

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 21, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(West Orange, New Jersey)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
NEW JERSEY REPUBLICAN PRE-CONVENTION DINNER
TOWN AND CAMPUS MOTOR INN
WEST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY

(AT 8:00 P.M. EST)

Thank you very much.

First I would like to thank the Monsignor for his lovely remarks and say that I find myself in somewhat of a quandary because I don't know what to send to his mother.

(Laughter.)

I can't replace the President. So I have got to think that one over, Monsignor. But tell your mother I am thinking about it.

(Laughter.)

I would also like to thank Eleanor for her kind remarks. I never thought of Webb as reserved.

(Laughter.)

I never thought of Eleanor as shy. But I do remember with great pleasure those early days. I think of Eleanor as a tower of strength in the Republican Party, if you want to know honestly what I think. She is an extraordinarily devoted woman.

(Applause.)

Jack, I would like to thank you for inviting me and for letting me have this great pleasure. I want to apologize to everybody for being late coming in. But there was a very attractive group outside. It turned out they were having a party for a retiring superintendent of one of the schools in the district. So we had to get him, and the pictures. I shook hands with all the teachers and so forth. I have a feeling they were not all enrolled in our party.

(Laughter.)

I did my best, ladies and gentlemen, to enlarge your enrollment.

(Applause.)

Now I would like to suggest that all of you go ahead with your fruit cup or fruit pineapple -- it is not a cup -- because I am totally used to talking over everybody eating. Just go right ahead. As long as you don't talk, I don't mind the noise of eating. So I really would appreciate it, because I know you have been waiting and that you have got to sit through a few remarks of mine. So I really would feel better if

MORE

you were eating, and then I will just keep right on talking and I will feel more at home.

Thank you. There is a nice lady who started and is breaking the ice.

(Laughter.)

I would like to say to be with Webb Todd and Bern Shanley, the Chairman and your National Committeeman, is another great pleasure because both of them are long-time friends of mine and associates. Webb and I worked together for a great many years in business, and Bern and I worked together for General Eisenhower.

Also, they are two more extraordinary Republicans who have dedicated themselves to the party and the things for which the party stands.

That same is true of Kay Neuburger. I have known her for a long time, and George and Dorothy have known her from our State on the National Committee.

I would just like to say that her qualities of dedication to fundamental values in this country, which our party stands for, which the Nation stands for, the tremendous respect which the Republicans from all parts of the country have for her and her integrity, her devotion, these are the qualities which have made our party what it is and which have preserved the value for which our party stands. So I would like to thank all of them for what they have done.

Ann Flynn I have known as well. But I have got to say she has a pretty dynamic personality. Here she is right here. So I am going to stay a little closer to her in the future. I can see that is where the action is.

(Laughter.)

So that I have had a very good time here this afternoon meeting with the County Chairmen and the leaders. I had a very interesting discussion. Of course, really the County Chairmen and the leaders of the State Party, and then the leaders of the party generally, these in my opinion are the unsung heroes of democracy.

I happen to believe very strongly in the two-party system. I think this is the basis of the strength of our whole free society, and that you men and women who have given of your lives to the leadership in the party, and all of you who are here tonight who are supporting the party, I want to express appreciation and thanks to all of you. Because if it weren't for men and women like yourselves who have come here, who have paid to contribute to the party, we wouldn't be able to keep these parties alive.

There are very few countries that believe a free society can operate this way on a totally voluntary basis. This was one of the things that de Tocqueville was so surprised about when he first came here.

The same thing for former Congressman Kean and his lovely wife, who gave the reception where funds were raised.

MORE

It is this continuing interest in the party which gives it its strength.

I didn't have a chance to meet his son, Tom, whom I want to meet who is Chairman of the Ford Committee. He is here now. He was over voting, see. I saw his beautiful wife, and I thought it was Tom. I will wave to him now. I am grateful to him.

So I just want to say first thank you to everybody for what you have done.

I come here this evening with great pleasure as an ex-politician, former politician, who has had a wonderful life in public. I would just like to say that I think the Republican Party has made a winning record in the last two years. I would like to talk a little bit about it because I think it is an extraordinary record.

If we go back to where we were two years ago and think of the problems this Nation faced, we had the trauma of Vietnam which had really torn this country apart. Then on top of that was Watergate, and then the traumas we went through there. And the Constitution held and the Congress acted and the country held together and the American people stood strong.

I don't think there is any other country in the world that could have gone through the things we have and stayed as strong as this country did. And then for the first time through the 25th Amendment a Vice President was selected and then he became President, and then another Vice President, your humble servant, was selected. It took me six months to get through the Congress, but I finally made it.

(Laughter.)

And so we have in this country two, the President and the Vice President, who have not been elected for the first time in our history -- both of them under the 25th Amendment. Yet the country has stayed strong.

Now, this has got to say a great deal about democracy and the strength and vitality of our system. We can be proud of it.

Now, not only did we have this emotional problem with people turned off from politics, loss of confidence and respect and faith in the leadership of government, but we went into an economic crisis -- OPEC countries raising oil prices 500, 600 percent; shortages of food in the world as a result of drought; and then the Soviet crop failure; and then their moving into the market and the doubling of food prices. So we went into a period of inflation and then recession, depression, and then unemployment.

All of this came at once, and we had a President who had not sought the office, who had been a Congressman for 25 years and came into this new. And one could have thought this would have been the most serious crisis for the United States.

Two years later, where are we? Confidence restored in government, respect, trust in government, by President Ford.

MORE

And then the economic situation. His first objective was to control inflation, which is the most serious, corrosive force which can undermine the strength and the vitality of the economic life, the social life, of those who can least afford to cope with it -- those who are retired, on fixed incomes, pensions.

He made that his number one objective, to stop and control inflation. It is already cut in half.

Then we had high unemployment. Very few people thought that inflation could be controlled and at the same time employment reactivated. Yet right now as we sit here in this room there are 3,200,000 more jobs than there were just a year ago. So he has accomplished a miracle of producing the jobs and at the same time controlling inflation.

And he did it not through government spending but through his faith and belief in the fundamental values which made this country what it is today, which built our economy and made us the strongest nation in the world -- and that is the American enterprise system; free enterprise, individual initiative. That is what he believes in, ladies and gentlemen.

(Applause.)

He had the courage to veto one measure after another passed by a two-to-one Democrat Congress; big spending programs, very active, very popular. Those are the things that got New York City into trouble. Excuse me, ladies and gentlemen.

(Laughter.)

But I have got to say to you when I mention New York City, I would just like to say that the Congress of the United States has made New York City look like a piker to what they have spent. They have a \$75 billion deficit this year, despite all the President's vetoes. The only difference is they can print the money and New York City can't.

(Laughter.)

I just have to mention that. He restored the vitality of our economy. We have an 8.7 percent growth rate in the first quarter of this year, having had a negative GNP growth last year. We have unbelievable achievements. We are leading the rest of the industrial world back to strength.

They are having a conference in Puerto Rico -- the leaders of all the big industrial nations; Japan and the European nations, Canada -- to discuss our common policies to restore economic and social progress in the western world, to work with the developing nations and to meet the problems and the threat of the Communist world.

The United States leadership has been restored in the world. Europe is united again and working with us, which it wasn't before. We have peace in the world.

Now when you look at this record, ladies and gentlemen, and think back two years ago, the Republican Party has the most extraordinary record of achievement that one

MORE

could possibly imagine. And, I have to say to you, I don't think the Democratic Party is going to be able to develop -- because they were counting on very bad economic conditions -- to develop their programs.

They talk about these various measures of government spending. The public is now beginning to realize that these problems are being met by encouraging the American people, which is through individual initiative and private enterprise.

So I happen to think, ladies and gentlemen, when we come to November and the Republican Party has done the job, it has created the atmosphere, that there is going to be a Republican victory in November.

(Applause.)

Now before we get to November, we have one little problem.

(Laughter.)

That is in our own party. I have to say that anyone who seeks the office of President to serve his country, seeking as I have done it over a good number of years, rather unsuccessfully -- (Laughter) -- I have to think that is a laudable objective. See, otherwise I would be betraying myself. So I have to think that is a laudable objective.

Ronnie Reagan is a very good friend of mine. He was Governor of the biggest State in the union, although New York was when I started. We lost ground. I won't take full responsibility for it.

(Laughter.)

But anyhow, Ronnie I admire. He wanted to be President for a long time. If he only had held those southern delegates in 1968, I might have made it.

(Laughter.)

But Nixon got them away from him, see -- along with some others that I won't mention.

(Laughter.)

Now, ladies and gentlemen, let me just say this: The problem is that this is rather an expensive time to push this effort in terms of what I happen to think is the most important thing for our country, which is the return of the Republican Party.

I would like to read to you briefly the appraisal of the situation that appeared in the May 28th "American Political Report" written by Kevin Phillips, who is a political analyst, the one that is most respected by the conservatives of the country. He is not always very kind to me, but that is neither here nor there.

He said, "If it is Reagan versus Carter" -- this is Mr. Kevin Phillips writing -- "we think 25 to 30 percent of

the GOP voters would swing to Carter. In some States Gene McCarthy might pick up a small minority, too. A Reagan candidacy would help other GOP candidates in a few deep Southern and Rocky Mountain States. But, across the country, especially in the big Northern industrial States, Ronald Reagan could lose badly and drag down other GOP candidates. In New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and New England, the GOP could lose a collective net of five to ten House seats and lose also its last chance in many counties and State Legislatures."

Kevin Phillips says finally, "Our guess is that the damage would be well nigh irreparable and that the old minority northern GOP base would be fatally shattered. Off-setting southern and western gains would be minimal. The Reaganites could be left with a party that was more of a grave than a vehicle for putting together a new majority coalition. The conservative movement would be badly impuned by a decisive Reagan victory." End quote from Kevin Phillips.

I don't want you to think I am partisan, ladies and gentlemen. I am just for Ford. I have to say this because I think it is serious. That is why I am taking the liberty of doing it.

Now, I don't think that there is any question what is going to happen at the convention. I think President Ford is going to be nominated at the convention, and I think President Ford is going to win in November -- and we are all going to win with him.

(Applause.)

I want you to know that I have been traveling abroad. I don't want you to think that is nothing important. I go to funerals for our country. I go to earthquakes.

(Laughter.)

I go to Bicentennial ceremonies, when I am not presiding over the Senate -- your distinguished Senator Cliff Case. I can only speak there, though, when I get unanimous consent, which I have only had twice, to apologize to them for something I did they didn't like.

(Laughter.)

So I don't want to overbuild my position in your minds. But I would like to say that in these travels, which have been rather extensive because people are dying all around -- (Laughter) -- that I have gotten the very strong feeling, expressed overtly by the leaders in Europe, in Asia, and in other parts of the world, they want to see the continuing leadership of President Ford and Secretary Kissinger because they think that is the best for freedom and respect for human dignity in the world.

(Applause.)

I have just one last thought. George Hinman who is our National Committeeman and Dick Rosenbaum who is our State Chairman are both here. I am honored to be here because they are both two great political leaders, like your political leaders.

MORE

We faced a month and a half ago the question as to what to do about an uncommitted New York State Delegation. We were working very closely with Pennsylvania. We decided that while it would be to our advantage as States to go to the convention uncommitted, because we would have more power, that we really had to put our Nation's interests ahead of our States' interests and that from the national point of view the best interest was President Ford, and that by coming out for President Ford a month and a half ago we could do more good to put him way out numerically. So we did.

We lost a few delegates. Some were not ready to go, and they stayed uncommitted. So we have about 15 uncommitted and about 19 had gone to Reagan. So we came out with 119 for President Ford.

I have to say that at the present time in my opinion New Jersey is in the most psychologically important position when you decide, should you decide, to act of any State in the Nation right now in terms of helping create the atmosphere that is going to put President Ford across.

We need New Jersey. He needs New Jersey. And in my opinion the country needs New Jersey.

I am glad to be here. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

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(AT 8:20 P.M. EST)