

12/8/80

MR. CHAIRMAN, MY COLLEAGUES AND GUESTS OF THE CONFERENCE/

I COULD JUST ABOUT BREAK OUT INTO SONG/ IF I DID, IT WOULD
HAVE TO BE "~~THE LORD BE PRAISED~~" / ^{Thanks Be To God} FOR MY FATHER TOLD ME MANY TIMES
AS A YOUNG MAN THAT WHEN ~~HE~~ ^{the Lord} LOOKS WITH SUCH GOOD FAVOR UPON ME AS
HE HAS HERE TODAY, I SHOULD FIRST PAUSE/ ACKNOWLEDGE ~~him~~ ^{him},
GIVE THANKS AND THEN ~~GO FORTH WALK~~ HUMBLY IN HIS SIGHT/

THAT IS WHERE I HAVE TO BEGIN MY STEWARDSHIP AS YOUR NEWLY
ELECTED LEADER/

I'M DEEPLY INDEBTED TO THOSE OF YOU WHO WORKED HARD AND LONG
IN MY BEHALF/ AND I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR THE FRIENDSHIPS WE'VE FORGED
IN THIS HOUSE OVER THE YEARS AND FOR THE EXPRESSIONS OF CONFIDENCE
FROM THOSE WE'VE COME TO KNOW FOR ONLY A COMPARATIVELY SHORT PERIOD
OF TIME.

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TO YOU, GUY, AND YOUR SUPPORTERS. IT'S BEEN A LENGTHY, SPIRITED,
INTENSIVE, BUT FRIENDLY CAMPAIGN/ ^{John & most others} I COMPLIMENT YOU ~~FOR~~
~~FOR~~ FOR WAGING IT ON A HIGH PLANE/ I'M CONFIDENT THERE ARE
NO SCARS, NO BITTERNESS OR ILL FEELINGS AMONG US// MAY I FURTHER
ASSURE YOU THAT BOB MICHEL KEEPS NO LITTLE BLACK BOOK IN HIS BOTTOM
DESK DRAWER/ I DON'T BELIEVE IN RECRIMINATIONS/ THE LARGE GREEN
BOOK OF IDEAS AND PLANS I HAVE FOR THE FUTURE INCLUDES EACH AND EVERY
ONE OF YOU//

John Rhodes tribute

HOW DO I PERCEIVE MY LEADERSHIP ROLE?

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FIRST OF ALL, I LOOK UPON IT AS A ROLE TO BE SHARED BY THOSE
YOU WILL ELECT TO FILL OUT OUR LEADERSHIP RANKS/ WE DO THAT FOR THE
PURPOSE OF DIVIDING UP THE RESPONSIBILITIES AROUND HERE AND I PERSONALLY
LIKE TO DELEGATE ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY TO THOSE WILLING AND ABLE TO
LEND A HELPING HAND/

SECONDLY, I DO NOT PERSONALLY CRAVE THE SPOTLIGHT OF PUBLIC
ATTENTION/ WHAT I AM INTERESTED IN IS SEEING TO IT THAT THE SPOTLIGHT
IS FOCUSED ON THE VAST ARRAY OF INDIVIDUAL TALENT WE HAVE ASSEMBLED
HERE IN THIS ROOM/ MY JOB IS TO ORCHESTRATE YOUR MANY TALENTS IN SUCH
A WAY AS TO GIVE US THE BEST POSSIBLE OVERALL PERFORMANCE RATING/

TO USE THE SYMPHONIC ANALOGY, I KNOW SOME OF YOU PREFER SPEAKING SOFTLY AS STRINGS, OTHERS MORE VOCALLY AS WOODWINDS, SOME VERY LOUDLY AS BRASS AND FINALLY THOSE BOISTEROUS ONES FOR PERCUSSION, BUT IN ANY EVENT, THE MEASURE OF OUR SUCCESS WILL BE HOW WELL WE HARMONIZE AND WORK TOGETHER

HAVING SAID THAT, I WANT TO ~~take~~ ^{take} THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND EVERYONE BEFORE CURTAIN TIME THAT WE ARE GOING TO BE PERFORMING UNDER ONE SERIOUS HANDICAP

NOTWITHSTANDING OUR GREAT VICTORIES IN WINNING THE WHITE HOUSE AND CONTROL OF THE SENATE, WE REPUBLICANS ARE STILL OUTNUMBERED IN THIS HOUSE 243 TO 192. *That's a 51 vote Democratic majority!*

WE DESERVE A 4 TO 5 RATIO ON COMMITTEES, BUT THE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY STILL HAS THE POWER AND THE VOTES TO WORK THEIR WILL PARTICULARLY ON RULES & WAYS AND MEANS AND APPROPRIATIONS

WE DO HAVE SOME LEVERAGE NOW WITH A REPUBLICAN SENATE THAT WE HAVE NOT HAD FOR A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AND WITH A REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT OUR ~~priority~~ ^{Republican} ROLE WILL BE CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT THAN DURING THE PAST 4 YEARS.

INSTEAD OF RESPONDING TO THE WILL OF A DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT AND A DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY IN THE CONGRESS AND PLAYING A DEFENSIVE -- SOMETIMES OBSTRUCTIVE -- ROLE / WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO GET ON THE OFFENSIVE / BE CONSTRUCTIVE, AFFIRMATIVE AND POSITIVE, FOR OUR BOTTOM LINE HAS GOT TO BE THE ENACTMENT OF THE REAGAN PROGRAM

WITH THE DEMOCRATS LOSING THE WHITE HOUSE AND CONTROL OF THE SENATE, I THINK IT'S QUITE OBVIOUS THEY WILL ATTEMPT TO MAKE THEIR CASE IN THE HOUSE WHERE THEY STILL HAVE A NUMERICAL MAJORITY / IF THEY DECIDE TO GUT ANY PART OF THE REAGAN PROGRAM, THE BATTLE WILL BE FOUGHT IN OUR HOUSE

OUR STRATEGY WILL BE ONE OF BEGINNING WITH NEGOTIATION NOT ONLY AT THE TOP, BUT RIGHT DOWN TO THE SUB-COMMITTEE LEVEL WHERE I INTEND TO STRENGTHEN THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION IN THE HOUSE, WITH OUR COUNTERPARTS IN THE SENATE AND WITH THE WHITE HOUSE.

WITH OR WITHOUT NEGOTIATIONS WE WILL BE CONTINUALLY PROBING
ACROSS THE AISLE AND I'D LIKE TO COUNT UPON YOUR VOLUNTEERING TO HELP
STRATEGIZE AND EXECUTE COMMANDO RAIDS FOR VOTES FROM THE OTHER SIDE
ON SPECIFIC PIECES OF LEGISLATION/

IF THEIR STRATEGY IS TO DIG IN AND MAKE A FIGHT OF IT, THEN OF
COURSE WE HAVE CONFRONTATION/ I WOULD HOPE FOR THE SAKE OF THE
 PRESIDENT-ELECT'S PROGRAM, THAT THOSE OCCASIONS WOULD BE HELD TO A
MINIMUM, BUT IN ANY EVENT, WE WILL BE PREPARED TO MIX IT UP/

I'VE NEVER RUN AWAY FROM A FIGHT IN MY LIFE AND THAT INCLUDES A
LOT OF SCRAPES AND ONE MUGGING INCIDENT/ IN ANY KIND OF CONFRONTATION,
 I'D LIKE TO THINK WE'RE GOING TO WIN MOST ON PHILOSOPHICAL GROUNDS AND
LOSE SOME BY SHEER WEIGHT OF NUMBERS/

IF WE LOSE AND THE ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT ONES FOR THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE/ THOSE ~~ISSUES WILL BE~~ ^{will be the issues} HIGHLIGHTED FOR PUBLIC DEBATE IN THE
 CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN OF 1982/

AND IN LOOKING AHEAD TO 1982 LET ME CONCLUDE WITH ONE OR TWO
 OBSERVATIONS, ^(was once a freshman) AFTER SERVING 24 YEARS IN THIS HOUSE, ALWAYS AS A
MEMBER OF THE MINORITY, I'M GETTING MIGHTY SICK AND TIRED OF THAT
DESIGNATION/

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I NEVER PARTICULARLY LIKED BEING CALLED
THE MINORITY WHIP/ AND WOULD PREFER NOW TO BE CALLED YOUR REPUBLICAN
LEADER/ I HOPE THOSE ELECTED TO LEADERSHIP POSITIONS WITH ME WILL
 TAKE THE SAME ATTITUDE/ I WANT TO EXPEL THE WORD "MINORITY" FROM OUR
VOCABULARY AND BURY IT FOR ALL TIME/

I'M REALLY EXCITED ABOUT THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES
 THAT LIE AHEAD OF US TO PROVE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT WE ARE
DESERVING OF BECOMING A RULING PARTY IN THIS HOUSE/

GUY, IT WAS A HEALTHY CONTEST. I KNOW IT WILL MAKE ME A
STRONGER LEADER AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE IT/

THANK YOU ALL ONCE AGAIN FOR THE GREAT HONOR YOU DO ME AND MY
FAMILY IN ELECTING ME YOUR LEADER./