

The original documents are located in Box D15, folder “Midwest Volunteers for Nixon, Chicago, IL, May 21, 1960” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File 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. The Council donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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.

From the office of
Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Jr.

For Release
Saturday, May 21, 1960

Midwest Volunteers for Nixon
Hotel Sherman
Chicago, Illinois

"We have the right man for the job and our man is right on the issues," Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Jr., (R., Mich.) told the Midwest Volunteers for Nixon at the Hotel Sherman today.

"I have known Dick Nixon intimately for almost 12 years," the Michigan Congressman said, "and I know that he is a sincere and dedicated public servant with courage and views that appeal to all groups of voters."

Ford insisted that there is no "old" or "new" Nixon but that the Vice President has maintained consistently throughout his career a single purpose--the best interests of the United States. The public image of Nixon, Ford said, "is that of a person of proven ability, broad experience, energy and courage, and dedication to principle and duty."

Ford showed from the record that Dick Nixon has maintained the Eisenhower philosophy of being "liberal in human relations and conservative in economic affairs."

Rep. Ford also urged the Volunteers to counteract the contention that it doesn't make any difference who is elected. "I say, if it makes a difference to Walter Reuther, to the A.D.A., to the radicals or to those who wish to plunder the federal treasury, it should make a vast difference to the American public as a whole, including the man who works in the shop, the farmer in the field, the housewife, the small businessman, and the educator.

Rep. Ford cited several statements by the Vice President which Ford said proved the soundness and responsibility of Nixon's stands on various issues. Excerpts of these quotations include:

"The Republican party should be conservative in its economic policies. But if our conservatism is interpreted to the people as being simply stand-pat, status-quo, hold-the-line, keep-things-as-they-are, we will go down to defeat and deserve it..... We Republicans believe in human welfare, but not in the welfare state. The difference is vital. Our aim is to create a climate that favors growth and progress, then letting the people decide for themselves what they will do with their money. The welfare state is based on the idea that government knows best."

(Nixon's farm program): "Full parity in the market place for farm products; maximum freedom for the farmer from government controls; an ever-increasing standard of living for farmers and the American people."

"America cannot afford the moral, the economic and the international cost of prejudice and discrimination....The American revolution will not be complete until the ideals of independence, equality and freedom are a reality not only for Americans but for peoples throughout the world!"

"I believe that those of us who are economic conservatives (and I would put myself in that category--I believe in fiscal responsibility. I believe in the kind of policies that encourage the private sector of economy and enhance the growth of private enterprise rather than policies which rely on the government for the solution of all problems) must cast our conservatism in progressive terms."

"We must learn that we cannot add new programs to the federal budget unless we are prepared to levy the taxes to pay for them.... Any Administration would be taking a completely irresponsible position to simply wink at and laugh off additional expenditures which might unbalance the budget.... Adding to the debt has the over-all effect of harming the savings and the earnings of millions of Americans."

"We can make no greater mistake than to underestimate the ability of those who guide the destiny of the Soviet empire today. We are not going to change Communist policy with a smile or a handshake. They will respect us only if we stand firmly by our principles and our ideals.... There are those who seem to assume that if we treat Mr. Khrushchev well he may soften his rigid positions and the differences between us will eventually melt away. This kind of thinking is incredibly naive."

In line with this, Ford pointed out that Nixon had not only put up a firm front against Khrushchev verbally, but had stood up to the Russian Premier in a manner to make all Americans proud during his visit to the Soviet Union last summer.

Rep. Ford called Nixon a "forward-looking realist" as far as foreign policy is concerned and said he is a man who is "firmly dedicated to the opposition of Communist aggression."

From the office of
Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Jr.

For Release
Saturday, May 21, 1960

Midwest Volunteers for Nixon
Hotel Sherman
Chicago, Illinois

"We have the right man for the job and our man is right on the issues," Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Jr., (R., Mich.) told the Midwest Volunteers for Nixon at the Hotel Sherman today.

"I have known Dick Nixon intimately for almost 12 years," the Michigan Congressman said, "and I know that he is a sincere and dedicated public servant with courage and views that appeal to all groups of voters."

Ford insisted that there is no "old" or "new" Nixon but that the Vice President has maintained consistently throughout his career a single purpose--the best interests of the United States. The public image of Nixon, Ford said, "is that of a person of proven ability, broad experience, energy and courage, and dedication to principle and duty."

Ford showed from the record that Dick Nixon has maintained the Eisenhower philosophy of being "liberal in human relations and conservative in economic affairs."

Rep. Ford also urged the Volunteers to counteract the contention that it doesn't make any difference who is elected. "I say, if it makes a difference to Walter Reuther, to the A.D.A., to the radicals or to those who wish to plunder the federal treasury, it should make a vast difference to the American public as a whole, including the man who works in the shop, the farmer in the field, the housewife, the small businessman, and the educator.

Rep. Ford cited several statements by the Vice President which Ford said proved the soundness and responsibility of Nixon's stands on various issues. Excerpts of these quotations include:

"The Republican party should be conservative in its economic policies. But if our conservatism is interpreted to the people as being simply stand-pat, status-quo, hold-the-line, keep-things-as-they-are, we will go down to defeat and deserve it..... We Republicans believe in human welfare, but not in the welfare state. The difference is vital. Our aim is to create a climate that favors growth and progress, then letting the people decide for themselves what they will do with their money. The welfare state is based on the idea that government knows best."

(Nixon's farm program): "Full parity in the market place for farm products; maximum freedom for the farmer from government controls; an ever-increasing standard of living for farmers and the American people."

"America cannot afford the moral, the economic and the international cost of prejudice and discrimination....The American revolution will not be complete until the ideals of independence, equality and freedom are a reality not only for Americans but for peoples throughout the world!"

"I believe that those of us who are economic conservatives (and I would put myself in that category--I believe in fiscal responsibility. I believe in the kind of policies that encourage the private sector of economy and enhance the growth of private enterprise rather than policies which rely on the government for the solution of all problems) must cast our conservatism in progressive terms."

"We must learn that we cannot add new programs to the federal budget unless we are prepared to levy the taxes to pay for them.... Any Administration would be taking a completely irresponsible position to simply wink at and laugh off additional expenditures which might unbalance the budget.... Adding to the debt has the over-all effect of harming the savings and the earnings of millions of Americans."

"We can make no greater mistake than to underestimate the ability of those who guide the destiny of the Soviet empire today. We are not going to change Communist policy with a smile or a handshake. They will respect us only if we stand firmly by our principles and our ideals.... There are those who seem to assume that if we treat Mr. Khrushchev well he may soften his rigid positions and the differences between us will eventually melt away. This kind of thinking is incredibly naive."

In line with this, Ford pointed out that Nixon had not only put up a firm front against Khrushchev verbally, but had stood up to the Russian Premier in a manner to make all Americans proud during his visit to the Soviet Union last summer.

Rep. Ford called Nixon a "forward-looking realist" as far as foreign policy is concerned and said he is a man who is "firmly dedicated to the opposition of Communist aggression."