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Office of the Vice President  
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REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
AT A LUNCHEON SPONSORED BY  
THE GOP DINNER SUPPORT COMMITTEE  
DUQUENSE CLUB  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

(AT 1:36 P.M. EDT)

Tim, you are a good sport and I thank you very much for those kind words of Edgar's. It is a great pleasure for me to be here with you. I apologize for being late. I am sure he has delayed his arrival so as to make me feel less embarrassed.

(Laughter.)

True diplomat. I came down with Dick Frame, your State Chairman. I would just like to say how much I admire what he and all of the Republican leaders in this great State have done because when Pennsylvania's delegation came out for President Ford and New York State followed on Monday -- you came out on Saturday, we followed on Monday -- that was the psychological moment that turned the balance for the President of the United States in getting that nomination.

I think Pennsylvania and New York can celebrate. Now what we need to do is be sure he gets elected. Then we will have completed our responsibilities for the nation. I tell you, this is the best interest of the nation.

I would also like to say what a pleasure it is to be here with Elsie. She is a dynamic, attractive person who cares about this country and cares about the party, just like Ted. I was saying to Ted that the real unsung heroes of this country are the political leaders of the two parties, those men and women whether it is State or county or precinct captains, whatever it is, who give of their time day in and day out because they love America and because they want to keep the two-party system live and strong.

The two-party system is the basic strength of America. We are so fortunate in the fact that President Ford is there at this time. I want to talk a little bit about that in a second. We have got to preserve this vitality of the two-party system.

I have been traveling for two days. That doesn't sound like much. But I covered a bit of ground. I came in from Erie, Pennsylvania this morning, from Philadelphia.

I am sorry my wife couldn't be here but she went to a fight with the two boys. I have gotten a report last night and this morning, they felt that Ali lost. But I don't know what they are going to do about it. One is nine and the other is twelve. They had a good time.

I would just like to thank all of you who are here and who are supporting the party because the party workers who devote their time -- my good friend, George Bloom here,

MORE

his father was a friend of my grandfather's. I got a good story that George told once about my grandfather coming in from -- where? -- Burgettstown, just outside of Pittsburgh.

He came in from the oil fields. He went in the general store. He wanted to buy a pair of boots. It was rainy and muddy in those early days. George's father was running the store. So, my grandfather found the boots and said, "Haven't you got something a little more reasonable?"

Finally, they got down to the most reasonable pair. He said, "What discount do you give for cash?"

(Laughter.)

George's father said there was no discount for cash. So, grandfather had to fork up the money for the boots so he could go out. George's father went out after he left. He didn't know who it was. He meant the banker. He said, "Do you know who that was in your shop?" He said, "I don't know who it was and I don't care. But he has got to be the tightest person I have met in a long time."

I told George, "Be careful. Don't say tight. Just say he was careful with his money."

(Laughter.)

My grandmother was a teetotaler. If anybody said he was tight, she would have been very upset. George and I go back quite a few years.

I want to thank all of you for being here and for the fact that you are supporting the party. I admire the fact that you have the courage to support the party. I have to say that I think this is the time to stand up for America and for those basic concepts on which this country has been built.

If those of us who believe in it and those of us who benefit from it and who are a part of it don't do it, then I don't know who is going to do it. That is why I am so tremendously keen on seeing the President reelected and so very interested in the fact that Jack Heinz's son, John Heinz, is running for the Senate.

I want to tell you, you couldn't have a more attractive, more courageous, more experienced young man; good looking, brilliant, beautiful wife, heading your ticket here in Pennsylvania, with a great group of Congressmen.

I met eight of them in Philadelphia yesterday. They were at the ~~meeting~~ meeting. Somebody in the press conference we had where four of them were sitting there, asked "Why are you running on the Republican ticket? You haven't got a chance."

I said, "Look, you don't understand; the two-party system is the essence of a free society." This is why democracy has survived in America because there is this two-party system. We are so fortunate that attractive, bright, able young men like these who were sitting there, are willing to run.

MORE

I said, "Just because you have an overwhelming majority doesn't mean they aren't going to win." I was never up more than 35 percent, and I won every time in New York. Of course, I never got beyond that.

(Laughter.)

But these men, I want to tell you, I admire them. They need moral support. It was very interesting. Four fine young men running for Congress. They were appreciative that somebody was willing to stand up and be counted for what they are doing.

I think the fact that you all are here and are having this dinner and that you are doing what you are doing -- and if you can't find a friend who will buy another table, you could buy it yourself, buy two tables. That is a simpler way of doing it.

I understand this business. I have been doing it myself. I would like to take a few minutes, if I can, about 10 minutes to tell you why I think it is important that we who believe in this country, we who benefitted from the free society and private enterprise system, the American enterprise system have a responsibility and an interest in taking an active part in politics.

I would like to say that I admire tremendously Ed Speer. He has been the kind of business leader who hasn't been afraid to be also a political leader.

I know a lot of businessmen who don't want to do that. But this guy has put it right on the line. I have got to say I admire that. You run some risks doing it. But on the other hand, you run greater risks just putting your head in the sand, or hiding because this country in what we have enjoyed in the past may not continue.

If you listened to that debate, you may have a good idea. I presided over the Senate of the United States. Of course, I can't speak but by unanimous consent. The only time I got unanimous consent was to apologize to the Senate twice for what I said about them.

(Laughter.)

That was for criticizing them. That is what comes from being in the Legislative Branch and the Executive Branch. It is like a club. You may belong to a club, but you never belonged to a club unless you are in the Senate.

I hope John is going to be there because we need him there. We need a fresh point of view. But if you listened to some of those debates, it would absolutely make your blood run cold as to the lack of understanding of the American enterprise system, the lack of understanding of the need for profits or the fact that 85 percent of the money which government so generously gives out to everybody comes from our system, from you people and the people you employ and the people to whom you pay dividends.

So that we have got an interest in keeping the system. We have got a man in the White House who believes in it and who has had the courage to veto these bills.

Let me make a speech instead of getting into my very concise text which I thought I could do so I can save your time. You have to get back to work so you can pay more taxes.

(Laughter.)

I would just like to say that here in Steel City, the economic backbone of America, I want to discuss the most important issue in this Presidential campaign. This issue is which candidate will do a better job to continue America's economic recovery.

In my opinion, this is the heart of it, which is America's economic recovery. That is the basis of opportunity for and the well being of individual Americans. That is the essence of what President Ford believes. It is the essence of what I believe and it is the history of America.

I will just say parenthetically, it is fascinating to me and I asked the Ambassador the other day, the Soviet Ambassador, "How do you explain to your people that after 60 years of communism you have to come" -- here he is, ladies and gentlemen.

(Applause.)

I have just been singing your praise. I said that you stayed away so you would make me feel better about having been late.

MR. SPEER: Not that many people speak so well of me.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: We are your friends.

I just started to say that I asked the Ambassador, "Mr. Ambassador, how do you explain to your people that after 60 years of communism that you have to come to a capitalist country to buy your food to feed your people, when you have 45 percent of your people on the land, and we have less than five percent on the land, just free citizens who produce this? Or how do you explain that you have to go to the capitalist world to get consumer good factories to come over and train you to operate them, after 60 years of communism?"

He didn't answer. A little later I pressed it. It is an interesting problem to me as a politician. Finally, I did press him. He said, "Now that our people are traveling more in the world, we don't say we invented everything. There are ideas going on in other parts of the world."

What is happening in America is that a lot of people are beginning to question this system which is the one that has given us these opportunities. That is why we need a leader in the Presidency who understands them.

I say, which candidate is going to stimulate the economy to create new jobs for our growing labor force, put more Americans back to work? I mean real permanent jobs, not make-work jobs paid for by taxpayers. Which candidate is going to do a better job of fighting inflation to prevent it from eating away at people's income and drying up investment capital?

As far as I am concerned, the answer is clear. The man who best understands the vitality and the strength of the American enterprise system is the President of the United States, Jerry Ford. We don't have to take that claim on faith because we have got experience. We can judge it on the facts.

Jerry Ford was thrust into the Presidency, not only in the midst of a constitutional crisis, not only with a war in Viet Nam still creating dissension and division in America, but also during the most serious economic decline which this country has faced since the Great Depression of the 1930's.

Yet, look where we stand today, only two years later. More Americans are working today than at any time in the nation's history; 88 million, a record. Certainly, the unemployment rate is still too high. But under President Ford, the economy has grown by 3.9 million jobs in the last 16 months. That is a record.

Inflation, which has been running at over 12 percent at its peak, has been cut by more than half. In fact, the inflation rate for the second quarter of 1976 is down to a little over five percent.

One economic indicator after another shows that the trend is up. Look at these facts for the past year; personal income, up 10.6 percent -- industrial production, up 10.1 percent -- retail sales, up 10.6 percent. Also orders for non-defense capital goods has risen 33 percent the first seven months of this year.

Capital appropriations by manufacturers are up by 13.2 percent in the second quarter. The Gross National Production, which was actually declining during the first quarter of last year, is now showing a 6.8 percent rise in real growth for the first half of this year.

The important question is this, how did Jerry Ford turn the economy around? He did it because he is a leader with guts. My friends, when you have an appropriation bill in front of you, a spending bill backed by powerful special interests, the easiest thing for a President to do is to sign it, short-term popular gain.

Some group is always after more federal money. There is no end to worthy causes. But Jerry Ford understood the dangers and had the integrity and the sheer guts to say no.

He said no 55 times to excessive spending bills in the last year and a half, two years. He said no by using his veto power in the way our constitutional fathers intended, to protect the interests of all the people against the narrow interests of powerful pressure groups.

If the President had not stopped the spending, it would have been like pouring gasoline on a fire, igniting runaway inflation all over again.

However, I might add that the proposals of the Democratic platform today, which Mr. Carter at times seems to support, would add up to another \$100-to-200 billion more in

inflationary deficit federal spending. Jerry Ford is also the first President to attempt seriously to cut away the regulatory red tape that has been strangling and stifling the growth of American industry.

As he said, Jerry Ford wants to get government out of your pockets and off your backs -- I think that is a pretty good quote -- so that the natural dynamism of the American enterprise system can work freely and so that it can create more jobs for America's growing population.

President Ford is a man of deep human concern. But he takes the long view. He takes the fundamental approach to individual opportunity and the meeting of human needs based on the proven record of creativity, productivity and achievement of the American enterprise system.

President Ford does not look for a quickie Federal Government palliative, which only makes things worse in the long run. This Bicentennial year is a good time to remember how our founding fathers felt about economic freedom. The Declaration of Independence was not only a manifesto for political liberty, it was just as much a clarion call for individual economic freedom.

Fortunately for this nation we have in Jerry Ford a President who knows that economic freedom is indivisible from political freedom. We have a President who knows that our people cannot enjoy human dignity unless our system provides economic opportunity.

That, my friends, is what the President's economic policies are providing. President Ford recognized the proper role of government in our lives. He does not believe that government should provide all the answers. He does not believe that government spending is the only solution as some people seem to.

Jerry Ford believes that the proper role of government in our society is to help people help themselves, not to legislate, regulate and dominate every waking hour of our lives.

Let me tell you about the President's running mate, Bob Dole. He is first rate. He is able. He is a dynamic candidate. Bob Dole knows what makes America tick. His whole adult life has been spent in the service of the nation.

He is a wounded war hero. He is a man of deep compassion who has championed the handicapped, worked hard for civil rights, and co-sponsored the McGovern-Dole legislation to provide food stamps for the truly needy poor, not for those who do not need it.

When a candidate for Vice President 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 strength, the intelligence and the character necessary should that happen.

This campaign, frankly, is unusual for me. I am not running for anything.

(Laughter.)

MORE

But I am campaigning here because I am deeply concerned. It is a shame, too, with all these crowds.

I am concerned about the future of America in a world where our way of life and our very national security is being challenged as never before, 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 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 political life.

I am concerned for the American enterprise system which has given more people more freedom and more opportunity for self-realization than any system in history. This, to me, is one of the most important things because this President believes in that and there are increasing numbers of people in office who really don't understand it. It is just incomprehensible, but it is true.

If you listened to Carter the other night, for a man who says he is a businessman -- well, I won't get into that.

(Laughter.)

Therefore, 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.

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 here at home, but who commands respect and friendship for us abroad. We have such a man in President Ford.

In six weeks the American people will make their crucial decision at the polls. If all of us, you and I, leave no stones unturned in getting before them the record, the capabilities and the demonstrated leadership of President Ford and Bob Dole, if we will all do our part, we can get the job done.

I would like to predict that Jerry Ford will be reelected on November 2. We can go to an age of unprecedented achievement and fulfillment for America and all free peoples in the world. That is why I am for President Ford. That is why it is important that you are here, and I want to thank you. That is why it is important at this fund raising dinner for Bob Dole, where the money will go to the party, is important.

That is why I thank you for letting me come here and speak to you and share my feelings and to thank you for what you have done to build this country into the great country it is today. I am also thrilled to be here with my good friend, Former Governor Ray Shafer, sitting over there, because he and I are working for the President. Thank you very much indeed.

(Applause.)