

The original documents are located in Box D18, folder “Testimonial Dinner for Gov. John A. Volpe of Massachusetts, Worcester, MA, September 19, 1965” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Every year many Americans ignore an Internal
Revenue Service warning not to write in a
small blank space on the top of the income
tax form by scribbling this message...

"I'll write any damned place I please!"



The President has things going his way with a
2 to 1 majority in Congress.

I understand he writes his diary six weeks
in advance!



I get a little envious - massive

Our two parties must

Politics & Politicians - put breath
of life & blood in the veins in the
still bones of a constitutional system



One reporter asked another "what's going on in the House?"

"A politician is talking," he answered.

"What about?" he was asked.

The reporter answered: "Well, he didn't say."



This reminds me of the position the Republican part is in...it's like the Indian yogi lying on a bed of nails....it only hurts when we laugh!



I have been told that the Governor of the Virgin Islands was once introduced at a political rally with these unforgettable words: "Now, ladies and gentlemen, I present the Virgin of the Governor Islands."



What really impresses me.

Candidate / Candidate / Sales Tax

Great believer in Two-Party Government

John Volpe has made & will continue

Two Party Government - not constitutionally sound

One Party -

Multi party -



READING TEXT

An Address by Rep. Gerald R. Ford

Testimonial Dinner for Gov. John A. Volpe of Massachusetts

~~Worcester~~ Worcester, Mass. Sunday, September 19, 1965

*Governor of Virgin Islands
Great, great man
Invitation - only two remembered
you had been there
No one remembered what
you said*

When Robert Bradford was Governor of Massachusetts, he once listed what he considered to be the attributes for a successful politician. He wrote: "To live long in politics, you must possess the hide of a rhinoceros, the memory of an elephant, the persistence of a beaver, the native friendliness of a mongrel pup. You need the heart of a lion and the stomach of an ostrich. And, it helps to have the humor and ubiquity of the crow. But all these combined are not enough--- unless when it comes to matters of principle, you also have the stubbornness of an Army mule."

Governor John A. Volpe, whom we are saluting, has all these attributes...and more!



It is a pleasure to be in Massachusetts with you to pay tribute to John.

There is much about your state that reminds me of my own Michigan.

The histories of the Bay State and of the Wolverine State, however, are somewhat different.

When we think of Massachusetts' early times, we think of the Pilgrims, Captain John Smith, and Bartholomew Gosnold, the first to land near present New Bedford.

Michigan's history is more directly linked with the great American Indian tribes *and Father Marquette.*

The way things have been going in the 1960s we might ask whether the Indian in those days was superior to the white man.

Recalling history, I can only say that when the Indians were running things, they had no taxes, they had no debts, and the women did all the work. How could you improve on that!



Now that I'm in deep trouble with the ladies here, and obviously a victim of foot-in-mouth disease, I can only try to salvage the situation by telling you of a conversation I had with a woman member of the Congress.

She had sat through a speech I made. Afterwards, she came to the head table and said: "I thoroughly enjoyed your remarks. I don't know why, but whenever I make a speech I seem so nervous---but when you speak, you seem so unconscious!"

* * *

In an atmosphere of friendly good-fellowship, we are here in public praise of John Volpe, who has proven by his own life that the dynamic spirit of Horatio Alger is far from dead.

John knows what it means to work. He put himself through school as a laboring man....and as a card-carrying union member.

Particularly in these days of the hand-out and too often the easy buck, the recollection of how John borrowed \$500 in the 30s

to start a construction business with courage and faith is refreshing.



It was this same spirit of enterprise that helped John get through Wentworth Institute. To pay his tuition, he sold everything from shirts to coal besides getting his homework done.

The patriotism of John Volpe is well illustrated by a determined step he took in 1943. He closed his business and, with key employees of the company, formed a unit under his leadership, volunteering for duty with the Navy's civil engineer corps. John and his men served with distinction for the duration of the war.

John is a rugged individualists..... an American trait.

(JOKE ABOUT INDIVIDUALISTS AND WHAT THEY WRITE ON INCOME TAX FORMS)

An untiring worker, John returned to Massachusetts after the war, reopened his construction company, and began a successful business career.

When John was awarded an honorary Doctor of Engineering degree at

Northeastern University he was described as "a builder extraordinary,

businessman and faithful public servant who has always given of himself

wholeheartedly to any enterprise he has undertaken."

*Write anywhere
2 down please*



The man we salute here has approached the tasks before him with unimpeachable integrity. It has been noted that John "in high office has been an official whose accomplishments are a symbol of vision and competence."

Among John's attributes is his ability to clearly, and forcefully explain his stand on issues. Happily, he is unlike the politician described by two Washington reporters.

(CARD... JOKE ABOUT A POLITICIAN TALKING AND NOT SAYING ANYTHING)

In tracing the career of John, we should recall his excellent performance as Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Works--and appointment made by Governor Christian Herter. John's ability gained national attention.

President Eisenhower appointed John as the Nation's first Federal Highway Administrator. Thanks to his efforts, work and skill in Washington, ribbons of federal highways criss-cross the land.



It is somewhat ironical that John help set up the giant federal highway program yet as Governor he has been having trouble with his own state's road-building plans. But with John's ability to get things done properly, he has Massachusetts' highway program back on the road with a 1972 target date for completion.

You could hardly say that when John was re-elected Governor the past year Massachusetts government was coming up roses. There were many thorns, I'm told.

HURTS
(CARD...REPUBLICNS LIKE YOGI..ONLY ~~K~~ WHEN ~~LAUGHS~~ LAUGHS)

John ran on an anti-corruption platform. Normally, he is a man with a positive view. He's not an "aginner." But he is against crime and corruption. This is not only a courageous position, but one that should be taken by more public officials elsewhere in our country.

Worcester

~~Worcester~~ must be particularly proud of John. A bill he signed to establish a state medical school means a great deal not only to your state, but to this community, for here is the site of the new facility.



John Volpe is a man of many virtues--among them his ability to keep trying despite the odds. He is far from being a quitter!

Defeated in 1962 in his race for governor, John came back last year to win despite the Lyndon B. Johnson landslide.

(CARD....LBJ WRITES HIS DIARY SIX WEEKS IN ADVANCE)

There are several reasons why John won in a year when other members of his party were buried at the ballot boxes.

John had a deep conviction that Massachusetts needed new taxes to operate in a responsible, progressive manner. He had the courage to openly campaign in favor of taxation. For a politician, this is a particularly dangerous position.

John put the interest of his state above his own political ambitions.

He saw a need--- a desperate need---to bolster Massachusetts with more revenue. He boldly stepped out to sell the electorate on the idea.



Despite the warnings of his advisors that more taxation for the state might be such an unpopular issue that it could lead only to defeat, John talked to citizens all over Massachusetts---- and the voters supported his philosophy.

Voters also supported John's thoughts on fiscal responsibility, morality and responsible government. They rightfully trusted his judgment. They admired his forthright approach to growing problems. They liked what he said. They agreed with him...independent, Democrat and R^epublican alike.

In these days of overwhelming political party control--especially in the Congress--- it is rare for an audience gathered to salute a public official to be as bi-partisan as this.

This happy mixture of political beliefs is one of the finest tributes. It reflects the high esteem with which John Volpe is held by the people of this commonwealth!

~~I have been saying some high words of praise for John, which~~

~~reminds me of a story concerning generous introductions of a speaker. (more)~~



(CARD....GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS)

John has displayed his down-to-earth common-sense approach to government in many ways.

Massachusetts, first to have a tax for free schools, is a national educational leader. John wants to keep it that way. His appointment of an Educational Study Commission is another giant step in the right direction.

His widely-publicised "no-fix" traffic ticket bill is among his keynote accomplishments in establishing responsible government.

John's record as Governor is long and brilliant.

Let us recall just a few of the highlights.

John Volpe

* Won his fight to require state audits of all independent authorities thus permitting the people to rip away a mantle of secrecy surrounding multi-million-dollar operations.

* Balanced the state's budget.

* Formulated the plan for reorganizing the Department of Commerce, but without payroll padding.

(more)

John Volpe:

* Opened four new Community Colleges.

* Established a program providing low-cost health insurance for the elderly.

* Initiated legislation for construction of a 500-bed hospital for mentally retarded children.

Certainly, John Volpe is a man of action, a man with a heart, a man who thinks first of the people.

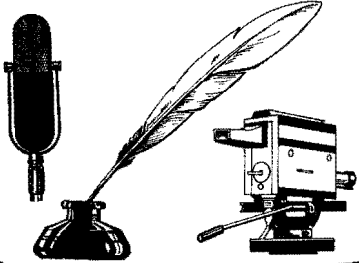
Yes, John has all the attributes--thick skinned to shrug off criticism... a heart like a warm marshmallow.... a keen memory... a never-say-die persistence... a genuine concern for his fellowman... a crackling sense of humor and a sense of humility.

John Volpe is a symbol of integrity, dedication, honor and patriotism.

In the rich tradition of his state as a pioneer and a champion of liberty, John is making giant strides along the road of progress.

From all of us, John Volpe---public servant, defender of human rights, patriot, dedicated man with missions--thanks for your service to state & country.





CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

NEWS RELEASE

Excerpts from a speech
Testimonial dinner for Gov. John Volpe of Massachusetts
Sunday evening, Sept. 19, 1965

For Release at time of
delivery 9/19/65

John Volpe has proven by his own life that the spirit of Horatio Alger is far from dead. He knows what it means to work. Particularly in these times of the hand-out, the recollection of how he borrowed money in the depressed 30s to start a construction business with courage and faith is refreshing.

* * *

His stand against crime and corruption is not only a courageous position, but one that should be taken by more public officials elsewhere in the country.

* * *

John Volpe is a man with many virtues--- among them his ability to keep trying despite the odds.

There are several reasons why he won in a year when other members of his political party were buried at the ballot boxes.

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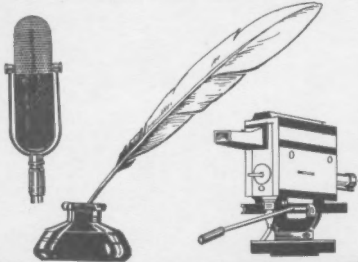
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Voters supported his thoughts on fiscal responsibility, morality and responsible government. They trusted his judgment. They admired his forthright approach to problems.

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