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JANUARY 29, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(Rye, New York)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
WESTCHESTER COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE
ANNUAL DINNER

AT 10:40 P.M. EST

Thank you very much.

Reverend clergy -- and I would like to just comment that I think the thoughts expressed by those members of the clergy who honored us with their presence and prayers this evening bear note in these difficult times. I would like to thank them.

To Malcolm, Katherine, to be with them and especially to have her back; and here is a source of deep personal meaning and satisfaction to me on any occasion and especially here in Westchester.

To Senator Jim Buckley, his description of our relation in the Senate, but he didn't say ladies and gentlemen and you can imagine my feelings when you recognize the facts, namely, that I cannot speak in the Senate without unanimous consent. I can give rulings. But I haven't got Malcolm there and the parliamentarian is a poor third to Malcolm. Excuse me. Don't mention it to him when I get back to Washington. He may give me a bad steer when I get back.

To Peter, who was very generous in his comments about the meeting this current week, I would take advantage of what he said by saying that Jack Brooks, who is a very delightful and powerful Member of the House of Representatives, has been totally opposed to revenue sharing. And while a great many people are paying no attention to the fact that revenue sharing has not been renewed by the Congress of the United States and that unless they act in the next month or so the budgets of all of the States, counties, towns, villages, and cities are going to be out of balance because everybody expects it to be renewed and there is a very serious chance that it might not be renewed.

So I was talking with him. I won't quote his language because this is a very high level group here, but I got assurance from him that he wasn't going to fool around with the thing this year.

So that I am very optimistic because his opposition without the kind of support that one would expect would come except for the fact that the Governors and the Mayors and the county executives take for granted this is going to be renewed. I think it is one of the most serious things and every opportunity I have had I have been talking about it hoping that people would become aware. It is about \$6 billion in total and for New York City alone which has to come up with a balanced budget during this three-year period and which is getting these advances under legislation passed by the Congress would not be eligible for those advances after the new budget goes into effect because in their new budget they expect

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\$263 million of Federal revenue sharing. If it isn't there, the budget will be out of balance and therefore they won't be eligible for the assistance from the Federal Government and they will go into bankruptcy. These are sort of the details of our government that seem to slip the attention of a good many people.

But having been one who always believed in the fact that politics is a means to an end and the end is good government and that good government is the best politics, and my interest has been in good government. These are the kind of things that make for good government.

So, Peter, I thank you for giving me the chance to put a plug in for revenue sharing.

To my Senator, Bernie Gordon, I miss him. I want to tell you; and to Gordon Burroughs, congratulations for that 100 percent Republican representation and your leadership. I have got to say I miss you and I am proud of Westchester.

And to all of the State and county legislators, the Republican leaders who are here, the generous Republican contributors, I would just like to say that for me this is a very, very nostalgic evening. I am thrilled to be here and I deeply appreciate your inviting me and the honor which you have bestowed upon me. I would like to say to Dick and Eunice that I am thrilled that both of them came; and to Jim, thank you, sir, especially because you and Marion are the ones who extended the invitation and to Gerry who has risen from a sick bed to run this beautiful evening; and to Tom and to Carl and to all of those wonderful people with whom it has been my privilege to be associated over the years, all I can say is I miss you.

Don't get over excited about the Vice Presidency. There is no heavy lifting, ladies and gentlemen. That is why I look so well. (Laughter)

But I have to say perhaps a little realized fact. Probably only Malcolm knows. The thing that means so much to me in addition to the honor of being the Presiding Officer -- I don't use any other word than Presiding Officer of the Senate -- is the fact that my maternal grandfather, Senator Nelson W. Aldridge, was in the Senate of the United States after having been Speaker of the House in Rhode Island and then in the House of Representatives, then he was in the Senate when they used to appoint Senators from the Senate of the States for 33 years, the last 17 of which he was the Majority Leader of the Senate when the old guard controlled the Senate and he was one of the general managers of the United States Government so that I sit there thinking about him; happy recollections.

I would like to say that what Malcolm didn't say was that it was a call from Boss Ward. He just called me on the phone and said, "Malcolm puts it much more gracefully." Boss Ward just said, "Look, your family has benefited tremendously from good government in Westchester County for a long time." And he said, "It is now up to you to do something about it." He said, "I want you to go on that Westchester County Board of Health." I said, "Yes, sir." That is the real truth of it.

But I have to tell you that was 43 years ago. You didn't mention that, Malcolm. It is hard to believe, but it is true.

And I am deeply grateful to him because that really got me started in government and the public process. I have cherished that relationship and opportunity to understand government at the grass roots. Malcolm and I have always believed that government closest to the people -- this is the Party's basic belief -- is the best government and the most responsive.

And I have to say to you that we are drifting rapidly away from that to a strong, central, bureaucratic structure in the Nation's capital. I won't get into that because that is not the subject of my speech. But I would like to say that Malcolm's eloquent and generous description -- and Malcolm is usually extremely accurate -- but, ladies and gentlemen, I have got to say to you that he only told you half of the story tonight. The other half of the story as to why I became Governor and what was accomplished during those years is Malcolm Wilson himself.

Let's face it. If it hadn't been for Malcolm Wilson, I wouldn't be standing here this evening. Malcolm also didn't tell you that he had previously been to see Ed Michaelian and said he was interested in running for government. Poor Ed when I got there was embarrassed because he said there has already been someone here. So Malcolm and I met. We just had sort of a system we worked out as to how it developed and then we each agreed to support the other under certain circumstances. I have got to tell you that if it hadn't been for Malcolm and that six, eight, ten months, Malcolm, that we spent in your Buick, I don't know whether we should describe him as a self-made man or not. (Laughter) But we went around in Malcolm's Buick from county to county and met with the county committees. And I have never had such an experience in my life. Malcolm on the way as we would come in, for half an hour before we would get there, would tell me who all the officials were in the community, who had been sheriff in 1937 and what had happened to his mother. (Laughter)

So that I was totally confused -- I should say primed -- but I have to be honest because I haven't got a very good memory. It has now come out in print that I have dyslexia. We used to call it reverse reading and I am left-handed. So I was operating under considerable handicap.

But Malcolm, you all know him, we all love him, but I never saw an operation of its kind in my life before. It was only because of him that I was successful in getting the nomination. I felt to strongly about him and became so fond of him and had such respect for him and such regard for his integrity, his knowledge, his dedication and devotion that when we got to the convention -- I really knew very little about politics to tell you the honest truth -- I said, "Who picks the Vice -- Lieutenant Governor. Excuse me. (Laughter) I was informed by Governor Dewey that, "You do," he said. I said, "I want Malcolm." He said, "You can't have Malcolm because he comes from the same county you do and that is impossible." I said, "According to whom?" He said, "The voters never would go for two people from one county. This is a big State." I said, "That is too bad," but, I said, "I am not going to get into this thing without Malcolm. He is my

friend. He is my partner".

So to the, let's call it consternation of a good many professionals, this was what the ticket was.

I want to tell you if it hadn't been for that ticket I don't think we would have been elected the first time. I don't think we would have accomplished the things we did and I don't think we would have been elected together each time if he hadn't been with me.

This is why I say he only told you half the story tonight. This is a great man, a great American, a dedicated public servant. And I am grateful to him.

So here we all are together again. It is a good time to recall these days that we are talking about. It seems like a long time ago and yet time slips by awfully fast because then as now the opposition was in power in Albany. Then as now enrolled Democrats vastly outnumbered enrolled Republicans by nearly 1 million votes. That situation was exactly the same. Then as now New York State Republicans faced an uphill fight and now as then the Republican Party is going to come back strong. That is what I deeply believe, ladies and gentlemen.

We are going to be the winners. I want to talk a little bit about why we are going to be the winners.

In our State campaigns we Republicans demonstrated a genuine concern for people in all walks of life, their hopes, their aspirations, their fears, regardless of creed or color or origin.

We were concerned about the responsibility that government has to do those things for people which they can't do for themselves. That is what Abraham Lincoln said, the founder of our Party and that was our basic concept and we want to do it on a sound, creative, constructive basis. Some of you will remember at that time the wise economist saying that New York State was a mature economy. Believe me, what they meant was we were over the hill. We wouldn't accept that. We thought this State had the greatest people, the greatest diversity, the greatest heritage and tradition, the dynamism and what we need was to renew the basic strengths of this State and the confidence of this State and to rebuilt the plant. If you were in industry you rebuilt the plant when it was obsolete. The State had an obsolete plant. We wanted to rebuilt it.

So the people of this State had the kind of opportunity they deserved. That is what we set out to do.

This wasn't a Republican thing. It wasn't democratic. It was responsible, sound, constructive, creative faith in the future of this State, New York and the faith in the future of our great country.

And I think, frankly, that is what the Republican Party has stood for, that is what our Party has and I think we are going to see this and I think the fact that you have 100 percent Republican representation of the Legislature and all but

one Senator in the Senate is an evidence of the fact that people of Westchester believe in this concept of Republican leadership and Republican responsibility.

As Malcolm used to talk about the great strength of our State was what he called partnership government, partnership between Republican executives and Republican leadership in both Houses of the Legislature. Believe me, we did a job.

That is what I think the country, the State and the country wants again. So I am optimistic. Malcolm and I served for 16 years and between us and those who served with us, we ought to give the people this responsible and responsive government.

That is the same kind of wide ranging, broad based appeal that the Republican Party has to achieve today, not just in New York, but throughout the nation.

It doesn't take a mathematical genius, ladies and gentlemen, to see that we cannot win elections with Republican voters alone.

We Republicans have to put together winning majorities. We have to show a broad spectrum of Americans, that they are welcome under the Republican banner. We have to reject the luxury of a monolithic point of view as a Party.

That is one luxury that a 20 percent Party simply cannot afford. The American people traditionally gravitate to the center, not to the extremes. The center is where the Republican Party has won. The center is where we will continue to win. We have got to be a Party with the wisdom and the courage and the understanding to embrace different points of view.

We have got to be able to achieve unity with diversity. Let's face it, ladies and gentlemen, unity with diversity, this is the essence of democracy.

This is the strength of our country. People are willing; they have no fear to express different points of view, to argue them, to support them, but then the strength of our Party was that when we had finished doing this that we had the capacity to come together and act as a united Party and take positions and then get things done.

What is tragic to me in America today is so much talk, so much criticism, everybody is tearing down what everybody else is doing and there is nobody being able to pull it together so we get action to do the things that have to be done instead of criticize what was done and we are falling behind, ladies and gentlemen.

So I say, all right, after Vietnam, Watergate, and so forth, this is understandable and some people feel a sense of guilt. I have got to tell you the honest truth, I am not a great believer in this feeling of guilt as far as America is concerned. I don't think there has ever been a country in the

history of mankind that has done more for people at home and more for people throughout the world than America and there isn't a person who ought to feel guilty here. We ought to be proud of our country.

A lot of people who are telling us we ought to feel guilty are people who have never done anything except criticize others. That is one of the troubles; just take their coats off and go to work and concentrate on achieving something. This country was built by individuals who had that sense of desire, creativity, imagination, faith, proud to be Americans, patriotic, and they wanted to serve their country. They wanted to do things. This is what we have got to get back to. I think the American people are coming back to it, but it is coming from the bottom up. Let's hope it gets to the top in time.

I think it is going to. I think that the Republican Party is going to do it for the country. I would just like to say, sure we face tough problems, but we can solve them. We faced tough problems since the beginning 200 years ago. The problems were tougher than they are today. I can't imagine a more exciting time to be an American than right now. This is the most exciting moment and we have the future in the palm of our hand; we have the capacity; we have the technology; we have the productive capacity, if we just grasp these opportunities and go back to that basic faith in America and in Americans and in ourselves, and go to town and get rolling and lead this, not only this country, but the world back to where we have respect for individual dignity and individual rights and they are not just rights in terms of human rights or civil rights, but they are economic rights.

This revolution that took place 200 years ago was just as much an economic revolution as it was a social revolution. So I am optimistic about the future, ladies and gentlemen. I have faith that our underlying intelligence, our spiritual and moral strength as a free people can see America through any challenge. I have got to say -- as I said one time I could speak in the Senate when I was being sworn in as Vice President -- I said there is nothing wrong with America that Americans can't right. I believe that, fundamentally, is the fact; that we Americans can do it; we just have to have confidence in ourselves.

In conclusion, here we are in 1976, we will enter our third century as a nation on July 4th. If we are a united people, and if we have faith and pride and a sense of purpose -- it is all right; it is nothing serious, ladies and gentlemen. No life was lost. It is all right. I am with you, Doctor. I will go back to my peroration, if you will forgive me.

I said if we are united as a people, if we have faith and pride and a sense of purpose, and if we retain our basic integrity, then there is nothing we can't accomplish. We can scale new heights in our third century as a nation for the betterment of all mankind.

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Ladies and gentlemen, thanks for inviting me. I want to tell you, I am thrilled to be here and Happy is very sorry she is not here, but still she has to -- if she does too much for too long -- and she has been out the last six nights -- then she has to take it easy. That is why she is not here. But she sends her love to each and every one of you.

Thanks for your support and for the strength and the inspiration you have given us over the years, and as Boss Ward said, this country has been awfully good to our family.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 11:05 P.M. EST)