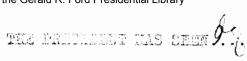
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## PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS AT BREAKFAST FOR DEFEATED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1974

FRANKLY, I DON'T QUITE KNOW HOW TO BEGIN THIS LITTLE TALK. NORMALLY. I WOULD SAY TO AN AUDIENCE HOW GLAD I AM TO SEE SO MANY OF YOU HERE TODAY. . . BUT ON THIS OCCASION, I WOULD HAVE MUCH PREFERRED SPEAKING TO AN EMPTY HOUSE.

THERE'S AN OLD SAYING THAT GOES: THE TROUBLE WITH BEING A GOOD SPORT IS -- YOU HAVE TO LOSE TO PROVE IT.

THE FRESHBLICE INS GRATAS.

PERSONALLY, I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THIS OCCASION TO BE MORE BIPARTISAN. THE REPRESENTATION SEEMS A BIT LOPSIDED WITH MY FORMER REPUBLICAN COLLEAGUES. I GUESS ABE LINCOLN SUMMED UP THE EXPERIENCE OF LOSING BEST WHEN HE SAID THAT HE WAS TOO BIG TO CRY AND IT HURT TOO MUCH TO LAUGH. TWO YEARS LATER, LINCOLN WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT. I HOPE YOU ALL MAKE A POLITICAL COMEBACK -- BUT NOT THAT ONE. RECENTLY, SENATOR WALTER MONDALE SAID HE DIDN'T HAVE THE SPIRIT TO COPE WITH A PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. I HOPE THAT THE FEELING IS CONTAGIOUS.

ONE OF THE MASTER POLITICIANS OF THIS CENTURY, WINSTON CHURCHILL, UNDERSTOOD THE CHANGING WHIMS OF PUBLIC OPINION WELL. IN RECENT DOCUMENTARIES MARKING HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY, FILMS SHOWED LEADING FIGURES IN BRITISH POLITICS WHO DISMISSED CHURCHILL IN THE 1930'S AS A "LOST CAUSE." A FEW YEARS LATER, HE ELECTRIFIED AND UNIFIED THE WESTERN WORLD WITH HIS BRILLIANT WARTIME LEADERSHIP . . . ONLY TO FIND HIMSELF, DAYS AFTER THE WAR'S END, OUT OF OFFICE. HE DESCRIBED THE FORTUNES OF OUR PROFESSION THIS WAY:

"POLITICS ARE ALMOST AS EXCITING AS WAR, AND QUITE AS DANGEROUS. IN WAR YOU CAN ONLY BE KILLED ONCE BUT IN

POLITICS MANY TIMES."

SO YOU ARE ALL IN GOOD COMPANY WITH CHURCHILL AND LINCOLN. LIKE THOSE TWO, I HOPE EACH OF YOU WILL RETURN TO THE POLITICAL ARENA -- BECAUSE YOUR EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE ARE NEEDED.

IN FACT, BOTH ARE NEEDED BEFORE YOU LEAVE YOUR PRESENT POSITIONS.

IN THE FADING DAYS OF THIS CONGRESS, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF VITAL MEASURES WHICH DEMAND ACTION. ONE IS THE CONFIRMATION OF NELSON ROCKEFELLER AS VICE PRESIDENT. ANOTHER IS PASSAGE OF THE FOREIGN AID BILL. ANOTHER IS THE TRADE REFORM BILL. ALL OF YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THE IMPORTANT PIECES OF LEGISLATION THAT STILL REQUIRE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION -- AND I AM SURE YOU ARE DEDICATED TO COMPLETING THIS UNFINISHED BUSINESS BEFORE THE 93RD CONGRESS COMES TO AN END. AFTER THIS PHASE OF YOUR POLITICAL CAREER CLOSES,

AMERICA WILL CONTINUE TO FACE PROBLEMS REQUIRING YOUR ENERGY AND EXPERTISE. BUT WHATEVER PATH YOU CHOOSE, TO EACH OF YOU THE BEST OF LUCK -- AND GOD BLESS YOU.

## END

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