

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 18, 1976

Office of the Vice President  
(Saginaw, Michigan)

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REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
AT THE  
BRADY DENTON/MARVIN ESCH FUND-RAISING RECEPTION  
SKY ROOM, 2ND FLOOR  
TRI-CITY AIRPORT  
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

AT 2:46 P.M. EDT

I must say Marv is a very gracious person and a very able person, so I am honored and delighted to be here with him and with this great group here, because Al -- we sat together except when Herm Schneebeli from Dartmouth was there. He is leaving Congress, but maybe you can come take his place.

(Laughter)

I would just like to say that Al has had the kind of courage to see the problems that were up and to give the leadership. The President depends tremendously on him in the all-important position which he holds in the Congress.

But one man can't do it alone. And one of the things which, to me, is so serious today in our country is that we have really got a one-party system in the Congress of the United States. We have got a two-to-one Democrat majority. And the Democrat caucus in the House of Representatives meets and they make the decisions. And they have now gotten to a point of arrogance where they tell the committee and the committee chairman what they are to do. And they have their own representatives in those committees, which is really an extraordinary situation.

I think we have just got to have more outstanding young, intelligent, able, dedicated people from the Republican Party in that Congress. That is why I am so glad to be here for Brady.

They asked me downstairs what could I do for him here? I said, "I can't do anything for him except perhaps give him a platform of exposure and let the people of his district get to know him better and get to know his record and get to know what he is like and get to know his wife." I want to tell you, they are in on the basis of that. Now, how could you not vote for him?

(Applause)

We need them down there, believe me, because the world is changing so fast that we need these bright, able, dedicated young people.

They say this country has become cynical and the people are not interested in politics. You all wouldn't be here if you were cynical. You wouldn't be here to support the party of your choice, to support the candidates of your choice because you care about and love this country.

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Sure, we may have problems in America, but believe me, we are so lucky to be Americans. We are so lucky to live in this country. And there are few people in the world who wouldn't give their eyeteeth to be in America today. We are starting to forget that.

As a matter of fact, there are eight or nine million illegal aliens here already. So it shows how anxious people are to get here. That is another question. I'm not getting into that.

(Laughter)

I just think this election is significant for, as I said, the role of the Congress of the United States. And I have got to say that Marv has got a marvelous record in the Congress. I was going over his record, although I didn't really know him very well. I preside over the Senate, but I don't want you to get a glorified idea of what that means. I am not allowed to speak without unanimous consent. The only two times I have gotten unanimous consent was to apologize to the Senate for something I had said about them.

(Laughter)

It is a very prestigious position, and I am honored by it. My grandfather on my mother's side was the minority leader for 17 years. He was leader of the old guard. They called him the general manager of the United States Government. But I won't go backward; I'll go forward to Marv.

I think he personifies the caliber and quality of a person we need in the Senate. He is sensitive and concerned about human values, but not on an emotional or sentimental basis but on a basis that is intellectually sound. In other words, he understands our system and knows that the great strength and opportunity for Americans is going to come through the growth of the system rather than government trying to create jobs or equipment or a whole series of things which just lead us into more inflation. And with inflation we have the most insidious form of taxation, which hurts those the most who can least afford it, namely, the senior citizens who are on Social Security, those who are on fixed incomes, with pensions, and working men and women trying to do for their families.

So he is supporting those forces which lead to the growth of the economy, what I call a framework of laws within which citizens have freedom to act and to do the things that have made America what it is today, that have brought it to its greatness. That is the strength of this country, and that is the strength that he has.

For instance, his comprehensive employment training act brought 175,000 jobs to Michigan. And he is opposed to and has been a very articulate opponent of the Humphrey-Hawkins bill, which is going to the old concept of, "No, we can't trust the American citizens, even though they built the greatest nation in the history of the world, with more opportunities to more people than any other nation. It has got to be done by Washington, by the government of this great Nation."

We have been doing it for the last 30 or 40 years. We have overpromised and underdelivered. And I have to plead partly guilty. I have been a governor for 15 years. We did a great many things because we wanted to be responsive to people. But, of course, we had a rather unique situation. As the Federal Government came into these programs -- they now have 1,007 categorical grants -- if you want to get Federal grants, you have to enrich and improve your own programs. We were already enriched and improved before we got into this stuff. If we didn't get the money, we would get criticized by the opposition.

You see where New York is now. But that is another question.

But this question of government and of our private system is a tremendously important one. And understanding how it works and the wisdom of our founding fathers here on our Bicentennial, 200th Anniversary, is tremendously important. And Marv understands it, President Ford understands it, Bob Dole understands it, Brady understands it. And we need people who have got the courage to say to citizens, "We want to give you opportunities. We want to give you an expanding economy which will give growing opportunity to new people coming into the labor market. But we are not going to solve all of your problems for you or tell you how to run your own lives." This is what the Humphrey-Hawkins Bill would do. This is what the whole Carter administration would do.

I just looked at those young people downstairs carrying those misguided banners. I told them I hoped they had heard the press conference, because the latest promises on taxes-- I have never heard a person talk so much about taxes with as little knowledge of the Federal system as Carter. He promised he was going to take the taxes off the poor, put it on the rich. That has got a ring to it for a quick spot on television. Then he got questioned in a press conference about who did he mean. They asked him about the median level of income. Well, he didn't really know about the median level. It was at \$11,000 before deductions, \$15,000 after deductions. Therefore, it meant he was going to raise everybody's taxes over, let's say, \$14,000. Now, he wasn't going to do that, because that was the middle income group and he needs that support.

Then they questioned him further. He said maybe he would need a year to study the whole tax question so he would understand it better after he was in office. Then he would have some ideas. I don't think we can afford on-the-job training at the taxpayers' expense.

(Laughter, applause)

They told me in the press conference downstairs that he is going to have a 35 percent tax cut for everybody. No, it wasn't downstairs; it was in Grand Rapids at the last stop. So I said, well, you could achieve that if you took away all of the deductions for philanthropic gifts to schools, churches, clinics, and if you took away the deduction for your interest on your mortgage and so forth.

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"Oh, no," they said, "he has eliminated those." Well, so then it is just a total impossibility. Therefore, the only way he could do it would be to bring about -- if he did it -- the most roaring inflation, absolutely uncontrolled inflation which, of course, is the worst tax in the world. It is the most unfair.

So we have a situation where nobody has been able to pin him down, because he says one thing one place, another thing another place. And then if he is cornered, he says, "After I am in office a while, I will have a chance to study it."

Frankly, ladies and gentlemen, I have to say to you I think the American people are growing increasingly confused and uncertain about where he stands. They know he has really had no experience. Therefore, they thought maybe out of his experience as Governor of Georgia -- and yet when you go back and see that he promised the same things there and did the opposite after he got in, that is not very encouraging.

So I have to say, frankly, when people get in that booth, I think they are just going to say, we want someone we can trust, that we have confidence in, who has got experience. And I think it is going to be Gerald Ford. And we have got a Ford in our future, thanks to you.

(Applause)

But he needs these wonderful representatives in Congress to support him, because, for instance, on crime, everybody is worried about crime. This has got to be one of the most tragic, difficult situations to deal with. Mr. Carter has said how he was going to solve the crime problem and Ford has done nothing about it. They tried to picture Ford as a man who just vetoes. He has vetoed a lot of things because he wants to stop inflation.

He has sent measures for Congress to pass. And on crime he sent one of the best crime bills that he possibly could have, with a mandatory sentence on Federal crimes, mandatory sentences on repeaters, on pushers of hard drugs. Congress didn't even hold hearings on it. And then they say he hasn't done anything.

Now, on top of this we have been told that he never would tell us a lie. Now, maybe that is after he got to be President. I don't know. I just thought about that. Maybe he made a qualification, because he said, "As President I would never tell a lie." So that is an interesting one, you see? I hadn't thought of that.

But some of this stuff just has no relation to reality or to the facts, and I just don't think this country at this crucial moment can afford it. Therefore, I say stick with the Ford team. I think they have got it.

And Bob Dole is a brilliant guy. I know him very well. He has been in the Senate.

(Applause)

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Yes, I would like to have a good hand for Bob Dole.

(Applause)

And not only is Bob Dole a brilliant guy, a dedicated fellow and a very compassionate person, he not only has these qualities, but he was a county prosecutor, a State legislator, a Congressman. He has been in the Senate. He had five-and-a-half years in the war, because he was in the hospital for two years because of the way he was shot up, trying to get him back on his feet. Not only has he all those qualities, ladies and gentlemen, but he has a brilliant and beautiful wife who is a member of the Federal Trade Commission in her own right. So you get two for one right there.

(Laughter)

Now, she will probably be busier than he is, but never mind.

(Laughter)

You have got to have somebody as Vice President who, God forbid, if something happened to the President, could take over. That is the function of the Vice Presidency. Now, he gets sort of a graduate course there in government that he will be sitting through. And you learn an awful lot, and it is very valuable. And a Vice Presidential candidate needs to know everything that is going on, needs to be in on the decisions so that should anything happen, as I said, God forbid, he would be ready to take over.

This man has those qualities, so we have got an ideal ticket of two experienced people who believe in America, believe in the fundamental values that brought this country to greatness and not two people who are promising us that they are going to be innovative and then go off, which is the same old stuff we have been getting for 30 years out of the Democrat-controlled Congress.

So I say to you two things -- let's just get everybody to get to those polls, and get all your friends, even if you have to go and carry them or bring them there. But we have got to get people to the polls to vote. Secondly, it is Ford and Dole and his team. And I want to tell you, I am very impressed with this wonderful group here that you have got in your State running for the Congress, the Senate and the House, plus the local candidates.

You have got some great local candidates. I don't know how many of them are here. Let's see who is here -- Mike, Colleen and Lou. They are three incumbents. I don't know whether any of them are here. We want them back. And then Ralph Frahm and Paul Gustafson are both running.

Let's remember that government closest to the people is the best government. So let's have good Republicans in at the local level, at the legislative level and at the Federal level.

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So, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank each and every one of you for what you are doing for the Republican Party, for those forces that have made our country what it is and who are trying to preserve that by your support. I thank you and I am thrilled to be here, and the very best of luck.

But, above all, don't forget to vote.

Thank you very much indeed.

(Applause)

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(AT 3:10 P.M. EDT)