

conservative sense that there were some things the government ought not to do and mess with, and that that gave some of our opponents on the other side an unusual and often unfair advantage in the rhetoric of these elections. And I told you that if you gave us a chance to serve, I would pursue my vision for the 21st century with a simple strategy. I want us to go into that next century four years from now with the American Dream alive and well for every person who's responsible to work for it. (Applause.)

I want us to continue to lead the world for peace and freedom and prosperity. And I've had to make some decisions I know were unpopular at the time to stand up for those ideals in Bosnia and Haiti, to keep working in the Middle East and Northern Ireland. But we are standing up for peace and freedom and there's not a single Russian missile pointed at an American child tonight in part because of what we were doing. (Applause.)

And look around this room tonight -- I want us to stand against those forces that are gripping the rest of the world -- of racial and ethnic and tribal and religious hatred and division, and say, all we want in America is for everybody to agree on the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence and be a good citizen and you're part of our America. We like our diversity. We're coming together. (Applause.)

I look out here tonight, I see Latino Americans and African Americans and Asian Americans and Arab Americans and Irish and Polish and Italian Americans and I think it's good. (Applause.) And I want more of it. And I want us to learn every day a little more about how we're going to live together.

And we have worked hard to create more opportunity, to insist on more responsibility and to build an American community where everybody has a seat at the table and a role to play.

Now, four years ago, you took us on faith. But now there's a record. And we're better off than we were four years ago. (Applause.) This election for President, the election for the Senate, the election for the Congress -- fundamentally, they are not elections of party, even though there are partisan differences. We're going into a great new century. We're undergoing vast changes in the way we work and the way we live.

Let me just give you one example. When I became President, 3 million Americans -- (audience interruption.) Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait. Wait a minute, wait --

AUDIENCE: Boo!!

THE PRESIDENT: Don't boo them. Let them have their say. Now, we heard -- if Senator Dole or Congressman Kemp come here, don't you dare do this to them. You let them have their say. Don't do it. (Applause.)

Now, the only reason -- the only reason they're screaming is the truth hurts. (Applause.) And those young people back there that are holding those signs, they must not have needed the student loan, because Senator Dole and Congressman Allard voted to cut it. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE: Four more years! Four more years!

THE PRESIDENT: Now, here's what this is about.

AUDIENCE: Four more years! Four more years!

THE PRESIDENT: Look, you shouldn't be too upset about that. You know what Mark Twain said about that? He said every dog needs a few fleas. (Applause.) Now, I'll admit, I've had a few more than I wanted. But Mark Twain said every dog needs a few fleas. It keeps him from worrying so much about being a dog. (Applause.)

Now, let me go back to what I was going to say. Here's the big issue -- bigger than me or Senator Dole or Mr. Allard or Mr. Strickland. We're on the verge -- you can hear me over them. Let them talk.

Bye, folks, we'll see you Tuesday. Bye-bye. (Applause.) Thank you. (Applause.)

Now, we've had a lot of fun tonight, but this is -- I want you -- this is really serious. This election, here's what's at stake. All these debates and these fights over the budget and the environment and all this stuff, it comes down to two big ideas: Do you believe that we should go into this new century with all these dramatic changes by doing what they believe when they're talking in a sound voice, and saying you're on you're on; or do you believe that, as a person I'm reasonably close to once said, it takes a village to raise our children and to go forward? (Applause.) That's the issue.

Do you believe that we should say there's the future out there -- now, there's a big running river between here and there, and there's a deep valley, and there's a huge mountain, and I hope you get there? Or would you like to build a big, wide bridge that we can all walk across together? (Applause.) That's what this is about. That's what this is about.

And all the specific issues, if you think about that, that's what it's about. It is not about big, oppressive government. Our administration, under the leadership of Vice President Gore, has reduced the size of the government to its smallest point since John Kennedy was President. (Applause.) We have eliminated more government regulations and more government programs and we've privatized more government operations that belong in the private sector than my two Republican predecessors did put together. It is not about that.

But what we believe is that there are some things we should do together. I think this is a better country because we've got hundreds of thousands more children in Head Start. (Applause.) I think this is a better country because we work with Roy Romer and other governors to give states the ability to set high standards and to promote reforms like that charter school right there, that they've got a sign up. (Applause.)

I think this is a better country because we had the biggest increase in Pell grants in 20 years and because we lowered the cost of college loans and improved the repayment terms. I believe it's a better country. (Applause.) I believe we're a better country because we set aside 1.7 million acres in southern Utah for the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. I believe it's a better country. (Applause.)

I believe it's a better country because we passed the Family and Medical Leave law and 12 million people got to take some time off from work when a baby was born or a family member was sick. (Applause.) I believe it's a better country because we passed a crime bill and we're putting 100,000 more police on the street. I believe it's a better country. (Applause.)

I believe it's a better country because we've doubled the

number of children who are getting the message from DARE officers and others through the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program that drugs can kill you and they're wrong and you should stay away from them. I think it's a better country because we did that. (Applause.)

And you have to decide whether you don't believe we should have joined together as a people and done those things together and whether you believe the ideas we have for the future are right or wrong. But it all comes down to whether you think we're all in this together, we're better off, each of us, individually, and our families and our communities when we work together to help everybody have the tools to make the most of their own lives and live up to their God-given potential. That is the great issue in this election. (Applause.) That is the great issue in this election.

You have some evidence about which works. We've got 10.5 million more jobs, the biggest decline in inequality among working families in 27 years, the biggest drop in child poverty in 20 years, record numbers of new small businesses in every year, record numbers of new businesses owned by women and minorities in the history of America. You have some evidence. (Applause.)

We have record exports. The welfare rolls have declined by 1.9 million. The crime rate has gone down for four years in a row; it's at a 10-year low in the United States. It's not like there's no evidence. You have evidence now. This country is on the right track to the 21st century and we need to keep going. (Applause.)

When I told you before that it's not a matter of party, I meant it. There was a time, under Abraham Lincoln, when the Republican Party believed that we had to go forward together and we couldn't live with the lie of slavery anymore. It was a lie. It defied all the values of the Constitution. There was a time when the Republican Party, under Theodore Roosevelt, believed that we could not become a great industrial nation and forget about the importance of protecting small business and working people through free enterprise and maintaining competition and protecting innocent children from being forced to work 70 hours a week in coal mines and in beginning the work of conserving our great natural resources with the Grand Canyon and other things that Theodore Roosevelt did. This does not have to be a matter of party. (Applause.)

But if you look at what they did when their philosophy controlled; what Mr. Allard did, Tom Strickland's opponent; and Mr. Gingrich did; and my opponent did. They passed a budget that had the first education cuts in modern history. They cut college loans and cut Head Start. They passed a budget that would have paralyzed our ability to protect the environment and to enforce the environmental laws. They passed a budget that would have for the first time in 30 years taken away the guarantee of health care to our poorest children, to middle class families that have family members with disabilities -- but because they get a little help they can go on being middle class families and support themselves and their loved ones in dignity. They would have repealed the standards on quality nursing home care as oppressive government. That was their idea of being conservative. That was their idea.

They opposed the crime bill. They said we were going to take people's guns away from them in Colorado. Folks, they didn't know then, but we've got two years now, we know who was telling the truth. There's not a single Colorado hunter that's lost a rifle, but 60,000 felons, fugitives and stalkers have not gotten handguns because of the Brady Bill. (Applause.) We know what happened.

So I don't want -- I don't vote here. I can't stand up

here and ask you to vote for Tom Strickland because he's a Democrat. But I can do this -- I can tell you that he believes, as I do, that we have an obligation to bring our people together and to move forward together. You heard what Diana DeGette said when she was up here speaking. I know Bill Ritter has supported our anti-crime strategy and so has Wellington Webb, and that's why you've had some of the success you've had here. (Applause.)

And this is not so much about liberal or conservative or Republican or Democrat. It's whether you believe that there are some things that we must do together if we want the 21st century to be the greatest age of possibility in human history. (Applause.)

I loved it when Wellington said, a few minutes ago, that he was talking to some of his friends and supporters and he said, I didn't get there alone, you put me there. And he mentioned that old rural saying that I was raised with, if you see a frog on the fence post, chances are it didn't get there by accident. (Laughter.) You know, I've heard all these people get up here and run for office and talk about how much they've achieved through their own effort. And most of us who run for office would like you to believe we were born in a log cabin we built ourselves. (Laughter.) But the truth is, success in life requires both individual effort and responsibility and a loving family, a loving community, a supportive nation, people trying to help each other to move forward together, and we're all stronger when we do that. And that's what this is about. (Applause.)

And that's what it's about for the next four years. When you go home tonight, every one of you, especially the young people, I want you to ask yourself this question before you turn in. Just ask yourself and see if you can answer in a minute or two, what do I want my country to be like when we cross that bridge into the 21st century? What do I want my country to be like when I have children and they are my age? What do I want them to feel about America? What do I want the feel of America to be? What do I want the position of my country in the world to be?

If you ask the right question, and if America asks the right question on Tuesday, we'll get the right answer. The only way we won't get it is if we don't ask the right question. (Applause.)

Now, I want to build a bridge to the 21st century where we go on and balance the budget, because if we get interest rates down we'll have more jobs, more incomes and more opportunities. But I know we can do it and I've submitted a plan to do it that protects education and the environment and research and technology and Medicare and Medicaid. And I want you to help me build that bridge. Will you do that? (Applause.)

I like the Family and Medical Leave law and I think we should be doing more to help people succeed at home and at work. I can tell you young people who are here, who don't have kids yet, the single thing I hear most from parents all over America is -- whether they're low-income working people, middle class people or even people with comfortable incomes -- is they're spending more hours at work than ever before and they are worried that they won't be able to succeed at their most important job. I was so glad to hear Katherine say that -- their most important job, raising their kids and succeed at work. We can't make Americans make that choice, we have to be able to do both. (Applause.)

So I like the Family and Medical Leave law and I want to expand it. I want to say you can take a little time off from work to go see your children's teachers twice a year and take your kids to the doctor without losing your job. (Applause.)

I want to say, if you work overtime because you need to or because you have to, and a family emergency comes up, you ought to be able to decide whether to take that overtime in pay or in time with your family. It ought to be your decision because that will make us a stronger country. (Applause.) Will you help me build that bridge to the 21st century? (Applause.)

We've now said to the American people, the beginnings of health care reform -- you can't lose your health insurance anymore just because you changed jobs or because somebody in your family's been sick. A mother and a newborn baby cannot be forced out of a hospital anymore by an insurance company after 24 hours. (Applause.)

We made a beginning. But I want to do more. Our balanced budget plan gives help to families that are between jobs so they can keep their health insurance for six more months. It adds another million children to the ranks of the insured. It gives free mammograms to women on Medicare. (Applause.)

It gives -- there are over 1.5 million families in this country today doing a brave and good and honorable thing -- caring for a family member with Alzheimer's. It is a very hard thing. I've lost an aunt and an uncle. I can tell you, it is a loving thing; it is a debilitating thing. Our balanced budget plan gives respite care support to those families who are caring for their family members. (Applause.) Will you help us build that bridge to the 21st century? (Applause.)

We've done a lot of work on this crime issue. But we're only halfway home. Our opponents, including Congressman Allard, not only voted against putting 100,000 police on the street, they passed a budget that would have stopped it. And when I vetoed their budget, they shut the government down and tried to force us to do it. And when we said no, we fought it again and again. You have a choice to make.

We need to finish the job. We need to finish the job. We need to go after these violent gangs that are killing our children and corrupting them. We need to keep fighting until we whip this problem for good. I want you to help me build that bridge to the 21st century where everyone feels safe on their streets, in their schools, in their neighborhoods, in their parks. Will you do that? (Applause.)

We have taken millions of pounds of poisonous chemicals out of the air. We have raised the standards for drinking water. We have raised the standards for food. We have cleaned up more toxic waste dumps in three years than they did in 12. We are lifting the quality of our environment, and our economy is not hurting from it; it's generating new jobs and new opportunities.

There is much, much more to be done. I'll just give you one example. Ten million American children still live within four miles of a toxic waste site. If you will give us four more years, we'll clean up the 500 worst ones and our kids will be growing up next to parks not poison. Will you help us build that bridge to the 21st century? (Applause.)

The most important issue of all is your education and the education of those coming behind you. (Applause.) There is so much more to be done to raise standards, to promote reform, to bring more children into the Head Start program. There is so much more to be done. Forty percent of our children who are eight years old, 3rd-graders, still cannot read a book on their own. A lot of it is because they come from other places; their first language is not English. But that will be cold comfort to them if they can't learn as they move on through school.

I have a plan to mobilize 30,000 AmeriCorps and other reading specialists -- (applause) -- to get them to put together a million volunteers. In this last budget we got 200,000 more work-study slots for college students. (Applause.) I want -- and a lot of you will use these -- I want to use 100,000 of those slots for young people to earn their way through college by teaching children to read so that every 8-year-old can say, I can read this book by myself. Will you help me build that bridge to the 21st century? (Applause.)

In four more years we can hook every classroom and every library and every school in this country to the Internet, to the World Wide Web, to the whole Information Superhighway. For the first time ever, all of our children will be able to get the same information in the same way at the same time. It will revolutionize education. Will you help me build that bridge to the 21st century? (Applause.)

And finally, we've done a lot to make college more accessible. Ten million young people now have lower-cost college loans and they can pay them back as a percentage of their income instead of being overrun by debt when they get of college, but we need to do more. I want to make at least two years of education after high school as universal in America as a high school diploma is today in the next four years. (Applause.) I want to do it by letting Americans deduct dollar for dollar from their tax bill the cost of a typical community college tuition -- no bureaucracy, no program. Just send people and say, you make your grades, stay in, and you can go to community college for free. You can do it in America. (Applause.)

I want to give every American the right to deduct up to \$10,000 a year for the cost of any college tuition, undergraduate or graduate. (Applause.) I believe families should be able to save for college in an IRA and withdraw from it without any tax penalty if they're using the money to pay for college or health care or a first-time home. Will you help me build that bridge? (Applause.)

Between now and Tuesday you may hear someone say that your vote doesn't matter. After you have heard this tonight, do you have something to say back to them? (Applause.) Will you say it? (Applause.)

Folks, before I came here today I was in Ypsilanti, Michigan -- (applause) -- on the campus of Eastern Michigan University. (Applause.) And I was there at a big conference with 4,000 women business owners. (Applause.) There were three women who preceded me on the program. I want to tell you about them. One came here as an immigrant from Mexico as a child, of Syrian heritage. Her parents were Syrians living in Mexico. She spoke not a word of English. She got married. She had children. Her husband ran a car dealership. He died suddenly in 1984. She could have sold the business and at least lived comfortably in retirement. Instead, she says, maybe I can be a businesswoman. Today that woman owns five car dealerships and has 260 employees. (Applause.)

The second, a young woman with very little formal education, was making a living cleaning houses. And she was hitchhiking home one day from a job she had. And the person who was giving her a ride said, you know, I'm amazed you don't have more work. Everybody I know has got both people in the house working. I bet you could find more jobs. This woman, hitchhiking home from work, had the idea that she would start her own business. She borrowed \$11,000 from one of our programs -- \$11,000. Today she runs a house-cleaning business with 29 employees. (Applause.)

The third woman was a former welfare recipient who today

owns a construction company. That is America. (Applause.)

And every one of them -- every one of them made it on their own, all right. If they hadn't worked hard, if they hadn't had talent, if they hadn't had stick-to-it-iveness, if they hadn't been willing to face failure down, they would not have made it. But they also got a little help from their friends, the American people, to work together and make this country a greater place. (Applause.)

I want you to go home tonight and ask yourself this question: What do I want America to look like and how are we going to get there. And I think you will say, we have got to join hands. We've got to build a bridge that is big enough and wide enough and strong enough for all of us to walk across. And if we do it, the best days of this country are still ahead.

Let's go build that bridge between now and Tuesday. Thank you and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

9:20 P.M. MST

Gerald R. Ford Biography

Gerald Rudolph Ford, the 38th President of the United States, was born Leslie Lynch King, Jr., the son of Leslie Lynch King and Dorothy Ayer Gardner King, on July 14, 1913, in Omaha, Nebraska. His parents separated two weeks after his birth and his mother took him to Grand Rapids, Michigan to live with her parents. On February 1, 1916, approximately two years after her divorce was final, Dorothy King married Gerald R. Ford, a Grand Rapids paint salesman. The Fords began calling her son Gerald R. Ford, Jr., although his name was not legally changed until December 3, 1935. He did not know until 1930 that Gerald Ford, Sr., was not his biological father. The future president grew up in a close-knit family which included three younger half-brothers, Thomas, Richard, and James.

Ford attended South High School in Grand Rapids, where he excelled scholastically and athletically, being named to the honor society and the "All-City" and "All-State" football teams. He was also active in scouting, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in November 1927. He earned spending money by working in the family paint business and at a local restaurant.

From 1931 to 1935 Ford attended The University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he majored in economics and political science. He held various part-time jobs to supplement his scholarship. A gifted athlete, Ford played on the University's national championship football teams in 1932 and 1933. He was voted the Wolverine's most valuable player in 1934 and was chosen for the East team in the annual East-West Shrine Game in San Francisco. He graduated with a B.A. degree in June 1935. In August 1935 he played in the College All-Star football game against the Chicago Bears.

He received offers from two professional football teams, the Detroit Lions and the Green Bay Packers, but chose instead to take a position as boxing coach and assistant varsity football coach at Yale hoping to attend law school there. Yale officials denied him admission, because of his full-time coaching responsibilities, until the spring of 1938 when he did enter law school. Among those he coached were Robert Taft, Jr. and William Proxmire. Ford earned his LL.B. degree in 1941, graduating in the top 25 percent of his class in spite of the time he had to devote to his coaching duties. His introduction to politics came in the summer of 1940 when he worked in Wendell Willkie's presidential campaign.

After returning to Michigan and passing his bar exam, Ford and a U of M fraternity brother, Philip A. Buchen (who later served on Ford's White House staff as Counsel to the President), set up a law partnership in Grand Rapids. He also taught a course in business law at the University of Grand Rapids and served as line coach for the school's football team. He had just become active in a group of reform-minded Republicans in Grand Rapids, calling themselves the Home Front, who were interested in challenging the hold of local political boss Frank McKay, when the United States entered World War II.

In April 1942 Ford joined the U.S. Naval Reserve receiving a commission as an ensign. After an orientation program at Annapolis, he became a physical fitness instructor at a pre-flight school in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. In the spring of 1943 he began service in the light aircraft carrier USS MONTEREY. He was first assigned as athletic director and gunnery division officer, then as assistant navigator, with the MONTEREY which took part in most of the major operations in the South Pacific, including Truk, Saipan, and the Philippines. His closest call with death came not as a result of enemy fire, however, but during a vicious typhoon in the Philippine Sea in December 1944. He came within inches of being swept overboard while the storm raged. The ship, which was severely damaged by the storm and the resulting fire, had to be taken out of service. Ford spent the remainder of the war ashore and was discharged as a lieutenant commander in February 1946.

When he returned to Grand Rapids Ford became a partner in the locally prestigious law firm of Butterfield, Keeney, and Amberg. A self-proclaimed compulsive "joiner," Ford was well-known throughout the community. Ford has stated that his experiences in World War II caused him to reject his previous isolationist leanings and adopt an internationalist outlook. With the encouragement of his stepfather, who was county Republican chairman, the Home Front, and Senator Arthur Vandenberg, Ford decided to challenge the isolationist incumbent Bartel Jonkman for the Republican nomination for the U.S. House of Representatives in the 1948 election. He won the nomination by a wide margin and

was elected to Congress on November 2, receiving 61 percent of the vote in the general election.

During the height of the campaign Gerald Ford married Elizabeth Ann Bloomer Warren, a divorced department store fashion consultant. They were to have four children: Michael Gerald, born March 14, 1950; John Gardner, born March 16, 1952; Steven Meigs, born May 19, 1956; and Susan Elizabeth, born July 6, 1957.

Gerald Ford served in the House of Representatives from January 3, 1949 to December 6, 1973, being reelected twelve times, each time with more than 60% of the vote. He became a member of the House Appropriations Committee in 1951, and rose to prominence on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, becoming its ranking minority member in 1961. He once described himself as "a moderate in domestic affairs, an internationalist in foreign affairs, and a conservative in fiscal policy."

As his reputation as a legislator grew, Ford declined offers to run for both the Senate and the Michigan governorship in the early 1950s. His ambition was to become Speaker of the House. In 1960 he was mentioned as a possible running mate for Richard Nixon in the presidential election. In 1961, in a revolt of the "Young Turks," a group of younger, more progressive House Republicans who felt that the older leadership was stagnating, Ford defeated sixty-seven year old Charles Hoeven of Iowa for Chairman of the House Republican Conference, the number three leadership position in the party.

In 1963 President Johnson appointed Ford to the Warren Commission investigating the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy. In 1965 Ford co-authored, with John R. Stiles, a book about the findings of the Commission, *Portrait of the Assassin*.

The battle for the 1964 Republican nomination for president was drawn on ideological lines, but Ford avoided having to choose between Rockefeller and Goldwater by standing behind Michigan favorite son George Romney.

In 1965 Ford was chosen by the Young Turks as their best hope to challenge Charles Halleck for the position of minority leader of the House. He won by a small margin and took over the position early in 1965, holding it for eight years.

Ford led Republican opposition to many of President Johnson's programs, favoring more conservative alternatives to his social welfare legislation and opposing Johnson's policy of gradual escalation in Vietnam. As minority leader Ford made more than 200 speeches a year all across the country, a circumstance which made him nationally known.

In both the 1968 and 1972 elections Ford was a loyal supporter of Richard Nixon, who had been a friend for many years. In 1968 Ford was again considered as a vice presidential candidate. Ford backed the President's economic and foreign policies and remained on good terms with both the conservative and liberal wings of the Republican party.

Because the Republicans did not attain a majority in the House, Ford was unable to reach his ultimate political goal--to be Speaker of the House. Ironically, he did become president of the Senate. When Spiro Agnew resigned the office of Vice President of the United States late in 1973, after pleading no contest to a charge of income tax evasion, President Nixon was empowered by the 25th Amendment to appoint a new vice president. Presumably, he needed someone who could work with Congress, survive close scrutiny of his political career and private life, and be confirmed quickly. He chose Gerald R. Ford. Following the most thorough background investigation in the history of the FBI, Ford was confirmed and sworn in on December 6, 1973.

The specter of the Watergate scandal, the break-in at Democratic headquarters during the 1972 campaign and the ensuing cover-up by Nixon administration officials, hung over Ford's nine-month tenure as vice president. When it became apparent that evidence, public opinion, and the mood in Congress were all pointing toward impeachment, Nixon became the first president in U.S. history to resign from that office.

Gerald R. Ford took the oath of office as President of the United States on August 9, 1974, stating that

"the long national nightmare is over. Our Constitution works."

Within the month Ford nominated Nelson Rockefeller for vice president. On December 19, 1974, Rockefeller was confirmed by Congress, over the opposition of many conservatives, and the country had a full complement of leaders again.

One of the most difficult decisions of Ford's presidency was made just a month after he took office. Believing that protracted impeachment proceedings would keep the country mired in Watergate and unable to address the other problems facing it, Ford decided to grant a pardon to Richard Nixon prior to the filing of any formal criminal charges. Public reaction was mostly negative; Ford was even suspected of having made a "deal" with the former president to pardon him if he would resign. The decision may have cost him the election in 1976, but President Ford always maintained that it was the right thing to do for the good of the country.

President Ford inherited an administration plagued by a divisive war in Southeast Asia, rising inflation, and fears of energy shortages. He faced many difficult decisions including replacing Nixon's staff with his own, restoring the credibility of the presidency, and dealing with a Congress increasingly assertive of its rights and powers.

In domestic policy, President Ford felt that through modest tax and spending cuts, deregulating industries, and decontrolling energy prices to stimulate production, he could contain both inflation and unemployment. This would also reduce the size and role of the federal government and help overcome the energy shortage. His philosophy is best summarized by one of his favorite speech lines, "A government big enough to give us everything we want is a government big enough to take from us everything we have." The heavily Democratic Congress often disagreed with Ford, leading to numerous confrontations and his frequent use of the veto to control government spending. Through compromise, bills involving energy decontrol, tax cuts, deregulation of the railroad and securities industries, and antitrust law reform were approved.

On two separate trips to California in September 1975, Ford was the target of assassination attempts. Both of the assailants were women.

In foreign policy, Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger continued the policy of detente with the Soviet Union and "shuttle diplomacy" in the Middle East. U.S.-Soviet relations were marked by on-going arms negotiations, the Helsinki agreements on human rights principles and East European national boundaries, trade negotiations, and the symbolic Apollo-Soyuz joint manned space flight. Ford's personal diplomacy was highlighted by trips to Japan and China, a 10-day European tour, and co-sponsorship of the first international economic summit meeting, as well as the reception of numerous foreign heads of state, many of whom came in observance of the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976.

With the fall of South Vietnam in 1975 as background, Congress and the President struggled repeatedly over presidential war powers, oversight of the CIA and covert operations, military aid appropriations, and the stationing of military personnel.

On May 14, 1975, in a dramatic move, Ford ordered U.S. forces to retake the S.S. MAYAGUEZ, an American merchant ship seized by Cambodian gunboats two days earlier in international waters. The vessel was recovered and all 39 crewmen saved. In the preparation and execution of the rescue, however, 41 Americans lost their lives.

During the 1976 campaign, Ford fought off a strong challenge by Ronald Reagan to gain the Republican nomination. He chose Senator Robert Dole of Kansas as his running mate and succeeded in narrowing Democrat Jimmy Carter's large lead in the polls, but finally lost one of the closest elections in history. Three televised candidate debates were focal points of the campaign.

On January 20, 1977, President and Mrs. Ford moved to California where they built a new house in Rancho Mirage. They continue to vacation at their home outside Vail, Colorado, where Ford enjoys skiing and golf. President Ford's memoirs, *A Time to Heal: The Autobiography of Gerald R. Ford*, were published in 1979. President Ford is active on behalf of Republican Party and charitable causes, serves

on corporate boards, and speaks frequently before a variety of audiences. He is supportive of the Library and Museum that bear his name, taking part in symposia, conferences, and other special events.

Chronological List of Post-Presidential Activities

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Ford / 1982 / int'l

VIDEO REQUEST PROPOSAL

TODAY'S DATE 10/29/98

_____ ACCEPT	_____ REGRET	_____ PENDING
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TO: Stephanie Streett
Assistant to the President
Director of Scheduling

FROM: Ann Lewis
Assistant to the President
Director of Communications

REQUEST: Video Message for President Gerald Ford.

PURPOSE: To honor the former President upon his
acceptance of the Victory of Freedom Award.

DATE AND TIME: For December 1 gala.

BACKGROUND: The Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace
Foundation is awarding former President Ford
with the Victory of Freedom Award at an
evening gala at the Nixon Library
commemorating the 50th anniversary of Ford's
election to Congress. The Library is making
the same request of Presidents Carter and
Bush, Mrs. Nancy Reagan, Mrs. Ladybird
Johnson, Secretary Albright and Dr,
Kissinger.

DURATION:

REMARKS: Attached.

STAFF CONTACT: Ann Lewis or Ruby Shamir x62640

ORIGIN OF PROPOSAL: The Nixon Library

RICHARD NIXON LIBRARY & BIRTHPLACE FOUNDATION



October 21, 1998

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Ms. Stephanie Streett
Director of Scheduling
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ms. Streett:

We are honoring President Gerald R. Ford with our *Victory of Freedom Award* on Tuesday, December 1, at a spectacular evening gala at the Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, commemorating the 50th anniversary of President Ford's election to Congress, and a lifetime of service to our nation as Congressman, Vice President and America's 38th President.

I am contacting you to request a brief videotaped greeting from President Clinton to President Ford which we can incorporate in the evening's program of tributes. We are also asking President Carter, President Bush, Mrs. Nancy Reagan, Mrs. Ladybird Johnson, Secretary of State Albright, Dr. Kissinger and Senator Dole to tape personal messages.

A message from the President would add much to the evening's festivities and we hope you will give our request a favorable response. We will, of course, be glad to forward suggested remarks.

If you have additional questions, please contact me at (714) 993-5075 extension 208. Otherwise, I will follow up in a few days.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Evie Lazzarino
Communications Director



RICHARD NIXON LIBRARY & BIRTHPLACE FOUNDATION

11/3/98

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TO: Ruby Shamir

FROM: Sandy Quinn (714) 993-5075 ext. 207

Regarding the Nixon Library's tribute dinner for President Ford on Dec. 1 at the Library in Yorba Linda, where Presidents Clinton and Ford gathered April 27, 1994 for President Nixon's services.

--We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of his election to the House of Representatives.

--We are presenting him with the Library's VICTORY OF FREEDOM Award (a one time award).

created for D's event - waiting to have Ford for his relationship
--Nominating Gerald Ford to be Vice President, President Nixon said: "He is a man who has been unwavering in his support of the policies that brought peace with honor for America in Vietnam and in support of a policy for the strong national defense for this country, which is so essential if we are to have peace in the world."

2 Nixon
--He's a Yale Law School graduate.

--Noted for his loving children and devoted wife, Betty.

close down Vietnam
--He has always stepped up when his party and country called: a Congressman respected by both parties for integrity, honesty and fairness; service as House Minority Leader and Vice President; member of the Warren Commission; and bringing the nation together after Watergate.

house minority leader
--He started from modest Midwestern beginnings and continues today as a respected member of the fraternity of leaders who served in the Oval Office. He is loved and admired for his constant and steady presence on our America's landscape.



18001 Yorba Linda Boulevard ★ Yorba Linda ★ California USA 92886-3949
Telephone (714) 993-5075 ★ FAX (714) 528-0544 ★ www.nixonfoundation.org

FOR LORAN RICHARD NIXON SMITH

*Spec Dir.
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SMITH

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at you as you
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1965 - Rep's leader
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high price of oil
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