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Office of the Vice President  
(Everett, Washington)

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REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
AT THE JOHN NANCE GARNER RALLY  
EVERETT CIVIC AUDITORIUM  
EVERETT, WASHINGTON

AT 12:45 P.M. PDT

John Nance Garner-- that has got to be a name to conjure with, ladies and gentlemen. I want to tell you the first John Nance Garner I knew was Vice President of the United States and was the first Vice President of the United States I ever knew. When I knew him, I didn't think some day I would be Vice President of the United States.

What I am really excited about, and the reason I am here, is because I want another John Nance Garner to be in the Congress of the United States, with a lovely wife -- and they are going to be.

I am just thrilled to be here. First, I want to apologize. It is my fault we are late, and I want to apologize for keeping you waiting. I want to thank you for having waited. You are very thoughtful to do it.

It is exciting to be here. I have to say that, as one looks around and assesses this wonderful gathering of citizens representing all age groups in this great gymnasium, you just have to think, this is America, ladies and gentlemen, and aren't we lucky to live in America? That is what I love. It is a wonderful place to come from. I have to tell you I love this country. I have worked for the country, now, in and out of Washington, for 36 years and I have worked for six Presidents. I can tell you that, even though I am going back to catch up with my family and my home affairs, that the first concern is America for each of us. We enjoy the privileges. We enjoy the opportunities which this great free land has provided, but if we are going to preserve those and see that these wonderful young people who are here, and younger ones yet who are not represented here, enjoy the same privileges we have, we have to assume our responsibilities and laws as well as take advantage of the opportunities.

Part of those responsibilities is to do just what you are doing, supporting the party and the candidates of your choice. That is democracy, and you are doing it.

I think a two-party system is the lifeblood of democracy and I want to say that those men and women who are the leaders of the party of their choice -- and we have a great leader right here -- these are the ones who are the unsung heroes of democracy. They give of their time day in and day out, week after week, month after month, year after year, to preserve the two-party system, which is the structure we have that selects the candidates, that crystallizes the issues, that organizes the campaigns, that prepares and organizes the rallies. They are the ones

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right down to the precinct captains and the party workers, to whom we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude for what they have done. I would just like to express my appreciation to them.

I would like to express my appreciation, also, to those citizens who participated in the process, who support the candidates of the party of their choice, because this is all part of the system.

Out of that grows -- despite the fact that some cynics have said the American people are losing their interest in politics, they are cynical, they have lost their faith, they have lost their confidence, I want to tell you, coming to a meeting like this, your faith is renewed, ladies and gentlemen. When you see this wonderful audience, when you see all of these wonderful candidates, men and women, who don't have to seek office, who could live their own private lives and pursue their own objectives in a free society, but they love this country, they care enough about this country, so they want to serve their country, whether it is in local government or state government, or national government, that is what is the great strength of America. That is what is the vital force that keeps us the greatest nation on earth. And we want to keep it that way.

I want to thank you, and I want to thank these candidates and these party leaders for what they are doing.

I am thrilled to be here just, well, as Vice President now, and as a citizen on January 20. I must say there is nothing wrong with January 20th as far as I am concerned. I have got to catch up with my family.

I would like to express my respect to Marleen, John's wife, because sometimes we forget that public officials -- if it is a woman, then it's her husband, and if it is a man, then it's his wife -- that the husbands and wives who are not the elected officials play just as important a role. They don't have the glamor, but they have the responsibilities and the problems, so I admire wives and husbands of candidates and officials. I want to thank you for what you are doing.

(Applause.)

We have incumbent candidates here, Pat Wanamaker and Sue Gould. I would like to express my admiration and respect to them and thank them for their service, and to Ross, who is toastmaster, who is here. I want to thank him and the State representative, and George Brown, who is a candidate for the United States Senate. Believe me, ladies and gentlemen, that is the body I preside over. I don't get too excited because it is not all that big a job, because I am not allowed to speak. I can make rules, but with the aid of the Parliamentarian. But you have to get unanimous consent to speak in the Senate if you are the presiding officer and the President of the Senate, which I am under the Constitution. Frankly, the only times I have gotten to speak were when I had to apologize for something I said about the Senate.

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I had to explain this so you don't get a false idea of who is here with me today.

Believe me, it is the greatest deliberative body in the world. We can be so proud of the fact that two years ago, we went through a constitutional crisis and this country stood strong and stood tall and the American people stood calm. And we have a great President who didn't seek the Presidency. He was catapulted into the position of President under the most difficult circumstances -- a constitutional crisis, loss of confidence and respect for the Executive Branch, and in the office of the Presidency of the United States. These he has restored in a period of two years. We had an economic situation which was going into inflation and recession and unemployment, together. We were up to 12 percent inflation, which is the most insidious tax which shafts those who can least afford to cope with it -- our retired citizens, senior citizens on fixed Social Security or retired citizens who have worked and built this country and who count on their savings or their pensions. Those who were eroded by inflation are the working men and women trying to help their families and do for them, and the value of the dollar is eroded.

I want to say President Ford made No. 1 his goal of cutting that inflation down, and he has brought it down to less than half of what it was two years ago. The economists say you can't stop inflation and increase employment at the same time, and yet he has done that, too. So within the last 16 months, there are almost four million new jobs in America. There are almost 88 million people working today, which is more than at any time of the history of our country, and yet unemployment is still too high. But the President believes that we are going to find full employment in this country, not by actions of the Federal Government to make make-work jobs on a temporary basis, but by creating the confidence and the strength of the economy so that our American enterprise system and the genius of free citizens works to create new jobs and industry and all of the services. Those are the good jobs and those are the ones where people feel they have confidence and security in the future.

At the present growth rate of our nation, there should be another three million jobs in the next 12 months. And that is what he is counting on, not having Washington come up with these expensive programs, very popular ones.

I have watched the President, day after day, sitting there listening, discussing issues, what position should he take, should he support or should he oppose, should he sign or should he veto a measure. His only interest is what is in the long-term interest of the American people. He has vetoed 62 spending measures and he did it because he knew it was in the best interests of this country -- and they were popular measures. He disregards the short-term popular political advantage for the long-term best interests of the country. And I have to say to you that is the kind of leader I admire, and that is what this country wants, and that is what we have got. That is why we want to keep him.

He has done that, ladies and gentlemen, so that we have got our economy rolling again. We have got inflation coming down. Yes, there has been a pause in the increase, and some people, for one reason or another, have said, "Well, this looks like now the economic recovery is not moving as rapidly and it is going to start down." It is a slowdown in the recovery. It is not a reversal. The truth of the matter is, for those of you who are economic majors or students of economy, now that we were moving so rapidly, with a 9 percent GNP growth rate that, had we continued, we would have gotten back into inflation because we were running into shortages and then prices would have gone up, this temporary slowdown in the growth has been a very sound, a very healthy thing.

I think you are going to see this country move forward steadily and get back to the fundamental values and the fundamental principles on which it was built and grew to greatness, the very issues that John was talking about, that he believes in, that you believe in, and which made this country great.

But it takes a little courage to take these positions because they are not, in the short-term, popular positions.

In the international field, let's face it, this country is at peace in the world and it is the first President who can say that since Dwight David Eisenhower, another great Republican. We have it now. We want to keep it that way.

I believe in a two-party system. I have great respect for Governors, because I was a Governor and we stick together. I wouldn't want to say anything against another Governor, but I see some very nice people here carrying signs. I didn't mention another Governor from a state called Georgia. I've just got to say to you, ladies and gentlemen, I have nothing against him except he believes in that same thing that has been going on with this two-to-one Democratic Congress for a long time now -- that the Federal Government is going to answer all our problems. For some reason they have lost confidence in the American people's capacity to do it themselves and therefore they want Federal programs to do it.

It just means more deficits. Either the deficit means more in direct taxes or it means more inflation, which is an indirect tax and hits those who can least afford it. Either way you go, we have got to just relearn the old simple lesson, that there isn't any such thing as a free lunch. Somebody pays for it. Certain people need it and therefore want to do it.

I want to tell you that people have criticized New York City because it got into trouble and it spent three and a half billion dollars more than it had in income and they have to have a balanced budget, as John pointed out. But what they did was over-estimated their revenues and they under-estimated their expenses and at the end of the year they did short-term borrowing and they sort of slid by and accumulated this. They have been very seriously criticized in the Congress of the United States.

But John is right, what has the Congress done? They have done it in spades what New York City did, and they have a \$70 billion deficit. The only difference is they can print money and New York City can't. So New York City is having to get back to a balanced budget and take the tough measures.

President Ford is the one who told them. He said, "No Federal aid until you take the steps to put your house in order, that you cannot spend beyond your means for long or beyond your earnings or what you produce without going bankrupt." And that is true for a family. It is true for a city. It is true for a county. It is true for a state, or it is true for a country.

Those are simple fundamentals we have known, but now we are relearning. We need more men and women in Congress like John Nance Garner, who understand this, who understand America, who believe in it, who know why we grew to the great strength we have, and who will keep it that way because they've got faith in the people and give the people a chance to create a framework of laws within which people can have freedom and not try and regulate every waking hour of our lives so that we have to do what we are told from Washington.

This is one of the tragedies that I am going to tell you. You have a great Governor in Dan Evans. He testified before our committee when we had these hearings which I conducted for the President on the Domestic Council. He just told stories about what had happened, how they went to Washington for an appropriation under a program. They worked for three months and they had a tremendous staff put together to give them some assistance. They had three volumes and they sent it back. They got word back, "Sorry, the regulations were changed since you made your application. Therefore, you have got to do it over again."

Some faceless person had changed the regulation. So they had another program. This was to make a saving of a million and a half dollars, and they did it. They appropriated it and they asked for permission, and so forth. They got back word, "Sorry, in our regulations there is no provision for savings, so you cannot take that saving." So he said, "Look, just give us less money from Washington, less regulations." He said, in summary, "Ladies and gentlemen, just get off our backs."

This is very interesting.

I think this country is waking up after going through a period in which we have over-promised and under-delivered for a long time. It has caught up on us and maybe it is the greatest thing that could have happened. Maybe it is just going to save us from getting into a really tragic situation.

What gives me the greatest confidence is to see these wonderful young men and women running for office and in office, because they care about this country and because they understand its greatness and its strength and want to keep it that way. They

recognize that people all over the world would give anything to be in America, to be able to come here and live. And there are a great many of them who are coming here illegally. But that is another question. I don't blame them. But it makes it very difficult. There must be about nine million of them right here, now.

What I would like to say is that we are fortunate that the American people care and that we have a President who does care and who does understand, and who has the courage. I would like to make a little prediction. That is, that when the American people go into that booth to cast their vote -- and they are all alone -- they've got to ask themselves, really, one question: Whom do I trust, in whom do I have confidence to deal with my problems and our country's problems in the next four years at home and abroad? I think the majority of the American people are going to say, "Gerald Ford." They know him, and they are going to vote for him.

And the good Governor, there is some controversy about his record as a Governor, but that is neither here nor there. He has not had experience on a national basis. He has not had experience on international problems. He takes a position here, then he takes a position there on an issue, and then he says, "Well, maybe after I have been in office for a year, I will have a chance to get more facts and figures and understand the problem better, and I might have a different point of view."

Well, that is great. I like people who learn. That is wonderful. This just shows an open mind. But I have to say to you that I question whether the taxpayers can afford to have on-the-job training for the President of the United States.

That is how I feel on the national scene. I would like to say that in the President's selection for Vice President you have a wonderful man. He is an unusual person. He spent his whole life in government, as a matter of fact, at the county level, at state level-- and I am talking about Bob Dole. He was a legislator, then in the House of Representatives, then he went to the Senate. He had an outstanding war record, a wounded hero, a man of great compassion. He comes from Kansas. He understands the problems of the farmers of this country. He understands the problems of those who aspire to equal opportunity. He is a strong advocate of Civil Rights and a great supporter of the State of Israel and its great stand to preserve its independence, a great supporter of the physically handicapped, because he personally, himself, has lost the use of one arm as a result of the war. He is an outstanding person.

I will never forget being up in that booth over in the Convention Hall and Senator Mondale was asking a question. He was an invited commentator. I was up there and he said, "How are you going to get the progressives, or Clif Case or Mac Mathias to vote for Bob Dole?" I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "He is so conservative." I said, "Look, sure he is conservative on matters of finance, and so forth, because he is sound. But in terms of problems that relate to human values, this is a man of great compassion." I said, "If I remember correctly,

he was the one who sponsored a bill to revise the Food Stamp Program to make it available for those in need, but to cut off those who were abusing it." One of the great radio commentators said, "Yes, that is right. Wasn't that a Mondale-Dole bill?" He said, "Yes, it was." And he said, "Well, we better not get into that subject."

So here you have a man of outstanding ability and preparation. All I can say is that you just have to think about a Vice President -- because, over a period we have had tragic things happen in this country -- but, God forbid, something might happen to a President. You've got to have a man there who has the experience and the integrity and the correlation and capacity to take over that job, should anything happen.

In the meantime, I have to tell you, frankly, it is stand-by equipment. It is like having a generator out here sitting by in case the lights go out and a main switch will turn over the generator. It isn't important until the lights are off, but it is very important at that moment.

Bob Dole is a man who has that capacity and not only has your next Congressman got a beautiful wife, but so does Bob. She is beautiful and brilliant and a member of the Federal Trade Commission in her own right. So you essentially get two for one.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me just say a few words about your own ticket because the national scene is fine. I like very much what John said, and that was that he was going to keep his focus right here with his own constituents -- he would be in Washington but his heart and his concern would be here with those who elect him. Therefore, I happen to believe in local government and I happen to believe that the government closest to the people is the best government because it is the most responsive to the people. They understand it. You cannot legislate, really, something on a national basis that applies to everybody because we are all different. We come from different parts of the country. We have different problems, and, therefore, that is why we have a system of federal, state, and local government. That is one wonderful system, so let's keep it that way.

I would like to say a brief word in conclusion about your next Governor, John Spellman. There is a man who is outstanding, who has had experience and has courage. He did a great job and he did a great many things -- but he didn't raise taxes. I want to tell you that has got to be the trick of the week, ladies and gentlemen. If you can do new things and get stuff done for your constituents without raising taxes, that is somebody I have to study more carefully and admire. I can't say that that was my own record. But he is a man of outstanding ability. I just think that you are lucky to have him to head your ticket here in the State.

John, I have talked about. I drove up with him. I had a chance to talk with both him and his wife. I want to tell you that they, to me, are the kind of outstanding Americans who understand, who believe, who love our

country, and want to serve our country. And he doesn't need it, either. He doesn't need to go to work. He has it good. Just like somebody said to me when I first ran for Governor in 1958, "You've got it good. This was at a town open meeting. "Why do you want to get into politics? Politics is a dirty business." I was furious, to tell you the truth. I said, "Look, if you think politics is a dirty business, why don't you get in and help clean it up?"

That is why we are here, and they should. And he wants to do that.

Joel Pritchard, a third term, is going back. He is outstanding and he supported the President on these measures to try to hold things down so that this country can get back on an even keel. And then at the state level, plus Chapman, Secretary of State, an outstanding person. Reelect him. He improved services. You've got an extraordinary state here in the state of Washington and you somehow have the capacity to produce people of outstanding ability, who will later run for office. And that I admire. That is a great thing. And he is one, Slade Gorton, out here, your Attorney General, is another, and Dick Marguardt, candidate for Insurance Commissioner. So you have outstanding people, ladies and gentlemen, and I am thrilled to be here, to have a chance to stand before you as one who loves this country, who has been, I am not ashamed to admit it, 36 years in and out of government for the simple reason that I think each one of us who enjoys the opportunities and benefits of this country has a responsibility. That is why you are here. That is why you are serving.

We have got to do those things for people which they cannot do for themselves, and no more. That is what Lincoln said. And he was right. The trouble is it gets very attractive, if you are a politician, to promise everything, even though you can't deliver it, and it is somebody else's money you are promising. I just admire a man who will get up, like John did, and say, "I am not going to do that. I am going to do the things that are necessary, and I am going to try to make it possible so that you can keep maximum control back here at home, maximum results of your own labor and your own efforts, and spend them as you feel is in your best interests and then the government does those things for people which they cannot do for themselves.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a great country and I am just thrilled you came. I thank you for waiting. I am excited to be with so many attractive people on this platform who will serve you in various capacities. I can tell you that even though I won't be there after January 20th, I think John will get down there before and so I can help him get settled, at least, and then I will know that the country is going to be in good hands.

Thank you very much for letting me be here.

(Applause.)

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(AT 1:15 P.M. PDT)