

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 27, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(Island Park, New York)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
ISLAND PARK REPUBLICAN RALLY
AMERICAN LEGION HALL
ISLAND PARK, NEW YORK

(AT 9:15 P.M. EDT)

Island Park, and you are nice to let me come, I want to tell you. This is why people love this country because of meetings like this. People who care about America.

The history of Al and Armond, their families, and I understand their mothers and fathers, their parents, their grandparents, are still living, too. This is an extraordinary country. My two grandfathers were both dropouts at 16. They were poor boys in this country.

(Laughter)

I love this country. This country has given my family, both my mother's and father's family, an opportunity. We have all come here because we wanted to have opportunity for freedom to do for our families, to do that, improve that, and they thought they would have a chance to do for their children. And we want to keep it that way.

And I want to tell you there are families just like the D'Amato family doing this for America, and that is why I am thrilled to be here tonight because they symbolize what is best for America today.

(Applause)

I am just proud to be an American. And I want to tell you there are so many people around this world who would give anything to be in America. We have problems, yes, but what we have as problems is nothing to what these other people have. And this is the turning point we are facing in America right now, which way are we going in America? Are we going to keep this country a land of opportunity so the Joe Margiottas can do what they have done? And he does it because he loves this country. He believes in a two-party country.

Dick Rosenbaum, he doesn't need to do what he does because he was on the Supreme Court. He was elected on the Supreme Court and was there for 14 years and had tenure and what seemed like a good salary at the time. What does he do? He resigned from the Supreme Court of New York State to be State Chairman of New York, because he loves the State and the country and wants to serve it and wants to head up one of the two great parties. This is what made the country great, and we have to keep it that way.

We have great candidates. Armond is running as an Assemblyman. He is going back again. Norm Lent. I used to know Norm when he was in Albany. Now he is in Washington. He is going back. I am coming back here. Norm Levy, there is another great guy. Senator Norm Levy over here. Where

MORE

is he? He is modest and sitting in the back, and is a good looking guy, too, and I will tell you, very able.

But that is what you have in Nassau County, the most progressive, ablest county in the State. And I hate to say that, coming from Westchester. You are dynamic down here. You care, you work, you are excited about the future. This is great; this is America again. We don't want to lose that.

This election, in my opinion, is going to make a very important decision for the future of America. Preserve freedom, preserve American enterprise, preserve the framework of laws which permit the freedom of individuals to do those things using their own creativity, their own brains, their own imagination. This has been the history of our country. That is why America is great today.

This is what President Ford believes. He believes in America. I have watched him. He asked me to come down as Vice President. It was a rough moment, Constitutional crisis, loss of confidence, Watergate, Vietnam. Everybody was torn, upset. He didn't seek the Presidency. He was thrust into it by events. He was a Congressman; been there 24 years. He loves this country. Dedicated to the basic values on which America has gone to greatness.

He gets into the Presidency; there are all kinds of problems. I sit and watch him listening to different points of view, trying to do what is the right thing to do about inflation. Inflation is the most insidious tax that hits those hardest who can least afford it because it is eroding their buying power. People retired on Social Security, pension funds, men and women working, trying to take care of families, and the buying power of the dollar is being eaten away. And he made that number one, to cut down inflation by two-thirds.

And at the same time, he is working to stimulate the economy. But he knows that all of these giveaway programs -- and I hate to say, not the good Republicans in Congress, but the two-to-one Democratic majority that controls. The only way they know how to handle a problem is to throw money at it. And we have seen too many programs that haven't worked, and abused.

They criticized New York City for getting into trouble financially. They have done in spades in Congress what New York City did, subject to pressure groups, and spent more money. New York City has a three and a half billion deficit. They are in trouble. The only difference, Congress can print the money and New York City can't. That is the only difference.

(Applause)

The President knows that. He knows a family, or a city, or a county, or State, or Nation can't spend more than they have in income without going bankrupt. That is the simple, fundamental thing, but some people don't know that in government.

So this is what happened. He had the courage to

MORE

say to New York, we want to help but not until you put your house in order, and is trying to say that to Congress, and is vetoing popular spending bills. Why? Not because he would get accolades, and there are pressure groups, you know. He does it because he is interested and concerned about America and Americans and their future and well-being and opportunity, and knows we have to get back on a sound basis. So he did what was right, not what was popular. And that is why I admire him, and this is a great man and we need him back in the Presidency.

I was governor when Carter was governor, and Georgia is a great State. I love the States, and I love governors. I am proud of having been a governor. You made it possible, and I am grateful to you. But being a governor is not being President. You only have one State. He has had no experience nationally, no experience internationally. He takes this position, then he takes another position, and the next time he says maybe after I have been in the White House a year, I can get the facts and come up with a different position. Great. That is fine, and I believe in on-the-job training, but not at the expense of the taxpayers.

(Applause)

Now, he is coming in here tomorrow. Maybe he will have some new positions. But I have been around a long time. I worked for six Presidents. I hate to admit it. I have been in and out of Washington for 36 years. I understand some of these issues. There are different points of view about them, and you can argue about them. But when you just take positions, and you say I am going to solve unemployment, and get rid of poverty, and not have inflation, that is what we want. But when you don't say how you are going to do it, or just say I will do it this way and in the White House a different way, the American people are getting worried.

I am worried. In fact, I am quite nervous about it. And I have a strange feeling, ladies and gentlemen, even though we are a minority party, that when the American people, who are very intelligent, who are very sophisticated, who have this capacity to feel -- I want to tell you they have the capacity -- and when they get in that booth, they are going to say on Tuesday of next week, who do I trust to handle any problems at home and abroad in the next four years? Who has the experience? Who do I know where he stands?

Maybe I don't agree with him on everything, but at least I know where he is. I think they are going to say Gerald R. Ford, ladies and gentlemen, and he is going to be our next President of the United States.

END

(AT 9:25 P.M. EDT)