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OCTOBER 27, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(Hempstead, New York)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT A RECEPTION
STUDENT CENTER COMPLEX, HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY
HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK

(AT 3:55 P.M. EDT)

Joe, ladies and gentlemen, I should say that Joe is a very good friend of mine, so discount the things he said. I love to hear him; I would like to thank him, and Mr. President, and Mr. Chairman. I like that Mr. President stuff. I tried a long time myself.

(Laughter)

So that I am honored and privileged to be back on the campus here at Hofstra. I would like to say what a pleasure it is to be here with Jack Wydler, your Congressman. And in fact, Vince Balletta, who is going to be Congressman. Norm Lent, one of your graduates, he is already a Congressman.

Just reacting a little bit to what your president said about Joe on the campus, he had a great record, and so did the president, and so did Norm. But to me, there is something symbolic, not only about his record while he was in college, but what he has done as a citizen, because we take democracy and freedom and all the privileges and the opportunities sometimes too often for granted. With those privileges and rights go responsibilities, if we want to keep freedom. And to me, Joe Margiotta is a symbol of one who has assumed responsibility along with enjoying the opportunities of this society, not only as a legislator but as one who had the courage to pick the party of his choice and become active as a leader and organizer in that party. And I believe strongly in the two-party system. I think it is the basic strength of democracy and freedom. We have to keep it that way.

It takes men like Joe Margiotta and his wife, because, believe me, the wives make major contributions as well as sacrifices to make it possible. So I say Joe and his wife.

And the same is true of Dick Rosenbaum, who is standing here, who is State Chairman, elected Republican Chairman of New England, and elected Chairman of all the Republican Party nationally, and had a major role in bringing about the nomination of President Ford. So I am grateful to him for the same reason I am to Joe, because he cares and loves the country and is willing to work and keep the party strong.

Now, I would like to say the same about Dick's wife, too, because she was even less enthusiastic. He was elected to the Supreme Court of the State, and resigned to become chairman. He had a 14-year term, too, with tenure yet.

(Laughter)

So that you can see. But this to me, ladies and

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gentlemen, is what is great in our country. Now, basic to opportunity for individuals, I have always felt there were two things in the society that believes in equality of opportunity for all. You can't have equality without a good education, or you can't take advantage of it without good education, and without good health. And those are two basics which I felt, as one who was fortunate enough to be elected your governor a few times.

And we had another study made before the one Joe referred to, which related to the weakness of our State university structure in this State. We were the last State in the Nation to have a State university because we had such a powerful series of private universities. Then with the demand for higher education on the part of the people, and the importance of higher education in the lives of people if they are going to achieve the realization of their own potential, we had another study, the Yale Study. And that was the first one.

And we consolidated at 38,000 students, and consolidated and expanded it until we had 73 campuses and 342,000 students. So that caused the private universities some problems, so I have to apologize, first, for the problems it caused there. So then we came to what Joe was talking about with the Bundy Plan, which brought the State into a position of trying to preserve the balance between the public and private.

And I have to say to you that I think the private educational institutions are essential in our society. They have greater freedom, greater opportunity for innovation.

And I would like to, as I expressed my gratitude to Joe and to Dick for their service in the public area, I would like to express my appreciation to all of you who are members of the faculty here at Hofstra, and members of the administration, for your dedication to the service of this basic essential ingredient in our society education. And it is not easy and we have been through some tough times.

Now, an interesting point because financially the questions do creep into all of these things, despite the intellectual basic orientation. When we were having some problems a good many years back, we really went for revenue sharing. This is something the governors had supported for years, and finally took it up in a big way in Washington. And we tried to get the school -- I don't like to use the word lobby -- but the school organization to go with us, see, and to make revenue sharing not only for State and local government, but for education.

But this is where one makes those value judgments in life that sometimes are right and sometimes are wrong. They wouldn't join us because they said we are going to get our own and not get mixed up with public politicians. We are going down the line with Congress and get a special Federal program for major aid to education. Well, unfortunately they didn't, and fortunately for the States and cities, we did.

Now, there is a distinguished former governor who

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will somehow be visiting you, perhaps in the near future, who has criticized revenue sharing as not being available for education. He was a governor at the time, but somehow didn't get involved. And, therefore, he doesn't remember its history, that we tried to get education and revenue sharing together for both the governmental units and the educational units, and it failed. So maybe that will come out when he is discussing problems here, or maybe he will tell you after a year in the White House. Having had a chance to study the questions, he will come up with another solution, which is one thing I have said.

And I don't want you to think I am partisan in any way. I have said I don't think we really have time for on-the-job training. And I just think, really, for that job, it shouldn't be at the taxpayer's expense, but that is my personal feeling.

(Applause)

So another thing that we need to do -- governors were interested in this, and I am still interested in it -- and I would like to say the only reason revenue sharing was renewed was because the Congress -- and with all due respect to Jack; of course, he is in a minority of Congress -- but the majority have not liked revenue sharing for the simple reason that it is money given to local governments and State governments for their use as they see fit so they can be responsive to their constituents.

And under the categorical grants, and there were 1,007 of them, each identified with sponsors who get the credit, and lobbyists who get the support, and bureaucracies that are involved, they don't want to give that up.

But I have to say to you that the consolidation of categorical grants in the block grants, which the President has supported, and which he supported before in the Congress, and he supported revenue sharing, and he gave the support to revenue sharing, which was the only reason it was renewed. And the fascinating thing is \$40 billion have been given back to the governments of the local communities where they pay the taxes, and the total number of people involved in handling that money is 100. That is the only bureaucracy that is involved. This is the best managed, simplest program there is.

And yet on education in New York, primary, secondary, we used to have 35 categorical grants and had to fill out 22 State plans. Anyhow, we sort of had to make up a little bit, but that was with the loss. Anyhow, we complied with the law, and for this, under 35 different grants, we got five percent of the cost of primary secondary education in New York State.

So that I would just like to say there are major changes that President Ford has supported, and when one listens to the discussions that are made for the reorganization of government and a need for change in leadership in order to get things done, if the two-to-one, if you will for give me again for seeming partisan, two-to-one Democratic Congress had just acted on some of the bills that President Ford has been sending up for two years, we wouldn't have some of the problems we have today.

I happen to feel this is an important election. And while there may be apathy, there are fundamental issues that are going to affect the course of events in this country for years to come. And basically, the concept is do we believe as a Nation, as President Ford does, and he has proven during his last two years, that government is there to create a framework of laws within which free citizens have the right to act and be creative and do the things which have brought this country to greatness? And let's face it, it wasn't the Federal Government that made America great. The Federal Government left a framework within which people made it great.

Our President today has demonstrated this. He had three crises on his hands. One, a crisis in confidence in government when he took office two years ago. He restored confidence in government. Second was inflation. He cut the inflation from 12.7 to 4.4, and it's on its way down, and, at the same time, stimulated the economy by investors.

This is what the Founding Fathers had in mind when they brought up separate branches of government. He was representing all of the people in the country. And inflation is the most insidious tax and hits the people who can afford it least. He has, therefore, done this with the kind of courage and -- I say guts, but I get in trouble when I say it, and I am keeping my hand firmly gripped on the podium.

(Laughter)

For the first time, I am not running for anything. I can only speak in the Senate when I get unanimous consent, and I only got that twice to apologize. This is all with due respect for you, gentlemen.

But this man has had the courage to do the things he thought were right for the future of America, in the best interest of the people, and disregarded the short-term popular positions. And that takes courage, and that is the kind of thing I admire. And I have a feeling the American people are very sophisticated, they are very perceptive and aware, and know where our basic strength lies, our basic interest. And in my opinion, when they get in the booth or by themselves they are going to say in whom do I have confidence and trust to make the leadership of this country in the next four years to meet the problems at home and abroad? And I think the majority of Americans are going to say Gerald R. Ford, and he is going to be the next President, and elected President.

And I happen to think what he stands for is right. And big government, more government, more spending, more regulation, more involvement in our lives is not going to make this country or give this country the opportunity to develop the strength which it has had and needs to play its role in the world and do for our citizens. And these are the reasons I happen to think they are going to do what they are going to do.

Plus the fact they are not sure when he stands on what issues, for the simple reason he has vacillated. I have a little piece of paper somebody handed me on the way in that talks about him. I am going to read it to see if this clarifies some of my confusion on the subject, and I hope

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it does.

But, ladies and gentlemen, thank you so much for letting me come here. I have tremendous admiration for what you are doing at Hofstra and where you are going. I want to thank you for the willingness to assume the leadership and responsibility. And that is something I admire, that people are willing to take responsibility. There are too many people looking for a riskless society, and we never would be here if that was the criteria and we were not out taking responsibility. You have taken responsibility, and I hope to God you have got the power.

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(AT 4:11 P.M. EDT)