

**The original documents are located in Box D27, folder “Eisenhower Birthday Dinner, October 14, 1969” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. The Council donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

MR. PRESIDENT, MRS. EISENHOWER, MR. CHAIRMAN,  
HONORED GUESTS AND LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THIS BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR DWIGHT DAVID EISENHOWER  
COMES AT A MOST AUSPICIOUS TIME -- A TIME WHEN THE  
MAGNIFICENT SPIRIT OF THE LATE PRESIDENT EISENHOWER  
SHINES WITH EVER GREATER SPLENDOR IN A WORLD SCARRED BY WAR.  
~~IT IS <sup>SO</sup> TIMELY, TOO, BECAUSE THE KIND OF BURDEN THAT FELL~~  
~~MOST HEAVILY ON DWIGHT DAVID EISENHOWER -- THAT OF MAKING~~

2/EISENHOWER

~~PEACE IN A MOST DIFFICULT PART OF THE WORLD -- NOW ALSO~~  
~~RESTS WITH AWESOME WEIGHT ON THE MAN WHO SERVED MOST CLOSELY WITH~~  
~~DWIGHT EISENHOWER DURING HIS YEARS OF PEACE MAKING AND PEACE~~  
~~KEEPING IN THE WHITE HOUSE.~~

THE CONGRESS WAS AWARE OF THE GREAT DEBT OWED BY  
THIS NATION TO DWIGHT DAVID EISENHOWER. THE CONGRESS ALSO  
RECOGNIZED THE GREAT QUALITIES IN THE MAN, EISENHOWER -- THE  
SUPERB CHARACTER THAT MADE HIM THE MOST BELOVED OF ALL  
AMERICANS AND PLACED HIM IN RANK WITH THAT AMERICAN PRESIDENT

3/EISENHOWER

KNOWN TO ALL CITIZENS OF THIS NATION AS THE FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY.

THE CONGRESS WANTED TO HONOR PRESIDENT EISENHOWER WITH A MEMORIAL THAT WOULD BE PECULIARLY SUITED TO THE MAN. THE MEMBERS THEREFORE CHOSE TO ASSIST IN DWIGHT DAVID EISENHOWER'S NAME THE ONE ENTERPRISE IN WHICH HE HAD SHOWN THE MOST INTEREST AND IN WHICH HE HAD BEEN MOST ACTIVE -- EISENHOWER COLLEGE AT SENECA FALLS, NEW YORK.

IN ASSISTING EISENHOWER COLLEGE, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

4/EISENHOWER

FELT THEY WOULD BE HELPING TO CREATE A LIVING MEMORIAL TO DWIGHT DAVID EISENHOWER "IN BEHALF OF A GRATEFUL NATION."

AND SO IT IS THAT THE CONGRESS IN SEPTEMBER 1968 PASSED A BILL WHICH AUTHORIZED A \$5 MILLION APPROPRIATION TO CONSTRUCT EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AT EISENHOWER COLLEGE, TO EQUIP THOSE FACILITIES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPAIR, RENOVATION AND REHABILITATION OF THOSE FACILITIES.

THE RESOLUTION AS ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED PROVIDED \$2.5 MILLION FOR EISENHOWER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AND AN EQUAL

5/EISENHOWER

AMOUNT FOR CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF COLLEGE FACILITIES. BUT THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE DECIDED THERE WERE SUFFICIENT FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES FOR SCHOLARSHIP PURPOSES AND THAT THE FULL AMOUNT SHOULD BE EARMARKED FOR CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE. OPERATING EXPENSES WERE EXCLUDED BECAUSE THIS WAS TO BE A ONE-TIME CONTRIBUTION, AND IN ANY CASE THE FUNDS WERE TO PROVIDE FOR A LIVING MEMORIAL TO PRESIDENT EISENHOWER.

SAID THE COMMITTEE: "BY OUR COMMITMENT OF FUNDS

6/EISENHOWER

TO THE COLLEGE NOW (IN 1968), WE CAN INSURE THAT THIS LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE SHALL INDEED SERVE AS A LIVING MEMORIAL TO A GREAT AMERICAN PATRIOT, SOLDIER, AND PRESIDENT AND MAN OF PEACE AND EDUCATOR, OUR BELOVED AND RESPECTED COUNTRYMAN, DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER."

THE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT IN A LETTER TO ME DATED JULY 29, 1968, DR. MILTON S. EISENHOWER SAID OF THE PROPOSED CONTRIBUTION: "I WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE EISENHOWER FAMILY HAVE A KEEN INTEREST

7/EISENHOWER

IN EISENHOWER COLLEGE AND THAT WE PREFER A LIVING MEMORIAL OF BENEFIT TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE NATION TO ANYTHING ELSE WHICH THE CONGRESS IN ITS WISDOM MIGHT DECIDE TO DO IN RECOGNITION OF PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S HALF-CENTURY OF SERVICE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE."

SO THIS IS WHAT MOTIVATED THE CONGRESS TO MAKE A \$5 MILLION CONTRIBUTION TO EISENHOWER COLLEGE: A CONSENSUS THAT THE MEMORIAL TO DWIGHT DAVID EISENHOWER SHOULD BE A LIVING MEMORIAL, AND THAT THE GIFT TO EISENHOWER COLLEGE WOULD BE

8/EISENHOWER

"THE MOST FITTING TRIBUTE" THAT COULD BE PAID TO THE FORMER PRESIDENT.

THE CONGRESS, OF COURSE, INTENDED THAT THE \$5 MILLION CONTRIBUTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE MATCHED BY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER SOURCES. I AM SURE THAT THOUGHT IS UPPERMOST IN OUR MINDS TONIGHT AS WE SPEAK OF EISENHOWER COLLEGE -- A LIVING MONUMENT TO A MONUMENTAL MAN.

# # #

Congress of the United States

Office of the Minority Leader

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

OCT. 14, 1969

Gerald R. Ford  
M.C.

EISENHOWER BIRTHDAY  
DINNER

