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Office of the Vice President  
(Saginaw, Michigan)

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PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
AT THE  
UNITED AIRLINES WAITING ROOM, GATE 2  
TRI-CITY AIRPORT  
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

AT 2:14 P.M. EDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Marv Esch, I am very grateful to you for your comments and delighted to be here with you.

As one who has the honor of presiding over the Senate, we need Marv Esch in the Senate. We need a balanced two-party system in this country, and he is the kind of representative who can represent the problems that face this Nation, based on the fundamental traditions and the fundamental concepts in democracy and the American enterprise system.

I just met Brady Denton, who is running for the Congress of the United States, and I am delighted. I would like to say what a pleasure it is. Not only is he handsome, bright, able, dedicated, young, with a beautiful wife, but he is ready to serve his country.

Now, there are a lot of people who talk about cynicism these days, but it is this kind of young people that we need in public life, who are dedicated to the service of our country and who understand the fundamentals.

It is always a pleasure to be with the Governor, and I would like to thank Jim for being with me on this swing and for being here.

Of course, Al Cederberg is one of the outstanding Congressmen in the Congress and a man who is respected and highly regarded by all who are in the Congress.

I would just like to say one thing, and that relates to jobs and to crime -- two things. There are more people working in America today than ever before in the history of our country. There are more people who have come into the labor market, 1,600,000 a year, and then additional numbers coming in because the confidence in America is being reestablished by President Ford. So we have had almost a four million net increase in jobs. And when Mr. Carter talks about two-and-a-half more unemployed today than before, he doesn't talk about the fact that there are many more people employed and that the growth rate of the economy under President Ford is carrying this country to the kind of employment levels which we seek, which is full employment.

And I think the interesting thing is that in the automobile industry, those jobs were created by the American people because they regained their confidence in America and started buying cars again. Therefore, people went back to work in the automobile industry.

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And when he talks about the fact that the Ford Motor Company didn't pay taxes on a certain income this year, it is because he doesn't know the tax system and the tax code that was written by the Democrat Congress over the last 22 years which says you can carry forward losses from a period of loss, which we have had in the previous two years.

So I think, myself, the most important thing is to have leadership which believes in the fundamental strength of America, which is a democratic system and free enterprise system where the creative genius of the individual counts.

Secondly, I am talking about crime. The Federal Government is not responsible for crime control, but what has not been mentioned by Mr. Carter is that President Ford sent up to Congress a bill for mandatory sentences on those who commit both Federal crimes and repeaters and in the field of hard drugs, et cetera. But the Congress of the United States, under Democratic control, has refused to act on his bills.

Therefore, I would just like to say that in my opinion the American people, when they get in that booth, are going to say, "In whom do we have trust? In whom do we have confidence on the basis of a proven record of achievement under the most difficult circumstances?" And I would like to say right here and now, it is going to be President Ford, because that is the man in whom they have trust.

I would be delighted to answer any questions.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, ABC News commentator Paul Harvey said today he had examined the tapes of last Friday night's Vice Presidential debates and found that a subtle kind of discrimination had occurred on the part of the director of that television production and the cameraman in showing back shots of the Vice Presidential candidate for your party with side glances at Mr. Mondale, and he felt that that sort of subtle play on the back of Mr. Dole with the face of Mr. Mondale might give an impression to the voters that Mr. Dole was not to be trusted. Do you think that sort of influence could indeed be brought about by a camera director? And, if so, do you think it will influence a sizable number of voters?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I watched the debates. I thought they were excellent. I thought Mr. Dole showed a grasp of the facts, a sense of humor and a poise that was a kind of evidence of ability and intelligence, integrity that insures confidence.

I thought that Mr. Carter's representative, Mr. Mondale, stuck to generalities, talked about the problems and not the solutions and simply said we are going to solve them.

Now, as far as the camera work was concerned, sure, camera work can be favorable or adverse to, but I didn't personally see that. But I was just listening to the substance of what they said.

QUESTION: He was talking about a subtle influence on psychological --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, it was so subtle, I missed it.

(Laughter)

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, does the fact that you didn't last through your first marriage mean that you are unstable?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, I wouldn't say that, to tell you the truth.

QUESTION: Was that ever used against you in a political campaign?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: If you went to know the facts, I ran for President in 1964, after I had been divorced and remarried, and I answered the questions. And the questions were, "Is this going to affect your possibilities?" And each time I said, "That will depend on the individual voters when they go into the booth. He or she will make up their mind whether this is a factor that is going to adversely affect or not." And I left it straight on that basis. I think that is the only way you can.

QUESTION: Mr. Rockefeller, on crime in the streets, if you had it to do over again, would you take any different steps on Attica? Did you say something to the effect you wished you had started earlier in your career to look into prison reforms and this sort of thing?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No, I didn't. I appointed the head of our parole division, who had been appointed by Governor Harriman, who came from Wisconsin, then Massachusetts as Superintendent of Prisons. When the uprising took place, which he had been telling me was a possibility that there was a politicizing of the prisoners and there was political activity going on and he wanted a doubling of the guards, we were in a very bad financial situation and didn't have the money.

After the State police moved in, as they do under our State procedures, they went in -- by tradition they were riot-trained -- without arms. When they got half way through the retaking of the prison, he stopped them and said, as he arrived on the scene, "I will negotiate."

Now, what I have said is in the light of hindsight, which is always easier to make a judgment from, that perhaps that was a mistake, that they should have let the State police go as they were going, without arms, and retake the prison right then and there.

QUESTION: State police or National Guard? Which did you say?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: State police. They were riot trained, and they were doing their jobs. They had taken half the prison back. Now, he went into negotiations and they were unsuccessful. And after agreeing to 28 measures, they then demanded amnesty, total amnesty and free passage to a nonimperialist country. Anyone who asks to get out of

the United States to get from an imperialist country has got to have some political background.

QUESTION: In the next Administration what role would you like to see the role of the Vice President take on that he is not taking on now?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: The role of the Vice President is what it was when the founding fathers created it. It is the presiding officer of the Senate, and it is standby equipment in case any tragedy happened to the President, period. That is the job.

Now, if the President wants you to do something for him, you can do it for him. But he has all of the power and all of the authority. And a President may well say, "I expect my Vice President to do so-and-so and so-and-so," and give it to him. But he is going to find out his staff is going to resent it, because they have got the responsibility, and they don't like to see somebody with a position of prestige come in and get into their business.

So this is the problem a President has. I have known all the Vice Presidents since John Nance Garner. I knew Henry Wallace and everybody since, and they were all frustrated.

Now, I went down there because we had a Constitutional crisis, with the determination that I was there to help the President in any way. And if there was no way, I was totally relaxed. So I was the first one that hasn't been frustrated.

(Laughter)

QUESTION: You and the President have said that there are more Americans working today than there ever were before. Isn't that because there are more people available for the work force but the percentage of unemployment still hasn't gone down?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: The percentage of unemployment went up, but there have been more people put back to work and there has been a growth in the labor force. That is why the unemployment rate hasn't gone down. It went up recently with the summer when there were a lot of young people coming into the labor market. Now it has gone down again.

But the interesting fact is that two months ago there were 400,000 new jobs in this country, but that month 700,000 people came back into the labor force, most of them women. And the interesting thing is it made the statistics show that unemployment had increased, but as an actual fact employment had increased. Now, this is where you have to be careful with statistics.

But if you take the last 16 months or 18 months, there have been almost 400 million net new jobs. This is a record in the country. We got up close to a nine percent growth rate. We have now dropped back to maybe six percent. And anything, five or six, that continues during the next year, we will have another three million jobs.

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Americans don't want made-work jobs by government. They want jobs in private enterprise which are meaningful jobs that have an opportunity for them and their families for growth in the future. They don't want to be handed something by government.

Now, this is the heritage of our country, and only through growth is this country going to have and provide opportunity for its people.

And I don't think growth is inconsistent with ecology and the preservation of our ecology. I think they go hand in hand.

The President has tried to get energy produced in this country, but the Congress has refused to act.

QUESTION: So any growth in population doesn't really matter as far as employment figures --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I didn't say that at all. That is what you said the first time. I thought I answered it. Obviously, increase in population and increase of people coming out of school and college increases the labor force. Therefore, you have got to have growth. That is why I am talking about growth. Only through growth can you get it.

Now, you can take the British system where 60 percent of the gross national product is spent by the government, and they have lost growth and they are in a very tough spot.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, I was wondering what you were going to be doing after January.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, I'll tell you, I am going to catch up with Happy and the two boys and my own affairs.

I love this country. There are many ways you can serve the country. All I have to do is read the stories you fellows write, or you ladies and gentlemen write, and find out what is going on, what the problems are. I start immediately thinking about answers to solve them, and I will be working on those.

I love people. I love politics and I love government. I have spent 36 years in it and worked for six Presidents.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, you were reported in a recent issue of New Times as saying Castro killed Kennedy. It must have been an awful thing for poor Bobby to know it was his assassination attempts on Castro that got Jack killed." Then you went on to say, "Castro has to be stopped." Do you indeed, sir, think he was --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I totally, absolutely deny the statement. They never checked it with anybody. They have admitted that since. It is absolutely false and totally inaccurate.

QUESTION: Then the newspaper did admit that was a false --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Aren't you nice to say that now. That's right. And I would just like to say that I was chairman of an investigating committee for the President of the CIA, and that we looked into this and said we could not find enough hard evidence in relation to assassinations to make any conclusions. And that was the official position of the commission's report and that is mine.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, could you tell us why Senator Dole cancelled out on this trip?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I never knew he was making this trip.

QUESTION: The original announcement for this trip indicated it would be --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Maybe he is doing something else. Who knows? I am here. I am the Vice President now. He is only going to be Vice President in the future. So you are lucky.

(Laughter)

QUESTION: With Michigan's unemployment rate being very high, do you think Mr. Ford can win his own State in November?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Sure. Because the unemployment rate has come down from 15 percent down to 8-something. And the only way unemployment is going to come down is through the growth of our economy. That is what we were talking to this gentleman over here about. We have got to have growth.

The President believes that government cannot solve the problem, that government can create a framework within which citizens and private groups can solve the problems. That is what he wants to do.

If government moves in more and more, regulating everybody's lives in every aspect, they inhibit individual initiative of local government. The Governor knows this better than anybody. This happens in local government, happens in private enterprise, happens even in welfare recipients. They are fed up with all of the government restrictions. So he wants to cut down the restrictions, encourage the economy, and that is how you get jobs.

QUESTION: Mr. Denton's predecessor in this attempt, Mr. Sparling, invited and President Nixon came in to help him campaign for Congress against the same incumbent. How do you think you will affect voters in this district to support Mr. Denton?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, to tell the honest truth, I would think that all the voters are going to need is to see Mr. Denton, to know Mr. Denton, and that he doesn't need any outside help. Now, if I can contribute to people coming to know him and seeing him, then I think I

have made a major contribution to him. But as far as what I say about him, that is interesting but it is irrelevant. As the public gets to know him -- and I have got to say, his wife, -- that this is going to be a major factor. And I think that it is a very powerful one.

It is the same way with Marv Esch. His presence is known to a great many people, but he is now running State-wide. Therefore, people are coming to know him. Of course, he has got his family campaigning with him, campaigning for him. So he has got a broader base of exposure. But that is the real thing in elections -- exposure, knowledge by the people of the personality. And I am only here as a backdrop to give him exposure and to help any of these gentlemen get exposure that they deserve, because your constituents are so fortunate to have men of this caliber running for office.

I am thrilled to be here with you. Thank you very much.

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(AT 2:31 P.M. EDT)