

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 13, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(Portland, Oregon)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT GENERAL RECEPTION
HILTON HOTEL, FORUM ROOM
PORTLAND, OREGON

AT 7:15 P.M. PDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I am delighted to have a chance to attend what I understand is the last fund-raising occasion for the Republican Party here in Oregon, which is a happy occasion for those who are the loyal supporters for the Party. We are indeed grateful to you for what you have done.

I must say you have a unique party here and Steve is a great leader. The Party has pulled together so that there is a concentration of effort for all of the candidates. This means a great deal -- a unified effort in campaigning and then the funds are split between all the legislators who are running.

I have just got to say that the two-party system is one of the great strengths, if not the basic strength, of our free society. The total funds raised this year are close to \$400,000. It took a sophisticated approach to do a program of this kind, to undertake it -- and very generous givers. Our society depends on men and women who care enough about the country and care enough about the party of their choice to support it. I want to thank each one, everyone here who has contributed so generously and made this possible.

What I like about the approach here in Oregon is that you have done your work on a systematic, scientific basis, scientific polling. You got the issues that are of concern to the people, bought TV time to get the Party's position to the people, and then provided support for the candidates on an organized basis so that they can get their message and their position and become known so that the voters have a choice.

The results are beginning to show. Your support needed to be maintained in order to preserve the momentum, and you have done it, to reach your goal, which is to elect 31 Republicans to the House -- how about that? -- and increase the kind of effective, efficient organization that is essential.

Now we come down to the Congress. I have had the privilege of being both in state government, 15 years as a Governor, and therefore I know the importance of the work with the legislative body, and I have also had the pleasure and the opportunity and the privilege of serving on a national basis with various Presidents.

I have watched this last two years, critical years, seeing the President study the problems and wrestle with what is the right thing to do, listen to all

MORE

points of view and make his decision, and prepare his position and send his recommendations to the Congress on key issues such as energy and how to meet it, so we can become reasonably self-sufficient again, to achieve our ecological goals, then to find a Congress that is uncooperative in meeting those recommendations. Unfortunately, it is a two-to-one Democrat-controlled Congress.

That is why I feel so strongly about Phil Bladine going down to the Congress of the United States. We need men and women with the kind of experience which he has, the kind of dedication and maturity, who understands forces that have made this country what it is today and are going to keep it that way, who can support the President in trying to preserve a balance, to keep the ever-growing red tape under control, to preserve the individual initiative and freedom of our citizens and not have all of the answers sought from the Federal government.

I think this is the major distinction between the two candidates in this campaign. The President of the United States, President Ford, believes in our system, believes in the individuals, has faith in them and their ability to solve the problems through the American enterprise system.

Mr. Carter is looking, as has been the tradition for so many years of the Democratic Party, toward more and bigger Federal government and greater expenditures, fixing the forces of inflation and the result is loss, constantly, of individual freedom and opportunity of our citizens and the generative forces of our economy.

I would just like to say I am delighted to have been here with Phil. He was very generous in support of me, and I am delighted to be back here to support him.

Gerry Lausman, who understands the economic needs, also for Congress, is making a strong fight at the present time. We need him there.

The state offices, Clay Myers for State Treasurer. Clay is an old friend of mine. He has been a great public servant and is now taking on a new assignment. He has experienced the top financial job in business and his state job, is totally dedicated to the great State of Oregon. And Norma Paulus for Secretary of State, a top state legislator since her 20s, a brilliant lawyer, an attractive candidate in every way. We continue 102 years of Republican leadership in this important office. I will stress stringent auditing and honest election. You cannot ask for more than that.

Ladies and gentlemen, Jim Durham for Attorney General. He has been prepared for the job by being Deputy Attorney General, a key figure in modernizing the Attorney General's office. He is young and vigorous and bright. So you have a great ticket here and you are supporting him. I am delighted to be here to join in that support.

Now on the national scene, this is a key period. We are coming into the closing weeks of the campaign. We have been seeing a very interesting and exciting development. After the Democratic Convention, which took place

in the great city of New York -- if you will forgive my mentioning it -- the Democratic candidate, Governor Carter, was way ahead in the polls. That gap has been closing. There are certain key industrial states, both in the east and the west, which really are essential to the victory of either side. And I can give you, those of you who have not gotten the report, the California Field poll which came out today. President Ford is now 44 to Carter's 43. So he has now caught up.

It was only three weeks ago that Ford was 40 and Carter was 44. I would like to just stress the fact that this poll was taken four days after the last debate. So we have a trend that is taking place all over the country. In New York State, in Nassau County, which is our biggest suburban county with over two million people in the county, President Ford is leading by 10 percent. He is gaining rapidly and it looks as though in that county, in the suburbs, we could have a sweep, which is indicative of very good news for New York State. So that if California and New York, and then Texas, and, of course, Oregon -- I want to tell you, we are all in there together and this thing is looking exciting.

I just think the American people, ladies and gentlemen, are beginning to realize that two years ago this country was in a crisis and we had crises on three fronts: a constitutional crisis, an economic crisis, and a crisis in international affairs. The President has met all of these with courage, with determination, so that confidence has been restored in the Executive Branch of the Government, in the White House; the economy is on the move, and inflation has been cut in half; employment is up almost four million in the last 14 to 16 months. The rate of growth, sure, there has been a slowdown in the economy, but it isn't that we have had a reversal. It is just a slowdown in the rate of recovery. And maybe that is going to prove to have been of essential importance because, had we moved too fast -- it was up to 9 percent growth rate -- we could have gotten into a period of overheating and then reestablishing inflation. So that this may prove well to have been a decisive factor.

I think we are going to see this growth continue. I think we have in office today a man who understands the American enterprise system, who believes in the creativity of the individual, and that that is why this country has grown to greatness. Frankly, let's face it, he believes that there should be freedom within a framework of laws and that we shouldn't go to a government of men and women where for every decision you have to go to some bureaucrat, a faceless person you can't find to get the latest interpretation of the law, which means that you can't plan ahead, you can't act for the future, because it is too uncertain.

One could even say in this Bicentennial Year that this is one of the reasons we had, 200 years ago, the American Revolution, because we found ourselves caught in this with the British, and you had to go to London to find out what you could do or see if you could get a charter to do this or that or the other.

I would just like to say in office today is a man who has restored confidence and respect for government, restored the vitality of our economy, and that we have peace

in the world today. I think the American people know this. They understand it. And when they get in that booth, they are going to say, "I am looking for someone with whom I have confidence, with whom I have trust," and I think they are going to say, "That is Gerald R. Ford," and that he is going to be the next President of the United States.

(Applause.)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. It has been a pleasure. Thanks.

If anyone has any questions, I would be glad to answer them.

MR. YOUNG: The Vice President does have a moment or two for questions, if you have a personal question.

QUESTION: It is good to hear you say "have".

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Is that right?

MR. YOUNG: You know, the Vice President said when we elect a man to Congress, he goes down to Washington. Out here he goes across the country.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That is right. I forgot that. I accept that. That is right. But we need him there whether he goes down or across.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, do we need better tax breaks now for the oil people to get them going with their oil in the United States?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I will tell you, the OPEC prices are going up. The average now around the world in the industrial nations is about \$1.60 a gallon. The United States has kept the prices down. At 60 cents the people think it is high, but it is way below the world price. At this level I don't think that production is going to be achieved in this country. I think that the idea that you are going to have cheap energy in the future is just finished.

Now the question is whether we buy it abroad at high prices or whether we have higher prices at home and produce it here. I think the latter in the ultimate end is the only way we are going to preserve our security.

QUESTION: One question on the new Tax Reform Act of 1977 that is coming out. I had a spell with my accountants, and so forth. I am kind of worried about it. What is really going to happen down the road as far as taxation for independent businesses and big business for the future?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: This is what President Ford stands for -- to cut back on government expenditures or to hold down the growth rate and to hold down and cut back on taxes for everybody so that you encourage the flow of capital into the creation of new production and, therefore, jobs. Unless we have economic expansion, we are not going to have jobs. Therefore, it has to take

MORE

capital.

QUESTION: I have heard big business say that the incentive is being taken away.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: It is becoming less and less. There is no question about it. That is why more and more production is taking place abroad, because they can produce cheaper and they import their goods here because people want to pay cheaper prices. But this the President understands.

I think if you follow the Democratic platform, you are just going to see another hundred to two hundred billion dollars added to the Federal expenditures through new taxes and that it is just going to slowly stifle the system that has made this country what it is today.

QUESTION: I am worried about it.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: So am I. That is why I am for Ford.

QUESTION: Me, too.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Okay.

QUESTION: Vice President Rockefeller, when you spoke about changes in the laws leading to insecurity, were you speaking specifically about Governor Carter's tax reforms?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That is one of them. Governor Carter spoke on the question of taxes. First, he said he was going to lower taxes for the low-income and increase them in the high-income -- or he said the poor and the rich. Then somebody in the press conference, some member of the press said, well, the medium is \$11,000 before deductions, \$15,000 after deductions. Does that mean you are going to raise taxes on everybody over \$11,000 or \$15,000, and he said, "Oh, no, no, no." So he was already changing.

But his original statement was he was going to put the taxes up on the middle income families. He then backed off that position and said, "Well, I would have to study it. This tax code is so complicated, so I would have to study it and it would take me a year after I was in office."

So there are three positions he has taken. This is what is happening on all of the major issues, and I think the American people are getting confused and uncertain and worried and that is why I think when the voters get in the booth, they are going to say, "Let's go for somebody whom we know and we trust."

QUESTION: He also states that he is more against the loopholes which will tax big business. So far we haven't seen Ford saying anything about tax reform.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: If you understand the things -- I am sure you do -- it is the Democratic Congress, the majority, two-to-one, that has written every tax code

MORE

that we have had in the last 22 years, so all the taxes we have are written by the Democrats. So when Carter is talking about this, he is talking about his own Party's tax program. The Republicans talk, but they haven't had any effect on the tax program because they haven't had the votes. Now what, in my opinion, is going to happen or what I think one should point out is --

QUESTION: Are you saying that President Ford's vetoes are inconsequential?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: When they stuck they were consequential; when they were overwritten, they weren't. He has tried. He has had 61 vetoes, and that is what the Constitution set up. But when you talk about loopholes, I would like to say that every loophole was written into the law as an incentive and then it becomes known as a loophole. The incentive was to encourage people, just as you said earlier, to invest in wildcat drilling in oil in the United States, or to get more gas. We are short of gas, so we are importing it at \$12 a barrel and not producing it at home. We have energy that we can produce, take it out. We have more oil and shale in Colorado than all the known oil reserves in the Middle East, but nobody will spend the money to find out how they can get it out on an economic basis.

That is what the President is for. He was after an Energy Independence Authority without financing these high risk programs to produce energy self-sufficiency to save the \$35 billion so that money can be spent here to create 1,300,000 new jobs and protect our security.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: One more question.

QUESTION: Do you have any, or can you tell us of any program that national people may bring out? In the last Carter -- we watched the debates and they just obviously were evading a lot of things. He is playing by his own rules and not the rules that were set up by the Women Voters.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: The League of Women Voters.

QUESTION: Right.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Frankly, I think that on this last debate, when Carter totally avoided that question that was asked him by the New York Times representative -- which was a beautiful statement of what had been the record and why was he critical of it -- he didn't mention it at all. Mr. Ford might have -- and maybe the next time he will -- said, "Look, I would like to cede my time to Mr. Carter on this question and ask the questioner to restate his question and give Mr. Carter my time so he can answer the question that was asked him."

He has avoided all of the tough questions and he just talks about generalities and makes these statements. I think the American people are too smart to be fooled, and I think that is why the polls are swinging the way they are.

MORE

Page 7

QUESTION: Exactly. Things are looking good.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: They look very good.

Thank you very much.

END

(7:35 P.M. PDT)