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(FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1976)

Office of the Vice President
(Ocean City, Maryland)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
MARYLAND STATE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION DINNER
CAROUSEL CENTER HOTEL
DELMARVA PENINSULA ROOM
OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

(AT 8:25 P.M. EDT)

Reverend McCready, and Mary Louise, she is such a wonderful person and so generous; I am very grateful to her for those kind words. And I must say, I am thrilled to be here in Maryland, and particularly to be here at this meeting. But it is a double pleasure to be here with her because you can feel her spirit, her dedication of a lifetime to what I feel all of us in this room aspire to, namely, service of our country, because we care.

And those of you who work in the Party, whether the State Chairman or County Chairman, or party workers, or whatever role one happens to play, in my opinion, those of you who have chosen to give of yourselves to your Party, you are the unsung heroes of democracy, because it is only because of you that the country has survived as a democracy 200 years, longer than any other democratic nation in the history of the world.

And it is because of men and women like yourselves and what you are doing. And those of us fortunate to be nominated by you and appointed by you, have the opportunity to serve the country. And right here this evening, this is what is great about our country. That is why we love it. We have a voice in it. We can shape it, we can meet the problems, respond to change, and take advantage of opportunities.

I would like to salute those who have made possible my visit here. I would like to thank Dave very much, and Louise for inviting me, because if not for you, I wouldn't be here. So I want to thank you, and also Dick, and to salute your elected officials.

Of course, I have known McC. Mathias for a long time, and I am a great admirer of his. And he and I have campaigned together and worked together. So I feel at home with him. So it wasn't until he got in the Senate, or I should say I got in the Senate. I have to explain, ladies and gentlemen, it isn't all you think it is. I am the presiding officer. It is a great privilege, and if you want to stay in it, you have got to conform to its set of rules.

And I found that, coming from the Executive Branch of government, I wasn't exactly accustomed to some of these conditions, but have learned the hard way, but not until I got there. But I should say, also, I can't vote as presiding officer but in case of a tie. There hasn't been a tie since I have been there. But I have had a wonderful time.

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(Laughter)

And one of the happy experiences is meeting Glenn Beall. And I want to say what a pleasure it is to be here tonight. I want to say a few words about him later, but I want him to know one of the happiest experiences of being the presiding officer of that august body is to have met him and worked with him. Of course, we do have another house, and you have two Congressmen from the other house. I want to salute them, Bob Bauman and Marjorie Holt. I haven't had as much opportunity to get to know them, and they are in the House of Representatives, and we are on the other side of the building.

I have great respect, as one who has worked with Congress in the Executive Branch. And I have the most tremendous respect for Congress, and worked with the Legislature for the State of New York, and glad to see the leaders of the legislature here. And I have a deep respect for the legislative body.

Now, to have this opportunity to visit with you, to be here on this important occasion and to have met with some of your leaders this afternoon, this, I have to say, is the kind of thing I enjoy because I am an organization man, if you forgive me for saying so. I believe in party loyalty, certain fundamentals, and I believe that winning is the name of the game.

(Applause)

But I believe that politics isn't an end in itself, but a means to an end, and the end is good government, and good government is the best politics. And that is why the Republicans win.

(Applause)

And that is the wonderful thing about this country, that the American people are willing to support those men and women for public office in whom they have confidence if they feel they are going to do a good job for them, and honest and able and working for them. Even though they may not agree with you all the time, that is an interesting thing. If they feel they can trust and respect you, they will vote because they say, maybe I don't know some facts, and will go along.

The reason I have been in public life as long as I have is because I believe in this country, and we are the luckiest people in the world to be here. And sometimes we think we have problems, but think how many people in the rest of the world would like to live in America, despite what we think about it.

Now, it just seems to me that you Maryland Republicans have demonstrated, statewide, what the Republican Party needs nationwide. I think it is true of New York, too, but I am here in Maryland so I am going to talk about you because we have very similar situations when we are the minority party with heavily outnumbered votes. But yet, you have elected Republicans to important key offices, and

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one of the reasons you have it and we have it is you are a unified party, you are an organization party, you are an energetic party, and you pick Republican candidates who have what it takes to win against the Democrats, even when enrollment majority is against you. And yours is higher than ours. Yours is about three to one.

So I salute these elected officials sitting here, for their dedication, and I salute you for picking the kind of men and women you have. You have had the wisdom to put forth Republicans with broad-based appeal. And, let's face it, we represent a conglomeration of people from all over the world, with different hopes, aspirations and problems, and, therefore, we have to be a broad-based party and have broad-based candidates if we are going to be able to win. And, as I said, that is the name of the game as far as I am concerned. And I have a feeling we are going to gain this year.

Now, the proof of your ability to overcome odds is a strong Maryland Republican delegation in Congress, including -- let me say this very frankly and forcefully -- two of the ablest and most brilliant men it is my privilege to know in the Senate of the United States, McC. Mathias and Glenn Beall.

(Applause)

I am not going to talk about McC. because he is there for quite a period. But I do want to talk about Glenn because he is up for reelection. And I would like to say, on the basis of my personal knowledge, that Glenn Beall's reelection is just as important to the United States of America as it is to the State of Maryland.

And sometimes one sort of forgets one's representatives as representing not only our problems back home, but when they get to Washington and the Senate, have to deal with the problems to reflect the well-being of our country and security for our country, and have the ability to balance those two out. And that is not easy; puts them under a lot of pressure.

Glenn has that capacity. I would like to speak of him as a former governor, and Glenn Beall is one of those who supported Revenue Sharing at the moment when it was crucial. Categorical grants came along because people wanted to identify with the problems back home. From the point of view of those of us who are local officials, we now have 1,007 categorical grants. Each of those have legislative regulations and restrictions that go along with it to get federal money.

And this is not in my speech, but in my opinion, ladies and gentlemen, local government, mayors, county executives have lost the capacity to be responsible to their constituents because they have to conform to all these regulations. I remember in education we had 23 state plans to fill out in education. I don't know who read them. When we got through, we got five percent of the cost of primary-secondary education from the Federal Government.

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For the first time, States and local governments are getting funds from the fast-growing source of revenue, which is the income tax, and the Federal Government has the big piece of it, and their revenues were growing faster than ours.

We have an income tax. I don't know if you do, but a lot of States don't. They is why all these bedroom States next to us, like Connecticut and New Jersey, don't have income tax.

But I would just like to say he saw that, understood it, and not only that, but he has taken many initiatives to reverse the flow of power to Washington back to the government closest to the people, which we Republicans know is the best government.

(Applause)

Now, that is speaking as a former governor.

Now, speaking as the Vice President -- and don't get too excited about that job either. Listen, I was the Chairman of a committee for General Eisenhower when he was President, on Government Organization, and he asked me to make a study for him. He said, "We have got to find what we should give the Vice President to do." That was then Vice President Nixon.

We studied for three months and came back with an answer to him that there wasn't anything under the Constitution except presiding over the Senate, which is a great honor, don't misunderstand me. There is a lot of prestige that goes with it. But beyond that, there is no responsibility under the Constitution. Therefore, the only thing that could be done was the President delegate some of his powers to the Vice President. If he did that, that is certain to set up a competing political center in the Executive Branch.

So I came into this job with a full recognition of this, having studied it, and accepted the fact that I would be a staff assistant to the President to do anything I could to help him, and through him, the country. But I didn't have anything to do, except, as I say, the job of presiding over the Senate.

Now, speaking as Vice President and special staff assistant to the President, I would like to say, though, I have observed Glenn in the Senate, and he is one of the most respected Senators in the United States Senate, by his colleagues. He is not a showboat, he is not a prima donna, ladies and gentlemen, and, believe me, that is a pleasure because there are some. He is respected because he is hard working and gets things done. And those are the qualities which really count in this country, and particularly at this time. So I think you are lucky and we are lucky to have him there.

I have told Glenn that I intend to do whatever I can to help him, and I hope everybody in this room is going to do the same thing so we get him back there in the

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United States Senate in November.

(Applause)

Now, you were good to ask me here, so I would like to say a few words about the leadership of our Party and our Nation. And I have to think all of us are here because we love this country, otherwise, you wouldn't be doing what you are doing. You take a beating. We all do, and get pushed around, but we love the country, and, therefore, we are here.

I have a speech which I released to the press, but I had an idea after the meeting upstairs that maybe what I might do would be to say to you what I said to our similar meeting, only in the session of our delegation in New York State two weeks ago next Monday. Of course, I know that group very well. I have worked with them a great many years, and we had a very good meeting. And I told them, I said, "Look, Mr. Reagan, Governor Reagan, is a very good friend of mine. He and I were governors together for eight years. And I have a very high regard for him."

And I said, "What we are here for in this meeting," and this was in New York, "is to do what is in the best interests of our country." We have personal feelings about things, and I have to tell you, frankly, the best thing, from the New York State point of view, would have been to stay uncommitted right to the convention and thought we were Mr. Big and had a big privilege and so forth. But I said, "We are here and this is a psychological moment, and we want to do what is going to help America most, and that has to be the basis."

I went on to say, "Let's take a look at what the situation is." I said, "I have to tell you I am for President Ford; I will tell you why." I said, "Let's take a look at the record. This man came into office and didn't seek the office." Under the Constitution -- and thank God we had the Twenty-Fifth Amendment, and it took care of the country in a tough situation and we went through that serious trauma of Vietnam and Watergate. And I think the American people have got to be the greatest people in the world to have the stability to withstand those problems as well as they did. I think the Congress was magnificent. And what is most important, is the Constitution of the United States gave us the framework to deal with these problems and it stood up under strain.

(Applause)

All right, so under the Constitution you have a President and Vice President, both of whom were nominated under the Twenty-Fifth Amendment, and approved by the Congress. I said, "Let's look at the record. Let's look at the record." Coming in a moment of real trauma for the Nation, with a tremendous cynicism on the part of many people, loss of confidence and respect of government, and many people have lost even confidence in themselves.

That is a little over two years ago, and that is

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a short time. Because of a deep sense of devotion to the fundamental principles on which this country was founded and grew to greatness, and a great deal of personal courage, this man has restored confidence in the Presidency and in the Executive Branch of government and in our country.

(Applause)

And I have watched this man. That was part of it. But let's take the next phase, which is the economic situation. Here we were going into this combination of inflation, recession and unemployment. Which added to the problems of the others. And in the short space of time, two years, this country has turned around inflation. It has been cut in half because of the courage of vetoing bill after bill passed by the Democrat majorities in Congress, attractive spending bills.

And let me say, ladies and gentlemen, anyone criticizing New York for spending more money than they had, New York City is just pikers compared to the Congress of the United States. They have a \$75 billion deficit, and the only difference is they can print money and New York City can't.

So he had the courage to veto one after another bill that was a popular bill, and he was trying to find out what was in the best interest of the future of America, not in short-term political gain. That is the kind of leader I think we need in this country, and it's worked.

Inflation is cut in half. Now, nobody thought you could cut inflation because you had to hold down expenditures and get unemployment problems solved. Do you realize there are 2,600,000 more new jobs today than a year ago? We now have more people employed in the United States than at the peak of the recession. All right, we still need another two million jobs, but the growth rate is now up to 8.5 percent. In real terms, that is something that nobody thought could happen.

This has all happened. Why? Because this man believes in the American free-enterprise system, and he has been willing to stand up and say, look, jobs produced by government, just make-work jobs, are not going to solve our problems. We have to create conditions to get people to take action and get us back on the move again, and he did and it's worked.

And this thing is rolling. Not only that, but personal income in this country is up \$17 billion, and peoples' confidence is back, and that is why things are rolling. And in one more year we are not only going to catch up on the unemployment, but be in the position where we can produce a million and a half jobs a year.

I think that is extraordinary evidence in the faith in our way of life and in our system, and the courage to take the positions against a two-to-one majority in the Congress, supported by men like you have right here with us.

All right, there is one other area, the international

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area. Let's not forget, ladies and gentlemen, that we are at peace in the world, and we have been through a long period of war. And somehow, I don't mean to attribute it to the other Party, but we seem to be in wars when the Democrats are in office.

And what is going on in Lebanon is a tragedy, and yet he has kept that from spreading. The United States has been the negotiator for bringing the sides together.

So right around the world, this is an extraordinary record. We not only have a great President in terms of international affairs, but in terms of the Secretary of State, who has to be one of the most able negotiators in the history of the United States. And that is a great combination.

So, as Al Smith used to say, "Let's look at the record." That is the record. And when you have something going, why rock the boat?

I have to tell you an interesting story. I was coming back the day before this meeting on the plane from a speaking engagement with a gentleman from the other side of the aisle, a Democrat, and he said, "I want to thank you for this meeting you are going to." He said, "I know what you are going to do, or try to do with your delegation," and he said, "It is bad for the Democratic Party because Reagan would be a lot easier for us to beat." But he said, "I am with you because Ford is the best for the United States." That is a very interesting thing coming from a Democrat.

(Applause)

And it's not only that, but I have got to say to you, I am a practical politician and, frankly, some don't think so. But I did get elected four times at the local level. But, anyhow, I would like to say to you, for those of us to have a ticket, and we are trying to elect Senators and Congressmen and trying to elect legislators, what is going on the head of the ticket is important to what happens locally.

And we had controlled New York's legislature for years, both houses, and we had a tragic situation when the Johnson situation took place. We want to get them back in New York, and one of the reasons our delegation went 119 for President Ford, and I will tell you why, because they figured this is the best way to get back control of the Assembly and hold the Assembly of New York State. And I think that is going to work all across this country. And I just have a feeling this is the psychological moment to act and to show unity in our Party.

And I would like to say one other thing, and that is I have been traveling. I forgot to mention that. I go to funerals, I go to Bicentennial celebrations.

(Laughter)

So I have been getting around. The Soviet Ambassador asked me to come to Russia, and I said,

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"Mr. Ambassador, I have to figure that invitation very carefully because you have to figure out who is going before I come." So he withdrew the invitation. But I have had the opportunity of meeting people around the world, and I would like to say to you, there is growing confidence in this Administration and its stability, and our relations with Europe have never been better, our relations with other parts of the world.

I just came back from Asia. And all they want to know is can we count on the United States, are you going to stand for the basic principles that you believe in? And the Prime Minister of Singapore said, "One multinational corporation is better for our country than two divisions to fight Communism." He said, "We need jobs, we need social progress, and we get it through your corporations coming here." And he set out in Singapore to make that country the best place to do business for multinational corporations, and in 12 years he took his standard of living of \$300 per person to \$2,000. I said, "When you have time, could we borrow you for a year to take over in New York?"

(Laughter)

Ladies and gentlemen, you are the ones who are going to make the decision. I appreciate your letting me come here tonight. I would like to say, in my opinion, this is the most exciting moment in the world to live. We have in our hands today the capacity, in terms of science and technology, in terms of capital, the capacity to solve any problem that needs to be solved, not only in this country but around the world.

This can be the great moment for humanity, and the United States can be the leader. And we can do it to benefit us and them if we have the vision and the courage and the will. Let's grasp that for a moment. And let me say, there are no problems in America that Americans can't solve.

Thank you.

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(AT 8:55 P.M. EDT)