

FOR RELEASE:  
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Office of the Vice President  
(Dearborn, Michigan)

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FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS OF REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY VICE PRESIDENT NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER AT THE MIDWEST REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, HYATT REGENCY HOTEL, DEARBORN, MICHIGAN, FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 1976, 6:30 P.M.

January 30, 1976

I. Introduction - I am delighted to be here in the heartland of America. This is the America where our Republican Party was born. And this is where the fortunes of our Party can be reborn in 1976.

II. Role of Political Parties - The Republican Party was created -- not as an end in itself -- but as a means to an end. The end point of politics is good government. That was true of the Republican Party at its creation in Lincoln's time. And good government remains the purpose of our Party down to the present instant. In America, we seek the objective of good government through the two-party system -- which is the strength and vitality of our free society.

A. Organizing and Crystallizing Issues

Under this system, each party has two basic responsibilities. The first responsibility is to analyze and appraise the domestic and international problems which we face in the various fields -- economic, social, and financial, and in the military and diplomatic areas.

The Parties must come up with policies and programs to present to the American people that will maximize economic growth, employment and environmental protection, provide equal opportunity for all, create domestic and international financial stability without inflation, and strengthen the goals of freedom, human dignity and peace at home and abroad.

B. Choosing Candidates

The second responsibility of each party is to pick candidates dedicated to the fundamental principles on which this Nation was founded and on which it has grown to greatness.

The Parties have the responsibility to choose candidates who, if elected, will have the wisdom, experience and skill -- as well as the integrity, courage and vision, to lead -- to carry out policies and programs which represent the best interests of all our people at home, and to assure the survival and growth of free societies in a world of peace.

III. Today's Challenges - Today, America's political parties confront challenges in meeting these goals no less awesome than those our Founding Fathers faced in 1776.

### A. Economy and Inflation

In the area of the economy, we must gain control over inflation -- the cruelest of all taxes -- and we must generate more job opportunities.

Under President Ford, we have seen the inflation rate cut virtually in half, from the double-digit 12 per cent rate of 1974 to a rate of 6.9 per cent for 1975, thanks to the President's courage and firmness in making the hard and unpopular decisions necessary to check inflation. At the same time, 1.7 million Americans have returned to work since the turning of the economic tide, under the President's leadership.

While controlling inflation, we must, at the same time, promote greater economic growth. Economic growth is essential if we are to provide jobs for Americans, not only the 2.8 million jobs needed to bring us back to normal employment, but new jobs as well, for the additional 1.6 million Americans who enter the job market every year.

We must say "No" to those who propound the "no-growth" philosophy of economics. We must resist those economic "nay-sayers" who view every new enterprise, every new project, every new product as a danger to the quality of life. I say that by using American know-how and American technological superiority -- we can have both an expanding economy and a wholesome environment. Both are equally essential -- and we can have both.

The "no-growth" philosophy would say "no" to the millions of Americans who are still trying to make it economically -- still striving for a better life. The "no-growth" proponents would freeze the status quo. Theirs is a philosophy that says: "You can pull up the ladder now, mates. I'm on board."

### B. Energy Independence and Raw Materials

But in order to achieve economic growth, we must have energy independence and access to vital raw materials. The Arab oil boycott and the subsequent 500 per cent rise in oil prices sounded a clear cut warning to us to regain our energy independence.

We cannot tolerate the continual threat of another oil boycott or blackmail. Today, an embargo would have even more disastrous effects on our economy since our reliance on imported oil is near 40 per cent and still rising. We cannot tolerate the \$25-30 billion a year being spent to import this oil -- dollars that could be better spent on creating an expanding economy and new jobs for Americans.

President Ford has made energy independence a national policy. And the President has come forth with a proposed Energy Independence Authority to achieve energy self-reliance by 1985. This Authority would work through our American enterprise system by providing capital incentives to the private sector to undertake the heavy risks and uncertainties of expanded energy development.

Fortunately, the United States is rich enough in resources to become energy independent -- and rich in other raw materials, as well. We Americans have the technology, or we can develop the technology to be self-sufficient in practically every material required of a growing, prosperous, job-producing economy should the adverse actions or pricing arrangements of foreign cartels make it advantageous for us to do so.

C. Foreign Policy

On the international scene, President Ford's firm leadership and Secretary of State Kissinger's brilliant conceptual guidance are steering us through a most difficult era of foreign policy. But they are compelled to carry on this difficult and delicate business in the face of increasing intrusion in the day-to-day conduct of foreign policy by the Congress.

We even hear those who are willing to forfeit the use of covert operations -- that difficult yet vital component of international action which becomes necessary when conventional diplomacy cannot suffice to protect our vital international interests and our national security.

Let us face facts. We must be strong economically, we must be strong militarily --- and not stripped of our intelligence capability -- to exercise America's enlightened leadership in today's world.

IV. Conclusion - While I have raised some serious problems here this evening, I hope also to have raised for you the potential of a strong and beneficent America; an America with a strong economy providing the benefits of gainful employment to its people; a generous America sharing its knowledge and abundance with the rest of mankind and an America capable of defending our freedom.

Sure, we face tough problems. But we can solve them. I cannot imagine a more exciting time to be an American than here and now. I am optimistic about the future of our Party. And I am optimistic about the future of this Country.

I have faith that our underlying intelligence, our spiritual and moral strength as a free people can see America through any challenge. As I said upon becoming Vice President -- there is nothing wrong with America that Americans can't right.

This year we enter our third century as a Nation. If we are a united people, if we have feelings of pride and a sense of purpose, if we retain our basic integrity, then there is nothing we cannot accomplish. We can scale new heights in our third century of nationhood for the betterment of ourselves and the benefit of all mankind.

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