

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 12, 1975

Office of the Vice President
(Dallas, Texas)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN CONVENTION
DALLAS CONVENTION CENTER
DALLAS, TEXAS

(AT 10.50 A.M. CDT)

President Armitage, Chairman Louise Smith, Treasurer Francine Neff, Virginia Knauer, distinguished Republicans, ladies and gentlemen, believe me, I am delighted to have the honor and privilege of attending this fantastic gathering. First, I would like to congratulate and thank Connie for her two years of leadership and thank all of you for your dedication to the Party.

I sort of have a feeling that there is something symbolic about picking Dallas as your convention Center. It is the most dynamic and enthusiastic city in the United States as well as being successful. It is more attractive and fiscally sound, with a deep human concern and it seems to me that this great Republican gathering here evidences the same qualities, enthusiasm, dynamism, success, charm and, let's face it, ladies of the Republican Party, I stand for fiscal integrity and deep human concern.

It is an interesting period in the history of this country and the history of the world and certainly for our Party. I have to say that you as individuals, your organization, and Republican women have never been more important to the Party and the country than right now. I will tell you why.

It is important to the Party and it is important to victory in 1976 and that victory we are going to have in 1976 and let's make no mistake about it. This new campaign spending law has complicated the political scene considerably and there is not going to be the kind of vague instant recognition of new candidates through extensive TV coverage. It is not going to be possible for new candidates or existing personalities to be able to get the media coverage, to buy the media exposure that they could in the past to talk about their record, to talk about their position. Therefore, we are going to have to rely as never before on the volunteers.

I have to say that as one who has been fortunate enough to be nominated by my Party and elected on various occasions, I know what the Republican women -- I would especially like to thank the Republican women from New York here because they are the ones who made my nomination, election and reelection possible. And I just want to thank them and to say that I know that is true for candidates all over this country as far as you women are concerned.

This is going to be the strength of the Republican Party come next year. It is the women of the party. It

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always has been, by its doorbell ringing, telephone canvassing, chain letters, small gatherings, volunteer speeches -- in short, face-to-face contact with voters, the old-fashioned dedication of individuals, and when you get right down to it, this really is the tradition and the strength of democracy.

People, free citizens who care enough about their country to give up their time and their effort and their energy, whether they are national leaders, State leaders, county chairmen, co-chairmen, members, captains or volunteers in the organization. These are the men and women, and in this case here, the women who have given the vitality and strength to democracy and which has made possible the preservation of freedom in the greatest free nation of the world. It is thanks to you and I just want to say what a pleasure it is to be with you.

As we move into next year and during the remainder of this year and as we start to reach out to people, to discuss the issues and to discuss the problems we Republicans are fortunate indeed that President Ford has given national leadership that we Republicans can be proud to talk to the American people about. The President has given us the courage. He has a deep belief in basic American values and those are the values which motivate him in his decisions and his considerations of the problems and in the stance which he takes. Let's also face the fact that he has the willingness to take stands that reflect the long-term best interests of this country regardless of short-term lack of political popularity on those stands and he recognizes the hard realities of our times, both at home and abroad.

I think, frankly, that his leadership matches the temper of our times. The President recognizes that the American people rightfully want job opportunities, not welfare. That is the basic American motivation, that they want financial security in times of illness, unemployment, old age; and he knows that these are legitimate desires, both for work and security and that it is going to take positive action on three fronts, three interrelated fronts or problem areas in order to meet the basic needs of the American people.

The first is solving the energy problem which is the key to economic growth in any industrial society and it is a key to our national security to remove the vulnerability which is increasing day by day as things presently stand and the stalemate which has existed between the Executive and Legislative in trying to grapple with probably one of the most fundamental problems of our times, a problem which has come upon us from action taken outside our nation, an action which is the result of an increasing interdependence in the world, an action which is the result of this country no longer being a net exporting country and, therefore, for the first time, we have seen political action by OPEC countries to gain a specific economic and social objective, perhaps political objective on their part, tied to a difficult Middle East situation which resulted or almost resulted in the disaster two years ago, but which has changed the whole complexion of the industrial world and the industrial free world as well as the developing world. So that is a number one fundamental problem to the security and the future opportunity of America.

Number two is revitalizing the national economy. This is the key to restoring the economic strength of America. Without our economic strength revitalized, we are not going to be able to meet the needs of the people at home in terms of employment, in terms of goods and services, nor are we going to be able to play our role in the world to preserve peace and provide the kind of stability which the world yearns for and to preserve freedom. And freedom has never been challenged as seriously and as fundamentally as it is challenged today.

Now let's face it, at present, energy goals still have not been met. Unemployment is intolerably high and the third problem, government spending, is growing rapidly. If you take the projection of the last 20 years of the rate of increased government spending at all three levels of government and project that at the same rate, by the year 2000 the government would absorb 55 percent of the Gross National Product of this nation and under those circumstances, you could not preserve a free society as we know it or free enterprise. Therefore, we are on a course which has to be halted and changed if we are going to preserve the basic system which has brought this country to the highest standard of living in the history of civilized man.

Too many people forget the fact that 85 percent of the revenue of government comes from directly or indirectly the free enterprise system, from the tax that the corporations pay, from the people they employ, the dividends they pay, and the taxes on both the income of the individuals and the dividends. Therefore, the President recognizes this. He sees the fundamental requirements for the American people of job opportunities in an expanding society, but that society depends on energy and that society depends on the ability of the society to formulate capital which can be reinvested for expansion, meet people's needs and provide jobs. But if you destroy the incentives, if you take away the possibility of capital formation through government expenditures for other objectives, then you have undermined the strength of the system and that is the basic situation we face and that is the one he recognizes.

So he has had the courage in the face of overwhelming social demands. And let's face it, ladies, this country on the basis of our Judeo-Christian heritage has had a deep concern for people. We have wanted to do for people those things which they couldn't do for themselves. That was Lincoln's concept. But you get the mixture of desire which is our tradition to be helpful to those in need, plus a slight political incentive for those of us who run for office, who tend to want to promise what we might do for somebody to help them and it does sort of somehow get related to the political scene and then people get to out-bidding each other. So what we have seen for the last 15 years is a nation which has overpromised and under delivered. We have promised more things than we have the revenues and the income to be able to do.

Not only that, we have overcommitted ourselves and we have overspent. So now we find ourselves in a situation where increasingly there are fiscal problems and deficits and now, fiscal crises. I hate to point to the tragedy

that has befallen New York City, but I think it is an illustration of what happens if you let your desire to spend to help get carried away because a family can't spend more than they have in income, a city can't, a State can't, and neither can the United States for very long without going bankrupt.

So while New York City's deficit was said to be \$600 million and it is causing the problems which they faced, although they have a little note which has accumulated a deficit of \$3.2 billion; but the Federal Government has a deficit that is going to run between 60, the President is trying to hold it at \$60 billion, but it is going to run closer to \$70 billion and the question is how long can that happen and preserve the solvency of this great nation and the system which has made it the most wonderful country, with freedom and opportunity for all than has ever been known in history.

These are the realities and effects. This President is facing them and I understand the situation, understand how he got into it, have been part of the problem. I have been one who has promised programs because we wanted to meet people's needs and with television, let's face it, ladies and gentlemen, those who don't happen to know all about what those who do have and have their interests and appetites stimulated and, therefore, we have gotten ourselves into this situation. Now the problem is how do we get out of it?

I might just say one word about the complexity of the situation we are in. On the spending side, first cities and people and then States moved in and started taking on programs and then the Federal Government followed. We have seen this tremendous increase in categorical grants, those grants for special purposes. There are now 863 Federal categorical grants, each one of which is for some special purpose. Each one requires that the State or the local community in order to get this Federal money must enrich and improve its program in that field if they have one, or set up one if they don't have it, and then they have got to live under Federal regulations created by the law and then in addition, there are the administrative regulations and then there are regional offices.

It got to a point after I had been in office for 15 years where I found we no longer could control our own administrative procedures because we were dependent on Federal regulations and for a while, I didn't take the Federal grants. But then you get attacked if you don't take the Federal money; then you are accused, why didn't you take that Federal money, even though it forces you to spend more.

So it has been a well-meaning purpose on everybody's part, but we now are caught up in a program or a series of programs and this is true in the field of regulations as well, regulations to try to serve some social purpose, but regulations which have inhibited further and further private enterprise, individuals, regulations which have created more and more uncertainty as to the future and therefore, making a commitment for an investment. How could you tell what the return was going to be, because

you don't know what the new regulations are, whether it is in water pollution, air pollution, safety, or whatever the area happens to be, all well-intentioned programs, all important programs; but, ladies and gentlemen, this President is now trying to reexamine the whole thing.

He has assigned this to the Domestic Council. He has asked me to hold hearings around the country so he can come up with a simplified structure which is within the capacity of this country to meet in our desire to meet the social needs of the individual citizens of America, but at the same time not do it in a way that cripples free enterprise and destroys the very strength that has been the vitality of this great free nation. This I think we can do, ladies and gentlemen.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I am optimistic about the future. I am optimistic that, one, we have the capacity to reexamine and the courage to take the steps necessary to restructure the whole structure of government programs to return to States and to local communities States' rights, if States are willing to accept their responsibilities. That is something I have always believed in. We have the resources as a nation to be self-sufficient in energy, to be self-sufficient in most raw materials and we have the leadership in Washington today which is tremendously important.

And I have faith in America and I have faith in the American people that we have the will to do these things. It is a free society. It takes tremendous self-discipline, but with leadership, I think the American people are willing to take the steps, make the sacrifices for the time being in order to reestablish the integrity and the strength of this great nation so that we will have the base for the future to continue our growth, to continue opportunity for all and to continue to lead for peace and freedom in the world.

And the Republican Party, ladies and gentlemen, in my opinion is the vehicle to accomplish these objectives for this great nation and you are the ones who are going to make it possible for us to come back in office as a party.

Thank you, very much, indeed.

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(AT 11:08 A.M. CDT)