The original documents are located in Box 6, folder “3/26/75 - White House Republican Reception” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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WHITE HOUSE REPUBLICAN RECEPTION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1975
I AM DELIGHTED SO MANY OF YOU COULD JOIN BETTY AND ME THIS EVENING, BECAUSE IT GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS. I CAN THINK OF NO BETTER WAY TO THANK THE MOVERS AND MOTIVATORS OF THE GRAND OLD PARTY -- THAN TO HAVE A GRAND OLD PARTY RIGHT HERE IN THE WHITE HOUSE.
AND AS I LOOK ABOUT ME THIS EVENING, AT YOUR ENERGY, YOUR VITALITY, YOUR DRIVE AND YOUR ENTHUSIASM -- I LOOK FORWARD TO A NEW REPUBLICAN RENAISSANCE. THIS WON'T BE THE GRAVEYARD OF THE ELEPHANTS!
MANY OF YOU ARE OLD ASSOCIATES. YOU AND I HAVE WORKED SUCCESSFULLY TOGETHER BEFORE AND I KNOW WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE. TO SHOW YOU WHAT HIGH VALUE I PUT ON OLD ASSOCIATES -- LET ME JUST POINT OUT THAT FIVE MEMBERS OF MY TOP PERSONAL STAFF ARE FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE: MILT FRIEDMAN, PAUL THEIS, BOB ORBEN, JACK CALKINS AND KAYE PULLEN ALL SERVED ON THE HILL.
I really shouldn't say "old" associates.

For instance, it has been said that Milt Friedman, who many of you know, is Washington's most eligible, most attractive, and most sophisticated bachelor.

And tonight you will have the opportunity to meet the one who said it -- Milt Friedman.
AND AS YOU MAY KNOW, MY TOP STAFF ALSO INCLUDES GWEN ANDERSON, FORMERLY A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE.
THE JOB BEFORE US, AS A PARTY, IS IMMENSE.

BUT I MEANT EXACTLY WHAT I SAID EARLIER THIS MONTH AT THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE. WE ARE GOING UP FROM NOW ON.

WE ARE GOING TO RECAPTURE SEATS WE LOST IN 1974. WE ARE GOING TO TAKE SEATS THAT WE HAVEN'T HELD BEFORE. AND WE ARE GOING TO TAKE OVER STATEHOUSES ALL ACROSS THIS COUNTRY.
YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES WE GET SO CAUGHT UP IN OUR OWN CONCERNS, WE FORGET THE DEMOCRATS HAVE PROBLEMS TOO. AS I POINTED OUT AT THE GRIDIRON DINNER LAST SATURDAY NIGHT, THE DEMOCRATS ARE FACED WITH ONE OF THE MOST PRESSING AND SIGNIFICANT QUESTIONS OF OUR TIME. THEY NOW HAVE TO DECIDE IF MOE UDALL'S CAMPAIGN FOR PRESIDENT -- HAS PEAKED TOO SOON!
IN THE UPCOMING CAMPAIGNS, YOUR WORK WILL BE
MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER BEFORE, FOR TWO REASONS:
FIRST, THE CAMPAIGNS WILL BE SHOE-LEATHER CAMPAIGNS TO A
HIGH DEGREE. THIS IS SO -- LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE
LIMITS ON CONTRIBUTIONS AND SPENDING UNDER THE NEW LAW.
SECOND, YOUR FUND-RAISING EFFORTS FOR ALL CANDIDATES
WILL BE CRUCIAL, CRITICAL PARTS OF OUR TOTAL EFFORT.
I AM ALSO GREATLY PLEASED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO THANK EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR THE TREMENDOUSLY SUCCESSFUL,
STANDING-ROOM ONLY, LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE EARLIER THIS MONTH.
MY SPECIAL THANKS GO TO MARY LOUISE SMITH, EDDIE MAHE (MYY)
AND TO THE FIVE VERY CAPABLE LADIES WHO WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE
DRAMATIC SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE -- KIT DONAHUE (DONNA-HUE),
JACKIE NYSTROM (NYE-STRUM), CATHY BERTINI (BER-TEENIE),
JANE GRIGOR (GRIGG-ER) AND CHERYL JACKSON.
LOOKING AHEAD, I CONGRATULATE EACH OF YOU ON THE HARD WORK YOU ARE PUTTING IN ON THE SENATE-HOUSE FUND-RAISING DINNER NEXT MONTH -- TO HELP RAISE MONEY FOR THE 1976 CAMPAIGNS.
IF WE ARE GOING TO BROADEN THE BASE OF THE PARTY --

TO MAKE THE POLITICS OF ADDITION -- INSTEAD OF SUBTRACTION --

WORK, WE MUST COMMIT OURSELVES AGAIN AND AGAIN TO

ACCOMMODATION, CONCILIATION AND COOPERATION -- NOT TO

MENTION HARD WORK. THE SPIRIT I SEE HERE THIS EVENING

IS THE BEST PROOF THAT WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. THANK YOU ALL --

VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT