

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of the Vice President  
(Bloomington, Minnesota)

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REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
AT THE  
CANDIDATE RALLY  
NORMANDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA

AT 1:50 P.M. CDT

Thank you, Abraham Lincoln Band, for playing "Sweet Georgia Brown," which is my favorite tune. We Baptists stick together, but I love it. You are marvelous. It is a pleasure.

Mr. President, I want to thank you, sir. I want to thank you for your hospitality and say what a thrill it is to be here. I appreciate your kind words.

I am a great believer in education and health. To me, in a free society, if you have got good health, good education, you have got free opportunity if the society gives it to you.

I'll talk into this mike. I don't want to move too far to the right here, either.

(Laughter)

I just want to go back to what the President says because I believe very strongly in those, too.

I started out as Governor so long ago that nobody would remember. But, anyhow, we had 38,000 students in the State University structure, and I figured we just had to provide opportunity, because our State had relied heavily on private colleges but they weren't expanding. So we ended up after 12 years with 248,000 students in the State University from 38,000 on 72 campuses. So if you don't get an education in New York, it's not our fault.

(Laughter)

Now, the only problem is so many people got an education that left the State. That is another question. They probably came out here, and I don't blame them, because I love your State.

I am thrilled to be here, and I am thrilled you let me come. This, to me, has to be America right here in this room, and I love it. I am thrilled to be with you.

(Applause)

And we are so lucky to be Americans. I want to tell you, the number of people who want to be in this country from around the world, you just couldn't shake a stick at them. We think we have problems. We have problems, but we have got opportunities that are unlimited

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in a free society. We want to keep it that way, and then we are going to have it so that you have the opportunities that my generation and the other generations had. So I thank you for letting me be with you.

I would like to thank Congressman Bill Frenzel. He is a great Congressman. He is a wonderful man. He is a tremendous citizen, and he is dedicated. This is a political period, and I want to say this -- that those of us who enjoy the privileges and the great opportunities that this free society has are only going to continue to enjoy them and you are only going to have the opportunity to enjoy them if men and women like those sitting on this platform are willing to serve their country and if you as citizens are willing to go out and vote and take an active part. This system only runs if the people make it run, and it takes every person who wants to enjoy those opportunities to assume their responsibilities that go along with them.

So that is why I am so grateful for your being here. That is why I have enjoyed being in government, because I am grateful for what this country has given to me in the way of opportunities. My family has been very fortunate. I know it, and I want to try and do the best I can to help serve this country and preserve that system so that opportunity on the basis of equality is available for all. And that is the basis of America.

(Applause)

Now, there are really two or three things I would just like to say in this political season. First is the two-party system, in my opinion, is the vitality and strength of democracy. I will never forget the first time I ran for office in 1958 and somebody said, in an audience back in New York -- we run a campaign on the street, and there you have just a free-for-all; you answer the questions as they come. People said, "Why do you want to get into politics? Politics is a dirty business. You've got it good now." I said, "I admit I have got it good now. I want to tell you something. If you think politics is a dirty business, why don't you get in and help clean it up?"

(Applause)

Anybody who has got any complaints about they don't like what their government is doing, you either get in there and see that you do your share to either select somebody else or go and take the actions that are necessary for the city, county, legislature or the Congress or whatever group it is, because that is the way this system works. And if you don't do anything, don't complain, because it is your own fault that you haven't participated. Now, I don't like to put it too bluntly, but that is it.

(Laughter)

There is nothing like telling it like it is. You get into trouble sometimes, but that is worth it.

(Laughter)

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That is the only way to deal with these problems.

Now, I am filled with admiration, first because of the fact that so many of you are here -- although some of you are leaving. They probably have other commitments. Well, this is the exciting thing about America. You never know what signs are going to appear.

(Applause)

They are entitled to it. That is what I love about this system. And we would like to thank you for coming here and expressing yourselves. That has got to be the strength of America. And the minute we stop it, we are lost. I got into some trouble with some unfortunate gestures the other day.

(Laughter)

It is only because I was arguing with these students, trying to explain to them. It was just a small group, and I was trying to explain to them, first, they wouldn't have been there if I hadn't been Governor, because I built the college.

(Laughter)

Secondly, that we weren't going to keep democracy unless we had freedom of speech, that this is the basic essential of democracy -- freedom to demonstrate, freedom to express oneself, but freedom of speech. This group kept heckling me. I said, "Look, I have got the mike; you haven't, so you are wasting your time." They kept on, and I finally -- well, they were giving me a salute.

(Laughter)

It just depends on what kind of salute. But the Vice President is just standby equipment. In case the lights went out, I bet the president has got a standby generator.

(Laughter)

That is me. It is my job. I tell you, it is important because something might happen, God forbid.

But let's go back to this question of party workers and candidates. I like the fact that you changed the name of the Republican Party here to the Independent Republican Party, because that broadens the base. And more people in this country consider themselves Independents than there are either Republicans or Democrats. And you think the Republican Party is a minority party? It is. But so is the Democratic Party in this country. And the Independents are the ones who have got the majority, but they have got a responsibility to carry.

Now, I would just like to say a few words for a minute about some of the candidates that you have running, because this is the season. I admire the fact that these wonderful men and women are standing for office and that they are willing to serve their country.

One of the most interesting to me is Jerry Brekke, who is an extremely able and intelligent person. I have been having some very interesting talks with Jerry Brekke on the things he believes in, that he stands for. He has got a tremendous background here in your own State with your own problems. He is a farmer, works the soil, a former school superintendent, school board member, former journalist, small businessman, ran a local newspaper, now a doctor of education. You can't do better than that, ladies and gentlemen.

And the things he stands for are the things you believe in -- fair prices, free market for farmers, real jobs for economic growth. To me, that is one of the basic things.

I am for ecology, but I want to tell you, the only way we can have jobs for people in this country is to have growth. And growth and ecology and the preservation of our environment are not incompatible. They are interdependent, because you can't clean up the water without plants. You have got to have the plants to run the energy to clean up the water. We need them both.

This is what this country has got to do, keep on growing so 1,600,000 young people coming into the labor market are going to find the opportunity to do for their families what we have enjoyed.

(Applause)

Now, one thing Jerry stands for and President Ford stands for is to hold down inflation. He has put that number one. Inflation has got to be the most insidious tax that was ever invented. It hits those who can least afford to pay for it -- those retired and on Social Security, those retired and on fixed benefits, and, ladies and gentlemen, working men and women trying to do for their families who salaries don't keep up with inflation.

Jerry Ford has had the courage -- and believe me, Jerry Brekke has got the same kind of courage -- to veto measures which are popular. Now, we get into the political arena of government. There are lots of people who have got ideas of what ought to be done for them, and there are lots of worthy causes. But let me tell you, there is no such thing as a free lunch. Somebody pays for it. You cannot spend more money than you either produce or earn, whether it is a family, whether it is a city or a State or a Nation. And 85 percent of all taxes in this country come from the American enterprise system, the men and women who work in those corporations and those who receive the dividends. It is out of those dividends that the capital for new construction and new jobs come.

Let's not lose confidence in our system that has made America what it is today -- freedom and private enterprise or the American enterprise system based on the creativity, the genius, the imagination of those wonderful people who are sitting right in this room and all those across the country. That has been the vitality and strength of our country. And no system has produced more for more

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people on a basis of equality of opportunity than America. And, ladies and gentlemen, let's keep it that way. And this is why I stand here on behalf of Gerald Ford.

He is a man who believes in America, believes in the heritage that has made this country great. He has the courage to do those things which are in the long-term best interests of the people, and not in the short-term political interests.

The trouble is we are instant people today. We expect instant food, TV dinners. The problems we have, we expect the government to solve it yesterday. We get worried about ecology, want to clean up our water day before yesterday, and the air. But life isn't quite that way. It takes longer, five to ten years, to do something that takes construction and so forth.

The President understands that. He has taken those positions first to hold down spending, to stop inflation, and then to meet the problems we have got for the expansion of our economy. And I want to tell you, what we have seen in the way of restoration of confidence since he took office -- and let's not forget two years ago. He didn't seek the office. We had a crisis in this country, a Constitutional crisis, a tragic one, a situation where, after Vietnam and then Watergate, people had lost confidence in government. Then the President had to resign. The 25th Amendment worked. He took over the Presidency, and in two short years he has restored public confidence and trust in the White House, in the Executive Branch.

He has restored the vitality of our economy, a growth of almost four million jobs in the last 18 months. The growth rate is back again, public confidence back. And on top of that, despite the tragedies of Vietnam, he has restored the respect of America around the world.

Now, this man believes in growth of America, but on the basis of the fundamental values, whether it is on the farm or in the industry or in the cities, whether it is service industries or production industries. And let's just take one thing -- energy. President Ford is criticized by Governor Carter for not having the leadership qualities.

He talks about the veto. Well, of course, vetoing is about as gutsy a thing as you can do, because it is very unpopular. So you have got to have the leadership, the dedication, or you don't have the courage to veto something.

Number two, he has taken the tough problems facing us. On energy, \$36 billion is being spent right now for the importation of oil. We could produce that right here -- not necessarily from oil, but we have got other sources of energy. It would put 1,300,000 people to work.

He sent 20 bills to the Congress to meet the energy problem. What has happened? They are virtually untouched.

The same on crime. He sent the bills up. He is criticized on crime. You would think the President was

responsible for the crime rate in America the way it is treated in this campaign. I happen to remember we had the city police and the county sheriffs and we had a State police, but there were no Federal police. We don't have a police state here. Therefore, it is the local governments that have these responsibilities.

But under President Nixon and President Ford, money has been given, and he then sent up a bill for mandatory sentences. Congress didn't even hold hearings on it.

Now, these are all the kinds of things where a false image is being given of a great leader and a man who believes in America.

We are given the answer that Governor Carter -- now, I don't want to say anything against another governor --

(Laughter)

-- is going to do all these things. He lists the problems and says, "I am going to deal with them. Trust me." I have been in this business 36 years, and I am not lacking in trust, but I like to know what I am trusting.

(Laughter)

I would like to know how he is going to do it.

(Applause)

I want to tell you, I listened to the two Vice Presidential candidates talking. They asked Mondale what his plan was. He listed the problems. Any one of you could list the problems. That is not very difficult. The problem is, what are you going to do about it? How are you going to solve them?

And this "I won't tell you a lie after I am President." I am worried about the time between now and when he might be President.

(Applause)

This is a very delicate situation. But when somebody says one day, "I am going to do this. This is the way I am going to solve it," and then he is somewhere else and says, "No, I am going to do this." Then he comes to a point on his tax bill and says, after he found out it was the median income -- he hadn't heard about the median income. He was going to take taxes off the poor and put them on the rich. Then he found out the median income is \$14,000. That meant all the people over \$14,000 were going to have increased taxes.

That looked like he wasn't going to win on that issue, so then he said maybe he was going to study it for a year after he became President. He would get the facts and then he would be able to come up with a solution. I want to tell you, ladies and gentlemen, we haven't got time for on-the-job training at the taxpayers' expense.

(Applause)

The kind of person I like is Al Quie, for instance. That is one of your Congressman. There is a man who is progressive, a man of great integrity, great understanding. He is not out there just making wild statements about what he is going to do. He tells you how. He is down there, and he is a man of great knowledge.

I want to tell you, you have got another Congressman, Tom Hagedorn. He is an outstanding freshman Congressman, and we need more of these Republicans. We have got to get away from this two-to-one Democratic control of the Congress, where the Democratic caucus makes the decisions and they tell the committees, and the rest of them just sort of do what they are told.

Ladies and gentlemen, that is why I come back to Bill Frenzel. There is another great Congressman.

I am not going to go through all these people. You know them.

Bill Frenzel right here is on Ways and Means. He supported bills to expand permanent jobs. He is a champion of congressional reform. I won't get into that, because that would be a long discussion.

Let me just say this: Mr. Carter said he is going to take 1,800 departments and agencies and he is going to transform them into 300. Well, I want to tell you, ladies and gentlemen, he has got something coming should he ever get there, which he won't. But he has got something coming.

I was for seven years chairman of President Eisenhower's Committee on Government Reorganization. And at that time Congress had a special law which permitted a President to send up a reorganization plan. If Congress didn't disapprove it within 90 days in either House, it became law. I tried to get it renewed, but it wasn't.

Now, with every one of those 1800 departments and agencies there is a committee in Congress or a subcommittee. And each chairman of that committee or chairman of the subcommittee gets additional staff and additional money. Now, believe me, they are not about to give that up. I'm not kidding you. This is where their power comes from, see. So you have got a built-in structure where you have got congressional members, you have got their staff, you have got your bureaucratic organizations, structured down to the Federal Government, and you have got a situation that is there and it's not going to be easy.

I understand what they are saying. I understand the need for reorganization. But, ladies and gentlemen, I don't think somebody ought to tell us they are going to do something when, if he understands government, he knows he can't do what he is saying. And if doesn't understand government, he shouldn't be running. That is the way I feel about it.

(Applause)

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We have got some good congressional challengers here. Andy Engebretson is young, dynamic. I am delighted to see how many young people are coming up. He is an environmental champion, serving as advisor to the Community Environmental Group. He pledges to help work in an attempt at fighting excessive spending.

Dick Erdall is another one in this period of progress, on the Minneapolis Park project, seven years on city council, fought for local and statewide legislation. That's right. You are lucky.

Jim Anderson, 27. I want to tell you, that is what I like to see. I like to see these young people coming in.

Listen, it is your future we are talking about. I am sitting here. I have been in this a long time. And for those of us who are in government, we are just the trustees for that future of yours. Therefore, what is going on now is of major importance to the young people who are here. And we need young people in the Congress of the United States, in your own State legislature. And you need a two-party system so you have got a balance so that you have got discussions and so you have got debate. That is the essence of democracy.

(Applause)

Now, another one, Bob Lyesith. There is another great guy. And you have got a whole lot of State and local offices vital to the Republican Party and vital to our State. And I would just like to say that my prediction is that Coach Bud Grant will lead the Vikings to the Superbowl. That is number one.

(Applause)

That is only half of my prediction. I will give you the other half of my prediction. Jerry Ford will lead the Republican Party to victory in November.

(Applause)

Thank you very much.

END

(AT 2:15 P.M. CDT)