The original documents are located in Box D19, folder “Ivy Baker Priest Dinner, Los Angeles, CA, November 9, 1965” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Los Angeles
Ivy Baker Priest dinner
November 9, 1965

The distinguished lady we salute tonight has handled more money than any woman in the history of the world.

And, for at least eight years, everyone with a dollar bill had her autograph.

She describes herself as an un-hyphenated Republican. I wish more Republicans would describe themselves the same way!

As any thinking man knows, it isn't wise to ask a woman about her age.

The lady we honor says she was "born in an appropriate time in history." All that matters is that she is here in our era to serve her country.

Ivy Baker Priest Stevens..... I am very grateful for the opportunity to have a part in saluting you tonight. And, I predict Californians will set a precedent by electing a woman—a very talented, dedicated woman—to a state constitutional office for the first time in the state's history!
Los Angeles

Coming here from Washington, I can tell you that life in the Great Society on the banks of the Potomac is far from simple. The other day I noticed a sign on a door of a government building. It read: "General Services Administration, Region 3, Public Building Service, Building Management Division, Utility room, custodial."

Behind the door was a broom closet!

The news media reports that President Johnson is catching up on his sleep while he recuperates in Texas. It seems he had been staying up late writing speeches for Jack Valenti.

In making my own speech tonight, I will follow the advice of the late Calvin Coolidge... A friend once told him that his secret ending for a good speech was to have a good opening and a good close together as possible... Mr. Coolidge looked at the man a full minute and said, "Why be so windy?"

INTO GOP SPEECH
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LOS ANGELES, Oct. 7. — of Ivy Baker Priest-signed dollar bills.

For eight years or more, everyone with a dollar bill in his pocket had Ivy Baker Priest's autograph.

In the next hand learned in a mining town school at Ewing Ranch, Utah, she signed the nation's currency as treasurer of the United States during the entire Eisenhower administration.

Now she lives in California, and has the optimistic expectation that her well-known autograph will help elect her to public office — treasurer of the nation's most populous state.

"Many people said, put my experience as treasurer to work and I said, "Why not,"" she explained.

She explained the smiling, well-dressed, gay-haired mother of three grown children.

MARRIES CALIFORNIAN

Widowed while the nation's treasurer, she married Los Angeles real estate man Sidney Stevens in 1965.

But when she meets the voters of California, she's just Ivy Baker Priest — the lady who used to sign the money.

Today, Mrs. Stevens is the only announced candidate for the Republican nomination for treasurer. Party leaders expect her to win the nomination in June's primary and decide to marry him and stay.

An apartment is their home, and to emphasize the point, plane propellers.

If she wins, the dollar bill will have played a big part.

KNOWS HER DOLLARS

"I think I can safely say that I have handled more money than any woman in the history of the world," she recalls. "I thought I would never sleep again unless there was the hum of airplane propellers."

If she wins, it will be a precedent, she says, for the leading Roman Catholic, home-grown candidate. California has never elected a woman to a state constitutional office.

When she announced her candidacy, she wore a hat made up of dollar bills.

"I'd rather not get into that," she replies — adding it's too early in the campaign to criticize him.

GOLDWATER SUPPORTER

Democrats claim she's an arch-conservative, noting she's a member of the Barry Goldwater delegation at the last convention.

"I've never been a hypothetical Republican," is her quiet answer.

Mrs. Stevens won't even tell her age, saying, "I was born in an appropriate time in history." Who's Who lists her birthdate as Sept. 7, 1905.

Who's Who in American Politics lists Sidney Stevens as a member of the Barry Goldwater delegation at the last convention.

For six weeks of the 1960 Eisenhower campaign, the only announced candidate for treasurer was Mrs. Stevens through friends and allies.

"I thought I would never sleep again unless there was the hum of airplane propellers.

And to emphasize the point, plane propellers."

When she announced her candidacy, she wore a hat made up of dollar bills.