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FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(Albuquerque, New Mexico)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
LINCOLN DAY DINNER
THE BALLROOM, ALBUQUERQUE CONVENTION CENTER
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

(At 9:00 P.M. MST)

What a wonderful party. This has got to be America at its best, ladies and gentlemen, right here in this room. Wonderful.

(Applause)

That beautiful invocation from Dr. Stewart, this marvelous party that Ted has organized, the Collegiate Singers with all the enthusiasm and charm and beauty and rhythm of youth, which could put a little rhythm in some of the rest of us, and that very beautiful finale, Lullaby on Broadway. They need it now. They have got their own problems.

But I have got to say, ladies and gentlemen, I am deeply honored by the privilege of representing the President of the United States, Jerry Ford, at this marvelous Lincoln Day party.

And you know, there is one very significant event when we think as we do each year in honoring Lincoln and all he meant to this country and all he contributed, then we think that here tonight is a group of wonderful leaders, governors of the pueblos who have come to join us and who have brought with them the canes which is the symbol of authority given to their ancestors by Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States. We are honored by their presence.

And I have got to say, very frankly, I can't wait until I finish talking so I can go over and meet them and say hello and express my respects, and have also the opportunity of seeing those canes. I don't know whether they brought the canes that came from the Spanish Court in the 1600's, which they also had, but probably they have got both. So they have got the historic tradition going back to the early days' symbols of authority and that of our great President Lincoln. And I thank you for coming and the privilege of being here with you this evening.

There are two other people here for whom I have great affection and a great respect who are leaders in the community, and a great community. And that is Mr. and Mrs. Peter McDonald, the Chairman of the Navajo Nation whom I have had the pleasure of meeting on various occasions. One of which was when he came to testify before the meeting which I was conducting on behalf of the President. We had a series around the country reviewing the domestic policies and programs of this nation in anticipation of his preparation of a legislative message. And one of the things which Mr. McDonald said that impressed me tremendously because of its succinctness and its perception, we were talking about the energy crisis, which unfortunately not many Americans appreciate or fully understand, nor the

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great danger that is inherent in it, and Mr. McDonald said very simply, "If we had responded to Pearl Harbor as we have to the energy crisis," he said, "we would all be speaking Japanese in the United States today."

(Laughter)

It would be very nice to speak Japanese, but I would like to see this country face up to the energy problem which is going to be far more important for our future well-being and security, both as individuals and as a nation. But I want to salute them as well and say what a pleasure it is or was, frankly, for me to come down from Washington this afternoon with some of the really outstanding citizens of the great State of New Mexico, your very distinguished Senator and his attractive wife and your great Congressman, Pete and Manuel.

Now, I have had the privilege of being in and out of Washington a good many years and working with the Congress, and, therefore, the pleasure of knowing a great many representatives, and I would like to congratulate the State of New Mexico for your great sensitivity and awareness in picking representatives who not only would represent you and your interests, as they do so ably, but who have the vision and perception to understand New Mexico in terms of the nation as a whole, and our nation in terms of the world, and those are two great leaders are playing a very important role in Washington representing you and all of us as citizens in this great country and we are grateful.

And when I reviewed the number of committees which Pete is on, I marveled at his capacity and breadth of his knowledge and experience of the aerospace, science, the budget, which is one of the new and tremendously important committees trying to prevent the Federal Government from getting in the same situation New York City did.

And I have to say, ladies and gentlemen, in defense of my own city, while it has been much criticized and some who have taken great satisfaction in what happened there, that the Congress of the United States, if you will forgive me, has done exactly what New York City has done only in a larger degree, they have overcommitted and underdelivered and we have a \$74 million deficit this year, and the only difference is Congress can print the money and New York City can't. So forgive me.

(Applause)

Now, I would also like to say that Rex was on the plane, former State Chairman; it was a pleasure to be with him. Tom Bolack, who was an old colleague of mine as governor, outstanding representative of your state in 1962 when he took over the governorship, we worked together then. And, of course, one of the truly distinguished members of the Administration, Francine Neff, who is Treasurer of the United States, and we all admire what she has done. Nothing like having your signature on the money. It is better than writing checks, I will tell you that. But I didn't accuse her of printing all that money to cover the deficit, ladies and gentlemen, but as a distinguished former national committee-woman and a great American. It was a thrill to be with her, also.

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I would like to say another wonderful lady from your part of the country, Susan Herter, who is my Chief of Staff, and who I am grateful to you as a state for having permitted her to be back in Washington again as one of the able leaders. Not many women chiefs of staff around, I want to tell you. I feel I should salute her.

And then, of course, a distinguished state legislator, Ruby, who was on the plane. So we had a very nice time. I did a little work on some speeches for next week so I wasn't able to get in the gin rummy game and I didn't find out what the ultimate results were.

But also, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to say what a pleasure it is to be here on this dias and in this wonderful gathering with our own party leaders and, frankly, as one who has been active in the Republican Party for a long time, the men and women who in my opinion are the heroes of our democracy and provide the vitality and strength of this great free society are those who give of their time and energy in the service of the party. So I say thanks to you, Jack, for what you are doing for the state, the party, and the country.

And for Mary Ann, Tony and Dennis, and to Frances Shipman, your National Committeewoman now, and Bob Davidson, your National Committeeman.

And again, I want to mention Ted for what he has done here tonight in organizing this magnificent party for giving the financial strength to the Republican Party, which your presence has made possible. I listened to the figure you mentioned and if it were not for people like you who care enough about this country and contribute and attend functions of this kind we wouldn't be able to preserve the strengths of this great nation and preserve the future for those wonderful young people who sang -- and, there are so many young people in audience. So I would like to congratulate Ted again.

I have known a lot of governors in my lifetime. You know, it was a lot of fun, but it is none of my business, ladies and gentlemen. So then your fine leaders in the party, George McKim, to Dr. Johns, to "Corky" Morris, all of you who have given of your time and energy to keep the party solvent and keep the funds which make possible a party organization. And you have no idea how much your support means and how deeply grateful I am as a member of the party for the leadership which these men and women are giving and the fact you have responded to that leadership.

Now, I would also like to say, because I am here representing him on behalf of the President, to thank Bob Grant and Karen Peterson for their leadership in the campaign. This is something that is deeply appreciated. Those of us who have run unsuccessfully for office appreciate all the more those supporting successful candidates.

New Mexico is a special state, and it is always a special pleasure for me to visit New Mexico. You have just about the oldest and most fascinating civilization in our country. Your Hispanic, Anglo and Indian cultures represent the rich diversity that gives America its special

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strength. And believe me, ladies and gentlemen, that strength is one of the great factors on which we have to draw upon as we face a complex and difficult world.

And something else that not many people are aware of, New Mexico is the most reliable bellwether in the United States. Your state has picked the winner in every presidential election ever since you came into the union. And so that is one more reason why it is so important to have this Land of Enchantment in the Republican column in 1976.

As we have said, on this occasion we honor Abraham Lincoln, his memory, his tremendous wisdom and the unique contributions he made to this country. Speaking in another era of crisis, Abraham Lincoln said, "The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate for the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country."

He could have spoken those words today. What an extraordinary man and what prophetic thoughts he had.

I mentioned earlier that I had been holding these hearings on the Domestic Council for the President around the country. And I would just like to say that few things stood out more clearly than the fact that we are living in a period of accelerating change. We are living in a period of increased interdependency in the world. Two of the factors which dramatize that, of course, are the energy crisis growing out of the Middle East crisis, and then the Arab and OPEC actions, first in the boycott and raising the prices, combined with the Soviet grain purchases causing inflation and recession and unemployment.

And those were the concerns expressed everywhere we went, recession, inflation, unemployment. And in addition, ladies and gentlemen, the growing control over the lives of individuals, corporations, states, villages, cities, counties, by the increasing bureaucracy and red tape from Washington. This was the thing that we got everywhere that was resented.

Now, I would just like to say that Lincoln also said, and I think again we can be proud to be Republicans because his philosophy has lasted, he said, "The legitimate objective of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done but cannot do it all or cannot do as well for themselves in their separate and individual capacity. When all the people can individually do as well for themselves, the government ought not to interfere."

Ladies and gentlemen, if we as a nation just go back to that then we are going to be in very good shape. And I think he has laid out in both of these a course of action which is responsive to the mood of America today.

Now, when we go back to these areas, and this was only last fall, inflation was still a deep source of concern; unemployment was high. And I have had the opportunity and the privilege of working for President Ford now a year and a half. It took me quite a while to get cleared through the Congress. I want to tell you, the President appointed me

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head of a privacy committee. I said, "Is this a joke or are you serious? I am the one person who has totally lost his privacy in this country." Five hundred FBI agents investigated me for three months. I want to tell you, if you think you have been impinged upon, forget it. And the questions these people in Congress ask you, I want to tell you, it was a thrilling experience, ladies and gentlemen, for me, not for my family. But once I got cleared, then I had a chance, as I say, to watch this President in action.

Now, he has been in Congress 25 years. A lot of people felt he came from a wonderful state but didn't have the broad responsibility of having been elected. And we are in a very unique period, the problems of Vietnam, our nation torn apart emotionally, and we went through the tragedies of Watergate, and then found ourselves with a President not elected but appointed, and a Vice President appointed. So for the first time in our history we have a President and Vice President who are not elected by the American people.

But it is all within the Constitution, and despite what the nation has been through, the turmoil, the Constitution of the United States has stood strong and the people have had the courage to stay with it, and we have come through the most difficult period in a way that we can all be proud of.

(Applause)

So now as we look back on this, what has happened to inflation which has been rampant throughout the world, due to the courage the President has had, and I have watched him hour after hour listening to the various problems, trying to hear the different points of view or getting them asking the questions, and then in the solitude of his office, making his decision as to what he thought was in the best interest of the future of the American people. Not the popular thing to do politically, not the thing that would get him short-term gain either with the press. People know what was best for America, and then that was what he did, ladies and gentlemen.

What is the result? Inflation is cut in half and still going down, 6 percent. Unemployment, which he said let's cut back on government spending, let's give the American enterprise system a chance to get going again, let's cut taxes and cut spending and let people spend their money in their best interest and the country's best interests. What did we see? We see the economy turn around, more than two million jobs created in the last year. We are back to the employment level which was the peak of employment in this country in 1973.

So we are on the way back. Things are picking up, people are gaining confidence again and reestablishing faith in themselves and the country. Now, let's face it. We are still short two and a half million jobs, needed to provide the opportunity for all those today who would like to work. And unfortunately it has been has been hard, particularly on young people.

But it isn't only now two and a half million. Each year this country is going to need a million and a half to two million jobs if we are going to have the opportunities for those young men and women coming out of college. This is

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what the President is dedicated to, but jobs created by expansion in the American free enterprise system where there is a chance for growth.

We hear a lot these days about a no-growth philosophy, we are running out of energy, running out of raw materials, we are going to have to change our lifestyle and cut back. I have got to say to you, ladies and gentlemen, that philosophy is for the birds. There is no hope for that philosophy in America. There is no place for it in America. It is the equivalent of saying those that have already gotten there and have jobs, of saying pull up the ladder mates, we are aboard, to hell with the rest of them. Excuse me, to heck with them. Excuse me.

But this country was built by individuals, free individuals operating within a framework of laws designed to protect the interests of all, but with the opportunity to use your imagination through initiative, through creativity, through drive from free people with a sense of responsibility.

And I would like to stress that question of responsibility. Freedom yes, but you can't preserve freedom unless the individual citizens are willing to take responsibility for their own actions, their own lives, responsibilities to themselves, their maker, and their community. And if they can't be responsible, they have got to take the consequences.

(Applause)

What is exciting, ladies and gentlemen, is that after years of when everybody thought if they had a problem they had to go to Washington to get their problem solved, now we find by Washington pulling back people are moving forward and starting to solve their own problems. And the strength of America is being recreated and we have got to continue on this course.

But there is another very exciting thing. I am a great believer in studying the facts, and not like the person who said, "Don't confuse me with the facts, my mind is already made up." I have always liked to get the statistical information, the projections of the trends, the facts in economic, social and other areas, and then see what we are up against, and see how with this increasing rate of change how we can shape change so it can't overwhelm us but serve our interests.

And I think one, or let's say some of the areas which have concerned people most, that we were running out of energy sources, that we were going to run out of raw materials, not be able to produce enough food and would not be able to restore the quality of our environment without pulling back and stopping growth. But I would like to say that not only the work we did on the Commission on Critical Choices, which I set up when I left the governorship, that we have the capacity to be independent in energy production in this country as far down the road as we can see with a wide variety of sources to produce energy.

We are spending \$30 billion abroad right now to buy 40 percent of our oil. And when we spend that \$30 billion

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a year in the United States to produce energy, we would produce a million two hundred thousand jobs. We would be independent. We would be able to get out economy rolling and get energy independence established and well on our way to regaining our economic strength which is essential for our role in the world.

But not only do we have the resources and energy, but we have the capability of producing all but about three of the basic raw materials, most of which we import from other parts of the world. People have not realized, and this is where the whole development in the field of science and technology is so exciting, it is moving so rapidly, substitute materials now, sources of materials.

I will never forget the Prime Minister of Trinidad, an old friend of mine, came to me a number of years ago, and they had discovered gas down there and his neighboring island in the Caribbean produced bauxite. So he came up after the OPEC experience with raising prices on oil and said, "You know, we are thinking seriously now of using our gas and take the bauxite from our neighbors and make aluminum here in Trinidad and sell you the finished product instead of shipping up the raw material, and we will get the benefit. I said, "That is a very exciting idea." I said, "Have you looked into the question of making aluminum out of silicate sand?" He said, "No, to tell you the truth, I have never heard of it." I said, "We have unlimited quantities of silicate sand in the United States and the capacity to produce aluminum. And then you might find the United States turned to silicate sand and didn't have to import bauxite."

So this is what happened. We don't want to be intimidated, but keep the old American spirit and when there is a problem we will find the answer. We are going to solve it right here at home.

And one other thing, we are all grateful to the young people for what they have done in waking us up to the fact we have disspoiled a great deal of our environment and damaged ecology in different ways. But again, science and technology have got the capacity of finding the ways to produce the energy, the raw materials, and then manufacture the goods that are necessary, and at the same time reestablishing the quality of our environment and protecting the ecology of this nation.

So we don't have to worry about that either if we set our mind to it. And these are exciting things. And out of these things come new challenges, new jobs, new needs, and keeps this country moving. And the most exciting one is the question of what the American farmers have done, 60 million new acres brought into cultivation, exported \$40 million in food, which is the saving grace on the balance of payments and the prospect of this country playing a role in the world and helping other nations to develop their economies and their standard of living, and the kind of opportunity which we have enjoyed, while at the same time we have expanded further in order to help them do their thing.

So I see, ladies and gentlemen, I have to tell you this is a tough period, but I look down the road and think

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this is the most exciting moment in the history of civilized man and the opportunities never were greater if we just have the courage, the vision and the faith to grasp those opportunities. And this is the country that can do it. And this is where the Republican Party comes in, because I think the Republican Party at this particular moment in history is in tune with the American people as never before.

Fundamental principals which we believe in are the principals on which this country has grown to greatness and the principals which are going to save this country and make it possible to continue that growth and to continue meeting the needs of people here and giving opportunities and meeting our responsibility in the world. And I think the Republican Party is coming into its own, and it is thanks for leaders such as those here on the platform who are keeping it strong and alive.

And we have not only the responsibility for the leadership in crystallizing the issues, presenting the issues, presenting hope to the American people and selecting the candidates and supporting them so they can carry out the policies.

And what we need are more Republicans in the Congress of the United States such as Pete and Manuel, then we are going to be able to do things.

(Applause)

And so I just say if we just have a new vision for the future of America, renewed faith in ourselves, return to the bold actions of the past which used to be our hallmark as a nation, restore economic growth and vitality in the enterprise system, restore our environment, we have the resources, both human and natural resources.

And, therefore, ladies and gentlemen, I just would like to conclude by saying what I did when I had the honor of taking my oath as Vice President of the United States in the Senate, and that was there is nothing wrong with America that Americans can't right.

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(AT 9:33 P.M. MST)