The original documents are located in Box D26, folder "Chamber of Commerce, Washington, DC, April 28, 1969" of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I'M SURE I SPEAK FOR THE ENTIRE MICHIGAN CONGRESSIONAL

DELEGATION WHEN I SAY IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE

TONIGHT. IT'S ALWAYS WONDERFUL TO GET TOGETHER WITH

REAL PEOPLE . . PEOPLE FROM MICHIGAN. I DON'T KNOW ALL

OF YOU BUT I CAN TELL QUITE A BIT ABOUT YOU JUST BY

LOOKING AT YOU FROM THIS SPOT. FIRST OF ALL I COULD

TELL BY THE PRAYERFUL ATTITUDE OF EACH OF YOU DURING

THE INVOCATION THAT THERE ISN'T AN ATHEIST IN THE BUNCH.

2/

YOU KNOW WHAT AN ATHEIST IS, DON'T YOU? THAT'S A GUY
WHO DOESN'T CARE HOW THE GAME BETWEEN NOTRE DAME AND
SOUTHERN METHODIST COMES OUT.

I CAN TELL BY LOOKING AT YOU, TOO, THAT EVERY MAN HERE IS VERY AMBITIOUS. YOUR AMBITION IS TO BE ABLE TO AFFORD WHAT YOU'RE SPENDING.

YOU KNOW, WE LIVE IN A GREAT COUNTRY. IN AMERICA, EVERY BOY, NO MATTER HOW HUMBLE THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS BIRTH, CAN GROW UP TO BE A TAXPAYER.

THERE ARE A LOT OF EXECUTIVES IN THIS ROOM TONIGHT.

AN EXECUTIVE. THAT'S A FELLOW WHO MAKES AN IMMEDIATE

DECISION . . . AND SOMETIMES HE'S RIGHT.

A LOT OF THE MEN IN THIS ROOM ARE VERY WELL-HEELED.

BUT, YOU KNOW, MONEY DOESN'T ALWAYS BRING HAPPINESS. A

GUY WITH TEN MILLION BUCKS IS NO HAPPIER THAN A GUY

WITH NINE MILLION.

HAPPY OR NOT, RICH OR NOT, YOU ARE ALL GATHERED

HERE TONIGHT TO HONOR THE MICHIGAN DELEGATION IN CONGRESS....

AND WE LOVE IT. YOU SHOULD LOVE IT, TOO, BECAUSE NOT

4/

ONE OF US IN THE DELEGATION IS GOING TO MAKE A SPEECH.

AT THIS POINT, I WOULD LIKE TO STATE, HOWEVER, THAT IT

JUST ISN'T TRUE THAT A POLITICIAN IS A FELLOW WHO

APPROACHES EVERY PROBLEM WITH AN OPEN MOUTH.

ONE REASON WE'RE GATHERED TOGETHER HERE TONIGHT IS
THAT THIS COUNTRY IS A DEMOCRACY. WINSTON CHURCHILL
ONCE SAID THAT DEMOCRACY IS THE WORST FORM OF
GOVERNMENT . . . EXCEPT THAT NOBODY HAS EVER COME UP
WITH ANYTHING BETTER.

THERE'S SPAIN, FOR INSTANCE. IN SPAIN THERE ARE MATADORS. A MATADOR IS A MAN WHO THROWS THE BULL. IN THIS COUNTRY WE CALL THEM SENATORS.

YOU KNOW, BEHIND EVERY SUCCESSFUL MALE POLITICIAN
THERE IS A WOMAN. I WILL LET YOU GUESS THE IDENTITY
OF THE FIRST MICHIGAN MEMBER OF CONGRESS I AM GOING TO
INTRODUCE BY DESCRIBING HIS WIFE. SHE IS AN ACCOMPLISHED
PILOT. SHE WANTED TO BE AN ASTRONAUT. SHE IS THE
MOTHER OF FOUR SONS AND FOUR DAUGHTERS, WHICH PROBABLY
WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF SHE HAD SPENT MORE TIME FLYING.

6/

I GIVE YOU A MAN WHO, WITH ALL THOSE FAMILY EXEMPTIONS
HAS NO PERSONAL REASON TO FAVOR A CUT IN FEDERAL INCOME
TAXES, THE MAN WHO IS TARZAN TO HIS JANE, MICHIGAN'S
SENIOR SENATOR, NOW SERVING HIS SECOND SIX-YEAR TERM,
PHILIP ALOYSIUS HART.

OF THE MAN I AM GOING TO INTRODUCE NEXT, I COULD SAY, HE MADE ME WHAT I AM TODAY, BECAUSE HE MASTERMINDED THE CAMPAIGN THAT MADE ME REPUBLICAN LEADER OF THE HOUSE IN JANUARY, 1965 . . . BY THE LANDSLIDE MARGIN OF

SEVEN VOTES. AFTER 10 YEARS AS A CONGRESSMAN, BOB

GRIFFIN WAS APPOINTED TO THE SENATE BY THEN GOVERNOR

GEORGE ROMNEY MAY 11, 1966. HE WENT ON TO DEFEAT

THE LONGTIME CHAMP OF MICHIGAN POLITICS, SOAPY WILLIAMS,

IN NOVEMBER 1966 TO WIN A FULL TERM IN THE U.S. SENATE.

IN THE SENATE TOOK ON AND BEAT NOT ONLY MY GOOD

FRIEND EV DIRKSEN, HE EVEN BESTED THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, LYNDON JOHNSON, BY

ALMOST SINGLE-HANDEDLY BLOCKING HIS CHOICE FOR CHIEF

JUSTICE. WHAT HE LACKS IN PHYSICAL STATURE HE MORE THAN

MAKES UP FOR IN INTESTINAL FORTITUDE. I GIVE YOU MIGHIGAN'S

MY ROLE TONIGHT IS PURELY A NONPARTISAN ONE, SO I

AM HAPPY THAT I WILL BE INTRODUCING YOUR MICHIGAN

CONGRESSMEN BY DISTRICTS . . . FIRST DISTRICT, SECOND

DISTRICT, AND SO FORTH. THAT WAY WE DON'T EVEN HAVE THE

PROBLEM OF SENIORITY ENTERING INTO IT.

"JACK THE GIANT KILLER" . . . OUR JUNIOR SENATOR, BOB GRIFFIN.

DISTRICT, PART OF THE CITY OF DETROIT, AND THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK, NOW IS IN HIS THIRD TERM IN CONGRESS.

HE SERVES ON THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE. THERE'S SOME

TALK OF HIS GOING BACK TO DETROIT TO RUN FOR MAYOR.

APPARENTLY HE HASN'T TALKED WITH JOHN LINDSAY OR

CARL STOKES LATELY. BESIDES, IF HE WANTS TO MAKE THE

LOCAL SCENE, ALL HE HAS TO DO IS GO BACK TO 12TH STREET

AND HE'LL REMEMBER WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE A FEW ROCKS

THROWN AT HIM. I GIVE YOU CONGRESSMAN JOHN CONYERS, JR.

10/

MARVIN ESCH OF ANN ARBOR REPRESENTS MICHIGAN'S

SECOND DISTRICT, HE'S ON THE EDUCATION AND LABOR

COMMITTEE. MARV'S "A SWINGER." HE HAS MANAGED TO

GET ELECTED TWICE NOW IN A DISTRICT WHERE THE

CONGRESSIONAL RACE IS USUALLY SO CLOSE IT'S KNOWN AS A

SWING DISTRICT. HOW HE DOES IT I DON'T KNOW. I THINK

HE'S GOT THE PEACENIKS IN ANN ARBOR CONVINCED HE HAS A

SECRET PLAN TO END THE VIETNAM WAR. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

MARVIN ESCH.

A HARD-HEADED, NO-NONSENSE FELLOW FROM SCHOOLCRAFT
WITH A BUTCH HAIRCUT TO MATCH. THAT'S GARRY BROWN,
WHO REPRESENTS MICHIGAN'S THIRD DISTRICT. GARRY'S ON THE
BANKING AND CURRENCY COMMITTEE, WHICH, STRANGELY ENOUGH,
MAKES HIM AN EXPERT ON HOUSING. GARRY'S
GOTTA BE A GOOD POLITICIAN. HE KNOCKED OFF A VERY
SAVVY OPPONENT IN 1966 AND BREEZED BACK IN LAST NOVEMBER.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GARRY BROWN.

12/

EDDIE HUTCHINSON OF FENNVILLE NOW IS IN HIS FOURTH TERM, REPRESENTING MICHIGAN'S FOURTH DISTRICT. HE SUCCEEDED THAT COLORFUL OLD CHARACTER, CLARE HOFFMAN. EDDIE IS A HEGHLY RESPECTED MEMBER OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE. HE DOESN'T MAKE NOISE, LIKE OLD CLARE DID, BUT HE DOES HIS HOMEWORK AND MAKES HIS PRESENCE FELT. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, EDWARD HUTCHINSON.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE NEXT CONGRESSMAN IN THE LINEUP NEEDS NO INTRODUCTION. YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING AT

HIM FOR THE LAST 10 OR 15 MINUTES. I REPRESENT THE 5TH DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN. I'M PROUD TO SAY THAT GRAND RAPIDS IS MY HOME TOWN. PROBABLY THE ONLY REASON I'M "EMCEE" TONIGHT IS SENIORITY. I'VE BEEN IN CONGRESS FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS, WHICH YOU MAY HAVE GUESSED ANYWAY FROM MY THICK MOP OF HAIR.

CHARLES E. CHAMBERLAIN OF EAST LANSING REPRESENTS
MICHIGAN'S SIXTH DISTRICT. HE'S BEEN IN CONGRESS SINCE
1956. V-DAY FOR CHUCK IN POLITICS CAME WITH THE SECOND

14/ 1956.

EISENHOWER WAVE HE SERVED ON THE ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE UNTIL THIS YEAR, WHEN HE SWITCHED TO THE

COMMITTEE THAT DECIDES HOW MUCH TAXES YOU'RE GOING TO

PAY, WAYS AND MEANS. HE'S VERY MUCH AWARE THAT EVERY

MAN IN THIS ROOM WOULD BE A SUCCESS IF IT WEREN'T FOR

TAXES. I GIVE YOU . . . CHUCK CHAMBERLAIN.

DONALD W. RIEGLE OF FLINT REPRESENTS MICHIGAN'S
SEVENTH DISTRICT IN CONGRESS. HE WAS ONE OF THE
BRIGHT YOUNG MEN WHO WERE FIRST ELECTED TO THE HOUSE

IN 1966 AND HAVE BEEN SHAKING THE RAFTERS EVER SINCE.

HE HAS BEEN TO VIETNAM . . . BUT DIDN'T MANAGE TO END

THE WAR. HE HAS A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE WORRIED, THOUGH,

PEOPLE WHO ARE PLANNING ON RUNNING FOR THE UNITED STATES

SENATE IN 1970. I PRESENT TO YOU . . . CONGRESSMAN

DON RIEGLE.

JIM HARVEY OF SAGINAW, WHO REPRESENTS MICHIGAN'S EIGHTH DISTRICT, IS A REAL YANKEE DOODLE DANDY. HE ACTUALLY WAS BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY. IT WAS NICE

16/

AND COOL THAT DAY, THOUGH, THE PLACE WAS IRON MOUNTAIN, MICHIGAN. JIM IS GETTING TO BE ONE OF OUR 'OLD' BOYS. HE NOW IS IN HIS FIFTH TERM IN THE HOUSE. HE'S ON THE INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE COMMITTEE AND FORMERLY SERVED ALSO ON THE BANKING AND CURRENCY COMMITTEE. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, JIM HARVEY.

GUY ADRIAN VANDER JAGT OF CADILLAC REPRESENTS

MICHIGAN'S NINTH DISTRICT. WHY HE WANTS THAT "ADRIAN"

IN THERE I DON'T KNOW. I ONCE KNEW A FELLOW WHOSE

NAME WAS ADRIAN AND HE INSISTED ON BEING CALLED SAM.

GUY'S NAME IS LONG ENOUGH AS IT IS. /// I'M JUST SAYING

THIS BECAUSE WITH THAT DUTCH NAME OF HIS, I'M LUCKY HE

ISN'T RUNNING IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT. GUY'S ON THE

SPACE COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT

OPERATIONS. HE'S IN HIS SECOND TERM IN THE HOUSE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GUY VANDER JAGT.

AL CEDERBERG OF BAY CITY IS ONE OF THE OLD PRO'S

IN OUR DELEGATION. HE HAS REPRESENTED THE 10TH DISTRICT

18/

FOR NEARLY 18 YEARS. I THINK THE REASON HE KEEPS
RUNNING FOR CONGRESS IS THAT HE DOESN'T WANT TO GO
BACK TO THE JOB HE HAD BEFORE . . . A REALLY TOUGH
ONE . . . MAYOR OF BAY CITY. AL HELPS TO SPEND YOUR
MONEY. HE'S A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AL CEDERBERG.

PHIL RUPPE OF HOUGHTON REPRESENTS MICHIGAN'S 11TH
DISTRICT. THERE ARE A LOT OF BEER DRINKERS IN THE
UPPER PENINSULA, AND PHIL RUNS A BREWERY. SO FIGURE

IT OUT FOR YOURSELF. SERIOUSLY, PHIL IS ONE OF OUR OUTSTANDING YOUNG MEN, ELECTED TO CONGRESS IN 1966
AND AGAIN THE LAST TIME AROUND. HE'S ON THE MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE ON INSULAR AFFAIRS. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PHIL RUPPE.

JIM O'HARA OF UTICA REPRESENTS THE 12TH DISTRICT.

HE USED TO BE A SWINGER LIKE MARV ESCH. NOW HE'S SO

SURE OF ELECTION EVERY TWO YEARS THAT HE HAS ONE OF

THE SHORTEST BIOGRAPHIES IN THE CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTORY:

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JIM'S BEEN IN THE HOUSE FOR 11 YEARS NOW. HE GETS MORE AND MORE DISTINGUISHED EACH YEAR, WHAT WITH THE WAY HIS HAIR HAS TURNED GRAY. SERIOUSLY, HE IS RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE FOREMOST LIBERALS IN THE HOUSE. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, ONE OF THE LEADING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION AND LABOR COMMITTEE, CONGRESSMAN JIM O'HARA.

CHARLEY DIGGS IS EVERYBODY'S FRIEND. WHAT UNDERTAKER ISN'T? CHARLEY REPRESENTS PART OF DETROIT IN CONGRESS -- THE 13TH DISTRICT. HE IS IN HIS 15TH YEAR IN THE HOUSE.

CHARLEY IS THE SEVENTH RANKING DEMOCRAT ON THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, CHARLES C. DIGGS, JR.

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WILLIAM -- D. FOR DEMOCRAT -- FORD, NOT TO BE

CONFUSED WITH GERALD -- R. FOR REPUBLICAN -- FORD,

HAILS FROM TAYLOR, MICH. HE IS ON THE EDUCATION AND

LABOR COMMITTEE AND HAS REPRESENTED THE 15TH DISTRICT

OF MICHIGAN SINCE JANUARY 1965. BILL SAYS IT JUST

ISN'T TRUE THAT A LIBERAL IS A FELLOW WHO ENJOYS

SENDING SOMEONE ELSE'S MONEY. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THE HIGHLY ARTICULATE CONGRESSMAN FROM THE DOWNRIVER

DETROIT AREA, BILL FORD.

JOHNED., FOR DYNASTY DINGELL SUCCEEDED HIS FATHER
IN CONGRESS IN DECEMBER 1955. HE REPRESENTS THE 16TH
DISTRICT. HE BELIEVES IN SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST. HE
LIVES IN DEARBORN. AFTER THE STATE LEGISLATURE REVISED
MICHIGAN'S CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS PRIOR TO THE 1964
ELECTION, JOHNNY DINGELL ROUNDED UP EVERY POSSIBLE BIT
OF SUPPORT IN DEARBORN, EVEN THOUGH HE HAD TO GO INTO
EVERY BAR IN TOWN TO DO IT. JOHNNY IS A MEMBER OF THE
INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE COMMITTEE AND THE MERCHANT
MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

24/

JOHN D. DINGELL.

YOUR NEXT HONORED GUEST HAS REPRESENTED THE 17TH
DISTRICT IN CONGRESS FOR 15 YEARS. WITH APOLOGIES TO
HICKS GRIFFITHS, I JUST HAVE TO SAY THAT MARTHA NOT
ONLY WEARS THE PANTS IN HER OWN HOUSE BUT ALSO IN THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. A DETROITER, SHE IS THE ONLY
WOMAN EVER TO SERVE ON THE POWERFUL HOUSE WAYS AND
MEANS COMMITTEE. SHE IS ALSO A FIGHTER FOR WOMEN'S
RIGHTS. I'M TOLD SHE ONCE WROTE A LITTLE POEM THAT WENT:

• • • WOMEN HAVE THEIR MANY FAULTS,

MEN -- THEY HAVE BUT TWO -
IT'S EVERYTHING THEY HAVE TO SAY,

AND EVERYTHING THEY DO.

SERIOUSLY, MARTHA LOVES THE MENFOLK, AND WE LOVE HER, TOO.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, CONGRESSWOMAN MARTHA GRIFFITHS.

THE CONGRESSMAN WHO REPRESENTS THE 18TH DISTRICT IS

THAT GUY WITH THE GREAT GRIN, THAT FELLOW EVERYBODY

LIKES, BILL BROOMFIELD OF ROYAL OAK. BILL SEEMS LIKE

A QUIET SORT BUT ACTUALLY HE GETS AROUND A LOT. HE'S THE

NUMBER FOUR REPUBLICAN ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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AND IS WIDELY TRAVELED. THAT'S A POLITE WAY OF SAYING HE'S BEEN ON A LOT OF JUNKETS. BILL'S BEEN IN CONGRESS FOR 11 YEARS. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE MAN FROM ROYAL OAK, BILL BROOMFIELD.

I NOW HAVE THE PLEASURE OF INTRODUCING THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF OUR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION . . . JUST A KID OF 36 . . . JACK McDONALD OF REDFORD TOWNSHIP. WHO KNOWS, MAYBE JACK CAN HELP THE REST OF US BRIDGE THE GENERATION GAP. JACK IS YOUNG IN YEARS BUT WISE IN

THE WAYS OF POLITICS. AFTER ALL, HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE WAYNE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BEFORE BEING ELECTED TO CONGRESS IN 1966. AND NOW HE'S A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE. WINDING UP ON A YOUTHFUL NOTE, I GIVE YOU THAT PERSONABLE GENTLEMAN, JACK McDONALD OF REDFORD TOWNSHIP.

AND NOW WE TURN FROM YOUTH TO BEAUTY. NO OFFENSE,

JACK. WE HAVE WITH US TONIGHT AS OUR PRINCIPAL

SPEAKER. MISS MARILYN VAN DERBUR. WITH THAT NAME, SHE

28/

COULD BE FROM MY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT. MISS VAN DERBUR IS NOT ONLY BEAUTIFUL BUT SMART. A FORMER MISS AMERICA, SHE WEARS A PHI BETA KAPPA KEY. I PERSONALLY DON'T THINK IT ADDS A THING TO HER APPEARANCE. WE ALL KNOW THAT WOMEN ARE SMARTER THAN MEN. THEY HAVE THE FIGURES TO PROVE IT.

MISS VAN DERBUR IS A TELEVISION PERSONALITY. SHE
HAS APPEARED ON THE STEVE ALLEN, ED SULLIVAN, ART
LINKLETTER AND "TONIGHT" SHOWS AND ON DAVID SUSSKIND'S
"OPEN END." SHE HAS BEEN A HOSTESS ON CANDID CAMERA AND

THE BELL TELEPHONE HOUR AND A PANELIST ON "TO TELL THE TRUTH." SHE IS PERHAPS BEST KNOWN AS THE TV HOSTESS

OF THE MISS AMERICA PAGEANT FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE YEARS.

MORE RECENTLY, MISS VAN DERBUR PLAYED A ROLE IN TV PRESENTATION OF THE MISS TEENAGE AMERICA PAGEANT, THE CBS SPECTACULAR, "LET'S GO TO THE FAIR," AND THE COTTON BOWL PARADES OF 1965 AND 1966.

MISS VAN DERBUR IS IN GREAT DEMAND AS A CONVENTION SPEAKER. TONIGHT SHE COMES TO US COURTESY OF GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION. IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I

30/

YIELD TO GENTLE LADY FROM DENVER, COLORADO, MISS MARILYN VAN DERBUR. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MISS VAN DERBUR.

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