The original documents are located in Box 14, "8/30/75 - Rhode Island Fundraiser" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- THANK YOU, JOHN (CHAFEE INTRODUCES YOU) MAYOR CIANCI And HAYOR TAFT
- JIM FIELD (STATE CHAIRMAN)
- JIM DIPRETE (DINNER CHAIRMAN) (PHONETIC : DI PREET)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Digitized from Box 14 of President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

RHODE ISLAND GOP FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1975

Arc. Park

1

- <u>h</u> -

AS I LOOK AROUND ME, I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW PLEASED I AM TO SEE SO MANY GOOD, LOYAL AND ENTHUSIASTIC REPUBLICANS HERE TONIGHT -- PARTICULARLY AFTER THE LAST ELECTION. THE LETTERS R.I. MAY MEAN RHODE ISLAND TO YOU -- BUT TO ME THEY MEAN_REPUBLICANS_INDESTRUCTIBLE! I UNDERSTAND FROM YOUR PARTY CHAIRMAN JIM

FIELD THAT THIS IS THE BIGGEST TURN-OUT OF REPUBLICANS IN RHODE ISLAND HISTORY.

I'M HAPPY I COULD BE HERE TO SHARE THIS

WONDERFUL DINNER, THIS GREAT REPUBLICAN EVENT, AND THE

LAST HOLIDAY OF SUMMER WITH YOU TONIGHT.

- 3 -

AS I TRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND MEET WITH

REPUBLICANS IN OTHER STATES, I'M FINDING A GREAT DEAL OF

ENTHUSIASM FOR OUR PARTY'S ELECTION PROSPECTS IN 1976.

LET ME MAKE THIS PREDICTION RIGHT NOW:

THE CANDIDATES. THE WE WILL HAVE THE ISSUES. THE MONEY AND THE VOTES TO MAKE 1976 A GREAT WORKERS YEAR FOR REPUBLICANS HERE IN RHODE ISLAND AND ALL

ACROSS AMERICA.

- 5 -

BUT THESE PROPHECIES OF VICTORY ARE NOT SELF-

FULFILLING. THEY ARE MAJOR CHALLENGES REQUIRING

MOUNTAINS OF WORK. I CAN SEE TONIGHT THAT THE

REPUBLICANS OF RHODE ISLAND ARE READY TO WORK, AND

READY TO WIN IN 1976.

JIM FIELD IS DOING A GREAT JOB OF ORGANIZING THIS PARTY AND GETTING IT IN SHAPE FOR NEXT YEAR'S CAMPAIGN. IT'S OBVIOUS FROM THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE HERE TONIGHT THAT YOU ARE READY TO MOVE -- THAT YOU WILL ELECT REPUBLICANS ACROSS THIS STATE FOURTEEN MONTHS FROM NOW.

- 7 -

THERE'S NO REASON IN THE WORLD WHY A VIGOROUS

TWO-PARTY SYSTEM CAN'T FLOURISH IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND.

NOTHING CONTRIBUTES TO GOOD GOVERNMENT MORE THAN

THE FREE COMPETITION OF IDEAS AND VIEWPOINTS IN THE MARKETPLACE

OF PUBLIC OPINION.

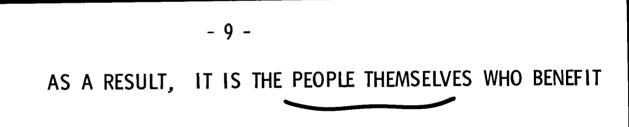
JUST AS IN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, COMPETITION IN THE

POLITICAL ARENA IS THE STIMULUS THAT LEADS BOTH PARTIES ---

REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS --- TO CONSTANTLY REFINE AND

IMPROVE THE PROGRAMS AND POLICIES WE OFFER THE AMERICAN

PEOPLE.



MOST FROM THE VIGOROUS COMPETITION OF POLITICAL PARTIES.

THE PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH HAVE FOUND IN RECENT DECADES

THAT ONE-PARTY DOMINATION CANNOT SERVE THEM AS WELL AS

TWO-PARTY COMPETITION. THE PEOPLE OF PROVIDENCE AND

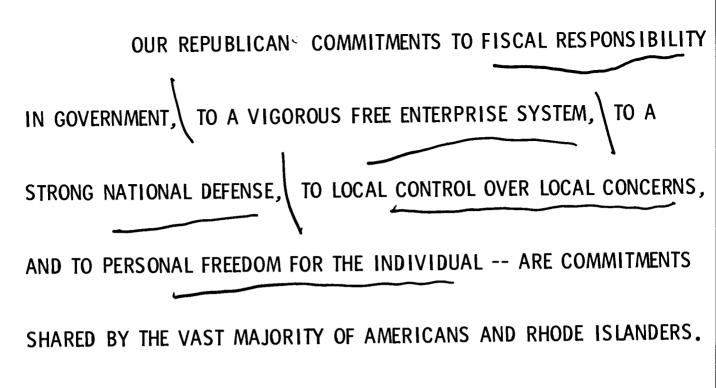
CRANSTON HAVE MADE THAT SAME DISCOVERY. I AM CONFIDENT

THE PEOPLE OF RHODE ISLAND WILL MAKE IT IN 1976.

Crand

- 11 -WE CAN SHOW THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE THAT WE AS REPUBLICANS SHARE THEIR CONCERNS λ THAT WE WANT THE SAME THINGS THEY WANT, AND THAT WE CAN DO A BETTER JOB OF

SERVING THEM THAN OUR FRIENDS IN THE OPPOSITION PARTY CAN



- 13 -

OUR JOB IN THE NEXT FOURTEEN MONTHS IS TO TAKE

THAT MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE AND TO ALL OF

AMERICA. IT'S A BIG JOB, AND BY NO MEANS AN EASY ONE.

AS REPUBLICANS, WE START OUT AS A POLITICAL MINORITY. ADD TO THAT THE FACT THAT VOTERS ARE PAYING LESS AND LESS ATTENTION AND ALLEGIANCE TO PARTY LABELS. AND FINALLY, AND MOST SERIOUSLY, BOTH WE AND OUR OPPOSITION ARE BEING CONFRONTED WITH A GROWING DEGREE OF VOTER APATHY.

- 15 -

AS PRESIDENT, THIS LAST OBSTACLE IS THE MOST

TROUBLING TO ME. RECENT ELECTION TRENDS INDICATE THAT

THERE IS A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER OF LETTING APATHY CHOKE

THE LIFE OUT OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS IN THIS COUNTRY.

NO MORE THAN <u>39 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS WENT</u> TO THE POLLS IN THE ELECTION YEAR OF 1974. THIS ABDICATION OF OUR PRECIOUS RESPONSIBILITY AS FREE CITIZENS CANNOT CONTINUE VERY LONG WITHOUT SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES TO THE NATION.

- 17 -

FOR ALL ITS FAULTS, THE POLITICAL PROCESS IS

THE KEY TO GREAT POWER IN THIS COUNTRY, AND THAT POWER

CAN BE USED FOR THE PEOPLE'S GOOD OR TO THEIR DETRIMENT.

IT IS THE INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN WHO MUST MAKE THAT DECISION FOR HIMSELF AND FOR HIS COUNTRY. THIS IS A GOOD COUNTRY. WE ARE A GOOD PEOPLE. WE CAN MAKE POLITICS IN AMERICA REFLECT THAT BASIC GOODNESS AND THE BASIC HONESTY AND DECENCY WHICH ARE CHARACTERISTIC OF OUR PEOPLE.

- 19 -

BUT TO DO THIS, WE MUST PLEDGE INCREASED

DEVOTION, NOT LESS, TO THE POLITICAL PROCESS. WE MUST

DEMAND THAT THE PROCESS BE IMPROVED. WE MUST DEMAND

THAT THE WORK OF GOVERNMENT BE MANAGED BETTER.

WE MUST DEMAND THAT THE NEEDS AND THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE BE BETTER REFLECTED IN THE WORK OF GOVERNMENT. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE MUST GET PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS TO SEE THAT ALL OF THESE DEMANDS ARE SATISFIED.

- 21 -

YOU ARE HERE TONIGHT BECAUSE YOU ARE INVOLVED,

BECAUSE YOU CARE. YOU CARE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF YOUR

STATE AND THE FUTURE OF YOUR COUNTRY.

YOU ARE HERE BECAUSE YOU BELIEVE, AS I DO, THAT REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT IS THE BEST POSSIBLE KIND OF GOVERNMENT -- RESPONSIBLE, SOUNDLY PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENT THAT RESPONDS TO PEOPLE'S NEEDS BUT DOES NOT ORDER PEOPLE'S LIVES.

- 23 -

WE KNOW THAT THIS IS THE KIND OF GOVERNMENT

AMERICANS SHOULD HAVE, AND WE AS REPUBLICANS INTEND TO

GIVE THE PEOPLE THIS KIND OF GOVERNMENT AT EVERY LEVEL --

FROM THE COURTHOUSE TO THE STATE HOUSE TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

THAT WILL BE OUR MESSAGE, THAT WILL BE OUR APPEAL,

THAT WILL BE OUR ONLY PLEDGE IN THE NEXT FOURTEEN MONTHS.

- 24 -

WE ARE GOING TO SHOW THE PEOPLE OF RHODE ISLAND AND THEIR

NEIGHBORS ALL ACROSS AMERICA THAT A VICTORY FOR REPUBLICANS

IS A GREAT VICTORY FOR THEM, TOO.

END OF TEXT

BATT PRESIDENT SAL SHEEL ----

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT

VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN

FROM: PAUL A. THEIS

SUBJECT: President's remarks at Fund-raiser.

(\$125 each) at the John Slocum residence in Newport, Rhode Island

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE:

7:30 p.m., Saturday, John Slocum residence in Newport

SPEECHWRITER: Butler EDITED BY: Theis

BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:

Research / National Comte. / Calkins

CLEARED BY (Please initial):

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()	LEGAL (Buchen)
()	ECONOMIC POLICY BOARD (Seidman)
()	OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (Lynn)
()	DOMESTIC COUNCIL (Cannon)
	NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (Scowcroft)
	RESEARCH (Waldron)
	MARCITA WHITE (FYI)
	ENERGY RESOURCES COUNCIL (Zarb) FR by plane
	COULCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS (Greenspan)
	OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON (Baroody)
(X)	JACK CALKINS
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