

The original documents are located in Box D20, folder “GOP Fund-Raising Dinner/Dance for Abner Sibal, Westport, CT, June 25, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Ab Sibal is not only a highly capable fellow, he also is mighty lucky-- and this helps in politics, too.

Ab will wonder how I happened onto this story, and he'll never know. But it's a true one. When Ab was in Congress, he once ~~he~~ had to ~~make~~ make a hurry-up trip to Westport right around income tax time. He dashed out to his car near the Congressional Hotel, with his income tax returns and records in an envelope in one hand and his suitcase in another. He put the envelope on top of the car while he placed the bag inside. Then he drove off. (MORE)

2/ SPECIAL on Sibal...

Some blocks away ~~from~~ he muttered ~~he~~ "O Migosh" and whipped back to the Capitol area. There was his income tax envelope, lying in the street, with somebody's tire tread marks on it. ~~When he got back to Westport, his car was~~

Of course, ~~like~~ like everyone else, there are times when Ab is not so ~~lucky~~ lucky.

When he got to Westport, his wife was waiting for him. "I'm glad you're here," she said. "I need the car to take Susie to her music lesson." She jumped into the car and took off. She no more than got around the corner when the car ran out of gas. --I haven't run out of gas but I'll say thank you and GOD BLESS YOU.

Delair to Cong. Ford via airplane

ABNER W. SIBAL
Norwalk, Connecticut

NOMINATION ACCEPTANCE SPEECH
REPUBLICAN 4TH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL CONVENTION
PLEASURE BEACH BALLROOM, BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1966

I thank you for your nomination and I accept it in the full knowledge of the challenge and the importance of the campaign that faces us, and the importance of the responsibility that will be mine in the 90th Congress.

Because I feel so deeply that this year's elections are of utmost importance to our future course as a nation, I intend to campaign to the limit of my strength and resources. As your candidate for Congress, I ask you to help me restore to the Fourth Congressional District the kind of representation it deserves and needs in Congress.

In this District for the past two years, we have had an example of the kind of legislative subservience that puts partisan loyalty ahead of the national good and the needs of our people.

--MORE--

Sibal Acceptance Speech . . . 2

Our District is a heterogeneous one, of diverse interests and needs. Our commuters are a unique group whose focus is on New York and on their difficulties in getting there from their homes. Our heavily industrialized communities are a key factor in the Connecticut economy. These cities are beset with a multitude of problems of housing, education, redevelopment and recreation stemming from rapid growth. Our equally growing suburban towns find themselves confronted with demands for municipal services deemed unnecessary only a few years ago.

No Congressman can represent such a District merely by following the dictates of the administration in Washington. For no central government can be cognizant of our variety of problems.

The trend toward one-party government that was accelerated in the 1964 election must be halted definitively in 1966. The Congressional elections next Fall provide the means whereby the American voter can end the domination of our legislative branch of government by a strong and willful executive.

I do not by any means believe that this is going to be an easy election to win in the Fourth District. The coattails the incumbent Congressman rode in 1964 are more remote this year, but he is going to make the best use he can of them, and indeed, he can do little else because his record of subservience to the man who wears the coat has been total and abject.

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In contrast to this record I propose upon my election to commit myself to the approach I took in my two terms in the House---serving as Representative of the people of the Fourth District---not the White House.

I offer the voters of our District a record of four years of Congressional service during which my principal aim was not to do what would look good to the White House, or even what would look good to the leadership of my own party, but what was best for my constituents and my country.

I have been willing in the past and I am willing in the future to stand up for our District in terms of what I think is right. I refuse to be an obstructionist or merely a carping critic. I condemn as firmly the line that everything the administration does is wrong, as I do the line taken by my opponent that everything the administration does is right.

I intend to be everybody's Congressman---not a President's Congressman, not a special interests Congressman, not a party bloc Congressman, but your Congressman and the Congressman of every voter in my District.

As your Congressman, I will oppose the unlimited, undisciplined government spending that since 1962 has added \$25 billion to the national budget. I will oppose it because the greater part of this increase represents an escalation of domestic spending that has resulted in stepped up withholding taxes, national debt increases and the inflation that is eating away at your income.

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As your Congressman, I will work for the establishment of sensible priorities in spending. While our economy is strong enough to undertake many worthwhile efforts at public betterment, we cannot support every project with an interesting title and a humanitarian viewpoint. As in private budgeting, we cannot afford everything that seems desirable, so in public budgeting we must use good judgment and common sense to choose which programs are essential and which we can defer or do without, or leave to another level of government.

As your Congressman, I will call for constant review and evaluation of existing programs as they come up for budget appropriations. Such worthwhile undertakings as the anti-poverty program must be strengthened when they are sound, but curtailed and disciplined when they are wasteful or politically oriented.

As your Congressman, I propose to approach the problem of defense spending and the war in Vietnam from a non-partisan national point of view. As a loyal American, I intend to do in Congress all I can to support our country's interests against Communist aggression. But as a loyal American, I do not believe our system of government envisages or requires that Congress give the executive branch a blank check to conduct any or all operations at home or abroad.

Finally, as your Congressman, I propose to follow a program of constructive initiative on problems that concern our country and our District.

I believe my record in Congress from 1960 to 1964 has proved my ability to initiate and work successfully for worthwhile legislation in response to our needs for growth and change.

During my two terms as a member of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee and its subcommittee on Transportation and Aeronautics, I was able to continue my efforts towards finding a solution of the rail transportation problem.

To this end I introduced legislation granting Congressional approval to an interstate compact enabling several states to work together on the commuter problem.

I also proposed and worked for the repeal of the Federal tax on passenger fares, which increased income for the New Haven Railroad by \$3 million a year. I urged the inclusion of the New Haven in the merger of the New York Central and Pennsylvania Railroads. The Interstate Commerce Commission later took this position in granting approval of the merger. I also introduced legislation to implement a national transportation policy.

A bill I introduced to establish a scientific advisory staff for Congress led to the creation of a new scientific advisory service in the Library of Congress.

Another of my bills called for the establishment of a joint Congressional committee to oversee all government intelligence operations except the FBI---a proposal which current events have proved most timely.

The ethics in government bill I introduced and strongly supported was blocked by the Democratic majority, but recent developments, especially in Connecticut, have shown the critical need for this legislation.

In other fields, I introduced bills to provide an annual tax deduction of \$1,500 for college tuitions; to provide tax deductions for the cost of education or training for a better job, and for expenses of travel and maintenance when employed away from home.

I supported the move to amend the Constitution to guarantee equal rights for men and women, and was active in sponsoring and promoting Civil Rights.

My third term in the House, like my previous two terms, will strive for the dynamic, creative and constructive representation that the Fourth District of Connecticut deserves.

Aside from the question of whether the Fourth District is represented by a think-for-yourself Congressman or by an administration down-the-liner, is the wider question of what a Republican victory in the Fourth District can contribute to our country in this time of distant peril and domestic unease.

Sibal Acceptance Speech . . . 7

In Vietnam we fight an escalating war, bearing almost alone its cost in blood and billions as our allies, for the most part, shun that struggle and continue to do business with our Communist foe. At home, our people are confused about our government's aims and policies in Vietnam. This is the first war in our history in which the president of the United States has not had the undivided support of the country. As your Congressman it will be my purpose to call on our national leadership to tell our people the nature of its short-term and long-range goals in Southeast Asia.

At home, as every responsible American knows, despite our position as the strongest, most powerful country in the world, despite our affluence, there is a widespread sense of dismay and disenchantment.

A sharp increase in the cost of living has eroded the value of our dollars.

We are urged to private curtailment and reduction of our standard of living, while our government continues to spend unprecedented sums on all manner of domestic programs, many of questionable worth and some seemingly designed to buy the votes of the disadvantaged.

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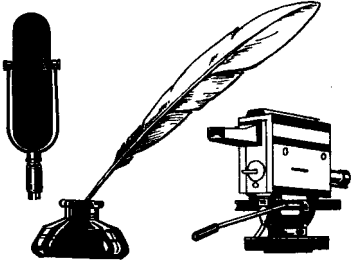
A rising tide of crime and juvenile delinquency makes our streets unsafe and breeds fear for our safety even within our own homes.

How has this come about in this free land? I believe our problems stem, in large measure, from our surrender of the right of dissent, best exemplified in a democracy by two-party government.

Only through the abrasive interaction provided by an opposition, strong in number and in conviction, is a free people assured of the leadership that reflects their real needs and aspirations.

I ask you, as your candidate for Congress, to help restrengthen America by restoring a meaningful two-party system in Washington to chart a course toward peace and non-inflationary prosperity.

I promise, with your-help and support, to make this campaign worthy of a party that intends to and must stay alive and prevail, to insure the fulfillment of America's historic responsibilities to its own people and the world.



CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY AT 7 P.M.,

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1966

SPEECH EXCERPTS--AT GOP FUND-RAISING DINNER-DANCE, WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT.

I have come to ask you to send Ab Sibal to Washington as a strong force on the new Republican team in the 90th Congress.

We need men like Ab Sibal in the nation's capital, and with your help we can make it possible for him to serve the people of his district and his nation again.

Ab distinguished himself during his two terms in the House by standing on his own two feet and following nobody's dictates but that of his own conscience and his constituents in the Fourth District of Connecticut. His was a most constructive record, as evidenced by the many bills he introduced which ultimately became law.

In the best tradition of a lawmaker who is keenly aware of his area's special needs, Ab has sought a solution to Connecticut's perplexing rail transportation problems since his days in the State Senate.

His efforts in Washington included moves to repeal the federal tax on passenger fares and to wrap the New Haven Railroad into the merger of the New York Central Railroad and the Pennsylvania Railroad. The fare tax repeal subsequently was enacted, and the rail merger recently was approved by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

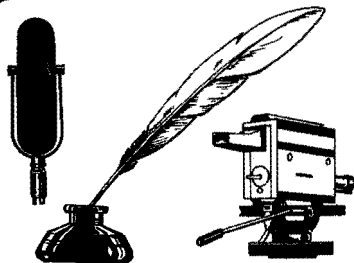
Ab Sibal introduced and fought for an ethics in government bill, legislation which was blocked by the Democratic majority in Congress. The importance of Ab's attempt to win enactment of such legislation is pointed up by the current case involving personal fund-raising on behalf of a Democratic member of Congress from this state.

The Fourth District must regain its proper voice in Congress. That voice--the voice of Ab Sibal--was heard in the House for four years and it must be heard again.

Your district deserves the best, and that is what you have in Ab Sibal--a dynamic 45 years young, a former prosecuting attorney, a former state senator and state senate minority leader.

The citizens of the Fourth District and we in the Congress are most fortunate that Ab is running again. His re-election will help to rebuild two-party government in Washington and to restore representative government for your district. Ab led the Republican ticket in this district in 1964 but that lead wasn't enough. This time put him out front to win. Only you can elect Ab Sibal. That I ask you to do.

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