

Mr Chairman

READING COPY

PRESIDENTIAL KICK-OFF DINNER
January 23, 1960

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Welcome to another presidential ~~contest~~ ^{Talent} contest.

~~No~~ one can accuse the Democratic party of

a scarcity of presidential hopefuls -- some unabashed, others

merely unannounced.

But at least we have a contest for our nomination. No

other political party can make that claim.

~~Our party believes in choosing its candidate through the~~
~~process of free and open competition.~~ The Republican party,

~~it need hardly be said,~~ is taking no ~~chances~~. In politics

as in economics, it is the party of monopoly and scarcity all

the way.

The contrast between the two conventions this summer will
make clear to the people the difference between the two parties.

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and I am sure
~~the~~ the contrast between the two candidates will make the

difference even clearer. (B)

One thing is certain: We don't have to consult Drew Pearson ?

or Joe Alsop to discover the identity of the Republican candidate.

We know who he is, and we know his record.

Some people say he will be a hard man to beat. I say ~~that~~

that between the low road and the high road, the old model and the

new model, the juvenile delinquent and the statesman -- he may

be a hard man to find.

But once you get the knack of it, there is nothing easier or
more exciting than hitting a moving target.

In any case, try as hard as he can (and he will try) - the
 Republican candidate cannot escape his record, the record of the
 Republican ~~Administration~~ *Party*, or the obstructionist record of
~~obstructionist record~~

Halleck's hatchet-men on Capitol Hill.

as the Republican spokesman

attribution 000028

He cannot avoid responsibility for the ~~creation~~ of our national power and prestige ~~which has taken place in the last seven years.~~

He cannot dodge or duck responsibility for the slowdown in our national growth ~~which has taken place in the last seven years.~~

He cannot ~~gloss over~~ *erosion* the ~~erosion~~ in our national morality and character ~~which has taken place in the last seven years.~~

He cannot now dissociate himself from an Administration whose motto for seven years has been: "No go, Go slow, Not now, Veto"

yes, an Administration which has said ^{*No-Yes*} ~~Nay~~ to every new idea ~~and to every ancient ideal of American life.~~

In fact, the "payola age"

has had its final triumph in the birth of "Nayola government"

The Republican candidate *believes that the* ~~stands for the belief that this~~ Republican record can be *of Dynamic Apathy -* ~~wrapped and packaged,~~ "deodorized and

merchandised and served hot to the voter. All I can say is that

the Republican party appears to have forgotten 1948 -- ~~right, just~~

Mr. President?

~~ask President Truman~~

But then, maybe it should -

There is nothing wrong with this country that
another election ^{with} ~~and~~ a Democratic Victory
can't cure. 000029

The American people do not like slickness, or slickers. ~~they~~

~~do not think that declining to be pinned down on great issues~~

~~is a triumph of democratic principle.~~ They do not like that ~~kind~~ brand

of political cunning which prides itself on ~~repudiating~~ ^{rewriting} its past,

obscuring its present, and concealing its future. H

When ~~the~~ ^{the people} go to the polls to choose a President, they want a

man, not an operator. They want a leader, not a student of public

opinion polls. They want a head and a heart, not a calculator or

computer. ~~They want~~

Above all, they want a man who will not ~~lead~~ ^{mislead} the people with

"blandness" and "sophistry" but will tell us all, boldly, clearly and

frankly, where we stand at home and in the world, and what we must

do to protect and advance our ^{great} nation. The American people want ~~a~~ ^{President}

a President who will tell us these things and then go in there and

fight for them!" ~~He must be an Administrator~~ ^{They want a who more than an Administrator}

~~He must be an Educator~~ ^{He must be an Educator}

~~As FDR said: "We must move forward with a strong and active~~

~~faith."~~ He must, through leadership and persuasion,

be able to create an overwhelming consensus of National

He must

(5)

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~~This is~~ the challenge that confronts us in the Sixties -- is

to wipe away from American life the cobwebs of complacency,

smugness and stagnation and to resume the forward march toward

peace and opportunity. -

(Afraid)

~~Let us lead from strength.~~

Instead of thinking that every

great task is beyond our means, let us measure the greatness of

our capacity.

~~Let us lead from strength. Instead of thinking that every~~

~~great task is beyond our means, let us measure the greatness of~~

~~our capacity.~~

Instead of filling the air with fear, let us fill men's

hearts with hope.

Instead of being overwhelmed by the dangers of the world,

let us be inspired by the challenge to surmount these dangers.

Instead of worrying about the future, let us labor to create it. !!

In the words of FDR - ~~we~~ We must move forward
with a strong and Active Faith!!
(We can + we must win in 1960.)

DRAFT

22 January 1960
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Welcome to another presidential ^{beauty} ~~party~~ contest.

As you can see, no one can accuse the Democratic Party of a lack of presidential hopefuls--both unannounced and unabashed.

But at least we have a contest for our nomination. No other ~~political~~ political party can make that ~~claim~~ claim.

Now those of us speaking to you tonight may have our minor differences, but on one thing we are united: that the most important job facing the Democrats in 1960 is to defeat ^{the} ~~a~~ handpicked candidate of the Republican Old ~~Guard~~ Guard--Richard Milhous Nixon.

Things are going to be different for the Democrats in 1960. This year we are not running against
~~We Democrats are fortunate in 1960. We are no longer running against~~
(a legend; we are running against an unwashed, unvarnished, real-life Republican.

And we are running against a man ~~whose~~ whose record we know and the country knows.

We know his record as a Congressman, as a Senator, and as Vice-President.

And we know, too, how he got each of those offices.

He became Congressman with half truths and ~~various~~ various insinuations about one of the finest leaders the cooperative movement in America has ever known--Jerry Voorhis.

He became Senator by falsely traducing the loyalty of one of the noblest and most courageous ladies ever to grace the Democratic Party--Helen Gahagan Douglas.

And he became Vice-President by ^{running out on} ~~plunging a knife into the back of~~
^{Governor} his own State, ~~the~~ the Chief Justice of the United States, the beloved and revered--Earl Warren.

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And he did not stop there. He even went so far as to impugn ^{gu} the loyalty and patriotism of a man and a Democrat--who knows no ^{peer} fear as a patriot--Harry S. Truman.

The handpicked candidate of the Republican Old Guard has won quite a reputation as a merchant, a political pitch man. But political personalities cannot be merchandized and packaged and served up to the American voters. Tom Dewey proved that for us in 1948, didn't he, Mr. President?

Let us be fair. The Republican candidate is a ~~much~~ far^{er} abler man than some of his critics would acknowledge. As a tactician and as a maneuverer, he is virtually unequalled.

His supporters may be right when they say "that he would get things done."

But what things? What does this man stand for?

When the American people go to the polls to choose a president, they want a man, not a tactician.

They want a heart and soul as well as a brain.

They want a touchstone of faith, a ring of integrity.

For the American people know that character is the most vital qualification for a President of ~~the~~ United States.

I know ^I I do not know who the nominee of the Democratic Party will be --
(I wish I did). But I do know that the people will find ~~that~~ in that man,
whoever he may be, a heart, a soul, that touchstone of faith, that ring of
integrity. ^{conviction}

~~I seek the highest honor that the Democratic Party can bestow its~~
~~nomination for the greatest office in the world. I intend to campaign hard~~
~~for that honor.~~

Whether or not I win it, I promise you this: that I will
dedicate every ounce of energy and effort at my command to the end that the
next occupant of the White House will be a Democrat--and not Richard Milhous

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Insert A

He -- the next President of the United States -- must be a true leader, not only in the sense of being an able executive, but also in the very real sense of being an educator. True leadership requires the creation of a national consensus behind a total national effort. It requires, furthermore, telling the American people the truth about our national posture.

The American people, products of a free society, have demonstrated in the past that when summoned to the heights, they can rise to the heights.

The next President of the United States must be a man whose vision and understanding is aimed at the height of human achievement and expansion. He must be a man who ~~is~~ everywhere sees opportunities rather than obstacles. He must be a man who wills achievement and has the energy and spirit to achieve that which he wills.

My candidacy and my qualifications for the highest honor the Democratic party can ~~bestow~~ bestow -- its nomination for the greatest office in the world -- is now before you for appraisal. I intend to campaign hard for that honor.

Whether or not I win it, I promise you this: that I will dedicate every ounce of energy and effort at my command to the end that the next occupant of the White House will be a Democrat -- and not Richard Milhous Nixon!



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