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THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS
BY THE PRESIDENT AT THE
STATEWIDE GOP LUNCHEON
SEATTLE CENTER
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

I know that Washingtonians are some of the most independent-minded people in America. And I think that is just great.

I also think the Republican Party has a lot to say to the independent-minded voter--so let us reach out to these independents and bring them into the Party which most closely reflects their views and their philosophy.

The independent voter, it seems to me, is concerned more with the future of his country than with the fortunes of one political party or another.

He is concerned with economic progress, energy independence, national defense, the pursuit of justice and the protection of society in America. He wants a good education, good housing, good health care and good food for his family--and at prices he can afford.

These are basic concerns that affect all our lives--regardless of our political persuasion. These are the elements that help determine the quality of our private lives, far more than determining the issues for political debate.

Improving the quality of life in America is the great challenge we face as we enter our third century of independence just ten months from today. In our first hundred years, our most urgent goal was to establish firmly and securely a system of government and an order of society that would safeguard our liberties and allow progress to flourish in our land.

Our freedoms and our form of government were marvels for the world, and the promise of America gave hope to millions of oppressed people all around the globe.

America's second century of independence was devoted to increasing our material wealth, making the most of the industrial revolution, expanding westward. Our civilization advanced during this period at an incredible pace, with a host of inventions and discoveries that made our lives more pleasurable and our work more profitable.

America's past, like its present, is a mixture of successes and setbacks, of good and bad. The future, in this sense, will be no different. And yet the future must be different. We must reclaim our independence from those hugh institutions of society which have come so close to snuffing out the fire of personal initiative and individual achievement.

We must rededicate ourselves to those great principles of freedom and equality which first gave life and purpose to this great nation. We must demonstrate that, far from being in a state of decline, America and its people are prepared for adventures and achievements far excelling any we have seen in the past.

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We must agree that a successful blend of personal initiative, private enterprise and public service will come closer to solving our problems and realizing our potential than will total reliance on the massive, muscle-bound bureaucracy of government.

Too many Americans have relied too much, for too long on the government in Washington to meet their demands, grant their wishes and solve their problems. I think it is time we look elsewhere--more to Washington State, for example, and less to Washington, D. C. We should look in the offices and shops, the factories, the farms, the laboratories, the homes, the schools and the churches of America.

There is where the real strength and promise and potential of America reside. There is where to find the creative genius, the knack for problem-solving, the pioneering spirit, and the Yankee ingenuity for which this country is so well-known.

I am convinced that if we shoulder more of life's responsibilities ourselves, and take a more personal stake in the life and success of this nation, we can truly make a fresh start in America, even as we celebrate our 200th birthday. In our third century, we should seek to enhance the individual freedom of each of our citizens and strive to make America's civilization the wonder of the world. And we should gauge the progress of our civilization not just by our standard of living but by the quality of our lives.

The Republican Party is prepared to help guide that progress. Perhaps more than at any time in our history, our Party's principles and objectives match the hopes of the American people.

Our Republican commitments to fiscal responsibility in government, to a vigorous free enterprise system, to a strong national defense, to local control over local concerns, and to personal freedom for the individual--are commitments shared by the vast majority of Americans and Washingtonians.

We believe, as Abraham Lincoln said, that government should only do for people what they cannot do as well for themselves. We believe that the American people have grown weary of government's overblown promises and overbearing controls.

We believe the American people are ready to do great things for themselves and for their country.

We are prepared to govern--but not to dominate--the American people. That is our pledge for the coming campaign and for the years ahead.

We can make those years great ones for America--so much so that we and our children and their children may say with new meaning and fresh enthusiasm the words of Daniel Webster: "Thank God. I am an American."

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