

The original documents are located in Box D23, folder “Case-Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, February 7, 1968” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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NOTES FOR CASE-WESTERN UNIVERSITY SPEECH, Feb. 7., 1968, CLEVELAND, OHIO.

(The Speech is to deal with how Republican convention is run, platforms, and what effect space progress and urban problems may have on the 1968 election.)

ALTHOUGH NO CONVENTION IS BOUND BY THE RULES OR PRACTICES USED IN PREVIOUS CONVENTIONS,
CERTAIN TRADITIONS ARE CARRIED FORWARD.

MUCH OF THE COURSE OF THE CONVENTION IS DETERMINED IN ADVANCE BY THE
ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE OF THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE, AND THESE PLANS GENERALLY
ARE RATIFIED WITHOUT OBJECTION BY THE FULL NATIONAL COMMITTEE BEFORE THE CONVENTION BEGINS.

THE ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE IS MADE UP OF ONE MEMBER FROM EACH STATE. THIS
COMMITTEE PICKS THE TEMPORARY OFFICERS OF THE CONVENTION, INCLUDING THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

AND THE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN AND THE NOMINEE FOR PERMANENT CHAIRMAN. NORMALLY THE KEYNOTER AND THE TEMPORARY CONVENTION CHAIRMAN ARE ONE AND THE SAME.

THE WEIGHT OF PRECEDENT SINCE 1920 IS THAT THE PARTY'S LEADER IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SERVES AS PERMANENT CHAIRMAN.

THE PERMANENT CHAIRMAN OF THE CONVENTION SHOULD NOT BE A CANDIDATE FOR EITHER PRESIDENT OR VICE-PRESIDENT.

THE RULES OF THE CONVENTION USUALLY PROVIDE THAT THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS REPORT FIRST IN CASE THERE IS ANY DISAGREEMENT OVER THE SEATING OF DELEGATIONS. IF A FIGHT OVER SEATING DEVELOPES, THE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN OF THE CONVENTION IS IN A POWERFUL

POSITION TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME. THIS PROVED TRUE, FOR INSTANCE, DURING THE EISENHOWER-TAFT BATTLE IN 1952.

ONCE THE SEATING OF DELEGATIONS IS TAKEN CARE OF, THE PERMANENT CHAIRMAN TAKES OVER AND MAKES A SPEECH. OTHER SPEECHES AND THE REPORTS OF THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES FOLLOW--PERMANENT ORGANIZATION, PLATFORM, RULES, ADDRESSES BY PARTY LEADERS, EX-PRESIDENTS, ETC. ARE THE ORDER OF BUSINESS WHILE REPORTS ARE BEING PREPARED. SOME OF THE SPEECHIFYING IS MOSTLY A HOLDING OPERATION, PENDING REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES. IT IS ONLY WITH THE REPORT ON PERMANENT ORGANIZATION THAT THE PERMANENT PRESIDING OFFICER TAKES OVER AND THE CONVENTION BUSINESS ACTUALLY GETS ROLLING.

THERE SOMETIMES ARE STIFF FIGHTS OVER THE WRITING OF THE PLATFORM. THE GENERAL RULE IS THAT THE PLATFORM MUST REFLECT THE WISHES OF THE PARTY'S PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE. AFTER ALL, HE HAS TO RUN ON IT. THE PLATFORM IS IMPORTANT IN THE SENSE THAT IT IS A STATEMENT OF PARTY PRINCIPLES AND, IN EFFECT, A PROMISSORY NOTE PLACED IN THE HANDS OF THE VOTERS. WITH ITS PLATFORM, A PARTY IS SAYING TO THE VOTERS..."IF ELECTED WE WILL..."

THE CYNICAL WILL SAY THAT POLITICAL PLATFORMS ARE BUILT NOT TO STAND ON BUT TO GET IN ON--AND ARE PROMPTLY FORGOTTEN AFTER THE ELECTION. I THINK THE SUCCESSFUL PARTY SHOULD BE HELD STRICTLY ACCOUNTABLE FOR ITS ELECTION PROMISES AS SET FORTH IN THE PARTY PLATFORM. IF THE PERFORMANCE DOESN'T FIT THE PROMISES, THEN THAT PARTY'S PLATFORM IS INDEED

MEANINGLESS AND THE PARTY DOES NOT DESERVE TO BE KEPT IN POWER. REPUBLICANS CERTAINLY AIM TO MAKE THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION ANSWER FOR ITS BROKEN PROMISES IN THE 1968 CAMPAIGN. FOR INSTANCE, THE 1964 DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM PROMISED THE PEOPLE PRICE STABILITY. INSTEAD WE HAVE EXPERIENCED THE WORST UPSURGE IN PRICES SINCE THE KOREAN WAR AND THE INFLATIONARY SWELL IS CONTINUING.

THE ATTENTION OF MANY VOTERS IS FOCUSED ON OUR URBAN PROBLEMS. THE PARTY WHICH OFFERS THE PEOPLE THE MOST FEASIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS CAN EXPECT STRONG SUPPORT IN THE CITIES. IN THAT CONNECTION, IT IS NOTABLE THAT PRESIDENT JOHNSON BELATEDLY IS EMBRACING IN PART THE REPUBLICAN APPROACH IN SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF HARD-CORE UNEMPLOYMENT--ENLISTING THE LEADERSHIP AND COOPERATION OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY IN TRAINING THE HARD-CORE UNEMPLOYED,

WITH THE GOVERNMENT PAYING THE EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES. THE REPUBLICAN APPROACH OF A TAX CREDIT INSTEAD OF DIRECT SUBSIDY IS BETTER BECAUSE THE INCENTIVE IS GREATER.

THE BASIC REPUBLICAN APPROACH TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE CITIES IS TO GIVE THE CITIES, SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE THE MEANS TO DO THE JOB--DO IT WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM A FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY WHICH OFTEN DELAYS OR CRUSHES SUCH EFFORTS WITH A LOAD OF RED TAPE. I AM TALKING ABOUT SHARING OF INCOME TAX REVENUE WITH THE CITIES AND STATES ON A PERCENTAGE BASIS AND MAKING BLOCK GRANTS TO LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT FOR ATTACKS ON CERTAIN PROBLEMS INSTEAD OF SPELLING OUT EVERY INCH OF THE WAY HOW THE MONEY SHALL BE SPENT. REPUBLICANS BELIEVE THE ONLY WAY TO SOLVE URBAN PROBLEMS IS TO SUPPLANT

THE TOTAL FEDERAL APPROACH WITH A LOCAL-STATE-FEDERAL APPROACH AND THE ALL-OUT LEADERSHIP AND COOPERATION OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE BRAINS AND BRAWN.

OUR PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SKILLS, TECHNOLOGY AND EXPERTISE AND THE ADVANCED WORK OF OUR SCIENTISTS HAVE COMBINED TO PRODUCE OUR ENVIABLE SPACE PROGRAM. I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO ASSESS THE POLITICAL IMPACT OF THAT PROGRAM. THE SPACE PROGRAM HAS POLITICAL IMPACT IN THE SENSE THAT ANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OR FAILURES THAT OCCUR REFLECT ON THE ADMINISTRATION IN POWER. THE OPPOSITION PARTY CERTAINLY SHOULD NOT SEEK TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF ANY SPACE PROGRAM FAILURE FOR POLITICAL GAIN BUT NEITHER SHOULD WE REFRAIN FROM LEGITIMATE CRITICISM FOR FEAR OUR CRITICISM WOULD BE MISINTERPRETED. WE WOULD OBJECT--AND

SHOULD OBJECT--TO A SPACE PROGRAM SPEEDUP OR A 1968 SPACE SPECTACULAR OBVIOUSLY UNCORKED TO ENHANSE THE ADMINISTRATION'S IMAGE AS THE ELECTION APPROACHES.

THE 1968 CAMPAIGN SHOULD BE FOUGHT OUT ON THE LINES OF WHICH PARTY CAN BETTER SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE PEOPLE...WHICH PARTY CAN DO A BETTER JOB OF PROMOTING GENUINE PROSPERITY AND NOT FALSE PROSPERITY FED BY WAR AND INFLATION...AND WHICH PARTY CAN DO A BETTER JOB OF BRINGING THE VIETNAM WAR TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION AND WINNING THE PEACE. ON THAT, I REST MY CASE.

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