

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 15, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(Atlanta, Georgia)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE GOP FUND RAISING RECEPTION
PEACHTREE PLAZA HOTEL, PLAZA BALLROOM
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

(AT 8:05 P.M. EST)

Thank you very much, fellow Republicans and discerning Democrats.

(Laughter.)

I tell you, I am thrilled to be here. I am just thrilled to be in Atlanta. Every time I come here, the people are more lovely and there are more new and exciting buildings. I would just like to say this building, this has got to be the greatest achievement of them all. I have never seen anything like it.

I am only sorry it is not built up in New York. If it was, I wouldn't have come down perhaps as often.

So it is for me a thrill to be here. This is a very important and exciting time in the history of our country and the history of the world. I think we are sort of at a turning point.

I have to feel that the basic strength of the United States has been the two-party system; two parties that are dedicated to the well-being and preservation of those fundamental values on which this country has grown.

We are celebrating our Bicentennial this year. Two hundred years ago we had our revolution. We fought for our freedom. It wasn't just individual freedom; it was economic freedom, because we were under the domination of London and the mercantile system. And we got that freedom.

And we were fighting for religious freedom for each and every person, the right to have their own belief in God as they interpret Him through their religion.

We have had these three intimately interrelated areas -- human freedom and economic freedom and religious freedom. I think this has been the basic strength of this country.

People have come here from all over the world to find opportunity and freedom. We have welcomed them. This has also been our strength.

Through this system where each individual could do his or her own thing, create, imagine, dream, have vision about the future, move west, open up new lands, we built the greatest nation, achieved the greatest opportunity for more

MORE

people than any other civilization during the entire course of history.

Now, here we are at a moment when another strong force in this world is challenging our basic concepts and our basic beliefs. You can say -- some do -- it is a new form of religion, Marxism, Communism, or that it is a political social philosophy; whatever it is.

Maybe this is just what we needed in this country. Maybe we needed a challenge, because we have been here 200 years and we have been the most fortunate people in the world. And maybe we just get a little too self-centered and a little too self-satisfied, take life for granted, take freedom and opportunities for granted.

Then we see, and we saw during the sixties, young people who felt well, there was too much opulence, too much of all this, and they were dissatisfied with life.

What they didn't realize is that with the opportunities that we are giving them, there was the most tremendous chance for them to use those opportunities for the benefit of other people -- both in this country and throughout the world.

But now that our Nation is challenged as it is, both at home and abroad, I think America is pulling together and we are coming to our senses. We have gone through a tough period; let's face it. We went through the Vietnam War. It tore our country at home emotionally. We went through Watergate which further disillusioned a great many people.

Our government at all levels, because of its desire to help people and do for them, in their enthusiasm and in the political zeal of some of us who are politicians, we promised more than we could deliver, and we have over-promised and underdelivered. We have overloaded our government system at all levels of government, to the verge of bankruptcy.

I hope that doesn't include Atlanta, but it does New York.

(Laughter.)

I don't like to say anything against New York because I love it and New York and Atlanta are two of the greatest cities in the world.

(Applause.)

But I have just got to say that those people in Congress who have been a little cynical about New York, and they were sort of jealous of New York, let's face it, from around the country, I think we ought to make note of the fact that everything they criticize New York for doing -- which was responding to social need and human need and doing it in

a way which was beyond their financial means -- the Congress of the United States has done in spades, ladies and gentlemen.

(Applause.)

The only difference is that Congress can print the money and New York State can't, New York City can't.

(Applause.)

So what all of us are learning is a very simple fundamental fact that regardless of our desire to help others or to do for ourselves, we can't spend more money than we earn or produce -- whether it is a family, whether it is an individual, whether it is a city or a State or a Nation.

(Applause.)

We are on the verge of bankruptcy all across the world.

Now maybe all of these things -- and this is what I was trying to explain as I went around to these nine countries and met with their Cabinets and tried to explain when they were saying, "Can we count on the United States? Are you going to go isolationist? Are you pulling back from the rest of the world just to take care of your own interests?"

I tried to explain what we have been doing. I kept saying to them, "Look, this country has gone through a difficult period, but we are coming out of it. The American people are free people. They are the greatest people on earth. Now, they have been through this, and we are seeing in this campaign for the primaries, we are seeing extremists being dropped off on both sides; countries moving towards the middle. We are going back to sound basic philosophy, fundamental values. We are going to build on those. We are going to make this country again what it has been -- a country that stood for liberty, for freedom, for economic freedom, that has stood for human justice, that has stood for human dignity and equality of opportunity -- not just in America but for the world. And we are going to stand with you."

And in Southeast Asia and in the Indian Ocean where they are worried, yes, we are going to preserve a naval strength there that is going to make it possible for there to be a balance of powers, so that as the Soviets build this fantastic naval strength -- you have to hand it to them. Admiral Gorshkov, who has been the head of the Soviet Navy for 18 years, if you want to get an idea of what they are thinking, read his writings. It is telling it like it is.

The only way to be a great power is to control the seas. We in this country sort of take for granted

MORE

that we have freedom of the seas. We have grown up with that. We take freedom for granted. We take everything for granted. That is one of our troubles. Our forefathers fought for it. They built this country. We sort of benefited from it.

Now we find it is being challenged. I think that is a great thing.

The Republican Party, I have to say, ladies and gentlemen, sure, we have different points of view within the party. We have had our differences. But basically the Republican Party believes in these fundamental values which have made this country what it is today.

I think the American people are coming back to those; and whether they are coming to the Republican Party or whether we are all coming together -- I am not sure which -- but I think we are coming out in a common position that we have got to restore the strength and vitality of the two-party system. That is what I admire about what you are doing here. You want to send four Republican members to the Congress of the United States.

(Applause.)

Ladies and gentlemen, that is what we want to do. We haven't got a two-party system in Congress. As I said this afternoon, every time Patty Hearst got a cold it was on the front page of the paper and we all knew about it. But who knows that the Democratic Caucus in Washington controls the Congress of the United States and the Republicans don't even get a look in on the decisions?

They not only control it in the Caucus, which is a central caucus, they have sub-caucuses in each committee of the Congress. So the chairman doesn't control it. The Republicans don't get in on this -- because they have more than a two-to-one plurality -- until after the decisions have been made.

That is not democracy. That is moving towards a totally different concept of government. What party can restore that balance? The Republican Party. And, ladies and gentlemen, we have got to do it, and this is the year.

(Applause.)

Unfortunately, we have concentrated on our own differences within the party. We are a minority. Let's face it, maybe we are very lucky we have these big challenges that are going to force us to recognize the differences within the party are far less than the differences with the rest of those who are opposing the basic beliefs we have.

So I think now is the time for us to unite as a party. We can reconcile our differences. That is democracy.

MORE

So we argue about them and we debate them and come up with some common positions and then we stand united. If the Republican Party stands united, not just in Georgia, not just in New York, but throughout the United States in 50 States -- we don't want to play off the south against the north or the east against the west. We have gone beyond that. We are more sophisticated.

Let's make it a united Republican Party Nationwide working for the benefit of America and America's strength in the world to preserve the values which we believe in. Then we are going to win.

I think you are doing it here and we are doing it there, and let's do it together.

(Applause.)

I am just thrilled to be here. I am just thrilled to be with you. I admire your Chairman. I think he is doing a fantastic job. I admire your National Committeemen and Committeewomen. And let's just all of us have the courage, as you are doing, first to support the party. Your presence here is supporting the party.

You are making it possible to get the funds because, let's face it, this is an expensive business reaching the people. Then the parties have to pick the candidates, crystalize the issues, organize the machinery, and then go to the people and elect those candidates.

You have got some wonderful candidates. We need them in Washington. And you have got to elect them. You can't do it without money. Your presence here tonight means you care about America. You don't have to be here. You can do your own thing. But you have come here because you care. I admire that. I am here because I care.

I say again, our differences, they are minor compared to the challenges we face. Therefore, let's just reconcile those. Let's stand together. Let's fight for the real values and let's see that we make this 1976, our 200th anniversary, a rededication to those fundamental values which have made America the greatest free land in the world, with more opportunity for people than any other country has ever known. And let's rededicate ourselves to that, and let's do it united. Let's stop squabbling among ourselves.

(Applause.)

I don't think any of us realize how much those who believe in freedom around the world, those who believe in human dignity, who believe in opportunity, those who want to better the lives of their children and give them opportunities, how much they look to America for that support, that encouragement, that strength -- not only on the basis of an international dole, but on the basis of

international cooperation of a common effort.

I think we can do it. I have got to tell you something; we have all known these young people who went through a tough period in the sixties. They didn't think there was any meaning in life and they couldn't find any sense of purpose in life. That to me is impossible, but it is at least what they said.

If we just were to do the things we are talking about, it is going to give meaning in their lives, a purpose in their lives; it is going to give a sense of direction for our country, and we are going to go to town. I think it is the year.

I have got to tell you I think it is the most exciting moment in the history of civilization. And we have got a greater opportunity in terms of science and technology and the fantastic American productive system, our enterprise system, and the world is becoming more interdependent, the rate of change is more rapid -- and who can adjust to this more easily? The democratic institutions of the United States, and I happen to think under the leadership of the Republican Party.

Thank you very much for inviting me here, ladies and gentlemen.

END (AT 8:20 P.M. EST)