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USED BY PRESIDENT THORIIAN

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT AT THE
DEmOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION, CONVENTION
HALL, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

JULY 15, 1948
1. Introduction,

(a) Thanks for nomination,

(b) Acceptance.

(c) Reference to Vice Presidential candidate.
2. Purpose of the Democratic Convention.

(a) Convention met to express the will and

reaffirm the beliefs of the Democratic Party.

(b) There have been differences of opinion.

That is all right.

(c) The differences have been settled

by a majority vote, as they should be.

(d) Now it's time to work together.
3. We will be working together for victory in a great cause.

(a) Victory has become a habit for our party.
It has been elected four times in a row.

(b) I am convinced that we shall win a fifth
victory next November.

(c) The reason is the people know that the
Democratic Party is the people's party.

(d) The record proves that it is the people's party.
4. Record of the Democratic Party.

(a) Record is written in the accomplishments
of the last sixteen years.

(b) Confidence and security have been brought
to the American people.

(c) 1 - Farm income has increased from less
than Two and One-half Billion Dollars in Nineteen Thirty-three
to more than Eighteen Billion Dollars in Nineteen Forty-seven.

ii - Wages and salaries have increased from
Twenty-nine Billion Dollars in Nineteen Thirty-three
to more than One Hundred Twenty-eight Billion Dollars
in Nineteen Forty-seven.

iii - The total national income has increased
from less than Forty Billion Dollars in Nineteen Thirty-three
to Two Hundred and Three Billion Dollars in Nineteen
Forty-seven.

(d) These benefits have been spread among all
the people.
5. The record on Foreign Policy.

(a) Under Democratic leadership, the United States
    has turned away from isolationism.

(b) Now the United States accepts its full responsibility
    for leadership in international affairs.
    i - United Nations.
    ii - Foreign aid.
    iii - Removal of trade barriers.

(c) Foreign policy should not be a partisan issue.

5-A. Now, let us contrast the Democratic record with what
    the Republican Party stands for.
6. The Republican philosophy,

(a) The situation in Nineteen Thirty-two was due to policies of a Republican Government.

(b) The Republican Party favors the privileged few, not the many.

(c) For fifty years it has been under the control of the friends of special privilege.

(d) This has been made clearer than ever by the Republican 80th Congress - by the things it did and the things it failed to do.

(e) Let us look at some of them.
7. High Prices.

(a) Time and time again I recommended extension of price control before it expired on June thirtieth Nineteen Forty-six.

(b) OPA was killed by those who said prices would adjust themselves.

(c) Since then I have repeatedly urged the Congress to do something to hold down the cost of living.

(d) I called a special session of Congress for November Seventeen, Nineteen Hundred Forty-seven.

(e) The Congress still has done nothing.
8. Housing.

(a) Housing shortage is a national disgrace.

(b) The way action has been blocked by the
    Real Estate Lobby is a national scandal.

(c) Comprehensive bill has been pending in
    The Congress but the Congress has refused to
    pass it.

(d) Even the desperate pleas from Philadelphia
    couldn't get a housing bill passed.

(a) In the field of labor we needed moderate legislation to promote labor-management harmony.

But the Congress instead passed the Taft-Hartley Act, which has disrupted labor-management relations and will cause strife and bitterness for years to come, if it is not repealed.

(b) I tried to strengthen the Labor Department, but the Congress tore it to pieces.

(c) I recommended an increase in the minimum wage, but the Congress failed to act.
10. Federal Aid to Education.

(a) Schools are crowded — teachers underpaid —

and there is a shortage of teachers.

(b) One of our greatest national needs is more

and better schools.

(c) I urged the Congress to provide Three Hundred

Million Dollars to aid the states in meeting

the present educational crisis.

(d) The Congress failed to act.
11. Social Security,

(a) Time and again I recommended improvements
    in the Social Security law. Including
    i. Extending protection to those not now covered.
    ii. Increasing the amount of benefits.
    iii. Reducing the eligibility age for women from
         sixty-five to sixty years.

(b) Congress studied the matter for two years but
couldn't find time to extend or increase benefits.

(c) Congress did find time to take social security
    benefits away from three quarters of a million people.

(d) They passed that over my veto.

(a) The average man has trouble meeting medical expenses.

(b) Health of the nation suffers from lack of medical care.

(c) I have repeatedly recommended that the Congress pass a health program based on health insurance, but it has not acted.

(a) Everybody knows that I recommended to Congress
    a "civil rights" program.

(b) I did so because I believed it to be my duty
    under the Constitution.

(c) Some of the members of my own party disagree
    with me violently on this matter. But they stand up
    and do it openly. People can tell where they stand.

(d) But the Republicans all profess to be for
    these measures - then fail to act.

(a) Everybody would like to have low taxes.

(b) But we must reduce the national debt in times of prosperity.

(c) And when tax relief can be given, it ought to go to those who need it most.

(d) Republicans gave tax relief to the rich — although I forced them to improve the bill some before they were able to pass it over my veto.
15. Republican Platform.

(a) After making a record like this,

the Republicans had a convention -

right here in this hall.

(b) They adopted a platform - with a lot of promises.

(c) They promised to do a lot of things I've been asking them to do - and they have refused to do.
16. Let me give you some examples:

The Republican platform cries about "cruelly high prices". I have been trying to get them to do something about high prices and they refused.

The Republican platform comes out for slum-clearance and low-rental housing. I have been trying to get them to pass a bill to do something about that and they have refused.

The Republican platform favors equality of educational opportunity and the promotion of education. I have been trying to get Congress to do something about that. Up until now, they have refused.

The Republican platform urges extending and increasing social security benefits. I have been urging that, too, and the Republican Congress has refused to do it.
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(a) I can't go through all of them now; but, if you look at the platform and their record in Congress, you will see proof of the difference between promise and performance.
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18. I have discussed a number of failures of the Republican Congress.

(a) All of them are important.

(b) Two of them are of major concern to nearly every American family.

   i. The failure to do anything about High Prices.

   ii. The failure to do anything about Housing.

(c) My duty as President requires that I use every means within my power to get the laws the people need on matters of such great importance and urgency.
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19. I am, therefore, calling the Congress back into Session
to reconvene on July twenty-sixth.

(a) I shall ask them to pass laws -
    1 - to halt rising prices - and
    2 - to meet the housing crisis,

(b) At the same time I shall ask them to act upon other
    vitally needed measures, such as:
    (1) aid to education
    (2) a national health program
    (3) civil rights legislation
    (4) an increase in the minimum wage
    (5) extension of social security coverage and
        increases in benefits,
    (6) funds for projects needed in our program
        to provide public power and cheap electricity
        an adequate and decent displaced persons law
        (7) funds for United Nations headquarters,

(c) If there is any reality behind the Republican platform,

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20. Conclusion,

What Congress does will be the test.

The American people will not decide by listening
to mere words or by reading mere platform pledges.
They will decide on the record - the record as it has
been written. And in the record is the stark truth
that the battle lines in Nineteen Forty-eight are the same
as they were back in Nineteen Thirty-two when the Nation
lay prostrate and helpless as a result of Republican misrule
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In Nineteen Thirty-two we were attacking the citadel
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of special privilege and greed - we were fighting to drive
the money-changers from the Temple.
Today, in Nineteen Forty-eight, we are now
the defenders of the stronghold of democracy and of equal
opportunity - the haven of the ordinary people of this land
and not of the favored classes or of the powerful few.

The battle cry is the same now as it was in Nineteen Thirty-two;
and I paraphrase the words of Franklin D. Roosevelt
as he issued the challenge in accepting his nomination
in Chicago:

"This is more than a political campaign;

it is a call to arms. Give me your help,

not to win votes alone, but to win in this new crusade
to keep America secure and safe for its own people".
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