

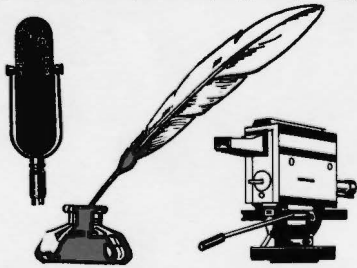
The original documents are located in Box D34, folder “Clark County GOP Committee Dinner, Las Vegas, NV, February 10, 1973” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY--
Saturday, February 10, 1973

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This country was torn asunder, its national fabric rent by dissent and divisions and its character buffeted by winds of horrendous change.

A Republican President has seen us through this time of national crisis, just as in another time the first Republican President used his great moral strength to keep our country from permanently splitting apart and gave it the God-loving leadership it so desperately needed.

Why do we love and revere Abraham Lincoln? We cherish him for his insight and wisdom, his great courage and his tenderness, and most of all his devotion to what he thought was right.

President Nixon is much like Lincoln. He has insight. He is sensitive. He is determined to uphold that which he believes to be right.

I think it is because of this that Richard Nixon was able to lead us out of the darkness of civil strife, out of the toils of a government so bogged down with welfare state bureaucracy as to be almost immobile, and out of the nightmare of a horrible little war halfway around the world in which there could be no hope of victory.

Think how far we have come in the last four years--as a people and as a Nation.

Four years ago serious thinkers, as well as millions of ordinary citizens, were doubtful of America's ability to cope with the future.

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Above all, the cosmic cataclysm of nuclear war seemed all too possible.

Look around you now. Let's take stock of what America is like today.

For the first time since 1945, the threat of nuclear war is diminishing rather than growing. Problems of air and water pollution are being dealt with. Crime rates are coming down. All of our men are coming home from Vietnam. We have achieved an honorable peace there. The synthetic wartime prosperity of the 1960s is being converted to the solid economic stability of the 1970s.

All this in four years. The Richard Nixon Years.

Think back to 1968. Don't you feel more at peace with yourself now than in 1968? Don't you trust your neighbor and yourself a little more than in 1968? Aren't you more proud of your country now than in 1968? Don't you sleep better now than in 1968? Don't the other nuclear powers of the world seem a little more like ordinary people than in 1968? Doesn't your paycheck go farther than in 1968? Aren't you glad Richard Nixon won in 1968--and in 1972?

If the President could help bring us that far, that fast, is it not sensible to surmise that his leadership will be even more effective in the next four years?

Abraham Lincoln brought this Nation a great gift of leadership. And so, too, has Richard Nixon.

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Built on Lincoln's leadership, the last third of the 19th century was a time of peace--our last full generation of peace--in which America's energies turned away from war and were devoted to nation building and the expansion of freedom.

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And now we are fortunate indeed that the American people in their wisdom gave Richard Nixon another four years in the White House--for the decisions made during the next few years will decide whether the remaining decades of this century will be characterized by peace and prosperity and by peaceful change.

The probability of all-out aggression in the world has never been as low as today as a result of recent developments and the effectiveness of U.S. deterrence. In my view, this is true solely because of Richard Nixon's firm leadership, his insistence on a foreign policy based upon strong U.S. defenses, a realistic partnership with our Free World allies, and a Yankee trader spirit in dealing with the Soviet Union.

The United States has won the Cold War because of its military strength and President Nixon's flexibility in international relations.

In both foreign and domestic policy, Richard Nixon has shown a remarkable facility for abandoning a course proven to be wrong or inadequate and seizing upon a fresh and workable course of action.

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It was in that spirit that President Nixon adopted the New Economic Policy which went into effect August 15, 1971--a policy which confounded his critics because it seemed to run counter to Richard Nixon's basic philosophy.

Long a Cold Warrior, Richard Nixon also astounded friends and foes alike when he opened the doors of diplomacy to Communist China and reached agreements on strategic weapons control and other matters with the Soviet Union.

A pragmatic man, Richard Nixon is quick to reject that which will not work and to make use of that which will. He exercises the powers of the White House in line with these words of Abraham Lincoln: "I do not mean to say we are bound implicitly to follow in whatever our fathers did. To do so would be to discard all the lights of current experience--to reject all progress, all improvement."

The astounding aspect of Richard Nixon's first four years in the Oval Office is that he accomplished what he did despite general obstructionism on the part of the Democratic majority in the Congress and lack of support on foreign policy from some leading Democrats.

This was reminiscent of Abraham Lincoln's situation in the early days of his Presidency. He literally pleaded with leading Democrats of the time for cooperation in restoring the Union. He offered to "make way" for Gov. Horatio Seymour of New York "as my successor" if the governor would urge the Democratic Party to help put down the rebellion. He stated he would "hold McClellan's horse" if it would end the conflict. His attempts to win Democratic cooperation were met not only with denouncement but with personal insult. The Democrats were fondest of depicting Lincoln as a "baboon" or a "long-armed ape." Yet, immediately after Lincoln's assassination, Democratic politicians went to great lengths to assume his mantle--and they have ever since.

As it was with Lincoln, so it has been with Richard Nixon. The opposition party, in control of the Congress, has sought either to block major Administration measures or to take credit for them.

Yet we have made great progress, both at home and abroad. Besides advancing the prospects for world peace, we have revitalized our economy while controlling inflation.

Real growth in our economy exceeded the Administration's goal of 6 per cent

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in 1972. Employment increased sharply. We are adding new jobs at the highest rate since 1955. And, most importantly, Real Spendable Earnings--buying power--rose at an annual rate of 4.1 per cent last year as compared with 1965-70 when buying power did not increase at all. There is now and will be less inflation in the United States than in any other major nation.

What is the U.S. economic outlook? It is for further substantial gains in 1973 on virtually all fronts--including real output, personal income, employment and profits.

What we need to do now is to expand our new spirit of accomplishment to include greater recognition of our unprecedented gains, so we can move ahead with confidence to solve the problems which still face us.

At this point I would like to appeal to my Democratic friends in the Congress to put country ahead of party and to support the President's major initiatives in this time of challenge.

No nation has a greater capability for solving critical problems, if we all work together to find the answers.

Let us all, Democrats and Republicans alike, support the President as he moves toward his great goals--a lasting peace, prosperity without war or inflation, and equal opportunity for all.

Let's help him to win the peace in Vietnam now that he has achieved an honorable settlement there.

Let's help him to put a brake on Government spending, to make good on his pledge to avoid new taxes and to keep the Federal bureaucracy under control.

I personally feel the President's task would have been much easier if the people had only seen fit to elect a Republican majority in the Congressional and senatorial elections last November. But the people decided otherwise.

Certainly Richard Nixon's landslide election meant something, even if it was a lonely landslide.

It meant the people approved of the President's conduct of his office and his innovative foreign policy. And I think the people want the Democratic majority in the Congress to work with the President--not against him.

As Abraham Lincoln put it, "The most reliable indication of public purpose in this country is derived through our popular elections."

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making a terrible mistake--in terms of the country's welfare and in terms of their party's political future. The New Deal is dead. And yet for the last decade the Democratic Party has been drifting to the left.

The American people, I am thoroughly convinced, reject all extremism--of the right and the left.

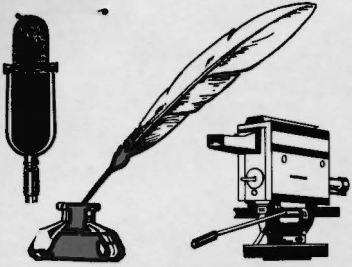
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I am convinced that the Republican Party will still become the majority party in the United States. I have never despaired of that because the Republican Party is a party of principle--and that is our strongest point.

Abraham Lincoln put it this way: "Our principle, however baffled or delayed, will finally triumph, I do not permit myself to doubt. The principle will remain, and will reproduce another, and another, till the final triumph will come."

Let us hold true to our principles. If we do, the time will come as surely as the night follows the day--we will prevail.

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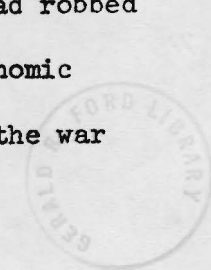
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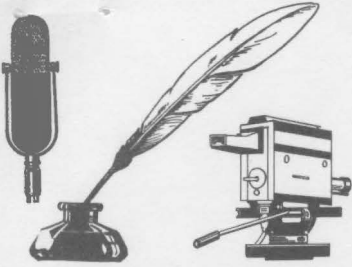
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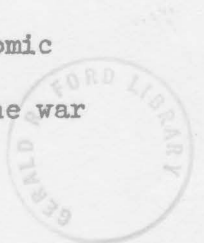
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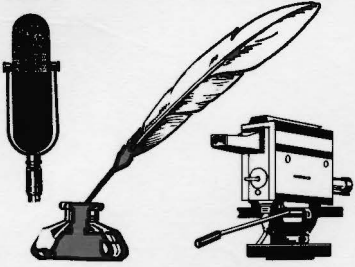
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The probability of all-out aggression in the world has never been as low as today as a result of recent developments and the effectiveness of U.S. deterrence. In my view, this is true solely because of Richard Nixon's firm leadership, his insistence on a foreign policy based upon strong U.S. defenses, a realistic partnership with our Free World allies, and a Yankee trader spirit in dealing with the Soviet Union.

The United States has won the Cold War because of its military strength and President Nixon's flexibility in international relations.

In both foreign and domestic policy, Richard Nixon has shown a remarkable facility for abandoning a course proven to be wrong or inadequate and seizing upon a fresh and workable course of action.

It is as though he has kept ever before him the declaration made by Lincoln

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when he said: "I shall try to correct errors where shown to be errors, and I shall adopt new views as fast as they shall appear to be true views."

It was in that spirit that President Nixon adopted the New Economic Policy which went into effect August 15, 1971--a policy which confounded his critics because it seemed to run counter to Richard Nixon's basic philosophy.

Long a Cold Warrior, Richard Nixon also astounded friends and foes alike when he opened the doors of diplomacy to Communist China and reached agreements on strategic weapons control and other matters with the Soviet Union.

A pragmatic man, Richard Nixon is quick to reject that which will not work and to make use of that which will. He exercises the powers of the White House in line with these words of Abraham Lincoln: "I do not mean to say we are bound implicitly to follow in whatever our fathers did. To do so would be to discard all the lights of current experience--to reject all progress, all improvement."

The astounding aspect of Richard Nixon's first four years in the Oval Office is that he accomplished what he did despite general obstructionism on the part of the Democratic majority in the Congress and lack of support on foreign policy from some leading Democrats.

This was reminiscent of Abraham Lincoln's situation in the early days of his Presidency. He literally pleaded with leading Democrats of the time for cooperation in restoring the Union. He offered to "make way" for Gov. Horatio Seymour of New York "as my successor" if the governor would urge the Democratic Party to help put down the rebellion. He stated he would "hold McClellan's horse" if it would end the conflict. His attempts to win Democratic cooperation were met not only with denouncement but with personal insult. The Democrats were fondest of depicting Lincoln as a "baboon" or a "long-armed ape." Yet, immediately after Lincoln's assassination, Democratic politicians went to great lengths to assume his mantle--and they have ever since.

As it was with Lincoln, so it has been with Richard Nixon. The opposition party, in control of the Congress, has sought either to block major Administration measures or to take credit for them.

Yet we have made great progress, both at home and abroad. Besides advancing the prospects for world peace, we have revitalized our economy while controlling inflation.

Real growth in our economy exceeded the Administration's goal of 6 per cent

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in 1972. Employment increased sharply. We are adding new jobs at the highest rate since 1955. And, most importantly, Real Spendable Earnings--buying power--rose at an annual rate of 4.1 per cent last year as compared with 1965-70 when buying power did not increase at all. There is now and will be less inflation in the United States than in any other major nation.

What is the U.S. economic outlook? It is for further substantial gains in 1973 on virtually all fronts--including real output, personal income, employment and profits.

What we need to do now is to expand our new spirit of accomplishment to include greater recognition of our unprecedented gains, so we can move ahead with confidence to solve the problems which still face us.

At this point I would like to appeal to my Democratic friends in the Congress to put country ahead of party and to support the President's major initiatives in this time of challenge.

No nation has a greater capability for solving critical problems, if we all work together to find the answers.

Let us all, Democrats and Republicans alike, support the President as he moves toward his great goals--a lasting peace, prosperity without war or inflation, and equal opportunity for all.

Let's help him to win the peace in Vietnam now that he has achieved an honorable settlement there.

Let's help him to put a brake on Government spending, to make good on his pledge to avoid new taxes and to keep the Federal bureaucracy under control.

I personally feel the President's task would have been much easier if the people had only seen fit to elect a Republican majority in the Congressional and senatorial elections last November. But the people decided otherwise.

Certainly Richard Nixon's landslide election meant something, even if it was a lonely landslide.

It meant the people approved of the President's conduct of his office and his innovative foreign policy. And I think the people want the Democratic majority in the Congress to work with the President--not against him.

As Abraham Lincoln put it, "The most reliable indication of public purpose in this country is derived through our popular elections."

If the Democrats try to put the New Deal back together again, they will be

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making a terrible mistake---in terms of the country's welfare and in terms of their party's political future. The New Deal is dead. And yet for the last decade the Democratic Party has been drifting to the left.

The American people, I am thoroughly convinced, reject all extremism--of the right and the left.

If the Democrats try to keep the old New Deal gravy train running, the American people will derail it. The Democrats may well continue to be inclined leftward and so I see more Republican victories in 1974.

I am convinced that the Republican Party will still become the majority party in the United States. I have never despaired of that because the Republican Party is a party of principle--and that is our strongest point.

Abraham Lincoln put it this way: "Our principle, however baffled or delayed, will finally triumph, I do not permit myself to doubt. The principle will remain, and will reproduce another, and another, till the final triumph will come."

Let us hold true to our principles. If we do, the time will come as surely as the night follows the day--we will prevail.

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