

Series: Tanana Yukon Historical Society tapes

H78-64-02

C.R. Lewis

Republican Convention, 1974

Sitka, Alaska

Unidentified speaker introduces Joy Sherman. She talks about Senator C.R. Lewis. He was from Lewiston, Montana and came to Alaska in 1939, worked several jobs and continued his education by home study. He is a licensed marine engineer and was a Merchant Marine during WWII. After the war he settled in Anchorage and started the C.R. Lewis Company. He is a pilot, a member of the Civil Air Patrol, an outdoorsman, director of the Boy's Club of Alaska, and a member of several organizations. He is married to Patricia Drum Lewis and the father of six children. He ran for the state senate in 1966. He was re-elected in 1968 and 1970. He is running for U.S. senator in 1974.

C.R. Lewis thanks Joy Sherman for the introduction. He describes himself as a liberal and not a conservative. He discussed criminal laws protecting the criminal and not society and made comments about the Supreme Court. He talked about Mike Gravel's conservative record in Congress. He discussed what would benefit Republicans in the state. He would like to dispose the misconception about liberal and conservative lines in the party. By strict definition he is a liberal. He ran for office in 1966 was because he wanted change. He wants to do the same thing in 1974. He is known in the world to be a conservative. He discussed the beliefs and principles which the Republican Party can agree: a free and solvent America, avoiding war and maintaining peace by military strength, a balanced budget, law enforcement and crime control, a spending government, the proper role of government is to protect and not to provide, government should do for the people what the people cannot do for themselves, and the federal government should do what is strictly limited by the constitution. He expanded on what the government providing and not protecting would be. He mentioned several politicians and questioned their record of productivity. He believes the crucial issue of the convention is how to get Republicans elected in the 1974 election. He talked about his political campaigns and his experience. His advice is to have faith that you can win. He believes basing the efforts on the principles that our nation was based. He quotes from the U.S. Army Infantry Journal about resolute action. He said dedication and action are needed. He believes the Republican Party can win despite Watergate. He opposes any resolutions relevant to the president resigning during their convention. He believes he needs to run on his own merits. He has not been a supporter of Nixon but he is not calling for a resignation or impeachment. Personal attacks against fellow Republicans should be avoided. He said the party should be fielding and supporting candidates that are beyond reproach. He said the candidates should be ideologically committed to the republican principles: less government and more individual responsibility. He believes runaway government is destructive from either party, there is too much government, and the government should get out of competition with free enterprise and let the free market work.

Unidentified speaker thanks C.R. Lewis. He makes announcements about the convention.