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Vice President Gerald R. Ford  
Address to th 54th Annual Meeting of the United States  
Jaycees  
San Diego, California  
Thursday, June 20, 1974

(Prolonged applause)

May I (song in background by group) May I -- applause.....

Thank you very, very much. I am deeply grateful to Rick, I am deeply grateful to all the Jaycees, their lovely wives and guests for the warmest and kindest welcome I cannot express adequately my gratitude and appreciation.

Let me say that since becoming our country's first "Instant Vice President," I have traveled about 100,000 miles and made a good many speeches and of late I have been getting a great deal of advice from friends suggesting that instead of coming to San Diego for a Jaycee Convention, instead of going someplace else to meet with another group in someplace for another meeting, that I should sit on the banks of the Potomac and listen to some of the strident voices that we hear in the Congress and elsewhere. I happen to think that one of the jobs -- that one of the responsibilities that I have in this new position is to come to San Diego and to listen to all of you and get the benefit of what you believe in and what you want to tell me -- and I'm darn glad to be here. (loud applause)

With some fear and apprehension, I am going to tell one story that involves my transition from a Member of the House of Representatives to Vice Presidency. And I preface my telling this story because some of my very good friends in the press have heard it before and they threatened ~~that~~ the next time I tell it one of them is going

to STREAK. (applause and laughter) If I have the courage to tell the story, I hope one of them has the courage to be a streaker. (laughter)

But the story is that on October 12th, the day that the President was going to submit the name of his nominee for Vice President to the Congress, he asked Senator Scott and myself to come down to the White House so we could fill him in on what the procedure and process would be/<sup>in</sup>consideration of the nomination.

Senator Scott and I told the President how the committees would handle it and how we thought the House and Senate would take care of his nomination. In the course of his conversation with us he didn't give us the name of the nominee, but he did tell us that at 7:30 that night he would call the person who was to be nominated and give him the news. Senator Scott and I went back to the floor of the House and the Senate.

I went home and sat down for dinner that night with my wife and our 16 year old daughter and at 7:25 that night our downstairs telephone rang -- it has five extensions, it's a listed number. My wife answered the phone and it was our oldest son calling from Boston, Massachusetts. He had heard over the radio or television that his old man might be nominated for the Office of Vice President. My wife, Betty, said, Mike, don't believe it -- it's not going to happen -- it's not in the cards and don't get all excited.

Precisely at 7:30 the upstairs phone rang, it's unlisted with no extensions. Our 16 year old daughter has unlisted it with a number of her special friends -- she dashed upstairs and normally those conversations go on for an extended number of time -- but on this occasion, very quickly she came to the head of the stairs with a very disappointed tone in her voice and said, Dad the President

wants to talk to you. (Laughter) So I dashed upstairs, I got upstairs and I took the receiver and the President was on the line and he said, Jerry, I've got some good news for you. Here I am on a telephone with no extensions and the President said, the good news Jerry is so good that I want Betty, your wife, to get on the phone at the same time. Well, then I tried to explain to the President, the problem and the predicament that I was in. He didn't quite understand what I was trying to say, so finally in total dismay and disgust, I said, Mr. President will you please hang up and call back on the other line. (laughter and applause)

Well, let me say that it has been a privilege and a pleasure to have the opportunity of being Vice President. As I said at the outset, I have traveled a bit, spoken to a good many audiences and I have listened a lot to people all over the country. And I think the theme that you have in this convention of Jaycees and the theme that you are going to carry forth from San Diego -- the length and breadth of the country is what I am hearing -- that the American people are basically proud to be Americans and they are proud of their country. (Loud applause)

They know as you know, that we have great and wonderful institutions, we have a faith in God, we have the belief in the brotherhood of man. We believe in the free enterprise system. We believe in government by the people. We believe in the inherent individualism of all Americans. And we believe in service to humanity. These are good and constructive institutions. (applause)

And in the 200 years of this country's existence, our people and our nation are better off because these institutions have grown and thrived and expanded and affected our lives and the faith of

our nations.

Oh, I know there are cynics and skeptics, there are doom-sayers all over this country who are forecasting and predicting **chaos**, who are forecasting and predicting catastrophe for America, both at home and abroad. They downgrade these institutions, they have no faith in them. I respectfully disagree with this assessment, this assumption, as I know you do.

You and I have faith, you and I have pride in America. And with that faith and that pride those institutions will grow and will thrive. But it is essential at this stage in our nation's history to hold on desperately and to rededicate ourselves to preservations of those institutions.

This morning, along with Congressman John Rhodes and a number of others -- incidentally John flew up with me and he is a dear friend and a great Congressman and I congratulate the State of Arizona -- (applause) but the two of us with probably 15 to 18 other Members of the House and Senate, the Leaders of both sides of the political aisle on both sides of the Capitol. Senator Mansfield sitting on one side of the President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives sitting on the other side of the President, Senator Scott, down the line from Pennsylvania, and Senator Bob Byrd from West Virginia; well, in this cabinet room the leaders of both political parties in the House and the Senate were assembled at 8:30 this morning. The President of the United States and Secretary of State Kissinger walked in. And for the next hours and 45 minutes we had a broad review by the President himself primarily supplemented by comments of the Secretary of State, and objective analysis of where we were in trying to resolve the problems of the Middle East, where we are and where we hope to go.

And let me quickly summarize in a very few minutes where we were -- and if you will refresh your minds you will recall in October of last year for the fourth time in a quarter of a century, Israelis and Arabs were fighting one another -- this time in a hotter, worse war than at anytime in the past -- with no hope and expectation of any success -- any success at least at achieving peace on a permanent basis. Where are we today? There has been a disengagement between Israelis and Egypt subsequently a disengagement between Syria and Israel -- there is a lull in the fighting -- there is the framework for hopeful and successful negotiations leading to a permanent solution.

Where do we hope to go? A permanent solution for the first time in the history of mankind for some actual framework for peace between Arabs and Israelis.

Now this nation's foreign policy dramatized by the trip of the President of the United States, helped to end a dangerous deadlock in the Middle East. The century long impasse in that region we well know threatened world peace. ~~It threatened it in October~~ of 1973 and it threated it on previous occasions in the last two and a half decades.

It was marked by extremely bitter animosities, frustration, depression, yes, hopelessness. The United States helped by summoning forth the traditional American spirit of "can do." Which is typical, I might say, of the Jaycees -- always has been and always will be.  
(applause)

We the United States injected a new initiative, a new energy. But the breakthrough was directly attributable to the determination and the courage of the peoples directly concerned -- the Israelis and the Arabs. They were willing to give peace a chance.

Now let us resolve -- resolve right now to focus these new initiatives and new energies on a domestic impasse which has this nation spinning on its wheels. There is too much deadlock here at home -- too much acrimony and animosity, frustration, faint heartedness. This is not to say that we should abandon international diplomacy or international concerns.

But I do feel very, very strongly that the time has come for bold domestic diplomacy to negotiate a return to pride in America. (applause)

No official in Washington can achieve this alone. It depends on the people throughout America. We have come to a very sorry pass if the people in the Middle East have become more pro-American than we Americans are pro-American. Very frankly, I am speaking of the tendency to use the Watergate issue to undermine our national self-esteem, to generate endless recrimination and self-hatred.

We may look so hard at the trees of Watergate that we lose sight of the forest of America and our national future. Let the passions arising from Watergate not become a copout from the work essential for our continuity and sense of purpose as a great Republic. Let us be human enough to admit that we are not perfect. That we have made mistakes -- we have made errors in the past.

Now the Arabs and the Israelis have not partaken of a love feast, but they have agreed that the time has come to resolve to live as a region if they are not to die as a region. The time, in my judgment has come for Americans to conclude that despite deep, deep feelings over domestic controversies they cannot be less realistic and less ready for mediation and moderation than the Israelis and the Arabs.

If they can do it in the Middle East, I think we can do it in America. (applause)

We can be assured, or reassured I should say, that processes now underway in the courts and in the Congress are continuing -- let Justice be done. But just as the Israelis and the Arabs, their armies have disengaged -- in my judgment there must be a disengagement on the American scene. We as Americans must go on living together. We must rebuild our economy, overcome inflation, tap new energy, provide new housing, improve health care, preserve the environment and otherwise regenerate our life style here at home. We must also renew our sense of morality from the highest levels of government to the most remote corners of the inner city.

I ask, and I ask it in all sincerity, is it possible that we the United States can mediate the problems of other people, but cannot find the solutions essential for a domestic balance here at home?

I believe in America as you do and I am convinced that we can overcome the deadlock by a process of domestic disengagement. If people shooting at one another can disengage so can people who are shouting at each other. We need no United Nations forces as a buffer between us -- between us as Americans. What we need, is a new sense of what is right and what is good about America. A new pride, a new self-respect, a new sense of involvement, a new enthusiasm, a new action, a new optimism, forgiveness, trust, and patriotism. The Jaycees in the past and will in the future be a force in my judgment to impliment this disengagement and this massive movement foreward to have the spirit of pride in America. (applause)

Now if I might let me speak about two domestic problems that concern each and every one of you. We know that for the last 40 years or thereabouts, for reasons that are understandable, there has been a growing concentration of power and influence in the

Nation's Capitol. It began with a great depression -- it was expanded as we went to World War II -- for other reasons it seemed to increase in tempo and the net result was three or four years ago, Washington held the purse strings, the power and the capability of dominating us in our local lives, in our states and in our local communities.

It seems to me that about four years ago the American people decided there was a better answer, and the net result was we started a program that is called New Federalism. An effort to turn power and money away from Washington to bring it back to your hometown -- to your respective state. And this program of general revenue sharing is now in effect. It means that instead of some all powerful bureaucrat on the banks of the Potomac controlling your lives, your city, your county, and your state, substantial sums of money taken from you that went to Washington now goes back to your people to make decisions on the local level. A decentralization of power and a new approach to the expenditure of your tax dollars.

I happened to think what kicked this off was a feeling among Americans -- a feeling that I developed over a period of 25 years in the Congress. I used to sit in the House of Representatives as one bill after another would be presented for a new program, yes for a worthy cause, that inevitably caused a new drain on the federal treasury an expanded bureaucracy, a greater control from Washington on local government or your life. All of these programs, I concede, I admit had a good purpose, but what finally awakened me (and I think this same feeling developed in others throughout the country) was as I sat there, I began to feel that something was ultimately wrong in this process of concentrating the power in the nation's capitol.

And finally, one day I sat down and wrote out what I felt was the threat -- the danger, and it goes something like this -- A government big enough to give us everything we want -- is a government big enough to take from us everything we have. (applause)

As Jaycees you believe in individualism, you believe in the free enterprise system and consequently you understand the ramifications and implication of that statement -- a government big enough to give us everything we want is a government big enough to take from us everything we have. And fortunately that trend has changed. I urge you to help its momentum to bring back government to your home town and to your state so that we have a partnership between the federal government, the state government, and the local government -- its best for you and its best for our country. (applause)

The second point I would like to make is your involvement in the campaign in 1974. You have Republicans, you have Democrats, and I am sure you have Independents in this great crowd here today -- this is a blessing of America -- the right of free choice -- good competition in the political arena.

Don't be sitting on the sidelines when big and basic decisions are made. There are those who are saying, for reasons we all know, that there is going to be a veto-proof Congress in the next election. Let me develop that theme. Let me point out to you how I think that could be harmful, and I don't speak of it in a partisan sense -- it is my judgment that the element of competition in the political arena is a very important factor in keeping us - we Americans - moving ahead. The minute you get one of the two political parties too dominate, this very fine balance that is so essential to America is destroyed. Historically we can go back to the Constitution. Our forefathers who drafted the Constitution about

200 years ago -- having fled from Western Europe, having fled from monarchies and dictatorships, came to America. They fought for freedom and when that sat in the city of Philadelphia and drafted the Constitution, fifty-five of them -- from May until September, they were going to make certain and positive that no person, no segment of our society could control the rest of them. And in order to protect their lives and their segment of society they developed this Constitution, which is probably the most wonderful document in the history of mankind for the governing of people. And they had the system of checks and balances. A strong President in the White House, a strong Congress in the Legislative Branch, a strong Supreme Court heading the Judicial Branch, one checking on the other two and vice-versa. A system of checks and balances -- that system has worked so well -- we are so blessed as a result.

But now if you get in the Congress of the United States one of those three branches, a power that controls, not only the Congress, but controls the Executive Branch, that in affect becomes a legislative dictatorship and I don't think we want a legislative dictatorship in the United States of American. (applause)

Now let me conclude with this final observation. You are an inspiration. I wish all the Members of Congress could come out here and see your enthusiasm and your dedication. It would help a lot. (applause)

I think you would disprove some of the letters of cynics and skepticism that Members of Congress get, some of the pessimistic letters about future America. As a Member of the House, I used to get letters from people who were forecasting dire consequences about America at home and abroad, they were going to give up the ship and all that. I don't think we should be pessimistic. I don't think we ought to

be a doom-sayer. I believe just the opposite, and let me give you one very good concrete example of why we should be proud to be Americans.

Early in my remarks, I spoke of the October war in the Middle East. The fourth time in 25 years that Arabs and Israelis were killing one another; hatred, jealousy flamed again. No one thought for one minute as the temperatures heated, as bombs killed more people, that there was any hope and gradually the confrontation between the Soviet Union and the United States began to materialize. At that point some wiser heads asked for a country, a president, and a secretary of state to try and solve the problem. What country did the Arabs and Israelis go to -- They didn't go to the Soviet Union, they didn't go to any of the Western European countries, they came to the United States to be the mediator, the moderator, to try and end the war in the first instance and work toward peace in the second. They trusted America. They knew we had no territorial ambitions. They knew <sup>we had</sup> no desire to dominate and control any one country in the Middle East. When they asked for a leader of the State to bring the parties together -- they didn't ask for Mr. Brezhnev of the Soviet Union -- they didn't ask for the Heads of State of Britain or France -- they asked for the President of the United States to be the one to end the fighting and to lay the foundation and ground work for peace in the Middle East. When they wanted someone to actually to be on the ground to negotiate with Arabs one day and Israelis the next -- they didn't ask for Mr. Gromyko the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, they didn't ask for the Foreign Minister of any other country, any other great Nation or or great power -- they asked for Henry Kissinger to come over and to be the mediator between Arabs and Israelis. (applause)

The point that I wish to leave with you; here is a concrete example of the faith and trust that people in the Middle East and elsewhere have in our country, in our President, in our Secretary of State. And we as Americans should be proud that we are Americans that we have a fine President, that we have a great Secretary of State. We should be proud to be Americans and proud of America.

Thank you very much.

(prolonged applause)

Jaycee -

San Diego  
6/20/74

Introduction - Let's of Whice -

Grateful for Jaycee association / awards.

Congratulate - theme of San Diego meeting  
& this coming year -

PRIDE IN AMERICA

BE PROUD OF AMERICA



We have great institutions -

FAITH IN GOD

BROTHERHOOD OF MAN

FREE ENTERPRISE

GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE

INDIVIDUALISM

SERVICE TO HUMANITY.

They are good - our country & our  
people are better for them

(2)

Cynics & Skeptics downgrade these Institutions.

Doomsayers wring hands

forecast chaos & catastrophe at  
home & abroad.

I strongly disagree with that assessment  
providing:

1) We have FAITH + PRIDE  
in AMERICA.

2) We hold on to & rededicate  
ourselves to the American  
Institutions.



This morning I sat in Cabinet Room

Bi-Partisan Ltr.

Speakers: O'Neil  
Mansfield Scott  
Fullbright

President Nixon - calmly &

objectively outlined:

Where we were - WAR

" " And - Disengagement

" " Hope to Be  
Permanent Peace.

- Quote -



Let me speak about two  
domestic problems -

1) Concentration of Power & Political  
Control in Washington, D.C.

How it started

ANSWER - New Federalism



We must protect & believe  
in these basic institutions -  
INDIVIDUALISM  
FREE ENTERPRISE.

A Govt Big Enough  
to give us everything we  
want is a Govt big enough  
to take from us everything  
we have.

GOV'T OF THE PEOPLE 2) Veto Proof Congress

Let me, in conclusion, answer the  
Presumptions, Skeptics & Cynics.  
Oct War.

SPEAKING NOTES FOR VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD

UNITED STATES JAYCEES 54TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

JAYCEES changed their name from "Junior Chamber of Commerce", dislike being reminded of old name, prefer being called "JAYCEES " .

Theme of San Diego meeting and coming year is PRIDE IN AMERICA , aim is to reinstate a spirit of "can do " by the 1976 Bicentennial . JAYCEES will seek to promote BE PROUD OF AMERICA ~~theme~~ throughout country .

VP was designated by JAYCEES in 1949 as one of 10 outstanding young men of year, VP has seen work of Grand Rapids and Michigan JAYCEES

JAYCEES urge that most of VP's remarks relate to PRO-AMERICA theme , challenge JAYCEES ~~to~~ to accept even more community responsibility instead of looking to Federal Government .

VP's appearance will be at high point in convention , during electioneering, before JAYCEE's election of new leaders . Prefer mainly extemporaneous remarks.

JAYCEES have over 6,700 chapters, about 300,000 members .

JAYCEES did outstanding job utilizing Federal grants for programs dealing with alcoholism, venereal disease .

JAYCEE human improvement programs promoted housing, education, human relations, more black and Spanish-descent members , family life development, leadership in action ("SPEAK UP " ) , rehabilitation of jail inmates, jobs for ex-convicts.

JAYCEES believe most American retain strong convictions in basic U.S. institutions:

Faith in God  
Brotherhood of Man  
Free Enterprise  
Government by the people  
Individualism  
Service to humanity

JAYCEES know that free expression and responsible institutions exist because they participate in and use such aspects of our heritage

JAYCEES feel new threats to U.S. are not outside forces but internal self-doubt, negativism, pessimism .

JAYCEES tired of those who condemn U.S. society as deteriorating , seek to awaken public PRIDE through positive participation .

JAYCEES believe U.S. never better equipped in material way to achieve high aims. Yet U.S. never more divided and confused over objectives, priorities, and political controversy. Believe we must give America the direction and purpose and leadership it needs .

JAYCEES want to be the bridge that leads from frustration to effectiveness, from instability to reliability, from confusion to unity, from mediocrity to excellence. Seek Nation stronger, families closer, ourselves better men.

SUGGESTED CLOSING FOR REMARKS :

JAYCEE CREDO is that service to humanity is the best work of life, and that faith in God gives meaning and purpose to humanity .

Patsy - Could you please type a  
corrected copy 3 & substitute it  
for the copies in the file?

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Address to the 54th Annual Meeting of the United States  
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*Just*



*Prolonged*  
(~~Very long~~ applause)

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If they can do it in the Middle East, I think we can do it in America. (applause)

We can be assured, or reassured I should say, that processes now underway in the courts and in the Congress are continuing -- let Justice be done. But just as the Israelis and the Arabs, their armies have disengaged -- in my judgment there must be a disengagement on the American scene. We as Americans must go on living together. We must rebuild our economy, overcome inflation, tap new energy, provide new housing, improve health care, preserve the environment and otherwise regenerate our life style here at home. We must also renew our sense of morality from the highest levels of government to the most remote corners of the ~~inner~~ <sup>inner</sup> city.



I ask, and I ask it in all sincerity, is it possible that we the United States can mediate the problems of other people, but cannot find the solutions essential for a domestic balance here at home?

I believe in America as you do, and I am convinced that we can overcome the deadlock by a process of domestic disengagement. If people shooting at one another can disengage so can people who are shouting at each other. We need no United Nations forces as a buffer between us -- between us as Americans. What we need, is a new sense of what is right and what is good about America. A new pride, a new self-respect, a new sense of involvement, a new enthusiasm, a new action, a new optimism, forgiveness, trust, and patriotism. The Jaycees in the past and will in the future be a force in my judgment to impliment this disengagement and this massive movement foreward to have the spirit of pride in America. (applause)

Now if I might let me speak about ~~two~~ <sup>two</sup> domestic problems that concern each and every one of you. We know that for the last 40 years or thereabouts, for reasons that are understandable, there has been a growing concentration of power and influence in the

Nation's Capitol. It began with a great depression -- it was expanded as we went to World War II -- for other reasons it seemed to increase in ~~temp~~ and the net result was three or four years ago, Washington held the purse strings, the power and the capability of dominating us in our local lives, in our states and in our local communities.

It seems to me that about four years ago the American people decided there was a better answer, and the net result was we started a program that is called New Federalism. An effort to turn power and money away from Washington to bring it back to your hometown -- to your respective state. And this program of general revenue sharing is now in effect. It means that instead of some all powerful bureaucrat on the banks of the Potomac controlling your lives, your city, your county, and your state, substantial sums of money taken from you that went to Washington now goes back to your people to make decisions on the local level. A decentralization of power and a new approach to the expenditure of your tax dollars.

I happened to think what kicked this off was a feeling among Americans -- a feeling that I developed over a period of 25 years in the Congress. I used to sit in the House of Representatives as one bill after another would be presented for a new program, yes for a worthy cause, that inevitably caused a new drain on the federal treasury an expanded bureaucracy, a greater control from Washington on local government or your life. All of these programs, I concede, I admit had a good purpose, but what finally ~~awakened~~ <sup>awakened</sup> me (and I think this same feeling developed in others throughout the country) was as I sat there, I began to feel that something was ultimately wrong in this process of concentrating the power in the nation's capitol.

And finally, one day I sat down and wrote out what I felt was the threat -- the danger, and it goes something like this -- A government big enough to give us everything we want -- is a government big enough to take from us everything we have. (applause)

As Jaycees you believe in individualism, you believe in the free enterprise system and consequently you understand the ramifications and implication of that statement -- a government big enough to give us everything we want is a government big enough to take from us everything we have. And fortunately that trend has changed. I urge you to help its momentum to bring back government to your home town and to your state so that we have a partnership between the federal government, the state government, and the local government -- it's best for you and its best for our country. (applause)

The second point I would like to make is your involvement in the campaign in 1974. You have Republicans, you have Democrats, and I am sure you have Independents in this great crowd here today -- this is a blessing of America -- the right of free choice -- good competition in the political arena.

Don't be sitting on the sidelines when big and basic decisions are made. There are those who are saying, for reasons we all know, that there is going to be a veto-proof Congress in the next election. Let me develop that theme. Let me point out to you how I think that could be harmful, and I don't speak of it in a partisan sense -- it is my judgment that the element of competition in the political arena is a very important factor in keeping us - we Americans - moving ahead. The minute you get one of the two political parties too dominate, this very fine balance that is so essential to America is destroyed. Historically we can go back to the Constitution. Our forefathers who drafted the Constitution about

200 years ago -- having fled from Western Europe, having fled from monarchies and dictatorships, came to America. They fought for freedom and when that sat in the city of Philadelphia and drafted the Constitution, fifty-five of them -- from May until September, they were going to make certain and positive that no person, no segment of our society could control the rest of them. And in order to protect their lives and their segment of society they developed this Constitution, which is probably the most wonderful document in the history of mankind for the governing of people. And they had the system of checks and balances. A strong President in the White House, a strong Congress in the Legislative Branch, a strong Supreme Court heading the Judicial Branch, one checking on the other two and vice-versa. A system of checks and balances -- that system has worked so well -- we are so blessed as a result.

But now if you get in the Congress of the United States one of those three branches, a power that controls, not only the Congress, but controls the Executive Branch, that in affect becomes a legislative dictatorship and I don't think we want a legislative dictatorship in the United States of American. (applause)

Now let me conclude with this final observation. You are an inspiration. I wish all the Members of Congress could come out here and see your enthusiasm and your dedication. It would help a lot. (applause)

I think you would disprove some of the letters of cynics and ~~skepticism~~ <sup>skepticism</sup> that Members of Congress get, some of the pessimistic letters about future America. As a Member of the House, I used to get letters from people who were forecasting dire consequences about America at home and aboard, they were going to give up the ship and all that. I don't think we should be pessimistic. I don't think we ought to

be a doom-sayer. I believe just the opposite, and let me give you one very good concrete example of why we should be proud to be Americans.

Early in my remarks, I spoke of the October war in the Middle East. The fourth time in 25 years that Arabs and Israelis were killing one another; hatred, jealousy flamed again. No one thought for one minute as the temperatures heated, as bombs killed more people, that there was any hope and gradually the confrontation between the Soviet Union and the United States began to materialize. At that point some wiser heads asked for a country, a president, and a secretary of state to try and solve the problem. What country did the Arabs and Israelis go to -- They didn't go to the Soviet Union, they ~~didn't~~ go to any of the Western European countries, they came to the United States to be the mediator, the moderator, to try and end the war in the first instance and work toward peace in the second. They trusted America. They knew we had no territorial ambitions. They knew ~~we had~~ no desire to dominate and control any one country in the Middle East. When they asked for a leader of the State to bring the parties together -- they didn't ask for Mr. Brezhnev of the Soviet Union -- they didn't ask for the Heads of State of Britain or France -- they asked for the President of the United States to be the one to end the fighting and to lay the foundation and ground work for peace in the Middle East. When they wanted someone to actually to be on the ground to negotiate with Arabs one day and Israelis the next -- they didn't ask for Mr. Gromyko the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, they didn't ask for the Foreign Minister of any other country, any other great Nation or or great power -- they asked for Henry Kissinger to come over and to be the mediator between Arabs and Israelis. (applause)

The point that I wish to leave with you; ~~the~~ here is a concrete example of the faith and trust that people in the Middle East and elsewhere have in our country, in our President, in our Secretary of State. And we as Americans should be proud that we are Americans that we have a fine President, that we have a great Secretary of State. We should be proud to be Americans and ~~pride~~ <sup>proud</sup> of America.

Thank you very much.

(prolonged  
~~very long~~ applause)



EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD  
UNITED STATES JAYCEES 54TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION  
SAN DIEGO SPORTS ARENA, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
1:00 P.M. PDT, JUNE 20, 1974

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

This Administration's foreign policy, dramatized by the trip just concluded by President Nixon, helped to end a dangerous deadlock in the Middle East. The impasse in that region threatened world peace. It was marked by bitter animosities, frustration, depression, and hopelessness.

We helped by summoning forth the traditional American spirit of "can do." We injected new initiative and new energy. But the breakthrough was directly attributable to the determination and courage of the peoples directly concerned -- the Israelis and the Arabs. They were willing to give peace a chance.

Let us now resolve to focus new initiatives and new energies on a domestic impasse which has this Nation spinning its wheels. There is too much deadlock here at home -- too much acrimony and animosity, frustration, and faint heartedness. This is not to say that we should abandon international concerns. But I do feel very strongly that the time has come for bold domestic diplomacy to negotiate a return to pride in America.

No official in Washington can achieve this alone. It depends on the people throughout America. We have come to a sorry pass if the people in the Middle East have become more pro-American than we Americans are pro-American.

I am speaking of the tendency to use the Watergate issue to undermine our national self-esteem, to generate endless recrimination and self-hatred.

We may look so hard at the trees of Watergate that we lose sight of the forest of America and our national future. Let the passions arising from Watergate not become a copout from the work essential for our continuity and sense of purpose as a great republic. Let us be human enough to admit that we are not perfect.

The Arabs and the Israelis have not partaken of a love feast. But they have agreed that the time has come to resolve to live as a region if they are not to die as a region. The time has also come for Americans to conclude that, despite deep feelings over domestic controversies, they cannot be less realistic and less ready for mediation and moderation than the Israelis and the Arabs.

Processes now under way in the Congress and the courts are continuing. Let justice be done. But, just as the Israeli and Arab armies have disengaged, there must be a disengagement on the American scene. We must go on living

(more)

together. We must rebuild our economy, overcome inflation, tap new energy, provide new housing, improve health care, preserve the environment, and otherwise regenerate our lifestyle. We must also renew our sense of morality from the highest levels of government to the most remote corners of inner city streets.

Is it possible that we can mediate the problems of other people but cannot find the solutions essential for domestic balance? I believe in America and am convinced that we can overcome the deadlock by a process of domestic disengagement. If people shooting at each other can disengage, so can people who are shouting at each other. We need no United Nations forces as a buffer between us. We do need a new sense of what is right and good about America, a new pride and self-respect, a new spirit of involvement, enthusiasm, action, optimism, forgiveness, trust, and patriotism.

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The Jaysus ### can be a  
MIGHTY FORCE to implement  
 this new ACTION



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###

~~John F. Kennedy~~  
Full text