

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 28, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
SALUTE TO DISTINGUISHED REPUBLICANS DINNER
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

(AT 9:27 P.M. EDT)

Reverend Helfferich, Mr. Secretary, I want to thank you for your generous words and even more for the tremendous contribution which you have been making to the Ford Administration and this great nation as Secretary of Transportation. This is a creative leader, ladies and gentlemen, who has tackled the tough problems in a period of transition with the kind of vision and faith in the future of America which personifies the best heritage of our country and the best tradition of the Republican Party.

I am proud of him, proud to be here, proud that he introduced me and I thank you very, very much.

(Applause.)

And to be here when Helen and Phil are being honored is also a source of infinite satisfaction because they really personify those unsung heroes who have given of their lives to the service of the party, a two-party system.

This is the vitality and the insurance of the preservation of freedom in America as a two-party system. They have worked in the vineyard for years to preserve that vitality. I would just like to say what a thrill it is to be here when they are being honored and to salute them.

(Applause.)

As far as Dick Frame is concerned and the Pennsylvania delegation, if it hadn't been for Pennsylvania, if it hadn't been for Dick Frame's leadership and the Republican delegation along, if I can modestly say, with the New York State delegation, coming out for President Ford at the psychological moment, it would have been hard to tell what the outcome would be.

I would like to say that Dick led the train on Saturday. We followed on Monday. I think it was the right moment, Dick. He is our man, President Ford.

(Applause.)

Drew, I am sorry you are not Governor. But you sure put on a hell of a party.

You have done the same for the State. He is the kind of man we need. This business of being Governor is a lot of fun, if you got the right one.

(Laughter.)

But I would like to thank Drew and Madeline for this evening. I have to say, to me, it is a wonderful party. I don't know why those people say the Republican Party is dead.

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They ought to be here tonight to see what is going on. This party is live and kicking. I want to tell you, we are going places.

(Applause.)

I am here with a man I love and admire and respect, your former Governor, Ray Shafer. He is one of the greats as far as I am concerned. I am just proud to be here with him, proud to be in Washington working with him because he and I are down there to help the President.

To be here in Pennsylvania means a lot to me. You are my friends. You let me down, but I won't go back over history.

(Laughter.)

Anyway, I am just thrilled. Ray and I, to follow up what I was saying about the Republican Party, we were at a Chicago dinner with 2400 people and two ballrooms, in support of Jim Thompson who is running for Governor on the Republican ticket and who is running two-to-one in the polls.

I want to tell you, the Republican Party around this country is rolling. And they are going to do it right here. John Heinz is going to do the same thing in leading your party for the Senate. We are proud of him.

(Applause.)

He is independent. He has got integrity. He cares about the country. He has got a great record in the House. I want to tell you, the President needs him in the Senate and Pennsylvania needs him in the Senate, and the United States needs him in the Senate. I think he is going to be there.

My only regret is I won't be there to preside over him.

(laughter.)

But don't let anyone build up this idea of what the Vice President's functions are, too much. I presided over the Senate, but I can't speak without unanimous consent. It has to be tough for me. I have only gotten unanimous consent twice, and that was to apologize to them for what I said about them.

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

But he is tough, ladies and gentlemen. He is a winner. That is a good combination. He has a wonderful wife, both brilliant and beautiful. And that is a great combination, too. With him heading the ticket, to me, it is very exciting, this kind of enthusiasm. And when you look at your candidates for the Congress, you have got 25 running -- I have had the pleasure of meeting, we had a press conference this afternoon, four of them at the press conference, Jim Mugford -- and they are right here, too, some of them at least. They are all here from Philadelphia -- Terry Schade, another great man, young man, all of them attractive, bright young men, Sam Fanelli, another wonderful guy, and then also Jesse Woods.

Jesse Woods' son is here, too, right down in front. That is your next Congressman's son.

(Applause.)

He and I got to talking a little bit earlier because he has been taking some pictures. He is 12. I said to him confidentially, "I want to tell you, I wish I was with my 12-year-old son." I told him where he was. He is at the fight with Ali tonight. That is why Happy is not here. She got ringside seats with little Nelson and Mark.

While we are having a good time, I am not so sure they are having a more exciting one there, but not as useful or not as important for the future of our country.

(Applause.)

I got out of that one.

And you have four more candidates, Larry Coughlin of Montgomery County, who is a four-time winner, ladies and gentlemen.

(Applause.)

We need Larry back there. He is working for that tax credit for parents facing those heavy expenditures for higher education for children and a lot of other important things. He is a great leader there.

We have three wonderful young people coming, Jay Kenney for Delaware County, John Renninger from Bucks County, and then you got another incumbent, that is Richard Schultz who is already in.

(Applause.)

We got to get all eight of those people back out of the area here and -- not back because only two of them are there. Six have to go down.

We had a very interesting discussion at the press conference this afternoon. Some member asked why are these men here? They haven't got a chance. I said this country grew to its greatness on the strength of the two-party system and it is only because of these people like these four young Congressmen running for Congress who have faith in America to give of themselves to run to preserve that two-party system, preserve democracy and preserve the values on which this country was built.

That is what is keeping this country strong. And they need your help, your support. They are giving of their time and their energy.

This fine young man, he is supporting his father. He has got to be a politician in his own right, I can see that, just in a few years to come. He is going to crowd his father. But that is nothing unusual to me. I am used to that myself.

(Laughter.)

I promised to report to him on the fight when I get a report from Nelson when I get back tomorrow.

John has already mentioned you have two outstanding "Pats" running, Pat Gleason for Auditor General and Pat Crawford for State Treasurer, those are two key spots.

I just want to mention these candidates and say what a thrill it is to be in a State where you have such attractive, bright, able people who are willing to give of themselves to run in a period when people say they are cynical about politics. Who wants to get this exposure, and get out there and take all this beating? You couldn't have finer people do it.

I think that John Heinz' leadership is showing the way. He is inspiring other young people. This is what we need because it is their future. It is the youth of this country whose future we are protecting. We are just trustees for their future.

I can't come to Philadelphia without saying a word about Hugh Scott, because I love Hugh Scott and I think he is one of the great Americans and he is a great Republican. He has done an awful lot for this country. He is a minority leader in the Senate. I love him.

I just want to say that here. You won't believe it but he is the oldest in terms of years of service, elected Republican in the United States of America. That is a great man.

(Applause.)

Now, I would just like to say a few words about this election. We need to elect Republican candidates from the grass roots right up to the top. That is President Ford. We are going to do it. I feel it in my bones. It is coming. It is starting to roll. Things look good right across this nation.

I have been wandering around doing my bit, doing my thing around this country. So, I have had an opportunity to see. I am telling you things are looking better all the time. Don't get discouraged.

As for the top of the ticket, I would like to say a word about President Ford. In my opinion, he should win and he will win.

(Applause.)

But I must say if -- and I am going to tell you why -- if the American people really can comprehend the ability, the character, the courage that Jerry Ford has shown during these two difficult years in the White House, I don't think the American people really understand what this man has done for our country. He didn't seek this office. He was just tapped. Then he got to be Vice President.

All of a sudden he found himself in the Presidency, see, in a moment which has got to be one of the most difficult periods. When you look back at those dark days some two years ago, the nation adrift in a governmental morass unprecedented in history, in a bitter, costly divisive war, and inflation threatening to run away and destroy our economy, we can be thankful -- to paraphrase the commercial -- that "We had a Ford in our future."

(Applause.)

He just happened to be there, too. Three grim crises faced America when Jerry Ford was catapulted into the Presidency. The first was Watergate and the serious constitutional crisis that entailed. The second was the Viet Nam War which divided the nation as no conflict has since our own Civil War. The third was an inflation -- threatening to run away and already hurting our senior citizens and others trying to meet personal and family necessities on shrinking dollars.

We have survived the cataclysm of Watergate -- and the resignations of a Vice President, and then a President for the first time in our history.

We are out of Viet Nam and the President has gained respect from allies, uncommitted nations and potential foes. He has held down inflation and at the same time, under his leadership, we have gone through a major recession and we are coming out of it with more Americans employed than at any time in our history, 88 million Americans employed now.

Sure, we have got too many employed. But this man has faith in the American enterprise system. He knows where people want jobs and they want it in industry. They want it in private enterprise. They don't want these government-made jobs which are temporary, which only add to inflation on the road to earnings.

He has had the courage to veto bill after bill, which would have added to inflation, over more popular measures

(Applause.)

I tell you it takes intelligence, it takes understanding and it takes sheer courage to do what he did. Jerry Ford has all three of these qualities. The American people need to know that and understand it. It is up to all of us to see that they do.

Then when each individual gets in that booth on election day, they are going to start to think: In whom do I have trust, confidence in the next four years to deal with domestic problems, international problems? There is just going to be one answer, and that is Jerry Ford, ladies and gentlemen.

(Applause.)

The reason that this courage and this tremendous quality of integrity is there is because it all stems from deep personal conviction on his part for people and a true compassion for his fellow Americans and particularly the less fortunate who suffer most from turmoil, war and inflation.

He takes the long view. I have watched him. I have had the privilege of seeing, during the last year and a half, tough problems come up, domestic, international problems. He listens to all points of view and then tries to figure out what is best for the future of Americans, not what is best for the short-term political advantage, and that is easy. But what is the long-term interest, what is the right thing to do, and then he does it.

It is easy to criticize him for having that courage. But I think the American people are too smart to have those

who criticize for short-term political gain, because he vetoed some popular legislation with that two-to-one Democratic majority, which John fought in the House down there.

I almost got in trouble in my description of what the Congress had done in my meeting today. I identified this two-to-one majority, the Democrats. It wasn't those good Republicans who fought loyally with the President to hold down expenditures.

This campaign is a little unusual for me because for the first time I am not running for anything. So, I am a little out of my style, if you forgive me.

(Laughter.)

But I am campaigning here because I think we are concerned, concerned about the future of America in a world where our way of life and our international security is being challenged as never before. That is what you sent out those letters about. You started before I did.

I am concerned about America's continued growth and ability to provide jobs, concerned about America's government and its capacity to govern in the best interests of individual Americans. I am concerned for the American enterprise system that has given more Americans more freedom and more opportunity for self-realization than any system in history. That is right.

I am concerned that we have a strong two-party system in the United States. It is crucial for our kind of representative government and for the preservation of our liberties and the continued dynamism of our national political life.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want a President whose compassion is shown in actions for all our people and not just saccharin words. I want a President in power who does not seek to pit one economic group against another, one section against another, but who unifies the nation in the best interests of all.

All you had to do is listen to those debates the other night and you can tell of whom I am talking about there. I want a President who sees not just the faults, but the true greatness of America, a President who not only can encourage the dynamic growth of our free society at home, but command respect and friendship for us abroad.

We have such a man, ladies and gentlemen, in Jerry Ford, the President of the United States.

Let me tell you about the President's running mate, Bob Dole. He is first rate, able, a dynamic candidate. He knows what makes America tick. His whole adult life has been devoted to the service of this nation. He is a wounded war hero. He is a man of deep compassion who has championed the handicapped, worked hard for civil rights all his life, and co-sponsored the McGovern-Dole legislation to provide food stamps for the truly needy poor.

When a candidate for the Vice Presidency is chosen by a political party, it should always be with the knowledge that he may succeed to the Presidency. I can tell you from

personal knowledge that Bob Dole has the necessary strength, intelligence and character so that we are very lucky in this ticket, ladies and gentlemen.

In six weeks the American people will make their crucial decision at the polls. Let us, you and I, leave no stone unturned in getting before them, the American people, the record, the capabilities and the bright promise of leadership under President Ford and Bob Dole.

And if we all do our part, we can get the job done and Jerry Ford will be elected President of the United States.

(Applause.)

And we, the people of America can go on to an unprecedented age of achievement and fulfillment, not only for America, but for all free peoples of the world.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a real pleasure to be with you. I want to thank you, each and every one of you who are here who by your presence are supporting the Republican Party, the party of your choice. You are making it possible.

I would like to thank all of those leaders, Dick, all the way to the county chairmen, the party workers, precinct captains, because you are the unsung heroes who are keeping alive our two-party system and the strength of democracy. So, with your support in this great organization and with these wonderful candidates, I think on November 2, we are going to have a Republican victory and get this country on the right track and keep it there, ladies and gentlemen, for the future.

(Applause.)

END

(AT 9:45 P.M. EDT)