

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(Chicago, Illinois)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE GRAND BALLROOM
CONRAD HILTON HOTEL
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

AT 8:49 P.M. CDT

Thank you very much, Bob. You are a generous friend.

I would like to say to everybody here, the fact that a leading businessman in the Chicago community who is a national figure is willing to identify himself with one of the political parties because he loves this country and has the courage to take a stand and a position and to rally this wonderful group here tonight, this is what keeps America strong and alive and our two-party system in democracy. That is Bob Galvin, ladies and gentlemen.

(Applause)

And as Ed has already said, the fact that you are all here, the fact that you care enough to support the party of your choice, to make it possible for this system to work, and that the leaders of the party and the elected officials of the party are here, this is the kind of thing that has kept America in that unique position and that has made democracy the longest free society in the history of civilized man.

I would like to say I had the privilege of meeting Mrs. Percy here tonight. I have always admired her son. I have thought he was a wonderful person. And tonight I can understand why. I would like to say hello to Mrs. Percy.

(Applause)

And, of course, as for the Doles, I am not going to talk about them now. We only have two minutes left, so I am moving rather rapidly now. But I will have a chance to talk about the Doles in a minute formally. But there are no two more wonderful citizens in this country than those two. We are so fortunate that they are going to be the next Vice President and wife of the Vice President.

(Applause)

She is a member of the Federal Trade Commission, so we get two for one, ladies and gentlemen.

(Applause)

And to be here with Dick Ogilvie -- there is a man I have always admired. Dick Ogilvie, one of the ablest governors this State ever had.

(Applause)

But it is a thrill to be here with the Thompsons, because I want to tell you, I always started out just the reverse in the figures that he has when I ran for governor. So I am just in awe, I've got to tell you. Twenty-four was my lowest. Thirty-six was the highest I ever started with.

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But when you hear those figures that Jim has got, I want to tell you, this is exciting. But to me, ladies and gentlemen, it is an evidence of the fact of the resurgence of the Republican Party, the fact that a man with a beautiful wife is willing to dedicate himself to public service. He doesn't have to. He doesn't have to take the punishment and this business about the dog and all that stuff, you know.

(Laughter)

He could stay out, but he is out there because he loves this country. He loves this State, and he wants to give it the kind of government that the great State of Illinois deserves. He is going to do that.

I am glad to be back here with him. And to have a handsome man like Dave O'Neill as his lieutenant governor, I want to tell you, that is a great deal. As a matter of fact the whole team, ladies and gentlemen.

I was here two weeks ago. Some of you were here. This is the best-looking group I have seen in a long time. When you combine that ability and that kind of youth and dynamism and charm, this is what America was made by -- people who are willing to serve the country, people who care. They are serving the country, and I am thrilled.

My time is up, 45 seconds. George Lindberger and Bob McClory -- I have to say he is a friend of mine from college. Don't hold it against him.

(Laughter)

He is a great guy. Ed Derwinski you have heard from, and Tom Railsback.

I have got a lot more exciting things, but I will hold them for the next visit.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure. Thanks for coming. Let's stick together. This is going to be the greatest victory for the Republican Party, from the grass roots right on to the top, with Bob Dole as our next Vice President.

Thank you very much.

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(AT 9:53 P.M. CDT)