

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 18, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(Greensboro, North Carolina)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
GOP RECEPTION
GREENSBORO COLISEUM EXHIBITION HALL
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

AT 8:42 P.M. EDT

Thank you very much.

Governor Jim Holshouser, thank you, sir, for your kind words.

To Bob Shaw, I would like to thank him very much for his invitation. It has given me a chance to be here in North Carolina.

I am only sorry Happy isn't here. She has got a lot of friends here. We both think the world of North Carolina. The only problem was we had our State Committee meeting yesterday, and we had a lunch and then a cocktail party and then 3,000 for dinner. By the time she got through that, she had had it. But the party did well. So we are in good shape.

But I am delighted to be here, and I am delighted to be here with my good friend Jesse Helms, who I see over there.

I have the honor of presiding over the Senate. Of course, I wouldn't want any of you to think that is more than it is, because I am not allowed to speak without unanimous consent. I can't get his consent, so I never can speak. But I do get a chance to vote when there is a tie. They haven't had a tie, so I haven't even voted yet. But it is a great honor.

I would like to say you have got two wonderful Congressmen here, Congressman Jim Broyhill and Congressman Jim Martin. You have got great representation. We have just got to get more Republicans in the Senate and in the House. That's what we have all got to do.

I would like to salute all of you fellow Republicans and you discerning Democrats. And I have to say that because, let's face it, we can't win an election alone.

I want to say hello to Phyllis Schlafly, a great Republican, who is going to speak to you later.

I would like to say, as I said earlier, there is a great deal of similarity between our two States, if you don't mind my making the analogy. Some might object. We both have States of minority parties -- three to one registration -- and yet both of us have been able to elect Republicans. And that means we reach out beyond the Republican Party to get support.

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I think the Republican Party believes that the best politics is good government. What the people want is good government, and they get it from Republicans. So you have elected Republicans statewide, to Congress, local office, and it is only because of this.

I would like to say also how deeply grateful I am to everybody in this room, because you are here to support the Party financially. You can't run an effective political organization, no matter how brilliant your leaders are -- just like Bob Shaw and all of you who are the county chairmen and other Party officials -- without financial support. You can't reach the public without the funds to organize. So I would just like to express my appreciation, as a Republican, to all of you for coming here and for contributing to the Party and making it possible.

Now, I happen to also believe very strongly, as I know you do, in a two-party system. I think this is the lifeblood of democracy. I think it is the basis for preserving our freedom. And we have got to have two strong, alive parties.

Now, we have got a minority party. We don't want to be worrying about that, but we want to stay united, because there are not too many of us. So we can't afford to get split up, because we haven't got enough to elect statewide officials or a national official by ourselves anyhow, so we might as well stick together.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, let me just talk a little bit about where we are right now. This is to me one of the most exciting moments in which to live. I think if we have the ability, the imagination, the courage, the vision to grasp the opportunities that lie before us for our country and the world, that we can go into one of the greatest, if not the greatest, periods in the history of civilization.

Science and technology, the American enterprise system, the tremendous drive and initiative and imagination that exist in this country and in the free world, we have the opportunities today to grasp those if we stick to the fundamental beliefs on which this country was founded.

This is our 200th Anniversary, so it gives us an opportunity to look back. And the only reason we are here is because the founding fathers had the wisdom, when they set up this country, to set it up on the basis of individual freedom, and not only individual freedom but economic freedom. Those were very importantly related in their minds.

We broke away from the mercantile system in England. Our economy was controlled in North Carolina and New York and all the colonies by the British in London for their benefit. So we sought economic freedom along with individual freedom, and, of course, religious freedom.

Now, a lot of us here are Baptists, and we have just got to stick together -- not across party lines but within the party. But those three freedoms are essential.

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Now, I have a feeling that in our search for security we are losing the concept of the economic freedom. Without economic freedom I don't think you can preserve individual freedom, and I don't think you can preserve religious freedom. So this is something we have got to stick with.

Too many people today, too many young people and too many older people, don't understand how our system works and the fact that it is the individuals with imagination and with creativity and the organizations, whether corporations or associations, that produce goods and services to meet demands and in the process employ people and in the process make profits. And that is the basis for the revenue of government. Eighty-five percent of the revenue of government comes from the private enterprise system, directly or indirectly. Therefore, government can only be effective in meeting its responsibilities to people if our system is working.

Two years ago we were at a mighty low period. We had been through the trauma of Viet Nam. We went through the trauma of Watergate. People had lost confidence and respect for the leadership of government, and it was pretty rough. Then we came into a period of recession and depression, and at that point we found ourselves with inflation and unemployment.

Now, let me just say this: That was two years ago and in that period the Republican Party -- well, for the last eight, as a matter of fact, but if you take the last two, because people don't think back that far -- the Republican Party has led this Nation into a period where respect for government has been restored. People now respect and have confidence in government.

This economy which people thought was going to be in very serious condition, which the Democrats thought could only be brought back through tremendous, huge government expenditures. Increasing the deficit would have fed inflation and not solved the problem for encouraging the enterprise system to grow.

The Republican Administration, under our President, had the courage to veto those expenditures and to encourage the enterprise system, with the result, ladies and gentlemen, that in the last year inflation has been cut in half. In the last year there are 2,600,000 more jobs than there were a year ago. The growth rate is now at 8.6 percent. And nobody, not even the wildest optimists could have thought this could have been achieved during this period.

This is the Republican record, ladies and gentlemen, and nobody can take it away from us. And I want to tell you, it is based on a belief in the fundamental beliefs that made this country what it is today, getting back to those values and that understanding. And there are some of us who still believe in the work ethic, that the only way you get something is to work for it.

Now, the Fabian Socialists in England thought you had to divide up everything. Well, we all feel very badly

about what is happening in England, but maybe that is a pretty good example for us, and maybe this is something we are very fortunate to see happening in order to not have it happen here, ladies and gentlemen. We have got to believe in our system and give it a chance to work. And that is what has happened.

Now, there is a lot more to be done. I happen to have been in government a long time. I was the governor for 15 years of another State. I know the government has now got 1,007 categorical grant programs. These are special programs of aid. And in order to get the money you have got to enrich and improve your program and then you have got to live by all the laws and all the administrative procedures that are established by the Congress.

I want to tell you we already were pretty well enriched and improved in our programs in New York before the program from the Federal Government came along. By the time we met their criteria, we just about went bankrupt.

The trouble is, we have got to get back to some fundamentals, ladies and gentlemen, and there is a lot of unwinding to do. And these two great Congressmen of yours and your Senator have got to do what they are doing, which is help get us back to the fundamentals. You can't spend more money than you have or earn, whether you are an individual or a city or town or village or county or State or Nation, without going bankrupt at some point.

And the money doesn't grow on trees. You have got to produce it. And the only way you can produce it is by working. Now, I think the American people are coming back to this, and I think it is thanks to Republican administration.

But there is one more area I think we want to note, and that is that we are living in a period of peace, ladies and gentlemen. You have got to think back that we were in a long period of war until the Republican Administration came in. Now we have got peace. We have been living through some very difficult, dangerous times in the Middle East and other parts of the world, but the President and the Secretary of State have done a superb job of handling this.

Now they have got this conference coming down in Puerto Rico where they are meeting together with the other industrial nations to talk about how do we encourage all nations to move along these same sound principles on which this Nation was built so that we can have a return to a period of growth and that we can cooperate with the Third World nations and help them to understand that the only way they are going to be able to do for their people is produce for themselves. And we can cooperate with them to the mutual benefit of both. So the leadership in the United States now in the world is at a high point.

Now, when you take those three areas -- restoration of respect for government, the economy starting to really pick up and roll and growing at this rate -- it is even at a rate which we can't keep up; we will get inflation if we do -- and peace in the world, I would like to ask you, what is the basis of the Democratic attack in order

to run their campaign? What are they going to be able to say come November that they are going to do that this Republican Administration hasn't done? I don't think they are going to find they have got anything.

I was saying this afternoon that I just cut out the Democratic platform from the paper, and I am going to read it on the way home tonight. I am sure it is the same stuff, just rehashed, that they have always had, which is spend more money, which the taxpayers can't afford to pay.

I don't think they are going to get very far. My feeling is the voters, ladies and gentlemen, are not going to want to change either, that they want this Republican Administration to stay in office, and that we are going to see the American people, regardless of their party affiliation, voting Republican in November. And we are going to have a Republican victory in November, ladies and gentlemen.

I think they are going to say, "Why change horses in the middle of the stream when the horse is doing a good job and things are going well?" And I also have a feeling, ladies and gentlemen, that maybe the Republicans at their own convention are going to come to the same conclusion -- why not stick with what we have got, which is pretty good leadership in the Republican Party?

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.

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AT 9:00 P.M. EDT