

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 13, 1975

Office of the Vice President
(Enid, Oklahoma)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
VANCE AIR FORCE BASE
ENID, OKLAHOMA

(AT 4.40 P.M. CDT)

Senator Dewey Bartlett, I am so grateful to you and I want to tell you it is very exciting to me to be here in Enid and have this opportunity to meet so many wonderful people. I want to thank the Senator who is an old friend of mine -- he and I were governors together -- and your other Senator who is another great Senator, Henry Bellmon was also a governor and I was governor for so long that I was there with both of them.

The only reason he said all those nice things about me is just because I have been around so long that I have learned like this, just like anyone else picks up stuff when you are there. So I am deeply grateful to him for what he said. I would just like to say that you in Oklahoma have sent two of the most outstanding men to Washington as your representatives in the Senate of the United States.

It is my honor to preside over the Senate as the presiding officer, although I have to tell you that I can't speak without unanimous consent of the Senate. This is an unfortunate rule. It was not personal. This is in the Constitution so that it has nothing to do with me, but I do miss the opportunity of talking there. I have got to say when I listen, I have reactions. I would like to participate, but that is not my role. Otherwise, I am just a staff assistant to the President of the United States which is an honor, a privilege and a pleasure and I will do anything I can to help him because I think he is a uniquely great man at this particular moment in history. He has a deep faith and belief in America and all of the values that made America.

I want to tell you being here in Oklahoma and in Enid, I would like to thank the band because they are marvelous and they have kept everybody happy here. I would like to thank them for playing Sweet Georgia Brown, which is my favorite piece. That dates me, but it is a great piece just the same.

Mr. Mayor, I want to thank you for being here. You were very generous and kind to come out and I would like to thank everybody in this audience for being here, give me a chance to meet you and say hello. We saw the first half of one of the great football games. I have got to tell you, your team is out of this world, and the way they play. I almost came with a cap. I had on Oklahoma U cap, a big red cap, but I was afraid you would think that I was getting a little wacky if I wore it.

But this is a very exciting occasion for me and I want to tell you that I am very impressed and very delighted

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and very appreciative of the opportunity of being with your Republican State Chairman, Paula Unruh, and to me this is symbolic of the vitality of this great country and the vitality of the State and also the progress that we are making in the State to have a woman chairman. I am very impressed with that and she is tremendous. We are very fortunate that she has taken that; and I just came from a county where there was a woman chairman of the county. So that you girls down here in the front row better join the Republican Party because you got a great chance there for a future in leadership. This is really exciting.

Also, I want to say that to be here with Skip Healy and Grace Boulton, your Republican National Committeeman and your Republican National Committeewoman; as you all know, the Republican organization has a national organization just as the Democratic Party does and we send representatives of that organization to Washington. You are wonderfully represented there as well. You also have a very wonderful Finance Chairman in Bud Champlin and he is here and of Bill Taylor, who is the Garfield County Chairman. So I would like to thank all of them.

I would just like to sort of make a comment about this question of democracy and two-party system. We are very fortunate to live in a free country, but we can't take freedom for granted. We have got to keep protecting it and assuring it. The fact that we have men and women who are willing as those who are here present in both parties to give of their time and energy to organize the political structures of a free society to keep that society alive and strong, this is the lifeblood of democracy. So I am filled with admiration. They are the unsung heroes of this system of ours, as are the men and women who work in the parties and who spend the time in elections, crystalizing the issues, going to the people, talking about the issues and electing or nominating candidates and presenting the candidate. This is our system and we want to keep it that way.

We have got some problems as a nation. There are problems in the world today and you have seen some of those problems because no State in the Union has done a more effective job in agriculture and producing grain, wheat than you have. Now we have got some complications about the shipping of that wheat abroad and the sale of that wheat. I have a letter in my pocket about it that I am taking back to the President with me. And we have got a complication because the union has become involved and they refused to load the ships that were going to the Soviet Union and they wanted to see the grain shipped in American bottoms with American seamen and that costs more than it does in other ships. This is the way it goes; life is very complicated.

We are very dependent today. We depend on other countries; they depend on us and, therefore, it becomes more complicated. And the President of the United States, a man of tremendous dedication, he didn't ask for the job, found himself there by circumstances and his whole philosophy is he wants to do the best job for America he can. He wants to understand the problems, figure out what is right for America, the best for the long term and do that,

even though it may not be popular at the moment. That is the kind of leadership this country needs today to get us straightened out because we have got some tough problems.

So energy is number one. We find that we are dependent on other countries for importation of energy. They can cut off the supply and, therefore, our national security, just as in the area of military security, is vulnerable to the cut off of supply of energy. You depend on energy on the farms as we do in the cities or in any part of the country. That is number one, get this country independent, self-sufficient in energy.

Two is to get the economy rolling so that there is more opportunity for employment for all people in this country and, three, which he is working on, is to hold down inflation and he is trying to stop some of the spending. He has been vetoing very popular measures, to help schools, help housing, help employment, in government jobs. These are all things that we all want to see done, but what we have got to realize, just like a family, we can't spend more money than we have income or pretty soon we get into financial trouble.

That is one of the tragedies that has happened in New York City, that they got into a little financial trouble and the Federal Government has got a \$60 billion deficit and it could go to \$70 billion and then that starts to push inflation again, and the most serious thing that could happen to this country is to get back into inflation because that is like a hidden, insidious tax that takes away your savings and takes away your buying power on your earnings. So he wants to stop that. He has got the courage.

Now, we have a whole series of programs that have been started the last 20, 30 years to try and help people in all fields and we have been spending more money than we have income. Therefore, in these social programs, and they are now subject to a great deal of abuse. People who don't need the help are getting it. We had a lot of trouble with that in New York. We tried to get what we called the cheats off the welfare rolls, people who didn't need to be on, but who got themselves on.

We tried one thing. They said anybody who is able-bodied, who was on welfare, had to come and pick up the check. We had to mail it to them. You wouldn't believe it, but the first month, 22 persons didn't show up. They were maybe out, maybe down in the South, maybe they had gone abroad or something. I don't know. But we just cut them off the roll. Then we said anybody who is able-bodied who is getting welfare would have to take a job and if they couldn't get a job in private life, then they would have to spend some time working for their community equal to the amount of money they received.

That seemed reasonable to me, but we got sued by the Federal Government. They said you haven't got a right to do that. I only mention these things because we have tried to do a lot of things to help people and we have done it in a way that has gotten complicated and has got a lot of bureaucracy and red tape and now the President wants to take and reexamine these programs and get them back on an

efficient, sound basis where those who really need help will get it and those who don't, won't, and get the economy going so people can get jobs who want to get jobs and have the security. That is what we are trying to do.

He has asked me to have a series of hearings around the country which I will start shortly, on economic and social problems, to see how he can come up in January in his State of the Union message to the American people, we give them various options, as to program that will help us get back on a sound basis, to help reestablish the pioneer spirit in America which you personify and which your great State has demonstrated and which this community shows and where individual initiative and private enterprise, which is the vitality and strength of America, and sound fiscal policies get together with our social programs so that we do the things to help people that we want to help, who need help, but to do it on a sound basis and within our capacity so that we don't follow down a course that will destroy the very strength of the greatest nation of the world, which is America.

I am thrilled to be here. I am proud to be an American. I am optimistic about the future and I want to tell you with the wonderful people who are here, you have two people down here discussing whether they should take my picture or not, and that is a great question. Do you want me to make some gesture? I think he wants to get the Senator. Do you want to get the Senator in the picture, too? Come on, Dewey. Come over here. We will get together, then he can take it. Then he has two of us for one picture. That is right. He took it. Okay.

With that picture, I will say thank you, to everybody. I am thrilled to be here and I didn't mention the Colonel who is in charge of the base. I apologize. There are three Colonels. This is the top Colonel. There are two other Colonels here. I want to thank all of the Colonels and I would just like to thank those men and women who are in the armed forces who protect the security of this country, the freedom of this country and the opportunity to have a free choice. That is our American armed forces. We are grateful to them and proud of them. I am delighted to be here with them.

Thank you, very much.

I would also just mention that we need a good, strong intelligence system so that we find out what is going on, those who are trying to destroy us. So let's not let the intelligence system of the United States be destroyed in the process of protecting individual rights which we want to do, can do in this country.

Best of luck to all of you. Thanks for coming and I will see you again; and congratulations on your football team.

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(AT 4:55 P.M. CDT)