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SP FILE

Jan. 25, 1974

DC

August 2, 1974

Mr. Thomas W. McKnew
Chairman, Executive Committee
The Alfalfa Club
P.O. Box 1600
Washington, D.C. 20013

Dear Mr. McKnew:

Thank you for your recent letter and let me assure
you that I have marked January 25th on my calendar.

It will be a pleasure and an honor to be presiding
at the annual dinner of the Alfalfa Club.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Hubert H. Humphrey

000875



The Alfa Club

POST OFFICE BOX 1600
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20013

JUL 22 10 58 AM '74

July 17, 1974

Jan 25

The Honorable
Hubert H. Humphrey
Harbor Square
550 N Street, S.W. - Apt. S801
Washington, D. C. 20024

My dear Senator:

I am sure that you remember that you are the First Vice-President of our club and in the order of rotation you are due to be our President for 1975 and preside over our annual dinner at the Statler-Hilton Hotel in Washington, D. C. on January 25, 1975; taking over from former Astronaut Frank Borman who presided at our 1974 dinner.

Knowing that you make speaking engagements months in advance we hope that your calendar is clear for January 25, 1975 and that you may be able to keep it clear for that Saturday evening when we have our annual dinner. We appreciate your willingness as expressed earlier to preside that evening.

With highest esteem and my personal regards.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. McKnew

Thomas W. McKnew
Chairman, Executive Committee

GRIDIRON CLUB

WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL

APRIL 8 , 1972

MADAME CHAIRMAN, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
OF THE GRIDIRON CLUB.

I WAS JUST INTRODUCED AS THE TITULAR LEADER OF THE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER ANY PUN WAS INTENDED
BY THAT INTRODUCTION GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THIS
MEETING, BUT SOMEHOW THIS EVENING IT SEEMS OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE.

THERE IS NO SENSE DENYING THAT THERE IS A CLEAVAGE IN THE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY TODAY.

IN ANY EVENT, I FEEL TONIGHT LIKE HUBERT HORATIO HAMLET:

"TO BE HERE OR NOT TO BE HERE: THAT WAS MY QUESTION
WHETHER T'WOULD BE NOBLER IN THE MIND TO SUFFER SLINGS
AND ARROWS OF THE PICKET LINE OUTSIDE
OR TAKE ARMS AGAINST THE SEA OF TROUBLES INSIDE, AND,
BY OPPOSING, END THEM."

- 2 -

- 3

YOU CAN SEE THAT I AM HERE, IN CHARACTER, DETERMINED TO WORK
WITHIN THE SYSTEM. YOU AND I KNOW THAT SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL CHANGE
REQUIRES ACTIVITIES FROM BOTH THE MARCHERS AND THE TALKERS. IT
THEREFORE MUST BE NO SURPRISE TO YOU TO FIND ME HERE TALKING AND
NOT ON THE PICKET LINE OUTSIDE WALKING.

BUT MORE OF THAT LATER. LET US THEREFORE GET ON WITH THE
SERIOUS BUSINESS OF THE DAY--POLITICS.

AT THE OUTSET, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION AT YOUR INVITATION TO HAVE ME SPEAK TO YOU THIS EVENING. THIS IS INDEED AN HONOR I DID NOT DESERVE, BUT THEN AGAIN I LOST THE LAST ELECTION, AND I DIDN'T DESERVE THAT EITHER!

IT'S A PLEASURE TO HAVE HEARD MARTHA GRIFFITHS AND MARGARET HECKLER SPEAK. HERE ARE TWO DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. THEIR PRESENCE IS A TRIBUTE TO YOU AND YOUR CLUB.

W. C. FIELDS WAS ONCE ASKED WHETHER HE FAVORED CLUBS FOR WOMEN. HIS CLASSIC ANSWER WAS: "SURE I DO WHEN ALL OTHER MEANS OF PERSUASION FAIL."

BUT IT WAS POLITICS I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT TONIGHT. BARRY AND I BEGAN THIS ROUTINE A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO AT ANOTHER CLUB. IT WAS, IF I REMEMBER--YOU SHOULD EXCUSE THE EXPRESSION--THE WOMENS PRESS CLUB.

6

AT THAT TIME, I NOTED HOW HANDSOME AND DISTINGUISHED HE WAS, AND ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS NEGOTIATING A MOVIE CONTRACT WITH 18TH CENTURY FOX. IT'S WRONG, HOWEVER, TO MALIGN BARRY GOLDWATER AS A MAN WHO'S BEHIND THE TIMES. INDEED, I TOLD HIM SO LAST NIGHT AT HIS NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY.

7

BARRY AND I ARE GOOD FRIENDS. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THIS COMING FALL WHILE I CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRESIDENCY IN ALL 50 STATES, BARRY, TRUE TO HIS STYLE AND DETERMINED TO PROVE HIS FRIENDSHIP FOR ME, INTENDS TO DO HIS CAMPAIGNING FOR RICHARD NIXON IN THE ORIGINAL 13.

8

ONE THING I'LL SAY ABOUT BARRY AND ME, HOWEVER, HE IS CLEARLY
ON THE REPUBLICAN SIDE AND I'M CLEARLY ON THE DEMOCRATIC SIDE--
NOW IF WE COULD ONLY FIND OUT WHOSE SIDE NIXON IS ON!

BUT I'M REALLY FULL OF COMPASSION FOR THE PRESIDENT. IF
YOU THINK YOU HAVE PROBLEMS, THINK ABOUT HIM. PRESIDENT NIXON'S
BEEN AROUND FOR 39 MONTHS AND BY GEORGE, HE'S STILL HAVING LABOR
PAINS!

9

WE MUST GIVE THE PRESIDENT CREDIT. HE DID GIVE THE DOLLAR
BACK TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER--THE BANKS. IN FACT, HE HAS A
MAGICAL QUALITY ABOUT HIM. LOOK HOW HE MADE THE DOLLAR DISAPPEAR.

I AM SOMEWHAT PUZZLED ABOUT THIS SUBJECT, HOWEVER. THE
DOLLAR IS FLOATING AND SO MANY OF US ARE GOING DOWN THE DRAIN.

10

MARY ANN MEANS (SHE WRITES A COLUMN YOU KNOW, EVEN THOUGH SHE ISN'T A FAN) WAS TELLING ME THE OTHER DAY ABOUT THE DOCTOR WHO DELIVERED A BABY BOY TO A FARM FAMILY AND ANNOUNCED IMMEDIATELY TO THE FATHER "HE'S GOING TO BE A FARMER JUST LIKE YOU." THE ASTONISHED FARMER ASKED HOW THE DOCTOR COULD KNOW SUCH A THING "BECAUSE HE'S CRYING ALREADY" THE DOCTOR SAID.

NEVERTHELESS, I KNOW THAT THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES THAT ITS ECONOMIC POLICIES ARE WORKING. NOW IF ONLY MORE PEOPLE WERE WORKING. AND I KNOW THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WANTS TO GET THE COUNTRY MOVING AGAIN. SO FAR, OF COURSE, ALL HE'S MOVED IS THE WASHINGTON BASEBALL CLUB -- TO DALLAS -- BUT IT'S A START!

12
YOU SEE, I'M NOT AGAINST RICHARD NIXON. AS A MATTER OF
FACT, I THINK HE WILL MAKE A FINE EX-PRESIDENT. AND WHILE HE
IS STILL IN OFFICE EVERYONE SHOULD GET BEHIND HIM--AND PUSH.

I'M CONVINCED THAT NIXON IS DOING A FINE JOB. I WAS TALKING
ABOUT HIM THE OTHER DAY, IN FACT TO PRESIDENT KISSINGER.

13
BUT WE CAN'T DO EVERYTHING OVERNIGHT. WE HAVEN'T YET
BEEN ABLE TO CURE POVERTY, BUT THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING NOW,
WE'RE SURE GOING TO BE ABLE TO CURE WEALTH. IN THIS SAME SPIRIT
OF NON-PARTISANSHIP AND OF BEING FAIR TO BARRY GOLDWATER AND
RICHARD NIXON, I THINK IT'S ONLY RIGHT THAT I ALSO STATE, IN MY
OPINION, SPIRO AGNEW HAS ALSO BEEN UNFAIRLY MALIGNED.

14
IT'S NOT TRUE THAT HE'S OPPOSED TO NEWSMEN EXPRESSING THEIR
VIEWS. HE'S ONLY OPPOSED TO PEOPLE READING THOSE VIEWS.
ANOTHER SILLY RUMOR IS THAT MR. ACHEW IS AT ODDS WITH THE YOUNG
PEOPLE. ACTUALLY, HE FEELS ABOUT THEM AS HE FEELS ABOUT NEWS
COMMENTATORS--THEY SHOULD BE SEEN AND NOT HEARD!

15
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THE VICE-PRESIDENT WAS INVITED TO BE
HERE WITH YOU TONIGHT, BUT I UNDERSTAND THAT HE IS AGAIN DOWN IN
PALM SPRINGS WITH FRANK SINATRA. FRANK IS GIVING HIM RETIREMENT
LESSONS.

ANYHOW, NIXON IS NOT THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO HAVE A
CONTROVERSIAL VICE-PRESIDENT. PRESIDENT EISENHOWER HAD ONE, TOO.

MY PURPOSE THIS EVENING, HOWEVER, IS NOT JUST TO TALK ABOUT THE REPUBLICANS. AFTER ALL, WHAT CAN YOU SAY THAT IS NEW OR INTERESTING. NOW TAKE THE DEMOCRATS, THEY'RE ALIVE AND KICKING--EACH OTHER.

AND THEN THERE IS SENATOR PROXMIER HAVING HAIR TRANSPLANTS,

I FIND THIS VERY INTERESTING--THAT HE SHOULD BE HAVING HIS HAIR PUT IN WHILE THE REST OF THE COUNTRY IS PULLING THEIRS OUT.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE WORRYING ABOUT IS HIGH PRICES.

WE WERE GOING TO HAVE SIRLOIN STEAK TONIGHT BUT AFTER PHASE II, THE CLUB COULDN'T AFFORD THE MEAT.

13

THEN THERE WAS THAT SUPERMARKET IN PENNSYLVANIA WHICH HAD
A SIGN READING: "MEAT FOR RENT," BUT ENOUGH OF THAT,
REPUBLICANS ARE FOR CONTROLS--CONTROL THE PRESS, CONTROL THE
MONEY AND CONTROL THE WHITE HOUSE--IF ONLY THEY WOULD CONTROL
PRICES TOO.

16

THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A NOSTALGIC EVENING FOR ME. I KNOW THAT
MANY OF YOU RELEGATE ME TO THE CATEGORY OF A CANDIDATE OF THE
OLD POLITICS. BUT THERE IS A GREAT DEAL TO BE SAID ABOUT THE
OLD POLITICS AND THE OLD WAYS. INDEED, THEY HELP PUT CURRENT
EVENTS IN THEIR PROPER PERSPECTIVE.

20
DO YOU REMEMBER THE GOOD OLD DAYS WHEN ALL YOU HAD TO
REMEMBER WAS ATT--NOW THE REPUBLICANS WANT TO FORGET ITT,

AND DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE DEMOCRATS INITIATED A WAR ON
POVERTY, THAT WAS JUST BEFORE THE REPUBLICANS STARTED THEIR
WAR ON PROSPERITY.

21
I REMEMBER WHEN YOU CALLED A PLUMBER AFTER A LEAK DEVELOPED,
NOW YOU CALL J. EDGAR HOOVER AND HAVE JACK ANDERSON FOLLOWING HIM,

AND REMEMBER WHEN GEORGE WALLACE WAS CONTENT TO JUST BLOCK
THE DOOR TO THE SCHOOLHOUSE, NOW HE WANTS TO BLOCK THE DOOR TO
THE WHITE HOUSE, AGAIN!

22

FINALLY, DO YOU REMEMBER HUBERT HUMPHREY BEFORE HE LEARNED
TO BE BRIEF? WELL, DON'T RELY ON IT.

SERIOUSLY THOUGH, THERE IS VITALITY IN THE DEMOCRATIC
PARTY. EVERY MOTHER'S SON AND DAUGHTER THAT EVER WANTED TO BE
PRESIDENT IS RUNNING FOR THE OFFICE, AND IT'S ALL NIXON'S FAULT--
HE'S MADE THE JOB SO ATTRACTIVE--KEY BISCAYNE, SAN CLEMENTE,

23

CAMP DAVID, PEKING, MOSCOW AND AN OCCASIONAL VISIT TO THE
WHITE HOUSE. THAT'S LIVING! AND IT BEATS GOING TO THE RANCH!

IT MUST THEREFORE BE CLEAR TO YOU WHY I MADE UP MY MIND
TO SEEK THE PRESIDENCY AGAIN. I DIDN'T COME TO A FINAL DECISION
UNTIL A FEW MONTHS AGO, WHEN I WAS DRIVING PAST THE WHITE HOUSE
AND REALIZED THAT AFTER 3 YEARS RICHARD NIXON HAS BEEN EATING

24
KETCHUP AND COTTAGE CHEESE WATCHING FOOTBALL GAMES AND TELLING
EVERYONE THAT HE REPRESENTED THE SILENT MAJORITY. THAT REALLY
DID IT. WHAT THIS COUNTRY NEEDS IS SOMEONE WHO CAN OUT-NIXON
NIXON. I SAID TO MYSELF: "I'VE EATEN MORE COTTAGE CHEESE THAN
HE HAS, I'VE BEEN TO MORE FOOTBALL GAMES, AND GOD KNOWS, I'VE BEEN
SILENT FOR A MAJORITY OF MY PUBLIC CAREER."

25
HAVING BEEN BROUGHT UP IN THE BELIEF THAT ANYONE CAN
RUN FOR THE PRESIDENCY TWICE, I AM NOW TOO DETERMINED TO ADD
A PLATFORM PLANK THAT RECOMMENDS A NEW PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
SYSTEM. YOU CAN'T BLAME ME FOR BEING DISSATISFIED WITH THE
OLD ONE.

BUT TO ME, AS I CONCLUDE MY POLITICAL ANALYSIS, I CAN
THINK OF NO BETTER WAY TO DESCRIBE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE
DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PARTIES THAN TO TELL A STORY BY HARRY
GOLDEN, WHO SAYS THAT HE HEARD A POLITICIAN RUNNING FOR A COUNTY
OFFICE MAKE THE FOLLOWING SPEECH:

"REMEMBER THE SYMBOL OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, IT'S THE
ELEPHANT -- THE GIANT THAT STOMPS THROUGH THE JUNGLE
TRAMPLING LITTLE ANIMALS UNDER FOOT AND SWINGING ITS HEAD
AROUND, BUT THE SYMBOL OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS THE LITTLE
MULE -- THE SAME BLESSED ANIMAL OUR SAVIOR RODE IN JERUSALEM
2,000 YEARS AGO."

28

ON THAT UNBIASED RELIGIOUS NOTE, I THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION AND YOUR COURTESY, BUT BEFORE I SIT DOWN, I WANT TO
SHARE WITH YOU A FEW THOUGHTS ON WHAT I CONSIDER TO BE AN
IMPORTANT SUBJECT FACING THE AMERICAN SOCIETY.

29

YOU NEWSPAPER MEN, EDITORS, PUBLISHERS -- A GROUP OF MIGHTY
MEN OF WORDS -- HAVE BEEN A LONG TIME GETTING AROUND TO TWO
IMPORTANT WORDS, THEY ARE: " AND WOMEN". THESE TWO WORDS
HAVE BEEN MISSING FROM ARTICLE I, SECTION 2 OF YOUR CONSTITUTION
FOR 87 YEARS.

TONIGHT I SUBMIT THE HUMPHREY AMENDMENT TO BE PROPOSED
AT YOUR NEXT MEETING TO READ: "BE IT DECLARED THAT THE
GRIDIRON CONSTITUTION ADD THE TWO WORDS 'AND WOMEN'
FOLLOWING THE PHRASE ' ACTIVE MEMBERS SHALL BE MEN' ".

31
YOU CAN CALL IT THE POE AMENDMENT OR THE WILSON AMENDMENT
OR THE BELL AMENDMENT -- I OFFER IT AT NO CHARGE, AND IN THE
SPIRIT OF THIS SONG FEST TONIGHT, I SUGGEST: (SING IF YOU CAN)

" TWO LITTLE WORDS -- THAT'S ALL I LIVE FOR -- THOSE
TWO LITTLE WORDS."

32
IF TWO-THIRDS OF YOU SUPPORT THIS AMENDMENT, YOU WILL
BE DOING MORE TO INCREASE THE STATURE OF THIS ORGANIZATION
THAN 100 HUMEROUS SKITS. THAT KIND OF ACTION IS WORTHY
OF OUR TIMES AND WORTHY OF YOUR PROFESSION.

(THANK YOU.)

X Mark Hanna
Gaul

001670
Really
Pats
a fellow
into Psychological
Disadvantage

Recycling
news

Delivered by
Herald

GRIDIRON CLUB

STATLER HILTON HOTEL

APRIL 8, 1972

We democrats
ask for equality

How about
a Vote Democratic
button
Delivered by
Jim Farley

MADAME CHAIRMAN, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
OF THE GRIDIRON CLUB.

I WAS JUST INTRODUCED AS THE TITULAR LEADER OF THE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER ANY PUN WAS INTENDED
BY THAT INTRODUCTION GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THIS
MEETING, ~~BUT SOMEHOW THIS EVENING IT SEEMS OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE.~~

001671

2

THERE IS NO SENSE DENYING THAT ~~001671~~ IS A CLEAVAGE IN THE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY TODAY. *X (next card)*

well, IN ANY EVENT, I FEEL TONIGHT LIKE HUBERT HORATIO HAMLET:

"TO BE HERE OR NOT TO BE HERE; THAT WAS MY QUESTION
WHETHER T'WOULD BE NOBLER IN THE MIND TO SUFFER SLINGS
AND ARROWS OF THE PICKET LINE OUTSIDE
OR TAKE ARMS AGAINST THE SEA OF TROUBLES INSIDE, AND,
BY OPPOSING, END THEM."

- 2 -

*after cleavage in Demo
Party*

HISTORICALLY, THE SPEAKERS HERE AT THE GRIDIRON DINNER DO POLITICAL
JOKES. UNFORTUNATELY, MOST OF THE POLITICAL JOKES I KNOW ARE
STILL IN OFFICE.

back to card # 2

001672

YOU CAN SEE THAT I AM HERE, ~~IN THE~~ DETERMINED TO WORK
WITHIN THE SYSTEM. YOU AND I KNOW THAT SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL CHANGE
REQUIRES ACTIVITIES FROM BOTH THE MARCHERS AND THE TALKERS. IT
THEREFORE MUST BE NO SURPRISE TO YOU TO FIND ME HERE TALKING AND
NOT ON THE PICKET LINE ~~BE WALKING~~ *Marching!*
BUT MORE OF THAT LATER. *Let's* ~~LET'S~~ THEREFORE GET ON WITH THE
SERIOUS BUSINESS OF THE DAY--POLITICS.

4

~~AT THE OUTSET, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION AT YOUR
INVITATION TO HAVE ME SPEAK TO YOU THIS EVENING. THIS IS INDEED
AN HONOR I DID NOT DESERVE, BUT THEN AGAIN I LOST THE LAST
ELECTION, AND I DIDN'T DESERVE THAT EITHER!~~

IT'S A PLEASURE TO HAVE HEARD MARTHA GRIFFITHS AND
MARGARET HECKLER SPEAK. HERE ARE TWO DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF
CONGRESS. THEIR PRESENCE IS A TRIBUTE TO YOU AND YOUR CLUB.

5
L W. C. FIELDS WAS ONCE ASKED WHETHER HE FAVORED CLUBS FOR
WOMEN. HIS CLASSIC ANSWER WAS: "SURE I DO WHEN ALL OTHER MEANS
OF PERSUASION FAIL."

L BUT IT WAS POLITICS I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT TONIGHT.

L BARRY AND I BEGAN THIS ROUTINE A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO AT ANOTHER
CLUB. IT WAS, ~~IF I REMEMBER~~ YOU SHOULD EXCUSE THE EXPRESSION--
THE WOMENS PRESS CLUB.

6
~~AT THAT TIME~~ I NOTED HOW HANDSOME AND DISTINGUISHED *Barry*
WAS, AND ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS NEGOTIATING A MOVIE CONTRACT
WITH 18TH CENTURY FOX *well* IT'S WRONG, HOWEVER, TO MALIGN BARRY
GOLDWATER AS A MAN WHO'S BEHIND THE TIMES. INDEED, I TOLD HIM
SO LAST NIGHT AT HIS NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY.

001674

*we have much in common, we both
~~worked~~ we worked side by
Lyndon Johnson!*

BARRY AND I ARE GOOD FRIENDS. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THIS

COMING FALL WHILE I CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRESIDENCY IN ALL 50 STATES,

BARRY, TRUE TO HIS STYLE, AND DETERMINED TO PROVE HIS FRIENDSHIP

FOR ME, INTENDS TO DO HIS CAMPAIGNING FOR RICHARD NIXON IN THE

ORIGINAL 13 *Colonies*

But ONE THING I'LL SAY ABOUT BARRY AND ME, ~~HOWEVER~~ HE IS CLEARLY

ON THE REPUBLICAN SIDE AND I'M CLEARLY ON THE DEMOCRATIC SIDE--

NOW IF WE COULD ONLY FIND OUT WHOSE SIDE NIXON IS ON!

BUT I'M REALLY FULL OF COMPASSION FOR THE PRESIDENT. IF

~~YOU THINK YOU HAVE PROBLEMS, THINK ABOUT HIM.~~ PRESIDENT NIXON'S

BEEN AROUND FOR 39 MONTHS AND BY GEORGE, HE'S STILL HAVING LABOR
PAINS!

9
But you have to

~~HE MUST~~ GIVE THE PRESIDENT CREDIT,

001675
HE DID GIVE THE DOLLAR

BACK TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER--THE BANKS *he almost* IN FACT, HE HAS A *characteristic*

MAGICAL QUALITY ABOUT HIM. ~~LOOK HOW HE~~ MADE THE DOLLAR DISAPPEAR!

But what bothers me is that the
~~I AM SOMEWHAT PUZZLED ABOUT THIS SUBJECT, HOWEVER.~~ THE

while the DOLLAR IS FLOATING AND SO MANY OF US ARE GOING DOWN THE DRAIN.

10

MARY ANN MEANS (SHE WRITES A COLUMN YOU KNOW, EVEN THOUGH SHE ISN'T A MAN) WAS TELLING ME THE OTHER DAY ABOUT THE DOCTORE WHO DELIVERED A BABY BOY TO A FARM FAMILY AND ANNOUNCED IMMEDIATELY TO THE FATHER "HE'S GOING TO BE A FARMER JUST LIKE YOU." THE ASTONISHED FARMER ASKED HOW THE DOCTOR COULD KNOW SUCH A THING "BECAUSE HE'S CRYING ALREADY" THE DOCTOR SAID.

001676

~~NEVERTHELESS~~ I KNOW THAT THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES THAT
ITS ECONOMIC POLICIES ARE WORKING. ~~But~~ IF ONLY MORE PEOPLE WERE
WORKING ~~AND~~ I KNOW THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WANTS TO GET THE
COUNTRY MOVING AGAIN. SO FAR, OF COURSE, ~~all that's~~ ~~HE'S~~ MOVED IS THE
WASHINGTON BASEBALL CLUB -- TO DALLAS -- BUT IT'S A START!

YOU SEE, I'M NOT AGAINST RICHARD NIXON. AS A MATTER OF
FACT, I THINK HE WILL MAKE A FINE EX-PRESIDENT. ~~AND~~ WHILE HE
IS STILL IN OFFICE EVERYONE SHOULD GET BEHIND HIM--AND PUSH.

~~I'M CONVINCED THAT NIXON IS DOING A FINE JOB. I WAS TALKING~~
~~ABOUT HIM THE OTHER DAY, IN FACT TO PRESIDENT KISSINGER.~~

001677

12a

~~after Labor Pains~~ after cord 12

I WON'T SAY THAT MR. NIXON HASN'T HAD SOME SUCCESS -- LOOK AT IT
THIS WAY -- AT LEAST HE KEPT US OUT OF NORTHERN IRELAND.

A late Bulletin -

12B

~~from the New York Times~~

I know all of you gentlemen of the press will be
interested in this late bulletin. President Nixon just
ordered the bombing of Jack Anderson--of course that's a
protective reaction strike.

001678

13

~~BUT WE CAN'T DO EVERYTHING OVERNIGHT. WE HAVEN'T YET~~
~~BEEN ABLE TO CURE POVERTY, BUT THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING NOW,~~
~~WE'RE SURE GOING TO BE ABLE TO CURE WEALTH.~~ *now* *gentle*
IN THIS SAME SPIRIT
OF NON-PARTISANSHIP, ~~AND OF BEING FAIR TO BARRY GOLDWATER AND~~
~~RICHARD NIXON,~~ I THINK IT'S ONLY RIGHT THAT I ALSO STATE, IN MY
OPINION, SPIRO AGNEW HAS ALSO BEEN UNFAIRLY MALIGNED.

14

IT'S NOT TRUE THAT HE'S OPPOSED TO NEWSMEN EXPRESSING THEIR
VIEWS HE'S ONLY OPPOSED TO PEOPLE READING THOSE VIEWS. *and,*
ANOTHER SILLY RUMOR IS THAT MR. AGNEW IS AT ODDS WITH THE YOUNG
PEOPLE! ACTUALLY, HE FEELS ABOUT THEM AS HE FEELS ABOUT NEWS
COMMENTATORS--THEY SHOULD BE SEEN AND NOT HEARD!

001679

15
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THE VICE-PRESIDENT WAS INVITED TO BE
HERE ~~WITH YOU TONIGHT~~, BUT I UNDERSTAND THAT HE IS ~~DOWN~~ DOWN IN
PALM SPRINGS WITH FRANK SINATRA, FRANK IS GIVING HIM RETIREMENT
LESSONS.

President
ANYHOW, NIXON IS NOT THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO HAVE A
CONTROVERSIAL VICE-PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT EISENHOWER HAD ONE, TOO.

16
MY PURPOSE THIS EVENING, HOWEVER, IS NOT JUST TO TALK
ABOUT THE REPUBLICANS. AFTER ALL, WHAT CAN YOU SAY THAT IS
NEW OR INTERESTING. NOW TAKE THE DEMOCRATS, THEY'RE ALIVE AND
KICKING--EACH OTHER.

AND THEN THERE IS SENATOR PROXMIRE HAVING HAIR TRANSPLANTS,

001680

of course
WHAT PEOPLE

WHAT PEOPLE ARE WORRYING ABOUT IS HIGH PRICES.

~~PHASE II, THE CLUB COULDN'T AFFORD THE MEAT~~

But a damn lot me speak for the Administration
~~some people say~~ THAT NIXON IS LESS CONCERNED ABOUT STEEL GOING UP
 THAN HEAT GOING UP 10 CENTS A POUND!

~~people say~~ THAT NIXON ~~is~~ LESS CONCERNED ABOUT STEEL GOING UP
\$2.00 A TON THAN HE WAS ABOUT MEAT GOING UP 10 CENTS A POUND!
 PERHAPS SOMEONE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THE MEAT INCREASE IS TWO"
HUNDRED DOLLARS A TON. (DO YOU REALIZE THAT SOON IT WILL BE CHEAPER
 TO EAT YOUR CAR THAN TO GO TO THE MARKET.

001681

THEN THERE WAS THAT SUPERMARKET IN PENNSYLVANIA WHICH HAD

A SIGN READING: "MEAT FOR RENT," BUT ENOUGH OF THAT, ~~that~~

you know -

REPUBLICANS ARE FOR CONTROLS--CONTROL THE PRESS, CONTROL THE

MONEY AND CONTROL THE WHITE HOUSE--IF ONLY THEY WOULD CONTROL

PRICES TOO. !

THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A NOSTALGIC EVENING FOR ME. I ~~KNOW THAT~~

I've been here before and some say
~~MANY OF YOU RELEGATE ME TO THE CATEGORY OF A CANDIDATE OF THE~~

I'm of the Old Politics -

~~OLD POLITICS.~~ BUT THERE IS A GREAT DEAL TO BE SAID ABOUT THE

OLD POLITICS AND THE OLD WAYS. ~~INDEED, THEY HELP PUT CURRENT~~

~~EVENTS IN THEIR PROPER PERSPECTIVE.~~ *- Do you Remember*

those good old days when all that
was shredded was wheat?

Don't you remember that

WHEN THE REPUBLICANS CAME INTO OFFICE THEY REMINDED US THAT A NEW

001682

BROOM SWEEPS CLEAN. *I* JUST DON'T THINK ANYONE EXPECTED THE NEW BROOM
TO SWEEP SO MUCH UNDER THE RUG.!

~~which reminds me~~ (19A)

L I WAS ANNOYED WHEN THE FBI LET IT & T DO IT'S OWN ANALYSIS
OF THE CONTROVERSIAL MEMO, THAT'S LIKE A MAN HAVING HIS
MISTRESS CALL HIS WIFE TO TELL HER HE WAS OUT WITH THE BOYS

I'M SURE ALL OF YOU KNOW MRS. BEARD. THERE IS NO TRUTH TO THE
RUMOR THAT SHE HAS REPLACED MARTHA MITCHELL AS THE CENTERFOLD GIRL"
IN ITT MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

20

and, DO YOU REMEMBER THE GOOD OLD DAYS WHEN ALL YOU HAD TO

REMEMBER WAS ATT--NOW THE REPUBLICANS WANT TO FORGET ITT!

18/11/1971

L AND DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE DEMOCRATS INITIATED A WAR ON
POVERTY. THAT WAS JUST BEFORE THE REPUBLICANS STARTED THEIR
WAR ON PROSPERITY.

001683

L I REMEMBER WHEN YOU CALLED A PLUMBER AFTER A LEAK DEVELOPED,

NOW YOU CALL J. EDGAR HOOVER AND HAVE JACK ANDERSON FOLLOWING HIM.

AND REMEMBER WHEN GEORGE WALLACE WAS CONTENT TO JUST BLOCK

THE DOOR TO THE SCHOOLHOUSE L NOW HE WANTS TO BLOCK THE DOOR TO

THE WHITE HOUSE, AGAIN!

L FINALLY, DO YOU REMEMBER HUBERT HUMPHREY BEFORE HE LEARNED
TO BE BRIEF? WELL, DON'T RELY ON IT!

L SERIOUSLY THOUGH, THERE IS VITALITY IN THE DEMOCRATIC

PARTY. L EVERY MOTHER'S SON AND DAUGHTER THAT EVER WANTED TO BE
PRESIDENT IS RUNNING FOR THE OFFICE. AND, ^{of course,} IT'S ALL NIXON'S FAULT--

HE'S MADE THE JOB SO ATTRACTIVE--KEY BISCAYNE, SAN CLEMENTE,

001684

23

CAMP DAVID, PEKING, MOSCOW AND AN OCCASIONAL VISIT TO THE

WHITE HOUSE! ^{now} THAT'S LIVING! ^{I tell you,} IT BEATS GOING TO THE RANCH!!

h IT MUST THEREFORE BE CLEAR TO YOU WHY I MADE UP MY MIND
TO SEEK THE PRESIDENCY AGAIN. I DIDN'T COME TO A FINAL DECISION
UNTIL A FEW MONTHS AGO, WHEN I WAS DRIVING PAST THE WHITE HOUSE
AND REALIZED THAT AFTER 3 YEARS RICHARD NIXON HAS BEEN EATING

24

KETCHUP AND COTTAGE CHEESE WATCHING FOOTBALL GAMES AND TELLING
EVERYONE THAT HE REPRESENTED THE SILENT MAJORITY, THAT REALLY
DID IT. WHAT THIS COUNTRY NEEDS IS SOMEONE WHO CAN OUT-NIXON
NIXON. I SAID TO MYSELF: "I'VE EATEN MORE COTTAGE CHEESE THAN
HE HAS, I'VE BEEN TO MORE FOOTBALL GAMES, AND GOD KNOWS, I'VE BEEN
SILENT FOR A MAJORITY OF MY PUBLIC CAREER."

001685

25

HAVING BEEN BROUGHT UP IN THE BELIEF THAT ANYONE CAN
RUN FOR THE PRESIDENCY at least TWICE, I AM NOW TOO DETERMINED TO ADD
A PLATFORM PLANK THAT RECOMMENDS A NEW PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
SYSTEM. YOU CAN'T BLAME ME FOR BEING DISSATISFIED WITH THE
OLD ONE. !

26

BUT TO ME, AS I CONCLUDE MY POLITICAL ANALYSIS, I CAN
THINK OF NO BETTER WAY TO DESCRIBE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE
DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PARTIES THAN TO TELL A STORY BY HARRY
GOLDEN, WHO SAYS THAT HE HEARD A POLITICIAN RUNNING FOR A COUNTY
OFFICE MAKE THE FOLLOWING SPEECH: !

001686

27

"REMEMBER THE SYMBOL OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, IT'S THE
ELEPHANT -- THE GIANT THAT STOMPS THROUGH THE JUNGLE
TRAMPLING LITTLE ANIMALS UNDER FOOT AND SWINGING ITS HEAD
AROUND. BUT THE SYMBOL OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS THE LITTLE
MULE -- THE SAME BLESSED ANIMAL OUR SAVIOR RODE IN JERUSALEM
2,000 YEARS AGO."

28

ON THAT UNBIASED RELIGIOUS NOTE, ~~I THANK YOU FOR YOUR~~
~~ATTENTION AND YOUR COURTESY, BUT BEFORE I SIT DOWN,~~ I WANT TO
SHARE WITH YOU A FEW THOUGHTS ON WHAT I CONSIDER TO BE AN
IMPORTANT SUBJECT FACING THE AMERICAN SOCIETY.

001687

+ members of the Gridiron

L YOU NEWSPAPER MEN, EDITORS, PUBLISHERS -- A GROUP OF MIGHTY

az words -
MEN ~~MEMBERS~~ -- HAVE BEEN A LONG TIME GETTING AROUND TO TWO

IMPORTANT WORDS. THEY ARE: " AND WOMEN" / THESE TWO WORDS

HAVE BEEN MISSING FROM ARTICLE I, SECTION 2 OF YOUR CONSTITUTION

FOR 87 YEARS.

30

L TONIGHT I SUBMIT THE HUMPHREY AMENDMENT TO BE PROPOSED

AT YOUR NEXT MEETING TO READ: "BE IT DECLARED THAT THE

GRIDIRON CONSTITUTION ADD THE TWO WORDS 'AND WOMEN'

FOLLOWING THE PHRASE ' ACTIVE MEMBERS SHALL BE MEN' ".

001688

31
L YOU CAN CALL IT THE POE AMENDMENT OR THE WILSON AMENDMENT
OR THE BELL AMENDMENT -- I OFFER IT AT NO CHARGE. AND IN THE
SPIRIT OF THIS SONG FEST TONIGHT, I SUGGEST: (SING IF YOU CAN)

" TWO LITTLE WORDS -- THAT'S ALL I LIVE FOR -- THOSE
TWO LITTLE WORDS."

32
L IF TWO-THIRDS OF YOU SUPPORT THIS AMENDMENT, YOU WILL
BE DOING MORE TO INCREASE THE STATURE OF THIS ORGANIZATION
THAN 100 HUMEROUS SKITS; THAT KIND OF ACTION IS WORTHY
OF OUR TIMES AND WORTHY OF YOUR PROFESSION.

*Tomato a
former President lies ill in hospital
at Charlottesville, Virginia I ask you to
join me in wishing him a full
and speedy recovery.*

ADDRESS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

GRIDIRON CLUB

WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL

APRIL 8, 1972

Revised

Madame Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen
of the Gridiron Club.

I was just introduced as the titular leader of the Democratic
Party. I don't know whether any pun was intended by that introduction
given the circumstances surrounding this meeting, ~~I am frequently~~
~~introduced with the word "titular",~~ but somehow this evening it seems
of special significance, ~~Could it be that the introduction was designed~~
~~to remind you that the Democrats have split into so many factions that~~
~~we will be known as the Raquel Welch Party -- because of our cleavage.~~

In any event, I feel tonight like Hubert Horatio Hamlet:

"To be here or not to be here; that was my question

Whether twould be nobler in the mind to suffer slings
and arrows of the picket line outside

Or take arms against the sea of troubles inside, and,
by opposing, end them."

You can see that I am here, in character, determined to work
within the system. You and I know that significant social change
requires activities from both ~~the~~ ^{the} marchers and talkers. ~~Some people use~~
~~their feet and some people use their mouths.~~ It therefore must be

no surprise to you to find me here ^{talking} and not on the picket line outside ^{walking}.
For I long ago established the category to which I belong.

But more of that later. Let us therefore get on with the serious business of the day -- politics.

At the outset, ~~however~~, I ~~wanted~~ to express my appreciation at your invitation to have me speak to you this evening. This is indeed an honor I did not deserve, but then again I lost the last election, and I didn't deserve that either!

It's a pleasure to have heard Martha Griffiths and Margaret Heckler speak. Here are two distinguished members of Congress. ~~The~~ ^{their presence} fact that you would have them ~~grace your dais this evening~~ is a tribute to you and your club. W. C. Fields was once asked whether he favored clubs for women. His classic answer was: "Sure I do when all other means of persuasion fail." But it was politics I wanted to talk to you about tonight, ~~and so I want to pay special tribute to~~ my good friend, Barry Goldwater, who shares this platform with me.

^{Barry} He and I began this routine a number of years ago at another club.

It was, if I remember -- you should excuse the expression -- the Womens Press Club. At that time, ~~I took note of the fact of how~~ ^{noted} handsome and distinguished he was and ~~indeed occupied the evening~~ with the announcement that he was negotiating ~~to sign~~ a movie contract

with 18th Century Fox. It's wrong, however, to malign Barry Goldwater as a man who's behind the times, ~~and I think he's been unfairly~~ ~~malignant~~. Indeed, I told him so last night at his New Year's Eve party,

Barry and I are good friends. As a matter of fact, this coming fall while I campaign for the presidency in all 50 states, Barry, true to his style and determined to prove his friendship for me, intends to do his campaigning for Richard Nixon in the original 13.

One thing I'll say about Barry and me, however, he is clearly on the Republican side and I'm clearly on the Democratic side -- now if we could only find out whose side Nixon is on.!

~~I suppose you're interested in my evaluation of the Nixon~~

~~Administration.~~ ^{But} I'm really full of compassion for the President. If you think you have problems, think about him. ^{President} Nixon's been around for 39 months and he's still having labor pains. ^{By George!} ~~By George!~~!

~~As I evaluate his administration, I want to be objective about it.~~

~~There are some gains and some losses. I think they can best be~~

~~summarized by saying that Nixon won Frank Sinatra and lost Taiwan.~~

We must give the President credit, ~~however, when credit is~~ ~~due~~. He did give the dollar back to its rightful owner -- the banks.

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Furthermore, there's simply been too much talk about his lack of charisma. ~~In fact he has~~ ^{he does have} a magical quality about him. Look how he made the dollar disappear.

I am somewhat puzzled about this subject, however. ~~It doesn't~~ ^{As many of us are} make sense to me. The dollar is floating and ~~is~~ going down the drain. ~~I only wish the Republicans would stop saying that the dollar is stable. You know what's found in a stable.~~

and → Nevertheless, I know that the administration believes that its economic policies are working. Now if only more people were working, ~~and~~ I ~~also~~ ^{know} that Nixon wants to get the country moving again. So far, of course, all he's moved is the Washington Baseball Club -- to Dallas -- but it's a start!

~~In summary, as I look at this administration, I'm convinced that Nixon is doing a fine job. I was talking about him the other day, in fact, to President Kissinger.~~

~~It's important for us all to realize that we can't do everything overnight. We haven't yet been able to cure poverty, but I ~~only~~ ^{say} tell you that the way things are going now, we're sure going to be able to cure wealth. In this same spirit of non-partisanship and of being fair to Barry Goldwater and Richard Nixon, I think it's only right that I also state, in my opinion, Spiro Agnew has also been unfairly maligned.~~

It's not true that he's opposed to newsmen expressing their views.

He's only opposed to people reading those views. Another silly rumor is that Mr. Agnew is at odds with the young people. Actually, he feels about them as he feels about news commentators -- they should be seen and not heard!

I don't know whether the Vice-President was invited to be here with you tonight, but I understand that he is again down in Palm Springs with Frank Sinatra. Frank is giving him retirement lessons.

Anyhow, Nixon is not the first president to have a controversial Vice President, ~~and he shouldn't be slaughtered for it~~. President

Eisenhower had one, too. TH My purpose this evening, however, is not

just to talk about the Republicans. ^{After all - what can} I'm reminded of what Adlai Stevenson

^{you say that a new or interesting} once wrote that if the Republicans would stop telling lies about us,

^{New take the Democrats - they're alive and kicking -} we would stop telling the truth about them. It's important in the

^{each other} interest of fairness that I talk about my own party, too, and about

the important issues that are facing the electorate. ^{Another there} I noted, for

^{example} that Senator Proxmire ~~is~~ having hair transplants, and I find this very interesting -- that he should be having his hair put in while the rest of the country is pulling theirs out.

What people are worrying about is high prices. ~~Just the other day in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, I noticed a sign in a cafe which~~

^{we were going to have Sirloin Steak tonight}
^{but after Phase II, the Club couldn't}
^{afford the meat.}

Then that
~~read: "Special -- All you can eat for just \$135."~~ There was another
super market in Pennsylvania which had a sign reading: "Meat for
Rent." ~~I'm told that if you bought a baked potato, that they would give~~
~~you a nickel for returning the empty.~~ But enough of that. *After all,*
are for Controls - Control the Press, Control the
~~the Republicans are now for controls -- they're for recognizing Red~~
money, + Control the White House -- of only
~~China -- therefore a defiance with the Soviet Union. It reminds me of~~
they should control President.
~~what Finley Peter Dunn once wrote. He said that history always~~
~~vindicates the democrats, but never in their life time. The Democrats~~
~~say the truth first. But the problem is that nothing is ever officially~~
~~true until a Republican says it.~~

L This is obviously a nostalgic evening for me. I know that many
of you relegate me to the category of a candidate of the old politics.
But there is a great deal to be said about the old politics and the old
ways. Indeed, they help put current events in their proper perspective.

the Democrats would
Do you remember the good old days when everything shredded
the Democrats + I.T.T. all you had to remember was a Tot - now
~~was wheat. Now, thanks to I.T.T., the chaff is shredded as well.~~

the Republicans want to forget I.T.T.
L And do you remember when we Democrats initiated a war on
poverty. That was just before the Republicans started their war on
prosperity.

I remember when you called a plumber after a leak developed.
Now you call J. Edgar Hoover and have Jack Anderson following him.

And remember when George Wallace was content to just block the door to the schoolhouse. Now he wants to block the door to the White House, again!

Finally, do you remember Hubert Humphrey before he learned to be brief ~~and to the point about our commitment to the principles of social progress and our rededication to the goals of a just society, a foreign policy with a sense of purpose and achievement, cities where life can once again be productive and rewarding, a fairer deal for the financially oppressed farmer, and recognition of human rights and justice to the point where law and order is not just a code word for racism, and sensible administration of adequately funded programs that can alleviate the ills that we hear so much about by so many -- that the rhetoric replaces the simple act of humanism -- and the once great democratic party can regain the confidence of all those who made it the party of Hubert Humphrey.~~

Seriously, though, there is vitality in the democratic party.

~~Every mother son & daughter that ever~~
In fact, Kenny O'Donnell was talking to Dick Maguire the other day ~~wanted to be President, is running for the office,~~
and asked whether he had heard about a mutual friend of theirs -- Maloney ~~and it's all Nelson's fault - He's made the job~~
-- who was quitting to join the republicans. Maguire said, "I'm sure ~~so attractive - Key Biscayne, San Clemente,~~
you're mistaken, Kenny. I saw him in church yesterday."

Camden, Belton, Moscow and an occasional visit to the White House.
that's living! Sure beats going to the ranch! And the paper is better now

But to me, as I now conclude my political analysis, I can think of no better way to describe the differences between the Democratic and Republican parties than to tell a story by Harry Golden, who says that he heard a politician running for county office make the following speech:

"Remember the symbol of the Republican Party. It's the elephant -- the giant that stomps through the jungle trampling little animals under foot and swinging its head around. But the symbol of the Democratic Party is the little mule -- the same blessed animal our savior rode in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago."

On that ^{celebrated} religious note, I thank you for your attention and your courtesy. But before I sit down, I want you to ~~be permitted to~~ ^{share with you} ~~you a moment with~~ a few thoughts on what I consider to be an important subject facing the American society. You newspaper men, editors, publishers -- a group of mighty men of words -- have been a long time getting around to two important words. They are: "and women". These two words have been missing from Article I, Section 2 of your Constitution for 87 years.

Tonight I submit the Humphrey Amendment to ^{be} ~~reproposed~~ at your next meeting to read: "Be it declared that the Gridiron Constitution

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add the two words 'and women' following the phrase 'active members shall be men'".

You can call it the Poe Amendment or the Wilson Amendment or the Bell Amendment -- I offer it at no charge. And in the spirit of this song fest tonight, I suggest:[HH: sing it if you can]

"Two little words -- that's all I live for -- those two little words."

If two-thirds of you support this amendment, you will be doing more to increase the stature of this organization than 100 humorous skits. That kind of action is worthy of our times and worthy of your profession. (Thank you.)

~~Alfal~~fa draft

President Ford, former President Borman,
honored guests, gentlemen of Alfalfa...

I hope you will not consider it immodest
if I say this night is long overdue...

...President Humphrey...

You've gotta believe, Frank, you've gotta believe.

I had no doubts about the outcome of this
election until George McGovern told me he was a 1000%
behind me.

And Ed Muskie suggested I give my acceptance
speech on a flat bed truck outside of the Washington Post.

And Mayor Daley suggested that we move this
convention to Chicago.

And someone...I don't know who...hired
Victor Lasky to write a book about me.

With all that advice and help, I knew I
needed support so I organized a Chairmen for Humphrey
Committee. I sought the most powerful men I could find
Hebert (A-bear), Pogue, Patman, and Alexander Butterfield.

If I was going to crash, Mr. President, I
wanted the ~~EPA~~ in on it.

Alfalpa 2

Now, you have heard President Borman disclose one of my secrets. Yes, it is true that I streaked through the streets of Minneapolis in the interest of full disclosure. (Shake head in disbelief.)

But nobody looked.

Well, that's not quite true. One person did and I heard him say, "There's old Hubert with his tongue flapping again."

President Borman, you will have a chance to hear my entire speech. I don't intend to give a long one, but if I do, don't worry about that 7 a.m. flight. If its on Eastern Airlines, it won't be leaving on time anyway.

You've gotta believe, Frank, you've gotta believe.

This past year of Alfalfa has indeed been an illustrious one. Borman's rocket was fueled with 90 proof alcohol, apparently had no second stage booster, and doomed to fall short of its mission because of material fatigue.

When it should have orbitted, it only bumped and grinded.

In any case, while Frank continues the search for that G string, I can assure him that what he found, boring on the moon, does not compare to what he may find in the Tidal Basin. The samples you get there are really worth assaying.

Alfalpa 3

You have heard from President Borman the accomplishments of Alfalfa's astronaut year. I can promise only a half astronaut year, but hopefully one of significant accomplishment, too.

After all, I have been orbitting the White House longer than all the astronauts who orbitted the moon.

Of course, my orbit has been rather crowded. We did ground Harold Stassen finally, and Fritz Mondale decided he didn't like that weightlessness.

But, Eugene McCarthy and Fred Harris have designed a permanent political space station. It flies an elliptical orbit with no high points.

There is a great effort going on to build a one-man rocket on the hill. Henry Jackson tilts it right, then Mo Udall tilts it left.

By the time they get it set, Nelson Rockefeller will have bought the launching pad. Of course, he's bringing his own fuel. He's the only one who can afford the extra \$3 dollars a barrel.

He may be the only man in America, under the Ford tax rebate plan, who gets enough back to finance a trip.

Alfalfa 4

Now to the Alfalfa platform for 1975.

I've talked to Secretary Butz about it. It wasn't easy. He thought Al - Falfa was an Italian name.

He has however given us our slogan for the year: Don't eat-a the grass, smoke it.

With his help, if recession and inflation continue, I can assure you that Alfalfa will be on everyone's tongue this year...and possibly in their stomachs too.

Under my leadership, Alfalfa will insist that it be treated like any other dissident party. We shall ask for CIA surveillance.

We will ask President Ford for a tax rebate for every member of Alfalfa earning less than \$7,500 a year.

To guarantee our survival, we will ask Henry Kissinger, when he is next in Washington, to provide one Arab oil well for each member of Alfalfa,,, using force only if necessary.

For members of Alfalfa who are also members of Congress, we will secure your FBI file from Clarence Kelly.

And for one lucky Alfalfa family, a two week vacation with Gordon Liddy, or a weekend with Governor Marvin Mandel.

Alfalpa 5

But whether we get what we deserve or not, let us tonight pledge to President Ford, in all seriousness, our determination to work with him to help solve the problems of our nation.

Let the true Alfalfa platform be a simple one. At President Ford's next State of the Union message, let him be able to say, with our support, there is good news for America and the world -- a national economy and society growing stronger and better, and a world ever closer to peace and harmony.

Let us launch the most important rocket of all -- a new century of American greatness taking off to reach, not the moon, but the ideal society we all yearn for.

There's space for all of us on that rocket. We've gotta believe, Mr. President, we've gotta believe.

AND I'M GOING TO ADD A PLATFORM PLANK THAT RECOMMENDS A NEW
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SYSTEM. YOU CAN'T BLAME ME FOR BEING
DISSATISFIED WITH THE OLD ONE.

I'M WILLING TO CAMPAIGN ON A HIGH LEVEL--EXCEPT THAT IT WOULD
BE LONELY UP THERE.

I WAS BROUGHT UP TO BELIEVE THAT ANYONE COULD RUN FOR THE
PRESIDENCY TWICE.

I MUST WARN ANYONE WHO IS CONSIDERING LENDING SUPPORT TO
THE NIXON CAMPAIGN TO BE CAUTIOUS. A FEW YEARS AGO, A
MR. H. R. HUGHES REPORTEDLY LOANED SOME MONEY TO A RELATIVE
OF MR. NIXON AND MR. HUGHES HASN'T BEEN SEEN SINCE.

I didn't really make up my mind about seeking the Presidency until I drove past the White House today and realized that for three years Richard Nixon has been sitting there eating ketchup and cottage cheese, watching football games and telling everyone that he represented the Silent Majority.

That really got me mad.

What this country needs is someone who can out Nixon Nixon.

I said to myself, I've eaten more cottage cheese than he has,

I've been to more football games, and God knows, I've been silent for a majority of my public career.

I'm willing to campaign on a high level--except that it would be lonely up there.

And I'm going to add a platform plank that recommends a new Presidential election system. You can't blame me for being dissatisfied with the old one.

I was brought up to believe that ~~anyone~~ anyone could run for the Presidency twice.

1 { It seems that Nixon was less concerned about steel going up \$2.00 a ton than he was about meat going up 10¢ a pound. Perhaps someone should point out that the meat increase is two hundred dollars a ton. Do you realize that soon it will be cheaper to eat your car than to go to the market.

2 { Sometimes all of this makes you feel like you're in a rat race and the rats are winning.

3 { I was annoyed when the FBI let RF & J do it's own analysis of the controversial memo. That's like a man having his mistress call his wife to tell her he was out with the boys.

4 { I'm sure all of you know Mrs. Board. There is no truth to the rumor that she has replaced Martha Mitchell as the centerfold girl in ITT monthly magazine.

5 { It's really a pleasure to see so many friends of mine here tonight. Years ago, I made a speech in which I said that my good friend Barry Goldwater had been offered a screen test at 18th century fox. I've always wanted to apologize to Senator Goldwater for intimating that he was that much of a swinger.

6 { The Democrats are going through an interesting ritual right now.. it's called... the changing of the front runner

7 { I had a dream the other night that I went to heaven and walked up behind a man with his arms extended in this all too familiar pose (indicates Nixon Peace pose). I dreamed that I turned to St. Peter and asked if that was President Nixon. St. Peter said "No, that's God... he just thinks he's President Nixon."

8 { The Hubert Humphrey Coll... wind it up and it runs every four years.

9 { They kid me about being ebullient...that's nothing new.. I was ebullient as a boy... my father didn't realize I had a lot of energy... he just thought I was horny.

10 { I just figured I ought to look and dress up to date...let's face it, Richard Nixon is up to date... I believe the date he is up to is April 1st, 1952.

11 { This country needs a President we can bank on...^{not bank} ~~not~~ ^{bank} with.

EACH TO BE TYPED ON A 5 by 8 INDEX CARD, SPACE CAREFULLY. SPEECH TYPE.

You see, I'm not against Richard Nixon...as a matter of fact, I think he'll make a fine ex-President, however, while he's still in office, everyone in the country should get behind him...and push.

I won't say that Mr. Nixon hasn't had some success...look at it this way...at least he kept us out of Northern Ireland.

But at least Agnew is trying to help solve the problem of violence...he's giving up golf.

Historically, the speakers here at the Gridiron dinner do political jokes...unfortunately, most of the political jokes I know are still in office.

When the Republicans came into office they reminded us that a new broom sweeps clean. I just don't think anyone expected the new broom to sweep so much under the rug.

I must warn anyone who is considering lending support to the Nixon campaign to be cautious. A few years ago a Mr. H. R. Hughes reportedly loaned some money to a relative of Mr. Nixon and Mr. Hughes hasn't been seen since.

This country needs President Nixon...~~about~~ like General Motors needs Ralph Nader.



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