

The original documents are located in Box 6, folder “3/5/75 - University of Michigan Club's 23rd Annual Congressional Dinner” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PRESIDENT FLEMMING
CONGRESSMAN ESCH
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
FELLOW ALUMNI

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Chuck Winston
Pete Pincus

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. *df*

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN CLUB'S

23RD ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL DINNER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1975

IT IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO COME TO THESE
CONGRESSIONAL DINNERS FOR THE FRIENDSHIP, THE FELLOWSHIP,
AND THE FUN.

I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE PROGRAM
TONIGHT, AND I DO APPRECIATE THE HONOR OF YOUR CALLING IT:

"THIS IS YOUR UNIVERSITY, MR. PRESIDENT." ALL I CAN

TELL YOU IS, THEY SURE DIDN'T KNOW IT BACK IN 1935.

*Alvah / 4 children
who genetic traits
jump ship a
question*

I CAN STILL REMEMBER SPENDING A GOOD PART OF

MY SOPHOMORE AND JUNIOR YEARS WASHING DISHES IN THE

DEKE HOUSE.

AND I MEAN WASHING DISHES.

I WASHED

SO MANY DISHES, I WAS THE ONLY ATHLETE IN MICHIGAN HISTORY

WHO EVER HAD FOOTBALL KNEE AND DISHPAN HANDS AT THE SAME TIME!

AS YOU KNOW, I DID PLAY SOME FOOTBALL FOR THE
WOLVERINES. I WAS THE STARTING CENTER ON THE 1934 TEAM
AND THAT WAS QUITE A YEAR. THE WOLVERINES PLAYED OHIO
STATE AND WE LOST THIRTY-FOUR TO NOTHING. AND TO MAKE
IT EVEN WORSE, THAT YEAR WE LOST SEVEN OUT OF OUR EIGHT GAMES.
BUT WHAT REALLY HURT WAS WHEN ^{my teammates} ~~THEY~~ VOTED ME -- THEIR
MOST VALUABLE PLAYER I DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER
TO SMILE OR SUE!

*When I look
back 1931 to now*

SO MANY FINE MEMORIES COME TO MIND.

IN MY

FRESHMAN YEAR, I HAD A JOB AT THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL.

my department
I WAS A WAITER IN THE INTERNS' DINING ROOM AND, *a very energetic waiter* THE NURSES'

CAFETERIA AND IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN BETTER. I WORKED

IN THE INTERNS' DINING ROOM FOR THEIR BENEFIT -- AND IN THE

NURSES' CAFETERIA FOR MINE.

PERSONALLY, I'M INTRIGUED BY THE DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN THEN AND NOW -- AS WELL AS THE SIMILARITIES.

FOR INSTANCE, BACK IN ANN ARBOR, I LIVED ON THE FOURTH
FLOOR OF A ROOMING HOUSE AND MY RENT WAS FOUR DOLLARS, ^{per week.}
4.

TODAY, IN WASHINGTON, THAT BUILDING WOULD BE DESCRIBED

AS A TOWNHOUSE - THE ROOM WOULD BE CALLED A PAD -

400.00

THE RENT WOULD BE FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS - AND YOU STILL

WOULDN'T GET ENOUGH HOT WATER!

OF COURSE, THAT DOESN'T APPLY TO WHERE I LIVE

NOW . . . I'VE ONLY BEEN THERE SEVEN MONTHS AND YOU

CAN'T BELIEVE ALL THE HOT WATER I'VE GOTTEN INTO!

FRANKLY, I JUST WISH SOME OF MY CRITICS COULD HAVE
BEEN HERE TONIGHT. I WOULD HAVE LIKED THEM TO KNOW WHAT
MY MAJOR WAS - - - - - ECONOMICS!

IT SHOWS YOU HOW LITTLE TIMES HAVE CHANGED.
IN 1935, I GOT MY FIRST DEGREE -- AND IN 1975, I'M GETTING
from some sources
THE THIRD DEGREE -- AND IT'S STILL IN ECONOMICS!

BUT NOW, AS THEN, I LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH
CONFIDENCE. THOSE OF US WHO WENT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF
MICHIGAN DURING THE THIRTIES DON'T HAVE TO BE REMINDED OF
JUST HOW HARD THOSE TIMES WERE. BUT WHAT YEARS HAVEN'T
BEEN HARD -- AND WHAT TIMES HAVEN'T BEEN A CHALLENGE TO

THOSE WHO LIVED THEM?

And, what's wrong with
CHALLENGE?

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN GRATEFUL FOR MY YEARS AT
MICHIGAN. THEY WERE GOOD YEARS. YEARS THAT PROVIDED
ME WITH THE BUILDING BLOCKS AND BLUEPRINTS TO FASHION A LIFE
FROM. YEARS THAT GAVE ME SO MANY TRUE FRIENDS TO
EXPERIENCE A LIFE WITH.

A RARE NIGHT LIKE THIS ALLOWS US TO LOOK BACK --

WITH AFFECTION, AND AT TIMES, WITH AMUSEMENT.

BUT OUR SIGHTS SHOULD ALWAYS BE SET ON TOMORROW --

AND THE MANY TOMORROWS THAT FOLLOW.

I KNOW MINE ARE. I TEND TO FOLLOW THE SENTIMENTS
EXPRESSED IN ONE OF OUR DEARLY LOVED COLLEGE SONGS.

THE ONE THAT SAYS: "I WANT TO GO BACK TO MICHIGAN."

AND I DO. BUT WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I WOULD LIKE TO DO

IT IN 1981.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT