

The original documents are located in Box D16, folder “Morgan County Committee Fund-Raising Dinner, June 15, 1963” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Excerpts from address by Rep. Gerald R. Ford

Morgan County Committee Fund-Raising Dinner

June 15, 1963

The Republican Party in 1964 has a number of top-notch potential candidates for the nomination of President and Vice President. I hope we will have a wide open, unbossed national convention where the will of the majority of the Republican delegates will prevail in order to reflect the true view of rank and file Republicans nationwide.

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If I am a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1964, I will of course support one candidate over the others, but let me assure you, without hesitation or qualification, if my candidate or candidates lose, I will work and vote for the Republican nominee. We should not be so committed to a single personality or so limited in our Republican ideals and philosophy that we insure victory for the radicals and big-city politicians who now dominate and control the Democratic Party. Let us never forget that the Republican Party is the only vehicle today by which the best traditions of America can be preserved and expanded.

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During the first two years in which Secretary Benson was in charge of the Department of Agriculture, he actually spent 7.5 billion dollars. During the first two years in which Orville Freeman was in command, there was a one hundred per cent increase in expenditures. Freeman spent a total of \$14 billion. I contend that Secretary Freeman is the most expensive commodity ever produced by the Department of Agriculture. When we combine these enormous costs with Freeman's insatiable appetite for greater controls over every farmer, we have in the Secretary a luxury which the American people can do very well without.

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A few suggestions for the months ahead:

1). Tell the Truth - Tell it Often - Tell it with Conviction

It is beginning to get through to the American people that there is very little substance to the fog of publicity put out by the mimeograph machines in the White House.

Folks at home are beginning to realize that an Administration can manage the news just so long.

The American people are catching on. By the time of the 1964 election, if we do our job, all Americans will know there is a shaky, shifty foundation

under the House that Jack built.

2). Point out basic differences between Democrats and Republicans

While today's Democratic Party is dominated by radicalism and "big city politicians," the G.O.P. continues to represent modern, progressive, common sense, conservatism with party control resting in the rank and file membership.

The Democratic Party today is the party of "big government" demanding more and more government power over every citizen. As Republicans we defend and insist upon individual initiative, free enterprise, and limited government.

Our Republican Party is a unified, national party with achievable goals. Our opponents form a peculiar coalition with no unity in purpose and little mutual respect.

3). Point out the failure of the Democrats to fulfill their campaign promises.

Let me say with emphasis - - no Administration promised more and produced less.

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In 1960 during the political campaign the Democrats promised to devise a new national strategy allegedly designed to increase the strength of the non-communist world. Tragically for the United States and our allies, in the past two years and four months the Democratic Administration has simply resurrected the discredited "wait and see" or "let the dust settle" foreign policy that lost China and eastern Europe in the 1940s to the Communist dictators in the Kremlin.

Despite the campaign promises of new prestige the Kennedy Democrat Administration has:

- 1). waited while the Wall was built in Berlin
- 2). waited while Soviet troops and arms were shipped into Cuba
- 3). dilly-dallied in Laos
- 4). made concession after concession in the negotiations for a nuclear test ban
- 5). removed ballistic missiles from Italy and Turkey.

We must remind our fellow citizens that under eight years of the Eisenhower-Republican Administration our military strength and strategy successfully met the Communist challenge in Berlin, at Quemoy and Matsu, and in Lebanon in the Middle East.

We must remind our fellow citizens that America's prestige and success in the 1950's has deteriorated under the vacillating indecision of the "wait and see" policies of the Democrats.

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What Republicans must do to win

We Republicans must start walking across America block by block, stopping at every home and farm and factory and dockside along the way, pointing out the failure of the Democrats and selling these basic Republican principles I have been talking about.

If we do this, we will retire the Kennedys from the White House to Glen Ora, or Newport, or Hyannis Port, or Palm Beach, or wherever else they may have homes by that time.

The people who are going to put the wheels under the Kennedy rocking chair and push him out of the White House are right here in this room. You have an important state. You have the enthusiasm and the desire. You can get the money. You have the independent spirit of the Abe Lincolns and Teddy Roosevelts and Dwight Eisenhowers and other greats of our Republican Party. You have all the ingredients so that you can bring victory to us and to the nation in 1964. The question is -- will you accept the challenge ??



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