

The original documents are located in Box D17, folder “Israel Bonds Dinner, Chicago, IL, April 11, 1965” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Text of an address by Rep. Gerald R. Ford (R-Mich)
at a testimonial dinner April 11, 1965 in Chicago
for Cook County Sheriff Richard Ogilvie of Illinois

We are here for several reasons this evening. One of them is to salute Sheriff Richard Ogilvie. I join you in applauding him for building a professional police force from scratch, handling the Dixmoor riots with courage, calmness and finesse, and providing an entrenched political machine with strong and healthy opposition.

His dedication is akin to the fine work of Don Rumsfeld, who represents the 13th District in the House of Representatives as a staunch and articulate spokesman for the people back home in Illinois.

I am delighted to be with you for other reasons...first, because of the most worthwhile cause this dinner supports.

Very shortly the State of Israel will celebrate its seventeenth anniversary. In that brief period of history, a courageous and dedicated people have almost miraculously transformed a largely arid and undeveloped land into a modern industrial nation. As you well know, this tremendous progress has been accomplished under the most adverse circumstances. I commend those who in the face of such adversity have accomplished so much in so little time.

Since the Israel Bond Organization was formed in 1951, Israel's agricultural production has increased nearly six times, industrial production has gone up five times, and exports have risen nine times. More than 1½ million subscribers to Israel bonds should be justly proud of their contribution to this significant growth.

-more-



With your aid, Israel has overcome serious economic, social and political problems. It has taken in many thousands of homeless refugees and given them meaningful and productive lives. It has even extended the hand of friendship, in the form of technical assistance, to nations which are less fortunate. On the African continent and in some parts of Latin America, Israeli teachers, irrigation experts, medical specialists and engineers are helping others to cross the barrier from "have-nots" to "haves."

But the problems of Israel are not all in the past. While half of the nation is now fully developed, there is still another half that is in a primitive state, relatively speaking. These desert and waste areas must be irrigated, populated and made economically viable. There is still the need to absorb an expected 500,000 additional settlers by 1970. There is still the absolute necessity to go forward vigorously with Israel's present five-year plan for industrialization.

However, with support such as yours, I have no doubt that the free and democratic State of Israel is well on its way to complete self-reliance and stability.

Another reason for being pleased to be with you is more complicated and subtle. It is because your participation in this cause represents an outstanding example of one of the strengths of the American system.

You have made a considerable commitment of time, effort, resources and emotion to help others with whom you feel spiritual ties.

Too often, I believe, we stress the sameness, the homogeneity of American life, while ignoring the healthy differences and variations that give such richness to the American fabric.



The texture of our Nation, which has contributed to its unparalleled greatness, comes from many ethnic, religious and nationality strains. America, as we know it and love it, is like a good soup. Its full flavor comes from the blending of many ingredients.

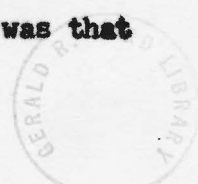
Yet from many quarters we hear a great deal of talk about assimilation--- especially from the younger generation. And, of course, it is necessary that we should be alike in some ways----- in our standard of justice, our concept of democratic government, our common ideal of liberty and freedom.

But, we must also recognize that we can pay too high a price for sameness. We can make our soup bland. There are differences that we cannot afford to lose.

I do not like to believe, and do not concede, that in this country we have Italian-Americans, Irish-Americans, Afro-Americans or Jewish-Americans because the hyphen implies that different groups should be given different treatment. This is wrong.

On the other hand, it is necessary to understand that different groups have added immeasurably to American life because they are different. Out of their differences have grown ideas, a fuller cultural life, and a more interesting and stimulating America. Our national outlook is broader; our character stiffer.

Rather than question in any way those who feel deep emotional ties to other countries---whether it be Israel or Ireland or Italy or Africa---we should salute this as a manifestation of the genius of our Nation. This is part of what we call Americanism. It is one of the things that makes both Israel and America unique in the world. The beauty of Joseph's coat was that it was of many colors.



And so I salute you tonight— salute you for your support of a worthwhile cause— and salute you, my fellow Americans, because you have unselfishly helped pave the road to economic self-reliance for the people of Israel. With pride you can say you have played a major role in Israel's progress. With your head high, you know you have personally shared in an enterprise of historic significance for the survival of the Jewish people and of the spirit of human freedom and dignity to which it is dedicated.

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Israel Bond Speech
Chicago, April 11, 1965
By. Rep. Gerald R. Ford

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So I stand before you as something of an authority on the plight of the oppressed minorities.

May I add a postscript----- I fervently hope that we in the minority party of this great Nation of ours exhibit the same dauntless courage, matchless ingenuity, and rugged integrity as did those stout-hearted pioneers of the State of Israel for the past 17 years or more.

Israel and Ford well know the problems of dealing with those goyem!

I might also add that Israel and the Republican Party have something else in common. Some people think that Senator Dirksen and David Ben Gurion use the same hair stylist!

This dinner reminds me of President Kennedy's classic remark to a Democratic fund-raising function when he said "I am touched to be here, but not as much as you have been!"

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Several years ago, McKeldin took a trip to Israel with his friend Judge Simon Sobeloff, and on the way home their plane made a stop at Shannon, Ireland. McKeldin said to Sobeloff: "We have to get out and kiss the Blarney stone." When Sobeloff asked why, McKeldin answered: "Because the Blarney stone is to we Irish what Tel Aviv is to we Jews!" It is in this spirit of the universality and brotherhood of man that I am with you tonight.

I'm also particularly happy to be back in Illinois--- a State which loves the Republicans so much that last November it overwhelmingly declined to burden us with the nagging problems of public office!

Indeed, the problems of the Illinois Republicans reminds me of the famous Indian yogi's formula for lying on a bed of nails-----"It only hurts when you laugh!"

Coming directly from Washington, I'm sure you would like a report on government under the Johnson administration.

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Chicago, April 11, 1965
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SAUL
Palk a leg - let
Mr. Palk
"children"
"if you any TUNES"

2nd. Kaganet - 2 only became a politician because
2nd after wondered what my present status
would be today if 2 had accepted

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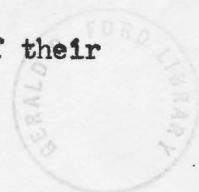
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Draft #1
4/6/65
S. Hess

Israel Bond Speech, Chicago, April 11, 1965
Gerald R. Ford

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So I stand before you as something of an authority on the plight of oppressed minorities!

Israel and Ford well know the problems of dealing with these goyem! (Note: Goyem is Yiddish for non-Jews or outsiders. Throwing in a Yiddish word might win acceptance at the outset.)

I might also add that Israel and the Republican Party have something else in common. Some people think that Senator Dirksen and David Ben Gurion use the same hair stylist!



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omit
I Agree { But I should also note - as a Michigan Congressman - that I've never heard of any Arab voters in Grand Rapids! }

I'm also particularly happy to be back in Illinois - a State which loves the Republicans so much that last November it overwhelmingly declined to burden us with the nagging problems of public office!

This is over worked. omit { Of course not all Republicans have given up on Illinois - Dick Nixon tells me he's still waiting for a recount in Cook County! }



Indeed the problems of the Illinois Republicans reminds me of the famous Indian yogi's formula for lying on a bed of nails: "It only hurts when you laugh!"

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As you know, it is now fashionable on the banks of the Potomac to have an avian appendage on your name, such as Lady-Bird, Lynda-Bird, and Luci-Bird. One cynic has even said that at last we know what Washington is strictly for.

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However, I can report it's not true that Lyndon is planning to change the name of the Nation's Capital to "Austin-East."

? omit
Of course Mr. Johnson is not the only prominent figure in Washington. There's also Vice President Humphrey - it's just that nobody seems to have seen him lately! Perhaps after the next election the President can get a job as "Lyndon the Magnificent and his Famous



Vanishing Hubert Act!" (Barry Goldwater also has an amazing act - he makes Republicans disappear.)

* * * * *

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Yet we hear a great deal of talk about assimilation - especially from the younger generation. And, of course, it is necessary that we should be alike in some ways - in our standard of justice, our concept of democratic government, our common ideal of liberty and freedom.

But we must also recognize that we can pay too high a price for sameness. We can make the soup bland. There are differences that we cannot afford to lose.

I do not like to believe that in this country we have Italian-Americans, *Afro-Americans, English-Americans* or Irish-Americans, or Jewish-Americans because the hyphen implies that different groups should be differentially treated. ~~and~~

This is wrong.



On the other hand, it is necessary to understand that different groups have added to American life because they are different. Out of their differences have grown new ideas, a fuller cultural life, and a more interesting and stimulating America.

Question in any way
Rather than ~~hold suspect~~ those who feel ^{deep} emotional ties to other

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coat was that it was of many colors.

And so I salute you tonight - salute you for your support of a

worthwhile cause - and salute you, my fellow Americans, because you have

helped to make our country a more vital place in which to live.

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have helped pave the road to economic self-reliance for the people of Israel. With pride you can say you have played a major role in Israel's progress. With your heart deep you know you have personally shared in an enterprise of historic significance for the survival of the Jewish people & of the spirit of human freedom & dignity to which it is dedicated.

*Revised
see p. 5
of suggestions*



*all positive
have out-
negative*

*are we
israel or
a part of
people's
you know
the world.*

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY APRIL 11, 1965

Very shortly the State of Israel will celebrate its seventeenth anniversary. In that brief period in the pages of history, a courageous and dedicated people have almost miraculously transformed a largely arid and undeveloped land into a modern industrial nation.

As you well know, this tremendous progress has been accomplished under the most adverse circumstances. I commend those who in the face of such adversity have accomplished so much in so little time.

Since the Israel Bond Organization was formed in 1951, Israel's agricultural production has increased nearly six times, industrial production has gone up five times, and exports have risen nine times. More than 1½ million subscribers to Israel bonds should be justly proud of their contribution to this significant growth.

With your aid, Israel has overcome serious economic, social and political problems. It has taken in many thousands of homeless refugees, and given them more meaningful and productive lives. It has even extended the hand of friendship, in the form of technical assistance, to nations which are less fortunate. On the African continent and in some parts of Latin America, Israeli teachers, irrigation experts, medical specialists and engineers are helping others to cross the barrier from "have-nots" to "haves."

But the problems of Israel are not all in the past. While half of the nation is now fully developed, there is still another half that is in a primitive state, relatively speaking. These desert and waste areas must be irrigated, populated and made economically viable. There is still the need to absorb an expected 500,000 additional settlers by 1970. There is still the absolute necessity to go forward vigorously with Israel's present five-year plan for industrialization.

However, with support such as yours, I have no doubt that the free and the democratic State of Israel is well on its way to complete self-reliance and stability.

One of the reasons for being pleased to be with you is more complicated and subtle. It is because your participation in this cause represents an outstanding example of one of the strengths of the American system.

You have made a considerable commitment of time, effort, resources and emotion to help others with whom you feel spiritual ties.

Too often, I believe, we stress the sameness, the homogeneity, of American life while ignoring the healthy differences and variations that give such richness to the American fabric.

The texture of our Nation, which has contributed to its unparalleled greatness, comes from many ethnic, religious and nationality strains. America, as we know it and love it, is like a good soup. Its full flavor comes from the blending of many ingredients.

Yet from many quarters we hear a great deal of talk about assimilation----- especially from the younger generation. And, of course, it is necessary that we should be alike in some ways--- in our standard of justice, our concept of democratic government, our common ideal of liberty and freedom.

But, we must also recognize that we can pay too high a price for sameness. We can make our soup bland. There are differences that we cannot afford to lose.

I do not like to believe and do not concede that in this country we have Italian-Americans, Irish-Americans, Afro-Americans or Jewish-Americans, because the hyphen implies that different groups should be differentially treated. This is wrong.

On the other hand, it is necessary to understand that different groups have added immeasurably to American life because they are different. Out of their differences have grown ideas, a fuller cultural life, and a more interesting and stimulating America. Our national outlook is broader; our character stiffer.

Rather than question in any way those who feel deep emotional ties to other countries---whether it be Israel or Ireland or Italy or Africa--- we should salute this as a manifestation of the genius of our Nation. This is part of what we call Americanism. It is one of the things that makes both Israel and America unique in the world. The beauty of Joseph's coat was that it was of many colors.

And so I salute you----salute you for your support of a worthwhile cause--and salute you, my fellow Americans, because you have unselfishly helped pave the road to economic self-reliance for the people of Israel. With pride you can say you have played a major role in Israel's progress. With your head high, you know you have personally shared in an enterprise of historic significance for the survival of the Jewish people and of the spirit of human freedom and dignity to which it is dedicated.

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