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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *ds*

## PORTRAIT UNVEILING AT THE CAPITOL HILL CLUB

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1975

(ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS)

BEFORE I GO ANY FURTHER, LET ME COMMEND AND CONGRATULATE

DON JOHNSON, A VERY EXTRAORDINARY AND GIFTED ARTIST -- FOR THIS

FINE PORTRAIT. I LIKE IT VERY MUCH. I LIKE THE POSE IN

PARTICULAR. AS A FISCAL CONSERVATIVE, I ALWAYS ENJOY SEEING

A POLITICIAN WITH HIS HAND IN HIS OWN POCKET!

I AM MOST GRATEFUL TO THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS  
OF THE CAPITOL HILL CLUB FOR HONORING ME TONIGHT WITH THIS  
OUTSTANDING PORTRAIT AND THIS HEARTWARMING RECEPTION.  
AS I LOOK ABOUT ME, AT SO MANY OF MY OLD FRIENDS AND  
DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUES, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL --  
I'VE COME HOME AGAIN!

AND IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE BECAUSE -- YOU DON'T KNOW  
WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING TO ME SINCE I MOVED DOWNTOWN. I'VE HAD  
TO DEAL WITH THE INFLATION, THE RECESSION, THE ENERGY SHORTAGE, AND  
THE CONGRESS -- UNFORTUNATELY, NOT IN THAT ORDER. BUT I FEEL  
VERY CONFIDENT BECAUSE I KNOW I CAN COUNT ON STRONG BI-PARTISAN  
SUPPORT.

WHY JUST THIS MORNING SENATOR GEORGE McGOVERN TAPPED ME  
ON THE SHOULDER AND SAID, "DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING,  
MR. PRESIDENT, WE'RE ALL BEHIND YOU -- A THOUSAND PERCENT!"

I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT

GEORGE'S POLITICS, BUT HIS ARITHMETIC IS SOMETHING ELSE!

BUT I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU ALL FOR JOINING WITH  
BETTY AND ME TONIGHT ON THIS HAPPY OCCASION. TO SEE MY  
LIKENESS SO SKILLFULLY DONE -- AND TO BE SURROUNDED BY AND  
FEEL THE WARM PRESENCE OF SO MANY OLD AND NEW FRIENDS --  
HAS PROVIDED US WITH AN EVENING THAT WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED.



BUT MEMORABLE EVENINGS ARE NOTHING NEW HERE AT THE CAPITOL HILL CLUB.

THROUGH THE YEARS, BETTY AND I HAVE HAD MANY OF THEM. I GUESS I

HAVE BEEN A MEMBER FOR OVER TEN YEARS NOW AND REGARD IT AS ONE OF THE

MOST IMPORTANT ORGANIZATIONS I LEND MY SUPPORT TO HERE IN WASHINGTON.

I FIND THE MEMBERSHIP AND THE PROGRAMS OF THE CAPITOL HILL CLUB TO BE

CONGENIAL, RELEVANT, INSTRUCTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE.

IT PROVIDES A COMFORTABLE HAVEN FOR REPUBLICANS  
TO MEET AND FURTHER THE PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAMS OF OUR PARTY.  
IT IS OUR PRACTICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL HOME AWAY FROM HOME.  
AND AS SUCH, IT DESERVES OUR ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT.

WHY DON'T WE ALL TRY TO SPREAD THIS WORD TO EVERY CONCERNED

REPUBLICAN IN AND NEAR THE WASHINGTON AREA? THE CAPITOL

HILL CLUB IS US. LET'S NOT LET US DOWN!

ONCE AGAIN, BETTY AND I THANK YOU FOR A MARVELOUS  
EVENING. GEOGRAPHICALLY, THERE'S ABOUT A MILE SEPARATING THE  
WHITE HOUSE FROM CAPITOL HILL. AS TONIGHT PROVES --  
EMOTIONALLY, THERE'S HARDLY ANY DISTANCE AT ALL -- JUST THE  
LENGTH OF A HANDSHAKE.

THANK YOU ALL FOR SHARING THIS HANDSHAKE WITH US.

END OF TEXT