

The original documents are located in Box 2, folder “10/24/74 - President's Dinner, United GOP Fundraiser, Chicago” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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*Thank Pacey/Bill Sears
Les Arends.
Coyne
New Randall*

THANK YOU, DAN TERRA, FOR THAT FINE INTRODUCTION.

IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE IN CHICAGO AGAIN ---

THE HOME OF THE BEARS, THE BULLS, AND THE KANGAROO.....THAT'S WHAT

I LIKE ABOUT CHICAGO. . YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON EXCITING THINGS

in the Windy City.

HAPPENING ~~HERE~~. DAN TERRA TELLS ME, THE WAY THAT KANGAROO HAS

BEEN DODGING TACKLERS, THERE'S A BIG CONTROVERSY OVER WHAT TO DO

WITH HIM WHEN THEY CATCH HIM. THE CHICAGO POLICE WANT TO PUT

HIM IN THE ZOO -- AND THE CHICAGO BEARS WANT TO PUT HIM IN THE

BACKFIELD!.....AND, OF COURSE, THE DEMOCRATS WANT TO REGISTER

HIM ----- AT LEAST ONCE!

HE SAID, "LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT MIGHT INTEREST YOU TO KNOW THAT
I PLAYED FOOTBALL WITH JERRY FORD FOR TWO YEARS -- AND IT MADE A
LASTING IMPRESSION ON ME. I WAS A QUARTERBACK. JERRY FORD
WAS THE CENTER. AND YOU MIGHT SAY, IT GAVE ME A COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT!"

*my little
we*

CHICAGO IS GETTING TO BE A HABIT WITH ME -- AND I LOVE

THE PLACE. I WAS HERE IN JUNE FOR A CONGRESSIONAL BOOSTERS

FUNDRAISER AND AGAIN IN JULY AT A DINNER FOR STATE SENATE INCUMBENTS

AND CANDIDATES. AND BETTY WAS HERE IN SEPTEMBER FOR A LUNCHEON

HONORING REPUBLICAN WOMEN CANDIDATES.

INCIDENTALLY, BETTY IS A CHICAGO NATIVE, AS YOU
MAY KNOW. SHE SENDS YOU HER LOVE. SHE IS DOING FINE AND
TOLD ME SHE HOPES TO BE BACK IN HERE AGAIN SOON TO SEE ALL HER
OLD FRIENDS.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK THE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS WHO

PRECEDED ME ON THE PLATFORM THIS EVENING:

BILL CROFT, WHO HAS DONE A GREAT JOB AS DINNER CHAIRMAN

AND M.C.;

PETE BENSINGER, WHO WILL MAKE A GREAT COUNTY SHERIFF;

HARRY PAGE, WHO IS RUNNING HARD AND WELL FOR STATE

TREASURER, AND WHO IS JUST THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB;

CHUCK PERCY, ONE OF THE MOST INTELLIGENT, ARTICULATE
MEN IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE, AND A GOOD FRIEND;

GEORGE BURDITT, WHO WILL MAKE A GREAT COLLEAGUE FOR
CHUCK -- A SENATOR WHO WILL VOTE AGAINST BIG SPENDING AND AGAINST
INFLATION -- THE KIND OF MAN WE NEED IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE;

AND, OF COURSE, DAN TERRA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
REPUBLICAN FUND OF ILLINOIS. DAN, I JUST WANT TO SAY THANK YOU
FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

SINCE THIS CAMPAIGN BEGAN I HAVE BEEN TO ALMOST EVERY
128,000 miles.

PART OF THE COUNTRY. ¹ EVERYWHERE I FOUND THE SAME THING.

PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT. PEOPLE ARE

WORRIED ABOUT WHERE WE'RE HEADING AS A NATION, AND WHAT IS BEING DONE

ABOUT THE PROBLEMS WE FACE.

AND PEOPLE ARE FED UP WITH CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT,

WHETHER IT IS GRAFT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL OR ABUSE OF POWER AT THE TOP.

IT IS UP TO THOSE OF US IN POLITICAL LIFE TO GIVE THE KIND
OF LEADERSHIP, THE KIND OF EXAMPLE THAT AMERICANS CAN BELIEVE IN.
AND THAT IS WHAT THE ILLINOIS G.O.P. HAS DONE, HERE IN COOK COUNTY
AND THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

NOW I REALIZE THAT THERE ARE SOME POLITICAL PROPHETS

WHO THINK THAT THE GAME IS UP -- THAT PEOPLE ARE GOING TO STAMPEDE

BLINDLY INTO THE DEMOCRATIC COLUMN.

~~BUT~~ I DON'T BELIEVE THAT. THAT IS WHY I AM HERE

TONIGHT.

I HAVE BEEN IN PUBLIC LIFE FOR 26 YEARS ~~NOW~~. I HAVE

SEEN A LOT OF ELECTIONS AND I HEARD A LOT OF WISE PREDICTIONS.

~~_____~~ ~~_____~~
THEY WERE ALMOST ALWAYS WRONG. ^{Frankly} IT WAS THE ONE THING YOU COULD

~~_____~~
~~_____~~
COUNT ON.

THE ONLY RULE OF THUMB THAT I KNOW -- AND IT IS ONE
THAT HAS NEVER FAILED ME -- WAS TAUGHT ME BY ONE OF MY DEAREST,
OLDEST FRIENDS. HE WAS A GREAT CONGRESSMAN, A GREAT SENATOR
AND A GREAT ORATOR. I WILL NEVER FORGET HIM.

HE CAME FROM ILLINOIS AND HIS NAME WAS EV DIRKSEN.

Tully

I REMEMBER ONE AFTERNOON -- WHEN WE WERE TALKING

TOGETHER IN HIS CAPITOL OFFICE.

*Ev was saying a Democrat among
Democrats / I've always wished I had
just a bit of his sugar
tablets.*

THE VIETNAM WAR WAS GOING FULL BLAST. INFLATION WAS

A PROBLEM. THE DEMOCRATS HAD SWAMPED US IN 1964, AND A LOT OF

PEOPLE WERE SAYING THAT THE G.O.P. WAS FINISHED.

FRANKLY, I WAS FEELING A LITTLE DOWN, A LITTLE

DISCOURAGED, AND I TOLD EV SO.

|||

HE PAUSED FOR A MOMENT, LOOKED AT ME AND SAID,

"JERRY, DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN. YOU JUST KEEP IN THERE DOING

YOUR BEST FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLE WILL DO THEIR BEST FOR YOU."

THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I DID, AND I FOUND OUT THAT

EV DIRKSEN WAS RIGHT. IT WORKED.

IT WORKED FOR ME IN THE CONGRESS AND I BELIEVE IT WILL

WORK IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

BUT TO DO MY BEST FOR THE PEOPLE AND FOR AMERICA,

I AM GOING TO NEED THE HELP OF GOOD MEN AND WOMEN IN THE CONGRESS --

MEN AND WOMEN WHO WILL HELP ME FIGHT GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND

WHIP INFLATION.

WHAT WE NEED -- WHAT WE MUST HAVE IF WE ARE TO SEE

AMERICA THROUGH THIS DIFFICULT ECONOMIC PERIOD -- IS NOT A

VETO-PROOF CONGRESS BUT AN INFLATION-PROOF CONGRESS.

I THINK ALL OF US HAVE LEARNED IN LIFE THAT PROBLEMS --
THE REALLY BIG PROBLEMS -- DON'T SPRING UP OVERNIGHT. AND THEY
DON'T GET SOLVED OVERNIGHT EITHER.

INFLATION IS LIKE THAT. IT HAS BEEN BUILDING UP FOR
YEARS, LIKE A DISEASE IN THE BODY OF THE ECONOMY. CURING IT
WILL TAKE TIME. BUT IT CAN BE DONE.

HOW DID IT HAPPEN? HOW DID INFLATION GET OUT OF

CONTROL?

THERE IS NO SINGLE, SIMPLE ANSWER. BUT ONE BIG REASON

IS GOVERNMENT SPENDING. HAND-IN-HAND, THEY HAVE GROWN TOGETHER.

EACH UNBALANCED BUDGET -- EACH WASTEFUL SPENDING BILL RAMMED

THROUGH THE CONGRESS -- HAS ADDED TO YOUR COST OF LIVING AND FED

INFLATION.

HERE IN ILLINOIS YOU ARE LUCKY. YOU HAVE 12 GREAT

REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMEN RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION: BOB MICHEL,

ED DERWINSKI, JOHN ANDERSON, PAUL FINDLEY, BOB McCLORY,

JOHN ERLBORN, TOM RAILSBACK, PHIL CRANE, GEORGE O'BRIEN,

BOB HANRAHAN, ED MADIGAN AND SAM YOUNG.

EACH OF THESE GREAT FRIENDS AND FORMER COLLEAGUES

IS A REAL CHAMP -- A HARD-HITTING INFLATION FIGHTER. AND SO

ARE THE OTHER 11 REPUBLICAN HOUSE CANDIDATES.

WE NEED THEM IN WASHINGTON. THEY NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

BUT YOU DON'T JUST FIGHT INFLATION IN WASHINGTON.

THE BATTLEFIELD IS THE WHOLE COUNTRY -- EVERY STATE, EVERY COUNTY

AND EVERY CITY. SO I HOPE YOU WILL ALL GET BEHIND YOUR REPUBLICAN

STATE LEGISLATURE CANDIDATES. ONLY THEY CAN GIVE YOU THE KIND

OF RESPONSIBLE, ECONOMICAL STATE GOVERNMENT YOU WANT.

THAT IS THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF OUR PARTY -- FROM

LINCOLN'S DAY TO THE PRESENT. TO BE JUST, TO BE FAIR, TO BE

RESPONSIBLE. TO STAND UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT AND TO GIVE AMERICA

THE KIND OF GOOD GOVERNMENT IT NEEDS AND DESERVES.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY HAS STOOD THAT TEST. IT ENDED
THE LONGEST, BLOODIEST WAR IN AMERICA'S HISTORY; IT HAS BEGUN
THE LONG, HARD PROCESS OF RETURNING POWER FROM THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT BACK TO THE PEOPLE AND THEIR LOCALLY ELECTED LEADERS;
AND, IT IS LEADING THE BATTLE AGAINST INFLATION AND GOVERNMENT
SPENDING -- A BATTLE AMERICA MUST WIN.

IF WE PULL TOGETHER, WE CAN DO IT. AS EV DIRKSEN SAID,
"IF WE DO THE BEST WE CAN FOR THE PEOPLE, THEY WILL DO THEIR BEST FOR US."

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