IDEAS FOR PATRIOTIC SPEECH TO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 1973.

1. Talk about Maj. Joseph Shanahan of Kentwood and the program in his honor April 13 at East Kentwood High Auditorium. From story in G.R. Press, describe the atmosphere and how it inspired feelings of pride in America and in men like Shanahan and all the other Americans who served so bravely in Vietnam.

2. Talk about defense... about the need to keep America strong in order to keep the peace... about Nixon achievements in foreign policy and how none of these successes would have come about if the President had been placed in the position of negotiating from weakness... how my future diplomatic gains will be realized only if we can negotiate from a position of strength.

3. Talk about Jane Fonda ...(I wouldn't mention Ramsey Clark... he has back-pedalled). And ask your question whether they (the audience) agree with Jane Fonda or with the American POW's.

4. Talk about your opposition to amnesty... that you feel it could be an affront to the men who served in Vietnam to simply forgive and forget the actions of deserters and draft-dodgers.

5. Talk about the need for a new resurgence of national pride in America... the need to emphasize what is right about America... not to ignore any problems or sweep them under the rug... but simply to be affirmative in viewing what we have while seeking to make right whatever is wrong. So much is right about America that regardless of any failings it is still the greatest and the finest country in which to live, with the best government ever devised by the mind of man.

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WE HAVE THE IDEA THAT ALL OF OUR PROBLEMS TODAY ARE UNIQUE. MANY BELIEVE THAT WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE HAS NO BEARING ON TODAY. OLD GUIDELINES NO LONGER APPLY, THEY SAY. TODAY IS DIFFERENT.

BUT IS IT? BECAUSE WE HAVE MORE MONEY FLOATING AROUND. BECAUSE WE HAVE A BEWILDERING ARRAY OF GOODS AND SERVICES AT OUR BECK AND CALL. BECAUSE WE HAVE FEDERAL PROGRAMS, STATE PROGRAMS, GRANTS, LOANS, INSURANCE AND A HOST OF OTHER SCHEMES AND PLANS LITTLE DREAMED OF BY THOSE WHO GAVE THIS NATION ITS START -- DOES ALL THAT MEAN THAT ALL THE OLD VALUES ARE DROSS? HARDLY. OUR PROBLEMS MAY HAVE
CHANGED TO SOME EXTENT, BUT PEOPLE ARE
STILL PEOPLE, AND PRINCIPLES REMAIN AS
INVIOLATE AND AS MUCH A BEACON FOR OUR
GUIDANCE AS EVER. YOU THINK OUR PROBLEMS
ARE UNIQUE. LISTEN TO THIS QUOTE:
"THERE ARE PERSONS WHO CONSTANTLY CLAMOR.
THEY COMPLAIN OF OPPRESSION, SPECULATION,
AND PERNICIOUS INFLUENCE OF WEALTH. THEY
CRY OUT LOUDLY AGAINST ALL BANKS AND
CORPORATIONS, AND A MEANS BY WHICH SMALL
CAPITALISTS BECOME UNITED IN ORDER TO
PRODUCE IMPORTANT AND BENEFICIAL RESULTS.
THEY CARRY ON MAD HOSTILITY AGAINST ALL
ESTABLISHED INSTITUTIONS. THEY WOULD
CHOKE THE FOUNTAIN OF INDUSTRY AND DRY ALL
STREAMS." IS THIS SPIRO AGNEW TALKING
ABOUT THE RADICAL LEFT? NO. IT IS DANIEL
WEBSTER, SPEAKING BACK IN 1838 BEFORE THE
U. S. SENATE.
TODAY, JUST AS IN WEBSTER'S TIME, WE HAVE THOSE WHO ATTACK OUR SYSTEM, DOWNGRADE OUR INSTITUTIONS, CRITICIZE AND RIDICULE OUR INDUSTRIAL MIGHT AND UNDERMINE OUR DEFENSES.

LET'S TAKE A MOMENT TO LOOK AT AMERICA -- WHAT'S RIGHT WITH AMERICA. I THINK TOO MANY OF US SOMETIME CANNOT SEE THE FOREST FOR THE TREES. WE ARE SUBJECT TO SUCH A CONSTANT BARRAGE OF COMPLAINT, PROTEST, DISSENT, VITRIOLIC ATTACK, SNEERS AND DENIGRATION THAT WE MAY BE INCLINED TO FORGET JUST WHAT KIND OF COUNTRY WE HAVE BUILT -- YOU OF THE OLDER GENERATION, THOSE OF TODAY'S GENERATION, AND THOSE WHO WILL PROVIDE THE LEADERSHIP FOR TOMORROW'S AMERICA.

LET'S HIT SOME OF THE HIGH SPOTS.
WE ALL KNOW ABOUT OUR TRILLION-DOLLAR ECONOMY -- A SUM SO VAST THAT IT CANNOT HAVE MUCH MEANING -- EXCEPT THAT IF YOU STRUNG ONE TRILLION DOLLAR BILLS TOGETHER THEY WOULD REACH TO THE MOON, SOME 23,000 MILES AWAY, NEARLY 400 TIMES.

WE WILL ADD TO OUR PRODUCTION OF GOODS AND SERVICES THIS YEAR MORE THAN THE ENTIRE ECONOMY OF ITALY.

THIS IS MORE THAN EVER THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY. SINCE WORLD WAR II ALONE, WE HAVE INCREASED COLLEGE ATTENDANCE FROM 2.1 MILLION TO 9.2 MILLION AND ONLY 1 PER CENT OF OUR ENTIRE POPULATION TODAY IS ILLITERATE. WE WILL SPEND $97.6 BILLION ON EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS THIS YEAR ALONE. EDUCATION NO LONGER IS THE PRIVILEGE OF THE RICH, BUT THE ATTAINABLE GOAL OF
Any American who wants to work for it. Federal grants, loan programs, scholarships, foundation grants, GI benefits -- all bring education within reach of more young people today than at any time in our history.

Since World War II, we've added 5 years to the human lifespan. The death of newborn babies has dropped 44 per cent, and maternal death rate, 76 per cent. The number of Americans covered by health insurance has gone from 42 million to 183 million. While our population was going up 67 per cent, we had a jump of 335 per cent in health care coverage.

Twice as many Americans own their own homes today -- some 40 million of us. Automobile ownership is up 130 per cent and whether or not you regard it as a
BLESSING, OF THE HOMES WIRED FOR ELECTRICITY, 96 PER CENT HAVE AT LEAST ONE TV SET AND MORE THAN 43 PER CENT HAVE COLOR TV.

AMERICAN FAMILIES HAVE $448 BILLION IN THE BANK, AND PERSONAL INCOME HAS Risen TO $935 BILLION. WE HAVE MORE PROGRAMS TO FEED THE POOR, TAKE CARE OF THE DESTITUTE, TRAIN THE UNSKILLED AND LOOK AFTER THE ELDERLY. WE HAVE MASS TRANSIT, AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT AND THE INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM.

ALL IN ALL, THERE ARE MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND FEDERAL PROGRAMS ALONE THAT SEE TO THE WANTS AND ASPIRATIONS OF AMERICANS OF ALL RACES, CREEDS AND AGES. WITH ALL THIS GOING FOR US, WHY ARE THERE WAILS OF DISCONTENT? I THINK IT CAN BE SUMMED UP BY THE PHRASE "TOO MUCH, TOO SOON." WE HAVE BECOME INUNDATED WITH MATERIAL
BLESSINGS WITHOUT A PARALLEL DEVELOPMENT OF OUR AWARENESS, AND WITHOUT A GROWTH OF UNDERSTANDING AND SPIRITUAL BACKGROUND.

WE HEAR CRIES OF "FREEDOM NOW!"/

FREEDOM FROM WHAT? FROM A REPUBLIC THAT OFFERS HELP TO ALL LEVELS OF ITS SOCIETY? FROM A GOVERNMENT THAT GIVES EVERY CITIZEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE TO CHANGE ANY OF ITS INSTITUTIONS -- FROM THE SMALLEST HAMLET TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ITSELF? FREEDOM FROM JUSTICE UNMATCHED ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD? (IT WAS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT EVEN WHEN ANGELA DAVIS WAS FREED BY OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM THE CARPERS WERE NOT SATISFIED, DECLARING THAT SHE NEVER SHOULD HAVE BEEN TRIED AT ALL).

DO THEY WANT FREEDOM FROM OPPORTUNITY -- UNSURPASSED BY ANY OTHER
NATION ON EARTH? JUST WHAT DO THEY WANT FREEDOM FROM? I KNOW THAT MANY ARE NOT SHARING IN OUR ABUNDANCE IN THE MEASURE THAT THEY EXPECT. WE ARE WORKING ON THIS. MEANWHILE, WE ARE HELPING THEM GET THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE. POVERTY TODAY IN AMERICA IS A MATTER OF DEGREE. OUR POOR LIVE BETTER THAN THE SO-CALLED MIDDLE CLASS IN MANY NATIONS. BUT WE KNOW THAT THAT IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH. WE KNOW THAT OUR GOAL IS A DECENT LIFE, AND UNBOUNDED OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SOMETHING OF ONESELF FOR EVERY AMERICAN. IT IS A GOAL. IT CANNOT BE WHIPPED UP LIKE A MILKSHAKE. IT MUST BE EARNED.

I DO NOT VIEW TODAY'S DISSENT WITH THE ALARM THAT MANY PROFESS. I HAVE MORE FAITH IN OUR SYSTEM THAN THAT.
LIKE TRUE LOVE, THE COURSE OF REAL FREEDOM
NEVER HAS RUN SMOOTH. AUGUST HECKSHER
ONCE SAID: "IN ONE SENSE, FREEDOM IS ALWAYS
IN CRISIS, JUST AS BEAUTY IS, AND HONOR AND
TRUTH—ALL THOSE THINGS WHICH MAN HAS MADE
FOR HIMSELF AS A GARMENT AGAINST THE
EVER-PRESENT BLASTS OF THE BARBARIAN SPIRIT."

I DO BELIEVE THAT MANY WHO DISSENT—
AND I DON'T MEAN THE HARD-CORE SUBVERSIVES
WHO HATE AMERICA, BUT THOSE WHO CODDLE AND
SYMPATHIZE WITH THESE RADICAL DISSENTERS --
SHOULD LOOK DEEPER INTO WHAT THIS KIND OF
CONDUCT EXEMPLIFIES. IT IS NOT INDEPENDENCE.
CONTEMPT FOR LAW IS STUPIDITY, NOT
INDEPENDENCE. USE OF DEADLY DRUGS IS FOLLY,
NOT INDEPENDENCE.

TRUE INDEPENDENCE IN AMERICA
GIVES EVERYONE THE RIGHT TO WORK WITHIN
THE SYSTEM. NO BETTER FORM OF GOVERNMENT EVER HAS BEEN LAID BEFORE THE PEOPLE. CHANGE CAN BE WORKED, BUT NOT BY A TYRANNICAL MINORITY AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PUBLIC AT LARGE. DEBATE OFFERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE DIVERGENT VIEWS CLEARLY DEFINED. THE VOTE GIVES US THE DECISION POWER -- FREE AND UNFETTERED, UNINFLUENCED AND UNREGIMENTED.

I HAVE OUTLINED ONLY BRIEFLY HERE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT ARE RIGHT ABOUT AMERICA. THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA IS NOT DEAD. IT LIVES WITHIN US. WE MUST NOT LET THE SOPHISTY OF THE MALCONTENTS BLUR OUR CLEAR VISION OF JUST HOW WONDERFUL IT IS TO BE AN AMERICAN. WE MUST NOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE DELUDED THAT BECAUSE WE ARE NOT PERFECT WE ARE NOT BASICALLY GOOD. WE MUST NOT ALLOW THOSE WHO HAVE
WANDERED FROM THE PATHS OF COMMON SENSE INTO THE QUICKSANDS OF IMMORALITY AND LAWLESSNESS TO CLOUD OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO KEEP OUR COUNTRY ON AN EVEN KEEL. WE MUST NOT ALLOW THE INTEMPERANCE OF THEIR ACTIONS TO DIMINISH OUR UNDERSTANDING AND STRIVING FOR THE RIGHT.

-- END --

Winston Churchill / Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.

Benjamin Franklin / What have you given me - a monarchy or a Republic. A Republic, if you can keep it. Can keep it.

I have no fear. We are not Armoured with patience, unmarried soldiers.

WE LOVE AMERICA

Thank you very, very much, Mr. Davis. It is a very high honor and a very
great privilege for me to participate in this program, "A Salute to America," for
the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Davis, I thank you very greatly for that kind introduction. I have
some grave doubts that I'm the man you have described, but it was very nice to
hear what you had to say.

Just a few weeks ago, I and literally millions of Americans had the
exhilarating and thrilling experience of watching on television the return of
some 500-plus American prisoners of war who had come back after many years of
suffering mental and physical torture, hardship, privation. It was obvious to
me as it was to all of you that they have never lost their faith in God, their
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they spoke out. They embraced their loved ones. They offered prayers for their
return, and some actually kissed the soil upon which they had returned. These brave
and heroic men who have spent five, six, seven years in the hands of the enemy
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story. In time perhaps we'll even hear worse than what we've heard so far. But
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And we were proud of them, but even happier that they're back. They have done as
much in this day and age as other legendary heroes--Paul Revere and those that
followed. I suspect that their deeds and their words will live far longer and
far more favorably in the pages of history than those of such as Jane Fonda and
Tom Hayden.

But what about ourselves? What have we, you and I, done in the six and
seven years that they've been gone?

While our POW's were gone we have seen some very sharp changes in America,
in the fabric of our society, in the things that we have done or have failed to
do. We have seen hair grow longer on our youth. We've seen riots on our campuses
and in our streets. We've seen the heavy hand of government reach longer and
perhaps more restrictively. We often seem to have forgotten that a government
big enough to give us everything we want is a government big enough to take from
us everything we have.
During this span of time, short to us but long to a POW, we haven't done too well. For example, our national participation in the electoral process has gone down. In 1960, it was something over 62 per cent of those eligible to vote. In '68 it was less. And in '72 it was even less—55 per cent. It's not a very good record. We should be embarrassed as we look at the sacrifices they made while we did less.

The nation they left was still our society, and it's our society today. Philosophically we still have freedom and individuality. But I raise the question: Do we have enough dedication and discipline?

Let me shift gears for just a moment if I might. We have the idea that all of our problems today are unique. Many believe that what has gone before has no bearing on today. Old guidelines are no longer applicable, they say. Today is different. But is it?

Because we have more money floating around; because we have a bewildering array of goods and services at our beck and call; because we have federal programs, state programs, grants, loans, insurance, and a host of other schemes and plans little dreamed of by those who gave this nation its start; does that all mean that old values are unimportant and invalid? Hardly. Our problems may have changed to some extent, but people are still people. And principles remain as inviolate and as much a beacon for our guidance as ever.

You think our problems are unique in the 1970's? Listen for a moment to this quotation: "There are persons who constantly clamor, they complain of oppression, speculation and pernicious influence of wealth. They cry out loudly against all banks and corporations as a means by which small capitalists become united in order to produce important and beneficial results. They carry on mad hostility against all established institutions. They would choke the fountain of industry and dry all streams." Is this Vice President Agnew talking about the radical left? No. It's Daniel Webster speaking back in 1835 before the United States Senate. Today, just as in Webster's time, we have those who attack our system, downgrade our institutions, criticize and ridicule our industrial might, and undermine our defenses.

Let's take a moment to look at America. What's right with America? I think too many of us sometimes cannot see the forest for the trees. We are
subjected to such a constant barrage of complaint, protest, dissent, vitriolic attacks, sneers and denigration that we may be inclined to forget just what kind of a country we have built.

You of the older generation, those of today's generation, and those who will provide the leadership for tomorrow's America, let's hit some of the high spots. We all know about our trillion-dollar economy. A sum so vast that it cannot have much meaning to most people, except that if you strung one trillion dollar bills together, they would reach to the moon some 23,000 miles away nearly 400 times. We will add to our production of goods and services this year more than the entire economy of Italy.

This is more than ever the land of opportunity. Since World War II alone, we have increased college attendance from two million to nine million. And only one per cent of our entire population today is illiterate. We will spend almost $98 billion on education at all levels in this year of 1973. Education is no longer the privilege of the rich but the attainable goal of any American who wants to work for it. Federal grants, loan programs, scholarships, foundation grants, GI benefits, all bring education within reach of more young people today than at any other time in our Nation's history.

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We have more programs to feed the poor, take care of the destitute, train the unskilled and look after the elderly. We have mass transit, airport improvement, and interstate highway systems. All in all, there are more than 1,000 federal programs that see to the wants and the aspirations of Americans of all races, creeds and colors.

With all of this going for us, why are there wails of discontent in America? I think it can be summed up by the phrase, "too much too soon." We have been inundated with material blessings without a parallel development of our awareness, without a growth of understanding in spiritual background. Maybe we can learn
something from our prisoners of war who had so little while we had so much.

We hear cries of "freedom now." Freedom from what? From a republic that offers help to all levels of society? From a government that gives every citizen the opportunity to vote to change any of its institutions, from the smallest hamlet to the national government itself? Freedom from justice unmatched anywhere in the world? Do they want freedom from opportunity unsurpassed by any other nation on the earth?

I know that many are not sharing in our abundance in the measure that they expect. We are working on this. But they must work also. Meanwhile we are helping them to get the necessities of life. Poverty today in America is a matter of degree. Our poor live better than the so-called middle classes in many nations. But we know that that is not good enough. We know that our goal is a decent life—an unbounded opportunity to make something of ourselves for every American. It is a goal. It cannot be whipped up like a milkshake. It must be earned.

I do not view today's dissent with the alarm that many profess. I have more faith in our system than that. Like true love, the course of real freedom has never run smoothly.

I do believe that many who dissent—and I don't mean the hard-core subversives who hate America, but those who coddle and sympathize with the radical dissenters—should look deeper into what it is this kind of conduct exemplifies. It is not independence. Contempt for law is stupidity, not independence. Use of deadly drugs is folly, not independence.

True independence in America gives everyone the right to work within the system. No better form of government has ever been laid before the people. Change can be worked, but not by the tyrannical minority at the expense of the public at large. Debate offers the opportunity to make divergent views clearly defined. The vote gives us the decision power—free, unfettered, uninfluenced and unrepresented.

The spirit of America is not dead. It lives within us. We must not let the sophistry of the malcontents blur our clear vision of just how wonderful it is to be in America. We must not allow ourselves to be duped—that because we are not perfect we are not basically good. We must not allow those who have wandered from the paths of common sense into the quicksands of immorality and lawlessness to cloud our responsibility to keep our nation on an even keel. We must not allow the intemperance of their actions to diminish our understanding.
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Let me close with just two quotes. A great statesman, Sir Winston Churchill, once said: "Democracy is the worst form of government, except that it's better than anything that's been tried before."

And then some 200 years ago about 55 elected representatives to the Constitutional Convention met in the city of Philadelphia from May 'til September, and they labored long and hard to put together a document for a new nation. And after many compromises, preceded by arguments pro and con on this issue and that, they concluded their labors. According to the story, Ben Franklin, who was one of the delegates, left the hall. And as he came to the street he was accosted by a bystander. The bystander asked him the question: "Mr. Franklin, what have you given us? A monarchy or a republic?" And Mr. Franklin replied, "We have given you a republic if you can keep it."

I'm an optimist. I believe that we are not sunshine soldiers and summer patriots. We love America. Thank you very much.

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