

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of the Vice President
(Detroit, Michigan)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
MICHIGAN STATE YOUNG REPUBLICANS RECEPTION
ROOM 2001-B, COBO HALL
1 WASHINGTON BLOCK
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

AT 7:10 P.M. EDT

Thank you very much. It is great to be here with all you young people.

You know, under Gerald R. Ford you have got some wonderful candidates -- I was going to say wandering around, but that doesn't sound right -- going around with your senatorial and congressional candidates.

A reporter said, "What can you do for these candidates?" I said, "That's a good question. I can provide a platform on which you can get to know them and see them and transmit it to other people. And when they know it, they are going to elect them. That's it."

You have got wonderful candidates. The basis of democracy is the two-party system, and we have got to get restored a two-party system in Congress. We have got a one-party system.

If you could listen to Phil Burton talk sometimes, who is chairman of the Democratic caucus -- when I first got down here and he had his dialectician along with him -- it seemed a rather unusual title for one of his co-leaders -- they were saying, "Don't fool with the committee chairmen. The decisions are made in the Democratic caucus, and then we tell the committee what to do."

This is very unusual talk for what we think is the greatest democracy in the world. This is why President Ford hasn't got a lot of his programs through, because you have got a Congress that is playing politics with the American people's interests. He says we won't win this election. He was just as frank in saying it as we are here. He said, "We are going to keep these issues and we are going to win the election." Therefore, the President is not going to get his legislation.

The result has been that the Democrats turn around and say we haven't got a , we need somebody dynamic who can lead this country. He has been sending up legislation on crime. Carter was here yesterday or the day before -- I have trouble keeping track of it -- talking about crime. The President sent up one of the best, most intelligent, receptive measures a year ago to the Congress for mandatory sentences, because the Federal Government isn't a direct operator in this field. And they just didn't even have hearings on the bill, so it never came out; they never had a chance to vote on it.

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On the energy problem the President set up a total program a year and a half ago to make this country self-sufficient in energy. We are spending \$36 billion a year importing oil from abroad. We could be spending that \$36 billion here in America reducing the energy problem here by new means -- gasification of coal, liquifaction of coal, taking oil out of shale. We have got even more oil from shale than all the Arab countries have in known reserves in the Middle East.

But the risks are too great in private enterprise. We don't know what the cost would be. The President wanted a Federal energy authority that would be able to invest in these risks so we can get the things done.

I just want to point out to you that we have a leader and we have got a man with courage, and we have got a man who has got the ability to analyze problems and then do what is in the best long-term interests of the American people, regardless of the short-term political adverse effects, because a lot of these bills are popular.

You have no idea of the lobbyists down there. Everybody has an idea of what they want, and they all cost money. And we have got a deficit now of \$3 billion in New York. Congress has got them in spades, \$60 billion or \$70 billion, I want to tell you, ladies and gentlemen. And the only difference is they can print money. So when they just print the money, you pay for it in inflation.

Now, these are the hard realities, see. And we have been promising -- and I say "we," because I have been in this business a long time -- we have been overpromising, underdelivering. The public is tired of it. They don't believe government.

Therefore, I think what Mr. Carter is trying to do is promise, like all his predecessors. He has all these bills -- the Humphrey-Hawkins bill, which is the old New Deal concept of how to deal with problems.

Then he has got the audacity to say he is going to cut taxes 35 percent. It is just meaningless. I mean, anybody who has had any experience in government knows you just can't do that. Therefore, the only thing you can do, if he is going to do it, would be to print the money, and that means we get back to inflation. Then you have got a tax which is the most insidious tax of all.

So I just think that this is a turning point. And it is your future. Some of us have been around a long time -- that's me.

(Laughter)

Those of us who are in government are the trustees of that future, and this is a crucial moment as to which course we are going to take. Are we going to stick with the fundamental democracy, individual initiative, creativity, growth? Or are we going to go heavens knows where into some concepts which have no relation to the reason why we have achieved the success we have?

I think the fact that you are all here, that you care enough to come to be a part of this is the most encouraging thing. I hope you not only come, but that you take part in the party's activities and then run for office, because that is where the action is -- these people who believe in the system and have the courage to stand up and be counted.

Now, if anyone would like to ask any questions, I am interested in all of these problems.

QUESTION: What are you going to do after January?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I am going to be back with Happy and the two little boys, nine and twelve, and spend some time with them, catch up with them and catch up with my own affairs.

But I have to tell you, I love the country. There are many ways you can serve the people. I love people. I love politics. I love government. Politics is a means to an end, not an end in itself. The end is good government. Anyone who forgets that gets into trouble.

I am interested in solving problems, so all you do is read the papers, talk to somebody. If you have a problem, then you take the time to solve it, get an answer.

That is how I got into trouble in the beginning. I wrote President Roosevelt a memo in 1940, 1939. I wrote him and said I thought our relations with the Western Hemisphere were in bad shape, that if Hitler came across from South Africa, that these countries might turn against us because of Nazi penetration, and I thought he ought to set up an agency, really work with them.

Well, he ended up and said, "I like the idea. Will you head it up?" Well, I don't know how old you are. I was 32. So the next thing, I am heading up an independent agency. I said, "What do you have in mind to spend on this?" He said, "What do I have in mind? It wasn't my idea. It was yours. You make up the budget." So that is how I got into government.

So don't hesitate. The Bible says, "Knock and it shall be opened unto you." I am a Baptist, see.

(Laughter)

I just want you to know not all Baptists are on one side in this operation. So just don't be reticent. Move out. Have ideas. Express them.

QUESTION: Is the President going to carry New York?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Yes, sir.

QUESTION: Is James Buckley?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: He has got a tough job. I really don't know. He could and he might not. I hope he does. He is our candidate. We have got a very well-disciplined

party in New York. We believe in sticking together. We have our arguments inside, not outside. There is a Congressman who wanted to run against him and we said no. Jim Buckley is our Senator. We don't want to fight, so we supported Jim Buckley. He was our unanimous choice, and we are backing him.

Of course, I have got to say to you, frankly, that I have been talking to Jim quite a while, and he came up to me and asked would I support him. He asked when would I announce. I said, "I am going to do this jointly. When you announce for Ford." And so he went along and went along. I was at the convention, and he didn't do it until after the convention. So I waited until after our primary.

I was in Buffalo campaigning and he was there. We got to hold up hands. I said, "Believe it or not, here we are, finally together, supporting our candidates." And we are going to support him. I think he has got a chance, but I think it is tough. But you can't tell. It is a very mixed up period. He is doing very well in Buffalo, I tell you that.

QUESTION: (Inaudible)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, I just think because young people are smart. And they said a lot of this stuff wasn't working. You know, you are not identifying with it. You come along with open minds and take a look at the situation and you say these things aren't working. This is the great thing about this country.

And I must say I am very, very encouraged about what is happening among young people in America. They care about the country. Now, I'm not sure that they get a real clear understanding of how the political system works and how the American enterprise system works. And what worries me a little is in the elementary schools, the high schools and the colleges there isn't more taught on how the system works and what are the advantages.

But that is what fascinates me, that despite that, the intuitive reaction is just exactly what you are saying, and this is happening all over the country. So I am very encouraged. And you are a very attractive group.

QUESTION: (Inaudible)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, it went back to my taking the poster, you see. Because this guy had been holding up a Reagan poster in front of us. We were all for Ford. So I was sent out to various delegations to get votes. We were on 16(c) at that point. You know, we would call up and say we want to talk to somebody, and I would go snooping around the floor. So I was moving around.

When I came back, there he was, holding the sign up. And I have to tell you the honest truth. I couldn't even see the speaker on the podium, so I took it. I saw the movie today. I was on TV today and caught it.

So then he was pretty upset. He was celebrating a little early and he was upset. But the most amusing thing

was the fellow from the Utah delegation across the aisle is the one that came over and ripped out the phone. And I thought he was a little high, which I stated, but then it turned out he was a Mormon, and that got into the papers that I got him into terrible trouble back home. So I said, no, it was enthusiasm, obviously, under the circumstances.

(Laughter)

But my real problem was keeping our delegation from going in and beating up on these North Carolinians. We have got a tough delegation, I tell you. They are not fooling. But I thought it was, you know, a little life and excitement.

(Laughter)

QUESTION: Do you personally support the Communist Party's growth in Western Europe?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No, ma'am, I do not. I think it is disastrous.

QUESTION: Why didn't President Ford fire Earl Butz right away?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, I tell you, if you are President, you have got a lot of advisors. This starts out by being difficult. You are bound to get conflicting advice.

I know Earl Butz. Earl Butz is a great guy. He has been a great public servant for many years. He has got one weakness, and that is telling off-color stories. But worse than off-color, they are at somebody else's expense. That is something that in America today just doesn't go. It was very unfair to a very important segment of our country.

But here is a man who has served his country. I think the President, who is a very loyal man, was torn and didn't realize the magnitude or the impact of the insult. When he did, he acted.

QUESTION: Do you think the next debate will help Ford?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I hope. This is a tough business. They are not debates. They are really press conferences. It is a double press conference.

I used to do it. The League of Women Voters, who I admire and are a great force for good, used to do this in New York. We had the Liberals, Conservatives, Republicans and Democrats. I was taking it from the left and right and all over.

They are very difficult to handle, and therefore, it is hard to know how he is going to do. You know, he knows the stuff. I thought Bob Dole, myself, was great. Some people thought he was too rough. But I thought he was great,

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and I thought that Mondale wandered all over, didn't say anything, just looked like a weak Humphrey.

(Applause)

That is true. I am a great admirer of Hubert Humphrey. He asked me to run for Vice President on the Democratic ticket. You won't believe it, but he did. This is an interesting world. You know, you don't know what is next.

I hope President Ford is just going to be himself. He is a wonderful man. He is a great human being. He knows all this. If he is just himself, it is going to sweep them because that is the way he is. Anybody that could just sit down and talk to him just couldn't help having confidence in him. If he is that on television -- forget some of the facts --

(Laughter)

Thank you.

(Applause)

END

(AT 7:25 P.M. EDT)