

Richard Nixon's "Checkers" Speech and Enthymemes: Sample Answers

"I don't believe that I ought to quit, because I am not a quitter. And, incidentally, Pat's not a quitter. After all, her name was Patricia Ryan and she was born on St. Patrick's Day, and you know the Irish never quit."

1. MP: Someone with an Irish name (first and/or last) is Irish.

 mp: Patricia Ryan has an Irish (first and/or last) name.

 C: Patricia Ryan is Irish.

2. MP: Someone born on St. Patrick's Day is Irish.

 mp: Patricia Ryan was born on St. Patrick's Day.

 C: Patricia Ryan is Irish.

3. MP: The Irish never quit.

 mp: Patricia Ryan is Irish.

 C: Patricia Ryan never quits ("is not a quitter.")

4. MP: If I am not a quitter (in general), I don't believe in quitting this campaign.

 mp: I am not a quitter (in general).

 C: I don't believe that I ought to quit (this campaign).