHAM LINCOLN TO WIN ON THE REPUBLICAN  
TICKET. ~~MAYBE YOU SHOULD BE HOST TO THE~~  
~~1976 DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.~~

AND I WONDER TONIGHT IF I COULD  
ASK A FAVOR? COULD YOU  
ARRANGE TO ~~BE~~ BE HOST  
TO THE 1976 DEMOCRATIC  
CONVENTION?

---

TELEPHONE STORY

~~~~~





ON A MORE SERIOUS NOTE, HOWEVER, I  
WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU MY CONCERN FOR THE  
TWO-PARTY SYSTEM AND THE NEED FOR  
PRESERVING IT. THE AMERICAN SCENE REQUIRES  
THE DIVERSITY AND CHOICE OF TWO VIABLE AND  
DISTINCTIVE PARTIES TO PRESERVE OUR FREE  
HERITAGE.



I AM GLAD TO BE HERE TONIGHT BECAUSE  
YOU ARE SO VIVIDLY DEMONSTRATING WHAT IS  
RIGHT WITH AMERICA. JUST AS WE ARE  
CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE  
FABLED SAINT PATRICK IN DRIVING THE SNAKES  
OUT OF IRELAND, LET US JOIN TO DRIVE OUT  
THE DEMONS OF DOUBT AND DESPAIR THAT ARE  
HAUNTING AMERICA.





THE UNITED STATES TEMPORARILY RAN  
SHORT OF GASOLINE. BUT WE NEVER RAN SHORT  
OF THE WILL AND ABILITY TO SURMOUNT  
DIFFICULTIES. AND WE WILL NOT. WE ARE ON  
THE RIGHT TRACK. WE KNOW WHERE WE ARE  
GOING. AND WE HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO GET  
US THERE --- AMERICAN INITIATIVE, /KNOW-HOW,  
COURAGE, /PATRIOTISM, AND PRIDE IN OURSELVES  
AND IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



I AM PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN. I  
BELIEVE THAT AMERICAN FREE ENTERPRISE AND  
INDIVIDUAL INCENTIVE HAVE MADE THE  
UNITED STATES THE GREATEST NATION ON EARTH.





I AM PROUD TO BE A PART OF AN ADMINISTRATION THAT EXTRICATED US FROM THE WAR IN VIETNAM, ACHIEVING PEACE WITH HONOR AND LIBERATING OUR BRAVE MEN WHO SUFFERED SO LONG AS PRISONERS OF WAR. AND IT ALSO FILLS ME WITH ENCOURAGEMENT THAT OUR NATION IS MOVING TOWARD NEW AND PEACEFUL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.



BY A MASTERPIECE OF DIPLOMACY, WE  
SEPARATED THE ARMIES OF EGYPTIANS AND  
ISRAELIS, AVERTING A CATASTROPHE THAT  
COULD HAVE INFLAMED THE WHOLE WORLD.





JUST AS WE HAVE PROGRESSED IN OUR  
DEALINGS WITH OTHER NATIONS, WE WILL  
RESOLVE TRANSITORY DIFFICULTIES AT HOME.  
WE WILL MAINTAIN ECONOMIC GROWTH WHILE  
WINDING DOWN INFLATION. WE WILL SURMOUNT  
THE SHORT-TERM IMPACT OF THE ENERGY CRISIS  
AND ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR OUR LONG-  
TERM NEEDS.





WE WILL REDUCE FEDERAL CONTROL AND  
OPEN A NEW ERA OF ACHIEVEMENT IN STATE AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. WITH REVENUE SHARING,  
WE ARE LETTING POWER FLOW BACK TO THE  
PEOPLE.

WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET --  
A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO  
GIVE US EVERYTHING WE WANT --  
IS A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH  
TO TAKE FROM US EVERYTHING  
WE HAVE.





YES, I BELIEVE IN OUR GOVERNMENT AS A STRUCTURE OF LAWS DESIGNED TO PROTECT INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS. THIS IS A GOVERNMENT OF SEPARATE BUT EQUAL BRANCHES, OF CHECKS AND BALANCES. OUR STRENGTH LIES IN DIRECT REPRESENTATION IN THE CONGRESS, IN THE CO-EQUAL POWER THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SHARES WITH THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.





THE BODY POLITIC OF AMERICA IS  
HEALTHY. IT CONTAINS THE STRENGTH TO HEAL  
ITSELF AND TO FIND RENEWED VIGOR AND ENERGY.  
AT THE VERY MOMENT THAT WE ARE ADDRESSING  
OURSELVES TO PROBLEMS WITHIN OUR GOVERNMENT,  
WE ARE MOVING AHEAD BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD  
TO ASSURE A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL AMERICANS.  
WE ARE PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL PEACE BY  
NURTURING THE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND  
COOPERATING WITH OTHERS TO RESOLVE THE  
INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM.





I BELIEVE THAT WE ARE ENTERING, IN THIS LAST QUARTER OF THE 20TH CENTURY, AN ERA OF PEACE AND PROGRESS. TO HAVE PEACE, WE MUST BE CAPABLE OF DEFENSE TO DETER AGGRESSION. THAT IS WHY IN MOMENTS OF STRESS WE ARE GLAD OF THE GREAT TRADITION AND CAPACITY OF DEFENSE HERE IN CHARLESTON. HISTORY TEACHES / STRENGTH MEANS PEACE -- & MILITARY WEAKNESS INVITES WAR.

AFTER ALL, SOUTH CAROLINA IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF CHARLES PINKNEY WHO CRIED OUT THOSE HISTORIC WORDS "MILLIONS FOR DEFENSE BUT NOT ONE CENT FOR TRIBUTE!" -- & NOBODY HAS EVER IMPROVED ON THE WORDS OR THE WISDOM OF THAT THOUGHT.



AS I FAMILIARIZE MYSELF WITH MY  
DUTIES AS VICE PRESIDENT, I BELIEVE MORE  
THAN EVER THAT WE MUST LOOK FORWARD RATHER  
THAN BACKWARD. OF COURSE WE LEARN FROM  
THE PAST AND CHERISH OUR GREAT HISTORY.  
BUT WE LIVE FOR THE PRESENT AND FUTURE.





I DO NOT BELIEVE IN REPLAYING LAST SATURDAY'S GAME BUT IN TRAINING HARD FOR NEXT SATURDAY'S. I TEND TO FORGET THE BAD PLAYS AND REMEMBER THE SCORING ONES. THE UPCOMING GAME IS ALWAYS THE BEST OF ALL.





WHEN I BECAME VICE PRESIDENT, I  
PLEGGED TO USE WHATEVER REPUTATION FOR  
TRUTH AND FAIRNESS I ACQUIRED IN THE HOUSE  
ALONG WITH WHATEVER CAPACITIES FOR FRIEND-  
SHIP AND REASONABLE COMPROMISE I MIGHT  
POSSESS TO MAKE THIS GOVERNMENT WORK  
BETTER FOR THE GOOD OF ALL AMERICANS. I  
REFER NOT ONLY TO THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN  
THE HOUSE AND SENATE, BETWEEN THE CONGRESS  
AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, BUT ALSO AMONG  
THE INDIVIDUALS OF BOTH PARTIES WHOM I AM  
PROUD TO COUNT AS MY FRIENDS.





WHILE THIS IS NOT A SPECTACULAR  
ROLE FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS, IT IS A  
NECESSARY ONE. I ENVISAGE A ROLE THAT  
INVOLVES SOLID AND RESPONSIBLE WORK FOR  
THE FUTURE, AT HOME AND ABROAD, WHILE  
MEDITATING AND MODERATING DIFFERENCES,  
REMAINING FLEXIBLE, TO KEEP AMERICA GREAT.





I SHALL REMAIN MY OWN MAN. ~~THAT IS~~ THE  
ONLY PLEDGE BY WHICH I HAVE BOUND MYSELF  
IN ACCEPTING THE PRESIDENT'S TRUST IS THE  
COMMITMENT BY WHICH WE ARE ALL BOUND,  
BEFORE GOD AND THE CONSTITUTION, TO DO OUR  
BEST FOR AMERICA.





I SHARE THESE THOUGHTS WITH YOU  
BECAUSE I AM SO HONORED AND PLEASED TO  
BE WITH A SOCIETY SUCH AS THE HIBERNIANS  
ON THIS JOYOUS OCCASION.

IT WAS THOMAS JEFFERSON WHO SAID  
THAT AMERICA NEEDS AN ARISTOCRACY BASED ON  
TALENT AND VIRTUE. THE HIBERNIAN SOCIETY  
HAS FILLED THAT NEED. ^ I THANK YOU AND  
EXTEND HEARTIES WISHES FOR A HAPPY  
SAINT PATRICK'S DAY.

###

insert



REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD  
173RD ANNUAL BANQUET  
HIBERNIAN SOCIETY  
OF  
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA  
7:00 p.m., SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1974

FOR RELEASE AT 7:00 p.m., SATURDAY

I am honored to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the Hibernian Society of Charleston.

Your club has many distinctions. You have surmounted the problems they have in Ireland by taking turns in your presidency, alternating Catholic and Protestant Administrations. I understand that you also have some Jewish Hibernians. I am very proud to come to this historic American club which innovated an ecumenical spirit long before this idea was taken up by the world's churches. I see why they call Charleston "the holy city."

The city of Charleston has a mind of its own. After all, you fired the first shot. Now I see who really won the War Between the States. Mendel Rivers made this the best defended single area in the world with so many powerful military installations here that Washington was afraid you would sink into the ocean. But Mendel Rivers prevented that by putting Polaris submarines under the water to hold Charleston on the surface.

Yes, I am glad to be in the great state of mind that is Charleston -- where the Ashley and Cooper Rivers come together to form the Atlantic Ocean.

The State Department informed me that you speak a strange language called Geechy Talk. Maybe I should have brought Secretary Kissinger to translate. But I am sure that Fritz Hollings, in the bi-partisan spirit, will help if need arises.

I understand that some of your previous speakers later experienced difficulties with the law. So I hope it is merely a coincidence that tonight's program is dedicated to the memory of a distinguished judge, Judge Magrath, who presided here in the 1850's and later negotiated to seek the surrender of Fort Sumter.

(more)



As a Republican, I am grateful to the Hibernian Society for providing accommodation to the 1860 Democratic Convention. Stephen A. Douglas came here, divided his party, and made it possible for Abraham Lincoln to win on the Republican Ticket. Maybe you should be host to the 1976 Democratic Convention.

On a more serious note, however, I want to share with you my concern for the two-party system and the need for preserving it. The American scene requires the diversity and choice of two viable and distinctive parties to preserve our free heritage.

I am glad to be here tonight because you are so vividly demonstrating what is right with America. Just as we are celebrating the accomplishments of the fabled Saint Patrick in driving the snakes out of Ireland, let us join to drive out the demons of doubt and despair that are haunting America.

The United States temporarily ran short of gasoline. But we never ran short of the will and ability to surmount difficulties. And we will not. We are on the right track. We know where we are going. And we have what it takes to get us there -- American initiative, know-how, courage, patriotism, and pride in ourselves and in the United States of America.

I am proud to be an American. I believe that American free enterprise and individual incentive have made the United States the greatest Nation on earth. I am proud to be a part of an Administration that extricated us from the war in Vietnam, achieving peace with honor and liberating our brave men who suffered so long as prisoners of war. And it also fills me with encouragement that our Nation is moving toward new and peaceful relationships with the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China.

By a masterpiece of diplomacy, we separated the armies of Egyptians and Israelis, averting a catastrophe that could have inflamed the whole world.

Just as we have progressed in our dealings with other nations, we will resolve transitory difficulties at home. We will maintain economic growth while winding down inflation. We will surmount the short-term impact of the energy crisis and achieve self-sufficiency for our long-term needs.

(more)

We will reduce Federal control and open a new era of achievement in State and local governments. With revenue sharing, we are letting power flow back to the people.

Yes, I believe in our Government as a structure of laws designed to protect individual freedoms. This is a government of separate but equal branches, of checks and balances. Our strength lies in direct representation in the Congress, in the co-equal power the legislative branch shares with the executive branch.

The body politic of America is healthy. It contains the strength to heal itself and to find renewed vigor and energy. At the very moment that we are addressing ourselves to problems within our government, we are moving ahead both at home and abroad to assure a better life for all Americans. We are promoting international peace by nurturing the Middle East settlement and cooperating with others to resolve the international oil problem.

I believe that we are entering, in this last quarter of the 20th Century, an era of peace and progress. To have peace, we must be capable of defense to deter aggression. That is why in moments of stress we are glad of the great tradition and capacity of defense here in Charleston.

As I familiarize myself with my duties as Vice President, I believe more than ever that we must look forward rather than backward. Of course, we learn from the past and cherish our great history.

But we live for the present and the future. I do not believe in replaying last Saturday's game but in training hard for next Saturday's. I tend to forget the bad plays and remember the scoring ones. The upcoming game is always the best of all.

When I became Vice President, I pledged to use whatever reputation for truth and fairness I acquired in the House along with whatever capacities for friendship and reasonable compromise I might possess to make this Government work better for the good of all Americans. I refer not only to the differences between the House and Senate, between the Congress and the executive branch, but also among the individuals of both parties whom I am proud to count as my friends.

While this is not a spectacular role for the next three years, it is a necessary one. I envisage a role that involves

(more)



solid and responsible work for the future, at home and abroad, while meditating and moderating differences, remaining flexible, to keep America great. I shall remain my own man. The only pledge by which I have bound myself in accepting the President's trust is the commitment by which we are all bound, before God and the Constitution, to do our best for America.

I share these thoughts with you because I am so honored and pleased to be with a society such as the Hibernians on this joyous occasion.

It was Thomas Jefferson who said that America needs an aristocracy based on talent and virtue. The Hibernian Society has filled that need. I thank you and extend heartiest wishes for a happy Saint Patrick's Day.

# # #

