

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 20, 1975

Office of the Vice President
(Wichita, Kansas)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE STATE GOP RECEPTION
ROSE ROOM, BROADVIEW HOTEL
WICHITA, KANSAS

(AT 7:12 P.M. CST)

Thank you, Jack, Governor, and Mary, fellow Republicans. Believe me, it is a thrill to be here. That is all I can say.

As a long time Republican, and as a leader of the Republican Party in New York for 15 years, nobody in this country knows better than I the importance of county chairmen, vice-chairmen, and finance chairmen, and particularly those successful ones.

(Applause.)

So I am very excited to be here, and I am thrilled to see the enthusiasm and vitality that exists in, as Jack said, the grassroots of the party, because let's face it, that is where the strength of the party is.

We get into a cult of personalities, but that is not the Republican Party or the Democratic Party. That is not where the strength is.

I believe very deeply in a two-party system. That has been the strength of America for its 200 years. I think that is the essence of democracy. If we preserve that and its strength -- we are with the people, we represent the people, we understand the people; and you of the party are the ones who interpret their concerns, their hopes, their aspirations. You are in touch with them. You are the ones who crystallize the issues. You are the ones who select the candidates. You are the ones who solicit the support, which is what you have done so successfully.

Let's face it, without financial support, we can't keep our operations going, and it is getting harder and harder -- I know that -- to raise money.

(Laughter.)

And you have got a wider base. But in a way that may be a very good thing for our party, and we have to broaden the base of financial support because people who contribute money get interested; as they get interested, they get active; as they get active, it strengthens the party.

I think what we have to do is to be a broad-based party that isn't afraid of different points of view; but that after we have fought it out for the party, we take a position and everybody gets back in that position.

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I just feel that as a minority party we have a special responsibility. And I have been working with Jim Cannon, who is here, who is Director of the Domestic Council and Special Assistant to the President. We have been holding hearings around the country on domestic policies and programs, trying to come up with a conceptual approach to the problems that face America at home. Believe me, they are something, as you know.

One message that has come through loud and clear from everybody, everywhere, they are fed up with bureaucracy and red tape. There is just no question about it.

The tragedy is there is a growing feeling that government in Washington, instead of being the answer to the problem, may be the problem. That is sort of a sad thing in our country.

What we are trying to do is to see how we can come up with alternative schemes for the President to simplify the structure of the Federal Government.

I have got to say that, probably not out here, but in some of the other States and in the Federal Government certainly we have overpromised during the last 15 years and underdelivered. We have spent more money than we had and now it is starting to catch up.

The only thing I would say is those who point their fingers at New York, and I feel very badly about New York because I love New York and I love the people there, and they have got some very serious problems. But let's face it, ladies and gentlemen, the Congress of the United States is no different than New York City. They have been spending more money than they have had in income. The only difference is they have a printing press.

(Applause.)

I know New York is not very popular.

(Laughter.)

I have been totally aware of that for quite a few years myself as I have gone around the country. But let's face it, these same pressure groups, these same lobbyists, if you want to put it like that, have put the pressure on New York City.

They have overspent. They have overestimated their revenues and underestimated their expenses and have ended up with a deficit. Now it has caught up with them because they are selling short-term notes.

But what I admire about the President is he recognizes that deficit spending at the Federal level is a major factor in contributing to inflation, and that inflation is the most insidious tax on the American people that ever was invented and that it hits those least able to pay: senior citizens who are retired, people on pensions, people who are earning and trying to make a go of it.

What it has done to farmers, just as they were selling more of their produce, and then, of course, all of your prices have gone up, and machinery, equipment, energy, fertilizers, et cetera. So that this has got to be the most serious thing that we face.

But this is his number one responsibility, to hold down inflation. He has been vetoing very popular measures, ladies and gentlemen, for education, for this program, for that program. Everybody is for it. Of course we are for it. How can you be against it? It is like motherhood.

But who is going to pay for it? And there is no such thing as a free lunch. We all pay for it. That has been the problem.

Now this has caught up with us. As deeply as I regret what is happening in New York, and I think they are coming around to facing up to the situation and are going to balance their budget and restore their fiscal integrity, maybe it is a very important thing that this happened at this moment before we got into a situation that some other countries have gotten into.

Maybe we are going to wake up to some fundamental principles on which this country was founded, that you can't spend more than you produce or earn. That is true for an individual; it is true for a family; it is true for a city; it is true for a State; and it is true for the Federal Government.

These are just sort of the simple things, and maybe the simple truths turn out to be the best. Maybe if we just look back and say, how did we get where we are, the greatest Nation in the world, the greatest strength, the greatest opportunity for people? Why scrap this system? Why not go back and make it work, take up the shackles on both State and local government, which are under increasing shackles from the Federal Government, and private enterprise and citizens.

When it comes to your freedom and your privacy, well, after having gone through what I did to get cleared --

(Laughter and Applause.)

I would just like to say the irony was the President appointed me Chairman of the Committee on Privacy.

(Laughter.)

Maybe he felt somebody who had lost their privacy entirely would understand the merits of it, see. So this is one of my responsibilities.

But this is a great country. Let's not knock it. We have got problems. But they are not problems that we can't handle, if we just set our minds to it. If anyone gets discouraged, all they have to do is travel abroad and go to any other country, anywhere in the world, and they would give their eye teeth to be here in America. Let's

not forget that.

(Applause.)

I am optimistic about the future. We have a great President who has the courage to face these things. I am optimistic.

What gives me the courage and the feeling of confidence is men and women like yourselves who don't need to do what you are doing. You don't have to do this. Nobody is forcing you. You do this because you love this country, you care about it, you believe in the system. You give your time and energy day after day, month after month, year after year. You are the unsung heroes of democracy.

I just want you to know there are some of us who benefited from your work and had the privilege to be nominated and to be elected representatives under this system. We know what you have done. We are deeply grateful to you.

This is what makes America what it is, and I am proud to be with you and I thank you for inviting me. Best of luck to all of you.

(Applause.)

END (AT 7:20 P.M. CST)