

REMARKS BY GOVERNOR JAMES B. EDWARDS  
PREPARED FOR THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION  
AUGUST, 1976, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Fellow delegates, platform guests, friends, ladies and gentlemen...

It is indeed an honor to be invited to address you on a subject that is very close to me, the accomplishments of our Republican Administrations during the past eight

years. I am proud to be a member of the Party that has been the guardian of fiscal integrity, the protector of the free enterprise system, an advocate of a strong military defense, and most important, the stalwart defender of our Nation's Constitution.

We have a tough battle ahead of us as we fight to prevent the ~~Democrat-dominated~~ <sup>Democrat-dominated</sup> opposition Party

Congress from further weakening the rights of individuals and continuing its tragic course of wasteful spending and hollow promises.

I am delighted that our Republican Party has <sup>two</sup> distinguished gentlemen who

are offering themselves for the highest office in our land. At a time when Americans are fed up with big government, over-regulation, fiscal irresponsibility, and the infringement of individual freedoms, there is a clear yearning to return to the basic principles that made our Nation great. I am confident of victory this November. Our goals and ideals are aligned with those of the American people.

Despite the roadblocks placed in its path by the Democrat Congress, the current administration has worked to solve the problems of inflation and <sup>to</sup> revitalize

our Nation's economy. These policies are working much to the displeasure of the Democrats in Washington.

The President <sup>5</sup> with the able advice of Secretary Simon, Jim Lynn, and

others has stood firm against the big spending policies of Congress. He has used the veto power to keep Congress in line. The <sup>53</sup> ~~56~~ bills which he vetoed <sup>have</sup> saved taxpayers more than \$9.2 billion.

Americans are sick and tired of a do-nothing Congress that promises

everything while spending our dollars like there is no tomorrow. I earnestly believe that our Party offers the people what they want -- fiscal integrity, elimination of unnecessary give-away programs, a firm limit on federal spending and de-regulation of our lives and businesses.

While our Democrat-dominated Congress continues to search for new ways

to waste billions and billions of our tax dollars, we must continue to push for legislation that will limit federal spending. Our <sup>fine</sup> Secretary of the Treasury has championed this effort. We, as a Party, can restore fiscal responsibility and integrity to our Nation.

If there is any doubt about which Party represents fiscal integrity, look at the

Democrat record -- Congress has created 236 new federal agencies in the past 15 years while increasing our federal deficit by more than 100 billion dollars in the last two years. Our federal budget exceeds 350 billion dollars a year, with a 7 billion <sup>payroll</sup> increase for federal workers in the past two years alone.

We hear the call to stop unchecked spending of taxpayers money, but the

Democrats turn a deaf ear. The Republican stance on sound, free enterprise principles can stem the tide of Democrat spending.

This Bicentennial year has <sup>produced</sup> brought many speeches about individual liberty

and governmental regulation. Our forefathers fought the Revolution because they were fed up with a government that was too big and too restrictive for their growing commerce, trade, and manufacturing.

Our forefathers fought so that they could control their own affairs, run their own families, and govern themselves.

We are celebrating our 200th birthday in an atmosphere of overgrown regulations. We are regulated by more than 63 thousand bureaucrats living thousands of miles away from those whom they regulate.

The federal government now owns almost one-third of this country's land. The "official records" generated by the total system would fill eleven Washington monuments. This paperwork costs taxpayers \$40 billion, or \$800 per family each year.

Economists estimate that, if the regulations of the Interstate Commerce Commission were relaxed, consumers would save 7.5 billion dollars annually. This is only one example of how deregulation can benefit the American people.

We must cut the size of the bureaucracy and loosen the stranglehold that government has on our lives. We must wrestle the control of Congress from the opposition Party and restore common sense. Above all, we must elect a Republican President who will carry on the Republican philosophy of less government spending and bring the government back home to the people where it belongs.

The Republican Party has long ~~relied on~~ <sup>advocated</sup> a strong foreign policy and military preparedness to prevent confrontations which may lead to war. No Republican President in this century has led our nation to war.

We must never lose sight of the fact that it was a Republican Administration that brought the conflict of Vietnam to an end and brought our men back home. We, as Republicans, are also committed to continuing the fight for an honest accounting of all our POW's and MIA's.

We believe in helping our allies develop the resources necessary to protect themselves.

The riots and campus unrest that plagued our Nation during the Democratic administrations of the 60's are gone due to Republican responsiveness to the needs of the people.

What exactly have the Democrats in Congress asked us to do?

First, they voted themselves a \$2,000 a year raise while the unemployment rate <sup>climbed</sup> ~~tettered~~ from 4.9 in 1973 to 8.5 in 1975 nationally.

Second, they fanned the flames of inflation with more bureaucratic projects while they increased the number of their own free round trip tickets home. I assume this was to explain to their constituents the contradiction between Congressional pay raises and inflation at home.

The list of their inconsistencies reads on -- a 24% increase in stationery allowance, a 43% increase in district allowance, free shoe shines and free haircuts.

The way I see it, big government is spending one out of every three dollars I earn.

Any red blooded, freedom loving, individual would call for a restraint in Federal spending. Since <sup>1968,</sup> ~~1972,~~ our government under Republican leadership in the White House has been called upon to ~~spend~~ rather than to spend.

Today 3.5 million more Americans are working than ever before. Although there are 7 million people still unemployed, our Nation's economic recovery is clearly underway. There are fewer men or heads of households unemployed at this very moment than at any time since 1968.

The Republican philosophy of free-enterprise growth rather than government - spending growth will continue to substantially reduce our Nation's unemployment.

The economic trends indicate improvement through 1977. Let's push as a unified Party to insure that the American people receive full benefit from each and every tax dollar invested.

Does free enterprise still hold the key, or is big government the answer?

While our opposition-led Congress spent itself into an ever increasing deficit which now exceeds 50 billion dollars per year, private enterprise <sup>and</sup> in retail sales have witnessed an upturn. Industrial production has moved up strongly. Oh, yes...we still face inflation and probably will continue to do so as long as we are governed by a Democrat majority Congress.

We as Republicans, have a difficult task ahead of us, but a task that we willingly accept to stand firm against those forces that would threaten our very survival as a free nation.

Our principles and our goals are those of the people, and we have an obligation to maintain those principles and goals in this crucial election year.

If we are willing to accept these challenges, and we are, the American people will join with us to preserve the freedoms that we hold so dear.

Thank you.