

The original documents are located in Box 26, folder “March 7, 1975 - King George Grand Lodge Dinner Dance in Honor of State Senator Owen Henry Johnson” of the Stanley Scott Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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FOR 8:00 P. M. RELEASE, FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1975

KING GEORGE GRAND LODGE
FIRST ANNUAL DINNER DANCE
IN HONOR OF
STATE SENATOR OWEN HENRY JOHNSON
HUNTINGTON TOWN HOUSE
HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND, N. Y.



BY:
THE HONORABLE
STANLEY S. SCOTT
SPECIAL ASSISTANT
TO THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

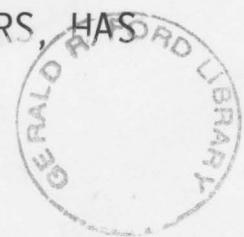
GRAND MASTER GEORGE SPARKS, DISTINGUISHED DAIS GUESTS,
MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE KING GEORGE LODGE, DEMOCRATS,
INDEPENDENTS AND FELLOW REPUBLICANS WHO ARE COURAGEOUS
ENOUGH TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES:

*Have
B lotter*

Thanks for intro:

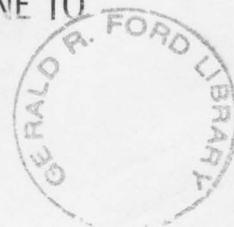
BEFORE I GO ANY FURTHER, LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND INVITATION TO BE WITH THIS
FINE GROUP OF AMERICANS. JUST BEFORE COMING INTO
THIS ROOM I WAS INFORMED THAT PRESIDENT FORD IS BACK IN
WASHINGTON ADDRESSING THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE.... I'M HERE WITH YOU.... SO THAT'S JUST GREAT.
THEN AGAIN, BOB STRAUSS, THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CHAIR -
MAN, HAS BEEN SPENDING MORE AND MORE OF HIS TIME TALKING
TO LARGE GROUPS..... NOT AUDIENCES..... DEMOCRAT CANDIDATES
FOR PRESIDENT!

SERIOUSLY, I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE IN MY ADOPTED
HOME TOWN TO JOIN ALL OF YOU IN PAYING TRIBUTE TO OUR
FRIEND OWEN HENRY JOHNSON. A MAN WHO, IN 43 YEARS, HAS



ACCOMPLISHED WHAT FEW OF US ACCOMPLISH IN A LIFE TIME. HIS OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY READS LIKE SOME OF THOSE I HAVE VIEWED OF GREAT STATES MEN ON OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE OR WASHINGTON VISITS.

A SON OF THE TOWN OF BABYLON, A GRADUATE OF HOFSTRA COLLEGE WHO SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS IN WORLD WAR II. AN INSURANCE BROKER, A MEMBER AND FORMER COUNCILMAN OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, CHAIRMAN OF THE BABYLON TOWN UNIT OF THE SALVATION ARMY, A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE SOCIETY OF THE ITALIAN EDUCATION FUND, AND MANY OTHER CIVIC, PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS. LET US NOT FORGET THAT--IN THIS NON-PARTISAN GATHERING-- OWEN JOHNSON IS ^{Also} A STAUNCH REPUBLICAN AND A MEMBER OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE FOR THE 105TH DISTRICT. IN OTHER WORDS, HE IS AN INVOLVED AMERICAN, AND, OF COURSE, OWES ALL OF HIS SUCCESS AND GOOD FORTUNE TO



HIS WONDERFUL WIFE, CHRISTEL. WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT IS CITIZENSHIP---WHICH REALLY MEANS BEING RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS. WE CAN ^{ALL} TAKE A PAGE FROM THE LIFE OF OWEN JOHNSON... ^{BY} BEING INVOLVED CITIZENS. WHATEVER THE ECONOMIC OR ENERGY PROBLEMS, WE CAN RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS IF WE WORK TOGETHER AS RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS. THIS IS WHY PRESIDENT FORD HAS FAITH IN THE BELIEF THAT THE CONGRESS WILL ULTIMATELY RESPOND TO THE WILL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND SERVE NATIONAL RATHER THAN NARROW INTERESTS.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS PERFORMING AS A RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN. THE PRESIDENT HAS PRESENTED TO THE CONGRESS A COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS TO DEAL WITH OUR ECONOMIC AND ENERGY PROBLEMS. WE ARE STILL WAITING ON SOME ACTION FROM THE CONGRESS. WHEN WE TALK ABOUT BEING GOOD AMERICANS... BEING RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS... WE ARE ALSO TALKING ABOUT REACHING OUT TO HELP OTHERS.





I AM FREQUENTLY ASKED AROUND THE COUNTRY, "IS THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT DEAD?" MY CONSISTENT AND PERSISTENT ANSWER IS A LOUD NO. THE EMPHASIS OF CAREFUL PLANNING IN AND EXECUTION OF ECONOMIC PROGRAMS IS THE ORDER OF THE DAY. THE ERA OF CONFRONTATION IN THE 60'S HAS BEEN REPLACED WITH A FAR LESS DRAMATIC, BUT I BELIEVE A MORE DIFFICULT BUT PRODUCTIVE IMMEDIATE AND LONG RANGE PROGRAM.

MINORITIES HAVE CONCENTRATED ON THE POLITICAL APPROACH. GREATER EMPHASIS ON REGISTRATION PROGRAMS, DEFINING POLITICAL ISSUES AND APPROACHING THE VOTING BOOTH IN LARGER NUMBER.

THE SIXTIES CONSTITUTED AN EXAMINATION OF THE WRONGS:
THE SEVENTIES AN APPLICATION OF THE REMEDIES. DEALING WITH THESE QUESTIONS REQUIRES SCALPEL AND SUTURES, NOT THE BOILING CAULDRON OF A FEW YEARS AGO.

THIS IS THE WORK THAT IS NOW UNDERWAY. IT IS THE WORK THAT LOGICALLY FOLLOWS THE SYMBOLIC AND LEGISLATIVE



GAINS MADE BEFORE. IT IS THE PAYOFF ON THOSE GAINS. WHILE I THINK WE MUST AGREE THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, I WOULD ADD THAT THERE CAN NEVER BE ENOUGH PROGRESS UNTIL ALL AMERICANS ARE ASSURED OF PARITY ACROSS THE BOARD.

SOMETIMES IT'S EVEN HARD FOR STUDENTS OF RACE RELATIONS TO UNDERSTAND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT BECAUSE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT NEW TACTICS IN THE 70'S TO RESOLVE ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS CREATED BY PROGRESS MADE DURING THE PAST DECADE. MOST OF THE SYMBOLIC, EARLY GAINS STEMMING FROM CIVIL CONFRONTATION ARE BEHIND US. WHAT REMAINS IS THE LESS SPECTACULAR TASK OF RESOLVING THE MORE COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT ISSUES AHEAD IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS WELL AS MINORITY RIGHTS. IT IS, IN MY VIEW, INDEED A SIGN OF MATURITY THAT IN TEN YEARS CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT HAS BECOME A PART OF THE BASIC FABRIC OF AMERICAN LIFE.



IN THE 60'S WE WERE ENGAGED IN THE PROCESS OF FREEING OURSELVES FROM THE MENTAL CHAINS OF SLAVERY AND SECOND-CLASS CITIZENSHIP. THROUGH BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS WE PRESSED OUR BILL OF PARTICULARS BEFORE THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WITH SIT-INS, JAIL-INS, AND COUNTLESS OTHER FORMS OF MASS PROTEST.

NOW THE TACTICS HAVE CHANGED. MOST OF THE LAWS ARE NOW ON THE BOOKS. WE HAVE PUBLIC ACCOMODATIONS AND VOTING RIGHTS LAWS. WE REALIZED IN THE 60'S THAT IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO HAVE ACCESS. WE ARE NOW ENGAGED IN LESS DRAMATIC INVOLVEMENT. WE WANT TO OWN SOME OF THOSE LUNCH COUNTERS, HOTELS AND GAIN SOME OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR CONTRACTS. WE ARE FINALLY TALKING ABOUT BECOMING PRODUCERS AS OPPOSED TO AGE-OLD CONSUMERS IN THIS GREAT CAPITALISTIC DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY. WE ARE

TALKING



FINALLY TALKING ABOUT GAINING A REAL PIECE OF THE AMERICAN PIE. NOW THAT WE HAVE MADE IT INSIDE THE FACILITY, WE NOW WANT A PIECE OF THE ACTION.... AND RIGHTLY SO-- THIS IS WHAT THE AMERICAN SYSTEM IS ALL ABOUT.

THE MOMENTUM OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT IS CONTINUING, EXPANDING, AND ACHIEVING GREATER CONCRETE SUCCESSES IN BOTH OLD AND NEW AREAS OF ENDEAVOR.

SO WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE TO MAKE EQUALITY A REALITY FOR ALL AMERICANS? FIRST, I THINK, WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE CERTAIN TRUTHS.

THE BLACK VOTE TODAY IS THE LEAST EFFECTIVE VOTE IN AMERICA. WE HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL ARENA--THROUGH BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS--IN THE SIXTIES, BUT WE HAVE NOT LEARNED TO PARTICIPATE TOO WISELY.

HERE'S THE SITUATION TODAY--IN ^{MARCH} ~~SEPTEMBER~~ ¹⁹⁷⁵ OF 1974. A



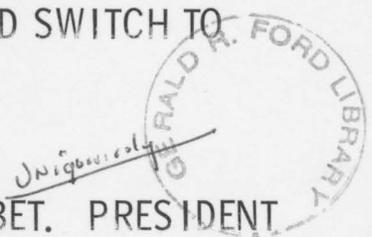
CANDIDATE CAN ANNOUNCE FOR OFFICE AND BEFORE HE MAKES HIS FIRST CAMPAIGN SPEECH-- IF HE HAPPENS TO BE A DEMOCRAT-- HE KNOWS THAT HE HAS FROM 70 TO 80 PERCENT OF THE BLACK VOTE IN HIS HIP POCKET. HOW CAN AN INDIVIDUAL OR A GROUP OF PEOPLE GAIN COMMITMENTS FROM POLITICIANS KNOW THAT THEY HAVE THAT INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP'S VOTES AT THE OUTSET?

WE, AS A RACIAL MINORITY, HAVE GOT TO STOP ALLOWING OURSELVES TO BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED-- BY THE DEMOCRATS, AND THOSE OF US WHO COUNT OURSELVES REPUBLICANS-- MUST FIGHT TO MAKE THE GOP LIVE UP TO ITS PROMISE OF BEING THE "PARTY OF THE OPEN DOOR."

AN INDICATION OF HOW STRONGLY I FEEL ABOUT THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM IS SIMPLY THIS: IF 70 TO 80 PERCENT OF BLACK AMERICANS WERE VOTING THE REPUBLICAN LINE TODAY, I WOULD SWITCH TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

LET ME SAY SOMETHING TO YOU ABOUT A SURE BET. PRESIDENT FORD INTENDS TO SEEK THE NOMINATION OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AS ITS CANDIDATE IN 1976. HE INTENDS TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT AND

*
Now
GOP



HE INTENDS TO WIN.

THE PRESIDENT HAS LAID BEFORE THE DEMOCRATIC-CONTROLLED CONGRESS FULLY DETAILED PROGRAMS TO ATTACK RECESSION, TO CONTAIN OUR RECENTLY RAGING INFLATION, AND TO START FREEING US FROM THE THREAT OF OIL BLACKMAIL.

ALTHOUGH THE RESPONSE WAS DEADLY SLOW AT FIRST, A SENSE OF GREATER URGENCY MAY NOW BE ARRIVING ON CAPITOL HILL-- AND FOR THAT WE CAN ALL BE GRATEFUL.

AMERICANS ARE DEMANDING ACTION. THEY ARE RIGHTFULLY FEARFUL THAT SOME PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON ARE SO INSULATED THAT THEY DON'T KNOW THE DESPERATION OF BEING JOBLESS OR OF LIVING ON AN INADEQUATE WAGE OR PENSION THAT CAN'T CATCH RUNAWAY PRICES.

THE PROBLEMS WHICH THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS SEEK TO RESOLVE HAVE BEEN WITH US FOR SOME TIME. WE ASK THE CONGRESS: WHERE ARE THE TOUGH, COORDINATED AND COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS WHICH OUR URGENT AND INTERRELATED PROBLEMS DEMAND? A PIECE HERE, A TOUCH THERE, DO NOT ADD UP TO AN EFFECTIVE



TOTAL PROGRAM. FAR FROM IT.

NOW IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT, BECAUSE OUR NATIONAL PROBLEMS ARE SO SERIOUS, WE SHOULD NOT BE WASTING TIME ON THE PROBLEMS OF OUR PARTY--OR ANY PARTY.

YET IT IS PRECISELY BECAUSE OF OUR NATIONAL PROBLEMS THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO LOOK TO OUR PARTY AND ITS REVITALIZATION EVERYWHERE.

I KNOW WHAT THE POLLS SHOW--AS YOU DO--AND I TELL YOU WITH ALL THE FORCE I CAN COMMAND:

THE STANDING OF THIS PARTY HAS HIT ITS LOWEST POINT, AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED. IT MUST CLIMB FROM THIS POINT FORWARD!

THE COST OF OUR FAILURE TO REBUILD EFFECTIVELY WILL NOT BE MEASURED BY THE FATE OF THE PARTY ITSELF.

IT WILL BE MEASURED BY THE DEPRIVATION OF A BASIC RIGHT OF ALL AMERICANS--A CHOICE IN POLITICS. IT WILL BE MEASURED BY THE DEATH OF THE EFFECTIVE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM SO VITAL TO THIS NATION.



- II -

TO CARRY OUT OUR DETERMINATION TO MAKE SURE THAT
REPUBLICANS ARE ON THE RISE, WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO
MAKE SOME FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN OUR POLITICAL THINKING.

AS A STARTER, WE MUST DISCARD THE ATTITUDE OF
EXCLUSIVENESS THAT HAS KEPT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY'S DOOR
CLOSED TOO OFTEN WHILE WE GIVE SPEECHES ABOUT KEEPING IT
OPEN.

WE MUST DISCARD THE PETTINESS WHICH, IF CONTINUED, WILL
LEAVE THE FEW REMAINING DIE HARDS OF THE STRUGGLE FOR
POWER ARGUING OVER WHO GETS POSSESSION OF THE CORPSE.

WE MUST ERECT A TENT THAT IS BIG ENOUGH FOR ALL WHO CARE
ABOUT THIS GREAT COUNTRY AND BELIEVE IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY
ENOUGH TO WORK THROUGH IT FOR COMMON GOALS.

WE MUST BE PREPARED TO OVERCOME THE CYNICISM OF VOTERS
WITH CANDIDATES OF OUTSTANDING ABILITY AND ROCK-HARD INTEGRITY.
PEOPLE LIKE SEN. OWEN JOHNSON.

AS I AM SURE ALL OF YOU KNOW, THE BUDGET AND THE
ECONOMIC AND ENERGY PROGRAMS THE PRESIDENT SENT TO



THE CONGRESS FORECAST MONTHS OF PROBLEMS STILL AHEAD.

~~THERE HAS BEEN -- AND WILL BE -- NO ATTEMPT TO MISLEAD
ANYONE ABOUT THE SERIOUSNESS OF OUR PROBLEMS.~~

YET, I AM CONVINCED THAT ADVERSITY CAN BRING US
TOGETHER-- NOT DRIVE US FARTHER APART. I AM CONVINCED
THAT THE SPIRIT THAT BUILT THIS NATION IS NEITHER DEAD NOR
DIMINISHED.

IT MUST BE AROUSED. FOR THE GOAL WE SEEK -- A BETTER
COUNTRY THROUGH BETTER CITIZENSHIP PARTICIPATION -- WILL
DEMAND MORE OF US THAN MERE PARTY SERVICE. IT WILL DEMAND
HARD WORK, HIGH PURPOSE, ENTHUSIASM AND UNSHAKABLE FAITH
THAT WE WILL ATTAIN A GOAL THAT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THIS
LAND.

TO THIS GOAL, LET US PLEDGE OURSELVES TONIGHT.

THANK YOU.

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