

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 13, 1975

Office of the Vice President
(Enid, Oklahoma)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
REPUBLICAN COUNTY FUND-RAISING DINNER
ENID, OKLAHOMA

(AT 8:04 P.M. CDT)

Thank you, very much.

Steve, you have got to be a very **generous** friend. That is all I can tell you. That was a very thoughtful and understanding introduction and I have got to say you bring back some very happy memories when Malcolm and I went to the 62 counties in New York and met with, as you say, the chairmen and the vice chairmen of all the county committee members in each county of the State, sat down, talked to them about the problems. We had at that point a convention system so the counties could come out, take a position in defense of the convention if they wanted it. That was the way it worked at that time. So that sort of campaign went on all summer and slowly it worked out and then it started to come out and it got to be a little bit of a snowball operation. But Malcolm Wilson is the one who deserves the credit.

There is no more brilliant and dedicated and knowledgeable public official than Malcolm Wilson, 20 years in the Legislature of the State of New York, 15 years as Lieutenant Governor and then when I resigned, he became Governor. So it was a happy association and you made it very nostalgic and I am grateful to you for your part in it and for helping us.

I must say, to me this is sort of America and all that one feels is wonderful and great about our country right here this evening, people who care enough about their country, and who are willing to accept responsibility, whether it is the leaders of the Party, men like Dewey Bartlett who was a Governor, now Senator, and is my good friend; Henry Bellmon who also was Governor and now is Senator, and you have two wonderful Senators representing you not only you, but the whole country, and we are grateful to you. We need that kind of deeply dedicated men and women in the Congress of the United States.

Then we need people like Paula Unruh, who are willing to give of their time and energy to lead the State organizations of the Party of their choice because really in this country, we have got basically two parties. We need a two-party system and then you have all of the Party leaders from the chairmen, county chairmen, district leaders, captains, and so forth, and all the workers. I have got to say there are no more wonderful workers in the party than the women and I am very grateful to the women of the Party because I don't think I would be here if it hadn't been for their devotion and work. So I would like to say a special word there.

NOPE

Then, of course, we have those of you who have been the contributors and who are here tonight and I think Emma Neal really personifies that concern, that leadership, sale of tickets, but you can't sell tickets unless somebody buys them. So you have got to have that combination of those workers who will go and she is the one who has been picked out because of the sales, the maximum sales tonight, but believe me, those of us who are in public life, those of us who are active in the Party are deeply grateful to those of you who care enough about this country and the two-party system to be willing to contribute and to make possible the activities of the Party. So through your presence and your contributions, you make possible Party official and the leaders and the workers, their capacity to get to the people.

Of course, this is a county affair and you have got a great State and the State has created, and this is under the new finance law which is a mightly complicated one as anybody who is a lawyer here, who has tried to study or anybody who has tried to raise money under it or given money under it, but your Chairman has set up a State Candidate Reserve Fund which is going to be tremendously important in supporting the two Senators, if they run again, the Congressmen, men or women, and the legislators and others because we are going to have this kind of structure. I know that those who manage that fund will be deeply grateful for any support that comes out of this Party that gets in their hands so they can hold it until you have elections and they can support your candidate.

So I feel as though I was here in a State that symbolizes all the values that we think are the best in America, the pioneer spirit.

I am very grateful to a young man named Randy. I left the card there. I may have dropped it on the way over. I have got his picture; Randy Adams, eight years old, who made this little rig for me. These are made out of paper clips. This is wire and he sent it to me with his picture and he has got, I don't know whether Randy is here tonight, but it is a little message he wrote, saying welcome. I would just like to say I think this is the kind of creativity, imagination and enterprise that personifies the best in America. Here is someone starting at the age of eight and a half years and reaching out to a friend who comes to visit with a creative, artistic creation which is symbolic of one of the two major assets of your great State.

I am delighted and it does have some symbolism to me, too, I must say, unless it is a windmill.

(Laughter.)

I choose to take it as an oil rig, but maybe it could just be a windmill to pump water. Whichever way it is, we need water, too. I was on a lot of commissions. That is true. I am Chairman of the Water Quality Commission. That study dealt with the whole question of how do we clean up the water of this great nation of ours and do it without causing expenditures which are beyond the capacity of private enterprise and communities; but that is another question and we won't get into that one here.

So, I would like to salute all of you who are in the Party and who are working, Skip and Grace and Bud Champlin and, of course, Dr. Bill Taylor who is your County Chairman and who has organized this Party. I just want to especially thank him for the pleasure and opportunity of being with you.

Happy Camp is here, too, your ex-Congressman, and I had a visit with him before. We miss him in Washington, but awful glad he is here tonight.

Let me just say a few words about where we are and the President's approach to the problem that this nation faces. I think there are two characteristics of our times which are particularly difficult to cope with and particularly difficult for a free society and an open society. One, we are living in an increasingly interdependent world where the activities that go on in other parts of the world because of this dependence and their dependence on us, influences us; and you have seen that in the area of agriculture, and you have seen it in the area of energy and oil.

These are the two major areas that have impacted the United States as a result of our dependence or interdependence with the rest of the world. The world is growing very rapidly in population. They cannot produce enough food or at least, they are not producing the food to feed the rapid growth of their populations and they look more and more to the United States and the Soviet Union, two years ago made those large purchases and now they are back in the market again.

We have increased our production, thanks to your ingenuity and imagination and hard work and drive and then we got into this very complex situation we are in now which is the cause of a great deal of concern. After 10 million tons of wheat had been sold, then we got into the problem of whether the unions would load the ships. This is causing a great deal of difficulty right back here. I have talked to a great many people here and I have talked to a few over in Arkansas on the same problem.

But it is a complicated situation because -- this is a part of the whole question of interrelationships -- our American shipping is unionized and the rates paid to American sailors running merchant ships are much higher than those paid to sailors on other ships. Therefore, it is a lot cheaper if you are buying something from the United States to ship it in somebody else's ship and not ours. Obviously, the unions want to see our boats used because that means their membership will get employment. When ships are scarce, then the prices are high enough so that we can compete. At the moment, with oil shipments down and the large construction, they are using a lot of tankers, oil tankers to ship grain, that is a lot cheaper than shipping it in the ships that were available on the American merchant fleet.

So the prices now are down around \$5 and an American ship price would be around \$17. That really is at the heart of the problems that George Meany has been trying to deal with. He is trying to get the Soviets to use at least a third, or ship at least a third of their grain in

American bottoms, so-called, which will cost them about \$80 million more. Naturally, they are not too enthusiastic about it. In that little argument that went on, he just sort of got to a point where his men didn't load the ships, which helped his side of the argument. That is really the basis of this thing.

Of course, there are other discussions about the price of food for people in the big cities and so forth and that is a popular issue in many areas, but let's face it, those of us who live in big cities, we recognize that your costs have gone up, that your costs for fertilizer, because of the shortage of energy, your costs of machinery, equipment and tractors have just skyrocketed and that, therefore, you have got to earn more for your grain or whatever you are producing in order to make a profit. You can't make a profit, you are not going to produce.

So we are in this spiral which is complicated; but it is basically part of this interdependence. We see the same thing in the oil field. We were an exporter of oil and in the sixties, we finally got to a point where our consumption grew more rapidly than our production and we finally started to be a net importer. When we got to that point, other countries who were exporters had us. We didn't realize it; we didn't anticipate it; but we are sort of that way sometimes. We don't look too far, we are so busy doing what we are doing now. All of a sudden, they got together and said, why shouldn't we raise the price. We have got a corner on the market. They need it. So they just raised the price 500 percent, like that.

It has caused devastating impact. We were lucky because we still had a lot of oil. This whole argument has been going on in the Congress for the last year between the President who sent up a plan, and the Congress which hasn't been able to act for whatever the reasons may be, I am not here to judge -- and one has to say that the members of Congress are dedicated, devoted Americans. Maybe a little Party politics does slip into these things sometimes and the opposition party does have a two-to-one control, so that is a factor; but we wouldn't want to get into that at this bipartisan gathering here. But the result has been no action.

The President said we have got to become independent in energy, self-sufficient by 1985 and we are slipping the wrong way. We are importing more oil now and if it weren't for your exports of grain and the foreign exchange you are earning, we wouldn't be able to pay for the oil that we are importing.

If my good friend Henry Kissinger hadn't gotten a reprieve in the Middle East for, let's hope three years, if that treaty or whatever you want to call it is worked out is ratified, they might have gotten back to war. We might have gotten involved, it might have spread to a larger world confrontation and then we might have gotten back into another oil embargo and then we would really be up a creek because those of us who live on the East Coast depend 90 percent on energy imported from outside with our form of transportation. So not only are we internationally interdependent, but we are going through a period which is the

other facet of major accelerating changes which are terribly hard to cope with. Just in these changes of prices, unemployment, recession.

So this is a very difficult period for a democracy, for a free people. It is true of other societies. These are the problems and this interdependency I might say and should have said is not only interdependence between nations, but it is interdependence between Federal, State, and local governments. I believe very strongly in the Federal system. I always have been a strong believer in States' rights and States assuming their responsibilities.

Now we have gotten so mixed up with the Federal Government coming into programs and there are 863 categorical grants to aid State and local government in meeting social problems, whether it is health, education, et cetera, that nobody, really no one elected official anymore -- this is true of county government, it is true of cities, it is true of States -- can control their own programs because they all depend on money and for legislative restrictions on all three levels of government.

So it has gotten very complicated. It has gotten too complicated. It has gotten in the hands of bureaucracy and it has got a lot of red tape and there is a lot of overlap and duplication. To add and compound the situation, we have promised more than we can deliver and we now find ourselves in a serious fiscal situation which is dramatized to the entire world by the tragedy of what has happened to New York City where they come very close to going bankrupt. But it isn't just New York City and one has to look at the Federal budget which is running -- the President is trying to hold it at \$60 billion deficit, but it may go higher and he keeps vetoing programs all of which are very attractive.

We all want to do more for people, but it is just like a family. You would like to do for your children, but you can't do more than you have in the way of income. You can't spend more and go into bankruptcy as a family. We are in that situation at the local level, State level, and the national level. We have got to face these hard realities. We would like to do these things. We don't have the income. The more we take out of private enterprise in taxes and people to give away, the more it is depressing to the creativity of the free enterprise system and the more regulations we put on them, the less it is possible for them to expand and create jobs. So it is sort of a vicious circle.

President Ford understands this. He is trying by his vetoes which take a lot of courage because they are politically unpopular, except he says if this deficit grows we are going to get back into inflation and inflation is the worst of all of the most insidious forms of taxation, particularly on those who are retired. It destroys their savings. It takes the earning power of those who are earning money and reduces their buying power. So he is trying to hold down inflation by keeping down the Federal deficit.

These are complicated problems; but he set three basic goals. One is energy, as I said. So far he has not been successful in getting any of the comprehensive programs

which he presented to the Congress in his State of the Union message. Energy is essential to an industrial society. It is essential to you in the agricultural field. Gas is essential to farmers. Yet, we are running a very serious risk this winter because government-related gas prices are way below the cost of replacement. We are running short of gas. The government won't let gas in one State be transported to another except at this low price.

Therefore, if this winter is a cold winter and they allocate gas to homes instead of factories, factories are going to close. People are going to be thrown out of work. Ohio had 600,000 man-days of work loss last year due to lack of gas for industry, when they had to close. If it is bad this winter, then industry will buy propane because it is more expensive, but at least they have got to have something. If they buy propane, that is what you use out here in the agricultural States, the biggest producing States, and then that price is going to go up.

So these are those complicated interrelationships that I am talking about and, therefore, I am totally in agreement with the President. We have got to produce what we have and God gave us in the way of energy. It may be more expensive to produce it, but let's have enough energy because an industrial society can't operate without it, industry can't expand, agriculture can't expand and, therefore, employment can't expand and we can't have jobs for the young people who are coming on or those who are there.

Not only that, but our national security depends on it so we can't be blackmailed by a nation saying we won't sell you any or we won't give you any, we won't ship you any.

His second one is the restoration of the economic strength of America. Without a dynamic, growing economy in this country, we are not going to have jobs, we are not going to have the capacity to meet people's needs at home, nor are we going to have the capacity to meet our responsibilities around the world. So that is essential. So the stimulation of the economy is basic and that economy is built on free enterprise and individual initiative. That has got to be unshackled and freed so it can roll and we can get this job done for our country.

The last one is what I alluded to before and that is all of these programs that have been developed to regulate or to make available assistance to protect people or to help people. We all want to do it. I mentioned the number, but we have got to -- this is the President's objective -- eliminate the abuses and the red tape and the overlapping of the social programs that are multiple throughout our government. We have to restore basic fiscal integrity, efficiency and economy in government operations so that we as a society can better meet the genuine needs of people who need help.

Basically, this country in 200 years has achieved the highest standard of living and the best health and the best education for more people than any other society in the history of civilized man. It was done by the free, private enterprise. We have got to get back to that.

The President has asked the Domestic Council of which I am vice chairman to take hold of this, review all of these things. He asked me to go around the country which I will be starting sometime later in this year, a series of hearings with the public to discuss how we can reshape these very complex things, get them back into a simple form where they will do what they are supposed to do, do it economically and efficiently and cut out the abuses and the bureaucracy that now exists.

I think we can come up with recommendations for him which he can present to the Congress after he selects what he wants and decides how he wants to do it; come up with a legislative program next year which will offer this country an alternative and the way to get back on the track. I think it is essential.

This man, for those of you who don't know him, is an extraordinary person. He has got total calm inside. He is at peace with himself. He didn't seek the job. By fate, he arrived there and his whole approach is I want to do the best for the American people that I can. He studies the issues very carefully. He finds what he thinks is the right answer after consultation. He takes the position and he takes the position to reflect the best long-term interests of the American people based on our fundamental values and concepts as a society. Those aren't very popular sometimes; but he is not afraid of taking an unpopular position because he wants to do what is right.

I think that is the kind of leadership this country needs now, that has the courage to do what is right and not just what is popular for the moment. I have been delighted to work for him and to help in any way that I could and I have got to say to you that despite all of the things I have been saying, I am very optimistic about the future. I think we have all the abilities to do this. We have got the capacity as a people. We have got the will. We have got the resources. We have got the leadership in President Ford to deal with these problems.

I just think it is going to take a little self-discipline on the part of all of us as citizens and each group who has got a special lobby and they have got that little one program of their own and want to keep it, they want everybody else to step back, but just don't touch my program. All of us, let's do what is right and if we have to step back a little bit, all of us do it. Let's all do it together, but let's get this country back on the track.

I think we can do it. I think we will. I have great faith in America. I have tremendous faith in the American people and I just think this is the greatest nation in the world and we are so fortunate to be here at this moment. I am very fortunate to be here at this moment in your great State, that I just think we ought to -- in the opening invocation which the Reverend made, I just think we ought to be very grateful for what God has given us and the opportunities and let's get back to those fundamental values and get our nation back on the track.

I thank you very much for letting me come here and being with you. Best of luck to all of you.