

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 16, 1975

Office of the Vice President
(Roanoke, Virginia)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT GENERAL GOP RECEPTION
HOTEL ROANOKE, SHENANDOAH ROOM
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

(AT 7:50 P.M. EDT)

Mr. President, and Congressman Butler, to Mr. Creasy and his lovely wife, this is a very moving and touching occasion. I have to say it means a great deal to me because I knew Dr. Goodwin through my father.

I started working with my father. The first job I had coming out of college was to work with him on Williamsburg, on the restoration. That was before anything had been done, so that gives away some of the dates that relate to all of these activities and my association with him.

But you have no idea how much this means to me because these were very meaningful and happy years. My father and my mother came to love, came to know, and feel a very real part of Williamsburg and the wonderful families of Williamsburg whom they visited with and spent a great deal of time exchanging visits with them. So that this to me is an extremely meaningful and happy occasion.

I don't think anything that my father undertook during his lifetime meant more to him than the opportunity to work with Virginians in the restoration of the original British capital here in the western hemisphere.

I remember having many years later when the World Bank was formed invited the directors of the World Bank there and talking with the Indian delegate and mentioning to him what an extraordinary heritage we both shared in the colonial life of the British and what a tremendous contribution they had made to our country and to the world.

I think that this occasion brings back that association with them. That also brings back the fact that only two weeks ago I went over to cut the ribbon on the Franklin-Jefferson Exhibition which was being opened in London with the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Foreign Secretary, whatever he is called, and the various dignitaries.

The interesting thing is that here is a colonial people who have established on their own a great nation but who still have the closest and most friendly ties with the original parent nation. This is a very happy association.

So that all in all I would like to express my deep thanks to everyone who is involved and say to Mr. and Mrs. Creasy that this brings back very happy memories. The only thing is I think it should be dedicated to my father because he did the work. I was

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in sort of the same relation to him that I am with the President. I am a staff assistant.

(Laughter.)

I can look back at those 15 years as Governor. But I am a staff assistant both for my father and a great President. So, gentlemen, thank you very much; Mr. President, for your thoughtfulness. I am glad we are with the good guys here today.

(Laughter.)

I was told everybody in Virginia was a good guy. Isn't that right?

(Applause.)

But I am very honored to be here this evening and to me this is a very special occasion. I want to thank John Dalton, your distinguished Lieutenant Governor, for his presence. This is a very happy occasion. I went down and spoke to the Lieutenant Governor some weeks ago and have been associated with him for a long time, and I am very grateful to him for his presence.

I would like to express appreciation for the Governor's having met us at the plane.

Your other distinguished Congressman who is here, Mr. Wampler, I would like to congratulate him for his very important contribution, along with that of Mr. Butler's, not only representing your interests in the Congress but representing the interests of the United States in the Congress. You can be very proud of the fact that you have two such courageous, such farsighted, and such distinguished Representatives.

(Applause.)

One of the exciting things, of course -- well, there are two very exciting things. One, that you have in a very short period of time made this a two-party State. I happen to believe in the two-party system. I think this is the strength and vitality of democracy and that it is the best assurance for the people that they are going to have good government and that in the long run the best politics is good government, or good government is the best politics. At least that is what I have always thought. So that a two-party system assures that opportunity for the people to protect their own.

It is a very exciting thing to be here at a moment when you have so many wonderful candidates running for local legislative offices. And this to me is a very exciting thing.

I have been in the State office for a long time and as Governor know the meaning of responsible and responsive legislators and local legislators at the county level. Those of us who have had the privilege of being associated with local government and State government

understand the value that the government closest to the people is the best government. That is the Republican tradition. It is an American tradition. We want to keep it that way.

(Applause.)

You have running the largest number, and that is this year, the largest number of representatives for the Senate and what we call Assembly. It is a slightly different title here. I have got: House of Delegates, which has a nice ring to it. But you have the largest number running at any time in the history of the State of Republicans.

I think this is a great moment. I am delighted to be a participant in this gathering. And I would just like to say this, that the elections this year, 1975, are the important elections for 1976, because this is where the pattern is going to be set, where the people are going to participate, where they are going to have a chance to express themselves. And to have selected such outstanding men and women that you have to represent the party at the local level is going to give it strength and vitality for the national elections next year.

We are in a very crucial moment in the history of our country. So I would like to congratulate not only your two Congressmen, who don't have to run this year --

(Laughter.)

But they obviously show their deep interest by their presence here this evening, which is a very significant thing.

I congratulate the Legislators and also I would like to congratulate the party leaders because let's face it, ladies and gentlemen, the party leaders are those men and women who are willing to give of their time and effort, year in and year out, week after week, day after day, to preserve the vitality of our system, to organize the party, to raise the funds.

I would like to parenthetically say there to congratulate your Chairman, your Finance Chairman, and to express deep appreciation to all of you who are here as supporters of the party, financial supporters. And I didn't get that cut you referred to yet.

(Laughter.)

I just think that one of the most important things and one of the great traditions of our country is that people have cared enough about democracy, cared enough about the vitality of this country, that they are willing to give of themselves and of their treasure to support the party of their choice.

This has got to be America. Without it we are not going to keep a democracy. Too many people who live here in this great Nation of ours take freedom for granted. It has to be rerung and supported all of the time.

When you see some of these people who come from abroad and come here to seek opportunity and freedom and you see what democracy and what freedom means to them, we begin to appreciate what we have and take for granted. Meetings like this are what is going to keep this and keep it strong. So I am just proud to be a Republican, proud to be an American, and proud to be with you on this occasion.

(Applause.)

I think George and Francis who are your leaders deserve special credit because they are the organizers, they are the ones who take the responsibility in the last analysis with the County Chairman and Co-chairmen, and who raise the funds, pick the candidates, crystallize the issues, take the issues to the public, organize the campaigns for those of us who have been fortunate to be nominated for office by our party, at whatever level.

(Laughter.)

I would like to say a special word to the women and to the young people because they are the ones who are the best workers in the party. The men are very generous in their support. But it is the women and the young people who do the work.

(Applause.)

That is right. So I want to thank you and through all of you, all of the other women who are not here.

And let's face it, as these new restrictions on giving have been imposed, it is going to be all the more important because we are not going to be able as parties to use the media, and we respect the media with great appropriateness, but it is very expensive to get on the media involuntarily. You have got to buy time. So we are going to have to go and ring doorbells. We are going to have to get the mail out. We are going to have to do the visits to the home, the telephone conversations.

These are going to be the things that are going to count at elections. We have to communicate with the people. So as one who has run in a great many elections --

(Laughter.)

I know these things. I would just like to say thank you to everybody who is here and who is doing for the party because you love this country, you care about this country, and therefore you want to be a part of where the action is.

Now, that relates to tonight and to this party. But I would like to just say a word, because while I believe that the most important action in terms of government -- George, you will have a chance to talk on the campaign trail to the unconverted before you get through. But just let me say a word about our President

and the problems this country faces. I will make it brief because you want to get to your own campaigns.

We have got a man who did not seek the office, who was, by the wisdom of the Congress of the United States passing the 25th Amendment, what was it, 10 or 12 years ago -- 8 years, okay -- and then by the courage of the members of the Judiciary Committee, and believe me, ladies and gentlemen, if you haven't been screened by this committee, you don't know what a screening is.

(Applause and Laughter.)

As I said at the press conference today, the irony is after having gone through four months of this, after being investigated by 500 FBI agents throughout this country, I was appointed by the President as Chairman of the Committee on Privacy.

(Laughter.)

I have none left. But maybe I am supposed to know the value of it, and I can tell you I do. But that is an aside.

But through this wisdom of the Congress, through this appointment through the 25th Amendment, the Constitution of the United States stood firm in a moment of difficulty for this Nation and we stayed strong. We went through a transition and we have a man who is a leader, a man of great integrity, a man of openness, which is very important at this particular moment in our history, a man of great courage who is willing and who is the hardest working man I have ever seen to study the issues that face us, to take the time to listen to all sides and then to make a decision, and when he makes a decision he does it for the long term best interest of America and the American people, regardless of short term political considerations.

(Applause.)

This is tough, but he has got it and he has got more courage and more dedication, and his fundamental belief is in the values on which this country was founded and built and grew to its greatness.

He wants to see those restored and brought back. He is worried about the size of the Federal Government, about bureaucracy, about red tape and the loss of mobility and action at the State and local level, and the loss of the freedom of the private citizen and of free enterprise and its ability to be responsive to meet the needs of people, to use its creativity, its imagination, and to invest money with certainty that it could be done to produce goods and services which are a return on capital and, therefore, there would be additional money to invest.

This man understands this and believes in this and has the courage to stand for those principles. This is the kind of leadership we need in a very difficult period. We have got that period.

But we have the greatest country in the world.

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There isn't a person anywhere else in the world that wouldn't like to live here. When you think we have got problems, just think everybody else would like to be here and would give their eye teeth to be in our place.

(Applause.)

We have got the people and we have the resources. Let's get back to work. That is all we need to do. We just put this country right back where it was with the same kind of strength and vitality and determination which it has always had, which has brought us to our greatness, which will bring us back to the position of leadership and economic strength to meet our own needs and to fulfill our responsibilities throughout the world.

I think we have got the elements. We just need to have faith in ourselves; and let's face it, ladies and gentlemen, there are no problems that we have in this country that Americans face today that Americans can't solve themselves. That is what we have got to do.

(Applause.)

I could go into a description of a lot of these problems. I have spent hours, I have spent my life studying problems. I love problems, to tell you the truth. I love problems and people. That is the ideal concern, if you want to be in the public life, because there is plenty of both.

That is why I enjoy a meeting like this. I have an opportunity to meet wonderful people. Some I have known before; some I haven't. I am grateful for the opportunity of meeting those of you whom I hadn't known.

But we have got problems. But there are no problems we can't meet and that we can't deal with.

I would just like to say one thing. We are increasingly interdependent in the world and have got a very fundamental ideological difference, a split in the world, between the Communist world and the free world.

This is a very fundamental situation between those who believe that the individual is a spiritual human being, who believe in the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God; and those who believe the individual is a cog in the machine and who is disciplined and dominated and used by the State.

That is the fundamental heart of this thing, and they now control half the world. Let's not kid ourselves.

So in this situation and with the things that have happened, we are lucky to have the person as our leader who believes in what he does and the faith of this country. And we are very lucky to have a Secretary of State with the brilliance, the sophistication, and the tireless energy to deal with these complex international problems, including detente, because we have got this very

serious struggle going on in the world. We don't want a confrontation in military action. We don't want a nuclear war or another world struggle. Therefore, detente is the essential element to make possible peaceful solutions. But you can't have detente without military and economic strength.

(Applause.)

I made a speech on this subject in Virginia only a week ago at the launching of the Eisenhower, which is the greatest aircraft carrier this country has ever produced, and it was a very simple but fundamental analysis of the growth of the Soviet military power.

There was no word in the press on it. That is not quite true of some of the press here.

(Laughter.)

But let me just say we cannot go on in this country and enjoy the opportunity we have and meet the problems without facing the tough, hard realities that freedom and peace don't come just by sitting on the porch and rocking.

We have got to face these hard realities and we have got to meet them. We are fortunate that we have as the leader in our international relations Dr. Henry Kissinger who, in my opinion, is one of the great Americans and who understands peace as few people do and freedom because he comes from where they didn't have any.

(Applause.)

I would just like to end on the note that we are fortunate in this country that throughout America there are groups like this that are meeting, because to me this is America right here in this room and this is the best of America.

You care. You want to keep this country alive and strong, and we can do it, and we are going to do it. But let's not relax and let's not lose faith in ourselves, faith in our country, or faith in the future.

I thank you very much for letting me be with you. God bless you all.

(Applause.)

END

(AT 8:10 P.M. EDT)