

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
(Cincinnati, Ohio)

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REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
AT THE  
HAMILTON COUNTY PRESIDENT FORD COMMITTEE DINNER  
MEN'S DINING ROOM, QUEEN CITY CLUB  
FOURTH AND BROADWAY  
CINCINNATI, OHIO

AT 9:12 P.M. EST

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Bill.

I have got to tell you this is a thrill for me to be here. And having sat next to your governor for eight years in the Governors' Conference, you can understand why I had such a good time at those conferences.

(Laughter)

There is nobody like him. Only from a guy from Ohio, as we would say in New York. But he is a man that I admire and I love and I respect. He has that rare capacity for cutting through all of the confusion and complexities of life and goes right to the heart of the issues and sees them as they are and then the capacity to tell it like it is.

I think in this country today there is nothing more important, and this is the only way we can keep a democracy, if the people understand the realities. And they are only going to understand them if we tell it like it is. This is what Jim does. He has got the courage of a lion, and I must say I admire him. As I say, I have a tremendous affection for him, and I appreciate his coming here tonight.

My appreciation for his presence is only equaled by my appreciation on behalf of the President and our party for the presence of all of you here. And what Bill and Carl have done in organizing this evening and what you have done by coming this evening and making it possible to raise the funds to put on a campaign is only testimony to the strength and vitality of democracy in America, the fact that citizens care enough about our system to be willing to devote their energies to it or willing to, as you have done here, make these contributions by your presence and your funds. So on behalf of the President I want to thank you, and on behalf of the party I want to thank you.

Now, I would like to say that I am delighted also to be here with another very good friend of mine who was a former governor. That is Ray Shafer. Ray is over here, Governor of Pennsylvania. We had a lot of fun together and we have worked together, and we are working together in Washington right now.

I would like to say that, as somebody said earlier, Michigan was the turning point in this campaign. I think this dinner tonight is another turning point. And on Saturday I think that Pennsylvania's uncommitted delegation is going to give very serious consideration to

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becoming committed. And on Monday night New York's delegation is going to do the same thing.

Now, we have had a little slippage, but at least we will do considerably better than Michigan. That is your goal and that is our goal. But that is a good goal to shoot for. I think that on Tuesday the Northeast Chairmen are going to have a meeting. The chairman of New York State is the chairman of the Northeast Chairmen, and, I think, a lot of uncommitted delegates. And on Tuesday I think you are going to find more people coming out.

To me, ladies and gentlemen, this is a moment when the momentum is gathering and when people are beginning to sort of face the facts that Jim was talking about in his talk of the difference between being in office and being a candidate for office and the responsibilities of what you can say and do in those two different capacities.

His story about the camel drivers and that being a heck of an issue in Michigan is a very appropriate story.

(Laughter)

There is no use going backwards over anything, but I think the American people are beginning to look forward and are beginning to understand the issues.

I would like to say that not only is this campaign important because we are going to be electing a President of the United States, but one of the most important things is that we get a Congress of the United States that has a deep understanding and belief in those basic values on which this country was founded and which have brought it to greatness. These have been forgotten.

I came out on the plane with your great Congressman Bill Gradison, and I want to tell you that there is a wonderful man. If we just had more men like Bill -- and women; I don't see how they can be like Bill, but never mind; cut from the same cloth, shall we say -- then we would turn this country around.

When we talk about the bureaucracy of the Federal Government, that didn't just grow because some President did it. That is all the result of legislation.

There are 1,007 categorical grants for aid to State and local government that have been passed by the Congress of the United States. This is one of the reasons I withdrew from the governorship, another reason I couldn't get to be President. But that's another situation.

(Laughter)

But each one of these requires, if you are going to get the benefit of these grants from the Federal Government, that you enrich and improve your own program. Well, our programs were enriched and improved before the Federal Government even passed this legislation. And this is what killed us. If you don't take it, you get criticized. And if you do take it, you have to conform not only to the legislation but to the administrative procedures, which are constantly changed by the Executive Branch.

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So State and local government, counties, towns, villages, cities have really lost control of the ability to be responsive and responsible to the people who have elected us. And this is a very serious thing.

Now, you all are from business and industry and the media here, so you see it as it affects your lives. But I want to mention this, because we have got Bill here, and I want to hold him up as the type of dedicated citizen who has gone to the Congress of the United States, not that he needed to, but he cares about this country. And we have got to have that kind of person, because no President -- I don't care who he is -- is going to be able to straighten this situation out without the cooperation of Congress. That is what we need.

I would like to say one thing while we are talking about Congress, because when criticism has been levied at the Administration relating to the military strength, of America's capacity to fulfill its responsibilities in the world today -- and it has been levied by some fellow Republicans -- I would just like to point out that in the last eight years Republican Presidents have been turned down on a total of \$40 billion of expenditures to build our military strength by a two-to-one Democratic Congress. That's where the responsibility, ladies and gentlemen, lies.

So when they criticize the President on this subject, what they really ought to do is get out and work and elect more Congressmen like Bill. That is where they ought to put their energy.

I would like to thank Max for his generous comments, for his friendship and for what he is doing for the President. He has been fabulous. And, believe me, this is time when friends who are willing to stand up and be counted count.

So we are very grateful to you, Max. You have been a tower of strength for the Republican Party through the years. And this time, in my opinion, is the key moment, because this is a turning point for America.

And Dean Burch is here, and Dean has made a major contribution over the years to the Republican Party. I want to thank him for what he has done and for his presence here tonight.

And Kent, your State Chairman, had to go with Jim, and I would like to say how much I admire his leadership here in the political work in the State of Ohio, a man of outstanding ability.

The State chairmen, county chairmen, all the workers of the party are the unsung heroes of democracy, because they are the men and women who give of their energy to preserve this two-party system and who pick the candidates, who crystallize the issues, go to the people, organize the campaigns. They don't get the kudos that those who are fortunate enough to get nominated and sometimes elected, get the promises and the opportunities, but they are the ones who do the work. I would like to express my appreciation.

That goes for Earl Barnes, too, who is the chairman of the Hamilton County Republican Committee. I am sure his work has been one of the factors that made possible one of the things that Carl and Bill did in organizing this dinner. I would like to express my respect for him and Steve Bollinger, who is the chairman of the Hamilton County President Ford Committee. There is another highly dedicated party worker. And, again, to Carl Lindner for his work with Bill. Those two are the men who have made this possible.

Now let me just say a few words, and then I understand we go to questions, which is something I always enjoy. I would rather talk about something that is on your mind. I have got a lot of thoughts on my mind, but I may not draw up the ones you are interested in. Let me say a few words and then let's go to some questions and answers.

I would like to talk a little bit about the party, because that, basically, is the vitality of this country, a two-party system. I happen to believe very deeply in the Republican Party, and I know you all do or you wouldn't be here.

The strength of the party here in Ohio points the way for a Republican resurgence throughout America and a Republican victory with President Ford in November. You are leading the way with your organizational work here. You have put together a Republican Party with far-reaching appeal. You have created a party which attracts voters from all walks of life. Too many Republican Parties around the country haven't done that. You have, and that's why you have got a Republican Governor right now.

You have organized a party that shows deep human concern for people and their problems, which is essential in a political system. You are coming up with responsible, fiscally sound answers to those problems.

I have got to say that the success of the Republican Party is evidenced in Jim Rhodes' stunning return to Governor in Ohio in a year when very few Republicans were being elected.

Let's face it, Ohio has the largest Republican delegation in the Congress of the United States, and I have got to say one of the best, if not the best. That is tough for me to say from New York.

Also, your ability to win in cities is another very important thing. There aren't many Republican organizations in the country today that are winning in cities. It is essential for our party to have that capacity to reach people in our cities. They have got lots of problems, and they need the kind of understanding of the American system to revitalize and return cities as locations where people can find employment and decent places to live and work.

Tonight I want to talk to you about the role of our party and its future and some of the problems we face as a Nation.

In terms of enrollment, we Republicans are a minority party nationally, so we have our work cut out for

us, but you in Ohio have set the winning pattern based on good government. And that is exactly what President Ford is giving this Nation, ladies and gentlemen, good government. That is what we need.

Our candidates and our programs must reflect the interests and concerns of not only Republican voters, but of Independents and Democrats as well. What have we got? Eighteen percent of the registered voters. So obviously, we are not going to elect a candidate based on Republican votes alone but only if our candidates have the capacity to reach across the line with sound, constructive solutions.

Maybe one of the solutions is doing something to the problems they face and the creation of a framework of laws within which we have freedom of action for individual citizens for the free enterprise system and for State and local governments, which is the American way.

Our parties were created not as ends in themselves but as a means to an end, and that end is good government.

Now, President Ford has restored confidence in the integrity of government. This has got to be one of the most fundamental achievements that he has done. His leadership is in tune with the American people, and that has shown up in the polls both in our party and across the lines.

I have to tell you, I didn't really know President Ford very well before he came into office and asked me to come down with him. But I have had the privilege of working for him now for a year and a half. I have never known a man in public life who had as great a faith in the basic principles which have made this country what it is today or who had a greater love for our country than President Ford. And these are fundamentals, ladies and gentlemen.

I have been with him in meetings hour after hour where he listens to different points of view, where he wants to get an understanding of all facets of a problem. Then finally, when he is satisfied of what is right, he will make the decision.

His decisions are based on what he thinks are in the best long-term interests of the American people and not on short-term political advantage. This is, I think, his greatest strength, and this takes the kind of courage and integrity which he has. And this is the leadership he has been giving.

As a result, he has done some things that are not popular. He has vetoed more popular measures proposed by the Congress in order to cut down expenditures and try and hold down inflation, which he has done, and restore jobs.

I don't think any country in the industrial world of today has done as good a job, except Germany, in achieving -- after we have gone through a period of inflation, unemployment, recession -- and controlling inflation

and restoring confidence of the people and of our free enterprise system, so that there are 2,600,000 more people employed today than there were a year ago.

Things are starting to roll. We are back to a higher level of employment than we have ever had before. Sure there are about two-and-a-half million people unemployed that need jobs, who because of the recession are out. But we have absorbed the increase of a million and a half a year in the last year. So it was almost three million.

The economy is now moving at a rate of seven percent GNP, and I think that with his tremendous understanding of the basic concepts and the free enterprise system -- and the jobs are not going to come for American people out of government appropriations, but they are going to come out of growth of the American enterprise. And we can have that growth and preserve our environment at the same time and provide the jobs and the opportunities.

This is what he has done. And I have got to say he is a man of integrity, courage and dedication. And our party has got to be proud of this leader. It is the kind of leadership that American needs today, and we need to keep it there.

Sure we still face problems, but we have a strong and fearless leader in Jerry Ford.

Now, I would just like to say in conclusion before we get to the questions and answers, I happen to be very optimistic about the future. I think that this is a unique moment in history, that we have the science and technological experience in this country. We have the managerial experience with the capital. We have got the whole enterprise system to grasp the opportunities that exist if we have the vision and the faith in the future to do it, not only for the benefit of Americans, but we have the opportunity to do this for the benefit of mankind throughout the world on a mutually beneficial basis.

This has got to be the most exciting challenge that any country ever faced, because we are uniquely situated in the United States, to preserve not only opportunities on the basis of equality, but preserve freedom and human dignity and extend it in the world. This is the great challenge, and it can give a sense of purpose and meaning to our lives as individuals.

Now, I would just like to say that we can help, in my opinion, shape the future in this country not only for our own Nation but for all mankind if we have the will. There is nothing wrong in America that Americans can't right. That is the spirit that built this country, and that is the spirit we have got to restore. And that is the spirit that motivates President Ford, and that is why I am here as a witness for him.

I think it is essential for this country that the Republican Party nominate him and the people of America get a chance to elect him, which in my opinion they are going to do.

Now, we can discuss any questions that anyone has on his mind. There are no indiscreet questions, just indiscreet answers. I will try to avoid those.

(Laughter)

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, when is Mr. Ford going to start attacking the Congress instead of Mr. Reagan?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That is a very good question. He stopped attacking Mr. Reagan. He found that didn't work. There is no point in having an opponent, when you are President, set the basis for the campaign.

I will tell you what I really think. I think it has been very difficult for Mr. Ford, who spent 24 years in the Congress of the United States -- and all of those people there, or at least all the leaders are his personal friends. And it is very difficult for him to attack them.

You remember when he first was nominated, in his acceptance speech or in his speech to the Congress he said he didn't want a honeymoon, he wanted a marriage with Congress. And he really meant that, and he tried to. I have never seen a man try and work as hard with any group of people who didn't want to work with him.

Now, they are very smart politicians, and I have to say perfectly frankly that they are very astute at knowing what are the unpopular things and the popular things. And anything that is popular that he proposes, they are not about to act on. And anything that is popular that they think he will veto, they pass.

So we have got a situation where, I agree with you, he has got to go to the people and tell it like it is. And I think he is getting very close to that. That is why I mentioned this question of defense.

There was a very simple question like that on defense and the whole question of Angola, whoever wants to get into that later. This was the Congress. Six committees of the Congress had approved covert action to stop the Soviets from doing exactly what they had tried to do in the Congo 20 years ago. And when they came in, they always organized the Communist Party, the minority group. And then in the case of a colonial possession, when it is given its freedom, they slip in arms on the guise of what they call a war of liberation. It is their own group that has organized it, but it is called a war of liberation.

Under President Kennedy they simply in this action in the Congress sent some planes over under a covert action, bombed all their equipment. The planes came back and everybody said, "Isn't it wonderful that the Congolese, through self-determination of this free nation, have now selected their government?" That's what they did do, but they got the help from the United States -- not in a battle; these were not our troops doing it. This was the covert action.

They were doing exactly the same thing in the case of Angola. They had organized a group, one of the tribes. They had been working on it for years. They sent in their

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equipment, undertook a covert action. The action was blocking them so that they then found they couldn't succeed. So they brought in their own colonial troops from Cuba, and the Communists are developing what is a new form of empire. It is a Marxist-colonial empire. And they will develop as long as they can until they get to where the sun never sets on the totalitarian Communist empire.'

All right. So they have to bring in the Cuban troops. So they go back to the Congress, clear through six committees again and necessary additional funds to counteract 10,000 Cuban troops who are fighting. Then at that point somebody leaks what is being done, and then a Senator proposes that they cut off the funds on the basis that we should not be helping white racists and the part-time South Africans who are trying to protect a power plant that was on a river that bordered their country and Angola, and that we should stand for the blacks and self-determination of the blacks.

This was without any discussion of the real reason that America was doing what it was doing, to really give the majority of the blacks the opportunity. And so the Senate cut the funds off.

Now, this is the kind of action that is being taken by the Congress of the United States that is destroying our capacity to be effective and defend freedom and human dignity and the right of self-determination. But this has been totally misrepresented.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, that was a perfectly beautiful exposition of what has happened. But there was a time when a very unpopular President was confronted with a very popular Congress and with a political campaign almost the equivalent of what we have now. He attacked the do-nothing Congress, and despite the New York Times and the Chicago Tribune, he beat them all into the ground.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: And he is the hero of President Ford.

QUESTION: Now, my suggestion is that everything you said be all -- we love it, but it is not germane to the problem of how do we keep the Democrats from taking the White House. How do we keep the 94th Congress, who is probably the equivalent of the Tennis Court group of the French Revolution, from perpetuating itself?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: It's a pretty big tennis court.

QUESTION: I suggest to you, sir, that we should dedicate ourselves to helping Jerry Ford attack the 94th Congress the way Harry Truman attacked the 80th Congress. Because the 94th Congress would have already destroyed our dream of Valhalla in Western civilization, except Gerald Ford with the veto and with his guts kept them from destroying us.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That is exactly right. That is a beautiful statement.

QUESTION: Now, why don't we all take this wonderful opportunity we have for solidarity tonight and help Gerald Ford attack the 94th Congress, which is the enemy, instead of other people who aspire to be the nominee. Because, unless we attack the 94th Congress as having tried to take our democracy away from us, we really are not going to win the election.

I hope you will help President Ford expand on this theme and do what he did in Michigan and say, "Fellows, it is the people back home that want the government. It is not the 94th Congress." And that, I think, is what we need to get our boy reelected, because that is what we are here for.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I like what you are saying, and I am going to take the message back to him.

I would like to say just at the end that the action relating to Angola was exactly what you are talking about. It is complicated, and people don't like to listen to complicated situations. But if you are going to understand government, you have got to understand complicated things.

I know this isn't the best way to campaign, but I am assuming that this is a very sophisticated audience and, therefore, you want more than rhetoric; you want some answers. That is what I am trying to give you, because this is a hot issue.

The blame for Angola belongs on that Congress and not on the President. That was the point I was trying to make. And there are now 15,000 Cuban troops in there.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, the party has raised \$100,000 here, and I think there are a number of us here today that are not politicians. What I would really like to know is that the money has been raised and what would you suggest to those of us who are not politicians that we can do within our communities to make sure that President Ford is elected this fall?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I think that is a very good suggestion and, of course, the gentleman who just spoke before you was already given one very good answer.

QUESTION: That was too sophisticated.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: All right. Then let's take another pocketbook answer. Let's take first an emotional one. To me, the most important thing he has done is restore dignity and respect and trust to the American people in government. Now, I think that is essential to any democracy. That is number one.

Number two, he has done the best job of any country, with the possible exception of Germany, in dealing with the double problem of inflation and unemployment and a recession. And this is really almost a miracle.

I don't think he himself even thought that he could do the job as rapidly as he has done it. I don't think

even Arthur Burns or Alan Greenspan thought it was going to work as fast as it has. And it was done by the courage of doing everything that was unpopular but that has served the best interests of the American people. Because he felt that the most insidious task, the most vicious situation which can destroy the fiber of society is inflation. It hits those who can least afford to cope with it -- retired people, older people, those who are on fixed incomes and so forth. So he has done that.

Then he has had the courage to say that the strength of our country is the American enterprise system, free enterprise, not government-provided jobs. And he has vetoed these big expenditures for government jobs, giving the opportunity for the system to work. And the system has started to work. And faith has come back to the consumer, and they have got lots of money and they are now beginning to spend the money again.

So the basic factors which built the country have been given an opportunity to work again, and they are now restoring the vitality of the country.

These are the things which he has done that have hit, to me, the voter. So it is respect for his government, opportunity to get a job and to work on a stable economic situation. Inflation is down to five or six percent and going down. It may be cycles, but it has come down to half of what it was. Then the economy is now starting to move with confidence on the part of the consumer.

These, to me, are the things which people will understand.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, I think it is important that the President identify the things that he has done for inflation and what he is doing for unemployment. I think that the one thing that he is weak on at the present time is the number of unemployed in the Nation.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No question.

QUESTION. And the opposition has taken advantage of that. But there is an equation between inflation and unemployment, and it is a long-range equation that has to be spelled out to the electorate.

Fortune had an article or an interview with Jimmie Carter where he spelled this out. And I think it would be very important that the President doesn't take the unemployment level as something that is inevitable.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I have to differ with you, if you will forgive me, that that isn't as it is. 700,000 people more last month, 800,000 -- wasn't it? -- the month before in increased employment.

QUESTION: It's increased employment, but it is a high unemployment level.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That is correct. We have a growth in our labor force of a million and a half a year. We lost two-and-a-half million jobs in the recession.

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QUESTION: I think it would be great if the President would relate what the cost of unemployment is to inflation.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Maybe you could spell it out right now for all of us. Then I could take it back to him the way you would like to have, him say it.

QUESTION: I don't want to bore everybody.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: If you are going to bore them, then the President shouldn't say it later, because the President would bore somebody. I think you ought to spell this out, because I think the President is doing a heck of a job on this.

QUESTION: Let me say it this way, that there is a level of unemployment --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That is intolerable.

QUESTION: No, that is intolerable on the one hand; that there is a level of unemployment that is uneconomical on the other hand. I think it ranges from a seven percent unemployment to a five minus percent unemployment. And I think that if the President could recognize that the present unemployment which is being spoken of by labor leaders and a Democratic candidate and so forth as intolerable -- but we can't go past and below a certain amount without getting a high inflation as an alternative. That is an important thing. And I think that consumers of the country -- and I think I feel with them -- are very sensitive to the inflation equation.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No question. And so are voters, and it is the same group.

QUESTION: Now, I would like to add one other thing, and that is that I think it would be a very desirable thing if the President would say to the Nation that the primary responsibility for unemployment is the private sector and the secondary responsibility is the government.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, he may not have said it as simply and clearly as that, but that is what he believes and that is the basis on which he has been operating. And as a result of his allowing the private sector, they have employed 2,600,000 people in the last 12 months, which I have to think is a record increase in employment by private enterprise any year in the history of America.

I think they are doing a heck of a job, private industry. If they repeat that next year, if that same growth rate continues, seven-point-something GNP, if that same rate carries on for another year, if we get another 2.6 million, we are going to be back where we can then absorb the million and a half young people that are coming out on the market every year. I think we are heading in the right direction.

Now, I think you put it very simply, and I like the way you put it, and I think that is a very sound thing for him to say. But I have to say that is exactly what he

has been working for, and he totally agrees with your philosophy.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, this isn't a sophisticated question. It isn't related to economics or politics, really. But I think you may underestimate someone and the high regard that this general area in Ohio has for you. I think that the success of this enterprise tonight resulted a great deal from the fact that you were here at this meeting.

I am going to ask you a very, very simple question. Where do you see Nelson Rockefeller in this campaign for the next six months, let's say?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Wherever I can help the President and the country most.

I will take one more and then everybody is going to have to go to bed.

QUESTION: I think what we are arguing about is strategy, not objective. I think what we are saying is the President has done so well, but nobody is putting his best foot forward.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That is correct.

QUESTION: How do we change this strategy? And we better change it pretty quick.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, in a way he may suffer from the same problem that many businessmen suffer from -- namely, they are so concentrated on doing a good job that they don't concentrate enough on talking about and explaining and articulating it.

But I am trying to explain what I think is the reason. Now he recognizes that and that he has got to articulate his position as President of the United States as distinct from another campaigner.

That is what Jim Rhodes was saying. This man has got all these responsibilities, and he takes them very seriously. And the problem is the articulation of those to the American people in simple terms just the way Mr. Lazarus just put it about where the jobs are coming from, that it has got to be private enterprise, not government.

QUESTION: He has done it, if we can explain it.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That is right.

QUESTION: He has only got a few weeks left.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, he's got a few weeks before the last primary, but then he has got a few weeks more after that before the actual election. And that is where we are going to see this thing really start tolling here.

But I think this meeting tonight is a very important one, because you in this room have shown your

concern for the party and the President. And then you have been willing to articulate how you feel he can be more effective in interpreting that to the public. And I appreciate tremendously this kind of frank discussion, which is most constructive. And I think it would be very helpful to him and very reassuring.

I am very grateful to all of you. Thanks very much for being here.

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(AT 9:55 P.M. EST)