

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 1976

Office of the Vice President  
(Cleveland, Ohio)

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REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
AT THE CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY REPUBLICAN HEADQUARTERS  
CLEVELAND, OHIO

AT 10:26 A.M. EDT

This is a pleasure. Thank you, Kent.

I want to tell you, ladies and gentlemen, who said the Republican Party was dead? I want to tell you, I have never seen more life, more enthusiasm.

I was in Chicago last night with 2400 people -- paying guests, ladies and gentlemen, all of them there. They have got a great governor and ticket. They are rolling in Illinois, rolling here in Ohio.

I want to tell you, this is an exciting period for those of us who love America. The future of America is in the Republican Party, and don't forget it. You can just see it by looking at these wonderful candidates and these leaders on this platform, ladies and gentlemen.

I want to say that your State Chairman, Kent McGough, is one of the topflight chairmen in the country. He is respected by the other chairmen. He is loved by them. I want to tell you, my chairman in New York, our chairman, Dick Rosenbaum, thinks the world of Kent.

And your County Executive -- not County Executive; County Chairman -- we've got candidates and leaders here. I get mixed up between them -- Bob Hughes, is also one of the great ones.

You know, we think about candidates a lot although I am not a candidate this time, for the first time in my life. I am relaxed and happy, and that gets me into trouble.

(Laughter)

I would like to say those of us who are the beneficiaries of the system and get the nominations, we are the ones who really have to appreciate the men and women who give of their time and energy to be the leaders of the party, to be the workers of the party, to be the contributors to the party. They are the ones that make the party go. We who are the beneficiaries and get nominated and get elected want to thank them for what they have done.

And you have got some very, very outstanding and fine candidates standing on this platform here. Because you have so many, I am not going to take your time to go over their names again, but I admire them. I admire them for running.

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And I want to tell you, people who say Americans are cynical about the future -- when you see the fine men and women running for office, we have no reason for cynicism. We have reason for faith and pride in ourselves, in our country, in our system. And we want to keep it that way. We want to keep it rolling.

(Applause)

And I think Ralph's son is handsome, but I still think his father is good-looking.

(Laughter)

This nice lady says the father is a nice singer on Sunday, too. And I bet he doesn't give interviews to Playboy.

(Laughter)

I will sign that for you any time.

I am in the middle of a speech and I am trying to sign autographs. Oh, my god, it's on a check. I'll put "Rocky" and they can't cash it.

(Laughter)

Now, wait a minute. Don't confuse me. I'm trying to think. I can't sign and think at the same time.

I would just like to say a word about President Ford and Bob Dole, ladies and gentlemen. They love this country. They understand this country. They believe in the principles on which this country grew to greatness. They want to see it stay there. They believe in freedom, human dignity and equality of opportunity for all. And they believe that the American enterprise system and individual initiative are the driving force that made America, that is going to keep it strong. And they don't think that government can do everything. And they are right. You and I know that, and we need them.

(Applause)

They don't believe in promising what they can't deliver. And I want to tell you, we have been in this business a long time. We have over-promised and under-delivered for so long, I don't blame the American people for being cynical. We have got to stop that. We have got to tell them the truth. If we can't do something, we have got to say, like President Ford does, "I am going to veto this bill no matter how popular it is, because it is going to fire the forces of inflation."

Inflation is the most insidious force that takes the money out of the pocketbooks of those who can least afford it -- those who are retired who built America, those on pensions, fixed salaries. Those are the ones. That is why he has made inflation number one.

I want to tell you what Bob Taft is doing in this indexing of the tax on salaries so that when inflation

moves a salary up and the earnings are no greater, the taxes go up. He wants to tie that buying power to the tax so you are not going to have it taken out of your pocket because you think you are getting more money but you are not. This is the kind of leadership we need.

I want to tell you, Bob Taft is one who believes in a strong America -- not only strong at home but a strong defense. And this fellow -- I can't pronounce his name -- who is running against him -- I don't want to mention him -- won't go with a \$7 billion cut, which the Democratic Platform calls for. He wants \$15 billion cut out of our defense.

We have to increase it, not cut it, if we want to defend ourselves against those who would undermine and destroy us. We need Bob Taft back there not only for Ohio, but for all America.

(Applause)

Keep up the clapping and I am signing.

(Laughter)

Let me tell you this, when you get in the booth -- and that is what counts; these polls are interesting and exciting, but the thing that counts is November 2nd, victory. This is the only sign I am going to make any more -- victory.

(Laughter)

On November 2nd, when you get in the booth, ladies and gentlemen, this is one thing that is going to count. And that is true for those in the back of the room. They are probably talking about who they are going to vote for, and they better damn well vote for Ford.

(Laughter)

They are going to vote on the basis of confidence and trust, and they are going to say to themselves, "Who can deal with the problems of this country? Who can we trust?" And they are going to say, "Jerry Ford is the man we want." He is going to be elected, and it is up to us.

(Applause)

That is right. Thank you. I'll sign another one.

(Laughter)

It is up to us, ladies and gentlemen, to see that his record is known, his courage, his integrity and his forthrightness, his deep faith in America. That is what counts.

(Applause)

Ladies and gentlemen, not only Jerry Ford; but Bob Dole is a terrific guy, a great American. He has had experience at the local level. He has been a State Assemblyman. What do you call them? They are Assemblymen in New York. He was a State legislator. And he has been a Congressman and now a Senator. He spent five-and-a-half years in the war, a war hero.

This man loves America. He is a great speaker. He has got a great sense of humor. And in addition, ladies and gentlemen, he has a brilliant and beautiful wife. And she is a member of the Federal Trade Commission. So you get two for one.

(Applause)

Don't forget to vote, ladies and gentlemen, for President Ford and Bob Dole when you get in that booth and for all of these magnificent candidates who are going to represent your interests and keep this country strong and who believe in America and who believe in what America stands for, which is people, human dignity, respect, equality of opportunity.

And that takes growth, and that is what the President believes in -- growth for the future. And growth spells jobs and growth spells better quality of life. And for those of us who believe in ecology, you can take care of our environment and still have growth. In fact, it can cause more growth.

So, ladies and gentlemen, let's not change horses at a crucial moment in history. Let's not go with uncertainty. Let's go with experience. Let's go with a man we trust.

Thank you very much, and best of luck.

(Applause)

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(AT 10:36 A.M. EDT)