

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1976

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

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
WOMEN'S TEA/RALLY
MAIN BALLROOM, PLATTDUETSCHER PARK RESTAURANT
FRANKLIN SQUARE, NEW YORK

(AT 2:18 P.M. EDT)

Joe, you have got to be a great friend, and I thank you for those kind words and I appreciate them. And to you, and Carol, and Mildred, I just want to say what a wonderful occasion this is and how thrilled I am to be here, and be here with Dick Rosenbaum.

Joe is right. Dick did a fantastic job in this county. First elected chairman, the New England chairman, and then national chairman. And what he did, and New York State did, and Pennsylvania and New Jersey, at that convention, is why we have a great candidate for President, Jerry Ford.

(Applause)

Of course, you have got such wonderful candidates here, and many wonderful candidates. And they not only represent you, but New York State and the country, and I am grateful to Nassau County. And I speak as a Westchesterite, and I say it is hard to go all out here, but I have to do it because I feel it. For instance, Jack Wydler here. Jack is the dean of the delegation in Washington, the representative in the Congress, one of the great leaders. He is respected, he is a man who loves this great country, and who loves this State, and loves this county. We need him back there. I know you are going to send him back, and we are grateful.

(Applause)

And Norm Lent. These are people I served with in the legislature when I was in Albany, in the governorship. So they are all old friends. Norm is a rejuvenative, imaginative person. I could use it.

(Laughter)

But I would like to say, just to be here with Norm, an imaginative guy, a tremendous person who has got a bill down there we were talking about at lunch. It is a bill on fish. Ladies and gentlemen, you have imaginative, creative representatives in Washington. That bill is so complicated, I don't have time to explain it to you because it is good all the way. You get cheaper fish when it is done. Great for Friday, too.

(Laughter)

And Vincent Balletta, there is a great guy. He ought to be in the Congress of the United States. They need him down there, and we want him, and I want to thank him for running. Great guy. He is a big, handsome guy, too.

And I have been campaigning all morning, and I

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don't know where Tom Bogan is, but they say he is great, young, attractive. Where he is hiding it, I don't know. Joe says he is out on the street, and if he says he is, he is. But that is where the votes are, but I would rather be here.

And to all of the Senate and Assembly incumbents and candidates, I would just like to say it is an honor and pleasure to be with you. And I want to thank you, Nassau County, for what you do for the State and the nation. It is an inspiration, believe me, it is.

To all of you who were here first, I would like to make a couple of comments. It isn't you all getting your husbands to work, it is what you do. I got elected by you, not by your husbands. I want to say I am grateful to your husbands, but it is you. They talk about John Q. Public doing the work, but it is Joan Q. Public that is the strength of the Republican Party in New York. And believe me, I know it, and I want to thank you for letting me come here.

I have some wonderful stuff here -- speech, I mean -- but I would like to talk to you. Joe has been talking to you about getting people calling people, getting the vote for President Ford. And I would like to talk to you about President Ford, the man. I was never in Congress. I have never been on the congressional side. I think that is evidenced by the fact I have had to apologize twice to the Senate after I got to be their leader, but these are sort of clubs down there.

I haven't mentioned your great Senator, Jim Buckley, who is running. And I want to say there is another person needed. We need Jim Buckley down in the Senate.

(Applause)

But I got to know President Ford. He was good enough to ask me, when we found ourselves as a nation in the Constitutional crisis after the Vietnam years that tore the country apart, and the Watergate situation, and we have, first, under the Twenty-Fifth Amendment, a Vice President selected by the President and approved by the Congress, and he moves to the Presidency, and he asked me to come in. So you have two people not elected for the first time in history. And we were in the middle of inflation, a recession. Many people forget what it was like two years ago, and in two short years, I watched this man day after day, month after month in these meetings, whether domestic problems, whether international problems, and everything comes from the legislature. Thrust into the position and never sought the Presidency.

But he demonstrated this is the way the country works. The Constitution held strong. So he is thrust into the Presidency. He takes time, he listens to different points of view on each issue. He tries to figure out, after he has listened to everything, what is the best thing on this issue, whatever may be up for the United States, for the American people. He is a person who loves this country, believes in this country, in the traditions of this country, both the democratic system and the American enterprise system.

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He believes it is the creative genius of the American people. It isn't the government that has done it, but created in the framework, built by counties like Nassau County and the kind of leadership that is demonstrated here on this platform. He then makes a decision, and when he has made that decision, nothing can change him because he thinks of what is right for America, regardless of the short-term political disadvantage.

And I want to tell you, he has vetoed attractive measures that were popular, and special-interest groups that would like to have them. And why? Because his number one concern was inflation. We were up to 12.7 inflation, and he felt this is the most insidious tax that hits those that least can afford it, senior citizens on Social Security, retired on pensions, men and women working, trying to do for families with the dollar eroded, and they are unable to do anything about it.

And he made that his first objective, and succeeded in two years. Brought it down from 12.7 to 4.4 percent, cut one-third. And if you don't think this is leadership, and that takes courage, and the results are extraordinary. Just look what has happened in the rest of the industrial world. There is no other country, except Germany, to achieve a record that he has achieved for America on inflation, and it is going down.

In the process, he has been clobbered -- excuse me, you know, been attacked by the opposition, and had virtually no cooperation from the two-to-one Democratic controlled majority in the Congress in trying to do this. There have been short-term popular measures, more Federal spending for unemployment. Everybody is concerned about unemployment, and people suffer because they don't have a job and can't do for their families, and that is a serious problem.

But he felt the right thing to do was hit inflation, and secondly, reestablish confidence, and then the growth of the economy. And he believes that it is something that the people of this country do by their buying power and by the confidence in the productivity of our society itself.

And so we have seen what many economists, in fact, most thought impossible. We have seen the country meet the inflation problem and start to solve the unemployment problem, both at the same time. So in the last 18 months there is almost four million new jobs in this country. This is an extraordinary thing. We are at the highest point in terms of jobs, 87.8 million people working in this country; 7.8 percent unemployed. But you take the month of July, 400,000 new jobs in July. But 700,000 people came into the labor market that month, in July of this year.

This is because confidence is restored. People want to get back. They feel there is a chance. So the statistics showed an increase in unemployment, but in actual fact, there was an increase in employment. But because of the number coming into the market, the net was a minus.

His opponent talks about people losing jobs in that month. They didn't lose jobs, just more people came back into the market.

So we have someone who has the courage to do what is right for America, based on American tradition, who has the integrity, and who has the love for people, the love that is great enough so he will serve his country and do the unpopular things, despite the fact he is running for President. I have to think the American people are so sophisticated, so intelligent, so sensitive to the long-term best interests of our country, and their concern and their children's concern, that they are going to support the man who has the character and the courage and the vision for the future, rather than someone who is a very able talker and who discusses subjects -- and I don't want to run a governorship down because there are great governors. See. I am grateful to you. I had a chance to be governor four times.

But being governor is not the same as running the country, and has nothing to do with international affairs. And Governor Carter has no international experience. First, he takes a position over here, and then over here, and says, now, after I have been in Washington, in the White House for a year, and maybe, based on the facts that would come out, would have a different position. That is interesting, and I am a believer in on-the-job training, but not at the expense of the taxpayers and the White House, ladies and gentlemen, and that is what we are up against.

So really, we are in a situation where as time has gone by and he has talked, more and more people have become less and less certain and more and more confused as to exactly where does he stand. And I have to say, if you take his platform, which he had a very important part in, and if you take the party's basic tradition in the Congress, it is more spending by government, more regulation by government, more intervention in the lives of people by government, and I don't think that is going to serve the values which made America great, which was the American people.

I will listen to him tomorrow and he may clarify some of these things, but I think there is a growing uncertainty in this country, and to the point of a fear, as to exactly what you would be getting. And I have a feeling when the voters go in that booth -- and you can help them to face this question, and they go in alone -- we each go in alone -- can't even get the benefit of our wives' advice -- and they can do what they want without their husbands knowing. Don't underestimate that. When they get in that booth, I think the American people are going to say in the last analysis, whom do I trust, in whom can I have confidence to get to the tough problems, domestic and international, in the next four years. And I think the answer is going to be Gerald R. Ford, and he will be the next President of the United States, and you are going to help make that possible.

Thank you very much.

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(AT 2:34 P.M. EDT)