The original documents are located in Box 7, folder “4/15/75 - Senate - House Dinner” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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SENATE-HOUSE DINNER

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 1975
LET ME THANK TED STEVENS, THE DISTINGUISHED SENATOR FROM ALASKA, FOR THAT VERY KIND INTRODUCTION. PERSONALLY, I HAVE ALWAYS FELT A VERY SPECIAL AFFINITY FOR THE GREAT STATE OF ALASKA BECAUSE THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT ALASKA'S WEATHER THAT ALWAYS MAKES ME A BIT NOSTALGIC. ALASKA'S WEATHER ALWAYS REMINDS ME OF ALL THE DEMOCRATS WHO USED TO SAY: "IT'LL BE A COLD DAY WHEN JERRY FORD BECOMES PRESIDENT!"

WELL ---- I MIGHT JUST KEEP THIS COLD WAVE GOING A LITTLE LONGER THAN THEY THINK.
INCIDENTALLY, YOU MAY BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT

ANOTHER ONE OF THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES IS GETTING READY TO GIVE UP THE RACE. I WON'T SAY WHO -- BUT YESTERDAY HE TOLD BOB STRAUSS, THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, "I'M GETTING VERY DISCOURAGED."
AND BOB STRAUSS IS SUCH AN OPTIMIST, HE SAID, "WHY?"

THE CANDIDATE SAID, "WHY? I'LL TELL YOU WHY. IN THE LAST

GALLUP POLL, FIFTEEN HUNDRED VOTES WERE CAST AND I GOT THIRTEEN."

BOB SAID, "THIS IS NO TIME TO GET SUPERSTITIOUS!"
IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE TONIGHT -- AND

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES, LET ME WELCOME YOU TO THE REPUBLICAN PARTY'S FIRST NO-FRILLS, ECONOMY, ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS A PLATE DINNER . . . THINKING POSITIVELY -- HOW OFTEN CAN YOU GO HOME FROM A DINNER AND REALIZE THAT EVERY STRINGBEAN YOU LEFT ON YOUR PLATE COST YOU FOURTEEN DOLLARS AND SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS?

I consulted with Betty, arranged and signed a check for $1,000.

If she does it, I vote.
I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO SEE SO MANY OLD FRIENDS

HERE TONIGHT -- AS WELL AS SOME NEW ONES -- FROM THE

HOUSE AND THE SENATE. AND I WANT TO SAY A SPECIAL THANKS

TO THOSE OF YOU WhOSE GENERous SUPPORT MAKES THIS GREAT

DINNER POSSIBLE.
THE NEW CAMPAIGN LAW HAS CREATED A NEW BALL GAME IN FINANCING HOUSE AND SENATE RACES.

AS A CONTRIBUTOR, YOU ARE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION OF ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR EACH CANDIDATE FOR FEDERAL OFFICE.
IN PRACTICE, THIS MEANS THAT OUR PARTY MUST ATTRACT EVEN MORE THOUSANDS OF SMALL, INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS.

OUR RECORD OF SUCH BROAD SUPPORT IS EXCELLENT.

I AM PROUD OF WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED. BUT WE MUST DO EVEN BETTER.
I believe this trend to a larger number of small contributors will prove to be a blessing. It has long been my conviction that anyone who gives as little as one dollar becomes committed by this individual action to helping either a candidate or a party.
BY YOUR PRESENCE, YOU ARE DEMONSTRATING THE LONG-TIME FAITH ALL OF US SHARE IN OUR PARTY AND ITS MOST FUNDAMENTAL GOALS.

I AM ALSO EXTREMELY GLAD TO SEE SO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE HERE FROM SO MANY STATES.
I was an early sponsor of lowering the voting age to eighteen. Some of my colleagues disagreed because they feared young people would automatically vote for the other party.

But I felt that the intelligent judgment of youth would attract very many to our own party. And I have been gratified by the results.
YOUNG PEOPLE ARE A VITAL NEW SOURCE OF REPUBLICAN ENERGY, REPUBLICAN IDEALISM AND REPUBLICAN IDEAS.

TO YOUNG REPUBLICANS EVERYWHERE, I SAY WE WELCOME YOU -- AND WE NEED YOU.
THE PROCEEDS FROM THIS DINNER GO TO THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE AND TO THE HOUSE AND SENATE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES -- WHOSE COMBINED EFFORTS ARE VITAL TO OUR GOALS.
AFTER EIGHT MONTHS IN THE WHITE HOUSE, I KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE -- AND I MEAN ANYONE -- THE IMPORTANCE OF REPUBLICANS IN THE CONGRESS.

AND I PROMISE YOU THIS: I DO NOT CHOOSE TO RUN IN 1976 FOR MYSELF ALONE -- MY 1976 CAMPAIGN WILL BE FOR ALL REPUBLICANS, EVERYWHERE!
THIS DINNER BEGINS A BROAD RESURGENCE OF REPUBLICAN STRENGTH EVERYWHERE -- BUT ESPECIALLY IN THE HOUSE, THE SENATE AND THE STATE CAPITALS. IT IS VITAL TO MY ADMINISTRATION -- AND TO OUR ENTIRE NATION -- THAT WE WORK IN EVERY STATE AND EVERY PRECINCT TO RESTORE BALANCE TO OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM.

WE WILL BE PARTNERS IN A COMMON AND CRUCIAL CAUSE -- THE CAUSE OF REPUBLICAN VICTORY!
ONE THING I LEARNED IN MORE THAN A QUARTER-CENTURY OF POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT IS THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR VICTORY ARE Seldom so bleak or so good as they seem when you're in the thick of a fight. Time after time, a supposedly ruined party has rebuilt and returned -- stronger than ever. And repeatedly, candidates once considered unbeatable have been beaten.
LOOKING OVER THE HOPEFUL DEMOCRATS IN THE PRESIDENTIAL SWEEPSTAKES, FRANKLY, I DON'T SEE ANY WHO ARE UNBEATABLE.
LET ME REMIND YOU THAT WHEN I BECAME MINORITY LEADER, WE WERE OUTNUMBERED TWO HUNDRED AND NINETY-FOUR TO ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-ONE IN THE HOUSE. TWO YEARS LATER, WHEN THE NEXT HOUSE ASSEMBLED, IT WAS TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY-EIGHT TO ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN -- A NET GAIN OF FORTY-SEVEN SEATS FOR REPUBLICANS.

WE HAVE DONE IT BEFORE. WE CAN -- WE WILL -- DO IT AGAIN!
SO LET ME MAKE A PREDICTION BASED ON SOME
EXPERIENCE. AS THE ECONOMY CONTINUES TO IMPROVE
THIS YEAR AND NEXT, WE WILL BE IN GOOD SHAPE IN NOVEMBER
OF 1976 TO WIN LOCAL RACES, HOUSE AND SENATE SEATS,
AND GOVERNORSHIPS ALL OVER THIS COUNTRY.
BUT FOR 1975, THERE IS A LOT OF SPADEWORK TO BE DONE.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY MUST REACH OUT AS NEVER BEFORE TO

ATTRACT NEW VOTERS, NON-VOTERS, INDEPENDENTS AND DEMOCRATS

DESERTED BY THEIR LEADERSHIP.
OUR TASK IS NOT MERELY TO STRENGTHEN OUR PARTY, AND TO BROADEN ITS APPEAL, BUT ALSO TO REVERSE A DANGEROUS TREND WHICH FINDS CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS WON OR LOST WITH LESS THAN HALF OF OUR VOTING-AGE CITIZENS ACTUALLY VOTING.
WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THIS PROBLEM?

AS A STARTER, WE CAN USE THIS time BEFORE THE

NEXT NATIONAL ELECTION TO REBUILD THE REPUBLICAN PARTY INTO

A STRONG COMPETITOR IN THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM WHICH HAS

PROVEN IN THE LONG HAUL OF HISTORY TO BE THE BEST POLITICAL

SYSTEM IN THE WORLD.
LET US RESOLVE THAT OUR PARTY'S PRIMARY GOAL

SHOULD BE TO ATTRACT THE BROADEST SPECTRUM OF PEOPLE

SHARING OUR BASIC BELIEFS. FOR THE STRENGTH OF AMERICA

LIES NOT ONLY IN ITS DIVERSITY, BUT ALSO IN ITS UNITY.

THE ULTIMATE STRENGTH OF OUR PARTY LIES IN ITS COMMITMENT

TO PRINCIPLE.
OUR EFFORT TO BROADEN THE BASE OF OUR PARTY DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE MUST ABANDON TRADITIONAL REPUBLICAN PRINCIPLES -- FAR FROM IT. IT MEANS, INSTEAD, THAT WE HAVE TO CLARIFY AND EMPHASIZE THOSE PRINCIPLES, SO THAT ALL PERSONS OF LIKE POLITICAL INTERESTS CAN JOIN IN SUPPORT OF THE CANDIDATES OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

LET ME GIVE YOU MY THOUGHTS ON JUST THREE OF THESE FUNDAMENTAL REPUBLICAN PRINCIPLES:
FIRST, REPUBLICANS HAVE A LONG-DEMONSTRATED COMMITMENT TO THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. YOU CAN'T HAVE ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER. FOR TOO MANY YEARS, THIS COUNTRY HAS BEEN HEADED IN THE WRONG DIRECTION. CONSTANTLY INCREASING DEFICITS AND UNCHECKED SPENDING HAVE BEEN MILESTONES ON THE ROAD TO ECONOMIC DISASTER.
WE MUST MOVE IN A NEW DIRECTION -- A

REPUBLICAN DIRECTION -- TOWARD BUDGETARY DISCIPLINE

AND FISCAL RERAINTS.

ONE THING WE MUST DO IS TO SLAM THE BRAKES ON

THE SPENDING SCHEMES OF THE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY PARTY --

SCHEMES WHICH COULD RUN THE 1976 BUDGET DEFICIT UP BY AS

MUCH AS ONE HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS -- SCHEMES WHICH

COULD BY THE END OF THE CENTURY RESULT IN ONE-HALF OF ALL

AMERICANS LIVING OFF THE TAXES OF THE OTHER WORKING HALF.

IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT FOR YOUR GRANDCHILDREN?
NEVER FORGET: A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO GIVE US EVERYTHING WE WANT IS ALSO A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO TAKE FROM US EVERYTHING WE HAVE.
A SECOND PRINCIPLE UPON WHICH REPUBLICANS ARE AGREED -- ALTHOUGH I DO NOT WANT TO SUGGEST IT IS A PARTISAN PRINCIPLE BECAUSE MANY FINE DEMOCRATS ALSO SUPPORT IT -- IS THE NEED FOR A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE POSTURE AS THE ONLY SURE WAY TO A PEACEFUL WORLD.
AT A TIME OF INTERNATIONAL UNCERTAINTY AND STRESS SUCH AS THE PRESENT, THE NEED TO KEEP OUR MILITARY FORCES STRONG AND ALERT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS TO EVERY AMERICAN. WE MUST GUARD OUR OWN NATIONAL SECURITY AND MAINTAIN THE MUTUAL STRENGTH OF OUR ALLIANCES IN WESTERN EUROPE AND THE FAR EAST, KEEP OUR VITAL COMMITMENTS TO LONG-TIME FRIENDS AND KEEP PACE IN THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE DEFENSE SYSTEMS IF OUR RECENT PROGRESS TOWARD REDUCING THE DANGERS OF WAR IS TO CONTINUE.
AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF A MODERN NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM IS A
SOUND INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION -- AND I DO NOT INTEND TO PERMIT
OURS TO BE EITHER PUBLICIZED OR PARALYZED IN TIMES LIKE THESE.
THE THIRD REPUBLICAN ARTICLE OF FAITH I WOULD MENTION
IS OUR BASIC BELIEF IN FREEDOM -- THE FREEDOM OF STATES AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS AND THE BEST USE OF THEIR
RESOURCES; THE FREEDOM OF EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS TO REACH THEIR
OWN ECONOMIC TERMS WITHOUT GOVERNMENT COERCION; THE FREEDOM OF
EVERY INDIVIDUAL TO ASPIRE AND TO ACHIEVE HIS OWN GOALS WITHIN
HIS OWN CONCEPT OF A GOOD LIFE.
I SAY THAT FREEDOM IS AN ARTICLE OF FAITH BECAUSE

IT IS ON TRIAL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TONIGHT -- IT IS NO MORE CERTAIN NOW THAN IT WAS FOR OUR FOREFATHERS WHO FOUNDED THIS GREAT REPUBLIC.
WHEN THE DRAFTERS OF THE CONSTITUTION FINISHED THEIR WORK IN PHILADELPHIA IN 1787, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WAS RECOGNIZED AS HE LEFT THE HALL BY A CROWD OF CURIOUS CITIZENS GATHERED OUTSIDE.
"WHAT KIND OF A GOVERNMENT HAVE YOU GIVEN US,

DR. FRANKLIN?" A WOMAN'S VOICE CALLED OUT.

"A REPUBLIC, MADAM," HE REPLIED, "IF YOU CAN

KEEP IT."
WE HAVE KEPT IT NOW FOR ALMOST TWO HUNDRED YEARS, THROUGH MANY TRIUMPHS AND QUITE A FEW TRIBULATIONS.

ONCE, WHEN IT SEEMED ALMOST LOST, THE REPUBLIC WAS SAVED BY A MAN WHO CAME FROM THE PEOPLE AND WHOSE FAITH IN THE PEOPLE -- IN ALL PEOPLE -- NEVER FALTERED. I WILL NOT CLAIM THAT ABRAHAM LINCOLN BELONGS TO OUR REPUBLICAN PARTY FOR HE BELONGS TO ALL AMERICANS. BUT I DO URGE THAT OUR REPUBLICAN PARTY REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE PRINCIPLES OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.
ON THESE PRINCIPLES, REPUBLICANS CAN AND WILL UNITE,

REPUBLICANS CAN AND WILL INCREASE THEIR NUMBERS AND THEIR

POLITICAL STRENGTH, REPUBLICANS CAN AND WILL COME BACK TO WIN

IN 1976.

END OF TEXT
TO: THE PRESIDENT
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS
SUBJECT: President's remarks at the Senate-House Dinner

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: ___
7 p.m., Tuesday, April 15, 1975, Washington Hilton

SPEECHWRITER: Orben/Bird
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( ) Alan Greenspan
( ) Jack Calkins
( ) Max Friedersdorf
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MARY LOUISE SMITH
SENATOR STEVENS
REP. VANDER JAGT
MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
AND I AM WILLING AND EAGER IN 1976 TO PUT

MY INITIATIVES, MY ACTIONS AND MY TOTAL RECORD AGAINST

ANYONE WHO MAY BE THINKING OF TAKING ME ON.

Delete per President