MR. CHAIRMAN, YOUR EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR STRATTON, delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

Last Saturday, Senator Dirksen telephoned Governor Stratton to advise him of a problem which had arisen in the Senate. The Senate leadership set the Federal Highway Bill for action and final disposition on Monday and Tuesday of this week. It is a controversial measure. Quite a number of amendments were being prepared for submission on the floor of the Senate. This measure is of considerable importance to our state. It was agreed that the Senator should remain at his post under these circumstances and so he asked me to present this statement for him.

This is a truly historic day. One might be impelled to say that time marches on. Actually it does not march. It is men who march thro time and thereby make history. Even one hundred years ago, time was motionless. But there were others here before us, also moving thro time.

One hundred years ago, the pony express was still in vogue. The first suspension bridge over Niagara had been completed. The states of Kansas and Nebraska, Oregon and Utah, New Mexico and Minnesota were still territories. The so-called Bessemer process for making steel had just been discovered. Names like Longfellow and Emerson, Thoreau and Whitman were household words in the field of culture. Franklin Pierce was in the White House, and the 34th Congress was in session. The Congress now meeting in Washington is the 84th. In that 34th Congress, Illinois had ten Congressmen and two Senators. The Senators were Lyman Trumbull and Stephen A. Douglas. The population of the United States was about 23 million. It is more than seven times as large now. The population of Illinois was about 900,000. Among them was Abraham Lincoln.

A hundred years ago today, Abraham Lincoln was here in Bloomington. The first Republican Convention was held here. In the main, the delegates were men who were opposed to the new doctrine of popular sovereignty. It was a new concept, under which territories before being admitted to the union could by a vote of the people determine whether they wanted to be free or slave. The convention which was confronted with that problem.
They took the name "Republican."
The name had already been used in some other areas.
And there was a historic reason behind the name.
Illinois, as you know, was part of the great Northwest Territory.
This domain was administered under an Ordinance passed by Cong-
gress.
This Ordinance contained a ban against slavery.
Thomas Jefferson had been influential in securing adoption of this
Ordinance.
The original name of the political party of Thomas Jefferson was
Republican.
All this had an effect in taking the name Republican.

The Convention assembled here that day adopted a platform.
It condemned the so-called Kansas Nebraska Bill which contained this
infamous doctrine of popular sovereignty.
It asserted the cause of liberty and union.
And when the business of the Convention was over, the delegates called
for Abraham Lincoln to make a speech.

The speech which Lincoln made that day is referred to as The Lost Speech.
The reason for the term is that no notes were taken. The reporters were
so enthralled, they forgot to make notes.
That day, the people beheld a new Lincoln.
The old restraint was gone.
This infamous institution of slavery was no longer a matter of mere
political policy.
It was morally wrong.
It was a monstrous injustice.
The moral issue had caught hold of Lincoln.
It fired him with fervor and zeal which was to endure.
Tempered further by pain and agony, that same fervor was to shine
seven years later at Gettysburg.
It was to light the way nine years later in his Second Inaugural.
That speech took the Republican Convention one hundred years ago today
was not really lost.
Only the form was lost. The spirit was to shine on for a century—yes
down to eternity.
It shines on as we meet here, one hundred years later to the very day.

We stand here today as legatees of Lincoln and the Republicans of his
Many men and women have marched thro time since then.
As Abraham Lincoln stood before his countrymen one hundred years
ago to state the case and point the way, so we must state the
case and point the way in our time.
The Missouri Compromise and the Kansas Nebraska Bill have been forgotten
except as history.
It is no longer necessary to indict the institution of slavery.
As a personal note, let me say that last Saturday, we stood at Harpers
Ferry.
It was from there that the bearded John Brown of Kansas conducted his
famous raid.
And by his action, he helped to ignite the gathering wrath which was to
explode in conflict.
But John Brown is long since gone.
Today, there are other issues, other purposes.

Three and one half years ago, the Republican Party in this very state
declared those purposes and objectives.
Like those of a century ago, they were moral purposes.
What did they embrace?
Our party set itself to a moral agenda.
It was to stop the butchery of war.
It was to stir new hope in the youth of our land.
It was to turn back alien doctrine.
It was to restore the ancient landmarks of freedom and human dignity.
It was to reaffirm that history is but the unfoldment of a divine pattern.
It was to revive and energize confidence as the moving force behind
progress and prosperity.
It was to help others preserve and maintain freedom, according to our
capacity to help.
It was to keep the peoples business sound and solvent.
It was to deal firmly but justly with those moral cripples who would
subvert this great country whose very fruits and freedoms they
had shared.
It was to preserve a system in which the whole free moral man could
forever move upward and Godward.
It was to make possible a fair share for all - those who manage and
direct - those who till - those who till the soil.
It was to lighten the touch of the tax gatherer as much as possible
and consistent with the needs of government.
These - all these - were some of the moral goals of our party and we have
moved steadily in that direction.

After three and one half years of effort, what does the record show?
Sure foundations have been established.
There has been no shirking from the challenges of our time.
Basic principles have been adapted to changing conditions.
In a sentence, it can be said that we sought to preserve and improve
the trust which came to us from those who marched on before us.
People no longer fear their own government; they respect it.
Good manners have replaced arrogance.
Sound policies have replaced panaceas.
Tranquility has replaced constant crisis.
Venerable appeals to class cleavage no longer are heard in the halls of
government.
The frictions have been dissolved.
The faith of the real Common Man in government has been restored.

But great gains goals and high purposes are not achieved in a day.
A person afflicted with a long chronic illness is not restored to
health overnight.
So it is with a country.
It is a living organism.
Long was it beset with incompetence and twilight morals.
Long was it beset with failure to face up to challenge.
Long was it beset with socialist policies, managed opinion, constant political appeals and propaganda.
It's prosperity was based upon young blood.
It's destiny was in the hands of those whose only thought was political power.
Today it has moved well along the road to health and tranquility.
There have been obstacles and there will be obstacles in the days ahead.
But the efforts of this administration have been constant and unremitting.
And with humility and pride we can say that the Butchery HAS stopped.
The budget IS balanced.
The tax load IS easier.
The home front reds ARE on the run.
Life IS predictable for youth.
Jobs ARE up.
Joblessness IS down.
Failures ARE LESS than the long average.
Exports ARE up.
The workers share of national income IS higher than ever before.
There IS confidence in the future.
The trust HAS BEEN improved.
We HAVE MADE it a better land.
And all this demands rededication to those purposes on our part.

Ninety one years ago, the same Lincoln who stood before the delegates of the Republican Convention in this very city a century ago today, then stood before his countrymen in the nations Capital to take the oath a second time.
Without hate or passion, without prejudice or rancor, he said, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in..."
It was an entreaty to his fellow citizens.
Today, as we meet here, I can think of no better entreaty than to say that under the leadership of a dedicated President - Dwight D. Eisenhower - and a distinguished Governor - William G. Stratton - let us strive on to finish the work we are in.
To finish that work requires authority.
And to exercise that authority requires a victory.
Let the great Republican tradition of a hundred years which hovers over us today light us down the road to victory.
Let the moral goals be a lamp to our feet.
Let us strive on.