

**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
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FEBRUARY 13, 1975

**Office of the Vice President
New York, New York**

**EXCERPTS OF REMARKS BY THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE "SALUTE TO THE VICE PRESIDENT DINNER"
WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL, NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

FEBRUARY 13, 1975

Vice President Rockefeller in introducing President Ford at a "Salute to the Vice President Dinner," in New York City, said tonight:

"It has been my privilege in the last two months to see at first hand the tremendous dedication and courage of President Ford in tackling and mastering our unparalleled economic and social problems. The long meetings, day after day, with experts, advisers, consultants, his intense concentration, his deep human concern, his keen perception and penetrating questions, his reconciliation of different points of view all led eventually to the bold, comprehensive program to meet the problems of inflation, unemployment and the energy crisis which he has submitted to the Congress. He has put his solutions together in a carefully balanced, total program to deal with the forces of disruption we face and to meet the needs of the American people.

"The basic question which the nation faces is: can free societies discipline themselves to take the tough, necessary actions required to deal with the revolutionary and unpredicted economic and social changes that are taking place throughout the world? Can America rebuild its strength to meet its problems at home and to continue its leadership of the free world? From my viewpoint, the answer is an emphatic 'yes.'

"The President is showing the way. His total frankness suggests Winston Churchill's brand of leadership in the darkest days of World War II. Churchill did not offer the British people self-delusion. He offered them 'blood, toil, tears and sweat.' The people recognized that if they would bear this heavy price, they would preserve their freedom. Today, President Ford is speaking the hard truths to Americans and for the same reasons -- to preserve our strength and freedom.

"If we move intelligently, decisively, on all fronts, we can control inflation, restore sound growth, increase employment and continue to improve the quality of life for all.

"It is not going to be easy. It is going to take self-discipline and sacrifice. But it can be done. And, in my opinion, it will be done under the leadership of President Ford."

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