

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of the Vice President
(Grand Rapids, Michigan)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
KENT COUNTY AIRPORT
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

AT 12:21 P.M. EDT

Thank you, Marv; I appreciate those kind words.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to say I am thrilled to be here in Grand Rapids, because this is something that is very exciting to all of us. But I would like to say that the entire United States is Ford country, so we are not going to let you have a monopoly on that.

(Applause)

That's right. Because we need him. You need him, I recognize that, but we all need him throughout this Nation.

This is a crucial moment, and I want to tell you, when the American people get into that booth, there is one question they are going to ask themselves. They will be alone. They have got to make the decision for the next four years. "In whom do I have trust and confidence for the leadership of this country for the next four years?" And the answer is going to be, Jerry Ford of Grand Rapids but of the United States, ladies and gentlemen.

(Applause)

Now, I have got to say I didn't expect to see Bob Packwood here, because I was just campaigning in his State, so I am thrilled to see him. He and I are moving around.

But Guy Vander Jagt not only is a great representative, a great Congressman, but you all know he is chairman of the Republican Congressional Committee, and I have come to have a tremendous admiration for him -- not only for what he does now and what he does for the country as a Congressman, but what he is trying to do to restore a balanced two-party system in the Congress of the United States. I would just like to register that and say how effective he is.

(Applause)

Now, I have had the pleasure of being with Marv Esch, both in some previous meetings this morning and then on the plane, and I think that we are very fortunate that you are going to have and we are going to have as our next Senator Marv Esch in Washington. We need him, ladies and gentlemen, and let's stay with him.

(Applause)

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Don't worry about Hal. I am for Hal and I am for his wife, too. I just met his wife, I want to tell you.

(Laughter)

I just met the two of them, and I could see right away there is no question as to what is going to happen when election day comes, because we need him down there, because the President needs that kind of support in the Congress and he hasn't gotten it from a two-to-one Democratic Congress. So just be sure we get Hal down there, ladies and gentlemen.

(Applause)

Now, having been introduced as "Governor," I would like to say that is my security blanket, ladies and gentlemen, having been Governor 15 years.

(Laughter)

I would like to say what a pleasure it is to be here with the Lieutenant Governor and his wife, also a lovely person. Jim Damman is here. I have known him before. You have got a great Lieutenant Governor. And being Lieutenant Governor and Vice President, there is a lot of similarity and I have a sense of kinship with him. Only he is better looking; that is the only thing.

(Laughter)

It is good to be here with all of you. I would like to say one thing, and that is that the only way a democracy can continue to function is if people vote. And if they don't vote, then they are not exercising their responsibilities that go along with the privileges they get with being in this free land. Let's leave no stone unturned to get that vote out on November 2nd. And if we do, we are going to have Jerry Ford and Bob Dole and the whole Ford team right here on this platform with me, and it is going to be a real thing for the future of America.

Believe me, we have got to preserve the values on which this Nation grew to greatness, which President Ford and Bob Dole and these men in the Congress of the United States believe.

I thank you very much, and I would like to thank these two wonderful bands who are here. I appreciate it very much, and I just hope those girls don't catch cold there at the front.

(Laughter, applause)

They have got to be awfully strong as well as beautiful if they can take this weather. But never mind. That is an aside, ladies and gentlemen.

(Laughter)

It is a thrill to be here in Grand Rapids in what you call Ford country, but this is Ford country from one end of America to the other. Thank you very much and best of luck.