

The original documents are located in Box 35, “6/17/76 - Remarks to Participants in the National Teen-Age Republican Leadership Conference” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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LET ME WELCOME YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE THIS AFTERNOON.

I AM ALWAYS HAPPY TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TEENAGE
REPUBLICANS. I'VE DONE IT FOR MANY YEARS -- AS CONGRESSMAN,
AS MINORITY LEADER, AND EACH YEAR AS VICE PRESIDENT AND
AS PRESIDENT.

AS I LOOK AT THE 250 OF YOU ASSEMBLED HERE
FROM MORE THAN 8,000 CHAPTERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY,
I CAN SEE THAT THE FUTURE OF OUR GREAT PARTY -- THE PARTY
OF LINCOLN, TEDDY ROOSEVELT AND EISENHOWER -- IS IN GOOD HANDS.
YOUR ENTHUSIASM AND YOUR CAMPAIGN EXPERIENCE
WILL MAKE YOU VALUABLE MEMBERS OF OUR PARTY THROUGHOUT YOUR LIVES.

AND THIS YEAR YOU ARE GOING TO PLAY AN ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT ROLE.

~~BECAUSE~~ YOUR HARD WORK AND YOUR DEDICATION MAY WELL MAKE

THE DIFFERENCE IN ELECTING REPUBLICANS - NOT JUST AT THE NATIONAL

LEVEL, BUT TO SERVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AT THE STATE AND

LOCAL LEVELS AS WELL.

THIS IS A YEAR OF GREAT PROMISE FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

AS I HAVE TRAVELED AROUND THE COUNTRY RECENTLY, IT HAS BECOME

QUITE APPARENT THAT THIS YEAR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE RETURNING

TO THE REPUBLICAN VALUES WE HAVE ALWAYS SPOKEN FOR AND VOTED FOR.

~~JUST LOOK AT SOME OF THE POPULAR THEMES THAT HAVE~~

~~RECEIVED SO MUCH ATTENTION IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY.~~

AS WE ENTER OUR THIRD CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE,

THERE IS A GREAT WAVE OF MODERATION AND COMMON SENSE SWEEPING

OUR COUNTRY.

THAT IS WHY THIS ELECTION YEAR IS SO IMPORTANT.

BECAUSE THIS YEAR WE CAN RIDE THAT WAVE TO A GREAT VICTORY --

IF WE STAY TOGETHER.

IT MAKES NO SENSE FOR US TO SCRAMBLE DOWN TO THE

WIRE FOR THE NOMINATION AND THEN HAVE THE PARTY FALL APART THE

NEXT DAY. THAT HAS HAPPENED BEFORE AND IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN

A LONG ROAD BACK.

1964 38 - House
2 - Senate
60 - State Legislators
struggled to build up.
1974 -

WE'VE HAD A SPIRITED CONTEST FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL
NOMINATION -- BUT ALL OF US MUST WORK EQUALLY HARD TO
PREVENT THIS FROM BECOMING A "GRUDGE" FIGHT.

FOLLOWING KANSAS CITY I WANT A UNITED, ENTHUSIASTIC CAMPAIGN
IN THE FALL.

IT'S IMPORTANT NOT ONLY FOR OUR PARTY BUT FOR OUR
COUNTRY THAT IN NOVEMBER THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BE GIVEN A CLEAR
CHOICE ABOUT THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF OUR NATION.

WE CAN GIVE THEM THAT CHOICE ONLY IF WE ARE UNITED.

THAT'S MY INTENTION, ~~AND~~ I FEEL SURE IT IS

The view of my Republican opponent.
~~GOVERNOR REAGAN'S AS WELL.~~

WE MUST ALL WORK TOGETHER, AT EVERY LEVEL.

WE MUST BE UNITED -- NOT ONLY IN OUR NATIONAL STRATEGY,
BUT AT THE GRASS ROOTS LEVEL.

WHAT WE FACE THIS YEAR IS A GREAT CHALLENGE,

AND A GREAT OPPORTUNITY. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE COMBINED

STRENGTH OF REPUBLICANS FROM EVERY AGE GROUP AND FROM EVERY PART

OF THE COUNTRY WILL HELP CARRY OUR MESSAGE TO EVERY AMERICAN.

WE WILL MAKE 1976 A GREAT YEAR FOR THE REPUBLIC,

AND A GREAT YEAR FOR THE REPUBLICANS.

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THANK YOU VERY MUCH. HAVE A GOOD WEEK

IN WASHINGTON.

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