

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 27, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

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THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF REMARKS  
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT  
AND  
WILLIAM MILLER  
FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE  
REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
AND  
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

THE NORTH LAWN

9:07 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: I just wanted to thank all of the Republican National Chairmen for joining me for breakfast. I think Bill Miller will make some comments.

Thank you very, very much.

MR. MILLER: I would just like to say that there are 12 living and breathing ex-Republican National Chairmen. Some of us are here; some are not. But I am pleased to say that I speak for all of us when I say that we are united in our support of President Ford for the nomination of our party and for the election in November.

We represent some nine States from the East, the South, the Midwest and the West. We feel that we represent about three decades of Republican association, Republican leadership affiliation with our party. We feel that in the course of the President's performance in office the last 19 months, that we have never been more proud to be Americans, to be Republicans, and we think upon his record of his performance that he deserves the nomination of our party and we believe he will be elected in November.

I think that is all I have to say. I am sure you all know all of the other ex-National Chairmen who are here with us.

Q Does that mean you are opposed to the candidacy of Ronald Reagan?

MR. MILLER: No, it means we are for the nomination of President Ford.

Q You are not speaking for George Bush, are you? You said 12.

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MR. MILLER: No, not George Bush. I didn't include him. George, because of his sensitive position, as you realize, does not believe it would be proper for him to be associated with this particular political operation.

Q Who are the ones endorsing him who are not here?

MR. MILLER: Ray Bliss of Ohio, Guy Gabrielson of New Jersey, Thruston Morton of Kentucky -- I think that is it.

Q Bill, do all of you share the view that Mr. Ford holds that anyone to the right of his position could not be elected nationally?

MR. MILLER: Well, we just feel, regardless of getting into the ideologies of the right and left business, we just feel from a standpoint of accomplishment, from the standpoint of performance, that the President deserves the nomination of his party and deserves, I think, the support of the American people.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 9:11 A.M. EST)