

Richard Nixon Presidential Library  
Contested Materials Collection  
Folder List

<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>	<u>Document Date</u>	<u>No Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Document Type</u>	<u>Document Description</u>
53	31	5/8/1973	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Memo	From Gergen to Nixon RE: "Speaking Materials for Campaign Dinner" 6pg

**DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL RECORD [NIXON PROJECT]**

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DOCUMENT TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE OR CORRESPONDENTS	DATE	RESTRICTION
N-1 [DOC #52]	memo	Gergen to RN re: "Speaking Materials for Campaign Dinner" (Tab C) - Key staff + GOP Recommendations on References to Watergate in Dinner Remarks.	5/8/73	C
N-2 [DOC #53]	memo	Gergen to RN re: "Speaking Materials for Campaign Dinner" [cover memo for N-1, which is actually only Tab C] AOH 4/8/96	5/8/73	C

FILE GROUP TITLE **STAFF SECRETARY** BOX NUMBER **115**

FOLDER TITLE **Miscellaneous -- Speeches, Press Conferences 1/73 - 6/73 [II]**

RESTRICTION CODES

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|--|---|
| <p>A. Release would violate a Federal statute or Agency Policy.<br/>         B. National security classified information.<br/>         C. Pending or approved claim that release would violate an individual's rights.<br/>         D. Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy or a libel of a living person.</p> | <p>E. Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information.<br/>         F. Release would disclose investigatory information compiled for law enforcement purposes.<br/>         G. Withdrawn and return private and personal material.<br/>         H. Withdrawn and returned non-historical material.</p> |
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Presidential Materials Review Board

Review on Contested Documents

**Collection:** Staff Secretary

**Box Number:** 115

**Folder:** Miscellaneous -- Speeches, Press Conferences 1/73 - 6/73  
[II]

<u>Document</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
52	Return Private/Political
53	Retain Open

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 8, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: DAVID GERGEN *DS*

SUBJECT: Speaking Materials for Campaign Dinner

Attached please find the following materials prepared by John Andrews and others for your appearance Wednesday night at the New American Majority Dinner:

- Tab A: Fact Sheet
- Tab B: Suggested Remarks of General Nature
- Tab C: Summary of Staff, Outside Suggestions on Handling of Watergate; Suggested Remarks on the Subject
- Tab D: Summary of Materials Submitted by Paul Keyes and Bruce Herschensohn

(Andrews) DG

May 8, 1973

KEY STAFF AND GOP RECOMMENDATIONS ON REFERENCES  
TO WATERGATE IN DINNER REMARKS

George Bush: RN must mention; it's on everyone's mind and these friends and supporters are suffering the most from it. No need to dwell on Watergate, but important to acknowledge awareness of this audience's grave concern about it and to reiterate pledge of a swift and thorough cleanup.

Bill Brock: Must allude to it in some fashion, emphasizing that it won't divert U.S. from its role in the world or agenda at home. RN's decisive action to deal with the situation puts him in a strong position to address it with total frankness at this dinner, and such an approach would be well-received.

Bob Michel: "Hell's bells yes". RN should meet the subject head on. Emphasize that as captain of ship of state he has moved to deal with "trouble on the bridge", taking helm himself to get us out of rough seas and back on course.

General Haig: May be unnecessary to raise the subject at all. Any reference to it certainly should be oblique, reassuring the audience, emphasizing importance of Nation's larger tasks, but breaking no new ground that would make news.

Bill Timmons: Should mention, in the context of GOP's opportunity to grow stronger through adversity. Darkest hours can provide the greatest insight. Invite the party to "join me in the road back... to an overwhelming expression of support" in '74.

Ray Price: Must acknowledge it, recognizing gravity with which this group views it and stressing that he shares their view. In serious, not light, tone RN should express confidence that the facts will show both GOP and the Presidency untainted, reiterating his determination to unearth all the facts and to make the reforms that will prevent future abuses.

Dick Moore: Perhaps best not to mention Watergate at all. If RN feels some mention is necessary, point out that neither GOP nor New Majority was involved, that '74 elections will turn mainly on individual candidates' records, and that principle of fair play -- innocence till guilt is proven -- must be protected.

[Ron Ziegler will add his recommendation before event; Len Garment declined to recommend.]

\* \* \*

### FURTHER SUGGESTIONS FROM GOP LEADERS ON THEMES TO COVER

George Bush: Resentment of CRP among both Hill and contributors remains strong. RN should hit hard on the need to build the party and to work through the RNC from here on out. Many present will be nursing the feeling of a tarnished image from Watergate; stress that nearly all political contributors, and the candidates they give to, mean the contributions support only good government, not influence. Stress that the GOP remains strong and growing, with solid achievements that can't be obscured. Pledge heavy effort in '74 to re-elect incumbents and to recruit strong new candidates.

Bill Brock: This gathering will represent the staunch loyalists who have decided "it's time to rally and put things back together and get on with the job." Some will be present in direct response to an eleventh-hour mailogram appeal from Bush, Brock, and Michel saying that now if ever is the time for Republicans to close ranks. A rousing motivational speech from RN would help a lot.

Bob Michel: "He could make a heck of a lot of points by announcing that CRP is hereby dissolved." Expression of a desire to repair damaged communications with Hill GOP would be most appropriate; WH staff changes make the time right for such a move. Indicate appreciation of support on past and future vetoes, and point out that fashioning of a New Majority, and election of a GOP Congress would make vetoes unnecessary, moving GOP from negative into positive position, able to enact signable legislation.

(Andrews) LH/DG

May 8, 1973

SUGGESTED REMARKS: WATERGATE-RELATEDI have some news tonight for the obituary writers.

Constitutional government in Washington is alive and well.

The Nixon Administration is alive and well. And the Republican Party is alive and well.

We're going to prove it by cleaning up every last bit of the Watergate mess and then getting on with the great work the American people elected us to do last November.

\* \* \*

As we gather here tonight, we are properly concerned with the political future of our party. I pledge to you that justice will be done, and when it's done, our credibility will not be compromised, our future will not be jeopardized, and the election prospects of our candidates will be as bright as ever.

\* \* \*

No great political party can afford to grow complacent over past triumphs or to indulge in despair over temporary setbacks -- rather we must keep our sights on our great goals, especially today, when we are closer to achieving them than ever before.

I said at the end of my inaugural address last January that any President needs a lot of help to fulfill the trust of his office.

During the past weeks, as we have broken open the Watergate coverup, I have received that kind of help from many quarters. Many of you in this room have played leading roles in this process, and I thank you for it.

Let me say to you what I said to the press last week: Just keep giving me hell when I'm wrong. That's one of the things friends are for -- and I feel like a very lucky man tonight to have such friends as you.

\* \* \*

If the phrase had not already been used once or twice, I would be tempted to say tonight that these are the times that try men's souls. What I will say, with gratitude and with pride, is that your souls have stood the trial magnificently.

Ours is not a party of summer soldiers or sunshine patriots; it is a party of Americans for all seasons.

\* \* \*

The reprehensible actions of a few unscrupulous people must not and will not obscure the record of Republicans as the party of

principle, the party of peace, and the party of solid prosperity.

As we build on this record, we can make this the party of the

New Majority at every level in every state in 1974.

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