

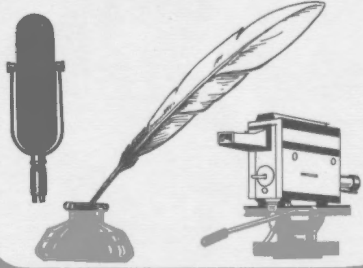
The original documents are located in Box D28, folder “Lincoln Day Dinner, Lorain County, OH, February 13, 1970” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 6 p.m. FRIDAY--
February 13, 1970

Excerpts from a Lorain County, Ohio, Lincoln Day Dinner Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives.

One of the greatest fictions of our times is the oft-repeated statement by Democratic leaders that if Abraham Lincoln were living today he would be a Democrat.

Lincoln not only was a great Republican, but the philosophy which guided this great President undergirds the Republican Party today and is reflected in the actions of the Nixon Administration.

Think back to the disastrous decade of the Sixties and the civil strife that tore at the life of the Nation and the lives of individual Americans. Recall, if you will, the terrible tensions and the time of the torch, the rioting in the inner cities and the arson that set the skies of our metropolises flaming.

Under President Nixon, an air of calm has descended on the Nation. He has brought us crisis prevention in place of chaos. He has restored a feeling of common sense and emphasized for us the moral uprightness of man which balks at violence and unreason.

The Nixon Administration has been characterized repeatedly in the press as cool and pragmatic. The President has been credited with restoring reason to the Nation.

What did Abraham Lincoln tell his countrymen on Feb. 15, 1861? "My advice,:" he said, "is to keep cool." "If the great American people only keep their temper on both sides of the line, the troubles will come to an end, and the question which now distracts the country will be settled, just as surely as all other difficulties of a like character which have originated in this government have been adjusted. Let the people on both sides keep their self-possession, and just as other clouds have cleared away in due time, so will this great nation continue to prosper as heretofore."

What is one of the chief differences between the two major parties in this country?

The Democrats have believed and continue to believe--although their conviction may finally be weakening--that a combination of Federal power and Federal dollars is the answer to all of our problems.

(more)



Republicans have never believed that and we never will. We have seen too much Democrat spending and too few solutions.

We have seen Democratic Administrations go \$57 billion into debt in the Sixties with little to show for all the Federal dollars tossed at national problems.

We have seen the Federal Government under the Democrats spend \$250 billion on social programs in the last five years of the two previous Administrations and yet fail to solve our problems. A quarter of a trillion dollars. Never before has so much been spent and achieved so little.

What did we reap from this sowing of Federal dollars? This fantastic spending planted the seeds of great expectations. When the fruit proved bitter, the harvest was one of explosive frustration.

This is why President Nixon earmarks Federal funds judiciously. This is why our President refrains from fantastic promises.

There is no vote-buying in the Nixon Administration. There is truth and candor and an effort to solve lingering problems with as great a fund of common sense as money.

There is also a great effort to humanize the individual American, a movement to make him count again rather than to be counted as a cipher, a figure for the computer.

This effort comes under the awesome name of decentralization. But what it really amounts to is giving the government back to the people.

Abraham Lincoln said: "In all that the people can individually do as well for themselves, government ought not to interfere." And, again, "The legitimate object of government is to do for the people what needs to be done, but which they cannot, by individual effort, do at all, or do so well, for themselves."

This is the guiding spirit of the Nixon Administration. This is the spirit which underlies the Administration's proposal to share a percentage slice of Federal revenue with the cities and states on a no-strings-attached basis. This is the spirit which prompts our President to propose turning manpower training programs over to the states when they can show themselves equipped to handle the job. And this is the spirit which inspired our President to propose help for the working poor and an incentive for all able-bodied Americans on welfare to put their hands to useful, paying tasks.

I submit it is Lincoln philosophy which has Republicans believing that Americans needing help want a hand up, not a handout.

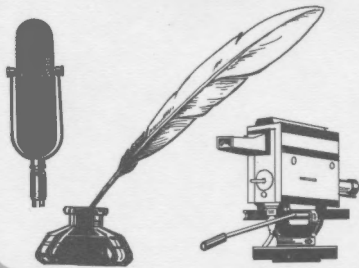
It is Lincoln philosophy and Republican philosophy which holds that no man stands so tall as when he stands on his own two feet.

And I submit that this is the basic philosophy of all Americans, and it is the reason that the people are turning to the Republican Party and will turn the Congress over to us next fall as they did the White House in '68.

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