

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 27, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(Hempstead, New York)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
BUSINESS, LABOR, EDUCATION, AND
COMMUNITY LEADER DINNER
MAIN DINING ROOM, HEMPSTEAD GOLF CLUB
HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK

(AT 8:02 P.M. EDT)

Thank you very much.

I want to tell you, you got a great leader and I have a great friend in Joe Margiotta. He has been very generous all day, and this kind of gathering just doesn't happen, and leaders of a community don't come together unless there is someone whom they respect and love, in whom their confidence calls them and asks them, and that is Joe.

And I want to thank Joe for a wonderful day and say what a thrill it is for me to be back in Nassau.

I have to say to Harold, I wish this was the governors' club, but I am willing to accept it being the chairman's club, you see.

(Laughter)

But before I say anything about Harold, I want to tell Greg Raffa how great he has been all day. I want to tell you, in addition, you have that beautiful lady singing tonight. When Harold talks about culture, that is culture for you right there.

What I was going to say about Harold, what he said about this being a microcosm, I would say that this is America, ladies and gentlemen, right in this room, the best that is America. All facets of our great society, our free society, and the whole strength of America is all of those facets blending together, and working together, and a common interest of the American people, and peace in the world of human dignity and equality of opportunity and what this country stood for. And here you are, and together, and I am deeply honored to have the privilege of being with you.

I would like to say I love this country. And, obviously, I love it or we wouldn't be here. And it is the greatest country in the world. And the truth of the matter is, almost anybody in any other country in the world would give their eye teeth to be in America. And sometimes we sort of get complaining, and things are terrible, but believe me, this is the greatest country in the world and there is nothing like it. But the important thing is to keep it that way.

Honest men like Dick Rosenbaum who work. He was a Supreme Court judge. He had it good, you know.

(Laughter)

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He had tenure; more than 14 years he was elected. He cares about our State, cares about our country, and is going to be chairman of the Republican Party in New York State, and needed it like a hole in the head. His head is shiny all over. We could see if he had holes, but he doesn't.

(Laughter)

I love America and serving the Party because the two-party system is the vitality of America, and that has preserved freedom. But it isn't only Dick and Joe. These are the leaders and they are the outstanding ones, but they represent the men and women of both parties who are the unsung heroes of democracy, who give time and energy day in and day out to serving the country.

Then you have people such as Jack Wydler sitting here, so modest and able. He is the dean of our delegation in Washington, and we owe him a great deal and need him back there, ladies and gentlemen, and want him back there.

And Norm Lent. I will tell you about Norm Lent. He is at another meeting. He is taking care of the fish for us. I have been talking about that all day. The sportsmen, the commercial fishermen, and he is going to have cheaper fish for everybody, and a 200-mile limit. I want to tell you, that is Nassau County for you. That kind of ingenuity, package it together and everybody benefits. We need him back there.

Vince Balletta, he is a great guy. And we need muscle in Congress in the Republican Party, and he has muscle, ladies and gentlemen. We need him down there, and the beautiful wife to go with it. What more can you ask?

I haven't met Tom Bogan because everywhere I go, he is somewhere else. I have been campaigning all day and Joe says he is on the street. He said he is young and the new blood coming into the Party, and we need it. We need these kinds of representatives that care about America.

You have this wonderful group here; as a matter of fact, of the State, in the Assembly, old friends here. And I won't go through all the names because it would take too much time. But you have a great delegation who cares, the guys who have the dedication and concern for America.

Why wouldn't they? Here is Len Hall over here, who set the patterns for this great State and this great county. Fifty years ago this year, Len Hall, in this room, ran first for the Assembly. Is that right, Len? And won.

(Applause)

Okay, ladies and gentlemen, what more can you ask for service to your country than that?

(Applause)

This is a heritage. You have given this to our country. Ralph over here, County Executive. I want to tell you we are proud of this. I come from Westchester,

and I am talking about Nassau yet.

We need the kind of leaders who care. I want to tell you that is President Ford. He cares about America. He loves this country. He served 24 years in the House. He didn't seek the Presidency. All of a sudden, he was President under the Twenty-Fifth Amendment and gets cleared by the Congress, a Democrat Congress. He has been raked over. And don't think I don't know how it went because I was. Five hundred FBI agents and five months, believe me. And I am chairman of the Committee on Privacy now.

But this man loves his country. He was catapulted into the Presidency two years ago. It is easy to forget now. Let me just tell you, this man was catapulted there. We have forgotten what it was like two years ago. Our country was in a situation of Constitutional crisis, a crisis of confidence in the White House, and confidence of people and the leaders of people in other countries in the U.S. around the world.

That was two years ago. This man has taken this country and restored the dignity and the public's trust in the Presidency. He has cut inflation by two-thirds, down to 4.4 percent from 12.7 percent because he made inflation his number one objective. This is the thing that worried him the most. It is the most insidious tax to those least able to afford it, the retired on fixed incomes, pensions, workers trying to do for families and their dollars are eroded, their earnings. And he made it number one.

Number two was unemployment. Economists said you can't do both at once. He did it. We have four million new jobs in this country in the last 18 months. He is going about it the American way. This country wasn't built by government but people, by free citizens in the framework of government to protect the interests of all.

He has had the courage to veto the measures that would have continued this inflation. I have watched him day after day, week after week, studying these issues, trying to find out what is the right thing to do for America for the long-term best interests for our country and the world. And when he makes the decision, he sticks by it.

He foregoes the quick-term political interests, the pressure groups, the special-interest groups. Sure, people talk against him, but he is looking down the road for what is best for America. When we say we need a leader, I want to tell you we need a leader for change.

Listen, if the Democratic two-to-one majority in Congress had taken his leadership on hot issues we face today, such as incentives to reduce consumption of energy from the heating of homes and factories and office buildings, or the Energy Independence Authority, the one billion to invest in new sources of energy for America instead of spending 36 billion abroad, and vulnerable to another boycott, we put our own workers to work, and a million three hundred thousand jobs, but they wouldn't pass it.

He goes right down the road, one thing after another. Revenue sharing, he fought to get through for State and local

governments; bills to get blank grants instead of categorical ones. These are things which those of us in government understand. We are tied up in red tape in Washington, bureaucratic red tape in a thousand categorical grants. We have categorical grants for primary and secondary education in New York; 22 State plans. We used to make them out and they go to Washington and nobody read them down there. I won't get into details.

(Laughter)

And what do we get? Five percent of the cost of primary and secondary education from the Federal Government. Big deal. And we are wasting our time doing this stuff. The President is pushing to cut our bureaucratic red tape. He has given leadership, but the two-to-one Democratic majority didn't want to let that leadership show.

I want to tell you, this is a great man who loves this country and believes in this country. I watched him; I know. I am for governors, see. You were very good. You gave me a chance to be governor four times. So I won't say anything against a fellow governor, and Georgia is a great State. I love Georgians. But I got to tell you, also, on that, Georgia is not the United States. And he has had no experience in the United States, no experience on international affairs.

He takes one position based on polls here, and another position based on polls over here, and says after I am in office for a year and get the facts, I might do something different. Great, but on-the-job training yet. Should we as taxpayers pay for it?

So I say, ladies and gentlemen, you are going to have that chance to look at him tomorrow, and maybe he will straighten things out. But he hasn't so far. And the American people are getting worried and uncertain. And some of them, to tell you the honest truth, some are even frightened.

When they get in that booth on November 2nd, and that is very close -- they say there is a lack of interest, et cetera, et cetera. This is the turning point in America. Do we believe in America, the forces, the qualities, the basic beliefs that have made us what we are today, or do we want to change this so the government is spending more and more money, which they don't have, and have to print, and more inflation, going into our lives with more and more controls, more and more domination, or do we want a government that pulls back and does the things that are essential and at the same time lets the private citizens do the things they have been doing and brought the country to what it is?

And when you look at the tragedy and what happened to Great Britain, 63 percent of all of the GNP of Great Britain is spent by the government. We are up to 35 percent by government. I was over there and spent two hours with the Chancellor of the Exchequer two weeks ago, and it is tragic, a great nation.

So I say this is the turning point for us. Are we going that road or stay with the fundamental values and principles and beliefs? And when they get in that booth,

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I think the American people are going to say we want to put our trust and confidence in proven leadership for the next four years on domestic and international issues. And that is Gerald R. Ford, ladies and gentlemen. We need him and he is going to be our next President.

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(AT 8:18 P.M. EDT)