

The original documents are located in Box 25, “3/16/76 - Telephoned Remarks at a Meeting of Kent County Republicans, Grand Rapids, Michigan” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THANK YOU VERY MUCH, PETE. I ONLY WISH
I COULD HAVE HEARD THE REMARKS BY LT. GOVERNOR ^{John} DAMMAN
AND THE FIVE CANDIDATES.

I'M DELIGHTED TO HAVE THIS CHANCE TO TALK
TO ALL OF YOU AT THE KENT COUNTY REPUBLICAN LINCOLN
DAY DINNER. ^{I've been to many of them} BETTY AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW OFTEN
WE THINK OF GRAND RAPIDS AND ALL OF OUR GOOD FRIENDS
THERE.

MICHIGAN IS NEVER FAR FROM OUR MINDS.

WE WERE BOTH UNHAPPY TO SEE THAT YOU HAD THOSE RECENT

BAD ICE STORMS AND THE HIGH WATER FLOODING OF

THE GRAND RIVER. LET ME SAY, THAT IN ADDITION TO

MY FIRST CONCERN FOR HUMAN SAFETY, I AM ALSO VERY

CONCERNED ABOUT THE DAMAGE TO THE WESTERN MICHIGAN

ORCHARDS.

ON A HAPPIER NOTE, THOUGH, I WISH

I COULD SEE SOME OF YOUR FACES THIS EVENING, BECAUSE

I KNOW MANY, MANY OF THEM WOULD BE FRIENDLY AND

FAMILIAR FACES.

LET ME SAY HOW GRATEFUL BETTY AND I ARE
TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE WORKED SO HARD, WHO HAVE
GIVEN SO MUCH OF YOUR TIME AND YOUR ENERGY TO
HELP ME OUT IN THE PRIMARIES.

I KNOW THAT 91 OF YOU PAID YOUR OWN
WAY TO TRAVEL TO FLORIDA ON MY BEHALF, AND I WANT
YOU TO KNOW HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE THAT. BETTY
AND I WERE REALLY DELIGHTED TO SEE THE PICTURES AND
STORIES IN THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS AND IN THE
FLORIDA AND NEW YORK PAPERS, TOO.

IT WAS JUST GREAT TO SEE THOSE PICTURES
OF CLIFF GETTINGS AND MO HATTEM, WORKING SIDE
BY SIDE WITH SOME OF THE STUDENTS FROM CALVIN
COLLEGE AND THE HIGH SCHOOLS AND THE OTHER COLLEGES.

WITH THAT KIND OF SPIRIT AND DEDICATION,
WE'RE GOING TO KEEP UP OUR UNBROKEN STRING OF
VICTORIES, FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE, VERMONT,
MASSACHUSETTS, FLORIDA -- DID I HEAR SOMEONE
MENTION ILLINOIS?

WE'RE GOING TO KEEP WINNING RIGHT THROUGH
NOVEMBER, AND I'M CONFIDENT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE
NOT ONLY A CONTINUATION OF THIS REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION,
BUT A NEW REPUBLICAN SENATOR FROM THE GREAT STATE
OF MICHIGAN TO SERVE ALONGSIDE OF YOUR VERY ABLE
SENATOR BOB GRIFFIN.

WE'RE GOING TO INVOLVE NOT ONLY OUR OLD
FRIENDS, BUT A LOT OF NEW FRIENDS AS WELL.
AND OUR YOUNGER GENERATION OF REPUBLICANS ARE GOING
TO PLAY AN ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT ROLE.

WHAT WE'RE DOING NOW IS NOT JUST FOR THE
NEXT ADMINISTRATION OR THE NEXT CONGRESS. WE'RE LAYING
THE FOUNDATION FOR A WHOLE NEW GENERATION OF RESPONSIBLE
REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED STATES, FOLLOWING
IN THE GREAT TRADITION OF THE MAN YOU'RE HONORING
TODAY, ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

THAT IS A TRADITION TO BE PROUD OF,
AND WE'RE NOT ONLY CONTINUING THAT TRADITION OF THE PAST,
WE'RE HELPING TO MAKE IT THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE.

SO GOOD LUCK TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU,
AND GOD BLESS YOU.

END OF TEXT