

ON JANUARY 20, 1977, GERALD FORD LEFT THE WHITE HOUSE AND JIMMY CARTER MOVED IN. AT THAT TIME THE WORLD WAS AT PEACE, OUR ECONOMY WAS REBOUNDED, INFLATION STOOD AT 4.8%, OUR MILITARY STRENGTH HAD NEVER BEEN GREATER, AND OUR POLITICAL POSITION IN THE WORLD HAD NEVER BEEN STRONGER. TODAY, AFTER ALMOST A 3½-YEAR RUN, THE CURTAIN IS ABOUT TO COME DOWN ON THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S PRODUCTION OF PROMISES, PROMISES. THE POLLS SHOW THE PUBLIC IS NO LONGER INTERESTED IN THE WEAK SCRIPT AND THE POOR PERFORMANCE OF THE ENTIRE CAST.

TONIGHT AS WE GATHER TO KICK OFF THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF REPUBLICAN UNITY GATHERINGS, LET'S BRIEFLY LOOK AT WHERE WE ARE NOW AND SOME LESSONS FROM THE PAST.

THOSE OF YOU OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER MIGHT BEAR IN MIND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF 1952. WE HAD AN ACRIMONIOUS NOMINATING FIGHT AND A LESS THAN HARMONIOUS CONVENTION. BUT, WHEN THE CONVENTION WAS ALL OVER, WE UNITED BEHIND THE MAN THE CONVENTION NOMINATED.

THAT DWIGHT EISENHOWER WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT MAY NOT BE A RESULT OF THE UNITED PARTY CAMPAIGN, BUT THE FACT THAT WE WRESTLED CONTROL OF THE CONGRESS FROM THE DEMOCRATS WAS, WITHOUT DOUBT, ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE FACT THAT WE STOOD TOGETHER, AND NONE OF US NEED TO BE REMINDED OF HOW A DIVIDED PARTY FARED IN 1964. AGAIN, HISTORICAL FACTORS, RATHER THAN THE UNITY OR DISUNITY OF THE PARTY, MAY SAFELY BE CREDITED WITH THE DEFEAT OF OUR PRESIDENTIAL STANDARD BEARER, BUT THE LACK OF UNITY WITHIN THE PARTY HAD AGAIN A DIRECT BEARING ON OUR DISASTEROUS SHOWING IN THE CONGRESSIONAL

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RACES THAT YEAR. WE ARE STILL FEELING THE EFFECTS OF THAT YEAR IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE CONGRESS.

OUR MILITARY STRENGTH IS BEING CALLED INTO QUESTION FOLLOWING A SERIES OF PRESIDENTIAL DECISIONS WHICH HAVE ALL BUT SABOTAGED OUR OWN NATIONAL SECURITY. OUR ECONOMY IS MAKING PEOPLE VERY NERVOUS. CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IS DOWN AND UNEMPLOYMENT IS UP. INFLATION HAS RISEN TO THE 20% FIGURE, AND THE TAX BURDEN ON ALL OF US HAS RISEN THIS PAST YEAR BY ABOUT 100 BILLION DOLLARS.

IN 1976 AT A COMPARABLE TIME I WOULD REMIND YOU THAT THE PARTY HAD DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT IN THE POLLS. OUR CONVENTION WAS LAST, WHICH PUT US FIVE WEEKS BEHIND IN THE RACE. WE HAD A FINE OLD BRAWL AT THAT CONVENTION. BY ELECTION DAY, WE HAD CLOSED THAT GAP IN THE POLLS TO ALMOST NOTHING. UNFORTUNATELY, ALMOST DOESN'T COUNT. AS A RESULT OF LESS THAN A UNIFIED TEAM, OUR CONGRESSIONAL SHOWING WAS POOR. WE DID NOT RECOVER FROM THE 1974 LOSSES. WE WERE LEFT WITH A TWO TO ONE MINORITY POSITION IN BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS ABILITY TO APPEAL TO ALL SEGMENTS OF THE ELECTORATE AND ALL SIGNS POINT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THIS TREND. DURING THE RECENT PRIMARY SEASON, A NUMBER OF TRADITIONALLY LIBERAL, BLUE-COLLAR STATES SHOWED SIGNS OF WIDESPREAD DEFECTIONS FROM THE DISCREDITED POLICIES OF THE PAST TO THE COMMON SENSE APPROACH OF STRENGTH AND SOLVENCY. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE FED UP AND ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT THIS TREMENDOUS DISSATISFACTION, WHICH I LIKE TO CALL THE "FED-UP FACTOR" WITH THE HANDLING OF OUR NATION'S ECONOMY, AND THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S "NONEXISTENT" POLICY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS GOING TO WORK TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

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THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S POOR HANDLING OF OUR NATION'S PROBLEMS WILL HELP REPUBLICANS IN 1980. BUT, WE MUST NEVER LOSE SIGHT THAT HIS FAILINGS WILL NOT ALONE SECURE OUR SUCCESS. WE AS REPUBLICANS MUST CONTINUE TO CAST ASIDE FACTIONAL STRIFE AND PRESENT A UNIFIED FRONT, AND THIS EVENINGS EVENT PROVES WE WILL DO JUST THAT.

I GUESS THAT I HAVE BEEN EVERYWHERE ONE MAN CAN GET IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. BUT, I DRAW ON MY TIME IN THE NATIONAL CHAIRMANSHIP TO URGE YOU TO LOOK TO THE GOAL WHICH IS WITHIN OUR GRASP. WITH A STRONG UNITED EFFORT, WE CAN, IN 1980, GAIN CONTROL OF THE WHITE HOUSE, THE SENATE, AND EVEN THE HOUSE. NONE OF IT WILL HAPPEN AUTOMATICALLY. WE MUST WORK AS A TEAM. WE START THIS PRESIDENTIAL YEAR, NOT 30 POINTS BEHIND IN THE POLLS BUT EVEN. WE WILL HAVE THE EARLIER CONVENTION IN DETROIT. THEY ARE RIVEN BY INTERNAL WARFARE AND HAVE AN OUTSIDER WORKING ON THEIR VOTERS.

TO ACCOMPLISH THESE GOALS WE MUST REMAIN TRUE TO OUR COMMON PRINCIPLES; LIMITED GOVERNMENT, LOWER TAXES, A COHERENT FOREIGN POLICY WHICH PUTS OUR INTERESTS FIRST, AND A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE.

WE HAVE THE CANDIDATES, WE HAVE THE ISSUES, AND WE HAVE ALTERNATIVES TO WHAT HAS BEEN HANDED TO US BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE DEMOCRAT CONGRESS.

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LET US NOT TURN ALL THESE ASSETS TO ASHES BY OUR OWN DIVISIONS.
LET US PUT TO REST THE CANARD THAT WE HAVE A GENIUS FOR SNATCHING
DEFEAT FROM THE JAWS OF VICTORY. AS A UNITED PARTY, WE CAN LOOK
TO RESTORE THE NATION ON NOVEMBER 5 FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF
CONTROL OF BOTH THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES.

IN 1976 APATHY WAS OUR PARTY'S BIGGEST ENEMY -- AN ELECTORATE
TURNED OFF BY POLITICS. THE 1980 PRIMARY SEASON HAS SHOWN THAT
WHEN PRESENTED WITH GOOD CANDIDATES AND POSITIVE ALTERNATIVES,
PEOPLE WILL GO TO THE POLLS.