

Statements by RICHARD M. NIXON  
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As far as I am concerned, the 1964 campaign is a closed book. We must now concentrate on rebuilding the Republican Party with a view to getting the Party back into shape for the 1966 Congressional elections.

I would suggest, however, that those who sit on the sidelines in a great struggle are not the ones who then can step in after that struggle is lost and say that they are going to be the captains of the team or dictate in any way who is going to run it.

To say that the future of the Republican Party lies only in an ultra liberal direction would mean that, after losing an election because of splitting the Party one way, we would, in effect, tend to lose the next election by splitting it the other way.

There is a strong conservative wing of the Republican Party. It deserves a major voice in party councils, and the liberal wing deserves a voice. But neither can dominate or dictate -- the center must lead.

The recent election should not be interpreted as a rejection of conservatism. Instead, it was a rejection of reaction, negativism, racism and extremism.

It is far better for the nation that the parties have broad bases, broad enough to accommodate both liberal and conservative elements within the parties. This keeps the parties themselves closer to the center, and insures against violent swings from one extreme to another. Such violent changes can only serve to divide the country and its people, and harm our nation.

The Republican Party should develop and broaden its reservoir of intellectual talent. We must get through to the political scientists, professors and other intellectuals with the basic Republican philosophy. Intellectuals could then contribute significantly to the hard and tedious work of finding the right approach for building a constructive and vital Republican Party.

There is nothing which draws people together more than the desire to win, and there is nothing that divides them more quickly than to give the impression that the decision they are making will cause them to lose. In my view, the Republican desire to win in 1966, which is essential to a victory in 1968, is going to unify this Party.