

The original documents are located in Box D19, folder “Young GOP, University of Michigan, November 18, 1965” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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It is not always easy for one generation to speak to another.

An incident from the great American classic, "The Education of Henry Adams," reminds me of this.

In the book is a description of a temper tantrum by young Henry when he was 7 years old. The tantrum started because he refused to go to school. He stomped on the floor and refused to leave the house. The boy was about to win the argument when his grandfather---John Quincy Adams---came into the room.

Without a word, the former President took young Henry by the hand and led him outside. The man and his grandson walked quietly to the schoolhouse nearly a mile away.

By that display of keen human relationship, Mr. Adams earned the lifelong admiration of his grandson.....because in the course of the entire incident, he said absolutely nothing to the boy.

Surely, there are some things that cannot be said from one generation to another....but this is not one of those times.



I will talk about Republicanism and our Nation.

Sometimes when we look at ourselves as Americans, we wonder what makes us tick. And, I'm sure it's true that we confuse our friends abroad.

We clamor for speed laws that will stop fast driving, but we won't buy a car that won't make 100 miles an hour.

We have more food to eat than any other country and more diets to keep us from eating it.

We'll criticize home cooking and then go on a fishing trip to eat half-fried potatoes, burned fish, and drink coffee made out of gritty creek water from a rusty bucket---and think the food is great!

We know the line-ups of major league baseball teams and the names of potential All-Americans, but we don't know half the words of the "Star Spangled Banner."

We may appear inconsistent, but there is a long line of consistency that started in the beginnings of our country and has run down to our time---consistency in the essential and lasting values.

There is, however, a political inconsistency that bothers me.

We say we are Republicans...and then some head off in separate directions.

One is a conservative----he wants no change in the things forced on the world yesterday by radicals!

Another is a liberal---he's the person with both feet firmly planted in thin air!

You might say the radical is nothing more or less than a conservative out of a job.

More seriously, I believe we must all be just Republicans. This does not mean one huge monolithic political organization. We should have responsible dialogue, and responsible disagreement.

Let's leave the squabbling, the back stabbing, the selfish going-it-alone to the Democrats.

Being a Republican is an individual task. We don't need a committee to make this decision.

This reminds me--- a committee of five consists of one person who does the work, three others who pat him on the back, and one who brings in a minority report.

Someone has described a committee as a group of persons who, singly, think they can do nothing, but collectively agree that nothing can be done.

Collectively--and singly, ~~the~~ Young Republicans ~~are~~ know something can be done about winning some Republican victories.

On occasions like this, I think of a comment by the Irish writer Frank O'Connor who said, "When as kids we came to an orchard wall that seemed too high to climb, we took off our caps and tossed them over the wall...then we had no choice but to follow them."

You have tossed your caps---and ladies, your hats---over the political wall. I know you will follow them.

Frankly, we are not here to either condemn what or who caused the Republican defeat last year....nor to wring our hands, nor to bemoan our fate, nor to look with pessimism at the future.

We are here because we firmly believe the Republican Party has a good cause, can win, and must prevail for the preservation and expansion of those principles of government that have made America the symbol and leader in the cause of freedom.

Before ~~outlining~~ ^{outlining} a Republican blueprint for action, let's quickly analyze the present situation.

Our party is at its lowest point---numerically speaking---since 1936.

In the House of Representatives Democrats have 294 seats and we have

141. Like the Indian yogi lying on a bed of nails---it only hurts

when we laugh!

Republicans are outnumbered 2 to 1 in the United States Senate.

It is most rewarding, however, to see some Democrats mending their ways and voting with Republicans on some major issues.

In the 50 statehouses, there are two Democrat governors for every Republican. We similarly have lost strength in many state legislatures.

On the other hand, the Democratic party's record is vulnerable.

It has a 4-year record of expediency rather than results. Despite the chest pounding about the Great Society's achievements, the truth is that the present Congress has adopted legislation long on quantity and short on quality. And..America is skating on thin ice.

A long list of indictments should be vigorously presented to the American people.

for example,
In the area of agriculture, federal legislation is a patchwork of mistakes the federal government has made in the past. The farmer's cost of operation is increased far greater than his income.

Farmers should be permitted to make their own management decisions without the Administration dictating almost every move.

The cost of food is soaring...not because of farmers, but because of the federal government's monetary policy leading to inflation.

We believe much federal spending is mishandled. Along with this misuse of funds has come misleading information and suppression of what should be public records.

In Washington, the symbol for the Administration has become known as Uncle Sham. It is indeed government by sham.

More press releases, but fewer facts, are turned out than ever before.

A major newspaper--commenting on the flurry of words allegedly uttered by the President--- commented "the orchestration of the publicity has been superb."

As a footnote, I would say the orchestrations are marred by a lot of off-key, sour notes.

Republicans in Congress find it difficult to get straight information from federal agencies. The news media finds it difficult to fully report government operations.

Yes, there are several vital, major issues for us.

The record of President Johnson presents the Republican Party with a magnificent opportunity to return sound, sensible and responsible government.

His record and the Great Society---a shambles of contradiction--- give us the issues of reckless spending, ~~some~~ bureaucratic sprawl, inflationary pressures and higher hidden taxes----and the loss of individual freedom and identity.

Fortunately, the American sense of individualism is still strong.

INCOME TAX STORY

The Republican Party is the only vehicle by which millions of Americans can express their political philosophy....and this philosophy, in my judgment, is best for America.

However, our Party must earn the respect of the American people--- by presenting articulate, knowledgeable, personable candidates...

by organizing our strength....by building a record of accomplishment.

I believe we must conduct a neighbor-to-neighbor crusade —
explaining the Republican philosophy and contrasting it with the
record of the Democrat Administration.

What exactly is our philosophy?

As I see it, we believe an individual has a God-given dignity and
government exists to serve each person.

We believe each individual has the right and responsibility to govern
himself within the framework of law and order.

We believe the basic function of government is to maintain and
environment in which all ^{individuals} ~~individuals~~ can freely develop.

We believe government should act to help establish conditions of
equal opportunity for all people.

Finally, we believe private ownership and free enterprise best serve
economic progress.

In conclusion, I believe we should hammer home this important message---

And, We should repeat this reminder as often as possible.

We should ---in our crusade--- remind the electorate that
a government BIG enough to give you everything you want is BIG
enough to take from you everything you have!

Thank you.

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