The original documents are located in Box D32, folder “Lincoln Day Dinner, Hobart, IN, February 18, 1972” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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To make the truth known--this is what we must do to win the hearts and minds of the American people in this most important election year.

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Such a moment occurred the night of January 25, 1972, when President Nixon went on nationwide radio and television to reveal the vigorous private negotiations he had been pursuing to end the war in Vietnam.

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only to the objective that the people of South Vietnam determine their future.

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short of cooperating with the North Vietnamese to topple the Saigon Government.

The North Vietnamese have been insisting that we collaborate on turning
South Vietnam over to them.

Another truth also became clear. Some candidates for the Democratic
presidential nomination are not only willing but are urging that we make peace
on the enemy's terms. They are, I believe, unwittingly prolonging the war.

I say they are prolonging the war because I believe the North Vietnamese
would accept President Nixon's basic peace plan if they were not encouraged to
believe they will do better by holding out. They might very well buy the idea of
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believe we eventually will simply turn South Vietnam over to them.

Consider what some of the Democratic presidential candidates are saying,
in effect. They are saying to the American people and to the world: "The
Democratic Party made a mistake in leading the United States into the Vietnam War
nine years ago. We have spent over $100 billion in that war and lost more than
50,000 lives. Let's wipe the slate clean by making peace on the enemy's terms."

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farther off the day of settlement will be.

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We could negotiate an end to the war—if the Democrats would unite behind the President.

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# # #
AN ADDRESS BY "G. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.
REPUBLICAN LEADER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
BEFORE A LINCOLN DAY DINNER
AT HOBART, INDIANA
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1972

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