

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 19, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(Claymont, Delaware)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
1976 VICTORY KICK-OFF DINNER
MAIN DINING ROOM, BRANDYWINE TERRACE
CLAYMONT; DELAWARE

AT 8:57 P.M. EDT

Pete, you are a generous friend, and I want to thank you. And it was really three years before you were born that the County Chairman of Westchester County -- I was just out of college -- called up and said -- we used to call them boss in those days. Now it's leader.

(Laughter)

Boss Ward called me up and said, "Listen, this county, Westchester County, has been good to your family. Your family has benefited greatly from good government of the county, and now it is time you did something about it."

I said, "Yes, sir." He said, "I want you to go on the Westchester Board of Public Health," which I did. I was on it for 35 years and Vice Chairman for a long period.

That is where I first got my contact with local government, and that is what gave Pete the basis for his statement.

I would like to say, in my opinion Herman, in trying to pick someone to introduce me, used the same criteria he did for selecting the speaker.

(Laughter)

Both come from immigrant families who have benefited tremendously from the greatest free country in the world, ladies and gentlemen. And we are all in this room because we love America and America has been good to us.

(Appluase)

There are very few people in the world -- and I mean that -- and I don't care which side of the Iron Curtain they are on, who wouldn't give their eyetooth to be in America right now. So when we feel we have got problems and feel sorry for ourselves, there an awful lot of people in the world who make ours look like we are riding on the greatest bonanza that ever happened.

I am delighted to be in Delaware. Delaware has a great tradition of Republican leadership, Republican responsibility. Delaware is a State, like New York, which believes that politics is not an end in itself, politics is a means to an end. And the end is good government. And Republicans in Delaware have always given the State good government and that's why you are going to have a Republican governor, come November, because they want good government.

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(Applause)

And I would just like to say about Pete, he has not only done a good job to represent you in the Congress, but he has done a good job to represent all of us in Congress. And this is really the task of leadership. And the same thing is true of Bill Roth.

You know, it is wonderful to represent your constituents, and that is what you are paid for and sent to Congress for. But your constituents' interests cannot be separated from the national interests or our international interests. And here you have two men who understand that, who see your problems, whether it is the State, in Bill's case, or whether it is his own district, in Pete's case. But they also understand in perspective, just the way Senator Boggs did, of the country as a whole and the country's security in terms of the world. And that takes a pretty broad perspective.

So we need Bill back, not only for Delaware, but we need him for New York and all the other States of the Union. And he is going to be back in November.

(Applause)

Now, I've got to say, I have the honor of presiding over the Senate. That sounds like more than it is, ladies and gentlemen. I don't want to mislead anyone. But, confidentially, if I speak too long tonight, it is only because I can't speak in the Senate without unanimous consent. And I have only gotten that twice, and that was to apologize to them for something I had done. That's the truth.

(Laughter)

Now, if you've spent your life as an executive, it is very hard to get used to the rules of a club. And if you don't think that is a club, I want to tell you --

Isn't that right, Senator?

(Laughter)

Well, I'm getting used to it now, and I sit up there and bang the gavel, and they offer the motions -- you know, this by unanimous consent, that by unanimous consent. And I know how to say, "Is there any objection?" look around the room, "No objection; so ordered," and we go right on. Somebody's speech is introduced into the record. I'm sure it is a good speech, but those of you who get the record will have a chance to read it.

But I want to tell you, it is the greatest legislative body in the world. I am proud to be there.

And I have to tell you confidentially I had a grandfather on my mother's side who was in the Senate 32 years from Rhode Island, and he was leader of the old guard for the last 17 years. Confidentially, they called him the general manager of the United States Government.

So I have a tradition that is in politics, although there aren't many people that know that. They haven't been associated like the duPont family.

(Laughter)

I would like to say that Pete is going to the governorship. We have been talking about that, and I had to tell him that, frankly, there is nothing like being a governor. I become more nostalgic about it all the time. It is sort of like a security blanket, as far as I'm concerned.

(Laughter)

Being your own boss -- there has got to be something to that, ladies and gentlemen.

(Laughter)

I don't want to have the lieutenant governor think I don't respect very much this business of being lieutenant governor or Vice President. You have got to have them. It is one of those things you need in this country. But being governor has got to have some advantages.

(Laughter)

So I just think that you in Delaware are very fortunate that you are going to have a man who is a leader for a change. Now, that is his slogan, and it can be read two ways. I'm not sure which way he reads it, but I would like to say, ladies and gentlemen, we are in a period of the most extraordinary change. And what is needed is leadership to shape that change so it serves our purpose and doesn't overwhelm us in the face of crisis.

That is what this country needs. And I like his title, because shaping change to serve the best interests of people -- all the people, not only in our country but in the world -- is the challenge of the future. And I like what Pete has picked as his title. I think it is going to be great when he is governor, and I think you are lucky and we are all lucky, because we all need more Republican governors.

(Applause)

Now, I have had the privilege of knowing Tom Evans, who comes to his candidacy for the Congress with the background he has, the background of understanding and knowledge of this country, having been associated as Cochairman of the National Committee. This is an extraordinary experience. He knows the country, all of the States, all of the problems. One had just to listen to him this evening to know that he understands the importance of organization, that he has such a deep respect for people.

Let's face it, that's what it is all about -- people. If you don't like people, you ought not come into politics. If you like people, you like to solve problems -- if you like those two, you are in good shape.

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And I have a feeling that Tom not only likes people but has the capacity to solve problems. We need that down there in the Congress, and he is going to be down there.

(Applause)

And all those other wonderful candidates who stood up and who were introduced -- we are so lucky, ladies and gentlemen, that there are men and women of the caliber and the character and integrity who are willing to stand for office, willing to take the abuse -- because, let's face it, there is abuse, in case you don't know it. But it is worth it. Because if you can go to bed at night, satisfied that what you did during the day was right, regardless of whether you get clobbered for it -- don't look for thanks or gratitude. That's not part of the business. But having that inner satisfaction and maybe add that your wife is proud of you -- and that is a great help -- if you have got those two, that is reward enough.

But the fact that so many wonderful people are standing for office, I would like to congratulate you all and wish the best to every one of you who are here.

And I would like to say to Mary that county government is one of the great and exciting experiences, because that is where you are close to the people. We Republicans believe that government close to the people is the best government, and I want to tell you, county government is right close to the people.

You have got to understand them, their hopes, aspirations, their fears, and the great opportunities that lie ahead of them. I think the people of your county are awfully lucky, because she is going to be swept in by a landslide, and I am only sorry I can't vote for her.

(Applause.)

Old Hal Haskell, sitting next to her, is one of my best friends, and I just wish he was in office. As far as I am concerned, he could be Vice President. Who knows?

I hadn't thought of that, Hal. That's not a bad thought. There is a vacancy there.

(Laughter, applause)

Now, ladies and gentlemen, none of this just happens that these wonderful men and women are running for office. It is because of leadership. And that is one of the things that impresses me here -- the strength of your party leadership.

Herman, who has given of his time and energy, on the national scene Tom and Priscilla -- these are people with the entire organization who care. As far as I am concerned, they are the unsung heroes of democracy, because they are they ones who are giving of themselves to make our system work.

The two-party system is the vitality of democracy, and that is why we have got such a wonderful country,

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because of the concept of the founding fathers of how this Nation was to be organized and set up. And those basic principles are the most exciting and the most enduring principles with which any government was created. This is the oldest democracy in the history of civilization, and it is men like Herman and Tom and Priscilla and all of the others, men and women, who are giving of their time that is keeping this system of ours strong in the party of their choice.

I happen to believe very strongly in the two-party system. And, frankly, I would just like to say about Ted Jones, who is one of the candidates, who gave the invocation, really, he said everything one could say in that beautiful invocation about this democracy and our aspirations and about people in this country. I enjoyed that very much, and I think we need more of that sensitivity and awareness. That could well be the guide for our party in trying to make some of the decisions.

I would like to mention one other thing -- when Andy and Meg were running against each other for the lieutenant governor's spot and Meg saw that Andy was going to get it, she just stood up and took off her own button and put on his button. That to me is party loyalty, and that I like.

(Applause)

I just can't go without mentioning my good friend Ray Shafer. We spent a lot of happy years together in the National Governors' Conference and various other meetings, trying to get the kind of progressive, effective government at the State level and support government at the county and local level. And I am just thrilled that he is with me, and I am very grateful to him. He's a great guy.

To have in our party -- I mentioned your leaders -- Dick Rosenbaum, who had just been selected as a Supreme Court Judge -- he had been a county judge, been county chairman -- he is one of these brilliant people who cares about our country and about our party. So he stepped down from a 14-year position on the Bench to take the chairmanship of our State Republican Party. That is the kind of concern and the kind of integrity and leadership we need.

Now, he is tough. He was tough on the Bench and he is tough as Chairman. But, believe me, I happen to believe in party loyalty and party discipline, and I don't think we have enough of it, frankly, if you will forgive me for saying so. I think that is what makes our system work, that everybody has a chance to express himself, but when the majority votes, then that's it and you've got to go. If not, it's not going to work.

This is one of the things that I think this country needs more than anything at the moment.

George Hinman is over here, Dean of the National Committeemen, one of the greatest men in terms of devotion to the Party. Now, he happens to be associated with another company, and that is known as IBM.

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Of course, it was a latecomer to us, wasn't it, Pete?

(Laughter)

They have done pretty well for a late start.

(Laughter)

Now, so much for local politics. It is the greatest business in the world and what has kept this country great.

Now let me say a word about where we are as a Nation and our national party. I have to say to you, ladies and gentlemen, in my opinion the Republican Party on the national scene has a winning record of achievement, and we are going to see a Republican victory in November based on the record of achievement, top to bottom.

(Applause)

It is a very interesting thing. If you can project yourself back to two years ago, which is not easy, because we tend to look ahead -- two years ago things in this country didn't look so good. It was the tail end of the tragic confusion that grew out of the Vietnam experience. Our country was torn, and then the Watergate problems that came. Then the Constitution stood strong and the Vice President was gone and the President was gone, and everybody thought, "What's going to happen?"

In any other country there would probably be riots in the street, but not America. The American people stood quiet and strong. And the Constitution worked and a Vice President was selected and then he was moved on up to President. And another Vice President was selected and finally, after six months, got confirmed. That's me.

(Laughter)

And I want to tell you, if any of you think you have lost your privacy, forget it. You haven't seen anything yet. Five hundred FBI agents for three months investigating you -- I would like anybody to stand up who wants that, I tell you.

(Laughter)

But here I am, anyhow, and I am delighted to be here.

That was a tough period and it looked bad. Then we got into the situation where the OPEC countries acted and pushed oil prices up 500 percent. The Soviet Union ran short of food. There were famines in other areas, and food prices went up. We went into inflation, recession and then unemployment on top of loss of confidence in government and then the loss of confidence around the world in whether you could count on the United States' word, whether our allies and friends could count on us.

Now, here is a man who comes into this -- he didn't ask to be President; he didn't seek to be President. He was

a Congressman, and he was minority leader and doing a great job. And it was thrust upon him, but he rose to the occasion. And in two years confidence and trust have been restore in government. And I think this is President Ford's duty.

We went through the Fourth of July. And I don't know how many of you followed it, but people expected riots, bombings -- they didn't know whether in Washington, in Philadelphia or in Boston. The Queen was coming. Nobody knew what was happening. But it was fantastic. Everybody was enthusiastic. The tall ships were there. The American people were proud again to be Americans.

(Applause)

And this is the President who has created this atmosphere.

(Applause)

We began to look back at the basic values. And it wasn't just individual freedom we fought for in this country. It was economic freedom. This country was crushed, the colonies, from London. Everything was controlled from there. And people fought for individual freedom and for economic freedom, and they go hand-in-hand, and religious freedom. Believe me, we want to remember that. Because there is a growing feeling, as was already expressed, that some of the problems we fought for to get away from London are now beginning to catch up on us from Washington. This is a feeling I found as I have been holding hearings for the President around the country.

We have got to be realistic about the great heritage we have in this country. The President understands this. And so what happened? We were in inflation that was up to over 10 percent, two-and-a-half million people lost their jobs. We were in the worst recession we had had in years. Two years later where are we? Inflation has been cut in half. Nobody thought inflation could be cut and jobs obtained at the same time and done through the free enterprise system rather than government.

With the Democrats in Congress passing one measure after another, spend money to answer this, throw money at this problem, what did the President do? He studied these issues carefully. I watched him by the hour. I sat there with him. He read all the memos, tried to figure out what was the right thing to do for America. And when he had decided what was the long-term best interests of our country, then he would make a decision, regardless of the short-term political advantage or disadvantage. And this man vetoed more measures for spending, and everybody said that this is going to be terrible.

The Democrats were planning on running against high unemployment and inflation. And what has happened? Inflation has been cut in half. In the last 12 months there are 3,200,000 more jobs, and our growth rate has now moved up to 8.7 percent. Absolutely phenomenal!

The only other country in the world, industrial nation, that has achieved a record like this is the Federal

Republic of Germany. So here we have a President who has led us -- maybe hasn't talked as much about this; but he has been so busy doing it that he hasn't had a chance to talk about. We have that as the record.

Then you can add one more thing -- restoration of confidence in the world. My job consists of funerals and attending earthquakes and celebrations for the Bicentennial.

(Laughter)

I meet a lot of nice people around the world, that is, those whose funerals I wasn't attending.

(Laughter, applause)

And I want to tell you, ladies and gentlemen, the leaders of the world today respect President Ford and they have got confidence now that we are going to work out problems with them, not try to dictate to them or tell them. But there is a community of interest based on a fundamental understanding of the basic values.

So I say to you, come November, ladies and gentlemen, I don't see, with this record, what the Democrats are going to have as the basis for campaign issues. Because we know they can't carry out all those promises.

I mean, what do they say in their platform? "We are against nuclear power except where it is needed to produce electricity." That has got to be a promise for you, ladies and gentlemen. That is artistry. You've got both sides. You're with the no growth people except where you've got to produce electricity. And it's all the way through and it's in the promises that the Presidential candidate made in his acceptance speech in New York.

So I don't think they have got a basic issue. And I want to tell you, I don't think the American people are going to change when they have got the kind of leadership that knows how to deal with their problems and that has gotten them back to where they want to be -- growing and on their feet.

(Applause)

And, ladies and gentlemen, if the American people don't want to change, I can't believe that at Kansas City the Republicans are going to want to change either, if you don't mind my saying so.

(Applause)

I think he is going to be nominated and elected. We will go on to Republican victory all the way across the country.

(Applause)

Thank you.