

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 19, 1976

Office of the Vice President  
(Bloomington, Minnesota)

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REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
AT THE  
CANDIDATE RECEPTION  
CABANA COURT, REGISTRY HOTEL  
BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA

AT 11:30 A.M. CDT

Well, Dorothy, I am overwhelmed and grateful. I appreciate infinitely what you are so generous in saying, and I would like to thank you and Chuck for what you are doing on behalf of the party and the President.

And I would like to thank all of those others who are here who are working in the party, Republican Independents. I was at your convention when you broadened that base, and I think that Minnesota has led the way again by recognizing the fact that a very, very large percentage of people in this country consider themselves as Independents and I understand the rationale that goes in back of it. They are patriotic Americans, but they feel that they should keep themselves in the position to decide.

On the other hand, I have to say, ladies and gentlemen, that in my opinion, the vitality, the strength and the security of freedom and our great democracy here in the United States depends on a two-party system. And if we don't have two parties and men and women like yourselves who are willing to give of your time and energy because you love the country, because you love your State, because you love your community, and to help organize and help select candidates and crystallize the issues so the American people can have before them alternatives, choices -- that is why I set up that Committee on Critical Choices for Americans. It is the same concept.

This is a democracy, and if we are going to keep it, we have got to have a two-party system.

I admire the fact that you decided to name the party Independent Republican Party, because that makes it more inclusive, and that is where the majority is now. The people always say the Republican Party is a minority party. Well, that is true; we are. But so is the Democratic Party a minority. They have forgotten that. They are trying to give the impression they are a majority party.

(Applause)

The big vote is in the Independents. Now we have the Independent Republican Party, and this may well be the wave of the future for the country. And it wouldn't be the first time that Minnesota has led the way. We are very grateful to you.

So, number one, I say let's keep this two-party system alive and strong. That takes the workers and the

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leaders of the party. But then the candidates -- now, I have just had the privilege of being photographed with a whole series of outstanding young men and women who are running for office on the local level and the national level. And this is the second essential phase, that people are willing to give of themselves and run for office.

Now, it is a lot of fun, particularly if you like people, which I do, so that you meet an awful lot of nice people. But it is also an awful lot of hard work and very tough on your husband or your wife, whichever the case may be.

(Laughter)

So I would like to salute the husbands and wives of candidates and of officials, because this is a demanding operation.

(Applause)

But we have become a society in which a very large percentage of the people have tremendous opportunities, both of freedom and of well-being, and there is a tendency to sort of take the system for granted and enjoy one's opportunities and forget one's responsibilities. But I don't think we can do that if we are going to preserve the system. So that is why I admire these men and women who are running for office, because they are assuming a responsibility.

Now, they are going to the people, which in itself is a great experience. And I think another important point is politics is not an end in itself. It is a means to an end, and the end is good government. That really is what the people want.

I think the American people are extremely discerning and very sensitive and extremely intelligent. And what they want is a decent, open government that creates a framework of laws within which they can exercise their creative imagination and initiative, which is what built America. It wasn't the Federal Government that built America, if you will forgive me.

Now, there are some people in Washington who have gotten to think that it is the be all, end all. But what is happening is increasingly, in the name of trying to protect this group or that group or that interest, they are moving more and more into the lives of the individual citizen and that freedom is being eroded, and that ability to be creative and make decisions and build America.

If we don't keep on building, don't keep on growing, we are not going to have jobs for the men and women who come along. Those who talk about a no-growth society to create ecology for those who already have got a cabin in the woods and they have made it, and they say, "Pull up the ladder, mates; the hell with the rest of them" -- excuse my language, --

(Laughter)

-- "to heck with the rest of them," this is not America.

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Sure, we have got to protect our environment. We have got to restore the ecology of our country. But we can do that and grow at the same time. In fact, they are mutually dependent on one another. You can't keep up with ecology without power, and power has to be produced.

There is another area of major excitement, major importance to our country. That is energy. We are spending \$36 billion this year importing oil from abroad, and the OPEC countries are talking about another 10 percent increase. This is going to mean another \$3.6 billion dollars. Now, if we spent that money at home, that would mean 1,300,000 jobs in America, producing energy here. And we have got the capacity, whether it is oil and shale that we haven't found out how to extract, or gasification of coal or whether it is nuclear energy on a safe basis, which I think is being achieved, or whether it is a whole series of things -- energy from the sun or geothermal, or whatnot. All of the excitement that lies ahead is in meeting challenges and opportunities.

We have got it in this country. We have got every opportunity.

Now, I had the most interesting press conference, and I have never been at a press conference where there were more people from more countries around the world. And I want to tell you, you have attracted them here. And I had a chance afterwards to visit with them, and we came up with a very interesting conclusion. Or at least I came up with a conclusion. I don't know that they agreed. That is, as we grow more interdependent, nationalism is growing in our countries. So we are going in two directions at the same time, and this is not an easy problem.

So then, for you who are running for the Senate and for the Congress of the United States, and for those who are running for local office, we have got to face these exciting problems. Politics is exciting. But it is nothing to the excitement of the problems and the opportunities that face this Nation and face the world. I think it is the most exciting time to live that any generation ever lived in the history of civilization. There is virtually nothing we can't do if we set our minds to it, to better opportunities for people in this country and the world.

And, again, they are mutually interdependent. As we grow, if we really do it intelligently, others are going to grow. The standard of living is going up and the opportunities are going to extend or expand throughout the world.

Now, I just think this is the most exciting moment, and if we just remember what the Bible said -- and I have to make a point that there are a lot of Baptists in the Republican Party, and I am one of them.

(Laughter)

One of the quotes from the Bible is, "Without vision ye shall perish." And I think that is what we need. We have got to have this vision of the future.

Now, Mr. Carter -- another good Baptist -- of course, he has got direct contact which I have never been able to have.

(Laughter)

He is more fortunate. But never mind. He said what we need is leadership. What has happened, Mr. Carter has been so busy running in these primaries and as Governor of the State of Georgia -- and it is a great State, and I am for governors because I was one myself --

(Laughter)

-- that he has not followed what President Ford has been doing during these two years. He sent 22 bills for energy independence for America. We have got the capacity with conservation and production of new sources. Virtually nothing passed this Congress.

Another subject he likes to talk about is crime and how this all grew under the Republicans. He doesn't realize that crime is not controlled by the Federal Government. It is handled by local government, and never in the history of this country has the Federal Government supported with so much money the effort of local governments on crime. Nor does he realize that the President of the United States sent a bill up to the Congress calling for mandatory sentences on a whole series of crimes on those who push drugs, for those who are repeaters, for those who have perpetrated major crimes. This the Congress can do. They didn't even have hearings on the bill.

The President is giving the leadership. It is a two-to-one Democratic Congress that has refused to pay attention or give hearings, because they would rather keep the issues for this political campaign, unfortunately, some of them. I don't want to say all of them; some of them actually deal with the facts.

So here we are at a critical moment. And I say we go back to the two-party system and I go back to the candidates.

I want to congratulate every man and woman here who is running for office, and all you wonderful leaders of the party who are making it possible for them to do so, because we have got to restore two-party leadership in the House and Senate, the legislative bodies of the States and in the Congress of the United States so that the people's interests can be reflected.

And when Mr. Carter attacks the President for vetoes, he has forgotten that the framers of the Constitution, the founding fathers, set up a differentiation between the Legislative and Executive. They gave the President veto power just for this kind of situation, so that the President could represent all the people and not the special interests who have increasing power in getting money for this worthy project, that worthy project or this worthy interest group.

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So when you see what the President has done, when you think that in two short years he has restored faith and confidence of the American people in the Executive Branch of government, in the White House, that he has got the economy rolling, four million jobs almost in the last 18 months, inflation cut in half and the position of the United States restored in terms of confidence of other leaders of other countries around the world, ladies and gentlemen, it is a record of a leader. It is a record of a man of courage, and it is a record that the public is going to recognize when they get in that booth. And I think, counter to a lot of people's feeling, we are going to have the Republicans sweep the country, led by Gerald R. Ford.

Thank you very much.

(Applause)

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(AT 11:45 A.M. CDT)