

The original documents are located in Box D27, folder “Republican Victory Dinner, Eugene, OR, May 23, 1969” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 7 P.M. PACIFIC TIME--
May 23, 1969

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, at a Republican Victory Dinner, 7 p.m., Friday, Eugene, Oregon.

It's wonderful to be in Oregon, this breezy western country with the wide-open spaces, and it's great to be in the fairgrounds here at Eugene. One of the nice things about Eugene is that it's the kind of town where if you see a girl having dinner with a man old enough to be her father, he usually is.

It's good to be here with real people after spending the week in Washington. You know, that's where the economists can't talk about the problem of inflation without using words you can hardly pronounce -- words like "dis-intermediation." You and I can tell 'em what inflation is. Inflation is being broke with a lot of money in your pocket.

I would just like to add that the Nixon Administration is going to lick the problem of inflation. And let no one forget that it's Democrat inflation -- inflation we inherited from the previous administration.

I am happy to be here tonight because there is nothing so exciting as a Republican victory celebration.

However, I recall with great sadness that a Republican President who won the most smashing victories in our Party's history left us less than two months ago at a time when we had initially planned this event.

My feeling is that Dwight David Eisenhower is here with us in spirit tonight as we celebrate what we might call the Rebirth of the Republican Party.

You certainly have a lot to celebrate, a lot to be congratulated on. My hat is off to you for giving Dick Nixon a 50,000-vote majority in Oregon, sending Wayne Morse packing by electing Bob Packwood to the United States Senate, reelecting John Dellenback over the State Democratic chairman and state senator, helping Wendell Wyatt lead the nation in percentage of total vote, keeping the State House of Representatives in Republican hands, gaining seats in the State Senate, and reelecting Secretary of State Clay Myers.

This is a very inspiring occasion for me because I sense a great spirit of confidence here -- confidence in the Republican Party and confidence in our new National Administration and our new President.

I assure you that confidence is well-founded. It reflects the new mood in Washington -- a mood of trust and respect which I think is beginning to pervade the entire Nation and the capitals of the world.

(more)

It is just four months since Richard Nixon assumed the Presidency of the United States, yet he has accomplished much.

This has been no frantic and frenetic time but a period of quiet review, reappraisal and progress and the laying of groundwork for solid achievements in both domestic and foreign affairs.

President Nixon has initiated realistic movement toward peace in Vietnam. I believe his Eight-Point Peace Plan will be the basis for a sensible negotiated settlement of that tragic conflict.

At home the Nixon Administration is moving against a myriad of domestic problems with plans to launch a two-fisted attack on organized crime, to improve the postal service, to involve businessmen in solving our social and economic problems, to develop a national student-teacher corps of high school and college students to tutor ghetto children, to use tax incentives to provide the hard-core unemployed with on-the-job training in industry, to experiment with a computer job bank program, to consolidate our federal manpower training programs, to establish an Office of Minority Business Enterprise, to evaluate and develop a new farm program in the months ahead, and to make sound application of the multiple use concept in the management of our National Resources.

John Dellenback has impressed upon me the fact that Oregon is the greatest lumber-producing state in the Nation -- that the tree is the backbone of this state's economy.

Let me remind you that the Nixon Administration has set as a national goal a decent home for every American family. That will require wood -- and lots of it. We are not going to predict that we will build 24 million houses and apartments over the next decade -- although those are our needs -- because we don't want to make any promises we can't keep.

But I can tell you that with a sparkplug like George Romney running the Housing and Urban Development Department we are going to be looking to the great state of Oregon to go all-out in supplying the tremendous quantities of lumber and plywood we will need to build Dick Nixon's New America.

It's been said that some men go into politics because it's a promising career -- and then give the people nothing but promises, promises, promises. Not Republicans. Republicans produce.

It is on that basis that President Nixon is building confidence and is winning the trust not only of the American people but of peoples in other lands.

We've got a winner, ladies and gentlemen. We've become a winning Party. Let's keep a good thing going.



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