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NOVEMBER 14, 1975

Office of the Vice President  
(Lincolnshire, Illinois)

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REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
AT THE MCCLORY TESTIMONIAL DINNER  
LINCOLNSHIRE MARRIOTT INN  
LINCOLNSHIRE, ILLINOIS

(AT 9:33 P.M. CST)

Reverend clergy, and you, Bob, thanks for those very generous, overly generous, words I deeply appreciated.

I have to say that it is a tremendous thrill for me to be here with so many wonderful people; and in these very delightful surroundings, lovely music, delicious food, beautiful flowers, what more can I ask?

I would like to thank Congressman Bob Michel, who worked with the Republican Party, for what he is doing for our country and what he is doing for the Congress. I had the privilege of sitting in on meetings with the President, and I know the strength which he brings to the President in the consideration of the difficult problems of today.

Then the important role he plays in the Congress with respect to which he has held on both sides of the aisle and the tremendous following which he has. I appreciate very much those kind words of yours, Bob.

Mrs. Anderson and her wonderful husband, who can't be here, I would just like to express my respect to both of them, and they also symbolize to me the kind of dedication of citizens of this country who love the country, who believe in the country, who have faith in its future, and who want to serve, because they just believe this system is the best system the world has ever invented.

(Applause.)

It has already been mentioned about a woman member of the Supreme Court. I would just like to say we have a very distinguished former woman member of the Congress, and it is a pleasure and an honor to be on the platform with her. We all love her and respect her for what she has done for our country and for your State and for all of our States.

(Applause.)

I must say to you as one who has spent a great deal of time at the local level and State level, I guess I should say as Governor, I have tremendous respect for the Attorney General and Comptroller, their responsibility and the heavy load they carry and the importance of the tone which they set in both the integrity and fiscal responsibility and management of the affairs of the State.

You are lucky indeed to have Bill Scott and George Lindberg, with their two wonderful wives, such

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attractive, dedicated young people in such key positions in the great State of Illinois. I am honored to be here with them.

(Applause.)

I have to say that I was delighted when I saw Bill Stratton here, former Governor, because he and I overlapped just one year, but I learned a great deal from him, and he was one of those Governors who believed in the responsibility of State Government -- State's rights, but State responsibility -- and who exercised that and had a strong and powerful and dedicated staff around him.

I feel that he set a pattern and standard for the quality of State Government which I know is an inspiration to me and I know to States all over this country. So it is good to be here with you tonight, also.

(Applause.)

Clifford Carlson, who is on that important National Committee with George Hinman and so many other wonderful people, who bring the Republican Party at the State level and national level together and play the important role of lending the leadership and joining our forces because, of course, we really are a whole series of parties and then, there in Washington, through that committee, they pull us all together into a single, closely-knit organization. So I would like to thank Cliff.

There is one other Governor here for whom I have a tremendous respect and admiration as a neighbor and I have had admiration for for quite a while, and that is Ray Shafer from Pennsylvania.

(Applause.)

To all of you fellow Republicans and men of Dartmouth -- we have to say men and women of Dartmouth now. I haven't seen any women graduates yet here, but there are some wonderful women there now. We have been gone a long time.

(Laughter.)

I would also like to say to you discerning Democrats who are here, some of us who live in the States where the Republican Party is the minority party, we have great respect for the Democrats, the discerning Democrats and the Independents.

So I would just like to express my appreciation to them, because let's face it, for most States and on the national basis we only are able to serve with the courtesy of their support.

(Laughter.)

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to say to you it is a great thrill to be here and join with you all in paying tribute to two wonderful people, Bob and Doris.

I must say, Doris, I was really very touched by what you said and the way you said it. You brought back memories that are very happy memories and very warm memories; and really, in a sense, I think for all of us who are here, it is that heritage which we receive from our families which gives us the strength to face the difficult problems which we all have to face in our own communities, in the State, the Nation, and the world today.

We are lucky in this country to have those deep roots, spiritual family ties, which give us the capacity to have the strength and, at the same time, the flexibility to understand change; not to be afraid of change, but to shape change so that it doesn't overwhelm us, but that it serves the best interest of mankind. I think that is the strength of this great free Nation of ours.

No one symbolizes this with greater integrity, with greater dedication, than Bob McClory. So I am just honored to be here to join all of you in this celebration of his service to our country.

(Applause.)

He looked at his watch and I haven't gotten to my speech yet.

(Laughter.)

You had better take it away from him. I saw it right out of the corner of my eye.

(Laughter.)

It is one of the advantages of being Vice President of the United States.

(Laughter.)

I preside over the Senate, but I can't speak without unanimous consent of the entire party. So I might talk a little long here tonight, but you will understand.

(Laughter and Applause.)

But I am delighted to be in the land of Lincoln, I will tell you that, because of all he stands for and stood for in our country while he contributed; and it is a special pleasure for me to be here tonight, not only because we are here to honor a friend, but a friend who is a lot like Lincoln, in my opinion, and that is our friend Bob McClory.

As I travel around this country, I have the opportunity to speak out for many of the great leaders of our party that our party has produced. But this occasion is somewhat different and special.

The man we honor tonight, as you know, has been a close personal friend of mine since the days of our youth. His wife has described the situation, so there is very

little I can say, except about Bob. She talked about me. But I know more about him in those days. But I knew him then. You may know him now.

(Laughter.)

We were fraternity brothers. Even in those days you could see the traits that produced the man we love and admire today. He had a genuine liking for people. He cared about people; and, of course, this is something that is a very sensitive point. A lot of people like people and are good with people, but really don't care for them. You know what I mean.

(Laughter.)

But Bob is one of those people who is nice to them and really likes them, too. That is a very wonderful combination. That, of course, is his basic strength.

As a result, people reciprocate, and they reciprocated when he was in college. He was a very popular person. He always was a worker. That I admire.

As you know, his wife told you he waited on tables, and I did wait tables for him for the weekend, and he did give me the money.

(Laughter.)

He didn't mention that I got free meals that week, though.

(Laughter.)

He also worked on freighters during the summer. I always respected that. He had that quality, ladies and gentlemen, that he was willing to work for what he wanted. Of course, that is the history of the strength of this country.

Some people have forgotten that work has great dignity and that work is what built this country. I will never forget that article on the Ambassador to the United Nations about the problem of the United Nations in the Third World.

Most of those leaders in the Third World had grown up in England in socialism and had gone to London schools. That is what the British produced with the hard-working people.

The time has come now when the Third World hasn't produced enough yet, so there is little to provide there. They will divide it up in the world. This is what he has been so frank about and very effective about, I think, in his statements.

Bob was one of those who wasn't trying to adopt what somebody else says. He was trying to create things, do his own work. That is the history of America. That is one of the qualities which I love in him.

He wanted to work most of all, ladies and gentlemen, to serve his country. That is the finest and the highest tribute to pay to anyone. Today Bob McClory is more than an accomplished individual. His life personifies, in my opinion, the real meaning of America.

If any foreigner should ask us what makes democracy tick, if he asked how we came to be the greatest country on earth, the answer is people like Bob McClory, people who have faith in this country, people who devote their lives to upholding our basic values, belief in the dignity of the individual, and opportunity for all on the basis of equality.

Tonight we celebrate 25 years of Bob McClory's public service in the Illinois State Legislature and the House of Representatives. During that quarter of a century, Bob McClory has provided the kind of representation that epitomizes the Republican philosophy of government.

He has shown deep concern and care in solving your problems and, at the same time, he has been just as concerned and just as careful with your tax dollar.

Let's look at the bills that Bob McClory has sponsored in the House and at some of the important things he has done. I couldn't help but think as we were talking upstairs, as I spent quite a little time before the Judiciary Committee, in the short span, really in terms of history of 200 years, Bob has been a member of that committee, this has been a period really that is one of the important and significant periods of passage in American history.

First he was a sponsor of the 25th Amendment, along with others, and worked it out in the committee, and that was passed by the Congress. It was almost perfect.

Then, secondly, we had a Vice President resign and the President appointed, a Vice President, for the first time, and he went before this committee for confirmation. Then we had the tragedy of Watergate, and before Bob's committee again there was a third difficult and trying period.

I think Bob's strongest quality of integrity and devotion to the party, but devotion to the country, showed in the way in which he handled that. It wasn't easy. His courage came through strong and bright.

Then there was the resignation of a President. Then the Vice President moved up and another Vice President was appointed by a President, and it happened to be your humble servant. Then I came before Bob. This was a fifth step in a series.

The fact that we had been friends had no relation to his empirical approach to this problem, the questions he asked, the work that his staff did and he did and other members of the committee did.

I want to tell you when I got through, and I just got a book, Bob, of the hearings and it is that thick.

This is the hearings between the two committees. The irony was after going through all that, with 500 FBI agents working about six months investigating me -- if you think his wife knows about me, you ought to see what the FBI knows about me.

(Laughter.)

And then the irony was the President appointed me Chairman of the Committee on Privacy.

(Laughter.)

I had lost mine, so I guess I had some real feeling for it for the rest of the country.

That was just one of the illustrations of an extraordinary moment in history involving this country; and I might say in most any other country the government would have fallen and the people would have a chaos and riots in the streets. But not in America.

We have a constitutional government, and that Constitution stood strong because wise men like Bob had amended it to anticipate a situation which tragically came sooner than I guess they thought it might, but the country was ready and this thing went through.

They were ready. It was all in the papers. It was difficult. There was a solution. But they were strong and stable. And here we are, continuing after this, and now back on a strong track.

Let's state some of the bills which he is sponsoring now. For economic growth -- legislation to generate capital for expanding industry and increasing jobs; for older people -- legislation allowing them to work if they want to, without jeopardizing so much of their social security; for the consumer -- legislation to end those price-fixing and unfair trade laws; for sick people -- comprehensive health insurance; for energy independence -- legislation to promote energy conservation; and for greater protection of our families, Bob McClory has been in the forefront of Federal legislation to strengthen crime-fighting legislation wherever it is found throughout this country.

As we were driving out in the car from the airport, I had been with the Future Farmers of America this morning, and in the press conference we were talking about the problem that had come up there as to the large investment in farms today and the difficulty that these young people have who are going to be able to inherit their family's farm because of the inheritance tax.

When a farm value was low and the inheritance taxes were low, that wasn't a problem. Today we have a very serious problem in this country as to how we are going to preserve these wonderful young people who want to take on the land, who want to stay with their family's farm. How can they inherit that farm with the detriments that exist?

I think Bob has sponsored a bill that has said \$250,000 for families so that a family can continue on that

farm. They don't have to sell it to some corporation in some far away city that isn't broke.

(Laughter.)

But we want to keep these young people right on the farm, ladies and gentlemen. But it just shows, as I said in the press conference, this is the problem. I understood it very well. We had a homestead plan, but we already had legislation in that.

That is the first step in dealing with it. Of course, this goes back to what I was saying earlier. We are living in a period of rapid change. You have to have the flexibility and the strength to be able to change to meet change so that we can shape it. This is, I think, the great strength of our free society.

Ladies and gentlemen, that record of Bob's is some record. It is a record of practical humanitarianism. That is a record of Republican responsibility. And that is the record of one of the most admired Congressmen, on both sides of the aisle, in the House of Representatives.

One last word about Bob. He is also, as I have mentioned before, the second-ranking Republican on the House Judiciary Committee. I have told you what he has done there, but I didn't tell you he had reached that exalted position.

I just want to say that throughout those months that I was before his committee, Bob was a model of objectivity and fair-mindedness, and I will say it again because to me that is symbolic of his representation of your interest and the national interest in the great Congress of the United States.

This quality of objectivity and fair-mindedness is becoming rarer and rarer. That doesn't sound like good English. It is becoming more rare in our country. There are so many strong advocates of so many positions who in their enthusiasm for that position lose their ability to be objective and to see the other facets, to reconcile their problems or their concerns, their dedication -- which is wonderful -- with the realities of other problems, which have to be blended.

But this is what Bob has, and this is what I admire in him. I would just like to say thank you again for what he has done for all of us.

And with all of you, we thank Bob for 25 years of service to his State and the country. Democracy works, and this country became great because of the Bob McClorys that America produces.

I would like to say, ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion, let's be sure this country continues to produce this kind of person with this kind of dedication who isn't just looking out for his own interest or just pushing some cause, worthy as it may be, but at the exclusion of the overall balanced best interest of the Nation as a whole.

To me the strength of America has been this capacity to blend these forces of different parts of the country, different points of view. And I think this is true of the Republican Party.

Sure, we are a minority party. But I just think that as a minority party, or just any party, because I believe very strongly in the two-party system, I think that is the strength of our country. We have been saved from the situation they had in France when they had 17 or 19 parties and then coalition and no responsible government.

We have a two-party system. We in a minority party have got to be willing to broaden our perspective. And the philosophical differences, we have got to be so we don't worry about philosophical differences. That is the strength of America.

Of course, I have to say to you that no State has demonstrated in the Republican Party with greater diversity than Illinois.

I just want you to know that our arms are wide open. We embrace them all, and we have our differences and we fight them out. When we are through and everybody has had their chance to speak, then we unite and we are a united party and we are strong.

That is why for the last 32 years in New York State, for 28 years we have had Republican control of both Houses and Republican control in the executive mansion and the Attorney General, and I was going to say the Comptroller, but I had better leave him out. He is a Democrat.

(Laughter.)

But we are a minority party by a million registered voters. I think the answer is that they feel in that State the Republican Party is dedicated to the best interests of all the people and that we are able to try to come up with sound solutions to their problems, to create a framework within which people can solve their own problems; not that government has to do anything, but we create a framework of laws.

One of the things that I found in going around this country holding hearings for the President on a review of the domestic policies and programs, one message that has come through loud and clear, and that is the American people are fed up with bureaucracy and red tape in Washington.

(Applause.)

That is for Governors, it is for Mayors, it is for county officials, it is for businessmen, and it is for individuals. We have got to get back to a government of laws and less a government of men, a government of persons. I have to be careful there.

(Laughter.)

But this message is coming through loud and clear. Therefore, let's have the courage to reexamine what we are doing and say, sure, we did all of these things because we wanted to be helpful, we wanted to be constructive. But now this is a marvelous moment to reexamine, reshape, and rewrite the legislation, redefine the objectives in light of the new objectives, and simplify the role of government in helping people have the opportunity so that they can do what they have done in the past 200 years that has made this country the greatest country in the world.

It was not done by the government alone. It was done by the people. So I say, ladies and gentlemen, let's give the people the opportunity to do it for the next 200 years.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

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(AT 10:00 P.M. CST)