

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of the Vice President  
(St. Cloud, Minnesota)

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REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
AT THE MINNESOTA REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION  
CONVENTION CENTER  
ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

(AT 3:30 P.M. CST)

Thanks, Bill. He is a wonderful friend and an articulate and delightful Congressman, and I would just like to express my appreciation to him for those generous words and for the opportunity of appearing on the platform with a man for whom I have tremendous respect and admiration.

I would like to say he not only represents you, he represents all the country in the Congress of the United States, and we are grateful to him.

(Applause.)

Tom Hagedorn is a wonderful, young, attractive, bright, able new Congressman, the kind of person that this country needs, who has the pulse and sensitivity of what is going on in the country, who represents his own constituents but who is aware of the rapidly changing currents in the world, the impact of these and the need for our country to shape change to serve our ends and to serve the well-being of mankind.

This is a great challenge, and he is the kind of young leader we need. I would like to say it is a pleasure to be here with him.

(Applause.)

I am sorry Al Quie had to leave because he has been an old friend for a long time, someone else for whom I have a great admiration.

We are proud of Minnesota and the representation you have in Washington. We are lucky as a country.

But now we come to the party organization. I happen to be a long-time local party worker and a beneficiary of the party organization and, therefore, I have a great appreciation for those men and women who give of their time and energy to make our two-party system work.

So to such local persons as Carolyn Ring, I would like to say thank you and my respect and admiration for your willingness to take on the responsibility of leadership, to preserve in one of our 50 great States the vitality and strength and dynamism of our party.

I am just delighted to have a chance to be here. I want to thank you very much for the invitation and the opportunity.

(Applause.)

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Iantha LeVander, I had the great pleasure and privilege of knowing her when her husband served as Governor. We were Governors together for a good many years. I came to know and admire and respect them both and their role, not only as leaders of the State but as participants in the deliberations of the Governors.

I have to say to you that I always hoped that the 50 Governors would play a more active role on the national scene because they represent all the people, just as the Congress represents all the people. But sometimes there is a reluctance to get into national problems and to concentrate on one State's problems, and by taking a position on a national issue, you get yourself in trouble at home.

I know that is true because it happened to me. I sympathize with them, and I appreciate it.

(Laughter.)

But to have the privilege of being here at a State Convention of Independent Republicans --

(Applause and Laughter.)

It is a very nostalgic experience. For 15 years I had this privilege in New York State as the leader of the party. We had many of the problems which you have. We were a minority party by a million registered voters, and yet in the last 32 years we had had 28 years of Republican Governors and Republican control of the House and the Senate. That has to say something about the Republican Party, and it is true, I know, here. I know it is true all over the country.

We may be a minority party, ladies and gentlemen, but I think people have confidence and respect in the integrity and the dedication of Republicans to those fundamental values, the basis on which this country has grown to greatness.

That is what the people are looking for, and particularly today; solutions to their problems, not having the government hand them the solution, but create the framework within which the people can solve their own problems. This is what America needs and wants today.

(Applause.)

But before getting into problems, let me talk a little practical politics. I withdrew from the Vice Presidential, I wouldn't say race because nobody has ever run for Vice President in the history of this country.

(Laughter.)

But I would just like to say that I did it to avoid the distraction for President Ford growing out of party squabbles centering around the cult of personalities. President Ford I came down to serve. He invited me. I deeply appreciate it. This country is facing at home and abroad tremendous problems and tremendous opportunities.

His energies and his efforts have got to be principally centered around the analysis and the solution of those problems.

Therefore, to have him distracted by squabbles seemed to me to be unnecessary; and, as a part of the cause, it just seemed to me the simple thing for me to do was what I had said for nine months or ten months -- namely, that I was not a candidate, that I hadn't even said whether I would be available. But that didn't seem to be taken seriously.

I felt the President should, when he is nominated, have the opportunity then and only then to determine who in his opinion could best serve the country as his running mate and could be most compatible to him at that time. That is a year from now. So I wrote him a letter. It is very simple. I withdrew from the race, but not from the party, ladies and gentlemen.

(Applause.)

President Ford is my candidate, and I am confident he is going to be the nominee of the Republican Party.

(Applause.)

My basic interest is uniting the party, not fractionating it. That is why I took this action. I am behind him and I am going to support him, and I think that he has got tough times in meeting these problems. But I must say he is a man of courage, with integrity. He has been here. He has talked with you. You know him.

This is a very exciting, difficult, but auspicious moment in which this country can play, as it has in the past 200 years of its history, a leading role in the world, standing for those basic values that we all believe in.

I think only in developing programs that can help create the framework to solve the problems and take advantage of the opportunities, only in this way can we expand the influence of the party and reach the majority of the American people.

We have got to have that in mind because the majority of the American people are going to elect at the State level, Governors, and at the national level, Presidents.

So traditionally our party has been the party of the people, and our programs and policies have got to be those that reflect the best interests of the people.

I think our doors have got to be wide open as a party to the people. And I would like to say that was always our tradition in New York, and nothing can give you greater evidence of the fact that this was the case than our two distinguished Senators, Senator Javits and Senator Buckley.

Our arms are stretched out just like this, ladies and gentlemen, in New York. We welcome everybody,

every point of view.

(Laughter and Applause.)

I don't think we can afford as a party to allow ourselves to become preoccupied with a minority of the minority. We represent a minority and we can't be preoccupied with a minority of that minority. We have got to broaden our base and reach out to the people.

(Applause.)

I just feel the Republican Party must address itself to the critical issues that face the American people today, that concern every household and family, every farmer and worker, every businessman and professional.

These issues are inflation and unemployment, government bureaucracy and red tape, the vulnerability which we have as a Nation in the field of energy today, growing world food problems, and the problems of protecting our environment, just to mention a few.

Now, to overcome these problems, we can and we must get our economy rolling. We can and we must restore economic growth while protecting our environment. We can and we must take bold steps that are necessary to develop energy independence for America. This is basic.

We have the brains. We have the imagination. We have the technology. We have the free enterprise. We have the natural resources to do it.

I would just like to say that without reliable and expanding domestic sources of energy, our economy is not going to get off dead center, we can't have sustained economic growth with any certainty in this country, and we won't produce the additional jobs that are so desperately needed and that must be provided by private enterprise.

The recovery of the past five months has resulted in almost a million and-a-half new jobs. But we still need 2 million 800 thousand additional jobs to get back to what is known as full employment in this country. And then, after that, we are going to need 1 million 600 thousand additional jobs every year in order to give the young people that are coming out of school and college the opportunity to do for their families and to have the opportunity to improve their lives.

These are, I think, the traditional concepts of America. Achieving energy independence is the key to restoring our economic strength, and achieving that growth. And without growth, we can't produce the goods and services that people want at home. We can't get the jobs, as I said; nor can we meet our responsibilities in the world.

This country has very real responsibilities that reflect our own national interests in the broadest and long-term sense.

And let's not forget, ladies and gentlemen, when we talk about economic growth, that private enterprise

produces 85 percent directly and indirectly of all the revenue of government at the Federal, State, and local level. If private enterprise in our economy is stalled, government is not going to have the revenues that they have to have to meet their responsibilities and, therefore, the restoration of growth is not only important in terms of jobs and employment and the strength of our country, but it is important in terms of the revenues of government. So that we have a web of interrelated factors that are all involved here.

Speaking of government, I would like to say just a few words on that subject. That is the other important area I would like to comment on briefly.

I have to say that during the past 15 years, and I want to associate myself with responsibility here so that I don't want anyone to think that I am criticizing somebody else and not taking part of the responsibility myself, I think we as public officials and we as public-demanded officials have overpromised and underdelivered to the American people. Let's face it honestly.

(Applause.)

We have overspent. We have overloaded the structure of government at all levels.

(Applause.)

Now, ladies and gentlemen, we have run out of money. Some of us got there a little ahead of the others.

(Laughter.)

But let's face it. I love New York and I love the people of New York. It isn't just New York. I would like to say to you, and I say this with the greatest respect for the two Congressmen here present because I know they are resisting this trend, but the Congress of the United States has done exactly what New York City has done. They have been spending more money than they have, just like New York City.

(Applause.)

They respond to the same pressure groups, the same demands for service, and everybody wants to help and do everything they can. The only difference is that the Congress can print the money and New York City can't.

(Laughter and Applause.)

But we don't want to let it stop right there, because when you print money, you inflate the currency. You debase the currency, and the result is you encourage inflation. Inflation is the most insidious, vicious tax on the American people, and it hits those hardest who can least afford it.

(Applause.)

It his our senior citizens, those on pension,

working men and women whose paycheck is decreased by this hidden tax of inflation.

Just take the problem of farmers who, at a moment when they have increased some 60 million acres of production and there is a growing demand in the world, find that the cost of the machinery, the equipment, the energy, and all of the fertilizers they have to buy, those costs have gone up and are eating up the increased benefits from the larger demand for their products. So inflation hits everybody.

The President knows this. He has had the courage to veto measures which were very popular measures, and his vetoes were very unpopular. But there have been in almost no cases enough responsible Congressmen and Congresswomen to support his vetoes to try and hold down this deficit. Hopefully, he is trying to hold it down to \$60 billion. This just seems incredible.

I think we just have to face some of the hard realities. I will go to one other thing we have been doing which worries me very much. One only sees clearly a lot of these things after they have happened, even though we have been part of the action.

I think we in this country are replacing entrepreneurs with bureaucrats. I want to tell you that is very dangerous.

(Applause.)

The creativity, the imagination, the risk-taking that the Americans have demonstrated over the years, and no group has demonstrated that more clearly than the farm families of America because no group is faced with greater risks.

This is also true in industry. This is why we have grown. This is why opportunity has increased. This is why we have had the strength that we have and been able to preserve freedom as we have done.

But you can't get from bureaucracies the same kind of creative action that you get from entrepreneurs. This is a very serious aspect of the evolution that is taking place in the country.

I think it is important we face these things frankly and realistically. When you take this litany of items which I have just gone through, it is no wonder that the American people have become disillusioned and cynical about government, about institutions, about what is going on.

They don't understand, but they know that these aren't right. They increasingly, and I hate to say this because I spent a large portion of my life in government, but they increasingly feel that government, rather than helping in solving the problems, that it is the problem.

(Applause.)

As Bill mentioned, I have been working for the President in the Domestic Council. We have been having

hearings around the country reviewing domestic policies and programs, with the objective of trying to review these, come up with reactions and advice and counsel from people all over the country.

One message that has come through loud and clear, everywhere we have been, is that people, whether they are Governors or Mayors or county executives or businessmen or individuals, are really fed up with bureaucracy and red tape. This, I think, is the most serious problem we have.

(Applause.)

We have got to have the courage to come back to the fundamentals. There is no such thing, ladies and gentlemen -- we are learning it the hard way -- as a free lunch. We all pay for it.

(Applause.)

Another simple fundamental is you can't spend more money than you produce or earn for very long, whether it is an individual, a family, a city, a State, or a nation, without going bankrupt.

We used to think that was pretty simple fundamental stuff. But we have to relearn it. I think we are learning it the hard way. But we have to face it, ladies and gentlemen, or we are going to be in real trouble.

We have to get back to the basic American values on which this country grew to greatness -- honesty, integrity, respect for the dignity of work --

(Applause.)

-- respect for one's fellows, compassion for those in need, equality of opportunity for all. And underlying it all, good old-fashioned American patriotism. That is something we have to have.

(Applause.)

We are just proud to be Americans. I want to tell you you would have a hard time finding anybody anywhere else in the world that doesn't wish they were in America. We may think we have problems, but they all want to be here. They love this country.

(Applause and Laughter.)

In my opinion, these are the same basic tenets, not only of our country but of the Republican Party. I am optimistic about the future of this country.

This is a great moment, and exciting moment, if we have the wisdom and courage and the creativity and the vision to grasp these opportunities and take hold of them and move forward. I am confident that we have the basic strength in America that we have always had.

But we have to have the courage to face the hard realities that confront us today, and somehow, sometimes, we

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just have a tendency not to want to face them. But you have got to take the long view. I don't know you. We all do. This country does.

So for the Republican Party, let's come before the American people first as a united Republican Party. I think that is a very important thing.

(Applause.)

Let's come as a Republican Party that presents a practical program of broad national appeal, based on these principles, that has freed the creativity, the confidence, and vision of Americans so that we can meet the challenges and realize the opportunities that lie before us as a Nation, as a people, as we enter our third century, at this particular moment when we are celebrating our Bicentennial and as we move into the future.

It is a crucial moment and, believe me, when we think of the problems that the founding father and the people of this country faced 200 years ago and then we think we have got problems, believe me, ladies and gentlemen, we have got them, but we can cope with them and we are far better off to meet them than the founding fathers were, and all we need is the same courage and the same faith and same vision. And we are going to do it.

I thank you very much.

(Applause.)

I have two awards to give out to people who are symbolic of that dedication to this system, to freedom, to the preservation of the rights and opportunities of individuals.

The first goes to Kay Soldren who served with the State headquarters for hundreds of volunteer hours, day after day, and, yes, year after year. After volunteering all day at the headquarters, she spent her evenings and weekends soliciting neighbors to make more money and collected over a thousand dollars, this year, herself.

(Applause.)

In every program, at every level, and at all campaigns she has served her Republican Party well, and I am pleased to award to Kay this certificate at this time for what she has done and for what she represents as a great American.

(Applause.)

As one who has been fortunate enough to be nominated by the party, I would just like to say we who have benefited realize the significance of the work of people like Kay and what it has meant to our ability to serve. So I feel a double debt of gratitude.

Now to George and Eunice Bowman. They are volunteers extraordinaire for the Minnesota Independent

Republican Party.

(Laughter.)

It doesn't say that here, but I am putting that in. I try to keep up to date.

They have devoted thousands of volunteer hours toward making the important voter identification programs work, and Republicans have won elections and raised money because of it.

I am pleased to recognize George and Eunice at this time and present them this award on behalf of all of us and the party itself.

(Applause.)

Thank you very much.

END (AT 4:00 P.M. CST)