

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 29, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(Erie, Pennsylvania)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT BREAKFAST IN HONOR OF VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER
AT THE CIRO'S RESTAURANT
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA

(AT 10:00 A.M. EDT)

Thank you, Marc. Marc Marks is a very generous person. I appreciate greatly those very warm, friendly comments. I am honored to be here in Erie County. I feel very much at home here and I also feel close to home here.

I was thinking about what a lady asked me in the press conference this morning about whether I was worried about my future. I told her I was trying to bear up.

(Laughter.)

But I would just like to say what a pleasure it is to be here. Dick Frame is the State Chairman as well as Senator, who has done so much in this critical period in leading Pennsylvania's delegation. The New York delegation followed two days later.

I think those were the key actions in support of President Ford that were the determining factor in the nomination at Kansas City.

I am just delighted to be back in Pennsylvania because I have such tremendous respect and affection for this great State, our neighbor. I am thrilled to be here with a very close friend of mine who was your Governor and with whom I have had very happy relations at the Governors' Conferences and in the various things we work together on. That is our good friend, Ray Shafer.

He is a great guy. He and I work in Washington together.

(Applause.)

Henry, I want to thank you for this lovely party and for the inclusion of your friend here. I am honored to be here. Nobody seems to have eaten yet. It looks to me like it was a gesture. I don't think anyone got anything.

(Laughter.)

But if you said it is done, it is okay. I would also like to say what a pleasure it is to be here with Roger Richards because I have tremendous respect and admiration for those men and women who work in the party who are the State Chairmen, County Chairmen, precinct leaders, captains, party workers.

You are the ones who make our democracy live and strong and preserve the two-party system. The two-party system is the basis of the preservation of freedom. That is why I think this election is so important.

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You are very fortunate here because I have had in the short time that I have been here, a chance to meet a good many of your candidates who are running for office next month. When you have got young, dedicated, courageous, experienced leaders at the head of your ticket, as you have in John Heinz who has got a brilliant and beautiful wife, you have got a great combination here.

That is the kind of people who inspire confidence on the part of the public and who give that sense -- as I ran into it the first time I campaigned in 1958 for Governor. Somebody said to me, "Why do you want to get into politics? You have got it made. Politics is a dirty business."

I said, "Look, if you think it is a dirty business, why don't you get in it and help clean it up?" It is the lifeblood of the country. That is true, politics is. There is no difference between the people in politics, the people in business, labor or the people in the field, academic or whatnot. People are people in this country.

We have got to be so grateful that men like John and Marc are willing to give of their talents and their time and their energy to serve us in this country and that men like Dick are willing to give his time and talents to lead our party and to preserve the two-party system that we have reason to get enthusiastic again, even though we have been through some very traumatic situations, Viet Nam, Water-gate.

Sure, it tore our country apart. But I would like to say to you I don't think any other country in the world could have withstood what we went through if it hadn't been for the constitutional structure of America. That Constitution of ours was beautifully designed and it worked, and the provisions of the founding fathers, three branches of government in case human weakness caught up with individuals in office which is what they anticipated because they understood human weakness as well as human strength.

The Constitution held and the American people were strong and we have come through. It is also part of our system that a man who wasn't seeking the office, who under the 25th Amendment was elevated first to Vice President and then to President.

He has had the capacity and the courage and the deep belief in America to restore confidence in the Executive Branch of government, to restore confidence and respect in the White House, to deal with inflation, cut inflation in half. Even the economists didn't think you could stop inflation and get employment back together at the same time.

Yet, in the last 16 months there has been 3,900,000 net increases in jobs, with a growth rate that got as high as 8.4 percent. This country is back. It is moving. The President has deep faith in the creativity of Americans. He believes in human dignity.

He believes in the citizens of this country. Sure, it would be attractive and it is always nice to do the immediate thing of signing a bill that is going to hand out money or end up handing out a program to special interest groups.

But he knew if he didn't veto all those spending measures that he wouldn't be able to stop inflation. And inflation is the insidious force reaching into the pocketbooks of those who could least afford to cope with it, those who have retired, on pensions, those on fixed incomes, those who are wage earners, whose not only paychecks were being eroded but buying power was being eroded.

He has made that number one. He has achieved it. He has done the other, too. He has had that courage. I have watched him dealing with these problems, listening to all points of view and then making his decision, what was in the long-term best interest.

This is what Marc was talking about, what is in the long-term best interest. A lot of you obviously are businessmen. A lot of you are here from your homes, housewives. You know that you can't do anything today that is going to be of major importance. If you are going to do something of major importance, you have to plan. You have to do research.

You have got to do a whole series of things. It takes five to ten years to make major changes. Therefore, we have to see today's events in a world that is changing with accelerating speed unequalled in history in a world where we find ourselves totally dependent.

You take what was the basic cause of inflation and recession. It was the action of the OPEC countries in quadrupling oil prices and the fact that there were crop failures. It is interesting to note in this world we have this ideological conflict between communism and our system of democracy and capitalism, that after 60 years of communism in the Soviet Union with 45 percent of their people on the land that they have to come to America to buy their food to feed their people and we have less than five percent of the people on the land. They are free people. They are doing what they are doing because it is their thing. They love it.

Not only that, but they have got to go to the capitalist world here or in Europe to buy consumer goods factories to take care of the needs of their people because they haven't been able to do it themselves.

One has to wonder, isn't our system the greatest system in the history of the world? It has done more for more people and given them greater opportunity than any other system.

We have freedom, individual freedom, yes, with certain limitations created by the government protecting the rights of all. But when you look back at the American Revolution -- this is a Bicentennial year. Although after the 4th of July the excitement died down a little bit because that was the peak. But this still is the Bicentennial year.

The American Revolution was not just fought for political freedom. It was also economic freedom. We were under the thumb of London. Everything had to go through and was controlled by London. So, economic freedom, our founding fathers recognized was inseparable from individual freedom. I think sometimes people are beginning to forget that,

particularly people in government. That is why I think that we are so fortunate in the candidates that you have selected. John and Marc are two men who understand the American enterprise system, understand that this country has grown to greatness because of the creativity of individuals who have imagination and organizing ability and then science and technology which is again creativity of individuals, and then the organization of corporate structures in which these operations could be undertaken.

A lot of people are critical about the multinational corporations. I think it is one of the greatest inventions that has happened in history. I only go to funerals and Bicentennial celebrations. That is my job.

(Laughter.)

So, I travel. Anyhow, I was on one of those trips and I was in Singapore, on the way through. Mr. Lee Kuan Yew is the Prime Minister. He was part of the Malay Federation of States. But it just happened that the Island of Singapore which is like a city-state is mostly Chinese. The Malaysians are a little worried about the Chinese.

So, they pushed Singapore out of the Malaysian Federation. Here he found himself. I met with Mr. Lee Kuan Yew and his Cabinet for about three hours, fascinating discussion, most of them Chinese, brilliant people.

He was faced with a situation of two and a half million people on an island city with a standard of living that was \$300 per person, gross national product with communist pressure coming down from the north, and strong anticommunists.

He said to himself, "How can I meet this challenge?" It is fascinating, way out in Asia, he said, "One multinational corporation is worth two divisions because it helps raise the standard of living of my people." So he said, "I decided, and our government decided we were going to make Singapore the most desirable place in the world to do business for corporations coming from anywhere."

He built an industrial park of 2,800 acres. He built housing and parks. It is absolutely extraordinary. He now has 623 corporations from around the world doing business in Singapore and in 11 years he has taken the standard of living on a GNP basis to \$2,00 per person.

I said to him, "Look, can't you take a sabbatical year and come and help New York City?"

(Laughter.)

I was really half serious on this because we have got to get back to believing in our own system, ladies and gentlemen. He was attracting the things that have been developed in this free society to come and help him preserve freedom in his own country.

We have got to have faith in that system. President Ford has got faith in that system. He understands it. He believes in it. He wants to give it a chance to work. I have held hearings all over this country for him, the Domestic Council on Domestic Policies and Programs. We invited about

500 people and then opened it for anybody to attend. We had Governors and Mayors, businessmen, labor leaders, welfare recipients, the whole cross-the-board. Then it was opened for discussion and five or six members of the Cabinet went to each.

Universally, the concern is whether in private enterprise, government is getting in our hair -- they didn't put it that way exactly -- bureaucracy and red tape.

Finally, Dan Evans, who is Governor of the State of Washington and who was Chairman of the National Governors' Conference at the time, spoke to us. He gave two stories. One where they were making an application for a grant in connection with education for the State of Washington, to the Federal Government.

They worked for months. They had a lot of experts and they put all the papers together based on the manuals because this stuff comes out in books, business knows it. Government knows. They applied for this money. They got word back, "Sorry, the regulations were changed since you prepared this. You will have to do it over." This was without any notice, arbitrary decisions.

Then he gave another illustration. They worked on how to save a million and a half dollars in another program. They worked it out and sent it to Washington. They got word back, "Sorry, there is no provision in our regulations for savings. So, you can't do it."

He said, "All I ask is give us less money and less regulations and get off our backs." This is a very serious question. I happen to be very interested in government. I have spent a lot of time in it.

The Federal system is one of the greatest systems with three branches, Executive, Legislative, Judiciary; federal, state, county, city, town, village and so forth. I think that we in the Republican Party believe that government closest to the people is the best government.

(Applause.)

But there are 1,007 categorical grants, each for some now specific purpose, each says you have got to enrich and improve your program if you are going to get money because Congress doesn't want to give money to a State or a town or a city if the city is then going to stop saving their own money and use federal money.

I happen to think that is a wrong philosophy. seeing that the money all comes from the States anyhow, and the towns. We are the taxpayers. But they don't get any credit for that. I am saying this is philosophically in terms of government.

So, not only do you have to enrich and improve. One of our problems in New York was we had been ahead of the game. We were already too well enriched and improved. So, when we had to go higher we had to raise taxes. Our benefits were so great we attracted people from other parts of the country.

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To help pay for their needs, because only those in need came, then we had to raise more taxes. By this time it became unattractive from the business point of view. So, the business moved out to the places where the people came from, where the taxes were low and they had very few benefits.

This has got to be bulkinizing, as I call it, in America. I didn't mean to get into a discussion on the philosophy of government. But these are problems. The reason I am really mentioning this is because these are the kinds of problems that young, intelligent, independent men and women like John Heinz and Marc Marks, they understand.

They know it from the local level. They understand the enterprise system. They understand that 85 percent of government revenue comes from American private enterprise, directly or indirectly through the people they employ, the dividends they pay and the taxes on them.

So, if you don't support the system, how under the Humphrey-Hawkins bill, which Mr. Carter has supported and then later said that he was going to balance the budget by 1980 so he would have to postpone it -- you know. It gets a little confusing.

I listened to that debate. I know something about government. But I want to tell you I had a tough time following his logic. I know what he said he did in Georgia. I heard what the President said his successor said about what he did in Georgia which confirmed what I thought.

(Applause.)

But much as I respect Governors and much as I respect Georgia, which is a great State, it isn't the United States and it isn't the world. I think, ladies and gentlemen, we need people of experience. He has had no experience on the national scene or the international scene.

I don't think you have to explain it. All you have to do is listen to him. President Ford is a man who has devoted his life to government, who moved into this job in the White House. He wasn't seeking it. He adapted himself to it. He has courage, integrity and a belief in the fundamental values and understands how they work.

I have got to say to you, this country needs President Ford. This country needs these two wonderful men. I have to say that when the American people get in the booth they are going to vote for someone they trust, someone who has experience, someone they know will be able to cope with an unusual, tough situation based on a record, a proven record.

So, in my opinion there is no question that President Ford is going to get reelected in November.

(Applause.)

I would like to say not only that about President Ford -- and I know I am taking too long here. As presiding officer of the Senate, President of the Senate, it sounds great unless you have been down there. I am not allowed to speak without unanimous consent. As I pointed out the only time I got it was to apologize for something I said about the Senate.

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(Applause.)

When I get a chance in a friendly audience like this, it is a little hard for me not to think out loud. But I would like to say that Bob Dole is a man you don't know much about, probably. But I have known him. This man was a prosecutor at the county level. He was a state legislator. He was in the House of Representatives. He is a distinguished Senator now.

He has an extraordinary war record as a war hero. He lost the use of one arm. He is a man of great courage, great integrity, tremendous sense of humor, one of the funniest speakers and has that extraordinary capacity with that little humorous twist to expose the opposition.

But this man is totally qualified. When one nominates and elects a Vice President, one has to think -- sure, it is standby equipment -- but God forbid, something might happen to the President and is this man qualified.

I just want to say Bob Dole is qualified. He also, like the two candidates here, has a brilliant and beautiful wife. She is a member of the Federal Trade Commission, a person in her own right, with a career. So, in a sense you get two for one.

(Laughter.)

I would just like to say you have some more wonderful people running. You have got two "Pats" running, Pat Gleason for Auditor General and Pat Crawford for State Treasurer. Those are tremendously important jobs. They need your support. They need your vote. We want them back.

We have got a two-party system. That is the lifeblood of democracy at all levels. The extraordinary thing about the President is he has made this record despite the lack of cooperation of a two-to-one Democratic controlled Congress. We need Republicans in Congress.

You have a delegation of 25 Congressmen. If you could send that delegation down there that would do more for the future of this country and for President Ford's ability to deal with some of the problems, positively.

He has more legislation up there that hasn't even gotten to hearings yet because of the political situation. You got a state legislator in the State Senate, Jim Ketcham, incumbents, Dave Hayes, Florrie Hopkins; challengers, Ken Grunewald and Leo Weir.

I just want to say this is a very important moment in America's history. As Marc said, I really do believe in the future. I think this is the most exciting moment in the history of civilized man. We have to say civilized people now. But I really feel that with science and technology, with managerial experience, with mobility of capital, with markets, this is a moment where if we grasp these opportunities with the kind of vision the Bible talks about -- I am also a Baptist. I haven't got direct contact but I am a Baptist.

(Laughter.)

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The Bible says that "Without vision ye shall perish." I believe that. This is the moment for vision. This is the moment to grasp the courage and determination of these opportunities and to create a framework of laws within which free people can operate freely and not be with this uncertainty where you have to go to some bureaucrat who is faceless, you can't find him or her, and they are changing the rules so you really don't dare make investments, make a decision because you don't know what is going to be; and if you do, whether you can make a profit on it. That is the whole basis of our society.

That is why we are where we are today. I say, ladies and gentlemen, let's elect people who believe in America, who believe in the system which is the greatest system. I have got to tell you, we are so lucky to be here in this country. I don't think, if you went around the world, you would find many people in many countries who really in the bottom of their hearts wouldn't give anything to live in America themselves.

Let's keep it that way. Let's have a Republican victory from the grass roots right up to the top in November. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

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(AT 10:25 A.M. EDT)