

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of the Vice President
(Little Rock, Arkansas)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

(AT 5:25 P.M. CDT)

Win, I am very grateful to you for making this gathering possible and I want to tell you what a thrill it is for me to be here. I am nostalgic. I feel being with so many wonderful people in Arkansas and knowing how much you did for my brother, how much he loved you all, how much it meant to him and how proud we were in the family of many, and how thrilled we are that Win Paul, his wonderful son, is staying here with a lovely wife, two children. This is their home and he is carrying on the family tradition. We are very proud of him.

To your distinguished leaders, at the national level, and to all of you who are in the State and County organizations, let me express my respect and admiration because those who work in the Party are the ones that are the unsung heroes, in my opinion, of democracy, the Party of your choice.

You are the ones who make democracy alive and strong. You give the people the choice. You give them the issues; you select the candidates, and you do the work.

I just think that we, in this great free land, are indeed fortunate that it is a free land and that we are free citizens and that people not only enjoy opportunity but accept responsibility voluntarily on their own to do what the chairman and vice chairman are doing and what you all are doing.

So I would just like to thank you as a fellow Republican.

Just one more word about Win. As you know, he loved the land here; he loved the people, and he loved the opportunities of trying to do for this State and for the people of the State.

I know that we all share the pride of his legacy in what he did and his accomplishments. I think perhaps one of the nicest tributes was that his successor, who beat him, is now down in Washington as a Senator, always says that if it hadn't been for Win, I never would have had the opportunity to get into office in my own Party, which was the opposite Party, which I think says a very nice thing.

Whether you go through jobs for economic development or the first State minimum wage law or streamlining State government, just to mention a few of the items, or the opportunity without regard to race or creed and reform of

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insurance and securities industries. These are just some of the legacies which grew out of your support and the opportunity which you gave him in this great State.

I think that for me it is a great privilege to be here and it is a great privilege to be here as Vice President of the United States, and to work for a man whom I admire and respect.

I haven't really known President Ford but casually, prior to his asking me to come and join him. I have had the privilege firsthand, and learning of the extraordinary qualities which this man possesses: quiet, inner strength, total calm and poise inside; no complexes; no pressures.

He has got one interest. He didn't seek the office. He, by fate, got there. He has one interest which is to do the best possible job for the people of America that he can do.

He studies the problems and the issues and makes up his mind and makes the decision and when he makes that decision he sticks with it. He doesn't care whether it is politically to his disadvantage in the short term as long as he is sure it is to the best interests of the American people in the long term.

He bases those decisions on the fundamental belief in the values which made this country, which we have all believed in of freedom, human dignity, equality of opportunity, a deep belief in the free enterprise system, deep belief in fiscal integrity and of course this has led him into some difficult confrontations with the Congress because we have got a deficit, national deficit, that is \$60 billion and going higher.

He has been vetoing measures which are very appealing measures for education; measures for housing; measures for employment and with deep reluctance, he has vetoed these simply because he knows that if the deficits of the Federal Government mount further, it will refuel the fires of inflation.

That inflation hits 214 or 218 million people, however many we are now, and that that is the most insidious, the most cruel form of taxation because it takes people's life savings. It cuts down the value of their earnings and it destroys the whole structure and the fiber of our free society.

Therefore, he has made, trying to hold down and stop and slow down, or slow down and stop inflation as his basic objective.

Second, to get the economy back and going. With this, of course, one of the elements is the whole energy problem which he presented to Congress in his State of the Union with a very detailed plan after months of study to make this country self-sufficient in energy so that our national security will be protected and that we have the energy for an industrial society which is the basis of jobs.

Without energy, we can't have expansion of industry; we can't have growth of our economy, and we can't have the conveniences in our homes. He has made that another primary effort.

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As yet, unfortunately, there is no legislation of a comprehensive character, and while it looked in the last few weeks as though there might be a compromise worked out, that fell through in the caucuses in the Congress.

So what we got to do is just do our best and just try to keep this country on track and get it rolling and to get the economy so the people get jobs again, that industry and business prospers and produces the goods and services that we want, makes the jobs for people on the basis of equal opportunity, and then gives us the strength again so we can play our role for peace and freedom in the world. Those are the simple fundamental objectives he is working for.

I have never seen him with all the pressures and all the problems -- I have never seen him ruffled. After this tragic event of last weekend, he was walking on his way to Governor Brown's office in California and he went directly into the office. He sat down with Governor Brown after what had happened and talked to him for 40 minutes about the problems in California and never mentioned what he had been through.

Three of his aides were there. One of them was so upset he had to leave; another one had sweat just running down his face; and the third one concentrated on what the President was saying so he wouldn't remember what he had just seen happen.

The President, himself, was totally cool, totally calm and this extraordinary inner strength, deep sense of dedication and courage which he has.

I think he is the man for the times in this country. I am very proud and privileged to serve him. For those of you who haven't been in Washington, I can assure you that there is no function for the Vice President other than the great honor of presiding over the Senate, although I am not allowed to speak without unanimous consent which is a little tough on me.

(Laughter)

Other than that, I have no function except acting as a Staff Assistant to the President, which I am delighted to do. Any assignment he gives me, I do the best I can to carry it out. If he didn't give me one, I am perfectly happy to go back up to the Senate and look into the debates. I enjoy those, too. I have learned a great deal there.

To you legislators who are here, I would like to say this is my first experience in one of the legislative bodies and it is a very exciting, totally different experience than being on the Executive side, but it takes both, plus the Courts, to keep the country running.

I am grateful to all of you, thrilled to be back here and just want to say let's keep a vital two-party system in our country, which I think is the best insurance we have that America will stay strong and free. Thanks to all of you.

END (AT 5:35 PM. CDT)