The original documents are located in Box D25, folder "Campaign Kickoff Dinner for Sam Nakasian, 25th District GOP Candidate for Congress, Tarrytown, NY, June 22, 1968" of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Digitized from Box D25 of The Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library



Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., House Republican Leader, at a Campaign Kickoff Dinner for Sam Nakasian, GOP candidate for Congress in New York's 25th District, at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 22, 1968, at Tarrytown, N.Y.

Are you happy with what is happening in America today? Are you happy with what has happened to America at home and abroad in the last several years?

Of course not -- and neither is anyone else.

Never was it more true that an individual American can do something to change the course of his country. And never was an election more crucial to the future of America than the balloting which will take place November 5.

You can do something about the mess America is in. You can do it by working for a Republican victory between now and November. You can do it by helping to send Sam Nakasian to the United States House of Representatives--to a seat where he can help steer this Nation in a New Direction, toward peace and genuine prosperity, toward equal justice and progress for all.

One of Lyndon Johnson's favorite expressions is "let us continue."

Shall we continue the Johnson-Humphrey inflation that is eating away at the dollar each day?

Shall we continue the sharp rise in the national crime rate that has climbed 88 per cent since 1960?

Shall we continue to let the Mafia and other crime syndicates operate without any fear of electronic surveillance?

Shall we continue to encourage riots by letting arsonists and looters think they can get away with it?

Shall we continue to encourage violence by sanctioning civil disobedience as a weapon of social action?

Shall we continue the federal spending explosion which has forced a Johnson-Humphrey tax increase upon the American people?

Shall we continue the Johnson-Humphrey political approach to poverty which has produced a Resurrection City in the heart of the Nation's capital?

Shall we continue the Johnson-Humphrey grantsmanship which has poured billions of taxpayer dollars into America's problems without solving any of them?

This is the Democratic Party status quo that Lyndon Johnson would have us for continue. I'm strongly opposed to that status quo and so is Sam Nakasian.

(more)

The status quo is the Democratic mess--the mess of a no-win war in Vietnam, a dollar that has dropped to 83 cents in value since Dwight D. Eisenhower left office, inflation that has hurt all Americans and has hurt the pensioners and the poor the worst, lawlessness that is buffeting Americans with a tide of turmoil and fear.

This week the Congress acted to meet one of the crises created by the Johnson-Humphrey Administration--the crisis of our deteriorating dollar, a dollar in which Europeans have lost confidence, a dollar which no longer is as good as gold.

I and other Republicans felt that Democrats in the Congress should vote to clean up the mess they have made, the mess their party has produced by piling up \$60 billion in deficits since 1960. We felt that every Democrat was morally bound to vote for the Johnson-Humphrey tax increase, the Democratic Party's tax increase. Yet seventy-seven Democrats, including your congressman, voted "no." They not only voted against paying the bill for the spending they had been happy to vote for in the past, they also voted against the spending cuts that were part of the tax bill package. So they were voting for continued huge deficit spending; they were voting for continued fiscal irresponsibility, galloping inflation and sky-high interest rates. They want to have their cake and eat it too.

Now, how do we change all this? How do we put this country on the road to a sound dollar, genuine prosperity and durable peace? It can only be done with New Leadership in the Congress. That is why it is so important for you to help elect a Republican House of Representatives in November, to give a new Republican President a Republican House to work with.

You have a splendid candidate here in the 25th District. I have made it my business to acquaint myself with Sam Nakasian's life and record, and I think he's just a great guy.

This is the kind of man we need in the Congress of the United States today. He is ideally suited for the office. A self-made man, he knows what it means to earn a dollar and he will spend the taxpayer's dollar as though it comes out of his own pocket. With his expertise in economics he can help us solve the complex fiscal problems that beset us in Washington.

Give us Sam Nakasian and other men like him and we will make Americans proud of their country again.

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STATEMENT BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH. NAKASIAN "KICK-OFF" DINNER HILTON INN, TABRYTOWN, NEW YORK

Saturday, June 22, 1968

San Makasian ought to be the next Congressman from this Congressional District.

You had an election in the State of New York last Tuesday. I am not precisely clear on what that primary revealed on the national level but I did deduce these thoughts. Despite the popular condidacy of Senator McCarthy, it appears that a combination of four forces will decide the nomination of Vice-President Humphrey for the Democrats. This is a paradoxical combination on the surface and even more complicated below the surface. First the Vice-President's own capabilities within the Democratic party; second, the assistance of the President himself, which is not inconsiderable in today's political aroum; third, the influence of George Meany in the labor movement; and finally, the power of the entrenched Southern democrat politicians. It is a paradoxical and incongruous allignment. How can it give this country the kind of leadership that we need in this time of crisis?

Bespite what I just said about the Wice-President, I have great personal admiration for him. You know, you can't help but admire a first-mate of a ship who stands on the burning deck after every member of the crew from captain to cabin boy has fled the ship. But, how anybedy, under the circumstances, can extract a campaign theme of happiness and joy, is beyond comprehension.

A few months ago I was on a program with the distinguished Vice-President and, as you know, he's very glib and has a ready wit. That's not one of my fortes. In order to set the stage properly for my point of view, I said: "Matching me for laughs against Hubert Humphrey is like matching Twiggy against Ess Ess Gabor." Nobody could rabily be mad at Hubert -- after all, he is sort of a Pagliacci of politics in 1968.

But, as we well know, Hubert Humphrey is really going to ask the American people in 1968 to continue the status quo -- he will insist that we have never had it better and that we continue. And I ask all Americans under these circumstances to take a good, hard look at whether or not under the conditions we face as a nation, we WANT to continue what we've had for the past four years?

I know the Presidential Sweepstakes of 1968 has been a year of Latecomera

and dropouts, and I suspect that anyone who looks into his crystal ball and trys to make any firm predictions between now and November 5th is either a fool or a Washington columnist -- or maybe both. But the facts are that we, as the opposition party, can count on Nubert Numphrey being the opposition. I welcome that opportunity.

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Thirdly, the statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation indicate that in the last seven years the United States with a population increase of about 10% has had an 88% increase in major crimes. Moreover, if we look at the last 12 months, this administration must be identified with the most accelerated increase in crime in this country's history.

So whether you look at the fiscal and economic problems or whether you look at your responsibilities and prestige internationally, militarily and diplomatically, or whether you look at peace and tranquility and progress at home, this administration hasn't dome well by the American people. And to ask us to continue the status quo is an insult to 200 million Americans.

But let me talk first hand about your incumbent Congressman in relationship to one of the problems that I mentioned a moment ago. We had a crucial vote in the House of Representatives last Thursday. In my nearly 20 years in the House of Representatives I don't think I have ever faced any crisis which meant so much to the strength and stability of our country than that vote last week. It was a vote that called upon every member of the House of Representatives to stand up and be counted,tto vote for a tax increase to save this country from a financial disaster. Not on a partisan basis, but on the basis of what is right for America. Ogden Reid voted for the increased tax to save our American economy. Your incumbent Congressman voted "No" when the national interest demanded that he vote "Yes."

Now let me go back just a minute because I think it relates to the vote that was taken in the House last week. Your incumbent Congressman was elected in the 1964 landslide victory of President Johnson. We was one of 295 Democratic

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members of the House dragged in by the President. The Republican ranks were decimated to 140. The net result was that with a strong professional politician in the White House, the majority in the House became supies and a rubber stamp for the Executive Branch. Your incumbent Congressman was part of that majority.

Many of us in the minority during the trying times of 1965 and 1966 tried to point out on a day-to-day basis that the elected representatives of the American people were not performing their responsibilities as a co-ordinate, co-equal branch of the Federal Government. And many of us sought to advize the American people that as a consequence, things were being done to our financial stability and to our form of government that were contrary to the best traditions of our way of life.

One of the wisest Democrats in the Congress of the United States, Senater Mike Mansfield, spoke frankly and honestly in an interview with Arthur Erock of the New York Times. Nine months after the insuguration of the unlamented 89th Congress, Senator Mike Mansfield gave his appraisal of the first session of that Congress. Let me quote his statement: "We have passed a lot of major bills in this session, some of them very hastily, and they stand in an extreme need of a going@over for loop-heles and rough corners and particularly for an assessment of current and ultimate costs in the framework of our capacity to meet these costs." No Republican feels more strongly about this problem than the Democratic majority leaders who, when asked, "what should the second session of this Congress do?" answered: "The second session of the 89th Congress in 1966, should have spent less time with new legislation and more time correcting oversights in the legislation that just passed." Regretably, Congress did not carry out this formula, and your incumbent Congressman did nothing to rectify the oversights, rough corners and loopholes that he helped to create in the first session of the 89th Congress. Furthermore, your incumbent Congressman has done nothing to remedy his failure to realize that they had not considered the current or ultimate cost of many programs that were enacted into law. Because of that, the Congress and the administration, and America, today are on the brink of financial and economic difficulties comparable with the 1930's. I hope and trust that what was done Thursday and Friday of this week in the Congress will get us over the hump. I regret that your incumbent Congressman didn't stand up and face the financial crisis which he helped to create. I can understand somebody who voted against the tax increase who had consistently voted against all of these Great

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Society spending programs rammed through the Congress by the Johnson-Humphrey Administration. I understand that he could say to his constituents: 'Well, I didn't vote for those programs; let the members of Congress who voted to spend billions and billions of dollars stand up and impose new taxes on the American people.

That's an understandable point of view, and I must say, that if I had looked at my own record and didn't have responsibilities as the minority leader of the House, I might have been sympathetic to that point of view myself. But under no circumstances can a man with integrity who has voted day after day after day for spending programs duck the responsibility to impose taxes on the people to pay the bill.

I know politics and sometimes hard to understand, but there are some simple formulae that if you vote to spend money, you should have the courage to stand up and pay the bill with additional taxes. That's fundamental. I think from what you've heard from the people who have spoken before me, that Sam Makasian would, in the first place, use better judgment on where we ofght to make our commitments at home and abroad, and then, which the chips are down, he will face up to a solution that is in the best interests of the American people. He won't quirm and squeel to duck responsibility. Therefore I urge with all my heart and with all my sincerity that you elect Sam Makasian the next Congressman from this Congressional District.

I mentioned a word or two about erime and civil disobedience. Let me be a little more specific. The American people expect that those who violate the law will be called before the courts so that the judges and the juries will pass judgment on any alleged crime and that there will be justice meted out to those who are guilty. And I think that the record I indicated a few membles ago of crime going up 88%, while our population has increased only 10%, indicates clearly that we need new leadership at the highest level to implement and execute these programs that are so essential for the protection of the unjority of our citizens who are law-abiding.

Just a week or so ago, the Congress approved an anti-crime bill which bore little resemblance to the impotent legislation recommended by the President about 18 months ago. It was legislation which gives to the executive branch of the Federal Government new tools to attack the problems caused by organized crime. It was unbelievable that the U.S. President just several days ago, in the process of signing this legislation, said that he was reluctantly approving it.

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But to add further insult, the President of the United States said, in effect, I have ordered my Attorney General and the Department of Justice not to use some of the legislative tools that the Congress made available to him for the purpose of prosecuting organized crime in America. What kind of an administration do we get when the Chief Executive will not use the tools that the Congress gives him and will not undertake the prosecution of organized crime? I cannot believe that the substitution of Rubert Humphrey will make one iota of change in this important attitude.

Ladies and Gentlemen -- I do not believe that we, as a pelitécal party, can redpyon the errors and emissions and failures of the opposition to justify us as a Republican party given the stewardship of the White House or control of the legislative branch. I feel that the Republican party -- an order to justify this responsibility for the next four years -- must earn it. Earn it on records, on programs that we espouse -- Ch, I know that there maybbe somp people in our midst, Republicans, who say: "Well, let catastrophe at home or abroad hit America and then after these dire events have taken place, the American people will turn to the Republican party, and we, as the party in power, can pick up the pieces and build from the shambles."

Ladies and Gentleman, that is not thehheritage, the tradition, of the party of Lincoln and Bisenhower. We, as a Republican Party, have a philosophy that is ddfferent from our Democratic friends.

It is a philosophy that can, if implemented, meet the problems both at home and abroad. And I emphasize that this philosophy can do more to correct the problems than that of the Democratic Forty. And what is the basic difference? A President sends message after message presenting problems to the Congress and recommending solutions. Under this administration, we had a flood of messages -and the thread that ran through every solution under this Democratic administration was three-fold: First, we should spend more Federal money; Second, we should add substantially to the number of Federal employees; and Third, that there should be further encroachment by the Federal government on the statd, county and city governments. Of course they had to hang out a little bait to some sigment of our society in order to get some Congressional approval of this Democratic approach.

What bothers me is that the Democrats never tell the American people where they are taking them. It's deceptive the way they sell it, but here is what they really mean -- a government big enough to give us everything is a government

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big enough to take away everything that we have.

Now, I am proud to say that the Republican philosophy that I espause and that our candidates for President believe is one that puts a different emphasis on our blueprint for the solution of these problems. We have on the record that the private sector in combination with state and local governments is a better way to handle these problems in our great country.

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And I think our record in the Congress is clear. We not only talk it; we vote it. Problems of education, problems of air and water pollution. There is a Republican solution for these problems. We must employ the greater intelligence and drive of the free enterprise sector. This turns over to people like your Governor or your mayor, Jim O'Rourke, the responsibility of actually handling the problems at the local level. This is the way to get progress, to get solutions. And I know that with a Republican President and a Republican House and added strength in the Senate, we can get the job done with less cost to the American people.

One final observation. I'm here for one simple reason. It's needed, it's essential that the House of Representatives have a Republican majority in the next Congress. We need a net gain of 31 seats for the Republicans to have a majority in the House of Representatives. We made a net gain of 47 House seats in 1966. That was a big increase, and I know that there are some skeptics and cymics who say you can't get 31 more. My answer is very simple. If we can make a net gain of 47 with conditions as they were in 1966, we cught to pick up at least 31 more in 1968.

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What bothers me is that the Democrate never tell the American people where they are taking them. It's deceptive the way they sell it, but here is what they really mean -- a government big enough to give us everything is a government

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big enough to take away everything that we have.

Now, I am proud to say that the Republican philosophy that I espause and that our candidates for President believe is one that puts a different emphasis on our blueprint for the solution of these problems. We have on the record that the private sector in combination with state and local governments is a better way to handle these problems in our goest country.

And I think our record in the Congress is clear. We not only talk it; we vote it. Problems of education, problems of air and water pollution. There is a Republican solution for these problems. We must employ the greater intelligence and drive of the free enterprise sector. This turns over to people like your Governor or your mayor, Jim O'Rourke, the responsibility of actually handling the problems at the local level. This is the way to get progress, to get solutions. And I know that with a Republican President and a Repúblican House and added strength in the Senate, we can get the job done with less cost to the American people.

One final observation. I'm here for one simple reason. It's meeded, it's essential that the Nouse of Representatives have a Republican majority in the next Congress. We need a net gain of 31 seats for the Republicans to have a majority in the Nouse of Representatives. We made a net gain of 47 House seats in 1966. That was a big increase, and I know that there are some skeptics and cynics who say you can't get 31 more. My answer is very simple. If we can make a net gain of 47 with conditions as they were in 1966, we ought to pick up at least 31 more in 1968.

You have a splendédecandidate here in the 25th District. I have made it my business to acquaint myself with Sam Nakasian's life and record.

This is the kind of man we need in the Congress of the United States today. He is ideally suited for the office. A self-made man, he knows what it means to earn a dollar, and he will spend the taxpayer's dollar as though it comes out of his own pocket. With his expertise in economics, he can help solve the complex fiscal problems that beset us in Washington.

Give us Sam Nakasian, and we will make Americans proud of their country again.

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