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Office of the Vice President  
(Columbus, Ohio)

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REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
AT THE COLUMBUS BAR ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON  
REGENCY ROOM, FORT HAYES HOTEL  
COLUMBUS, OHIO

AT 12:55 P.M. EDT

Thank you very much, Russ. I am delighted to be here.

And, Mr. President, I want to thank you for letting me eat that blueberry pie. I was born in Maine, and that is where the blueberries come from -- or a lot of them do. So I have a special feeling for it. John Glenn didn't eat half of his. But I want to say it is a pleasure to be here with one of your distinguished leaders who has served this country and done so much for the State -- Senator John Glenn.

I am glad to be with you, sir. It is a pleasure and an honor.

I am delighted to be in Columbus and Ohio. I have a sense of nostalgia on being here. You were very good to my grandfather when he was a boy.

(Laughter)

He wasn't a member of the Bar Association, and he was a dropout, but never mind. Thanks to the warmth and the spirit out here and the belief in the fundamental values on which this country has grown to greatness, he had his chance and took advantage of it, and I am one of the beneficiaries.

I am delighted to have a chance to come back and express my respect and admiration for him and the climate which encouraged him. So to be here at this particular moment is a very important one, because it is just a little over a month before we go to the polls in this country to elect a new President and Vice President of the United States.

We have been through a rough period, a tough period for America and a tough period for democracy. And I think this country has come through in a way that is fantastic. I think the Constitution of the United States and the whole Constitutional process has had a test the likes of which it has never had before. It has come out on top, and we can have confidence and a sense of pride in what a free society can do under difficult circumstances when there are people of integrity at the top. And that is President Ford -- a man of integrity and courage and dedication to this country and the fundamental values and principles on which this country was founded.

(Applause)

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Now, before talking a bit about the President, I would like to say that your governor is a man for whom I have tremendous admiration. I had the pleasure, because we are two R's, of sitting next to him for eight years in the Governors' Conference. And if any of you haven't sat next to him for an extended period, you have missed something, because he has got to be the most delightful, amusing, brilliant person. And to sit next to him and listen to his asides as the speakers speak is a treat.

(Laughter)

When he didn't have a speech but was just relaxed like that, it was out of this world. We had a lot of fun together, and I was just thrilled when he was reelected.

I was out here during his campaign, and I have got to say, in a sense he personifies the belief in the values which have brought this country to greatness. He believes in the individual. He believes in individual initiative. He believes in the American enterprise system. And he knows what it takes to encourage it and give it the opportunity to flower. And it is only that flowering which has made for the growth, for the development and which has provided the opportunity.

Let's face it, no system of government in the history of civilization has done for more people and given them greater opportunity than has our system in America. And the real problem is can we keep it that way? Are we going to be able to preserve this system? Or are the forces such that the popular trends of the moment will push it off and we will lose the basic faith in the individual citizen and that citizen's right to make his or her decisions about his or her life and how they are going to devote that life and what they are going to do with the benefits that they have earned in the process of contributing to society?

Now, Jim Rhodes understands this. He understands it for Ohio. And I want to tell you, he was back in New York just about a month ago. And, you know, this is where I begin to get a little worried about him. When he comes to New York, I am worried we are going to lose something.

(Laughter)

I admired some building. He said, "Oh, yes. That just came here from New York."

(Laughter)

I don't want to overdo this about Jim Rhodes, but I just feel he does personify that faith and that belief and that sense of confidence in our country and our system. And that, to me, is terribly important.

You also have in the Senate of the United States today your senior Senator, Senator Bob Taft, another great American who comes from a great family, who has devoted his energies to the service of the country. His father was one of the great statesmen of America, one of those who contributed, who understood the evolutionary process,

how to preserve the good from the past and to move forward into the future and take advantage of changing conditions.

I had the privilege of working with him when I was with President Eisenhower on the various programs for government reorganization and the creation of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He was a man who was ahead of his time in many of these areas.

And now his son is there, again leading in relation to new problems -- the indexing of taxes in relation to wages, which is one of the bills that he has proposed. It is a very sensitive one in a period of inflation, where, as one moves from one income to another income level and the taxes go up, but because of inflation the buying power doesn't go up. He has made the point -- very rightly -- that that person is penalized by getting in the higher bracket in terms of taxes.

This is the kind of creative thinking that is traditional in his family. And this is the kind of leadership he is bringing in Washington.

Not only that, of course; he believes in the whole enterprise system. He also believes that with what we have in this country, with the extraordinary advantages we have here and with those who have different ideologies and who are developing military power that can be a threat to our security, that we have got to preserve our own security. And he has been one of the strong advocates of a strong defense.

And, let's face it -- I don't want to seem to be partisan at a nonpartisan meeting --

(Laughter)

-- but in the last eight years Republican Administrations have been turned down on \$40 billion of essential military expenditures that this country needs. And I happen to have had the opportunity to follow for a good many years in different capacities the intelligence reports. I happen to know what is going on. And Admiral Gorshkov, who is Admiral of the Soviet Navy and has been for 18 years, has written a book. He says exactly what his objectives are, and the objectives of his country and that the Soviet Navy is no longer a defensive navy; it is an offensive navy, and it is now worldwide.

Senator Taft has been one of the strong advocates. And he has someone running against him, who shall be nameless except to identify him by saying the platform of the Democrats calls for a \$7 billion cut in defense expenditures. He doubles it. He goes to a \$15 billion cut.

And I want to tell you, if we want to keep this country and keep it right and the opportunities we enjoy, let's keep some people in the Congress of the United States who understand those things and who have the courage to stand up for America. And that is Bob Taft.

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(Applause)

Now, the President has done an extraordinary job with an extraordinary record of achievement, which I will touch on in a minute. He has done it despite the fact that he did not have the cooperation of a two-to-one Democratic Congress. And this is something people don't realize. They just think the President of the United States with the extraordinary position, the tremendous power, that he can do anything.

But the Congress of the United States has got equal power. And you can't do something in the White House without them working together. And yet he has had to deal with a Congress where his recommendations to meet needs in this country have been given no attention and measures passed which would destroy the whole effort to hold down inflation, to reduce inflation, which the President has.

Therefore, he has exercised, as the founding fathers anticipated should be done and that is why they put it in the Constitution, the veto power over the Congress of the United States on these very attractive spending measures.

Let's face it -- I am a politician, or at least I was --

(Laughter)

The reason I am having such a good time, it is the first time in 20 years I haven't been running for something. So I can speak with a good deal of freedom. It gets me in a little bit of trouble once in a while, but except for that I am all right.

(Laughter)

Let me say that this problem that the President faces is not an easy one, but he has had the courage to take these popular measures.

In this country, let's face it -- and I have been a part of it, so I don't want to try and put the blame on somebody else -- we have over-promised and under-delivered for years in America, the politicians. And the American people have had it. And when you see the cynicism and when you see people are not turning out to vote, no wonder they are not turning out, because they have gotten to a point where they just don't believe what they are told.

I didn't really know President Ford very well. I knew him, but not well. And he asked me to come down. It was a Constitutional crisis, and all of a sudden he is elevated to President. And they have to go through 500 FBI agents -- which, if you haven't been through it, it is an experience --

(Laughter)

This was a situation where I wanted to be there if I could be helpful. So I have been with him. And I

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watched him. And he was faced first with the residue of the Viet Nam war, which had torn this country apart, and then Watergate -- the two of them, which had caused a sense of disillusionment that was unbelievable. So he was faced with that situation, cynicism about the Presidency and about government.

Okay. He has been able to reestablish confidence, trust in the integrity of the leadership in America. And that is essential in a democracy, and that is what he has done.

That alone would mark him for history, but at the same time he has dealt with these economic problems. Now, I have watched him, and he has sat and he has listened. He is a man of great patience. He listened to different points of view to find out what is the right thing to do. When he has come to the conclusion what should be done, then he says that is what we are going to do. It is based on what is in the long-term interests of the American people, not on the short-term political advantage.

That is the kind of leader this country needs in a period of crisis and as we go into the difficult years ahead.

I have had tremendous respect for him, his courage, his integrity and his determination to preserve the basic values which are the strength of America, which is free citizens with their creative driving force, the American enterprise system. And he recognizes that government has not built America. Government is there to be the regulating body. It is the framework of laws within which free citizens have the opportunity to operate.

And he recognizes that the bureaucratic red tape that has developed is one of the things that is frustrating Americans at all levels. I know, because I have been out holding a series of conferences for him around the country on domestic programs and policies. And the one thing that was universally agreed to by people, whether they were governors or mayors or businessmen or labor leaders or even welfare recipients, was that the government was into their business in every aspect and that they couldn't make a decision without Washington having some say or having to get an opinion and having to find out how.

The Governor of Washington State, Dan Evans is a tremendous person, a very able person, who was Chairman of the Governors' National Conference -- just happens to be Republican.

(Laughter)

He said, when he was testifying before us, "Look, I'll give you two examples. We wanted to get under one of these grant aid programs." Now there are some 1,007 of them where the government says, "We will give you some money, the Federal Government, if you enrich and improve your program under these conditions." And then they write legislative conditions. They have a legislative intent, in addition.

And then the administrators of this program then write the regulations, and they change them. But because the legislative intent is not that clear -- and you lawyers will understand, because this in a way does make business for you. So I am talking against my own interests here. But then somebody sues, see. So then that gets into the courts and then the Judicial Branch of government.

Then they start to legislate and administer. So that we now have a very complex situation where, because of the lack of careful planning and legislation -- and the Senator knows this better than anyone -- this rushing through with popular programs, such as "We will remove all pollutants from navigable waters by 1985."

I want to tell you, if you build a house and you dig some ground and then it rains and the rain washes the mud into the water, that is pollutant. By 1985 that can't happen.

If you fertilize your fields and some of the phosphates wash off into the stream, that is pollutant. But that is not going to happen in 1985. Well, how are we going to do that?

(Laughter)

Then the courts get in and they start to say -- now, the only thing I am saying is the President understands this. He understands we are making it so complicated that for you who go to make a decision, you who build this country, you don't even know -- it is almost as bad as -- well, I don't want to be quoted on that; I'll withdraw that.

(Laughter)

Let me put it this way: The American Revolution was not just for individual freedom. It was for economic freedom from the domination of London, which controlled all the trade and all the business in America. Everything was for the benefit of England. Now we are getting into a situation where there is some similarity of what happens in Washington -- that you have to go down there and find out what the regulation is, and when you go there, you find the change.

What Dan Evans says, he gave this illustration: He says, "We worked for months, preparing this request, and we prepared it and sent it down. It had to do with education. And the word came back, 'Sorry; since you prepared this material,' -- which was volumes -- "the regulations have been changed. Therefore, you will have to resubmit it."

By that time the whole thing had gone by. So then he gave one other illustration where they figured out how to save a million-and-a-half dollars on another program. They sent that back to Washington. The reply was, "Sorry; there is no provision in the regulations about saving money under this program."

(Laughter)

He said, "All I can say is just give us less money, less regulations and get off our backs."

Now, I know I come from Washington now, so I have got to be a little careful in what I am saying. But I want you to know I identify with the problems this country has. In having been governor of one of the States for 15 years, I know what these problems are.

They are the problems of local government; they are the problems of business; they are the problems of labor; they are the problems of everybody. And I am trying to say to you, that this President understands this. He is trying to simplify this.

Now, sure, we are not going to give up regulations that are for the benefit of all the people, but we can simplify them. We have got to stop these expenditures which are attractive but which go to create inflation and which is the most insidious tax, so that you think you are getting something for nothing. And then you find out some day there isn't such a thing <sup>as</sup> free lunch. And that is something you people know, because you are the ones who produce the money which they spend down there.

I don't want you to think when I say, "down there," I am not from there. But January 20th I am going to be back with you.

(Laughter)

So he has done this on the domestic scene. He has cut inflation in half. In the last 18 months there has been almost four million net increase in employment. We have 87 million Americans working today, which is more than at any time in the history of this country. And two months ago, when you saw the unemployment figures go up, it was a fascinating statistic, because there were 400,000 new jobs that month but there were 700,000 new applicants for work. And the majority of them were women.

And that is one of the interesting things. Confidence is coming back, so people are now applying for work. So that becomes part of the statistics, so you think that unemployment is going up, when in actual fact employment is going up. But more people are applying.

Our economy is rolling. And one other thing -- America is at peace. And this is something this President has brought, this Administration has brought, the Republican Party has brought. It is a party of peace, it is a party of strong defense, which is the best way to assure the peace so you don't tempt people to be venturesome and go out and create situations when they cause wars.

These are all things which reflect the President's deep concern for human beings. So all I am saying here is when the American people get into the booth to vote on November 2nd, I just have a feeling they are going to say to themselves, "Who can we trust for the next four years to deal with difficult problems? Who has the integrity, the dedication, the belief in this country and the faith

and the basic principles on which this country grew to greatness, who will reflect our best interests both at home and abroad? Who can we have confidence in?" And I just have to say to you, in my opinion, they are going to say Jerry Ford and Bob Dole.

(Applause)

Just before ending, I would like to say that I happen to believe in a two-party system. I think that is the vitality and strength of democracy. And we need a little better balance in the Congress of the United States. We need more Republicans down there.

I have already mentioned Bob Taft, but Chalmers Wylie and Sam Devine, who are back there working in these closing days, couldn't be here. Those are two people that need to go back.

Jim Rhodes needs a few more good Republicans in both houses in the State legislature.

And I think that when you look at it and you think that this democracy of ours has survived longer than any in the history of the world, that the basic strength of that democracy has been the two-party system. Let's keep it that way.

And let's vote -- and more important than this group voting, let's be sure the American people understand what the basic values are of the man who has been leading our country through the great Constitutional crisis that we have passed through.

I am delighted to be here, and it is an honor to be with so many distinguished lawyers and, I understand, some outstanding businessmen.

Mr. President, thank you very much.

And, Mr. President-elect, it is nice to be with you. And thanks for letting me eat the blueberry pie.

(Applause)

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(AT 1:15 P.M. EDT)