

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(Franklin Square, New York)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
SENIOR CITIZENS RALLY
MAIN BALLROOM, PLATTDUETSCHER PARK RESTAURANT
FRANKLIN SQUARE, NEW YORK

(AT 11:30 A.M. EDT)

Thank you, Joe, very much; Dick.

You know, I have a feeling we ought to turn this into a dance instead of a rally.

(Laughter)

I can see some real dancers out in this audience. That's right. I can get the feel of the pulse. I am thrilled to be here and to be at this rally. And I want to thank you for letting me come because we senior citizens -- if you will forgive me for putting it that way -- we senior citizens, that's right, are the ones who built this country. So when Dick Rosenbaum talks about the children, there wouldn't be anything for the children if it were not for you. We have got to keep it that way. I want you to know it is your dedication to this country, and we are all here because we love America.

We are so lucky to be in America. But we want to keep it strong so there is a chance for jobs and opportunity and advancement for all people. And that is why I am thrilled to be here in Nassau County, because there is no more progressive area and dynamic area than Nassau County in the United States, ladies and gentlemen. No more outstanding political leaders than you find right here.

Joe Margiotta, I want to tell you, Joe, we all love you and admire you and are grateful to you. But, ladies and gentlemen, the exciting thing is the people whom you elect through your party to represent you at local government levels, at the State level, and at the Federal level, and there are many of them right here on this dais or podium.

I am just waiting for this music to get started again. She has got a friend, ladies and gentlemen. Some of us appreciate the music of the old days, you know. This is the best thing about Sweet Georgia Brown.

I don't mean to be political here today, ladies and gentlemen, of course. But I would just like to go through some of the representatives you have, or will have, in the Congress of the United States, just for a minute. Jack Wydler, let's take Jack Wydler. That is an outstanding leader. I have worked with him, and I want to tell you I know what this man does and what he does for you and what he does for us in the State and what he does for the people of this county, because he understands that, and we need Jack Wydler back in Washington.

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And I want to tell you -- strange things happen and I don't understand them -- but this man is a tireless supporter of aerospace industries on Long Island, and this is one of the great basic things that brought thousands of defense jobs on Long Island. Powerful ranking member of the Science and Technology Committee. Let's keep Jack on this committee. But to keep him, we have got to get him back there. He fights for the Federal office building in Mitchell Field. It means jobs and about a million involvement for Long Island.

I support Jack's efforts. I have worked for Jack as governor. He has respect and influence in Congress, and can do more for Long Island. Let's send him back.

But you have got so many powerful congressmen. You need to keep them there. That is why things are growing.

Norm Lent, this handsome man who is presiding at this great occasion here, I want to tell you, environmental protection, Norm is the environmentalist champion, ladies and gentlemen. You have talents representing different areas. Norm sponsored the successful 200 million fish bill. I have been for that myself, I want you to know. Critical to the Long Island fishing industry.

I want to say you have everything down here, beautiful beaches, fish, wonderful people. And what a nice group here in this room, I want to tell you.

(Applause)

And you pulled it, see. Get these young fellows like Joe Margiotta, they are just riding along on what you did. That's right. Well, Norm Lent will combat the steep rise in fish prices. I don't know how he will do that, but that is what it says right here.

You know, ladies and gentlemen, this is an exciting time to live. That is what I feel. Here he is. Here he is, the champion.

(Applause)

There is a lady giving you a special wave over there. I just got through that price of the fish.

(Laughter)

Strong supporter of costal zone management legislation; helped save the Long Island shore. Who has got a more beautiful shore than you have? And he is saving it, ladies and gentlemen. That is why we need Norm there. Cosponsor of the Toxic Substance Bill to keep Long Island clean. Getting more federal aid for schools; fighting unnecessary spending in Congress. Those two don't seem to go together, but never mind, he is for putting the money where it belongs and not where it doesn't.

We might as well all have a good time here together.

(Laughter)

He is for the right ends, and most important, ladies and gentlemen, he is a winner and he is going to be, again, your congressman.

Now we come to a new phase. Now we come to some new blood. This is the great thing about the Republican Party, constantly bringing along the new, able, great, dedicated young people. So we have got Tom Bogan, a rising star, 31 years old, experienced, dynamic man. Joe says he is walking his district. We should walk with him. We need him, ladies and gentlemen. Strong supporter of the aerospace industry.

Any of you have dyslexia? You know what it is. You see things backwards. That is what I have got. It has been a handicap all my life, so I have to concentrate. I got an article in TV Guide last week. Don't think you are dumb if you got it. It is just you don't see things straight. This is true, ladies and gentlemen. And there are a lot of people that have it, and they get upset, and parents get upset. But tell them not to worry, just work a little harder.

That is what he told me in school. The professor said, "Just because you are not so bright, don't worry. Nobody uses their brains to full capacity. And if you work harder, you can make it." And I almost did. I want to tell you.

(Applause)

Someone wrote a book and said I never wanted to be vice president of anything, and they got it right, too.

All right, I am getting back to this candidate, Tom Bogan, one of these bright young fellows. I am going to another outstanding person, someone I worked with for years, Vince Balletta. Vince, stand up.

(Applause)

He was with the legislature in Albany, and I appointed him to a key position in the State. He is a good looking guy, too, strong, and I bet he can dance, too. Handsome guy, too. Outstanding representative in the State. He will make an outstanding representative in Washington; invaluable service to the Nassau-Suffolk County Planning Board. He is going to be in the mainstream where the people of your district are. That is where I am, too. That is why we have been winning, because that is where the people of the county are, in the mainstream. They don't want the extremes of the right or left. Isn't that right?

(Applause)

Now, I would like to say, ladies and gentlemen, sitting on my left, John R. Dunne, an old friend, a Senator, your State Senator, one of the great guys. And you have a whole series here of local candidates, many of whom I have served with, and are running for office. And I am not going to take the time -- because you know them -- to go through all of the names. But most of them I have worked with in Albany, and there was no finer delegation. And this is hard for me to say all this because I come from Westchester, you

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know.

(Applause)

Thank you. But we have to recognize quality and merit wherever it is, and it is in Nassau County, and your delegation in Albany was the best, outstanding.

Let me say you also have got an outstanding Senator who is running, and I should have started with the Senate. You know, I think they are senior to the House, but never mind. They are both important because we have got two houses. That is separation of powers. But I would like to say that Jim Buckley is a great guy, ladies and gentlemen. He has integrity and is widely respected. And it just shows the breadth of the party. This party is the party that embraces different points of view, and we are not afraid of different points of view. That is healthy. That is why we are strong and we reconcile our differences. He is fighting for fiscal sanity in Congress, and a strong America, a strong defense. That is the kind of Senator Jim Buckley is. We need him back there, ladies and gentlemen.

Now, let me just say a few words about our great President, ladies and gentlemen. When you think that two years ago what was happening in this country, what we were suffering from, the reactions to the trauma of 10 long years of Vietnam, then the tragedy of Watergate, then the OPEC price rise in energy, and the purchase of grain by the Soviet Union, which shot food prices up, so we had inflation and recession, and loss of confidence around the world. And I want to tell you at that moment President Ford, Jerry Ford, took over, and in two short years public confidence has been restored by this President in the White House.

The inflation, which is the most disasterous tax that can be applied, has been cut by the President from 12.7 percent to 4.4 percent because he had the courage, ladies and gentlemen, to do the things that best represented the interests of the people for the long-term, not the short-term political advantage, for the long-term, and vetoed one bill after another. Popular, but we didn't have the money.

Then, ladies and gentlemen, on top of that, economists said you couldn't stop inflation and get employment at the same time. But what has happened? Almost four million new jobs in the last 18 months, ladies and gentlemen.

Now, his opponent talks about increasing unemployment, people losing jobs. I want to tell you, there is a net gain of almost four million jobs. And of those, in the month of July when the figures showed increased unemployment, let me tell you what the figure was. Four hundred thousand new jobs, but 700,000 people came back in the labor market or came in for the first time, so it made it look like an increase in unemployment. But actually, it was an increase in employment through growing confidence.

And on top of that, he has gained the confidence of the leaders of the world, both allies and potential enemies. This man has shown a record of ability, and, ladies and gentlemen, he has done the thing important to you. He put Social Security on a basis that makes the return increase with

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the cost of living. And the President has taken steps to insure the solvency of Social Security, although the Congress didn't act on it. He proposed legislation, but, again, the Congress didn't act on it to insure senior citizens against catastrophic illness.

He is a man with deep concern for people, who loves this country, understands the basic principles on which it grows to greatness, and has the courage to do what is in the long-term interest, and not the short-term political expediences. And his opponent is a man without national experience, international experience, and the more he talks about issues, the more confused the public gets as to what he would do when he gets there. But we can't afford on-the-job training at the taxpayers' expense in the Presidency of the United States.

So, therefore, let's go with a proven record, a man of great integrity and great courage.

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(AT 11:45 A.M. EDT)