

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 12, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE PRESIDENT FORD COMMITTEE RECEPTION
URBAN CLUB, 19th FLOOR
SUBURBAN STATION BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

AT 5:45 P.M. EST

There are just a whole lot of wonderful friends here. My friend Hal Haskell, where did he go? You can't miss him. (Laughter)

I would just like to first thank all of you for being here and for making a continuation of the Presidential campaign possible. Because, let's face it, in this business these days it is pretty rough with the laws. Although the laws have been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, the Congress hasn't acted on them. So nobody is sure where they are. But that is not unusual for our country in a moment of crisis. (Laughter)

I first would like to, as I say, thank each and every one of you for what you have done by your presence here. And then I would like to salute my friend Governor Ray Shafer and your former governor, a great, great leader. I am deeply indebted to Ray for a lot of things, particularly for his help in Washington, trying to do something for the country in any way that he can.

I believe the problems we face in the period of transition, which it has to be -- I have been on a trip, just got back. We went to nine countries, starting in Tunisia, then France and going through Iran and through Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and so forth. And everywhere we went on this trip, people wanted to know, "Can we count on the United States?"

Now, this in a way is a pretty sad thing, if you will forgive me for saying so. We can't do it alone. We are trying to stand up and meet the pressures of an expanding -- whether we want to call it a Communist world, Soviet Imperialism, Marxism, with growing military power, with subversion, now with Cuban troops supporting military equipment from the Soviet Union in so-called wars of liberation.

Nobody knows where it is going to hit them next. We were in Malaysia. The Malaysians are very worried as to what is going to happen in Thailand. Is Thailand going to be able to stand as an independent country, or is Thailand going to become another mounting area, staging area for invasion of Malaysia?

The same is true in Singapore -- we were there -- Australia, New Zealand. "Is the United States going to preserve presence in Southeast Asia? Are they going to preserve naval presence in the Indian Ocean? Who are we going to count on for our economies?" And so forth.

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So in the process of this little visit, I sat down with the heads of governments. There was a number of countries with newly-elected heads of government. And then I met with their cabinets and sat down and talked the way any of us would. And I tried to explain what we have been through as a nation, and that is pretty tough -- the emotional stress and strain of going through the war in Vietnam and what it did internally to this country, and then Watergate, and then the increase in oil prices by the OPEC countries, and inflation, recession and depression. And we have a President and Vice President who were not elected, for the first time in our history, both appointed, confirmed by the Congress. I won't get into that detail. (Laughter)

In a television program Thursday or Friday night I was asked did I think they ought to investigate Presidential candidates more thoroughly in the future I said, "I don't know what you are referring to. But 500 FBI agents working for three months is about as thorough as I could take it." (Laughter)

The fact that I am here is a tribute to something. If it is my stupidity or whatever it is, anyhow -- (Laughter) So I thought maybe we better stick to qualities, rather than investigations, that the Presidential candidates needed.

But here we come down now to a moment which really is a very important moment in the future of all those values we believe in that we were founded here on. Here we are in our Bicentennial Anniversary, 200 years as a nation that fought not only for individual liberty but for economic freedom.

If one analyzes it, we had had it up to here as far as being run from London. We wanted to have our own freedom, economic as well as political freedom, spiritual freedom, religious freedom. And these are values which our founding fathers established and which have made this the greatest nation in the history of the world.

Now, these are being challenged. Others want to preserve those values throughout the world. We want to preserve them, but without our strength they are going to have a tough time.

I feel the most important thing to do is reestablish the strength of America. And with that strength then we can meet the needs of our people at home and our responsibilities around the world. Without it we can't do anything.

I got into a very interesting discussion with Lee Kuan Yew, who is a very able man. He is the Prime Minister of Singapore. They let him out of the Malaysian nation or complex and let him go on his own. He had three million Chinese, and they were worried about the number of Chinese in their structure.

He had an average of \$300 per capita GNP. This is 1964. He decided to make Singapore the ideal location for multinational corporations to come and do business. And he did. And I want to tell you, they have got the second or

third highest per capita gross national product of any country in Asia. In 10 years, 11 years, 12 years they have gone from \$300 to \$2,000 GNP per person in Singapore.

He is the greatest advocate of the American enterprise system, what it can do if you just give it an opportunity -- even more, I think, than some people in our own country, if you will forgive me for saying so. (Laughter)

I told him what we would like to do is borrow him for a year to come and do the same in New York City. (Laughter)

We just need to go back to fundamentals and just believe in ourselves and believe in our system.

The President of the United States, President Ford, has had the courage, and I watched him -- I didn't really know him before I got into this situation very well. But I have had a chance to watch him firsthand. And this is a man who has tremendous sincerity, tremendous dedication to these fundamental values.

He has been a leader in the Congress for 25 years -- or not a leader, but a large percentage of that time. And that is a totally different business than being an executive. We all know that. He has made this transition.

His one interest is to find out what is the right thing to do in a situation that is before him. He asks for counsel. He is tremendously patient. But when he has decided what reflects the best national interests, that is what he stands for. He has no concern whatsoever -- got total courage -- about the short term political implications. And he has made some very tough decisions in vetoing measures which were extremely popular.

I talk about restoring our strength, that you can't have strength with inflation. It is the most insidious tax on those who can least afford it -- the retired people, the people on wages, on pensions, and so forth. And therefore, he went out to stop inflation, and he did all the unpopular things.

But this is the way he is. And he has had that courage and shown that courage. And I have to say to you that we are very fortunate in this country at this particular moment to have a person who has that kind of belief and faith in America and that willingness to take stands that reflect our best national interest.

And all we have to do is look at some other countries who have been faced with the same problems and see where they are today and see the trend that has to be stopped.

Now, despite this, we are going to have a \$75 billion or \$74 billion deficit this year, and he is trying to hold it down. His idea on unemployment -- and I think he is proving to be right; and, of course, it is what we believe and what Lee Kuan Yew has proved -- that you get job.

opportunities through the development of private enterprise producing goods and services for the economy and for the people. And it is the most responsive system. And the more government gets into it, the more complicated it gets.

I tell you, I had a little series of hearings, and Ray and I went wandering around the country having these Domestic Council hearings, 500, 700, 900 people at each place to hear what they thought. We invited a lot of people to testify and then invited the rest to come and participate, what they felt about domestic policies and programs.

I think probably Dan Evans, who is Governor of the State of Washington, made the best testimony. He gave two illustrations about bureaucratic red tape, which is really what worries people more than anything else.

People used to think that Washington was the solution to their problem. Now they are beginning to think it is the problem. (Laughter) This is whether it is the governor or head of a corporation or labor union or welfare recipient. They feel the same.

So Dan told about applying for a grant in Washington under one of these 1,007 categorical grant programs that Congress has dreamed up. He said they worked for months and spent a lot of money and sent it in, \$7 million. They got it sent back to them from Washington, saying, "We have changed the regulations since you prepared this program. You will have to do it over because they don't fit our new regulations."

He gave another illustration where they worked out a way of saving \$1.5 million, and he sent that in. And they said, "Sorry, there is no provision in the regulations for saving that kind of money. So you can't do it." (Laughter)

He said, "Look, I can summarize by saying give us less money, less regulations, and just get off our backs." (Laughter)

Now, I know Washington is essential and the Federal Government is essential, and it does a marvelous job. But it is interesting that 200 years ago we had the revolution because London was on our backs. And so I think we really have got something to learn and we can simplify this and that Washington can do its job without making it so that it intervenes into everybody's affairs.

Because what worries me, and I know it is true of the President, is that we are really inhibiting the most creative, dynamic force that has built America, and that is individual initiative and private enterprise, by making it so complicated that it gets to a point that is it worth trying?

We don't know whether we can get the return. They may change the rules on us. But the tragedy is this is true for State government, local government and for the county government.

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So all I am saying is we have a President who understands these things, who has the courage to take positions. And I am deeply grateful to you that you are supporting him by making contributions for his campaign.

I saw him after lunch today. His spirits are fine. I have been telling him and telling the public that I think Ronald Reagan has done him more of a favor than anyone else could possibly do. If he hadn't had opposition, he wouldn't have been able to get in this campaign and prove he is a winner. So he shouldn't worry about it.

He is going to get nominated and he is going to get elected. And this country is going to get back -- I have been promising to these people all around the world that we were going to come back, that we have knocked off the left wing and the right wing, and we are getting back to the middle and going to fulfill our commitments to the rest of the world to preserve freedom and equality of opportunity for all.

I thank you.

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(AT 5:58 P.M. EST)