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FIFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL STUDENT SYMPOSIUM ON
THE PRESIDENCY, CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE
PRESIDENCY, SHERATON INN AND INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE CENTER, RESTON, VIRGINIA,
MARCH 29, 1974

I AM HONORED BY YOUR INVITATION TO
ADDRESS THE FIFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL STUDENT
SYMPOSIUM ON THE PRESIDENCY AND TO MEET WITH
SO MANY OUTSTANDING YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE
ACADEMIC CENTERS OF AMERICA.



I DEEPLY REGRET THE ABSENCE OF ONE OF THE REAL MOVING SPIRITS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTER, MY GOOD FRIEND JIM HAGERTY. I AM WELL AWARE OF JIM'S VALUABLE WORK AS CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE CENTER. I HOPE AND TRUST HE WILL SOON BE HELPING AGAIN IN THE CONTINUATION OF THIS IMPRESSIVE PROGRAM.



DR. HOXIE, I WANT TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE
THANKS TO YOU AND THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF
THE PRESIDENCY FOR YOUR KIND INVITATION TO
SPEAK IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS YEAR'S THEME,
"THE PEOPLE, THE CONGRESS, AND THE PRESIDENCY."
THIS IS A DIFFICULT ASSIGNMENT FOR A VICE
PRESIDENT AWARE THAT HE WAS NOT ELECTED BY
THE PEOPLE, WHO IS NO LONGER A MEMBER OF THE
HOUSE, AND IS CERTAINLY NOT TO BE CONFUSED
WITH THE HIGH OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.



MANY DISTINGUISHED POLITICAL LEADERS ---
INCLUDING SOME FORMER VICE PRESIDENTS --- HAD
LITTLE REGARD FOR THE OFFICE.



PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN WOULD HAVE BEEN AMUSED BY YOUR SELECTION OF A VICE PRESIDENT TO ADDRESS THE THEME YOU HAVE CHOSEN. PRESIDENT TRUMAN, SPEAKING FROM HIS OWN EXPERIENCE, SAID THAT "THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT IS COMPLICATED, AND IT IS COMPLICATED FURTHER BY THE FACT THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT IS IN BETWEEN THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT WITHOUT, IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, BEING RESPONSIBLE TO EITHER."

I would add one postscript - the U.S. Senate pays salary of V.P. etc



HARRY TRUMAN WENT ON TO SAY THAT WHILE THE SENATORS LOOK ON THE VICE PRESIDENT AS THEIR PRESIDING OFFICER ONLY, HE IS ACTUALLY "OUTSIDE THE PALE AS FAR AS THE SENATORIAL CLUB IS CONCERNED."

VICE PRESIDENT ALBEN W. BARKLEY, UPON ASSUMING OFFICE, COMMENTED THAT "INASMUCH AS I AM ABOUT TO ENTER UPON THE DISCHARGE OF DUTIES THAT REQUIRE FOUR YEARS OF SILENCE, I WILL BE BRIEF."



WOODROW WILSON SAID THE "CHIEF EMBARRASSMENT" IN DISCUSSING THE VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE IS, THAT "IN EXPLAINING HOW LITTLE THERE IS TO BE SAID ABOUT IT, ONE EVIDENTLY SAID ALL THERE IS TO SAY."



WILSON'S VICE PRESIDENT, THOMAS MARSHALL, SAID HE WOULD RATHER BE MADE A REGENT OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION SO THAT HE COULD COMPARE HIS FOSSILIZED LIFE WITH THE FOSSILS OF ALL AGES. INCIDENTALLY, I AM NOW A REGENT OF THE SMITHSONIAN, SO I DON'T FACE THAT CHOICE. AND I WOULD POINT OUT THAT MR. MARSHALL'S MAIN CLAIM TO FAME IS HIS COMMENT "WHAT THIS COUNTRY NEEDS IS A GOOD 5-CENT CIGAR."



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WAS AGAINST HAVING A VICE PRESIDENT AT ALL. FRANKLIN SAID THAT "IF THEY INSIST UPON HAVING ONE, I SHALL ADDRESS HIM AS 'YOUR SUPERFLOUS EXCELLENCY'".

THOMAS JEFFERSON TOOK A PHILOSOPHICAL VIEW. HE SAID THAT "THE SECOND OFFICE OF THIS GOVERNMENT IS HONORABLE AND EASY; THE FIRST IS BUT A SPLENDID MISERY."



THEODORE ROOSEVELT THOUGHT THE VICE PRESIDENCY WAS "REALLY A FIFTH WHEEL". HE SAID "IT IS NOT A STEPPING STONE TO ANYTHING BUT OBLIVION." AND HE WENT ON TO COMMENT THAT HE WOULD "RATHER BE ANYBODY, SAY A PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, THAN VICE PRESIDENT."



WITH ALL RESPECT TO THEODORE ROOSEVELT,
I AM NOT SEEKING TO BECOME A PROFESSOR. I
AM HONORED TO BE VICE PRESIDENT. I AGREE
MORE WITH A VICE PRESIDENT WHO SAID THE
VICE PRESIDENCY IS NOT "A SPARE TIRE ON THE
AUTOMOBILE OF GOVERNMENT."



ACCORDINGLY, I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE SOME PERSONAL THOUGHTS. I COMMEND THE CENTER FOR PURSUING CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION. WE ARE LIVING AT A TIME WHEN CONFIDENCE IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE PROFESSIONS HAS ERODED. THE WORD "POLITICIAN" IS TODAY ALMOST A DIATRIBE. MANY ARE VOICING DISTRUST OF OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM.



WHAT IS TO HAPPEN TO OUR FORM OF GOVERNMENT IF TOO MANY PERSONS IN PUBLIC OFFICE ARE SUSPECTED OF CORRUPTION AND SELF-INTEREST? I MAKE NO EXCUSE FOR BUMBLING BUREAUCRATS OR DISHONEST POLITICIANS. BUT I DO POINT OUT THAT OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM WORKS SO WELL THAT A FEW ROTTEN APPLES CANNOT TURN IT SOUR.



THE BODY POLITIC OF AMERICA IS HEALTHY.
IT CONTAINS THE STRENGTH TO HEAL ITSELF. IT
will
CAN FIND RENEWED VIGOR AND ENERGY.

BUT WE NEED NEW BLOOD. WE NEED THE
TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE ASSEMBLED HERE TONIGHT
FROM UNIVERSITIES THROUGHOUT THE NATION. WE
NEED EDUCATORS LIKE DR. HOXIE TO PROMOTE THE
QUALITY OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE --- AND THE
QUALITY OF OUR POLITICIANS.



AMERICA CAN EXPECT NO MORE OF ITS
LEADERS THAN THE FULL MEASURE OF THEIR
CAPACITIES AND INTEGRITY. WE MUST NOT ONLY
EXPECT THAT FULL MEASURE --- WE MUST DEMAND IT.



I REGRET THERE IS SUCH A WIDESPREAD DISAPPOINTMENT IN OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM AND IN POLITICS GENERALLY. MUCH HAS BEEN MADE OF THE PRESIDENT'S LOW RATING OF ONLY 26% IN A RECENT POPULARITY POLL. BUT NOTICE THAT THE POLLS ALSO DISCLOSED THAT THE PEOPLE RATED CONGRESS AT A MERE 21% --- SEVERAL NOTCHES BELOW THE PRESIDENT.



THIS INDICATES THE PUBLIC IS NOT ONLY UNAHPPY WITH THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH BUT EVEN LESS PLEASED WITH THE CONGRESS.

IT ALSO INDICATES THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO RESTORE OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM TO A STATUS THAT WILL GENERATE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE.



THAT IS A TREMENDOUS CHALLENGE TO THOSE WHO CHOSE A CAREER IN POLITICS. WE SIMPLY MUST DO A BETTER JOB. AND I REFER BOTH TO THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES AND TO BOTH MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES.



AMERICANS ARE TIRED OF RHETORIC. THE
PEOPLE WANT RESULTS. THEY DO NOT CARE
WHETHER REPUBLICANS OR DEMOCRATS DO THE JOB.
BUT THEY WANT THE JOB DONE. ELECTED OFFICIALS
MUST PERFORM OR FACE REJECTION AT THE POLLS.



THIS IS A GOVERNMENT OF SEPARATE BUT
EQUAL BRANCHES, OF CHECKS AND BALANCES. OUR
STRENGTH LIES IN THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM. IT
REQUIRES THE COMPETITION BRED BY FREE ENTER-
PRISE. WE NEED TWO VIABLE PARTIES IF EACH
IS TO MONITOR THE OTHER. WE ALSO NEED AN
ELEMENT OF MUTUAL TRUST TO UNITE AMERICANS
IN A BI-PARTISAN SPIRIT TO FACE PROBLEMS AT
HOME AND ABROAD.



THE FREEDOM OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IS MOST DIRECTLY ASSERTED THROUGH REPRESENTATION IN THE CONGRESS, IN THE CO-EQUAL POWER THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SHARES WITH THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. AND, BECAUSE OF MY PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE ON CAPITOL HILL, I MUST WARN AGAINST THE DANGER OF A SO-CALLED VETO-PROOF CONGRESS. AN EFFECTIVE CONGRESS REQUIRES **S** INTERNAL CHECKS AND BALANCES.



I HAVE NOW SPENT A LITTLE MORE THAN
100 DAYS AS VICE PRESIDENT. AS I CONTINUE
TO FAMILIARIZE MYSELF WITH MY ROLE, IT APPEARS
LESS CONSTRICTED BY HISTORY AND MORE DETER-
MINED BY EMERGING NEEDS. WE MUST LOOK FORWARD
RATHER THAN BACKWARD. WE SEEK NEW PERCEPTIONS.



OF COURSE, WE LEARN FROM THE PAST AND
CHERISH OUR GREAT HISTORY --- AND EVEN SOME-
TIMES REGRET OUR MISTAKES. BUT WE LIVE FOR
THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE. I DO NOT BELIEVE
IN ENDLESSLY REPLAYING LAST SATURDAY'S GAME
BUT IN TRAINING HARD FOR NEXT SATURDAY'S.
THE UPCOMING GAME IS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF
ALL.



BUT THE GAME MUST NOT BE A SPECTATOR
SPORT INVOLVING TOO MANY PASSIVE VIEWERS. IT
IS NOT A SUPER BOWL TO BE PLAYED BY A FEW
AND WATCHED BY MANY. IT IS ACTUALLY A
MASSIVE TEST OF OUR CONCEPT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT
IN WHICH ALL MUST PARTICIPATE IN EVERY CORNER
OF AMERICA.



WHEN I BECAME VICE PRESIDENT, I
PLEGGED TO USE WHATEVER REPUTATION FOR TRUTH
AND FAIRNESS I ACQUIRED IN THE HOUSE ALONG
WITH WHATEVER CAPACITY FOR REASONABLE
COMPROMISE I MIGHT POSSESS TO MAKE THIS
GOVERNMENT WORK BETTER FOR THE GOOD OF ALL
AMERICANS. I REFER NOT ONLY TO THE DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN THE HOUSE AND SENATE, BETWEEN THE
CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, BUT ALSO
AMONG THE INDIVIDUALS OF BOTH PARTIES.



I BELIEVE THE VICE PRESIDENCY PRESENTS A
UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY AS ITS PERSPECTIVE IS
BOTH LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE, MAKING POSSIBLE
COMMUNICATION AND COMPROMISE.

AS VICE PRESIDENT, I SEEK RECONCILIATION,
NOT RECRIMINATION.



WHILE THIS MAY NOT BE A SPECTACULAR
ROLE FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS, IT IS THE WAY
I SEE IT. I DO NOT SHARE THE PESSIMISM OR
WITHDRAWAL SYNDROME OF SOME OF MY PREDECESSORS.
I ENVISAGE A VICE-PRESIDENTIAL FUNCTION
INVOLVING SOLID AND RESPONSIBLE WORK FOR THE
FUTURE, AT HOME AND ABROAD, WHILE MEDIATING
AND MODERATING DIFFERENCES, REMAINING OPEN
AND FLEXIBLE, TO KEEP AMERICA GREAT.



TO ACHIEVE THIS, THE VICE PRESIDENT
MUST REMAIN HIS OWN MAN. THE ONLY PLEDGE BY
WHICH I HAVE BOUND MYSELF IN ACCEPTING THE
PRESIDENT'S TRUST IS THE COMMITMENT BY WHICH
WE ARE ALL BOUND, BEFORE GOD AND THE
CONSTITUTION, TO DO OUR BEST FOR AMERICA.



I SHARE THESE THOUGHTS WITH YOU
TONIGHT BECAUSE I AM CONVINCED THAT THE
UNITED STATES IS NOT FINISHED. WE ARE A
NATION WITH TROUBLES. BUT WE WILL PREVAIL
BECAUSE I SEE IN THIS HALL THE EVIDENCE OF
CONTINUITY OF LEADERSHIP. I SEE YOUNG MEN
AND WOMEN WHO WILL ENTER THE PROCESS OF
POLITICS AND GIVE NEW ENERGIES TO THE
NATIONAL REDEMPTION THAT WE WILL ACHIEVE. WE
STAND ON THE THRESHOLD OF A BETTER TOMORROW.



THE STRUCTURES OF GOVERNMENT AND THEIR
RELATIONSHIP, ONE TO THE OTHER, ULTIMATELY
REST UPON THE HUMAN QUALITY AND CHARACTER OF
THE GOVERNMENT'S PERSONNEL. AND I BELIEVE
THAT THIS IS A NATION OF TALENT AND VIRTUE.
SUCH A NATION WILL ASSERT ITS BOUNTIFUL
FUTURE IN TERMS OF SELF RESPECT --- MUTUAL
RESPECT --- AND YOUR INVOLVEMENT WILL REDEEM
AMERICA.

I THANK YOU.



REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
FIFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL STUDENT SYMPOSIUM ON THE PRESIDENCY
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE PRESIDENCY
AT THE SHERATON INN & INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER
RESTON, VIRGINIA
8:00 P.M. FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1974

FOR RELEASE IN SATURDAY A.M.'S

I am honored by your invitation to address the Fifth Annual National Student Symposium on the Presidency and to meet with so many outstanding young people from the academic centers of America.

I deeply regret the absence of one of the real moving spirits in the development of the Center, my good friend Jim Hagerty. I am well aware of Jim's valuable work as co-chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Center. I hope and trust he will soon be helping again in the continuation of this impressive program.

Dr. Hoxie, I want to express my sincere thanks to you and the Center for the Study of the Presidency for your kind invitation to speak in the context of this year's theme, "The People, The Congress, and The Presidency." This is a difficult assignment for a Vice President aware that he was not elected by the people, who is no longer a Member of the House, and is certainly not to be confused with the high office of the President.

Many distinguished political leaders -- including some former vice presidents -- had little regard for the office.

President Harry S. Truman would have been amused by your selection of a Vice President to address the theme you have chosen. President Truman, speaking from his own experience, said that "the relationship between the President and the Vice-President is complicated, and it is complicated further by the fact that the

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Vice President is in between the legislative and executive branches of the government without, in the last analysis, being responsible to either."

Harry Truman went on to say that while the Senators look on the Vice President as their presiding officer only, he is actually "outside the pale as far as the Senatorial club is concerned."

Vice President Alben W. Barkley, upon assuming office, commented that "Inasmuch as I am about to enter upon the discharge of duties that require four years of silence, I will be brief."

Woodrow Wilson said that "chief embarrassment" in discussing the Vice President's office is, that "in explaining how little there is to be said about it, one has evidently said all there is to say."

Wilson's Vice President, Thomas Marshall, said "he would rather be made a regent of the Smithsonian Institution so that he could compare his fossilized life with the fossils of all ages." Incidentally, I am now a regent of the Smithsonian, so I don't face that choice. And I would point out that Mr. Marshall's main claim to fame is his comment "what this country needs is a good 5 cent cigar."

Benjamin Franklin was against having a Vice President at all. Franklin said that "if they insist upon having one, I shall address him as 'Your Superfluous Excellency'."

Thomas Jefferson took a philosophical view. He said that "the second office of this government is honorable and easy; the first is but a splendid misery."

Theodore Roosevelt thought the vice presidency was "really a fifth wheel." He said "it is not a stepping stone to anything but oblivion." And he went on to comment that he would rather be anybody, say a professor of history, than Vice President."

With all respect to Theodore Roosevelt, I am not seeking to become a professor. I am honored to be Vice President. I agree more with a Vice President who said the Vice Presidency is

(more)

not "a spare tire on the automobile of government."

Accordingly, I would like to share some personal thoughts. I commend the Center for pursuing citizenship education. We are living at a time when confidence in the public service professions has eroded. The word "politician" is today almost a diatribe. Many are voicing distrust of our political system.

What is to happen to our form of Government if too many persons in public office are suspected of corruption and self-interest? I make no excuse for bumbling bureaucrats or dishonest politicians. But I do point out that our political system works so well that a few rotten apples cannot turn it sour.

The body politic of America is healthy. It contains the strength to heal itself. It can find renewed vigor and energy.

But we need new blood. We need the talented young people assembled here tonight from universities throughout the Nation. We need educators like Dr. Hoxie to promote the quality of our national life -- and the quality of our politicians.

America can expect no more of its leaders than the full measure of their capacities and integrity. We must not only expect that full measure -- we must demand it.

I regret there is such a widespread disappointment in our political system and in politics generally. Much has been made of the President's low rating of only about 26% in a recent popularity poll. But notice that the polls also disclosed that the people rated Congress at a mere 21% -- several notches below the President.

This indicates the public is not only unhappy with the Executive Branch but even less pleased with the Congress.

It also indicates that the time has come to restore our political system to a status that will generate public confidence.

That is a tremendous challenge to those who choose a career in politics. We simply must do a better job. And I refer both to the Executive and Legislative branches and to both major political parties.

(more)

Americans are tired of rhetoric. The people want results. They do not care whether Republicans or Democrats do the job. But they want the job done. Elected officials must perform or face rejection at the polls.

This is a government of separate but equal branches, of checks and balances. Our strength lies in the two-party system. It requires the competition bred by free enterprise. We need two viable parties if each is to monitor the other. We also need an element of mutual trust to unite Americans in a bi-partisan spirit to face problems at home and abroad.

The freedom of the American people is most directly asserted through representation in the Congress, in the co-equal power the legislative branch shares with the executive branch. And, because of my previous experience on Capitol Hill, I must warn against the danger of a so-called veto proof Congress. An effective Congress requires internal checks and balances.

I have now spent a little more than 100 days as Vice President. As I continue to familiarize myself with my role, it appears less constricted by history and more determined by emerging needs. We must look forward rather than backward. We see new perceptions.

Of course, we learn from the past and cherish our great history -- and even sometimes regret our mistakes. But we live for the present and the future. I do not believe in endlessly replaying last Saturday's game but in training hard for next Saturday's. The upcoming game is the most important of all.

But the game must not be a spectator sport involving too many passive viewers. It is not a super bowl to be played by a few and watched by many. It is actually a massive test of our concept of self-government in which all must participate in every corner of America.

When I became Vice President, I pledged to use whatever reputation for truth and fairness I acquired in the House along with whatever capacity for reasonable compromise I might possess to make this Government work better for the good of all Americans.

(more)

I refer not only to the differences between the House and Senate, between the Congress and the Executive branch, but also among the individuals of both parties.

I believe the Vice Presidency presents a unique opportunity as its perspective is both legislative and executive, making possible communication and compromise.

As Vice President, I seek reconciliation, not recrimination.

While this may not be a spectacular role for the next three years, it is the way I see it. I do not share the pessimism or withdrawal syndrome of some of my predecessors. I envisage a vice-presidential function involving solid and responsible work for the future, at home and abroad, while mediating and moderating differences, remaining open and flexible, to keep America great.

To achieve this, the Vice President must remain his own man. The only pledge by which I have bound myself in accepting the President's trust is the commitment by which we are all bound, before God and the Constitution, to do our best for America.

I share these thoughts with you tonight because I am convinced that the United States is not finished. We are a nation with troubles. But we will prevail because I see in this hall the evidence of continuity of leadership. I see young men and women who will enter the process of politics and give new energies to the national redemption that we will achieve. We stand on the threshold of a better tomorrow.

The structures of government and their relationship, one to the other, ultimately rest upon the human quality and character of the government's personnel. And I believe that this is a Nation of talent and virtue. Such a nation will assert its bountiful future in terms of self respect -- mutual respect -- and your involvement will redeem America.

I thank you.

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REMARKS ^{RU} VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
FIFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL STUDENT SYMPOSIUM ON THE PRESIDENCY
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From RELEASE

~~8:00 AM~~ Friday, MARCH 29, 1974

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Dr. Hoxie, I want to express my sincere thanks to you and the Center
For The Study Of The Presidency for your kind invitation to speak in the
context of this year's theme, "The People, The Congress, And The Presidency".

This is a difficult assignment for a Vice President ^{AWARE THAT HE} ~~who would not dare to speak~~
~~in behalf of the people~~ **WAS NOT ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE,** who is no longer a Member of the ^{House} ~~Congress~~, and is

certainly not to be confused with the high office of the President .
Many distinguished political leaders --- including some former vice
presidents --- had little regard for the office .
President Harry S. Truman would have been amused by your selection

of a Vice President to address the theme you have chosen . President Truman ,
speaking from his own experience, said that "the relationship between the President
and the Vice-President is complicated, and it is complicated further by the fact
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President as ^{their} a presiding officer only, he is actually "outside the pale as far
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Vice President Alben W. Barkley, upon assuming office, commented that "Inasmuch as I am about to enter upon the discharge of duties that require four year^s/of silence, I will be brief . "

Woodrow Wilson said ~~the Vice President's position was one of~~ ^{thought} ~~"utterly insignificant and curious uncertainty"~~ Wilson ~~the~~ the Vice President's role in the Senate was "to moderate the proceedings of an assembly whose rules he had no voice in framing and can have no voice in changing." ~~Wilson added that the~~ "chief embarrassment" in discussing ^the Vice President's office is, that in explaining how little there is to be said about it, one has evidently said all there is to say . "

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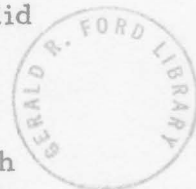
~~_____~~



Wilson's Vice President, Thomas Marshall ^{said} ~~described himself as~~ ^{he} a ~~psychiatric~~ patient in a catatonic condition who "is conscious of all that goes on but has no part in it." Marshall went on to say ~~that~~ he would rather be made a regent of the Smithsonian Institution so that ^{he could} compare ^{his} fossilized life with the fossils of all ages. ^{Incidentally, I am now a Regent of the Smithsonian, so I don't face that choice.} And I would point out that Mr. Marshall's main claim to fame is his comment ~~that~~ "what this country needs is Benjamin Franklin was against having a Vice President at all. Franklin said that "if they insist upon having one, I shall address him as "Your Superfluous Excellency ' ".

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With all respect to Theodore Roosevelt,

Although I have offered something of a dig at history, I AM NOT SEEKING
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feel qualified to become a professor. I am still the Vice President.
AM HONORED I agree more a Vice President who said
And I agree with John Nance Garner that the Vice Presidency is not
"a spare tire on the automobile of government."

PERSONAL

Accordingly, I would like to share some thoughts, with you tonight on the importance of studying the relationship of the Presidency to the Congress and the relevance of such study to the future leadership of our Nation. I commend the Center for pursuing citizenship education of the highest character because we are living at a time when confidence in the public service professions has today eroded. The word "politician" is almost a diatribe. Many are voicing distrust of our political system.

TOO MANY

What is to happen to our form of Government if persons in public office are suspected of corruption and self-interest? I make no excuse for bumbling bureaucrats or dishonest politicians. But I do point out that our political system works so well that a few rotten apples cannot turn it sour.



The body politic of America is healthy. It contains the strength to heal itself. ^{IT CAN} find renewed vigor and energy. ^{WE} But ^{WE} need new blood.

~~WE~~ need the talented young people ~~who~~ assembled here tonight from universities throughout the Nation. ~~WE~~ need educators like Dr. Hoxie ^{TO PROMOTE} to share in ~~our free society's responsibility~~ for the quality of our national life --- and the quality of our politicians.

~~Today's students are tomorrow's leaders.~~ America can expect integrity. no more of its leaders than the full measure of their capacities and ~~full~~ full We must not only expect that/measure --- we must demand it.

~~I am proud to be an American and I love this Nation.~~ So I regret ~~that~~ there is such a widespread disappointment in our political system and in politics generally. Much has been made of the President's low rating of only about 26 % in a recent popularity poll. But ^{NOTICE} ~~obscure~~ that the polls also disclosed that the people rated Congress at a mere 21 % ---- several notches below the President.

This indicates ~~that~~ the public is not only unhappy with the Executive Branch but even less pleased with the Congress.

It also indicates ^{TO RESTORE} that the time has come ~~to~~ ~~in~~ ~~and~~ ~~work~~ ~~to~~ ~~restore~~ our political system to a status that will generate public confidence.

~~That~~ is a tremendous challenge to those who choose a career in politics. We simply must do a better job. And I refer both to the Executive and Legislative branches and to both ~~major~~ major political parties.

Americans are tired of rhetoric. The people want results. They do not care ~~whether~~ whether Republicans or Democrats do the job. But

they want the job done. Elected officials must perform or face rejection at the polls.



This is a government of separate but equal branches, of checks and balances. Our strength lies in the two-party system. It requires the competition bred by free enterprise. We need two viable parties if each is to monitor the other. We also need an element of mutual trust to unite Americans in a bi-partisan spirit to face problems at home and abroad.

The freedom of the American people is most directly asserted through representation in the Congress, in the co-equal power the legislative branch shares with the executive branch. And, because of my previous experience on Capitol Hill, I must warn against the danger of a so-called veto proof Congress. An effective Congress requires internal checks and balances.

I have now spent a little more than 100 days as Vice President. As I continue to familiarize myself with my role, it appears less constricted by history and more determined by emerging needs. We must look forward rather than backward. We seek new perceptions.

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


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Common sense & compromise.

mediating and moderating differences, remaining open and flexible, to keep America great.

to achieve this, the Vice President must
~~And I shall certainly remain my~~ own man. The only pledge by which I have bound myself in accepting the President's trust is the commitment by which we are all bound, before God and the Constitution, to do our best for America.

I share these thoughts with you tonight because I am convinced that the United States is not finished. We are a nation with troubles. But we will prevail because I see in this hall the evidence of continuity of leadership. I see young ~~men~~ ^{men} and women who will enter the process of politics and give new energies to the national redemption that we will achieve. We stand on the threshold of a ~~new~~ ^{better} tomorrow.

The structures of government and their relationship, one to the other, ultimately rest upon the human quality and character of the government's personnel. And I ~~currently~~ believe that this is a Nation of talent and virtue. Such a nation will assert its bountiful future in terms of self respect --- mutual respect --- and your involvement will redeem America.

I thank you.



REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
FIFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL STUDENT SYMPOSIUM ON THE PRESIDENCY
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE PRESIDENCY
AT THE SHERATON INN & INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER
RESTON, VIRGINIA
8:00 P.M. FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1974

FOR RELEASE IN SATURDAY A.M.'S

I am honored by your invitation to address the Fifth Annual National Student Symposium on the Presidency and to meet with so many outstanding young people from the academic centers of America.

I deeply regret the absence of one of the real moving spirits in the development of the Center, my good friend Jim Hagerty. I am well aware of Jim's valuable work as co-chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Center. I hope and trust he will soon be helping again in the continuation of this impressive program.

Dr. Hoxie, I want to express my sincere thanks to you and the Center for the Study of the Presidency for your kind invitation to speak in the context of this year's theme, "The People, The Congress, and The Presidency." This is a difficult assignment for a Vice President aware that he was not elected by the people, who is no longer a Member of the House, and is certainly not to be confused with the high office of the President.

Many distinguished political leaders -- including some former vice presidents -- had little regard for the office.

President Harry S. Truman would have been amused by your selection of a Vice President to address the theme you have chosen. President Truman, speaking from his own experience, said that "the relationship between the President and the Vice-President is complicated, and it is complicated further by the fact that the

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Vice President is in between the legislative and executive branches of the government without, in the last analysis, being responsible to either."

Harry Truman went on to say that while the Senators look on the Vice President as their presiding officer only, he is actually "outside the pale as far as the Senatorial club is concerned."

Vice President Alben W. Barkley, upon assuming office, commented that "Inasmuch as I am about to enter upon the discharge of duties that require four years of silence, I will be brief."

Woodrow Wilson said that "chief embarrassment" in discussing the Vice President's office is, that "in explaining how little there is to be said about it, one has evidently said all there is to say."

Wilson's Vice President, Thomas Marshall, said "he would rather be made a regent of the Smithsonian Institution so that he could compare his fossilized life with the fossils of all ages." Incidentally, I am now a regent of the Smithsonian, so I don't face that choice. And I would point out that Mr. Marshall's main claim to fame is his comment "what this country needs is a good 5 cent cigar."

Benjamin Franklin was against having a Vice President at all. Franklin said that "if they insist upon having one, I shall address him as 'Your Superfluous Excellency'."

Thomas Jefferson took a philosophical view. He said that "the second office of this government is honorable and easy; the first is but a splendid misery."

Theodore Roosevelt thought the vice presidency was "really a fifth wheel." He said "it is not a stepping stone to anything but oblivion." And he went on to comment that he would rather be anybody, say a professor of history, than Vice President."

With all respect to Theodore Roosevelt, I am not seeking to become a professor. I am honored to be Vice President. I agree more with a Vice President who said the Vice Presidency is

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not "a spare tire on the automobile of government."

Accordingly, I would like to share some personal thoughts. I commend the Center for pursuing citizenship education. We are living at a time when confidence in the public service professions has eroded. The word "politician" is today almost a diatribe. Many are voicing distrust of our political system.

What is to happen to our form of Government if too many persons in public office are suspected of corruption and self-interest? I make no excuse for bumbling bureaucrats or dishonest politicians. But I do point out that our political system works so well that a few rotten apples cannot turn it sour.

The body politic of America is healthy. It contains the strength to heal itself. It can find renewed vigor and energy.

But we need new blood. We need the talented young people assembled here tonight from universities throughout the Nation. We need educators like Dr. Hoxie to promote the quality of our national life -- and the quality of our politicians.

America can expect no more of its leaders than the full measure of their capacities and integrity. We must not only expect that full measure -- we must demand it.

I regret there is such a widespread disappointment in our political system and in politics generally. Much has been made of the President's low rating of only about 26% in a recent popularity poll. But notice that the polls also disclosed that the people rated Congress at a mere 21% -- several notches below the President.

This indicates the public is not only unhappy with the Executive Branch but even less pleased with the Congress.

It also indicates that the time has come to restore our political system to a status that will generate public confidence.

That is a tremendous challenge to those who choose a career in politics. We simply must do a better job. And I refer both to the Executive and Legislative branches and to both major political parties.

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Americans are tired of rhetoric. The people want results. They do not care whether Republicans or Democrats do the job. But they want the job done. Elected officials must perform or face rejection at the polls.

This is a government of separate but equal branches, of checks and balances. Our strength lies in the two-party system. It requires the competition bred by free enterprise. We need two viable parties if each is to monitor the other. We also need an element of mutual trust to unite Americans in a bi-partisan spirit to face problems at home and abroad.

The freedom of the American people is most directly asserted through representation in the Congress, in the co-equal power the legislative branch shares with the executive branch. And, because of my previous experience on Capitol Hill, I must warn against the danger of a so-called veto proof Congress. An effective Congress requires internal checks and balances.

I have now spent a little more than 100 days as Vice President. As I continue to familiarize myself with my role, it appears less constricted by history and more determined by emerging needs. We must look forward rather than backward. We see new perceptions.

Of course, we learn from the past and cherish our great history -- and even sometimes regret our mistakes. But we live for the present and the future. I do not believe in endlessly replaying last Saturday's game but in training hard for next Saturday's. The upcoming game is the most important of all.

But the game must not be a spectator sport involving too many passive viewers. It is not a super bowl to be played by a few and watched by many. It is actually a massive test of our concept of self-government in which all must participate in every corner of America.

When I became Vice President, I pledged to use whatever reputation for truth and fairness I acquired in the House along with whatever capacity for reasonable compromise I might possess to make this Government work better for the good of all Americans.

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I refer not only to the differences between the House and Senate, between the Congress and the Executive branch, but also among the individuals of both parties.

I believe the Vice Presidency presents a unique opportunity as its perspective is both legislative and executive, making possible communication and compromise.

As Vice President, I seek reconciliation, not recrimination.

While this may not be a spectacular role for the next three years, it is the way I see it. I do not share the pessimism or withdrawal syndrome of some of my predecessors. I envisage a vice-presidential function involving solid and responsible work for the future, at home and abroad, while mediating and moderating differences, remaining open and flexible, to keep America great.

To achieve this, the Vice President must remain his own man. The only pledge by which I have bound myself in accepting the President's trust is the commitment by which we are all bound, before God and the Constitution, to do our best for America.

I share these thoughts with you tonight because I am convinced that the United States is not finished. We are a nation with troubles. But we will prevail because I see in this hall the evidence of continuity of leadership. I see young men and women who will enter the process of politics and give new energies to the national redemption that we will achieve. We stand on the threshold of a better tomorrow.

The structures of government and their relationship, one to the other, ultimately rest upon the human quality and character of the government's personnel. And I believe that this is a Nation of talent and virtue. Such a nation will assert its bountiful future in terms of self respect -- mutual respect -- and your involvement will redeem America.

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