

The original documents are located in Box D32, folder “Clarion County Republican Dinner, New Bethlehem, PA, October 26, 1971” 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. TUESDAY--

October 26, 1971

Excerpts from a speech at the Clarion County (Pa.) Republican Dinner at
New Bethlehem, Pa.

In all of the oratory and flowery rhetoric that mark the political scene, there are times when we encounter moments of truth.

Such a moment occurred Oct. 6 in New York City, when Sen. Edmund S. Muskie of Maine, the leading candidate for the 1972 Democratic presidential nomination, addressed a Liberal Party dinner attended by confessed-Democrat Mayor John Lindsay and that perennial presidential candidate Sen. George McGovern of South Dakota.

I might say that John Lindsay is no longer a member of any organized political party--now that he is a Democrat.

But to get to the moment of truth. That came when Sen. Muskie told the adherents of the Liberal Party: "The blunt truth is that liberals have achieved virtually no fundamental change in our society since the end of the New Deal."

Sen. Muskie was, of course, speaking the truth--and for that I congratulate him. He was saying what I and other Republicans have asserted for years to vast audiences of disbelievers who are descendants of the New Deal and disciples of its liberal philosophy: American liberals have failed to solve this Nation's major problems.

As a matter of fact, American liberals have not only failed to solve our major problems, they have contributed to them. The liberals have not had a sound new idea in three decades.

The Democratic Party has therefore become the party of the status quo--of stand-pattism--of the same tired old solutions to the same old problems.

The Republican Party has become the party of change. Change has swept through the Republican Party, ripping away the cobwebs of reaction and the resistance to reform.

The Republican Party has become the party of daring and imagination--the party of welfare reform, the party of revenue sharing, the party of Federal Government overhaul, the party of a New Health Care Program for all the American people, the party of Environmental Cleanup, the party with a New Economic Policy

(more)

that will put us on the path to new high growth in the economy and peacetime prosperity with stable prices.

The Republican Party is alive with new ideas and programs for meeting the needs of the people, for improving the quality of life in America.

Despite Democratic roadblocks to change, the Republican Party has brought great progress to the American people since taking control of the White House in January 1969.

Despite the fact that Richard Nixon was the first President since Zachary Taylor to enter office with Congress firmly in control of the opposition party, the wheels of progress have been turning steadily and the record is there to prove it.

It was the Nixon Administration that reversed the course of the war in Vietnam; that developed a new strategy for peace in the world centered around the Nixon Doctrine; that reached agreement in principle with Russia on Berlin; that brought about ratification of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; that entered into serious negotiations with the Soviet Union on the limitation of strategic arms (the SALT talks); that renounced biological weapons and the first use of chemical warfare; that achieved a treaty prohibiting the emplacement of nuclear weapons in the seabed; that reformed our draft laws to make them more equitable and began moving toward an all-volunteer Army; that reordered our national priorities by devoting a greater part of the Federal budget to human needs than to defense spending; that pushed through major reforms in the postal system, in the executive office of the President, and in many other areas of the Federal bureaucracy; that achieved the most significant improvements in the history of unemployment insurance; that acted to protect the environment by creating a new Council on Environmental Quality and a new Environmental Protection Agency; that won passage of legislation to improve on-the-job safety for America's working men and women; that got a reluctant Congress to adopt legislation for a stepped-up fight against organized crime and the drug menace.

Now we look to the future. We look for more progress--progress toward peace, and progress toward prosperity in peacetime.

We know that the President's New Economic Policy is working--that the price-wage freeze is working. Wholesale prices dropped in September for the first time in 10 months. The drop was the biggest in seven years. And the price of

(more)

industrial commodities dropped for the first time in four years.

The President is proving that his New Economic Policy can work--that Government can work.

Republicans want to reform government itself--so that instead of sliding further into muscle-bound ineffectiveness it at last can bridge the gap between promise and performance.

There is congressional opposition to the President's key reform programs--welfare reform, revenue sharing, and reorganization of Federal Government cabinet departments.

But the American people want these reforms--and the people will be heard.

The American people have found a voice--in the Republican Party. The American people are finding solutions to their problems--and the Republican Party is providing those solutions. Through the Republican Party, the American people will find their way to new greatness as we move through the decade of the Seventies.

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