

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2, 1976

Office of the Vice President  
(Washington, D. C.)

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REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
AT THE  
NATIONAL TRIBUTE TO THE CHARTER OF FREEDOM  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

AT 9:10 P.M. EDT

Tonight we will hear from the three great Americans who head each of the three separate branches of our Federal Government. First, a great and wise human being, the distinguished Chief Justice of the United States, the Honorable Warren Burger.

(Remarks of Chief Justice Warren Burger)

AT 9:16 P.M. EDT

It is now my honor to present the Speaker of the House of Representatives, a brilliant and dedicated man who has devoted his life to the service of our country, Speaker Carl Albert.

(Remarks of Hon. Carl Albert, Speaker of the House of Representatives)

AT 9:25 P.M. EDT

In 200 eventful years we Americans have changed in every possible way except in our fidelity to our fundamental political principles and institutions. Our Republic remains the oldest continuous, fundamentally unchanged political system in the world.

Tonight, as we launch this Bicentennial weekend, let us remember, understand and celebrate that remarkable fact. We Americans remain the faithful political descendants of our founding fathers because we continue to agree with the ideas immortally expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution -- the belief that liberty and democracy can be a blessing to mankind if carefully structured and moderated, and, if not, a curse.

We Americans, happily, had a path marked out for us by the American founders leading to the blessings of liberty and democracy.

We come here tonight to acknowledge our indebtedness to the principles and institutions they devised, to give witness to this success, and to renew our dedication to that compound and sober blend of liberty and democracy, which is the essence of our national heritage.

The very form of this ceremony tonight testifies to that compound and sober American blend of liberty and democracy. We have here tonight assemblage of the American democratic Republic in a ceremony which assembles all the representative elements of our 200-year-old political

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system here in this hall -- the Chief Justice, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the United States, representing our system of separation of powers.

In my constitutional capacity as presiding officer of the Senate, I have the honor to represent the principle of bicameralism.

Here tonight also are governors and mayors and other local officials, representing the American principles of federalism and decentralization. And also joining in this assemblage of the Republic are leaders of our private voluntary associations, representing the American principle of creative, private, voluntary action.

For all our faults and failings, we are here tonight gathered with all our fellow citizens everywhere to express the principles and represent the institutions devised by our founding fathers -- separation of powers to protect liberty and also secure competent government power; bicameralism to balance and refine the popular will; federalism and decentralization to guard against despotism and to allow the American people energetically to solve their political problems as much as possible at the local level; and private voluntary associations so that people themselves may freely and creatively supply their own needs without dependence upon paternal government.

Like our founding fathers, we do not believe in a simple centering of all power in a streamlined monolith of government. Rather, we believe that liberty and democracy can only be achieved by these complex principles and institutions of the American democratic Republic.

We come back here tonight to draw strength anew from our old and tested principles and institutions so that we may go forward with orderly creativity into our third century.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to present a man who in two short years has restored America's respect for our national leadership, has restored the vitality of our economy at home and restored confidence in our leadership in the world, the President of the United States, Gerald R. Ford.

(Remarks by President Gerald R. Ford)

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(AT 9:37 P.M. EDT)