

**The original documents are located in Box D32, folder “National Council of Republican Women Dinner, Sheraton Carlton, May 4, 1972” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford at the National Council of Republican Women's Dinner,  
8 p.m. Thursday, May 4, at the Sheraton Carlton Hotel. [1972]

It's a great~~xxx~~ pleasure for me to be here this evening. If you'll forgive my immodesty, I appear before you tonight in the role of a prophet. For many months now--back when Ed Muskie was the front-runner--I have been predicting that Hubert Humphrey again will be the Democratic presidential nominee. And this was not, as Ted Agnew would say, because I didn't want to break up a losing ticket. I honestly had Hubert picked as the Democratic standard-bearer. ~~Senator Muskie~~ I knew Senator Muskie was in trouble when the audiences he talked to wore earmuffs. Not in New Hampshire. In Florida.

~~The Democrats are getting pretty desperate now. They're talking about drafting Teddy Kennedy. I can tell you one thing. If it looked like he was going to be drafted, Teddy wouldn't run off to Canada.~~

~~As things look right now, I believe Dick Nixon feels pretty confident about reelection. I heard he just ordered a sign for the White House lawn that reads: R. Nixon & Co. Eight Years At The Same Location.~~

Seriously, I am optimistic about the November 8 election. And the reason I am optimistic is that we have a great candidate and that candidate has a great record.

As Al Smith ~~xxxx~~ was so fond of saying, let's look at the record.  
....(Cite accomplishments of Nixon Administration--foreign and domestic).

That's the record, and it's one we can all be proud of.

What of the candidate himself? Let 's take a good look at him, this man who in recent weeks has suffered through the crisis of a North Vietnamese invasion of South Vietnam.

Did this man waver? Did he appear ~~xxx~~ irresolute or undecided? Did he ~~xxxx~~



succumb to the exhortations of those preaching peace ~~at~~ through surrender?

No, he emerged from this trial by fire as a cool and ~~strong~~ courageous leader of a great people who still believe firmly in the right, as he does. He ~~came~~ is coming through ~~this~~ this ordeal as a man of unyielding principle, a man of tremendous moral strength, a man ~~who sees the cause of freedom~~ <sup>dedicated to</sup> deeply ~~committed to~~ the cause of ~~freedom~~ human freedom.

This is the kind of man we will be campaigning for this fall. This is a man we can all support. This is the man we will keep in the White House...because we believe in him.

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