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Remarks, May 15, 1981

Vern Riffe

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INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO Mr. Speaker DATE 5/14/81
FROM: Don Roberts
SUBJECT: Remarks for the Democratic Gathering in Wilmington

Event: Clinton County Democratic Organization Dinner
Location: The Elks Club, Wilmington
Date: Friday, **May 15, 1981**
Time: Cocktails 6:30 P.M. - Dinner 7:30 P.M.
Contact Person: Mayor Robert Moyer of Wilmington - phones: 513-382-0037 Home
513-382-3833 Office

Approximately 200 Democrats will be in attendance according to Mayor Moyer.
Newspaper ads and stories have been run to boost ticket sales.

I've put the names of several local Democrats in the speech, page 4 and 5, that Bob Moyer gave me. It should make them feel good.

CLINTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION
THE ELKS CLUB, WILMINGTON, OHIO
FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1981
SPEECH BY HOUSE SPEAKER VERN RIFFE

CHAIRMAN FLOYD. FELLOW DEMOCRATS. THANK YOU FOR
ASKING ME TO BE WITH YOU TONIGHT.

WHAT A PLEASURE AND JOY IT IS TO BE WITH SO MANY
BROTHERS OF THE CAUSE.

THIS IS THE KIND OF ORGANIZATION THAT MAKES AMERICA
GREAT. OHIO IS AN OUTSTANDING STATE BECAUSE SO MANY
DEMOCRATS ORGANIZED AND WORKED TOGETHER AND ACCOMPLISHED
SO MUCH FOR OUR FELLOW MEN.

MY REMARKS HERE NOW WILL COVER FOUR AREAS. WHAT IS
A DEMOCRAT? WHO ARE WE? WHAT DO WE DO? HOW DO WE THINK?

FIRST -- WHAT IS A DEMOCRAT?

CITIZENS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE. PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT PEOPLE AND THEIR WELL BEING.

DEMOCRATS ARE YOUNG, MIDDLE AGED AND SENIOR CITIZENS.

DEMOCRATS LOVE THEIR COUNTRY AND THEIR STATE.

DEMOCRATS SPEAK UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT -- WHAT IS FAIR.

DEMOCRATS SPEAK OUT AGAINST INJUSTICE AND INEFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT.

DEMOCRATS DISAGREE AMONG THEMSELVES OFTEN -- BUT USUALLY COMPROMISE AND HANG TOGETHER FOR THE MAIN BATTLE AGAINST REPUBLICANS.

DEMOCRATS ARE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN THE GREAT AMERICAN DREAM - THAT A MAN AND A WOMAN MAY ACHIEVE THE BETTER LIFE THROUGH WORK AND CARING ABOUT THEIR BROTHERS - THROUGH

COOPERATION WITH THEIR FELLOW MAN - THROUGH TEAMWORK AND
GOOD CITIZENSHIP - THROUGH A RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF
OTHERS.

DEMOCRATS BELIEVE IN LAW - LAW THAT IS FLEXIBLE AND OPEN
TO CHANGES WITH THE TIMES - LAW THAT IS ALWAYS HUMANE AND
SERVING THE PEOPLE RATHER THAN RULING THE PEOPLE.

DEMOCRATS ARE MANY OTHER GOOD THINGS TOO - BUT THAT
COULD TAKE ALL NIGHT.

WHO ARE WE? WE DEMOCRATS

THOMAS JEFFERSON WAS A REAL DEMOCRAT - HE DRAFTED THE
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, POSSIBLY THE GREATEST SERVICE
EVER DONE FOR THE COMMON MAN IN ALL THE HISTORY OF THE EARTH.

FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT WAS A DEMOCRAT. HE LED THIS NATION
OUT OF A DEPRESSION AND THROUGH THE MOST TERRIBLE WAR IN

HISTORY. HIS PROGRAMS WERE FOR PEOPLE.

HARRY TRUMAN WAS A DEMOCRAT. HE PIONEERED CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION, LABOR LEGISLATION AND SO MANY OTHER HUMANE CAUSES.

HUBERT HUMPHREY WAS A DEMOCRAT. ONE OF THE GREAT HUMANITARIAN LAW MAKERS OF ALL TIME WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN PRESIDENT.

JOHN GLENN IS A DEMOCRAT. THE FIRST AMERICAN TO ORBIT THE EARTH IN SPACE FLIGHT AND NOW ONE OF OUR U.S. SENATORS WHO FIGHTS FOR THE RIGHTS AND WELL BEING OF PEOPLE.

BLACKIE FLOYD IS A DEMOCRAT -- YOUR CHAIRMAN.

BOB MOYER IS A DEMOCRAT -- THE MAYOR OF WILMINGTON, A FINE PUBLIC SERVANT.

NEIL SNARR, BARBARA STRATMAN AND JIM STANFIELD ARE ALL DEMOCRATS. AS MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL, THEY SERVE

THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS. AND, JIM HAS DONE A SUPER JOB OF BEING CHAIRMAN OF THIS GATHERING.

FOREST TUCKER, JERRY BRYANT AND TIM RUDDUCK ARE GOOD DEMOCRATS AS ARE ALL OF YOU.

WHAT DO WE DEMOCRATS DO?

WE WORK HARD AT OUR JOBS - IN PRIVATE BUSINESS, AS LABORERS, SKILLED CRAFTSPEOPLE, PUBLIC SERVANTS AND THE REST.

WE VOTE. WE SPEAK OUT. WE SHARE IDEAS AND NEW THOUGHTS WITH OTHERS.

WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE PARTY IN ORDER TO WIN ELECTIONS.

THOSE OF US IN COLUMBUS WORK HARD EVERY DAY TO PASS LEGISLATION THAT IS BEST FOR ALL OF OUR STATE'S PEOPLE.

JUST SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT WE'VE DONE

1. ENERGY CREDITS. THE DEMOCRATS CREATED AND EXPANDED

THE ENERGY CREDITS PROGRAM DESIGNED TO HELP LOW INCOME ELDERLY AND DISABLED PAY THEIR WINTER HEATING BILLS. LAST YEAR \$46 MILLION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO 300,000 HOUSEHOLDS.

DEMOCRATS CREATED THE WEATHERIZATION POLICY ADVISORY BOARD TO HELP CITIZENS WEATHERIZE THEIR HOMES TO SAVE HEATING BILLS AND CONSERVE ENERGY FUELS.

2. HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION. DEMOCRATS IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY INCREASED ELIGIBILITY LIMITS FOR THE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION PROGRAM (RAISED FROM \$10,000 TO \$15,000)

3. PROPERTY TAX ROLLBACK. DEMOCRATS SAVED OHIOANS \$45 MILLION IN PROPERTY TAXES BY ROLLING BACK ASSESSMENTS ON REAL PROPERTY AN ADDITIONAL 2-1/2 PERCENT.

4. EDUCATION. PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION RECEIVED AN APPROPRIATION OF MORE THAN \$785 MILLION FOR THE

CURRENT TWO-YEAR STATE BUDGET BIENNIUM ENDING NEXT JUNE 30TH. AS THE 114TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPERATES, WE ARE LOOKING AT EDUCATION FUNDS FOR ANOTHER FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1ST. OHIO IS SUFFERING FROM ECONOMIC ILLS, BUT WE WILL FIND ANSWERS.

5. ENERGY. DEMOCRATS CREATED THE STATE CABINET LEVEL DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND PROVIDED FUNDS FOR ENERGY RESEARCH.

6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE DEMOCRATS ARE KEENLY AWARE OF THE NEED FOR HEALTHY BUSINESSES. MOST OF OUR PEOPLE WORK FOR A LIVING.

DEMOCRATS HAVE PROVIDED TAX INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESS TO STIMULATE EMPLOYMENT.

7. HEALTH. THE DEMOCRATS IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS HAVE PASSED LAWS TO HAVE DRUGS

LABELED BY THEIR GENERIC NAMES, TO PROVIDE PATIENTS IN NURSING HOMES WITH A BILL OF RIGHTS THAT CREATED A NURSING HOME COMMISSION THAT PROVIDED MILLIONS FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.

8. LABOR. WE DEMOCRATS HAVE CREATED AND ESTABLISHED AN EXCELLENT WORKER'S COMPENSATION SYSTEM FOR PEOPLE INJURED ON THE JOB IN OHIO.

DEMOCRATS HAVE PROVIDED OHIOANS AN OUTSTANDING UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION SYSTEM. I HATE TO THINK OF THE EXTRA AGONY THAT SO MANY FAMILIES WOULD BE EXPERIENCING NOW IF WE DID NOT HAVE OUR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION SYSTEM THAT KEEPS FOOD ON SO MANY TABLES DURING HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT.

THE LIST GOES ON, BUT OUR TIME TONIGHT IS SHORT. I COULD MENTION GREAT STRIDES MADE IN SUCH AREAS AS MENTAL

HEALTH, MINORITY RIGHTS, PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, TRANSPORTATION, WELFARE AND OTHER AREAS.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT DEMOCRATS DO FOR THEIR FELLOW MAN.

DEMOCRATS TAKE ACTION. DEMOCRATS SERVE THE HUMAN NEEDS OF THE STATE.

HOW DO DEMOCRATS THINK?

DEMOCRATS ARE HUMAN. THEY THINK OF OTHERS AND OF BEING ACTIVE IN THEIR GOVERNMENTS, LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL.

DEMOCRATS MAY GET LAZY AND APATHETIC AT TIMES. THAT IS ONE OF MY CONCERNS.

IN THE LAST ELECTION, WE LOST THE MAJORITY WE HAD IN THE OHIO SENATE AND WE LOST SIX OF OUR SEATS IN THE HOUSE.

IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT WE ALL WORK HARD AND

REGAIN CONTROL OF THE OHIO SENATE AND INCREASE OUR MAJORITY
IN THE HOUSE. I AM HOPEFUL THAT BOB MOYER MIGHT REPRESENT
THIS DISTRICT NEXT SESSION.

IN ORDER TO SERVE THE PUBLIC BETTER, WE MUST REGAIN
FULL CONTROL OF THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

WE MUST STRENGTHEN OUR PARTY. THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY
NEEDS:

SUPPORT - FINANCIAL - TIME AND TALENT.

COMMITMENT - WE MUST BE DEDICATED TO THE CAUSE.

UNITY - WE MUST WORK TOGETHER - SUPPORT - TRUST AND
RESPECT EACH OTHER.

EACH ONE OF US IN THIS ROOM TONIGHT HAS A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PARTY AND TO OUR STATE.

THANK YOU FOR ASKING ME HERE. IT IS ONE OF THE REAL
JOYS OF MY JOB - HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH REAL
SOLID DEMOCRATS LIKE ALL OF YOU.