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News

LOOKING FORWARD

Midwest Republican Leadership Conference, Chicago, Illinois - March 29-30, 1974
Suite 310 / 134 N. LaSalle St. / Chicago, Illinois 60602 / 312-641-6400

EXCERPTS FROM A SPEECH BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD

MIDWEST REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
Chicago, March 30, 1974

What lessons can Republicans learn from Watergate?
It would be improper for us to speculate on the criminal and legal aspects of this sorry episode of recent history, but I can certainly draw one obvious political conclusion.

The political lesson of Watergate is this:

Never again must Americans allow an arrogant, elite guard of political adolescents like CREEP to bypass the regular party organizations and dictate the terms of a national election.

Let us be fair: CREEP succeeded amazingly well in its stated purpose of re-electing the President although he might have done even better without their help. But something was missing in President Nixon's massive victory.

The political failure of CREEP in 1972 was a failure to reinforce the President's impressive re-election mandate with enough republicans in the House and Senate to ensure the success of his programs for revenue sharing and the return of power from Washington to the states and to the people.

The fatal defect of CREEP was that it made its own rules and thus made its own ruin. It violated the historic concept of the two-party system in America and ran roughshod over the seasoned political judgment and experience of the regular Republican party organization in the 50 states.

Chairman, Hope McCormick, Illinois / Co-Chairmen, Ray C. Bliss, Ohio, John C. McDonald, Iowa

Treasurer, Richard B. Ogilvie, Illinois




Our great national parties evolved along the same basic grassroots pattern of widely shared responsibility and local self-determination. The party recruits and trains and nurtures candidates and rewards some with higher offices. The party allows for the participation of rank and file citizens and forges its party principles from their broad spectrum of opinions and goals.

So I say we as Republicans have learned one great lesson from Watergate, and that is that our regular Republican party organization must be the vehicle for future elections. If there are any more cliques of ambitious amateurs who want to run political campaigns, let the Democrats have them next time.

Certainly in 1976 the Republican National Committee and Republican state committees and the other official arms of our party--our senatorial and congressional campaign committees--should call the shots and collect the money. All potential candidates for our republican presidential nomination must recognize and work within the regular party structure. They should sign in advance on the dotted line that they will not set up outside committees without the party's consent.

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Chairman Bush, Members of the Cabinet, Earl Butz, Herb Stein, Senator Percy, Congressman Bill Steiger and other Members of the House and Senate, my old and dear friend Ray Bliss, other members of the National Committee and state organizations and Republicans all -- it's a very great privilege and a great honor for me to have the opportunity of joining you for breakfast and participating in this fantastic Midwest Republican revival here in Chicago. (applause)

I'm obviously delighted to be a part of a program which includes the kind of caliber you have in your panels, your luncheon speaker and your dinner speaker. I wish it were possible for me to stay and benefit from their observations and comments, but I will be heading South to help some Republicans down there.

I think your theme, which is "to look to the future and not dwell on the past," is an outstanding one. I happen to believe we should talk on the up-beat -- not on the down-beat. I was specifically admonished before coming here that I shouldn't talk about Watergate and that I should look ahead and not behind but with some prerogatives of my own I'll ignore those guidelines (laughter and applause) -- at least for just a moment.

I ask this question in all sincerity. What lesson can we learn from Watergate?

I think it would be most improper for us to speculate on the criminal and legal aspects of this sorry episode in recent political history, but I can certainly draw one obvious political conclusion.

The political lesson of Watergate is simply this:

Never again must Americans allow an arrogant, elite guard of political adolescents like CREEP to bypass the regular Republican party organizations (great applause). It is we -- not they -- that should dictate the terms of a national election. (applause)

But let's be fair: CREEP succeeded amazingly well in its stated purpose of re-electing the President although he might have done even better without their help. (applause) But something was missing from the President's massive victory in 1972.



The political failure of CREEP in 1972 was a failure to reinforce the President's impressive reelection mandate with enough Republicans in the House and Senate to ensure the success of his programs -- both at home and aboard. To perpetuate his fundamental concepts. Such Republican initiatives as revenue sharing and the return of power from Washington to the states and to the American people. (applause)

The fatal defect of CREEP was that it made its own rules and thereby made its own ruin. It violated the historic concept of the two-party system in America and it ran literally roughshod over the seasoned political judgment and the seasoned political experience of the regular Republican party organization in all of our 50 states.

Our great national parties evolved along the same basic grassroots pattern of widely shared responsibility and local self-determination. The party recruits and trains and nurtures candidates the length and the breadth of this country and rewards some with higher office. The party allows for the participation of rank and file citizens of all occupations and all segments of our society and forges its party principles from their broad spectrum of opinions and goals.

So I say we as Republicans have learned one great lesson from Watergate, and that is that our Republican party organization must be the vehicle for future elections. (applause)

If there are any more cliques of ambitious amateurs who want to run political campaigns, I say let the Democrats have them next time. (laughter - applause)

Certainly in 1976 the Republican National Committee and Republican state committees and the other official arms of our Republican Party -- our Senatorial and Congressional Campaign Committees -- should call the shots and collect the money and spend the money. (applause)

And I respectfully suggest that all potential candidates for the Republican presidential nomination must recognize and must work within the regular party structure. (applause) And I respectfully recommend that each and every one of them should sign in advance on the dotted line that they will not set up an outside committee without the specific approval of the party itself. (applause)



As you leave Chicago and this great conference, as you return to your home wherever it may be in any one of the 13 states let me leave this additional thought with you.

I've been listening in Washington to a number of political pundits and some of my good Democratic friends saying that 1974 will bring a smashing, devastating Democratic win in all 50 states. What they are saying, and I don't agree with them, is that they expect the Democrats to make a net gain of 50 house seats or even as much as 100 seats. Now let me put this in perspective for you, if I might.

The tragic political year of 1964 resulted in a Democratic gain of 40 in the House. The net result was that in 1965 and 1966 the House lineup was 295 Democrats to 140 Republicans. I was elected Minority Leader in January of 1965 by the landslide margin of 73 to 67. (laughter) Those were dim and dismal years, as my good friend, Ray Bliss, well remembers. And in those two years we had the kind of unsound legislation that was rammed through the Congress by a vigorous President and a rubber-stamp House and Senate. And we have been trying to undo that damage ever since. If the Democrats make a net gain of 100 -- not just 50 which is their minimum figure -- that will take us back to 1936. It means that in the next Congress, in the House of Representatives the Democrats will have 346 Members and the Republicans will have 87. Do you recall what happened to the political fabric in the United States in those mid-1930 years because of the overwhelming unbalance of the Congress? Some very significant and substantial changes were made. I don't agree with the forecast being made by my Democratic friends. I happen to believe the Republican party -- despite some of our ~~some of our~~ recent losses -- can move ahead. We have overcome adversity in the past, as Ray Bliss and I know from first-hand experience. Let's take the election of 1966 -- two years after we were drubbed. We found good candidates. We eliminated our party differences. We raised large sums. We went out and worked, and I think the Democrats were a little over-confident. And we made a net gain of 47 Republicans in the House, to some extent righting the imbalance in the House of Representatives as well as in the Senate.



I must tell you a story that happened after that election. We were elated, so the Republican leadership in the House invited all of the newly elected Republican Members and their wives down to a conference center, just outside of Washington, D. C., so we could get better acquainted. The idea was to talk about parliamentary procedure and discuss some of the major issues that we were going to work on. At the opening session I was asked to say a few words. And I got up and I looked out at this attractive, articulate, able group of 47 new Members, and in the course of my remarks I must have said that I was happily clucking over this new brood of Republicans.

Well, the luncheon broke^y up and we went on to our business. We had a little social hour that night, and we got up bright and early the next morning. I came down to breakfast and somebody handed me a copy of the New York Times. A front page article -- lead story -- first sentence said -- and I quote precisely -- "Congressman Jerry Ford, the Republican House Leader, was happily clucking over his new brood." (laughter) I thought it was amusing that a great newspaper like the New York Times, and it is, could make a simple typographical error that somewhat significantly changed what I thought I had said at the luncheon. But I passed it off. I kidded the correspondent for the Times and he dutifully and promptly in the next edition made the correction. My wife, Betty, was down at the conference, too. She had slept in that morning. When she did walk into the dining room, some friend of mine couldn't wait to show her the front page of the New York Times. (laughter)

I'll conclude my remarks on this by simply saying that I have yet to satisfactorily explain to my wife who that new brood is. (laughter)

What I am saying in essence, however, is that I don't believe the forecasts being made by Democratic leaders and some of the political experts in Washington. We've been through adversity before. The Republican Party is strong. It has good people -- and sound principles. And even though we've had a few setbacks in recent weeks, we've got time between now and November to make gains, not suffer losses. (applause)

It's been my privilege since becoming the first instant Vice President to travel in 20-plus states. I've been to Massachusetts. They had a bad time of it in 1972. They were divided. Some good

Republicans wouldn't speak to other good Republicans. They were unbelievably divided. We recently had a unity dinner, and all dissident parties in the organization were present. We had a darn nice dinner, and they spoke to one another. And they are having a statewide unity march in a couple of weeks. That's progress.

I was in New Jersey last Saturday, and if you will recall and refresh your memory we took a terrible beating in New Jersey in 1973. We lost the Governorship, and we ended up in the State Legislature with ^a4 to 1 Democratic margin. Again it was caused by differences within the party -- dissension, no effort, no organization. But I am happy to report to you that in New Jersey these differences have been eliminated. They are going to work for one cause -- the Republican party -- and I think we will make some headway there.

Those are two states that more often than not have supported Republican candidates.


I was down in South Carolina a couple of weeks ago. When I came to Congress in 1949, we didn't have a Republican in the Congress from South Carolina. As a matter of fact, we didn't have a Republican in any state below the Mason-Dixon line. We now have 36 -- and that's not bad. But in South Carolina we have two Republican Congressman. We are going to get at least one more. We may elect a good Republican Governor. In a State like South Carolina, which is indicative of many of the Southern States, the Republican Party is on the march and it's the party of the young people. (applause)

What I'm trying to say is that the party is strong -- and for a good and sufficient reason. We have the best principles. We have good leadership. We have dedicated people. We just have to get out and work and sell our program and sell our candidates. We've got to broaden the base of Republican participation -- the young people, the working people, the farmer, the academicians, the business man. There is plenty of room in our Party for all of these people. And if they take a good look at what we are, I think we can end up with the kind of active participation that is so needed. I know some people are saying, "What's going to happen in 1976?"

And it is important. It is a big year, and we've got a wonderful potential of fine Republican candidates. We've got Chuck Percy, Governor Reagan, Governor Rockefeller, former Secretary of the Treasury Connally -- and we've got two or three other excellent Members of the United States Senate. We may have some governors who will emerge in the months ahead. The Republican Party is blessed with a broad array of candidates, just any one of whom if nominated can win in 1976. (applause)

Let's not get preoccupied with '76. Let's concentrate on '74. Because if we do well in 1974 we'll be laying the foundation for that victory in '76 -- and if we do badly our party will be in a shambles. And so I plead with you to make 1974 the year of decision and the year of Republican success.

Thank you very much.



11

WHAT LESSON CAN REPUBLICANS LEARN FROM WATERGATE?

IT WOULD BE IMPROPER FOR US TO SPECULATE ON THE CRIMINAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF THIS SORRY EPISODE OF RECENT HISTORY, BUT I CAN CERTAINLY DRAW ONE OBVIOUS POLITICAL CONCLUSION.

THE POLITICAL LESSON OF WATERGATE IS THIS:

NEVER AGAIN MUST AMERICANS ALLOW AN ARROGANT, ELITE GUARD OF POLITICAL ADOLESCENTS LIKE CREEP TO BYPASS THE REGULAR PARTY ORGANIZATIONS AND DICTATE THE TERMS OF A NATIONAL ELECTION.

LET US BE FAIR -- CREEP SUCCEEDED AMAZINGLY WELL IN ITS STATED PURPOSE OF RE-ELECTING THE PRESIDENT/ ALTHOUGH HE MIGHT HAVE DONE EVEN BETTER WITHOUT THEIR HELP. BUT SOMETHING WAS MISSING IN PRESIDENT NIXON'S MASSIVE VICTORY.

THE POLITICAL FAILURE OF CREEP IN 1972 WAS A FAILURE TO REINFORCE THE PRESIDENT'S IMPRESSIVE RE-ELECTION MANDATE WITH ENOUGH REPUBLICANS IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF HIS PROGRAMS OR TO

PERPETUATE HIS FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS, SUCH REPUBLICAN INITIATIVES AS



REVENUE SHARING AND THE RETURN OF POWER FROM WASHINGTON TO THE STATES
AND TO THE PEOPLE.

THE FATAL DEFECT OF CREEP WAS THAT IT MADE ITS OWN RULES AND THUS
MADE ITS OWN RUIN. IT VIOLATED THE HISTORIC CONCEPT OF THE TWO-PARTY
SYSTEM IN AMERICA AND RAN ROUGHSHOD OVER THE SEASONED POLITICAL JUDGMENT
AND EXPERIENCE OF THE REGULAR REPUBLICAN PARTY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE 50
STATES.

OUR GREAT NATIONAL PARTIES EVOLVED ALONG THE SAME BASIC GRASSROOTS
PATTERN OF WIDELY SHARED RESPONSIBILITY AND LOCAL SELF-DETERMINATION.
THE PARTY RECRUITS AND TRAINS AND NURTURES CANDIDATES AND REWARDS SOME
WITH HIGHER OFFICES. THE PARTY ALLOWS FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF RANK AND
FILE CITIZENS AND FORGES ITS PARTY PRINCIPLES FROM THEIR BROAD SPECTRUM
OF OPINIONS AND GOALS.

②

SO I SAY WE AS REPUBLICANS HAVE LEARNED ONE GREAT LESSON FROM
WATERGATE, AND THAT IS THAT OUR REGULAR REPUBLICAN PARTY ORGANIZATION
MUST BE THE VEHICLE FOR FUTURE ELECTIONS. IF THERE ARE ANY MORE CLIQUE
OF AMBITIOUS AMATEURS WHO WANT TO RUN POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS, LET THE
DEMOCRATS HAVE THEM NEXT TIME.

CERTAINLY IN 1976, THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE AND REPUBLICAN
STATE COMMITTEES AND THE OTHER OFFICIAL ARMS OF OUR PARTY -- OUR
SENATORIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES -- SHOULD CALL THE SHOTS
AND COLLECT THE MONEY. ALL POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR OUR REPUBLICAN
PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION MUST RECOGNIZE AND WORK WITHIN THE REGULAR PARTY
STRUCTURE. THEY SHOULD SIGN IN ADVANCE ON THE DOTTED LINE THAT THEY
WILL NOT SET UP OUTSIDE COMMITTEES WITHOUT THE PARTY'S CONSENT.

News

LOOKING FORWARD

Midwest Republican Leadership Conference, Chicago, Illinois - March 29-30, 1974
Suite 310 / 134 N. LaSalle St. / Chicago, Illinois 60602 / 312-641-6400

MEMORANDUM TO CORRESPONDENTS

The enclosed news release gives highlights of the Midwest Republican Leadership Conference, to be held March 29-30 at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare Hotel in Chicago. More than 1,000 persons have registered to attend from 13 Midwestern states—Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

All Conference sessions will be open to the media. Credentials may be obtained beginning at noon on Friday, March 29, in the Air Canada Room on the International Level of the Hotel, which will be the working press room. All news conferences will be in the adjacent Philippine-Air France Room. A limited number of typewriters and telephones (for credit card or collect calls only) will be in the Air Canada Room for use of correspondents. Some phones will have voice feed couplers.

A message service will be available for correspondents in the working press area. The telephone number is (312) 696-0755. Telecopiers also will be available.

TV assignment editors may want to assign more than one crew since meeting sessions and news conferences occasionally will be going on at the same time.

During the sessions, space will be available for pencil press and media reporters immediately in front of the speaker's table for coverage of speakers and panelists. Camera stands will be available on each side of the room for television and still cameras.

Further information may be obtained in Chicago from Fred Bird at (312) 354-5233 or at the Conference Office at (312) 641-6400 or in Washington from Robert R. Rousek at (202) 484-6550.

The program agenda follows:

Friday, March 29, 1974:

3-8:30 pm	Registration—Convention Level
4 pm	Rule 29 Forum—Trans World—Northwest Orient Rooms. Chairman, Rep. William A. Steiger (Wisc.) presiding
6:30 pm	Cocktail Reception hosted by Sen. Charles Percy (Ill.) in Rosemont Ballroom C and D
7:30 pm	Convene in Rosemont Ballroom A and B for an address by Senator Percy.

Saturday, March 30, 1974:

7:30—9 am	Registration—Convention Level
8—9:20 am	Breakfast—Rosemont Ballroom. Remarks by Rep. Steiger and George Bush, Chairman, Republican National Committee, and an address by Vice President Gerald Ford
9:20—10 am	Informal reception for the Vice President of the United States
10 am—12 noon	Sessions continue in Rosemont Ballroom with an address by Rep. John J. Rhodes (Ariz.) House Minority Leader; a presentation by Thomas W. Benham, Opinion Research Corporation; and a panel discussion on public financing of political campaigns with Reps. John B. Anderson (Ill.) and Clarence J. Brown (Ohio), moderated by William F. McLaughlin, Republican State Chairman of Michigan.

(MORE)

Chairman, Hope McCormick, Illinois / Co-Chairmen, Ray C. Bliss, Ohio, John C. McDonald, Iowa
Treasurer, Richard B. Ogilvie, Illinois

12:45-2:30 pm	Luncheon in the Rosemont Ballroom with an address by former Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York
2:30-3 pm	Recess
3-5:00 pm	Sessions reconvene in Rosemont Ballroom with presentations by William Simon, Federal Energy Administrator; Herbert Stein, Chairman, Council of Economic Advisors; and Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz
5-5:15 pm	Remarks by Arthur Fletcher, Minority Affairs Consultant to RNC Chairman Bush
7:30 pm	Banquet in the Rosemont Ballroom with remarks by Mary Louise Smith, Co-Chairman, Republican National Committee, and an address by Gov. Ronald Reagan of California

News

LOOKING FORWARD

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CONTACT: Fred Bird
(312) 354-5233
(217) 529-1092

CHICAGO—More than 1,000 Party organization leaders and workers from 13 states, rallying to the theme of "Looking Forward," have registered to attend the Midwest Republican Leadership Conference in Chicago, March 29-30.

Scheduled as a planning conference for the 1974 elections, the meeting will be highlighted by panel sessions and addresses by a number of Republican leaders, headed by Vice President Gerald R. Ford, George Bush, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, and Rep. John J. Rhodes of Arizona, House Minority Leader.

Other panelists and speakers will include William Simon, Administrator of the Federal Energy Office; Herbert Stein, Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors; Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz; Sen. Charles Percy of Illinois; former Governor Nelson Rockefeller of New York; Gov. Ronald Reagan of California; Reps. William A. Steiger of Wisconsin, John B. Anderson of Illinois and Clarence J. Brown of Ohio; and Mary Louise Smith, Co-Chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Early planning for the conference anticipated that attendance would be less than 500, the number of persons attracted to similar meetings in the past, but above-average interest from all of the 13 Midwestern states forced planning to be enlarged to take care of more than twice that number, according to Mrs. Hope McCormick, Conference Chairman who is also Republican National Committeewoman for Illinois and Vice Chairman of the Midwest Region. Co-Chairman of the Conference, to be held at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare hotel, are Ray C. Bliss, Ohio National Committeeman and Midwest Regional Vice Chairman; and John C. McDonald, Republican State Chairman of Iowa and Chairman of the Midwest State Chairmen's Association.

Senator Percy will be host at a reception Friday evening. This will be preceded by a forum on the National Committee's Rule 29 Committee, which is studying rules adopted at the 1972 National Convention. The Committee is chaired by Congressman Steiger, who will conduct the forum and also speak at the Saturday morning session. Vice President Ford and RNC Chairman Bush will speak Saturday morning, followed by Congressman Rhodes. Luncheon speaker Saturday will be Governor Rockefeller. When the conference session reconvenes following luncheon, presentations will be made by Simon, Stein and Butz. Arthur A. Fletcher, consultant to Chairman Bush for minority affairs, will address the group late that afternoon.

(MORE)

Chairman, Hope McCormick, Illinois / Co-Chairmen, Ray C. Bliss, Ohio, John C. McDonald, Iowa
Treasurer, Richard B. Ogilvie, Illinois

Speaking at the Saturday evening banquet will be Mrs. Smith and Governor Reagan. The conference will adjourn at the conclusion of the banquet.

Attendees will represent the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, West Virginia and Wisconsin.



original announcement

FROM PR NEWS SERVICE/CHICAGO
POLITICAL EDITORS.

FEB. 10, 1974

405AM

ADVANCE-- HOLD FOR RELEASE AT NOON TODAY, SUNDAY, FEB. 10

--NOTE RELEASE TIME PLEASE--



CHICAGO, FEB. 10 -- MAJOR APPEARANCES BY THREE PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS WILL BE HIGHLIGHTS OF A THIRTEEN-STATE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE HERE NEXT MONTH.

MORE THAN 500 GOP LEADERS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE 1974 "MIDWEST REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE" MARCH 29-30, PLANNERS ANNOUNCED SUNDAY.

RAY C. BLISS, FORMER NATIONAL GOP CHAIRMAN, OHIO NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE, DECLARED-- "WE ARE PLANNING AN UPBEAT CONFERENCE WITH STRONG EMPHASIS ON THE THEME OF -LOOKING FORWARD.- OUR PANEL SPEAKERS AND WORKSHOP LEADERS WILL BE THE TOP MEN IN THE COUNTRY IN THEIR FIELDS."

//NOTE TO NEWSMEN-- THE CHICAGO DATELINE REFLECTS THE CONFERENCE SITING. NO NEWS CONFERENCE WAS INVOLVED IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT, WHICH WAS MADE BY ME AS CONFERENCE PRESS DIRECTOR. FRED BIRD.//

SEN. CHARLES H. PERCY OF ILLINOIS WILL BE THE HOST OF AN EVENING RECEPTION ON THE OPENING DAY, MARCH 29, FRIDAY.

NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER, FORMER NEW YORK GOVERNOR, WILL ADDRESS THE CONFERENCE AT A LUNCHEON MARCH 30, SATURDAY.

GOV. RONALD REAGAN WILL GIVE THE BANQUET ADDRESS THAT EVENING.

"THIS CONFERENCE SHOULD PROVE TO BE ONE OF THE MOST INFORMATIVE AND IMPORTANT REPUBLICAN EVENTS OF THE YEAR," ACCORDING TO JOHN C. MC DONALD, IOWA STATE CHAIRMAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE MIDWEST STATE CHAIRMEN-S ASSOCIATION, AND CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRMAN. HE CONTINUED--

"WE HAVE A VERY ENTHUSIASTIC IOWA DELEGATION ATTENDING -- A DELEGATION READY AND WILLING TO TACKLE THE PROBLEMS WE FACE, HEAD ON."

CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN IS HOPE MC CORMICK, REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEEWOMAN FOR ILLINOIS, WHO SAID--

"MY CHIEF OBJECTIVE AS CHAIRMAN IS TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE FORUM FOR THE LEADERS OF THE MIDWEST HEARTLAND STATES.

"ILLINOIS IS PROUD TO BE THE HOST STATE, AND WE ARE ALL AT WORK TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE A GREAT CONFERENCE."

L. KEITH BULEN, INDIANA NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN SAID--

"INDIANA IS GOING ALL - OUT TO MAKE ATTENDANCE AT THIS CONFERENCE AVAILABLE TO ALL OF OUR LEADERS. I HAVE URGED EVERY ONE OF THEM TO MAKE EARLY RESERVATIONS BECAUSE OF SPACE LIMITATIONS.

"I EXPECT WE-LL BUST THROUGH OUR QUOTA, BUT THAT-S MY PROBLEM AND I-LL SOLVE IT."

MICHIGAN STATE CHAIRMAN WILLIAM F. MC LAUGHLIN SAID--

"WE-RE EXCITED ABOUT THE CONFERENCE BECAUSE IT WILL GIVE US A CHANCE TO PERSONALLY MEET TO CHAT WITH EACH OF THE EARLY PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS, AND SEE TO IT THAT THEY UNDERSTAND THE THINKING OF THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN.

"THE CONFERENCE WILL ALSO SPARK THE INTEREST AND ENTHUSIASM OF OUR REPUBLICAN LEADERS THAT WILL LEAD US TO ANOTHER STATEWIDE VICTORY IN 1974."

OTHER STATES TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE ARE KANSAS, MINNESOTA, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA, S.D., W.Va. & Wis.



IN ILLINOIS, STATE CHAIRMAN DON W. ADAMS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN CLIFFARD //CQ--CLIFFARD// CARLSON TERMED THE CONFERENCE "THE MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL MEETING IN MID-AMERICA IN THE YEAR 1974."

ONE OF THE MAJOR PARTY REPORTS IS EXPECTED TO BE GIVEN AT THE CONFERENCE BY NATIONAL CHAIRMAN GEORGE BUSH IN A "STATE OF THE NATIONAL PARTY" ADDRESS, ACCORDING TO CONFERENCE OFFICIALS.

GEORGE BURDITT/OF LA GRANGE/, WHO HEADS THE ILLINOIS TICKET AS THE GOP NOMINEE FOR THE U.S. SENATE, SAID-- "I-M-A POSITIVE GUY AND I LIKE THE PLAN FOR THE CONFERENCE. I-LL BE THERE WITH OUR ENTIRE TICKET AND OUR INCUMBENTS."

MAJOR WORKSHOPS NOW BEING PLANNED INCLUDE-- PUBLIC FINANCING OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS -- PROS AND CONS, THE ENERGY CRISIS, AND THE ECONOMY, ACCORDING TO CO-CHAIRMAN BLISS.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLANNING RESTS WITH MC CORMICK, BLISS, MC DONALD AND FORMER GOV. RICHARD B. OGILVIE OF ILLINOIS, CONFERENCE TREASURER, AND WITH THE STEERING COMMITTEE.

MEMBERS ARE, BY STATES-- ILLINOIS--MC CORMICK, INDIANA--BULEN, IOWA--MC DONALD, KANSAS--JACK RANSOM, MICHIGAN--MC LAUGHLIN, MINNESOTA--MRS. HAROLD LE VANDER, MISSOURI--LAWRENCE K. ROOS, NEBRASKA--MRS. RICHARD W. SMITH, NORTH DAKOTA--BEN J. CLAYBURGH, OHIO--BLISS, SOUTH DAKOTA--E. STEEVES SMITH, WEST VIRGINIA--MRS. IRVIN HUMPHREYS, AND WISCONSIN--ODY J. FISH.

SPOKESMEN FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS HAVE INDICATED TO PLANNERS THAT THEY REGARD THE CONFERENCE AS AN IMPORTANT "SHOWCASE" OPPORTUNITY.

//NOTE TO STATE, REGIONAL, TRAVELING AND NATIONAL MEDIA-- I AM FIGHTING FOR ENOUGH ROOMS AND WORKING FACILITIES. EARLY RESERVATIONS WILL HELP ME HELP YOU. FRED BIRD, SUITE 310, 134 N. LA SALLE ST., CHICAGO, 60602, BIZ FONES /312/ 641-6400 OR /312/ 354-5233, RES.FONE--

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FOR MORE INFO., FRED BIRD AT /RES./ /217/ 529-1092, THROUGH A.M. MONDAY.



Chairman Bush, Members of the Cabinet, Earl Butz, ~~Barry~~ ^{Herb} Stein, Senator Percy, Congressman Bill Steiger and other Members of the House and Senate, my old and dear friend Ray Bliss, other members of ^{the} national committee and state organizations and Republicans all -- it's a very great privilege and a great honor for me to have the opportunity of joining you for breakfast and participating in this fantastic Midwest Republican revival here in Chicago. (applause)

I'm obviously delighted to be a part of a program which includes the kind of caliber you have in your panels, your luncheon speaker and your dinner speaker. I wish it ~~was~~ ^{were} possible for me to stay and benefit from their observations and comments, but I will be heading South to help some Republicans down there.

I think your theme, which is "~~TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE AND NOT DWELL ON THE PAST~~" is an outstanding one. I happen to believe we should talk on the up-beat -- not on the down-beat. I was specifically admonished before coming ^{here} that I shouldn't talk about Watergate and that I should look ahead and not behind but with some ^{prerogatives} of my own -- I'll ignore those guidelines (laughter and applause) -- at least for just a moment.

I ask this question in all sincerity. What lessons can we learn from Watergate?

I think it would be most improper for us to speculate on the criminal and legal aspects of this sorry episode in recent political history, but I ~~think it fair that we~~ ^{certainly} can draw ~~one~~ ^{one} obvious political conclusion ~~from this~~.

The political lesson of Watergate is simply this:

Never again must Americans allow an arrogant, elite guard of political adolescents like CREEP to bypass the regular Republican party organizations (great applause). It is we -- not they -- that should dictate the terms of a national election. (applause)

But let's be fair: CREEP succeeded amazingly well in its stated purpose of re-electing the President although he might have ^{even} done better without their help. (applause) But ~~there was~~ ^{was} something missing from the President's massive victory in 1972.



The political failure of CREEP in 1972 was a failure to reinforce the President's impressive ~~victory, his overwhelming~~ ^{reflection} mandate with enough Republicans in the House and Senate to ensure ~~it should have~~ the success of his program^s - both at home and aboard. To perpetuate his fundamental concepts. Such Republican initiatives as revenue sharing and the return of power from Washington to the states and to the American people. (applause)

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If there are any more cliques of ambitious amateurs who want to run political campaigns, I say let the Democrats have them next time. (laughter - applause.)

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As you leave Chicago and this great conference, as you return to your home wherever it may be in any one of the 13 states, let me leave this additional thought with you.

I've been listening in Washington to a number of political pundits ~~in the news media~~ ^{and} I've ~~listened to~~ some of my good Democratic ~~leaders~~ ^{friends} saying ~~and what they are in effect telling themselves and the American people is precisely this.~~

^{that} 1974 will bring a smashing, devastating Democratic win in all 50 states. What they are saying, ~~and they usually speak it~~

I don't agree with them. ~~I'm quoting them -- but they are saying to themselves and to others --~~ ^{is that they} We expect ~~for example,~~

^{the} Democrats to make a net gain of 50 house seats ~~and even~~ ^{or even} ~~as much as~~ ^{as high as} a net gain of 100 seats. Now let me put this

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some of our recent losses, ^{we} can move ahead. We have ~~overcome~~ ^{overcome} adversity in the past, as Ray Bliss and I know from first-hand experience. Let's take the election of 1966 -- two years after we were ~~drubbed~~ ^{drubbed} ~~drubbed unfortunately~~ ^{we} found good candidates ~~we~~ ^{large sums} we eliminated our party differences ~~we~~ ^{we} raised ~~we~~ ^{we} went out and worked and I think ~~the~~ ^{the} Democrats were a little overconfident. ~~And we~~ ^{made} a net gain of 47 Republicans ~~added~~ ^{in the House} to some extent ~~right~~ ^{ing} the ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ balance in the House of Representatives as well as in the Senate.

I must tell you a story that happened after that election. We were elated, ^{so} the Republican leadership in the House invited all of the newly elected Republican Members and their wives down to a conference center, just outside of Washington, D.C., ^{so} we could get better acquainted ~~and so we could~~ ^{The idea was to} talk about parliamentary procedure ~~and we could~~ ^{and} discuss some of the major issues that we were going to work on. The opening ~~session~~ ^{session} I was asked to say a few words ~~and~~ ^{and} I got up and I looked out at this attractive, articulate, able ~~new~~ ^{new} group of 47 new Members, and in the course of my remarks I must have said that ~~happily clucking~~ ^{I was} ~~over~~ ^{over} this new brood of Republicans.

Well, the luncheon broke up and we went on to our business. ^{little} We had a ^{and we} social hour that night, ^{bright and} got up ^{early} the next morning. ^I came down ~~for~~ ^{to} breakfast and ~~when I came down~~ ^{and} somebody handed me a copy of the NEW YORK TIMES ^a front page article -- lead story -- first ~~sentence~~ ^{and} sentence said -- ^I quote precisely -- "Congressman Jerry Ford ^{the} Republican House Leader, ^{is} was happily clucking over his new brood. (laughter) I thought it was amusing that a great newspaper like the New York Times, and it is, could make a simply ~~typographical error~~ ^{typographical error} that ~~was~~ ^{was} somewhat significantly changed ~~from~~ ^{from} what I thought I had said ^{at} the ~~luncheon~~ ^{luncheon}. But I passed it off ^{and} kidded the correspondent for the Times and he ^{beautifully} and promptly in the next ~~edition~~ ^{edition} made the correction. ^{that my} ^{Betty} ^{too} ^{had} my wife ~~said~~ ^{she} that he was down at the conference. She slept in that morning ^{When she did} ~~she~~ walked into the dining room, ^{some} friend of mine ^{couldn't} wait to show her the front page of the New York Times. (laughter)



~~I'll~~ I'll conclude my remarks on this by simply saying that I have yet to satisfactorily explain ^{to my wife} who that new broad is. (laughter)

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It's been my privilege since becoming the first instant Vice President to travel in 20-plus states. I've been to Massachusetts. ^{It} They had a bad time in 1972. ^{were} They ~~are~~ divided. ~~are were~~ Some good Republicans wouldn't speak to other good Republicans. They were divided unbelievably. ^{recently} We had a unity dinner, and all dissident parties in the organization were present. We had a darn nice dinner, and they spoke to one another. And they are having a statewide unity march in a couple of weeks. That's progress.

I was in New Jersey last Saturday, and if you will recall and refresh your memory -- we took a terrible beating in New Jersey ^{in the} in 1973. ^{we} We lost the ~~Governorship~~ Governorship, ^{and} we ended up ~~with~~ ^{in the} State Legislature with 4 to 1 Democratic margin. ^{And} again it was caused by differences within the party -- ^I dissension, no effort, ^I no organization. ^{But} I am happy to report to you that in New Jersey these differences have been eliminated. They are going to work for one cause -- the Republican party, and I ~~think~~ think we will make some headway there.

Those are ^{two} two states that ~~are more or less states that~~ more often than not ~~states that~~ have supported Republican candidates.

~~I~~ I was down in South Carolina a couple of weeks ago. When I came to Congress in 1949, we didn't have a Republican ^{in the Congress from} in South Carolina. ^{As} as a matter of fact, we didn't have a Republican in any state below the Mason-Dixon line. We now have 36 ^{and} -- that's not bad. But in South Carolina we have two



Republican Congressman. We are going to get at least one more ~~we~~ we may elect a good Republican Governor ~~in~~ I In a State like South Carolina, which is indicative of many of the Southern States, the Republican party is on the march and it's ~~the~~ the party of the young people. (applause)

What I'm trying to say is that the party is strong and for a good and sufficient reason ~~we~~ we have the best principles ~~we~~ we have good leadership ~~we~~ we have dedicated people ~~we~~ we just have to get out and work and ~~sell~~ sell our program and ~~sell~~ sell our candidates. We've got to broaden the base of ~~spectrum~~ Republican participation -- the young people, the working people, the farmer, the academics, the business man ~~There~~ There is plenty of room in our Party for all of these people. And if they take a good look at what we are, I think we can end up with ~~a~~ the kind of active participation that is so needed. I know some people are saying, "What's going to happen in 1976?" And it is important. It is a big year, and we've got a wonderful potential of fine Republican candidates ~~we~~ we we've got Chuck Percy, Governor Reagan, Governor Rockefeller, former ~~Secretary~~ Secretary of the Treasury Connally ~~and we've~~ and we've got ~~two~~ two or three other excellent Members of the United States Senate. We may have some governors who will emerge in the months ahead. The Republican Party is blessed with ~~a broad array~~ a broad array of candidates, just any one of whom if nominated can win in 1976. (applause)

Let's not get preoccupied with '76 1974 we'll be Let's concentrate on '74. Because if we do well in laying the foundation for that victory in '76 ~~and~~ and ~~if we do badly~~ our party ~~will be in a~~ a shambles. And so I ~~plead~~ plead with you to make 1974 ~~the~~ the year of decision and the year of Republican success.

Thank you very much.

~~###~~

(thank goodness).....

EXCERPTS FROM A SPEECH BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
MIDWEST REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1974



What lessons can Republicans learn from Watergate?

It would be improper for us to speculate on the criminal and legal aspects of this sorry episode of recent history, but I can certainly draw one obvious political conclusion.

The political lesson of Watergate is this:

Never again must Americans allow an arrogant, elite guard of political adolescents like CREEP to bypass the regular party organizations and dictate the terms of a national election.

Let us be fair: CREEP succeeded amazingly well in its stated purpose of re-electing the President although he might have done even better without their help. But something was missing in President Nixon's massive victory.

The political failure of CREEP in 1972 was a failure to reinforce the President's impressive re-election mandate with enough Republicans in the House and Senate to ensure the success of his programs for revenue sharing and the return of power from Washington to the states and to the people.

The fatal defect of CREEP was that it made its own rules and thus made its own ruin. It violated the historic concept of the two-party system in America and ran roughshod over the seasoned political judgment and experience of the regular Republican party organization in the 50 states.

Our great national parties evolved along the same basic grassroots pattern of widely shared responsibility and local self-determination. The party recruits and trains and nurtures candidates and rewards some with higher offices. The party allows for the participation of rank and file citizens and forges its party principles from their broad spectrum of opinions and goals.

So I say we as Republicans have learned one great lesson from Watergate, and that is that our regular Republican party organization must be the vehicle for future elections. If

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there are any more cliques of ambitious amateurs who want to run political campaigns, let the Democrats have them next time.

Certainly in 1976 the Republican National Committee and Republican state committees and the other official arms of our party -- our senatorial and congressional campaign committees -- should call the shots and collect the money. All potential candidates for our Republican presidential nomination must recognize and work within the regular party structure. They should sign in advance on the dotted line that they will not set up outside committees without the party's consent.

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Chairman Bush, Members of the Cabinet, Earl Butz, Herb Stein, Senator Percy, Congressman Bill Steiger and other Members of the House and Senate, my old and dear friend Ray Bliss, other members of the National Committee and state organizations and Republicans all -- it's a very great privilege and a great honor for me to have the opportunity of joining you for breakfast and participating in this fantastic Midwest Republican revival here in Chicago. (applause)

I'm obviously delighted to be a part of a program which includes the kind of caliber you have in your panels, your luncheon speaker and your dinner speaker. I wish it were possible for me to stay and benefit from their observations and comments, but I will be heading South to help some Republicans down there.

I think your theme, which is "to look to the future and not dwell on the past," is an outstanding one. I happen to believe we should talk on the up-beat -- not on the down-beat. I was specifically admonished before coming here that I shouldn't talk about Watergate and that I should look ahead and not behind but with some prerogatives of my own I'll ignore those guidelines (laughter and applause) -- at least for just a moment.

I ask this question in all sincerity. What lesson can we learn from Watergate?

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As you leave Chicago and this great conference, as you return to your home wherever it may be in any one of the 13 states let me leave this additional thought with you.

I've been listening in Washington to a number of political pundits and some of my good Democratic friends saying that 1974 will bring a smashing, devastating Democratic win in all 50 states. What they are saying, and I don't agree with them, is that they expect the Democrats to make a net gain of 50 house seats or even as much as 100 seats. Now let me put this in perspective for you, if I might.

The tragic political year of 1964 resulted in a Democratic gain of 40 in the House. The net result was that in 1965 and 1966 the House lineup was 295 Democrats to 140 Republicans. I was elected Minority Leader in January of 1965 by the landslide margin of 73 to 67. (laughter) Those were dim and dismal years, as my good friend, Ray Bliss, well remembers. And in those two years we had the kind of unsound legislation that was rammed through the Congress by a vigorous President and a rubber-stamp House and Senate. And we have been trying to undo that damage ever since. If the Democrats make a net gain of 100 -- not

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just 50 which is their minimum figure -- that will take us back to 1936. It means that in the next Congress, in the House of Representatives the Democrats will have 346 Members and the Republicans will have 87. Do you recall what happened to the political fabric in the United States in those mid-1930 years because of the overwhelming unbalance of the Congress? Some very significant and substantial changes were made. I don't agree with the forecast being made by my Democratic friends. I happen to believe the Republican Party -- despite some of our recent losses -- can move ahead. We have overcome adversity in the past, as Ray Bliss and I know from first-hand experience. Let's take the election of 1966 -- two years after we were drubbed. We found good candidates. We eliminated our party differences. We raised large sums. We went out and worked, and I think the Democrats were a little over-confident. And we made a net gain of 47 Republicans in the House, to some extent righting the imbalance in the House of Representatives as well as in the Senate.

I must tell you a story that happened after that election. We were elated, so the Republican leadership in the House invited all of the newly elected Republican Members and their wives down to a conference center, just outside of Washington, D.C., so we could get better acquainted. The idea was to talk about parliamentary procedure and discuss some of the major issues that we were going to work on. At the opening session I was asked to say a few words. And I got up and I looked out at this attractive, articulate, able group of 47 new Members, and in the course of my remarks I must have said that I was happily clucking over this new brood of Republicans.

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It's been my privilege since becoming the first instant Vice President to travel in 20-plus states. I've been to Massachusetts. They had a bad time of it in 1972. They were divided. Some good Republicans wouldn't speak to other good Republicans. They were unbelievably divided. We recently had a unity dinner, and all dissident parties in the organization were present. We had a darn nice dinner, and they spoke to one another. And they are having a statewide unity march in a couple of weeks. That's progress.

I was in New Jersey last Saturday, and if you will recall and refresh your memory we took a terrible beating in New Jersey in 1973. We lost the Governorship, and we ended up in the State Legislature with a 4 to 1 Democratic margin. Again it was caused by differences within the party -- dissension, no effort,

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no organization. But I am happy to report to you that in New Jersey these differences have been eliminated. They are going to work for one cause -- the Republican Party -- and I think we will make some headway there.

Those are two states that more often than not have supported Republican candidates.

I was down in South Carolina a couple of weeks ago. When I came to Congress in 1949, we didn't have a Republican in the Congress from South Carolina. As a matter of fact, we didn't have a Republican in any state below the Mason-Dixon line. We now have 36 -- and that's not bad. But in South Carolina we have two Republican Congressman. We are going to get at least one more. We may elect a good Republican Governor. In a State like South Carolina, which is indicative of many of the Southern States, the Republican Party is on the march and it's the party of the young people. (applause)

What I'm trying to say is that the party is strong -- and for a good and sufficient reason. We have the best principles. We have good leadership. We have dedicated people. We just have to get out and work and sell our program and sell our candidates. We've got to broaden the base of Republican participation -- the young people, the working people, the farmer, the academicians, the business man. There is plenty of room in our Party for all of these people. And if they take a good look at what we are, I think we can end up with the kind of active participation that is so needed. I know some people are saying, "What's going to happen in 1976?" And it is important. It is a big year, and we've got a wonderful potential of fine Republican candidates. We've got Chuck Percy, Governor Reagan, Governor Rockefeller, former Secretary of the Treasury Connally -- and we've got two or three other excellent Members of the United States Senate. We may have some governors who will emerge in the months ahead. The Republican Party is blessed with a broad array of candidates, just any one of whom if nominated can win in 1976. (applause)

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Let's not get preoccupied with '76. Let's concentrate on '74. Because if we do well in 1974 we'll be laying the foundation for that victory in '76 -- and if we do badly our party will be in a shambles. And so I plead with you to make 1974 the year of decision and the year of Republican success.

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It's been my privilege since becoming the first instant Vice President to travel in 20-plus states. I've been to Massachusetts. They had a bad time of it in 1972. They were divided. Some good Republicans wouldn't speak to other good Republicans. They were unbelievably divided. We recently had a unity dinner, and all dissident parties in the organization were present. We had a darn nice dinner, and they spoke to one another. And they are having a statewide unity march in a couple of weeks. That's progress.

I was in New Jersey last Saturday, and if you will recall and refresh your memory we took a terrible beating in New Jersey in 1973. We lost the Governorship, and we ended up in the State Legislature with a 4 to 1 Democratic margin. Again it was caused by differences within the party -- dissension, no effort,

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no organization. But I am happy to report to you that in New Jersey these differences have been eliminated. They are going to work for one cause -- the Republican Party -- and I think we will make some headway there.

Those are two states that more often than not have supported Republican candidates.

I was down in South Carolina a couple of weeks ago. When I came to Congress in 1949, we didn't have a Republican in the Congress from South Carolina. As a matter of fact, we didn't have a Republican in any state below the Mason-Dixon line. We now have 36 -- and that's not bad. But in South Carolina we have two Republican Congressman. We are going to get at least one more. We may elect a good Republican Governor. In a State like South Carolina, which is indicative of many of the Southern States, the Republican Party is on the march and it's the party of the young people. (applause)



What I'm trying to say is that the party is strong -- and for a good and sufficient reason. We have the best principles. We have good leadership. We have dedicated people. We just have to get out and work and sell our program and sell our candidates. We've got to broaden the base of Republican participation -- the young people, the working people, the farmer, the academicians, the business man. There is plenty of room in our Party for all of these people. And if they take a good look at what we are, I think we can end up with the kind of active participation that is so needed. I know some people are saying, "What's going to happen in 1976?" And it is important. It is a big year, and we've got a wonderful potential of fine Republican candidates. We've got Chuck Percy, Governor Reagan, Governor Rockefeller, former Secretary of the Treasury Connally -- and we've got two or three other excellent Members of the United States Senate. We may have some governors who will emerge in the months ahead. The Republican Party is blessed with a broad array of candidates, just any one of whom if nominated can win in 1976. (applause)

(more)

Let's not get preoccupied with '76. Let's concentrate on '74. Because if we do well in 1974 we'll be laying the foundation for that victory in '76 -- and if we do badly our party will be in a shambles. And so I plead with you to make 1974 the year of decision and the year of Republican success.

Thank you very much.

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EXCERPTS FROM A SPEECH BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD

MIDWEST REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Chicago, March 30, 1974

What lessons can Republicans learn from Watergate?

It would be improper for us to speculate on the criminal and legal aspects of this sorry episode of recent history, but I can certainly draw one obvious political conclusion.

The political lesson of Watergate is this:

Never again must Americans allow an arrogant, elite guard of political adolescents like CREEP to bypass the regular party organizations and dictate the terms of a national election.

Let us be fair: CREEP succeeded amazingly well in its stated purpose of re-electing the President although he might have done even better without their help. But something was missing in President Nixon's massive victory.

The political failure of CREEP in 1972 was a failure to reinforce the President's impressive re-election mandate with enough republicans in the House and Senate to ensure the success of his programs for revenue sharing and the return of power from Washington to the states and to the people.

The fatal defect of CREEP was that it made its own rules and thus made its own ruin. It violated the historic concept of the two-party system in America and ran roughshod over the seasoned political judgment and experience of the regular Republican party organization in the 50 states.

Elaine



Our great national parties evolved along the same basic grassroots pattern of widely shared responsibility and local self-determination. The party recruits and trains and nurtures candidates and rewards some with higher offices. The party allows for the participation of rank and file citizens and forges its party principles from their broad spectrum of opinions and goals.

So I say we as Republicans have learned one great lesson from Watergate, and that is that our regular Republican party organization must be the vehicle for future elections. If there are any more cliques of ambitious amateurs who want to run political campaigns, let the Democrats have them next time.

Certainly in 1976 ~~the~~ Republican National Committee and Republican state committees and ^{our} the other official arms of ^{Rep} our party--~~our~~ ^{the} senatorial and congressional campaign committees--should call the shots and collect the money. All potential candidates for our republican presidential nomination must recognize and work within the regular party structure. They should sign in advance on the dotted line that they will not set up outside committees without the party's consent.

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Never again must Americans allow an arrogant, elite guard of political adolescents like CREEP to bypass the regular Republican party organizations. (great applause) It is we -- not they -- that should dictate the terms of a national election. (applause)

But let's be fair: CREEP succeeded amazingly well in its stated purpose of re-electing the President although he might have done even better without their help. (applause) But something was missing from the President's massive victory in 1972.

The political failure of CREEP in 1972 was a failure to reinforce the President's impressive reelection mandate with enough Republicans in the House and Senate to ensure the success of his programs -- both at home and abroad. To perpetuate his fundamental concepts. Such Republican initiatives as revenue sharing and the return of power from Washington to the states and to the American people. (applause)

The fatal defect of CREEP was that it made its own rules and thereby made its own ruin. It violated the historic concept of the two-party system in America and it ran literally roughshod over the seasoned political judgment and the seasoned political experience of the regular Republican party organization in all of our 50 states.

Our great national parties evolved along the same basic grassroots pattern of widely shared responsibility and local self-determination. The party recruits and trains and nurtures candidates the length and the breadth of this country and rewards some with higher office. The party allows for the participation of rank and file citizens of all occupations and all segments of our society and forges its party principles from their broad spectrum of opinions and goals.

So I say we as Republicans have learned one great lesson from Watergate, and that is that our Republican party organization must be the vehicle for future elections. (applause)

(more)

If there are any more cliques of ambitious amateurs who want to run political campaigns, I say let the Democrats have them next time. (laughter - applause)

Certainly in 1976 the Republican National Committee and Republican state committees and the other official arms of our Republican Party -- our Senatorial and Congressional Campaign Committees -- should call the shots and collect the money and spend the money. (applause)

And I respectfully suggest that all potential candidates for the Republican presidential nomination must recognize and must work within the regular party structure. (applause) And I respectfully recommend that each and every one of them should sign in advance on the dotted line that they will not set up an outside committee without the specific approval of the party itself. (applause)

As you leave Chicago and this great conference, as you return to your home wherever it may be in any one of the 13 states let me leave this additional thought with you.

I've been listening in Washington to a number of political pundits and some of my good Democratic friends saying that 1974 will bring a smashing, devastating Democratic win in all 50 states. What they are saying, and I don't agree with them, is that they expect the Democrats to make a net gain of 50 house seats or even as much as 100 seats. Now let me put this in perspective for you, if I might.

The tragic political year of 1964 resulted in a Democratic gain of 40 in the House. The net result was that in 1965 and 1966 the House lineup was 295 Democrats to 140 Republicans. I was elected Minority Leader in January of 1965 by the landslide margin of 73 to 67. (laughter) Those were dim and dismal years, as my good friend, Ray Bliss, well remembers. And in those two years we had the kind of unsound legislation that was rammed through the Congress by a vigorous President and a rubber-stamp House and Senate. And we have been trying to undo that damage ever since. If the Democrats make a net gain of 100 -- not

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just 50 which is their minimum figure -- that will take us back to 1936. It means that in the next Congress, in the House of Representatives the Democrats will have 346 Members and the Republicans will have 87. Do you recall what happened to the political fabric in the United States in those mid-1930 years because of the overwhelming unbalance of the Congress? Some very significant and substantial changes were made. I don't agree with the forecast being made by my Democratic friends. I happen to believe the Republican Party -- despite some of our recent losses -- can move ahead. We have overcome adversity in the past, as Ray Bliss and I know from first-hand experience. Let's take the election of 1966 -- two years after we were drubbed. We found good candidates. We eliminated our party differences. We raised large sums. We went out and worked, and I think the Democrats were a little over-confident. And we made a net gain of 47 Republicans in the House, to some extent righting the imbalance in the House of Representatives as well as in the Senate.

I must tell you a story that happened after that election. We were elated, so the Republican leadership in the House invited all of the newly elected Republican Members and their wives down to a conference center, just outside of Washington, D.C., so we could get better acquainted. The idea was to talk about parliamentary procedure and discuss some of the major issues that we were going to work on. At the opening session I was asked to say a few words. And I got up and I looked out at this attractive, articulate, able group of 47 new Members, and in the course of my remarks I must have said that I was happily clucking over this new brood of Republicans.

Well, the luncheon broke up and we went on to our business. We had a little social hour that night, and we got up bright and early the next morning. I came down to breakfast and somebody handed me a copy of the New York Times. A front page article -- lead story -- first sentence said -- and I quote precisely -- "Congressman Jerry Ford, the Republican

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House Leader, was happily clucking over his new broad."

(laughter) I thought it was amusing that a great newspaper like the New York Times, and it is, could make a simple typographical error that somewhat significantly changed what I thought I had said at the luncheon. But I passed it off. I kidded the correspondent for the Times and he dutifully and promptly in the next edition made the correction. My wife, Betty, was down at the conference, too. She had slept in that morning. When she did walk into the dining room, some friend of mine couldn't wait to show her the front page of the New York Times. (laughter)

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