

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 21, 1976

Office of the Vice President  
(Chicago, Illinois)

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REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
AT THE  
JIM THOMPSON-FOR-GOVERNOR DINNER  
GRAND BALLROOM, CONRAD HILTON HOTEL  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

AT 7:44 P.M. CDT

Thank you. Thanks for a wonderful evening, for the meal. I want to say, ladies and gentlemen, that when Jim talked about that line, all the cards that I was signing already had his name on them. So he is just faster than I am. That's all.

(Laughter)

And I would also like to say that I was very moved and touched by the Rabbi's invocation. I will never forget, because it reminded me of the first time I ran for governor, which I won't mention when that was. Most of you in this room weren't born, except for one of your former governors who is here. He was governor then, too.

(Laughter)

Somebody came up to me and said, "Why do you want to get into politics? You've got it good now, and politics is a dirty business." I was indignant. I said, "If you think politics is dirty business, why don't you get in and help clean it up? Politics is the lifeblood of democracy and if you ever let it go, it's gone.

(Applause)

And I want to tell you, one of the most encouraging experiences I have had in a long time is this evening, to see two wonderful, attractive young people, Jim and Jayne, who have both successful careers, professions, who have dedicated themselves to the service of one of the great States in the United States, the State of Illinois, and running for governor and to see the response of the people in a time when we feel a sense of cynicism in this country, or there has been, and people say they are turned off on politics and they don't want to get involved, this feeling which is the beginning of the end of a democratic system.

And here is this outpouring because two wonderful people of their caliber and their character and their integrity and their dedication love their country and want to serve their country. And to see the response of this great State to that kind of leadership gives you faith in America. And I want to tell you, I am proud to be here with you.

(Applause)

But, you know, one person can't do it alone. And that is the exciting thing here tonight. You see the

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ticket that is running with Jim -- Bill Harris, George Lindberg, Dave O'Neill, Bill Scott -- and then to be here with that very good friend of mine, whom I had the pleasure of serving with, Dick Ogilvie, one of the great governors, I tell you.

(Applause)

I have been in administration for a long time, and he is one of the really great administrators, and your State lost a great leader when, through some unfortunate mistake, he wasn't reelected.

But I came in this business with another great governor who is here, Bill Stratton. He was already there when I arrived on the scene.

(Applause)

And I am sorry that I am not still governor so I could be governor with Jim and Jayne, because that would be a pleasure.

(Applause)

But I have to say that, as a good Republican, I am afraid that it is just conceivable that he might be serving as governor from the State of Illinois with a Democratic governor from the State of West Virginia with a name somewhat similar who went astray with the daughter of a Senator of yours.

(Laughter)

But it looks as though they might have it. Last time they didn't, but this time I think they will.

But I just want to tell you the two-party system is the strength of America. It is the vitality of America, and anyone who says that the Republican Party is dead should be here in Chicago tonight. This is the greatest gathering I have been to. Thanks for inviting me.

Good night. Thank you.

END

(AT 7:52 P.M. CDT)