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Proud To Be A Democrat, May 21, 1977

Vern Riffe

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SPEECH
RICHLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATS
JEFFERSON-JACKSON DAY DINNER
MAY 21, 1977

TOPIC: PROUD TO BE A DEMOCRAT

I. INTRODUCTION

A. RIFFE

1. I'M VERN RIFFE
2. I'M A PROUD MAN
3. I'M PROUD OF MY FAMILY
4. I'M PROUD TO BE A POLITICIAN
5. I'M PROUD TO BE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
6. I'M PROUD TO BE A DEMOCRAT

B. DEMOCRATS

1. DEMOCRATS WORK FOR WHAT'S RIGHT -- THAT'S WHY
I'M PROUD TO BE A DEMOCRAT
2. DEMOCRATS WORK FOR THE PEOPLE
3. WHEN A YOUNG BOY ASKED PRESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN THE
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS, TRUMAN
REPLIED, "DEMOCRATS WORK TO HELP PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP.
THAT OTHER PARTY, THEY WORK FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T NEED
HELP. THAT'S ALL THERE'S TO IT."

4. YOU SHOULD BE PROUD TO BE A DEMOCRAT

I. BODY - HERE'S WHY I AM PROUD TO BE A DEMOCRAT -- HERE'S WHY I AM PROUD TO BE SPEAKER

A. THE RIGHT TO VOTE

1. VOTING IS A RIGHT AND THIS WEEK, DEMOCRATS IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SOUGHT TO PRESERVE AND PROMOTE THAT RIGHT

2. REPUBLICANS THINK VOTING IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT

A. IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT REPUBLICANS ARE CONFUSED ABOUT RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES -- THEY CONSIDER THEMSELVES TO BE THE PRIVILEGED CLASS -- THEY ABUSE THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS!

3. PRESENTLY, THE GOVERNOR HAS A BILL, SB 125, ON HIS DESK TO FACILITATE VOTER REGISTRATION -- TO MAKE IT EASIER TO REGISTER -- THEREFORE, PROMOTE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

A. GOVERNOR CAN SIGN IT, VETO IT, OR LET IT BECOME LAW WITHOUT HIS SIGNATURE

4. HIS PARTY OPPOSES THE BILL -- THEY CRY FRAUD -- THEY CLAIM THE BILL WILL PROMOTE VOTER FRAUD

5. SB 125 DOES NOT PROMOTE VOTER FRAUD
 - A. IT REQUIRES STATEWIDE REGISTRATION
 - B. IT REQUIRES A MASTER LIST OF REGISTERED VOTERS STATEWIDE
 - C. IT REQUIRES BETTER IDENTIFICATION OF REGISTRANTS
 - D. IT INCREASES THE PENALTIES FOR VOTER FRAUD

6. I'LL TELL YOU WHAT SENATE BILL 125 PROMOTES -- IT PROMOTES THE RIGHT TO VOTE
 - A. REPUBLICANS DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO VOTE BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT BEEN WILLING OR ABLE TO APPEAL TO THE COMMON PEOPLE -- THE WORKING PEOPLE -- THE PEOPLE WHO PAY TAXES AND AREN'T WEALTHY ENOUGH TO BUY TAX LOOPHOLES -- THE PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND ME
 - B. IF REPUBLICANS DOUBT THAT YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO VOTE -- THEY SHOULD LOOK AT THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION -- 15TH AMENDMENT SAYS THE RIGHT TO VOTE SHALL NOT BE DENIED ON ACCOUNT OF RACE, COLOR, OR PREVIOUS CONDITION OF SERVITUDE -- 24TH AMENDMENT -- THE RIGHT TO VOTE SHALL NOT BE DENIED ON ACCOUNT OF SEX

B. THE NEW GENERAL ASSEMBLY (112TH)

1. WE ARE WORKING FOR A BALANCED BUDGET
2. WE ARE WORKING FOR QUALITY EDUCATION
3. WE ARE WORKING FOR A STATEWIDE ENERGY POLICY
4. WE ARE WORKING FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION
5. WE WILL WORK FOR FAIR, PUBLIC EMPLOYEE LABOR REFORMS

III. CONCLUSION

A. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE DEMOCRATS

1. I'M PROUD OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2. I'M PROUD OF THE 112TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
3. WE HAVE THE POTENTIAL
4. WE WILL WORK HARD
5. WE WILL WORK FOR WHAT'S RIGHT
6. WE WILL WORK FOR THE PEOPLE

7. WE WILL WORK FOR A BETTER OHIO -- THAT'S OUR GOAL
AS DEMOCRATS

8. WE WANT YOU TO BE PROUD OF US, PROUD OF YOUR PARTY
AND PROUD OF YOU STATE

B. CLOSING JOKE

WHEN PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT WAS MAKING A POLITICAL SPEECH IN MAINE, HE ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY DEMOCRATS IN THE AUDIENCE. AN OLD MAN ROSE IN THE BACK OF THE ROOM AND SAID, "I AM A DEMOCRAT."

ROOSEVELT THEN ASKED HIM WHY HE WAS A DEMOCRAT AND THE OLD MAN SAID, I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A DEMOCRAT, MY FATHER WAS A DEMOCRAT AND MY GRANDFATHER WAS A DEMOCRAT."

THEN ROOSEVELT ASKED, "THEN IF YOUR FATHER HAD BEEN A HORSETHIEF AND YOUR GRANDFATHER HAD BEEN A HORSETHIEF, WOULD YOU BE A HORSETHIEF?"

"OH, NO," THE OLD MAN REPLIED, "IN THAT CASE I WOULD BE A REPUBLICAN!"

IT IS A GREAT FEELING TO BE A DEMOCRAT AND NOT A HORSETHIEF!