

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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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. . . 19.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

HEBERT LIBRARY GROUND BREAKING

APRIL 23, 1975

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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 HEBERT'S SKILL AS A NEGOTIATOR IS WELL-KNOWN

IN WASHINGTON -- AND THE TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF IT IS APPARENT HERE

IN LOUISIANA. EDDIE HEBERT 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.

Pearlman Prize.

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 HEBERT 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.

END OF TEXT

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Page 12 missing when returned in
the outbox.

Dianna Gwin