

## A News Analysis

## GOP Speeches Sound Same

By DENNIS PAJOT

Republican congressmen and senators speaking on the Lincoln Day circuit all sound remarkably alike. Their speeches could have been drafted by the same person.

If one knew him to be a boastful man, one might think U.S. President Richard Nixon wrote the speeches himself.

More likely, a Nixon staff man or republican National Committee aide put together a "list of accomplishments" and circulated it for lesser lights in the party to draw from in this many-speeched campaign year.

FOR THE FEBRUARY gatherings of the faithful, the "list" is preceded at least lightly by some Lincoln stories, usually neatly illustrative of similarities between the man called "honest Abe" and the man now in the White House.

Most distinguished Republican banquet drawing card, Sen. Robert Griffin, struck the

main theme of the cadre most succinctly at the Plymouth Lincoln Day Dinner Saturday.

"When history looks back, I believe it will single out Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt and Nixon as reform presidents," said Griffin.

Rep. Jack McDonald of the 19th District called Nixon a "reform president" in his Lincoln Day address at the "Thunderbird Inn just a week earlier."

ON LINCOLN'S ACTUAL birthdate, Illinois Congressman John Anderson struck the same key. "Nixon wants to reform the government,"

Speaking Friday at a fund raising Congressional Report breakfast for McDonald, Ohio Congressman Robert Taft Jr. said, "We are, in an age of great change, an age of reform... I'm very proud of our president. This is the president who is going to reform."

Anderson, like the others, listed a series of moves by the Nixon administration to "dis-

mantle the government bureaucracy and return the government back to the states and the localities."

GRiffin ADDED, "credibility and reform" are the two words distinguishing the Nixon administration.

Highest on the list of "reforms" touted is "Nixon, the inflation reverser."

Then come reform of the welfare system, reform of federal income tax appointment, reform of the draft, reform of environmental quality, reform of the budget, reform of approaches to race relations, postal reform, electoral reform, drug law reform, crime law reform, Vietnam War reform, foreign relations reform, and presidential "noise reform."

That list was stressed by Sen. Griffin in Plymouth.

"After a decade of rising expectations, broken promises and frustration, the Nixon administration has taken great pains not to repeat the mistakes of the Johnson administration," he said.

"In Washington, no one speaks of a credibility gap anymore."

"If anything, the Nixon administration tends to understate its case — and its progress. Action does speak louder than words — and no one knows it better than this president," said Michigan's junior senator.

THIS WOULD INDICATE that maybe a Nixon aide didn't write the speech material, that similarities are just coincidence — or extra sensory perception of unusually united party officeholders.

Griffin, Taft, Anderson, McDonald and others are speaking out loudly about Nixon's anti-inflation moves.

"Ten years ago," said Griffin, "we were allocating 48% of the total budget for the military and defense purposes. In 1969, that percentage was 44%."

"Ten years ago, only 30% of the budget was going for human resources. In 1969, that percentage was 34%."

"He has laid down goals for a nation desperately needing something more than increase in the gross national product," said Griffin.

A day earlier, speaking on a stage 60 miles away, Congressman Taft said, "We realize we have to follow a responsible fiscal policy. All programs are

dependent on having a strong economy. But we do more damage than good by having inflationary programs."

THE RHETORIC, spoken until now to predominantly Republican audiences, smacks of image building as a cornerstone to Republican election campaigns.

Griffin openly pleaded the case for election of "seven more U.S. Senators from the Republican party," to increase his stature from minority party whip of 43 Republican Senators to majority party whip of 56 Senators.

Taft spoke of "the necessity of electing enough Republicans to take over the House and the Senate" to provide a Congress the president can work with.

McDonald and Congressman Marvin Rich, in whose 2nd District Griffin was speaking, are, of course, up for re-election this fall.

The guest speakers plugged for election of a second Republican senator to unseat Michigan Senior Senator Philip Hart, a Democrat also.

Taft, who is running for the Senate in Ohio, said, "I heard you have a job opening up Griffin, trying to also evoke a light tone, said, "Don't be downhearted. Take Hart."



FUND RAISERS — Ohio Congressman Robert Taft Jr. (foreground), did the speaking honors at a \$50-a-plate breakfast in Pontiac Friday to raise funds for 19th District Michigan Congressman Jack McDonald's (center) communications with his constituents. Dinner and fund chairman Robert Smith (rear) of Livonia, was pleased with a turnout of nearly 300 persons. (Observer photo)

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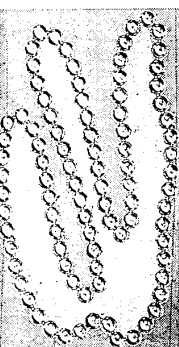
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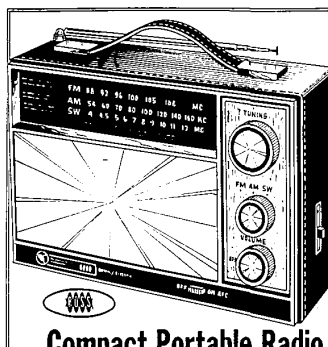
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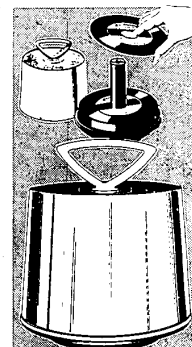
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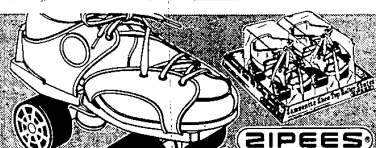
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Sale on Enamelware Pans  
Our Reg. 88¢ Ea. — 3 Days Only 74¢

Your choice of aluminum, white porcelain, 12" double boiler, 12" single boiler, 12" sauce pan set (12 and 2 qt.), 6 or 8 qt. covered same pans and 2 pc. pudding pan set (2 and 4 qt. non-pans).



Irregular Terry Dish Towels  
Reg. 27¢ — 3 Days 22¢

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75¢ Luncheon Value! Hot Frankfurters With Beans, Cole Slaw, Roll and Butter...64¢

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