

PRESS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

November 24, 1975

No. 578-A



INTRODUCTORY REMARKS
TO THE
SPEECH BY
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
BEFORE THE ECONOMIC CLUB OF DETROIT
NOVEMBER 24, 1975



MR. RAY W. MACDONALD, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Burroughs Corporation: Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen. It gives me a great pleasure to welcome so many of you to tonight's dinner meeting of the Economic Club of Detroit. We have with us tonight an outstanding American diplomat, perhaps the most well-known and talked about world statesman who has ever occupied the office of United States Secretary of State. His popularity, I am sure, is well indicated by the large attendance we have this evening.

To begin our program, I would like to ask that you all rise for our invocation to be delivered by Father Malcolm Carron, President of the University of Detroit.

FATHER CARRON: Almighty God our Father, who is in heaven, in a week when Americans give thanks for your bountiful gifts we add another prayer of thanksgiving to you this evening for this food and this gathering; for the opportunity to hear one of our nation's leaders we give thanks.

We are grateful to our Secretary of State for his unwavering quest for peace in the world. We are thankful that you have blessed his efforts with so much success. Grant life; grant strength and patience and humility to all who work for peace, our national leaders young and old who strive for peace.

Grant prudence in proportion to our power, wisdom in proportion to our science, humaneness in proportion to our wealth and might, and bless our earnest will to help all races and peoples to travel in friendship with us along the road to justice, liberty and lasting peace.

We recognize that it is only when we are at peace with ourselves and with our neighbors that we can develop our humanity to its fullest and please you to the fullest.

We pray all this for ourselves, our families, and for a waiting and hopeful world.

Amen.

MR. MACDONALD: Thank you, Father Carron.

In addition to this historic event of the presence of Henry Kissinger, this evening is also historic for the small size of the head table of the Economic Club. (Laughter) (Applause). And because of its small size, I would like to present to you three of the special members at the head table.

For further information contact:

On my far right is the Honorable Ira Kaufman, Judge of Wayne County Probate Court and Chairman of the Detroit Committee on Foreign Relations, one of our associate sponsoring organizations this evening. (Applause)

Next to him is John C. McCabe, President and Chief Administrative Officer of Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Michigan, and Chairman of the Board of the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, our second associate sponsor. (Applause)

And I am sure you all know Russ Swaney, President of the Economic Club of Detroit. (Applause)

And to introduce our guest speaker this evening, it is my honor and pleasure to present to you Michigan's outstanding legislative leader -- a man who has assembled an enviable record in support of Michigan citizens as a member of the United States House of Representatives for more than nine years, and more recently as a member of the United States Senate for an equal length of time. His energetic leadership in the Senate has earned him election by his peers as Senate Minority Whip, a post he has held since 1969.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to present to you also the Director of the Economic Club of Detroit, our esteemed Senator from Michigan, The Honorable Robert T. Griffin.

(Standing ovation)

SENATOR GRIFFIN: Thanks very much, Ray.

Chairman Ray has previously delegated to me the unique honor of introducing the man who undoubtedly has the most interesting garbage in Washington. (Laughter)

If genius is ten percent inspiration and ninety percent perspiration, as Edison said, then our guest tonight is a super genius. It is one thing to be a renowned and respected scholar in the field of international relations as Henry Kissinger is. Ten years ago this month he was still at Harvard at the peak of his academic career having just completed his fifth major book in less than a decade.

But it is something altogether different for a professor to leave the academic heights to test his inspiration and perspiration in the sometimes grubby, always uncertain, and inevitably frustrating real world of politics.

Of course, Henry goes to great lengths for the cause of peace. Have you ever noticed how much time he spends kissing important men who need a shave? (Laughter) But I suspect his staying power on those long journeys can be explained by his knowledge that Nancy will be waiting up for him at home when the journey is over.

Surely an impressive measure of perspiration Henry has expended since coming to Washington in 1969 is that he has logged more than 300,000 miles of international travel in his efforts for peace. But surely the most dramatic measure of success is the fact that we find ourselves today at a moment in history when not one nation anywhere in the world is engaged in hostilities with any other nation anywhere in the world.

As you know, Dr. Kissinger was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, and I doubt that anyone in this country or in the world has ever been more deserving of the recognition. I think it is characteristic of this man who never had the opportunity to accumulate great wealth that he donated the \$70,000

which came with the prize to a scholarship fund for children of American servicemen killed or missing in Indochina.

As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I am close to the sparks of conflict that have been flying between Secretary Kissinger and the Congress. Indeed, I might say that Henry's historic achievements are all the more remarkable because he has managed somehow to overcome not only the thorny and almost impossible problems of international relations, but the help that is continually being volunteered by the Congress. (Laughter)

Congress is so hostile and partisan that, if you want to know the truth, Henry flies over to the Middle East and to the Soviet Union and to China so he can enjoy being in a friendly capital. (Laughter) (Applause)

It is a tribute to President Ford and to Secretary Kissinger that both of them recognize the importance of communicating directly with the people on the subject of foreign policy. That is why Henry has traveled more than 50,000 miles inside the United States to bring the message of foreign policy to grassroots America. And it is particularly appropriate, I think, that this mission has brought him tonight to the home state of Arthur Vandenburg, who, like our distinguished guest, recognized not only the need for keeping the people informed, but also the vital importance of keeping political partisanship out of foreign policy.

It is a personal honor and privilege, on behalf of the Economic Club and the people of Michigan, to extend a warm welcome to an inspiring, valiant, brilliant, and tireless leader in the cause of peace throughout the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I present a great American, Secretary Henry Kissinger. (Standing ovation)

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Mr. Chairman, Senator Griffin, Ladies and Gentlemen. I very much appreciate the very warm and friendly introduction of my friend Bob Griffin. I must say I have not heard as many such comments from the Congress in the last year. (Laughter) In fact, before we came in here Bob said to me, "I know why you are going to China -- because China doesn't have an extradition treaty with the United States." (Laughter)

Bob Griffin has been a strong leader in the Senate, the key member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. At a time when so many seem bent on perpetuating division, doubt and with the disparagement of the past decade, he has been a force for reason and responsibility in our nation's interest. He has been a staunch supporter of the President, a good friend, and a wise counsellor.

(Delivers prepared address)

* * * * *

