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Office of the Vice President
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REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN CONVENTION
DALLAS CONVENTION CENTER
DALLAS, TEXAS

September 12, 1975

The new campaign spending limits will make the role of women's voluntary organizations absolutely indispensable in politics.

Before the new controls, a new candidate might have been able to gain rapid recognition through expensive television investment. Today, candidates will have to count to a far greater degree on campaign staff and volunteer workers to present themselves and their qualifications to the voters.

Before, a costly media effort could remind the people of an incumbent's record. Now, that same objective will require more doorbell ringing, telephone canvassing, expenditure of shoe leather, -- in short, more face-to-face contact with the voters.

Under recent spending limits, the new currency in campaigning is going to become, increasingly, the old-fashioned dedication of individuals -- the efforts of likeminded people who share a common commitment to an ideal, a program, a party and its candidates. The likeliest impact of the new campaign reforms is to emphasize the indispensability of good organization and plain hard work by party workers and volunteers.

Voluntary work is in the tradition of our great, free society, and women have traditionally played key volunteer roles. The new campaign spending law presents a new challenge and a fresh opportunity to Republican women in organizing the necessary volunteer effort. In the past, your involvement has been vital. With the new spending restrictions, your efforts become indispensable.

President Ford has given the Nation leadership that you can proudly promote among American voters. The President has recognized that this is a period of accelerating change and growing interdependence. He has provided leadership to match the temper of the times.

I would like to discuss with you today the current realities that are shaping the Administration's approach to meeting the people's needs in the domestic area.

The American people rightfully want job opportunities during their working years and financial security in time of illness, unemployment or old age. The legitimate desire for work and security requires positive action in three interrelated problem areas; solving the energy problem which holds the key to economic growth; revitalizing the economy to achieve full employment; and restructuring the domestic social programs to assure individual security in times of need on a sound fiscal basis.

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At present, energy goals still have not been met, unemployment is intolerably high, and government expenditures are growing rapidly at all levels.

If the rate of expenditure for domestic programs keeps growing the way it has over the past 20 years, then government spending at all levels will consume 55 per cent of the Gross National Product in the next 25 years. We have to bear in mind that, directly or indirectly, the private sector provides 85 per cent of the government's tax revenues. Clearly, this Country cannot survive as a free society with over half of its Gross National Product being absorbed by government. Capital needed for productive investment and economic growth to create more jobs for Americans would be absorbed by the government. Free enterprise, which created the highest living standard on earth for the greatest number of people, would lose its vitality and ability to meet the needs of our people. The American traditions of individual initiative, self-reliance and responsibility would be undermined.

President Ford has had the courage to hold down government spending to cut back the rate of inflation, and he recognizes the urgent need to reshape government programs so that they meet human need without undermining the Nation's economic strength.

I am optimistic that we as a Nation have the will, the capacity, the resources and the leadership to accomplish these objectives -- to rebuild the strength of America to meet the needs of our people and our responsibilities around the world. The President is a strong and courageous leader and the Members of Congress are dedicated Americans. I am confident that, together, they will demonstrate once again that there is nothing wrong with America that Americans cannot right.

The President is taking specific action based on that belief. As part of a review by the Domestic Council of overall domestic policy the President has asked me, as Vice Chairman of that council, to arrange for a series of public hearings. These hearings are designed to get the views of people from around the Country in rethinking and updating our Nation's innumerable and overlapping programs in four basic areas; jobs and the economy, social programs, resources and the environment, and community development, transportation and housing.

The Domestic Council will carefully analyze the public testimony given at these hearings. The President is determined to get the thinking of the American people into the decision-making process as he prepares his program to be presented to the Congress next year.