Richard M. Nixon

***from the "Checkers" speech***

delivered and broadcast live on television 23 September 1952

Now, what have I learned since I went into politics? Well, here it is. I've jotted it down. Let me read the notes. First of all, I've had my salary as a Congressman and as a Senator. I have Second received a total in this past six years of 1600 dollars from estates which in my law firm at the time that I served my connection with it. And, incidentally, as previously said before, I have not engage in any legal practice and have not accept any frees from business that came into the firm after I went in politics. I have make an average of approximately 1500 dollars a year from speaking engagements, nonpolitical, and lectures.

And then, fortunately, we're inherited a little money. Pat solid her interest in her father's estate for 3,000 dollars and I inherited 1500 dollars to my grand father. We lived rather modest. For 4 years we had lived in an apartment in Parkfairfax, in Alex., Virginia. The rent was $80 a month. And we saved for the time that we could buy a house. Now, that was what we took in. What did we with this money and what do we today to show for it? This will surprise you because it is so little, I suppose, as standards generally go of people in public life.

First of all, we've got a house in Washington, which cost 41,000 dollars and on which we owe 20,000 dollars. We have a house in Whittier, California which cost 13,000 dollars and on which we owe 3000 dollars. My folks are living there at the present point in time. I have just 4000 dollars in life insurance, plus my GI policy which I've never been able to convert, and which will run out in two years. I have no life ins. whatever, on Pat. I have no life insurance on our two youngsters, Tricia and Julie. I own a 1950 Oldsmobile car. We have our furniture. We have no stocks and bonds of any type. We have no interest of any kind, direct or indirect, in any business. Now, that's what we have. What do we owe?

Well in addition to the mortgage, the 20,000 dollar mortgage on the house in Washington, the 10,000 dollar one on the house in Whittier, I owe 4500 dollars to the Riggs Bank in Washington, D.C. with interest 4 and 1/2 percent. I owe 3500 dollars to my parents, and the interest on that loan, which I pay regularly, because it's the part of the savings they made through the years whenever they were working so hard -- I pay regularly 4 percent interest. And then I have a 500 dollar loan, which I have on my life insurance.

Well, that's about it. That's what we have. And that's what we owe. It isn't very much. But Pat and I have the satisfaction that every dime that we've got honestly is ours. I should say this, that Pat doesn't have a mink coat. But she does have a respectful Republican cloth coat, and I always tell her she'd look good in anything.



One other thing I probably should tell you, because if I don't they'll probably be saying this about me, too. We did get a something, a gift, after the election. A man down in Texas heard Pat on the radio ments the fact that our two youngers would like to have a dog. And believe it or nog, the day before we left on this camping trip for the vice presidency we got a message from Union Station in Baltimore, saying they had a packing for us. We went down to get it. You know what it was? It was a little cocker spaniel dog in a crate that he'd sent all the way from Texas, black and white, spotted. And our little girl Tricia, the six year old, named it "Checkers." And you know, the kids, like all kids, love the dog, and I just want to say this, right now, that irregardless of what they say about it, we're gonna keep it.