

FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

AUGUST 19, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(Kansas City, Missouri)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
KEMPER ARENA
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

(7:05 P.M. CDT)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Delegates to the convention, fellow Americans, last night in this hall the Republican Party made history. First, it endorsed the solid achievements of the first person ever to hold the office of President of the United States by appointment.

(Applause.)

The man who brought this Nation successfully through one of the gravest constitutional crises, Gerald R. Ford.

(Applause.)

Second, in the spirit of spirited contest, it showed everyone how in our society a political party can choose its standard bearer by open balloting with the world watching.

(Applause.)

Third, it showed how the contest was resolved. The contenders could meet afterwards with mutual respect and good will and pledge their joint efforts for the party and for the Nation.

(Applause.)

I ask you, ladies and gentlemen, where else in the world would the winner go to call on the runner-up?

(Applause.)

And in how many places in the world would he be received by the runner-up at all, much less be greeted so graciously as was Gerald Ford last night by Ronald Reagan.

(Applause.)

When we came here, it was my hope, and I believe the hope of most Americans, that out of this convention would come a re-united, re-invigorated Republican Party; a party determined to meet the Nation's problems with new solutions, grounded on historic American principles.

A giant step was taken in that direction last night. Tonight we take another such step, for tonight we choose a running mate for our Presidential candidate.

And for that, we need to choose first and foremost a person who could serve as President if, God forbid, the President himself could no longer serve. Secondly, a person who is devoted to the principles of the Republican Party and

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not only the fundamental principles of our American system of government, but also the principles of our unique enterprise system, to our personal liberty, and our individual economic freedoms. Third, a person who can be a partner of our President and our Presidential candidate in this election and an aid to our President in the discharge of his duties.

You and I know such a man. If emergency required, he could serve as our Chief Executive, for he knows the ways of government. He has served local government as a County Attorney for four years. He has served his State as a Legislator. He has served in the Federal Government; first elected as a member of the House of Representatives, serving for eight years, and thereafter elected as a Senator, a United States Senator, now serving in his second term.

He knows our economic system. He has served in two of the most important committees of the Senate -- the new Budget Committee and the Senate Finance Committee.

He understands the complexities of modern economic life. He never loses sight of what really makes our enterprise system tick. He knows what it takes to have a healthy farm economy.

(Applause.)

He knows how vital America's farm families and their productivity are to feeding the world. He knows that our founding fathers did not ordain that all wisdom should be derived from the District of Columbia, but that the great driving force of this Nation was to be found in the common people of America -- in their cities, in their home towns, and their farms, in our individual enterprise system. in our voluntary efforts.

He has lived this knowledge, not only in his public life but in his civic associations, his professional activities, and in his philanthropic causes.

He is a person of compassion. He has never forgotten the sacrifices of others -- our Vietnam POWs, the families of our men missing in action, the handicapped who have no greater champion.

He knows, too, how precious is the gift of freedom, He knows that every generation of Americans must secure that freedom, again and again, by its own sacrifices.

He has lived this knowledge, too, through five and a half years of combat in World War II, twice wounded and twice decorated for heroic achievement.

He has that quality of candor, of openness, forthrightness, so needed in our times, in the Executive posts of our government, in the Legislative process, and in our political campaigns and our political candidates.

He is able, articulate, courageous, and decisive. He is a man who can pass the test once put out by that great and beloved Missourian from Independence who said so aptly: "If you can't take the heat, get out of the kitchen."

(Applause.)

The man of whom I speak can take the heat, ladies and gentlemen, and if you ask those of us who really know him, he cannot only take it, believe me, he can really dole it out.

(Applause.)

I have the honor to nominate as the Republican candidate for the Vice Presidency of the United States the distinguished Senator of Kansas, Senator Robert J. Dole.

(Applause.)

END

(AT 7:20 P.M. CDT)