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Office of the Vice President  
(Cincinnati, Ohio)

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PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
GREATER CINCINNATI AIRPORT  
CINCINNATI, OHIO

AT 3:46 P.M. EDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted to be with the great governor of Ohio, Jim Rhodes. I want to tell you, this is a pleasure to be back in Ohio and Cincinnati, which has got to be the great heartland of America, the industrial, cultural, commercial center.

I have to thank the Cincinnati Reds for what they did last year, what they are in the process of doing this year. There is a certain analogy between that -- I won't mention what company -- there is a certain analogy between that and what the President has done.

He has been the great champion in having done a fantastic job for this country. And I would like to make a prediction that come November 2nd, President Ford is going to be elected President of the United States of America.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, do you think Jimmy Carter is misleading the American people?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know that I would put it that way. I don't think he is trying to mislead the American people. I think he is trying to be clear, make up his mind what he thinks on the issues.

QUESTION: Do you think he can make good all the promises he has put out so far?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, he has cancelled some of them already, like the Humphrey-Hawkins bill, which is a very comprehensive bill, which he supported in the beginning. Now he has moved to a balanced budget by 1980. That cancels the Humphrey-Hawkins bill. You have got to determine which of his promises you are referring to, and you have got to take them and analyze them.

QUESTION: You said in Cleveland the American people are afraid of Mr. Carter. Could you elaborate?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I said they are uncertain, and therefore, the result of uncertainty is fear. I don't say the American people are afraid, but there is an uncertainty. And I think when they get in that booth to vote, they are going to want to vote for someone they have a feeling of trust in, of confidence, and that they have had experience with, that they know what they are doing, where they are going and where they can meet the tough problems in the next four years, and that they are going to feel President Ford has the right answers.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, what do you see as the style of tomorrow night's debates?

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THE VICE PRESIDENT: I wish I knew. I think it is something we are all waiting to see. I have no idea. I think the average American -- at least for myself, I think this is where we are going to see these two men together and we are going to get an impression. And my personal feeling is it is going to be an impression of the individual, perhaps, even more than what they say on the issues, and that that is what the Americans are going to take home with them, that impression of the President or the governor as a person.

QUESTION: Do you think the debates will be the deciding factor in this campaign?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I think they are going to contribute to it. It is a close race, but I think the Republicans at the present time, the President, are the underdogs. But I think he is on the way up. And, frankly, as one who has always run as an underdog, I think that is a good position to run in. You are coming from behind, you are working hard, and it will be across the line before the 2nd.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President. The voters think politicians are sometimes too stiff and sometimes too formal. Does a spontaneous action such as yours the other day contribute to a more welcome political climate?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I was saved by the jet.

QUESTION: Does a gesture such as yours in Binghamton contribute to a more welcome, more open, more spontaneous political atmosphere?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Let me say first, this was not a planned response. I simply responded to a sustained salute which I got from those students in the State university. And it is one of those things you don't do on a planned basis, but --

(Laughter)

QUESTION: But it shows a degree of spontaneity and informality.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: A good deal of informality. I am now very careful to give the "V" sign.

(Laughter)

QUESTION: Have you discussed it with the President?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No, I haven't.

QUESTION: Mr. Rockefeller, it seems a lot of publicity for the candidates is for things they are doing wrong, mistakes they make in the campaign. Do you think this will set the tone of the campaign -- to stay out of trouble as opposed to taking strong, aggressive stands?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: The tone is set by you fellows. You are the fellows who report what happens. If you build up a mistake into a big thing, then you have set

the tone. If you build up a positive statement, you have set the tone. So it is a combination between the media and the candidates what the tone is.

QUESTION: Do you feel that is a tone that has been set, though, a kind of negative tone?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I think that is a fair statement. Incidents which have happened and which have received attention on a nationwide basis are negative rather than positive.

QUESTION: Is that a Republican strategy -- let Jimmy Carter beat himself?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That is not a strategy, and I am glad you mentioned that. I know the President would like to be on the campaign trail. He is staying in Washington during this period because he feels the responsibility to be there during the closing days of Congress. This is the time when the legislation jams up and the important measures have to be passed and trade off votes to get it through. There are lots of amendments.

I think the President knows that he has to be there to be able to get his input into those amendments to stop them from changing. . So it will protect the interests of the people.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, there has been some talk so far this has been a campaign where many people won't vote come November. How do you assess the campaign so far?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, the Republican convention was late. That was only three weeks ago. The Congress hasn't adjourned yet. Therefore, the Democratic candidate has been on the road for about a month and a half, and the Republican candidate hasn't been on the road at all. That, I think, has accounted for part of what you said. But I think now, when the Congress adjourns and the debate starts, I think things are going to pick up.

QUESTION: Has the President commented to you about his recent bad press, the golf ticket campaign funds? What about that?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No. You know, this is part of what happens in elections. He was investigated by 400 FBI agents, and a Democratic two-to-one majority confirmed his nomination. I don't think there is a thing that relates to his political life or private life that isn't known, that hasn't been reviewed prior to his confirmation by the Congress. So I think this is just politics.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, what is your future?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: My future is a very happy one. I am going back to the family on the 20th with Happy and the two boys, catch up with them and then deal with some of my own affairs and the family's affairs.

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I have to admit that I enjoy politics, that I love this country. And there are many ways you can serve the country. I think this is one of the most exciting moments in the history of civilized man. I would like to contribute in a small way to the concerns of being in this country.

QUESTION: In what way would you like to serve the country?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I don't really care. I have worked for six Presidents. I have left Washington seven times, and so this is no big deal as far as I am concerned.

QUESTION: If Mr. Ford wins in November, do you think you will be involved in some way in his administration?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Not in any full time job.

QUESTION: Will you campaign in Kentucky this year, either you or the President, or do you concede that to the Democrats?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: He hasn't conceded any State to the Democrats or any votes to the Democrats. That is what I admire about him. He is out to get every vote he can, carry every State he can. And I think on the basis of his integrity, his courage and his faith in America, in the American people, in the basic principles on which this country has been built -- I think the way in which he has handled the loss of confidence in government; he has restored this confidence; the way in which he has dealt with inflation in the last year and a half, got the economy rolling -- four million new jobs in the last 18 months -- sure there is unemployment, but the greater growth will deal with that -- and he has restored the respect and confidence of the leaders of foreign countries, whether they are allies or Third World or potential enemies.

I think it is an extraordinary record. So, frankly, I think you can see when they get to that booth, the people are going to vote for President Ford.

QUESTION: I noticed that warm welcome for Governor Rhodes. Many say Ohio is going to be important to the President this year. How do you see it?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No question about it. This is an active State, just the way New York is. I want to tell you, Governor Rhodes personifies those qualities which I believe in in the political life of this country. He understands the whole concept of government. He understands the importance of freedom. He understands the American enterprise system, what it has done for America, and that you can't have jobs without growth. Those are the fundamentals, and Governor Rhodes has fought for those, for the people of Ohio.

I worry about the fact that he was in New York a month ago, and I hate to think which industry is leaving New York to come out to Ohio. While I love him, I worry about him.

(Laughter)

But he is a great guy, and I am glad to be here with him. It is a pleasure.

QUESTION: What about Governor Shafer?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Governor Shafer from Pennsylvania is another wonderful person, and he and I have been working together in Washington, and I am just a great admirer of his. I am very grateful to him for all he has done for me. And he and I have tried to help the President and help this Administration. And I can't think of anything better than if he went back as Governor of Pennsylvania.

Okay. Thank you very much.

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(AT 3:55 P.M. EDT)