The original documents are located in Box 8, folder “4/23/75 - Presidential Remarks at Hebert Library Ground Breaking” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THANK YOU, EDDIE (REP. HEBERT INTRODUCES YOU)
MRS. HEBERT
GOVERNOR EDWARDS
SENATOR JOHNSTON
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS (Lindy Boggs & Dave Treen)
MAYOR LANDRUE
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

HEBERT LIBRARY GROUND BREAKING

APRIL 23, 1975
THANK YOU, EDDIE HEBERT, FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION.
IT IS A PLEASURE, AND A PRIVILEGE, FOR ME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE HEBERT LIBRARY. THERE ARE FEW MEN IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS I HAVE KNOWN LONGER OR RESPECTED MORE THAN THE MAN WE HONOR HERE TODAY.
EDDIE HEBERT WAS ALREADY A LEGISLATIVE VETERAN WHEN I ENTERED THE CONGRESS IN 1949, AND HE IS STILL ONE OF ITS LEADING MEMBERS TODAY, TWENTY-SIX YEARS AFTER I FIRST MET HIM, AND THIRTY-FOUR YEARS AFTER HIS OWN ARRIVAL ON CAPITOL HILL.
BUT WE ARE NOT PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDDIE HEBERT TODAY BECAUSE OF HIS STAMINA AND HIS STAYING POWER, REMARKABLE AS THEY ARE. WE ARE HERE BECAUSE OF THE SERVICE EDDIE HAS RENDERED -- AND CONTINUES TO RENDER --- TO HIS COUNTRY.
EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE SERVED ON DIFFERENT SIDES OF THE AISLE,

I HAVE ALWAYS RESPECTED HIS TOTAL DEDICATION TO A STRONG AMERICA.

I GUESS SO MANY OF US FEEL SO CLOSE TO EDDIE HEBERT, THAT ONE TIME

WHEN I WAS THE REPUBLICAN MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE --- STAUNCH

DEMOCRAT HEBERT WAS SENT AN INVITATION TO A REPUBLICAN

LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST --- BY MISTAKE.
WELL, EDDIE HAS TOO GOOD A SENSE OF HUMOR TO LET THAT ONE GO BY.

HE DIDN'T SAY A WORD. HE JUST SENT THE INVITATION BACK TO ME ALONG WITH A CLIPPING OF AN AD FOR CIGARATTES. IT SAID:

"I'D RATHER FIGHT THAN SWITCH! "

I HAVE WORKED WITH EDDIE FOR MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A CENTURY -- AS A COLLEAGUE AND NOW AS PRESIDENT. AND I CAN PLAINLY AND CATEGORICALLY TELL YOU THAT ONE OF THE REASONS THAT AMERICA IS A STRONG, FREE AND SECURE NATION TODAY IS BECAUSE OF MEN IN THE CONGRESS LIKE HIM.
Congressman Hébert's skill as a negotiator is well-known in Washington -- and the tangible evidence of it is apparent here in Louisiana. Eddie Hébert is such a great negotiator, if he had arranged the Louisiana purchase, not only would he have purchased that huge amount of land for only fifteen million dollars -- but I have the feeling he would have gotten green stamps too!
YOU KNOW, OF COURSE, THAT EDDIE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST CRUSADING JOURNALISTS IN LOUISIANA. HE WAS AN HONEST, HARD-WORKING NEWSMAN.

[Signature]
BUT EVEN EDDIE HAS A SLIGHT CREDIBILITY GAP, AS I DISCOVERED IN READING HIS BIOGRAPHY. IT GOES BACK TO 1940, DURING HIS FIRST CAMPAIGN. HE SAID THAT, IF ELECTED, HE WOULD ONLY SERVE ONE TERM. HE SAID HE WAS JUST TAKING A SABBATICAL FROM HIS NEWSPAPER WORK.
I think it is fair to say that, even if he has extended his sabbatical a few extra years -- thirty-two years to be exact -- Eddie Hébert has paid his dues as both a journalist and a congressman.
THAT IS WHY I WAS SO GLAD TO LEARN ABOUT THIS LIBRARY -- AND WHY I AM SO PLEASED AND HONORED TO BE HERE TODAY FOR THE GROUND BREAKING.
OF COURSE, EDDIE'S BEST MONUMENT WILL BE HIS OWN

ACHIEVEMENTS -- HIS OWN RECORD AS A PUBLIC SERVANT.

BUT THE MOMENTOS IN THIS LIBRARY WILL HELP TO TELL THE STORY

OF THOSE ACHIEVEMENTS -- WILL HELP TO KEEP THEM ALIVE --

FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.
IT OCCURS TO ME THAT EVERYTHING I HAVE SAID SO FAR REEKS A LITTLE TOO MUCH OF THE PAST -- OF A STORY THAT HAS ALREADY ENDED. AND THAT IS NOT THE WAY HIS FRIENDS FEEL ABOUT EDDIE HEBERT.
WE HONOR HIM TODAY NOT ONLY FOR WHAT HE HAS
ACHIEVED, BUT FOR WHAT HE CONTINUES TO ACHIEVE. HE IS
A COURAGEOUS AND UNTIRING PATRIOT, AND A VERY GREAT GUY.
MAY HE KEEP ON SERVING HIS COUNTRY, AND WARMING OUR
HEARTS, FOR MANY LONG YEARS TO COME.
AND, IF I MAY ADD A PERSONAL NOTE, MAY HIS WONDERFUL SENSE OF HUMOR STAY WITH US TOO, LIGHTENING THE BURDEN WHEN THINGS SEEM HEAVIEST, AND REMINDING US ALL THAT, EVEN IN SERIOUS TIMES, WE MUST NEVER LOSE OUR GIFT OF LAUGHTER.
ANOTHER QUALITY WHICH EDDIE POSSESSES WAS ONCE DESCRIBED BY ROBERT E. LEE IN SIMPLE MOVING WORDS.

"DUTY," SAID LEE, "IS THE SUBLIMEST WORD IN OUR LANGUAGE.

DO YOUR DUTY IN ALL THINGS. YOU CANNOT DO MORE. YOU SHOULD NEVER WISH TO DO LESS."
EDDIE HEBERT LIVES BY THAT CODE. I HAVE NEVER KNOWN HIM TO DO ANY LESS THAN HIS BEST. AND LOUISIANA IS A BETTER STATE, AND AMERICA IS A BETTER COUNTRY, BECAUSE OF HIM.
I AM PROUD TO HAVE SERVED WITH HIM. I AM EVEN PROUDER TO CALL HIM MY FRIEND. AND I THINK THIS IS A FEELING THAT ALL OF US HERE TODAY ARE FORTUNATE IN SHARING.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
Page 12 missing when returned in the outbox.

Dianna Gwin