

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 14, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(New York, New York)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
NEW YORK REPUBLICAN COUNTY COMMITTEE
BICENTENNIAL LINCOLN DAY DINNER AND BALL
WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL GRAND BALLROOM
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

(AT 7:45 P.M. EST)

Rabbi Goldberg, I know that all of us were moved by the beautiful prayer and message which you delivered here this evening on this wonderful occasion.

My good friend, Vinnie, I want to thank him for the privilege and opportunity of being back here again with one of the most dynamic, dedicated group of Republicans that I know anywhere in this country, and I am thrilled to be here.

Under Vinnie's leadership this County has played a major role in the State, and the State plays a major role in the Nation. These are difficult but exciting times with a tremendous opportunity that lies ahead of us.

I can't help but remember, as I see some of these wonderful friends here, Governor Wilson, Attorney General Lefkowitz -- I will come to you in a minute, Senator Buckley, but I just want to comment on these two.

Most of you are too young to remember, but Malcolm and Louie and I were at a meeting that was called by that wonderful human being, that great Republican, that tremendous American, Mae Davy, when she was Chairman here of the New York County Republican Committee. She called a meeting of the candidates in the winter of 1957, or was it the spring of 1958? Spring of 1958.

All the candidates were there. Judge Walter Mahoney was one of those candidates -- Malcolm and I were there, and others -- who was seeking this high honor and the nomination. Walter Mahoney was waxing very eloquent about what he had done in the Senate of the the great empire State to see to it that Louie Lefkowitz should be nominated for Attorney General by the Legislature. Little did he realize that the other contestant for that at that particular moment was Malcolm Wilson.

In the middle of his speech, he realized what he was doing. He was losing all of the group and Malcolm's supporters were against him. He just stopped dead, ladies and gentlemen. Unfortunately, that is what happened to his campaign.

(Laughter)

Malcolm and I got together and then Malcolm and Louie and I had, thanks to all of you, 15 of the most wonderful years together that any individual, speaking for myself, could ever have had. I am so deeply grateful for the privilege that you gave us and, as a result, the association which you gave me with two of the most brilliant, dedicated, public servants that this country -- and I say country, not only the State, but this Nation -- has ever had in Malcolm Wilson and Louie Lefkowitz.

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Jim Buckley comes along in that same tradition of dedication and concern, courage, to stand for those things in which he believes.

We have here tonight, Congresswoman Catherine St. George, who is sitting out here in the audience, former Congresswoman, who has exactly the same tremendous sense of dedication and purpose. She is a legend in the Congress of the United States, and a legend in the State of New York. We miss her in Washington. But I am thrilled to see her here this evening because this is the kind of leadership which is so tremendously important.

I would like to say that having here Senator Goodman, who is in the Senate, who has done such a wonderful job in the Senate. And I can't help but mention former Speaker Joe Carlino because Joe Carlino is one of the great leaders of this State; a brilliant Speaker of the Assembly, a dynamic and very attractive personality, ladies and gentlemen.

I want to thank not only Vinnie, whose leadership in this County is something that is outstanding, but he has become a symbol for party loyalty, which today doesn't have too much meaning in this country, and is a matter of real concern I think to all of those who believe in the two-party system. Vinnie understands party loyalty and party leadership.

Gertrude Parker, of course, is the dinner chairman tonight. We never can thank her enough.

Carl, who is the treasurer and who was the presiding officer here tonight; Dick Rosenbaum, ladies and gentlemen, has got to be not only a great New York State chairman, but he was elected the Eastern States chairman and now, ladies and gentlemen, because of his popularity, his brilliance and his dedication, he has been elected chairman of all of the State chairmen of the United States. He looks so marvelous as he sits here.

But he never could have gotten there if it hadn't been for Eunice and Phyllis. Of course, I have got to say for his wife, that she plays a very important part, too, because she has permitted him to do it.

I would like to get on to the purpose of the evening here. Excuse me.

This evening to me is a special treat, to speak here during a Bicentennial year, honoring Lincoln, the Statesman we revere here in New York, the city that I love and that all of you love. It is the greatest city in the world.

A historic bond exists between Lincoln, whom we honor, and New York City, which people may tend to forget. Lincoln came out of Illinois, but he scored his first national triumph like so many other Americans from all over the country, right here in New York City on a snowy February night 116 years ago right down on Astor Place. Lincoln delivered his first speech in the eastern part of the United States, and probably the most important speech of his political career; that famous Cooper Union address.

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That stunningly successful speech played an important part in Lincoln's getting the Republican nomination and in going on to the presidency.

We New York Republicans have a proud heritage to inspire out future efforts and tonight I want to describe something that recently brightened our city's future considerably. The last time I had the privilege of speaking here in the Waldorf about New York was back in October for the Columbus Day dinner. On that occasion, I stated my position that as soon as New York City took the necessary actions to balance its budget and restore its fiscal integrity that Congress ought to take appropriate action so that the President of the United States would have the authority to help New York bridge that period before its credit was reestablished in the marketplace. I am happy to say that New York City did adopt a plan to get its fiscal house in order.

Within a little more than a month after that Columbus Day dinner, President Ford made a recommendation to the Congress calling for a three-year loan authorization program of up to \$2.3 billion to bridge the gap until the time when the city can reestablish its credit. Congress acted, and since December 30 of last year, the Federal Government has already advanced \$510 billion in credit to New York City.

As a New Yorker, I am proud of what this city did. As an American and as a Republican, I am proud of what President Ford did for this city. I am especially proud of the spirit with which you people of New York City are standing up and meeting adversity. You have shown an admirable loyalty in practically all quarters to accept realistically what had to be done and to bear the burden and the hardship and the sacrifices.

Ladies and gentlemen, there is a toughness, a resiliency and abominable spirit about its people which is the greatest guarantee of all that New York City will prevail.

But let's face it, ladies and gentlemen, New York is not out of the woods yet. There are some purported slippages in the city's fiscal plan, both with respect to expenditure controls and anticipated revenues. It is going to require continued determination and vigilance by the city officials, the State and the Federal Government, to make sure that the revised fiscal plan achieves the goal of restoring fiscal integrity for New York.

Of course, during the depths of the crisis, New York faced a certain amount of criticism, some of it justified. But what about the Congress of the United States, ladies and gentlemen? Under 2 to 1 Democratic control, they have done the very same thing that they have been criticizing New York City for doing: overspending. They have done it and had a deficit this year of over \$70 billion. I want to tell you the only difference is that the Congress of the United States can print the money and New York City can't. Let's not forget that, ladies and gentlemen.

But we have to meet those needs with fiscal responsibility. We cannot have one without the other. I think we are getting back, all of us, to the fundamental beliefs on which we were raised as young people, that you can't spend more income than you have for very long without going into bankruptcy,

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whether it is an individual, a family, a city, a State or a Nation. This is the fundamental lesson.

The President is taking exactly that approach even though it is election year and, believe me, that takes political courage. I would just like to say a word, ladies and gentlemen, about the President of the United States. I didn't really know him at all before -- I knew him, but not well -- before I had the privilege of serving for him as his Vice President.

I have come to respect and admire this man's tremendous dedication to the fundamental values on which this country was founded. His deep love and respect for America, his deep confidence and faith in the future of America, and I have watched him and sat in meetings hour after hour as he tried to find what was the right answer to the problems, whether they are national or international problems, and when he is determined what the right answer is, what the right course of action is, then he takes that course based on the long-term best interests of America and the American people and our role in the world, and totally disregards short-term political consideration. That, ladies and gentlemen, is leadership. That kind of leadership is what America needs today, and we have got it. I just want to say that.

Sure, our problems are tough, but we can solve them. In fact, I can't imagine a more exciting time to be American than right here and now. I am optimistic about the future of our Party. I am optimistic about the future of our country. As I said when I became Vice President, there is nothing wrong with America that Americans can't right. That is fundamental.

In 1976 we will enter our third century as a Nation. If we are a United people, if we have pride and a sense of purpose as a Nation and a people, if we retain our integrity, there is nothing we can't accomplish. We can scale new heights in this third century of America for the betterment of ourselves and for the betterment of all mankind.

I thank you very much.

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(At 8:00 P.M. EST)