

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 23, 1975

NATIONAL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE DINNER  
 CONRAD HILTON HOTEL, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
 JANUARY 23, 1975, 7:00 PM

Vice President Rockefeller tonight told the National Business Leadership Conference that, "President Ford has emerged as the strong, decisive leader that the Nation has always called forth in times of crisis."

The Vice President went on to say: "It has been my privilege as Vice President for the past few weeks to observe at close hand the tremendous dedication and courage of this man in facing these unparalleled economic and social problems. His deep concern for the individual, his perception and analysis of the powerful forces of change have been the basis for the bold and imaginative proposals he has presented to the Congress to shape these forces and to meet our needs as a Nation.

"The problems are so complex and inter-related that there can be differing points of view as to the actions that should be taken in this time of crisis. But the President has had the courage to put forth his programs, a comprehensive program, a tough but good program.

"Now, under our system, Congress has the responsibility to respond positively by adopting the President's program or to come up with a program of its own which recognizes the critical nature of this situation and which is comprehensive and bold enough to deal with the crisis that confronts us.

"This society now finds itself more seriously challenged than at any time short of war. In fact, the future of democracy and freedom throughout the world are being challenged. Can democratic free societies discipline themselves to take the tough measures necessary to deal with the revolutionary economic and social changes taking place throughout the world?

"If we move intelligently and decisively on all fronts we can deal with the problems. We can increase employment, control inflation, restore sound growth and continue to improve the quality of life for all.

"It is not going to be easy. It is going to take self discipline and sacrifice. But, it can be done.

"This is the greatest challenge we have ever faced. Yet, I have abiding faith in the American people and in our system. We can meet the challenges of our time and out of it a better world and a better Nation will emerge."

"The Vice President also praised the organization sponsoring the business conference, Junior Achievement, Inc.:

"We built this unrivalled society through individual initiative and private enterprise. Through Junior Achievement, you are awakening in new generations of Americans an awareness of the role of private enterprise in this Nation's swift rise to greatness. You are helping to keep alive and lively the critical spark of individual creativity that has long characterized the American people."

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