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Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Kansas City, Missouri)

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE GOP CANDIDATES BREAKFAST

This has certainly been a great morning. I don't know which I've enjoyed more -- seeing so many good, loyal, hard-working Republicans -- or eating a breakfast I didn't have to make myself!

I love to visit Missouri -- especially at this time of the year.

As usual, everything is up to date in Kansas City. And this year, more than ever, everything is up to date across this whole beautiful state.

One reason I consider Missouri beautiful is that it has become more and more Republican in recent years.

It wasn't too long ago that every one of your major state offices was held by Democrats. Today, they are held by Republicans -- the Governor's office, the Lieutenant Governor's post, the Attorney General's office and the State Auditor's job.

Kit Bond, your dynamic and progressive young Governor, is doing wonders for your state and our party.

People everywhere in this Nation have come to realize that the times require something more than politics as usual. Kit's youth, his energy, his dedication to reform, have brought Missouri more responsible and more accountable government than you have had in decades.

Kit Bond, along with your highly respected Lieutenant Governor Bill Phelps, will continue to provide that kind of leadership for Missouri.

And so will John Ashcroft, your fine candidate for State Auditor. John and Kit know that people in Missouri want real change, real accountability, real responsiveness.

Although the Republican Party has made real inroads in this state, where we are still weak is in your delegation to the Congress. You have only one Republican Congressman -- Gene Taylor -- who is here today.

I am sure you will reelect Gene to the U. S. House. He has done a magnificent job for Missouri and for the Nation. But he needs help. Let's send him some more Republicans from this great state next month.

The problems facing us are big ones. If we are going to solve them we need straight-thinking, common-sense in Washington. We need inflation fighters who are going to keep track of every single penny this Government spends.

We need men from the Show-Me State who will say, when they look at each proposed expenditure in the Federal budget, "Show Me." Show me what this expenditure is for, show me precisely what it will accomplish, show me why it cannot be trimmed.

(MORE)

And that is why I am so eager to see Tom Curtis return to Congress. During his distinguished 18 years in the House, Tom was always a Show-Me man. Tom and I have served together in Congress. We need his experience, his economic know-how in whipping inflation.

I might note that Tom warned many years ago that, if our friends in the opposition party kept busting the budget, we would have an inflation that would curl our hair. They kept busting the budget and today you see the results.

I told the Nation on Tuesday the remedies I believe can bring inflation under control. But I tell you now that in so many of these areas the President proposes but the Congress disposes. And unless we send people to the House and Senate who recognize the role Big Government and deficit spending play in our economy, we never are going to end this inflation that is costing every American consumer so much.

Our party here in Missouri is young, vibrant, dynamic. We have outstanding candidates for state and national office. Let's translate all this potential into action.

An American author once said that "bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote."

I know that the good citizens of Missouri will not let that happen, and I know that everyone here this morning will make sure that those good citizens get to the polls next month.

This is an extremely important election. We need men of clear vision and sound principle in Washington to make decisions that may determine the shape of our society.

Just yesterday, I was pleased to see the more responsible members of the Congress rise up and knock down some bad legislation. This issue was whether or not to cut off U.S. assistance to Turkey, one of this country's staunch allies in the Mediterranean.

The action of the House in sustaining my veto of a Continuing Resolution which would have curtailed this assistance was responsive and responsible.

It will serve better than any other action the cause of peace on Cyprus and help Greece while maintaining the strength of our vital security interests in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Although I publicly commended the Congressional leadership for its understanding and support, I want to publicly criticize those whom I believe were handicapping America's capability to achieve a peaceful and fair settlement in Cyprus.

This action, more than any other in recent times, would have undercut this nation's 30-year-old bipartisan approach to foreign policy which a great Democratic President from this state, Harry Truman, initiated with a great Republican Senator from my state, Arthur Vandenberg.

(MORE)

If you'll send Tom Curtis to Washington along with the fine Republican candidates running on the Republican ticket this year, I am convinced you will see a lot less politicking in Congress and a lot more progress in meeting the pressing problems facing us at home and abroad.

Last night, I outlined to the Future Farmers of America meeting here in Kansas City a program in which all Americans can take part -- a program which I believe will bring a halt to inflation and conserve our badly needed energy. I am heartened by the response to that plea from the American people.

Last week, I outlined to the Congress a 3-point program which I believe will complement these efforts in ending inflation. I am always hopeful about the follow-through from Congress but the pressure is on them if America is to WIN. Because I am convinced it will work -- if we all join together to make it work.

You can make my job easier by sending more Republicans to Congress to work with me in the two years ahead. For after all, that's one of the prime objectives of this Administration: to bring inflation to a halt and have a strong and burgeoning economy by the time we celebrate this nation's 200th birthday in 1976.

I know that this will be a tough election and some people say that the odds are against our candidates this year.

The odds were also against the University of Missouri last Saturday -- but the Tigers defeated Nebraska in a brilliant effort! My congratulations go to a fine coach and to his fine team.

I appreciate your invitation to meet with you this morning. I look forward to working with your fine candidates in Washington and at the state level.

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