

The original documents are located in Box D18, folder “Republican Ox Roast, Oakland County, Birmingham, MI, September 23, 1965” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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READING TEXT

Republican Ox-Roast
Oakland County, Birmingham, Michigan
September 25, 1965

It is a very pleasant experience to attend this fifth annual
ox-roast sponsored by the Republicans of the 18th and 19th
Districts of Oakland County.

I will not ^{all of} spend your time today tearing into the Democrats
for running the Nation in the direction of bankruptcy. However,
we should keep in mind that the Democrat's welfare state is
run for the benefit of everyone---but not the taxpayer.

You know, the way things are going with the Democrats on a wild
spending spree, we should have saved during the Depression so we
could live through this prosperity!

* * *

We are here today to reward the hard-working Republican volunteers
and to kick off the 1966 campaign in the 18th and 19th Districts.

I join you in applauding the work of the folks who have given so
unselfishly of their time to help the Republican Party.

-more-



Birmingham 9/25/65

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Volunteers are helping our Party to earn the respect of the electorate... a job that must be accomplished everywhere in America.

Through the accomplishments of Republican volunteers in Oakland County, Michigan and all over the country we can maintain America as a place where a person can live deeper, reach higher, see farther, think bigger, and grow greater than anywhere else on earth!

I am particularly happy to help you to get Bill Broomfield off to a fast start in his race for ~~re-election~~ re-election in 1966.

When voters sent Bill to Congress by electing him on Nov. 6, 1956, they chose an exceptionally qualified man to represent them in Washington. His re-election four times is a tribute to his dedication, his keen sense of civic duty, and his performance as a public servant.

Republican troops in the House---out-numbered 2 to 1--remain unbowed, thanks to the help of Bill Broomfield and others like him.

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Birmingham 9/25/65

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We need more help! A Republican Congressman from the 19th District will bolster our strength, increase our numbers, and give Billie Farnum ~~to~~ another title---- he can then be the EX-Auditor General and the EX-Representative. I have confidence the 19th District Republicans will come through with a victory.

* * *

For a few minutes today, I will discuss the present $1\frac{1}{2}$ -party government in the United States, the major issues that can mean victory for our Party, and how you can help as individuals to accomplish a mutual goal.

In Congress, in too many States, counties and townships a lop-sided majority on the Democrat side has created $1\frac{1}{2}$ -party government.

I would be less than honest with myself to say we have true two-party government.

This is not to say I am wringing my hands in anguish. I am facing a hard, cold, fact.

-more-



Birmingham 9/25/65

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In politics, in football, in the game of life---winning may not be everything, but it sure beats coming in second.

Let's accept this fact. Instead of bemoaning our fate, let's set to work building a record as a unified political party---one Republican Party---one family of Republicans.

There is no other choice. Unless we leave the splintering and the selfish going-it-alone by segments to the Democrats and become THE Republican Party, we will belong to a myth...a ghost of a party.

The net result will be ONE party government in America--and it won't be our party. The single party dominating our beloved land will be that of the "big city political bosses," a few power-hungry labor bosses, and theoretical, way-out liberals.

As we kick off the 1966 campaign, let us keep one objective clearly in sight. We will fight the Democrats on issues, not among ourselves.

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Many Americans are dissatisfied with both political parties at present. There is a sense of frustration and despair among those who feel this way. This sense of dissatisfaction offers the Republican Party a worthy challenge and a great opportunity to prove our political philosophy is best for America.

It seems to be the major issues are:

- * Fiscal sanity
- * An explosion of Federal spending.
- * The crumbling of State and city governments in an era of growing Potomac paternalism and take-over
- * The haunting image of inflation
- * The frightening cost of the alleged Great Society
- * The lack of liason between the Executive and Legislative branches in considering the crucial Viet Nam war--with the White House running the conflict.

For a few minutes I will speak particularly about the Viet Nam war--- the roots of its beginning, its escalation, its meaning to America and the rest of the free world.

(more)

This year was still young when the American people were perhaps for the first time shocked into some sense of being at war.

Late in February, soldiers--the wounded living and the dead---began arriving in the United States aboard huge jet transports. Their numbers increased.

As the casualty lists mounted...as the heaviest Communist assaults yet against American installations were stepped up...as our military forces in the air struck hard against North Viet Nam..not only Americans, but people everywhere experienced a sudden chill.

There were sudden fears that a so-called brush-fire conflict--perhaps through miscalculation----could flare into a holocaust that would blot out civilization as we know it.

The Nation and the world soon learned that this is the most curious, baffling, frustrating war the United States has ever had to fight.

As the size and scope of the war expanded, the United States faced four possible courses of action.



We could retreat and withdraw.

We could concentrate our military efforts against Communist guerrillas in South Viet Nam.

We could make an all-out assault against the enemy's heartland in North Viet Nam.

Or, we could strengthen our military efforts---on the land, in the air, and at sea---with the goal of showing the Communist enemy we mean business.

Let us consider each of these alternatives.

By withdrawing from Viet Nam, United States honor and prestige would be struck a devastating blow. Our influence, in the form of helping to ward off Communist aggression against the entire mainland of Southeast Asia, would probably be overwhelmed by ^{the}ed China.

Our defense line would be brought all the way back to Pearl Harbor.



The second alternative---that of concentrating on guerrilla war in South Viet Nam-- proved ineffective. If continued it could have meant a tremendous drain on our economy, a great loss of life and military equipment, and a long, drawn-out conflict in swamp and jungle.

The third alternative--an all-out assault on North Viet Nam, including attacks against non-military targets---- ^{some Experts claim} could result in massive retaliation by Red China. It could lead to a senseless ground war. And, it could mean the kind of casualties to possibly trigger a public outcry in the United States for the use of nuclear weapons.

Our fourth possible alternative---the strengthening of air, sea and land military operations, aimed at proving to the Communist enemy that it would be folly to continue aggression---- is the plan I personally favor. It is this type of operation I believe will bring North Viet Nam to the negotiation table under our terms.

It should be remembered that the involvement of the United States in Viet Nam occurred shortly after the end of World War II.

(more)



It began with a decision by the Truman Administration to provide economic and military aid.

In 1954, a fragile, delicate peace was achieved by the Geneva agreements. During the Eisenhower Administration, Viet Nam was partitioned into a Communist north and a non-Communist south.

Contrary to most expectations, South Viet Nam survived for six years.

Defense Secretary McNamara has described South Viet Nam's history during the period of 1954 to 1960 as a "success story." The late President John F. Kennedy referred to it as a "near miracle."

The Democrat Administration taking office in 1961 faced acute difficulties in the neighboring nation of Laos. While there were sporadic guerrilla attacks in Viet Nam, Communist forces had launched a full-scale offensive in Laos--threatening the government.

After months of fighting and high-level diplomatic foot-shuffling in the State Department, a declaration of neutrality was signed. It is a worthless document. Laos today is ripe for picking by the Communists whenever they ~~choose~~ choose.



The resoluteness of the United States was tested in Laos. At the time it was revealed as being weak.

The Administration said it would not permit aggression against Laos to succeed...it did permit aggression.

The Administration said it would refuse to negotiate until a cease-fire was in effect...it did negotiate.

The method used by the Democrat Administration to deal with the problem of Communist aggression against Laos is reflected in today's Viet Nam situation.

As the military efforts of the United States in Viet Nam have broadened, the pronouncements by President Johnson defining our objective have been progressively watered down.

The past July 28, the President seemed to disregard the independence of South Viet Nam as an objective.

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Declaring that the purposes of the 1954 Geneva agreements are still

our own



Declaring that the purposes of the 1954 Geneva agreements are still our own, he asserted that the people of South Viet Nam shall have the right to shape their own destiny in free elections in the south and in all Viet Nam under international supervision.

This statement raises the disquieting possibility of accepting now in Viet Nam the type of election which the United States rejected a decade ago--- an election which would be stacked and subverted in advance.

The President now tells the Nation...in his words, "this is really war."

To what degree miscalculation on the part of the enemy has brought about this state of affairs, no one can be sure.

Many times I have stated publicly that I support the President in firmness against Communist aggression in Southeast Asia or elsewhere.

However, I believe at this time that neither the Congress, nor the public, are being adequately informed about the Nation's involvement in Viet Nam.



Liason between the Executive and Legislative branches is insufficient considering the crucial nature of the problem in Viet Nam.

Under present circumstances, Congress is being by-passed as far as any effective participation, or decision-making, is concerned.

President Johnson is running the war. I sincerely hope his decisions are right because the situation is serious.

In the tradition of the late Senator Arthur Vandenberg, I believe our best course lies in a bi-partisanship approach to foreign policy.

Bi-partisanship does not mean, however, that the opposition party may not offer proposals to the Administration; nor that the opposition may not criticise Administration actions.

Guided by the single standard of the security and well-being of the Nation, I will continue with other members of our party to offer suggestions and to criticise.



Well-founded criticism helps the Nation to steer a surer and steadier course in foreign policy---and ~~to~~ ^{to} attain its objectives without unnecessary loss or delay.

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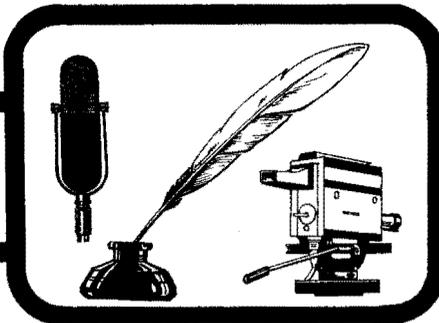
In conclusion I remind you of some important objectives our Party was reach to win victories.

We must be broadly-based, dynamic, united. We must develop strong fund-raising campaigns. We must conduct a neighbor-to-neighbor campaign telling the electorate day after day, week after week, what is wrong and how we will change the situation---domestically and in foreign affairs.

I have confidence in Oakland County ^Republicans....and ^Hepublicans everywhere. Now, let's get to work. Thank you.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

Excerpts from a speech
Birmingham, Michigan September 25, 1965

For release at time of
delivery of speech

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Let's accept this fact. Instead of bemoaning our fate, let's set to work building a record as a unified political party--one Republican Party---one family of Republicans.

There is no other choice. Unless we leave the splintering and the selfish going-it-alone by segments to the Democrats and become THE Republican Party, we will belong to a myth...a ghost of a party.

The net result will be a one-party government in America, and it won't be our Party. The single political party dominating our beloved land will be that of the "big city political bosses," a few power-hungry labor bosses, and theoretical, way-out liberals.

Many Americans are dissatisfied with both political parties at present. There is a sense of frustration and despair among those who feel this way. This sense of dissatisfaction offers the Republican Party a worthy challenge and a great opportunity to prove our political philosophy is best for America.

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It seems to me the major issues are:

- * Fiscal sanity
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As the size and scope of the war expanded, the United States faced four possible courses of action,

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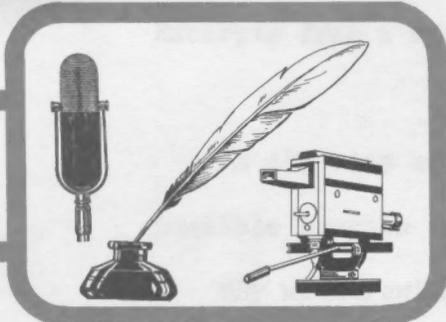
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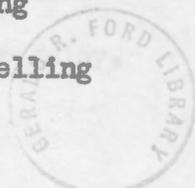
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