

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 23, 1975

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
(DECATUR, ILLINOIS)

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REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
AT THE  
MACON COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
FUND RAISING DINNER  
HOLIDAY INN  
DECATUR, ILLINOIS

(AT 8:55 P.M. CDT)

Thank you.

Reverend Clergy, my good friend, Skinny, it did take two years, but I made it. George has been working on me. I have been trying to get here. I didn't get confirmed by the Congress, you know.

(Laughter.)

I was going to come out prior to elections last year, see, but then somebody figured out it would be better to delay the confirmation so I wouldn't be able to campaign for Republicans. I think that included the governor in a State that shouldn't be mentioned.

(Laughter.)

I can't tell you how delighted I am to be here and glad to get here on that 50th anniversary.

(Laughter.)

All I can say is, to Dr. Miller, that I hope he invested that money in Arthur Daniels Midland.

(Laughter and Applause.)

My grandfather had discretion, though. It showed me he was aware of what was good. I want to tell you Decatur is a great place. There are an awful lot of friendly people here and an awful lot of them in this room. A lot of them were at the airport. If I didn't get picketed, I would have to tell you, I would feel neglected.

(Laughter.)

So I was very grateful for the attention. I got a note from a little boy. As a matter of fact, I got quite a few notes. This gentleman came up along the fence and he handed me a note. This note is from his son. It says, "Dear Rocky, I hope you have a good time in Decatur. I am innocent with no gun. Will you come to my house for homemade cookies and see my beer can collection?"

(Laughter.)

"Signed Rick

(Laughter.)

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I would like to have done that, too, because I have two boys, Happy and I have two boys. One is eight and one is 11. They are bottle collectors. We have a place out in the country. They have located all the old houses or at least where they used to be are the foundations. They spend their time digging in these foundations.

They have really developed an extraordinary, highly competitive business. Not a bad system. It has gotten us quite a long way in this country. They have both developed very interesting collections. They know all the bottles and when the seam comes up to here it is such and such a date.

When it goes along here, it is a different date. I would like to see the beer collection. If you know Rick, tell him I am sorry not to have gotten to his home, and that I missed the cookies and am sorry not to see his collection.

But it is a pleasure to be here. I would like to thank Dr. Miller for taking over the responsibility of my good friend, the Congressman who is on his way. I understand the problem of travelling. It is not easy. But I would like to say that it is obvious that Dr. Miller is the distinguished college President, not a politician because no politician ever asked people to stand and ask the audience to applaud after they stand.

(Laughter.)

That is the toughest thing for a politician, to stand and have a totally silent audience. I want to apologize to all distinguished guests. I wanted to clap for each and every one of you.

(Laughter.)

I would like to say what a pleasure it is to be here with Don Adams. I think he was awfully kind to come and to Teddie Inman. I think she was very kind to come. I am honored to be here. Let us face it, I have a tremendous feeling about the Republican Party.

To be in sort of Lincoln Country. I know that your Congressman, Ed Madigan was born in Lincoln, Illinois. It has sort of a nice ring to it. He was our founder. You all were a lot closer to that heritage because of the proximity and the historic associations which you have.

But I have to think that there is a little bit of Lincoln in everyone of us who are Republicans and that we are proud of it. And that we are proud to have the association inspiration of his leadership and that there is also plenty of Lincoln in the principles of the Republican Party today.

That is what gives it strength and vitality. I have to say, also, I am impressed by the entire Macon County organization. You have got a great organization. The spirit, and, let us face it, the attendance here tonight, this has got to be America at its best, the heartland of America.

(Applause.)

People who care enough about their country to support

the party of their choice. I have to say that I am aware of it and am deeply grateful of the fact that those discerning Democrats are here, too.

(Applause.)

Those of us who come from States whereas in the case of New York, where I ran for office a number of times, we were a minority party by a million registered voters. Therefore, I served as Governor of the State four times as Republican Governor. But only thanks to a lot of those discerning Democrats. I want to express my appreciation to them. So I feel deeply grateful that they are here tonight, too.

Let us face it, this country is a country where individuals have the deep privilege and the great joy of being free, of being able to say what they think, to do what they feel and to express themselves and to support those they believe in and oppose those they are opposed to.

I just feel that you have demonstrated by your presence here tonight your concern for this two-party system which is really the basic strength of America. This is the strength and vitality of democracy. You can support the party of your choice. We have got to have two vital, strong parties.

They can only be strong if we have the men and women like Skinny Taylor and those who are here this evening who are willing to give of their time and energies, day in and day out, month in and month out, and year after year because they love this country, they care about this country and they want to serve the party of their choice to preserve the strength and vitality of democracy.

You are making possible the support of the party operation through your contribution, by your attendance here this evening. I just want to say thank you.

(Applause.)

Anybody who thinks the Republican Party is dead or that the two-party system has lost its vitality ought to just be here tonight and they ought to see this elephant down here sweating, ready to get going.

(Laughter.)

Just ready to get going in this election this fall. Let us not kid ourselves, ladies and gentlemen, the election this fall is terribly important. In the local elections, that is where the strength of the party is. The election next year in 1976 is going to be importantly influenced by the results of what we all do this fall with the elections.

So let us stick with the elephant down here and let us all get out here and give our best to the success of the elections at the local level this fall.

I am delighted to be here because I have to say that this particular corner of Illinois is a very unique one. It is one of the most productive spots on the face of the

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earth, partly, of course, because of the blessings of nature. But there are a lot of parts of the world where nature has been generous. The good Lord has been kind. But that natural blessing was complemented here with something which is symbolic, plain hard work, individual initiative and the willingness to take the risk of making capital investments that modern agriculture demands.

This is the strength that has brought the vitality to America. It is the American way. It is the sense of opportunity, coupled with hard work and creativity and imagination. That is why this nation, at this particular spot in this nation, has become the most productive spot on earth.

That is why one farm worker, one farm family in America can feed 55 other people. That is why five percent of Americans who live on the land are able to feed all the rest of us and a good part of the rest of the world, too.

Only a free society can produce this kind of energy and initiative. I want to pay tribute to the people who keep this society free, the people who involve themselves in two-party democracy, who have a perfect dedication. We have right here with us this evening, someone who symbolizes that dedication, who symbolizes that initiative, who symbolizes that concern and faith in and belief in our country and the people of this country and the tradition of this country.

That person is your Macon County Chairman, Skinny Taylor.

(Applause.)

Skinny has a wonderful family, a lovely wife, two fine lawyer sons, we all have to have lawyers. The government is making it so complicated, we need more and more of them all the time. Sometimes I feel Washington is sort of the good father of the lawyers of this country.

(Laughter.)

(MORE)

Excuse me.

He has built a thriving business before he retired. Yet, Skinny Taylor still found time to devote endless hours to the party of his beliefs, the Republican Party.

Skinny Taylor has been working in public and politics ever since his college days back in 1929. He has been dependable in his loyalty, forthright in his opinions, tireless in his efforts.

That, ladies and gentlemen, is what makes a free society work, people like Skinny Taylor and all of you who believe in America, and who are willing to work through our political system to keep it free.

I would just like to say I am honored to be here with you and I just want to congratulate all of you for your dedication and for your presence.

Perhaps you would let me say a few words about the situation which in my opinion is responsible for the problems we face today in the world. I put it very simply that we live in a period that is probably the period of the most acceleration of change that any group in the history of the world has ever faced.

This change is worldwide as well as within our own country. That is one factor.

We live in a period of growing interdependence between nations in the world and within our own country: Federal, State, local governments, industry, private enterprise and government. Of course, citizens are dependent on both the international and the domestic situation.

We live in a period in which the world is divided between two very fundamentally and diametrically opposed ideologies.

There are those of us who believe that people are spiritual beings. We believe in the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God which gives that universality to our concepts and our thoughts.

On the other hand, there are those in the world who believe that individuals are merely cogs in a machine to be so disciplined and dominated that they just become servants of the state, that they lose all capacity for creative thought. This is the basic struggle that is taking place in the world.

So you have these three fundamental forces at work. It is a difficult period because change itself is difficult whether it is in the family, whether it is in the industry, whether it is in public life. It is very hard to adjust to change. It creates a defensiveness. It creates a reaction against it. We tend to become fearful and then resentful.

We have seen this in the energy situation as the United States became in the sixties, a net importer, increasingly. Then the OPEC countries joined together.

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Then finally they started to raise prices a little bit, tried a couple of times. We were an exporter. Still we stopped it and then we imported. Then there came the Middle East War. The Soviet Union and the United States became involved on different sides. Then the OPEC moved with an oil boycott. Then came a 500 percent increase in the energy costs.

It was an absolute unique situation of this kind in the world. This was coupled at ~~the same~~ time with growing populations in the world in areas growing far more rapidly than the ability to produce food.

Then agriculture of the United States, particularly in the Soviet Union, resulted in major purchases here. We have changed from a surplus country after 40 or 50 years to a scarcity in agricultural products. Prices doubled. Feed and food prices went up. The combination of these two caused inflation.

With the inflation we had total disruption. With that came the recession and unemployment. That is the impact of the international scene on our interdependence and the conflicts that exist.

At home we have been through a long period in which government in its dedication to try to help people in its total confidence and faith in the free enterprise system and its unending capacity to produce goods and services and revenue to government at all levels, we tended increasingly to over-promise, to under-deliver, to create expectations which could not be fulfilled. Disillusionments, bitterness, inflation, again was fed by the deficits that piled up.

This year we now face a deficit at the Federal level of between \$60 billion and \$70 billion. The growth and expenditures just from existing programs that have been adopted already by the Congress will add \$50 billion a year without adding any new programs.

So that we are faced with a situation where the forces are inflationary at home, and abroad. The President came into his position of leadership due to the strength of the constitutional process and the Constitution of the United States.

We can be proud of this great Nation of ours and its governmental structure. So that after the torment of the years of the war in Southeast Asia, then the trials of Watergate, the country came through with flying colors. We now have a man as President who is open, who is totally dedicated to the basic values on which this country came to greatness.

He has the patience that could only come from inner security, inner calm, and total dedication. He didn't seek the office. He was thrust into this position. His only interest is to do what is right for America, what is in the best interest of the people in this country and in the world.

He studies the issues. He listens to both sides. When he decides what should be done, he then has the courage to make that decision in the interest of the country for its

long term future regardless of the political implications from a short term point of view which might be totally different.

But believe me, ladies and gentlemen, this is what America needs today, someone who has the courage to say what he believes, to take the stands that are in the interest of the country and not put his own interest of politics or any other interest ahead of our Nation.

(Applause)

I am proud to be associated with him, to be there to help him. I have to say in all frankness, that I made a study for President Eisenhower when I worked for him as chairman of his Committee for Government Organization. He was trying to decide whether there was some assignment for Vice President Nixon.

We studied for three months and found that there was really no function except to preside over the Senate. Other than that there was no inclusion of any job. We felt it would be a very serious mistake to create another center of power by delegating major responsibilities to a Vice President within the political structure.

So I had that background and I came to Washington with no illusions of any kind. My function is solely to preside over the Senate of the United States. I cannot speak without unanimous consent, which for me is somewhat difficult but I have adjusted to that. Other than that I have no function.

But I am a staff assistant to the President. In that capacity I am there to do whatever I can to help him because I think he is a great man to be working for. He is working for the best interests of our Nation. I am proud to be with him.

(Applause)

He has some very simple objectives. Number one is to control inflation in this country. We know what happened in Germany after World War I and the total destruction of all of the savings, the pensions, the destruction of the earnings of the people of that country.

We know it is the most corrosive, most insidious form of taxation that exists. Therefore, to stop inflation is his primary objective. He has vetoed spending bills, things we all would like to see done that are important that have human value, that are popular.

He sees to the future -- that if the government continues to spend beyond its means that it is going to feed inflation, it is going to debase the currency. The Federal Government can print money, but we are just going to feed the fires of inflation.

So he has taken some very unpopular stands. I am proud to stand beside him. There have been sufficient Members of the Congress of the United States who support his vetos and

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try to hold down this spending. This is a very important factor.

(Applause)

I am not going to get into any detail of the tragedies of New York City. I am familiar with them. I have supported totally the President's position that we cannot bail out New York City.

(Applause)

Of course, cities are creations of the State. The State has the primary responsibility. The State is taking steps. They have finally come to realize what was beginning to happen without the controls that were necessary. It looks as though they might get the situation in hand.

If they do and if they get the city's budget back so it is going to get back in balance and it is going to restore fiscal integrity, there may be a period of three to four years before the investing public is willing to regain its confidence in which the Congress is going to have to consider whether it will be in the interest of the Nation as a whole to help them over that period. That period is still ahead of us.

I would like to say -- and I just sort of throw this out very tentatively -- that while we are very critical of New York, I think we have to be a little more realistic about the fact that there is a certain analogy between what the Congress of the United States and what New York City has been doing.

The only difference is Congress can print the money.

(Applause)

So when we think what we think about New York City -- I won't get into what I think you think about New York City -- just remember there is a certain similarity with what Congress has done and that that has got to stop, ladies and gentlemen, or we are not only going to see New York City on the verge of bankruptcy but we are going to see the United States on the verge of bankruptcy. That we cannot have.

(Applause)

So let's support this man and his courageous efforts to stop the spending. When he says, "I want to see \$28 billion in taxes cut, and \$28 billion in Federal spending cut," he wants to see people be able to have a little more control over the money they earn and let them spend it and not have somebody else spend it for them.

That is his objective. I think it is a very worthy one and I hope the Congress supports him in that.

(Applause)

I am not saying that there is a lack of deep human concern on the part of the President. There is a basic

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concern for people and their needs. This man is deeply concerned about people and about the individual well-being. He wants to see the multiplicity of Federal programs.

Sure, I am at the Federal level. But remember, I was Governor for a long time. I understand the local point of view. We have over a thousand aid programs from the Federal, State and local governments. Each one of them requires the enrichment and improvement of the State and local programs.

Then you get tied up in the bureaucracy and red tape of Washington and all that is required and goes with it. He wants to simplify that so that those who need help, who cannot do for themselves -- as Lincoln said, "The government should do for those who can't do for themselves."

That is what he wants to see done. He wants to do it simply and directly and not with this huge bureaucracy. He doesn't want to see a whole host of people getting benefits who have gotten it, who are getting a free ride and don't deserve it, and don't need it. We have got to get them off.

(Applause)

He knows that unless we preserve the soundness of our economy and the strength of our economy, we are not going to be able to meet people's needs at home and meet our responsibilities abroad. Inflation is the most serious.

Number two is the growth of the economy, getting our country rolling again. That is closely related to energy. So he said we have to have energy independence. We are importing 40 percent of our oil. We are paying almost \$30 billion a year out to countries to bring in that oil. That same \$30 billion could be invested in the United States and employ a million American workers to produce that energy.

We have the capacity to produce it within the United States. That is his goal. These are important concepts which he has developed and which he is fighting for, and which he has not been able to get Congressional support on yet.

With the energy independence will be jobs, the economy rolling and growth. We have got to have growth if we are going to have jobs.

Since May there are 1,400,000 additional jobs already. We need 2,600,000 more to get back to normal, and then after that we are going to need about 1,400,000 or 1,500,000 new jobs a year to keep the young people who will be coming out of school, to give them the opportunity.

Then our country is going to be back where it was with the vitality and strength of the free enterprise system. This means also the reduction of some of the complex regulations of private enterprise which are growing in Washington and which make it so you don't know whether to invest a hundred dollars or a thousand dollars today -- whether the rules of the game are going to be changed tomorrow, next week or next year. Your investment may not be sound because

the rules have been changed.

These are the things he wants to change. He has asked the Domestic Council, of which I am Vice Chairman, to hold a series of hearings around the country to come up with recommendations to him on the subject of domestic programs and domestic policies so they can be simplified and changed to get us back to the same concepts and the basic traditions on which this country has grown, recognizing the realities of the times in which we live.

These are his basic objectives as far as the domestic scene is concerned. Simplify aid and simplify regulation, so those who need it get it without the complexity and without the loss of their dignity.

If you are on welfare and you need it, you have to go through the most humiliating procedures which have destroyed the very thing we believe in, which is the dignity and freedom of the individual.

So I say to you we have a unique man in Washington. He wants to restore freedom and the privacy of the individual. He wants to free the creativity and the productivity of the private enterprise system.

He wants to restore States' rights and their ability to exercise their responsibilities so we have the vitality and dynamism that this country has enjoyed in the years of the past.

Let me say in conclusion that I am optimistic about the future. After all, I have said -- you wouldn't think I was, but I am -- I am only trying to tell it like it is, because that is the only way we can reach the hard facts.

We have got the greatest people in the world. They are right here in this room and in this country. We have got the greatest country. I wouldn't take anything to live anywhere but in the United States.

As a matter of fact, they are slipping across the border. So we know that that is true. So we ought to be proud of being Americans. We ought to restore our confidence in ourselves. We have got the capacity to meet any problem and to do any task that is before us.

I would just like to say in conclusion, which is what I said when I was sworn in in the Senate of the United States, there is nothing wrong with America that Americans can't right. That is what I feel the situation is.

Thank you very much.

(Applause)

END

(AT 9:17 P.M. CDT)