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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *dg.*

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~~ ^{CARROT} YOU LEFT ON

YOUR PLATE COST YOU FOURTEEN DOLLARS AND SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS?

*I consulted ~~frax~~ with Betty /
She authorized me to sign
a check for \$1,000
If she does it, I better*

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 RESTRAINTS.

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

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO:- THE PRESIDENT
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FROM: PAUL A. THEIS
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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