

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of the Vice President  
(New York, New York)

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REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
INTRODUCING PRESIDENT FORD  
AT THE  
SALUTE TO PRESIDENT FOR DINNER  
NEW YORK HILTON HOTEL  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

9:41 P.M. EDT

Thank you, very much, Reverend Clergy.

Mr. President, it is a thrill to have you here in New York and to have you with this wonderful crowd, this wonderful gathering of your friends, our friends, the men and women who have given the muscle and the sinew to the Republican Party in New York, and this is a great tribute to you and to this gathering here this evening.

I have to say, Mr. President, judging the two previous speakers, that modesty is not the hallmark of the Republican party in New York State. It is an aggressive group. We are a minority and so we have to be aggressive to defend our interests, and we do the best we can. We are thrilled that you are here to be with us.

Among others, we have the only man in the world who can intimidate criminals with a lollipop. I want to tell you that has got to be going some, ladies and gentlemen.

I would like to say that Gus Levy has done a superb job, as he always does. He has been one of the pillars of the Republican Party in getting his friends here to come and join us, and so I want to express my appreciation to him, to Mary Louise, and we thank you for your support of her and her continuing position as a leader of our party. I think it is fitting that there should be a woman, and a woman with such extraordinary qualities as Mary Louise, as our leader. We are thrilled to have you here.

Mr. President, I can't resist to mention what Jerry Milbank has done in the support of the Republican National Committee because he has tirelessly worked, as you know, from one end of this country to the other to keep the party strong and to give it the muscle, and that comes from the support, and these are our friends who give the support. I just want to thank each and every one of you -- and thanks, Jerry.

There are two wonderful people who worked with him, who worked with Gus -- Polly Gordon and Bunnie Lasker. They have been fabulous all of the time.

Then we have a group of very distinguished elected officials here. Our two Senators who have been mentioned, Mr. President, whom you know so well -- Jack Wydler, whom you served with in the Congress, who is representing not only his own district, but he is representing the whole congressional delegation from New York in this campaign. We have two great representatives of the Senate of the State of New York, Bill Conklin and Don DiCarlo, from the Assembly who

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are representing all of our Senators and Assemblymen. We are honored to have you here. We want to thank them for coming tonight.

I have to say, just on a personal note, that two people are here with whom I never had a happier association over 15 years, and that is Malcolm Wilson, former governor, and Louie Lefkowitz, Attorney General. They are great human beings.

I could go through a long list, but we came here to hear President Ford, so I am not going to mention all of the other wonderful people, including Dorothy, sitting right next to you. I would like to just say a word, Mr. President, a special word of recognition to those ladies and gentlemen seated behind us here on the dais. They are the leaders of our Republican heritage, ethnic, clubs and committees. They truly are representative of the rich diversity of human resources of New York State and of the New York Republican Party; and we are thrilled that you are here with us tonight. I want to thank you for coming.

Tonight I would like to just say a few words about this great city of ours and about the President of the United States.

Just about a year ago, New York City was on the verge of fiscal collapse. It was plain that the city government could no more go on spending beyond its means than a family can without eventual financial disaster. But someone had to tell it like it was. Therefore, when the crunch came, the President of the United States wisely made Federal assistance dependent upon the city's own efforts to get its house in order. The Mayor and the people of this great city have responded with courage and determination.

Then the President recommended to the Congress that they act to authorize him to advance Federal funds to tide the city over the three-year period until its credit was restored in the money markets. In the fiscal year just ended, the President's plan provided loans to New York City of \$1 billion 260 million. So far this fiscal year, over \$1 billion has been loaned by the Federal Government, and the city will be loaned another billion dollars by next March under the Ford plan. The payments of interest and principal have been made by the city on schedule and, Mr. President, some of them, as you know, ahead of time.

It hasn't been easy for the city; but with the support and encouragement of the State, they have taken with determination and courage the steps necessary to restore public confidence. The bonds of the Big Mac and the New York City securities have gone up impressively in price, which is the best proof that investor confidence in New York City is returning.

Ladies and gentlemen, I believe that people are increasingly coming to understand the depth of President Ford's original concern and the importance of his forthright stand and that they now realize that he may well have been instrumental -- by his courage in saving the city from bankruptcy and infinite human suffering. We

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thank you, Mr. Ford.

Ladies and gentlemen, any nation needs strong leadership -- and the President's leadership in the New York City situation is one indication of the effective leadership he has given to the entire nation.

When Jerry Ford was catapulted into the presidency, he inherited three major crises: Watergate, a constitutional crisis; Vietnam, a crisis of national disunion deeper than anything since the Civil War; and inflation and recession, the nation's worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

Yet, in two short years, Jerry Ford has restored trust and confidence to the White House. He has cut inflation in half and the economy is on the upsurge. Americans are once again optimistic about the future, and America is at peace throughout the world. And let's face it, ladies and gentlemen, the last President who could make that statement was another good Republican, Dwight David Eisenhower.

Jerry Ford did it because he is a leader with compassion and guts, because he has deep concern for people and he has had the courage to do the tough things that would protect their long-term best interests. Jerry Ford is a President whose vision of the future of America is rooted in his deep faith in the fundamental values and institutions that brought this nation to greatness.

When the American voters step into that booth on November 2nd, they are going to ask themselves basically one question: In whom can I place my trust and confidence to meet the problems of the next four years at home and abroad?

There is just one answer: Jerry Ford. Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the next President of the United States.

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9:49 P.M. EDT