

The original documents are located in Box 127, folder “Dec. 6, 1973 - Remarks, Swearing-In as Vice President” of the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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REMARKS UPON TAKING OATH OF OFFICE AS
VICE PRESIDENT, DECEMBER 5, 1973.



*Mr. President / Mr. Speaker / Mr. Chief Justice /
Mr. President Pro Tempore / distinguished guests and friends*

TOGETHER / WE HAVE MADE HISTORY HERE

TODAY. FOR THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE CARRIED
OUT THE COMMANDS OF THE 25TH AMENDMENT.

IN EXACTLY EIGHT WEEKS, WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED
TO THE WORLD THAT OUR GREAT REPUBLIC STANDS
SOLID AND STRONG UPON THE BEDROCK OF THE
CONSTITUTION.

(GRIN)

-2-

I AM A FORD, NOT A LINCOLN. MY
ADDRESSES WILL NEVER BE AS ELOQUENT AS
LINCOLN'S. BUT I WILL DO MY BEST TO EQUAL
HIS BREVITY AND PLAIN SPEAKING.



I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO YOU,
MR. PRESIDENT, FOR THE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE
YOUR NOMINATION IMPLIED. / AS I HAVE
THROUGHOUT MY PUBLIC SERVICE UNDER SIX
ADMINISTRATIONS, I WILL TRY TO SET A HIGH
EXAMPLE OF RESPECT FOR THE CRUSHING AND
LONELY BURDENS WHICH THE NATION LAYS UPON

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. YOU
HAVE MY SUPPORT AND LOYALTY.

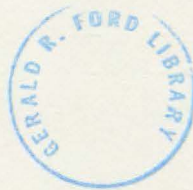


TO THE CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, MY
FORMER COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE ELECTED ME ON
BEHALF OF OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN, I EXPRESS
MY HEARTFELT THANKS. AS A MAN OF CONGRESS,
LET ME REAFFIRM MY CONVICTION THAT THE
COLLECTIVE WISDOM OF OUR TWO GREAT
LEGISLATIVE BODIES, "WHILE NOT INFALLIBLE,"
WILL IN THE END SERVE THE PEOPLE FAITHFULLY
AND WELL. I WILL NOT FORGET THE PEOPLE OF
MICHIGAN WHO SENT ME TO THIS CHAMBER OR
THE FRIENDS I HAVE FOUND HERE.

MR. SPEAKER, I UNDERSTAND THAT
THE UNITED STATES SENATE INTENDS IN A VERY
FEW MINUTES TO BIND ME BY ITS RULES. FOR
THEIR PRESIDING OFFICER, THIS AMOUNTS
PRACTICALLY TO A VOW OF SILENCE. YOU KNOW
HOW DIFFICULT THIS IS GOING TO BE FOR ME. /
BEFORE I GO FROM THIS HOUSE WHICH HAS BEEN
MY HOME FOR A QUARTER CENTURY, I MUST SAY
I AM FOREVER IN ITS DEBT. THANK YOU,
MR. SPEAKER, FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP, WHICH
I CERTAINLY AM NOT LEAVING. TO YOU,
MR. SPEAKER, AND TO ALL MY FRIENDS HERE --

(SMILE)

Mr. Speaker



" HOWEVER YOU VOTED AN HOUR AGO " -- I SAY A
FOND GOODBYE. MAY GOD BLESS THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES AND GUIDE YOU IN ALL THE
DAYS AHEAD.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE, MAY I THANK
YOU PERSONALLY FOR ADMINISTERING THE OATH,
AND THANK EACH OF THE HONORABLE JUSTICES FOR
HONORING ME WITH YOUR ATTENDANCE. I PLEDGE
TO YOU AS I DID THE DAY I WAS FIRST
ADMITTED TO THE BAR, MY DEDICATION TO THE
RULE OF LAW AND EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL
AMERICANS.



FOR STANDING BY MY SIDE / AS SHE
ALWAYS HAS, THERE ARE NO WORDS TO TELL YOU,
MY DEAR WIFE AND MOTHER OF OUR FOUR
WONDERFUL CHILDREN, HOW MUCH THEIR BEING
HERE MEANS TO ME.

AS I LOOK INTO THE FACES THAT FILL
THIS FAMILIAR ROOM, AND AS I IMAGINE THOSE
FACES IN OTHER ROOMS ACROSS THE LAND, I DO
NOT SEE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH / OR
OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH / OR OF THE JUDICIAL
BRANCH OF OUR GOVERNMENT, THOUGH I AM VERY



MUCH AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THE
SEPARATE BUT COEQUAL BRANCHES OF OUR FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT IN BALANCE. I DO NOT SEE
SENATORS OR REPRESENTATIVES. NOR DO I SEE
REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS, VITAL AS THE
TWO-PARTY SYSTEM IS TO SUSTAIN FREEDOM
AND RESPONSIBLE SELF-GOVERNMENT.



AT THIS MOMENT OF VISIBLE AND
LIVING UNITY, I SEE ONLY AMERICANS. I SEE
AMERICANS WHO LOVE THEIR COUNTRY, AMERICANS
WHO WORK AND SACRIFICE FOR THEIR COUNTRY AND
THEIR CHILDREN. I SEE AMERICANS WHO PRAY
WITHOUT CEASING FOR PEACE AMONG ALL NATIONS
AND FOR HARMONY AT HOME. I SEE NEW
GENERATIONS OF CONCERNED AND COURAGEOUS
AMERICANS -- BUT THE SAME KIND OF
AMERICANS -- THE CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN
OF THOSE AMERICANS WHO MET THE CHALLENGE
OF DECEMBER 7TH JUST THIRTY TWO YEARS AGO.



I LIKE WHAT I SEE. I AM NOT DISCOURAGED. I AM INDEED HUMBLE TO BE THE 40TH VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, BUT I AM PROUD -- VERY PROUD -- TO BE ONE OF 200,000,000 AMERICANS.

I PROMISE MY FELLOW CITIZENS ONLY THIS: TO UPHOLD THE CONSTITUTION, TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT AS GOD GIVES ME TO SEE THE RIGHT, AND WITHIN THE LIMITED POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENCY, TO DO THE VERY BEST I CAN FOR AMERICA.



I WILL DO THESE THINGS WITH ALL THE STRENGTH
AND GOOD SENSE I HAVE, AND WITH YOUR HELP,
AND THROUGH YOUR PRAYERS.

-- END --



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 2, 1976

RUTH:

I thought you might like to have a copy of the attached for your files.

The one our Research Office furnished as the first speech Vice President Ford made after taking the Oath of Office on December 6, 1973 was not the correct one.

We have given them a copy of this speech for their files.

Neta



VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD

Address delivered before a Joint Session of the Congress on December 6, 1973, immediately after taking the Oath of Office as the 40th Vice President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chief Justice, Mr. President pro tempore, distinguished guests and friends:

Together we have made history here today. For the first time we have carried out the command of the 25th Amendment. In exactly 8 weeks, we have demonstrated to the world that our great Republic stands solid, stands strong upon the bedrock of the Constitution.

I am a Ford, not a Lincoln. My addresses will never be as eloquent as Mr. Lincoln's. But I will do my very best to equal his brevity and his plain speaking.

I am deeply grateful to you, Mr. President, for the trust and the confidence your nomination implies.

As I have throughout my public service under six administrations I will try to set a fine example of respect for the crushing and lonely burdens which the Nation lays upon the

the President of the United States. Mr. President, you have my support and my loyalty.

To the Congress assembled, my former colleagues who have elected me on behalf of our fellow countrymen, I express my heartfelt thanks.

As a man of the Congress, let me reaffirm my conviction that the collective wisdom of our two great legislative bodies, while not infallible, will in the end serve the people faithfully and very, very well. I will not forget the people of Michigan who sent me to this Chamber or the friends that I have found here.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the United States Senate intends in a very few minutes to bind me by its rules. For their Presiding Officer, this amounts practically to a vow of silence. Mr. Speaker, you know how difficult this is going to be for me.

Before I go from this House, which has been my home for a quarter century, I must say I am forever in its debt.

And particularly, Mr. Speaker, thank you for your friendship which I certainly am not leaving. To you, Mr. Speaker, and to all of my friends here, however you voted an hour ago, I say a very fond goodbye. May God bless the House of Representatives and guide all of you in the days ahead.

Mr. Chief Justice, may I thank you personally for administering the oath, and thank each of the Honorable Justices for honoring me with your attendance. I pledge to you, as I did the day I was first admitted to the bar, my dedication to the rule of law and equal justice for all Americans.

For standing by my side as she always has, there are no words to tell you, my dear wife and mother of our four wonderful children, how much their being here means to me.

As I look into the faces that fill this familiar room, and as I imagine those faces in other rooms across the land, I do not see members of the legislative branch or the executive branch or the judicial branch, though I am very much aware of the importance of keeping the separate but coequal branches of our

within the limited powers and duties of the Vice Presidency,
to do the very best that I can for America.

I will do these things with all the strength and
good sense that I have, with your help, and through your
prayers.

Thank you.

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REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
TO THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1973

For Release on Delivery

I wish to thank the Joint Leadership for affording me the opportunity to speak to the Senate from the Presiding Officer's Chair, notwithstanding your rules, which I will hereafter respect.

Senators, a funny thing happened to me on the way to becoming the Speaker of the House of Representatives

The last leader of the Other Body who came directly to this Presiding Officer's Chair was the legendary Speaker and Vice President John Nance Garner. His first and last speech to the United States Senate on March 4, 1933 was a model of brevity which I shall seek to emulate. I have been schooled by the five minute Rule, and never learned to filibuster until the recent hearings on my confirmation.

Before your Committee on Rules and Administration I got a cram course in how the Senate does its work -- under some very strict but learned teachers. I thank them for their diligence and the dignity with which they performed the first phase of the Constitutional mandate of the Congress under the 25th Amendment.

I am deeply grateful also to all Senators for the confidence which was reflected in your vote -- grateful to those who voted Nay as well as Yea -- for your confidence was in the capacity of our political institutions to meet new challenges without the extremes of passion and partisanship that have brought less sturdy republics to ruin.

To the distinguished Senators who examined my fitness to be your Presiding Officer I pledged my conviction that truth is the glue that holds government together. In the subsequent hearings before the Committee on the Judiciary of the House I added that compromise is the oil that makes government go.

This evening let me add one final thought: Love of America and faith in the goodness of this great country of ours is the power which unites all of us, those who govern and those by whose consent we govern, as we pray for better tomorrows in a peaceful world.

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AN ADDRESS BY GERALD R. FORD
BEFORE A JOINT MEETING OF THE CONGRESS
AFTER BEING SWORN IN
AS THE 40th VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1973

Advance for release on delivery,
expected at 5 p.m.



Together we have made history here today. For the first time we have carried out the commands of the 25th Amendment. In exactly eight weeks, we have demonstrated to the world that our great Republic stands solid and strong upon the bedrock of the Constitution.

I am a Ford, not a Lincoln. My addresses will never be as eloquent as Lincoln's. But I will do my best to equal his brevity and plain speaking.

I am deeply grateful to you, Mr. President, for the trust and confidence your nomination implied. As I have throughout my public service under six Administrations, I will try to set a high example of respect for the crushing and lonely burdens which the Nation lays upon the President of the United States. You have my support and loyalty.

To the Congress assembled, my former colleagues who have elected me on behalf of our fellow countrymen, I express my heartfelt thanks. Let me reaffirm my conviction as a man of Congress that the collective wisdom of our two great legislative bodies, while not infallible, will in the end serve the people faithfully and well. I will not forget the people of Michigan who sent me to this chamber or the friends I have found here.

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(more)

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As I look into the faces that fill this familiar room, and as I imagine those in other rooms across the land, I do not see members of the legislative branch or of the executive branch or of the judicial branch of our government, though I am very much aware of the importance of keeping the separate but coequal branches of our Federal Government in balance. I do not see Senators or Representatives. Nor do I see Republicans and Democrats, vital as the two-party system is to sustain freedom and responsible self-government.

At this moment of visible and living unity, I see only Americans. I see Americans who love their country, Americans who work and sacrifice for their country and their children. I see Americans who pray without ceasing for peace among all nations and for harmony at home. I see new generations of concerned and courageous Americans -- but the same kind of Americans -- the children and grandchildren of those Americans who met the challenge of December 7th just thirty two years ago.

I like what I see. I am not discouraged. I am indeed humble to be the 40th Vice President of the United States, but I am proud -- very proud -- to be one of 200,000,000 Americans.

I promise my fellow citizens only this: to uphold the Constitution, to do what is right as God gives me to see the right, and within the limited powers and duties of the Vice Presidency, to do the very best I can for America. I will do these things with all the strength and good sense I have, and with your help, and through your prayers.

#

MR. SPEAKER, MR. CHIEF JUSTICE, MR. PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, AND FRIENDS:

TOGETHER WE HAVE MADE HISTORY HERE TODAY. FOR THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE CARRIED OUT THE COMMAND OF THE 25TH AMENDMENT. IN EXACTLY 8 WEEKS, WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED TO THE WORLD THAT OUR GREAT REPUBLIC STANDS SOLID, STANDS STRONG UPON THE BEDROCK OF THE CONSTITUTION.

I AM A FORD, NOT A LINCOLN. MY ADDRESSES WILL NEVER BE AS ELOQUENT AS MR. LINCOLN'S. BUT I WILL DO MY VERY BEST TO EQUAL HIS BREVITY AND HIS PLAIN SPEAKING.

I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, FOR THE TRUST AND THE CONFIDENCE YOUR NOMINATION IMPLIES.

AS I HAVE THROUGHOUT MY PUBLIC SERVICE UNDER SIX ADMINISTRATIONS I WILL TRY TO SET A FINE EXAMPLE OF RESPECT FOR THE CRUSHING AND LONELY BURDENS WHICH THE NATION LAYS UPON THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. MR. PRESIDENT, YOU HAVE MY SUPPORT AND MY LOYALTY.

TO THE CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, MY FORMER COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE ELECTED ME ON BEHALF OF OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN, I EXPRESS MY HEARTFELT THANKS.

AS A MAN OF THE CONGRESS, LET ME REAFFIRM MY CONVICTION THAT THE COLLECTIVE WISDOM OF OUR TWO GREAT LEGISLATIVE BODIES, WHILE NOT INFALLIBLE, WILL IN THE END SERVE THE PEOPLE FAITHFULLY AND VERY, VERY WELL. I WILL NOT FORGET THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN WHO SENT ME TO THIS CHAMBER OR THE FRIENDS THAT I HAVE FOUND HERE.

MR. SPEAKER, I UNDERSTAND THAT THE UNITED STATES SENATE INTENDS IN A VERY FEW MINUTES TO BIND ME BY ITS RULES. FOR THEIR PRESIDING OFFICER, THIS AMOUNTS PRACTICALLY TO A VOW OF SILENCE. MR. SPEAKER, YOU KNOW HOW DIFFICULT THIS IS GOING TO BE FOR ME.

BEFORE I GO FROM THIS HOUSE, WHICH HAS BEEN MY HOME FOR A QUARTER CENTURY, I MUST SAY I AM FOREVER IN ITS DEBT.



21
AND PARTICULARLY, MR. SPEAKER, THANK YOU FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP WHICH I CERTAINLY AM NOT LEAVING. TO YOU, MR. SPEAKER, AND TO ALL OF MY FRIENDS HERE, HOWEVER YOU VOTED AN HOUR AGO, I SAY A VERY FOND GOODBYE. MAY GOD BLESS THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND GUIDE ALL OF YOU IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE, MAY I THANK YOU PERSONALLY FOR ADMINISTERING THE OATH AND THANK EACH OF THE HONORABLE JUSTICES FOR HONORING ME WITH YOUR ATTENDANCE. I PLEDGE TO YOU, AS I DID THE DAY I WAS FIRST ADMITTED TO THE BAR, MY DEDICATION TO THE RULE OF LAW AND EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL AMERICANS.

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MR. SPEAKER, I LIKE WHAT I SEE.



MR. SPEAKER, I AM NOT DISCOURAGED AND AM INDEED HUMBLE TO BE THE 40TH VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, BUT I AM PROUD - VERY PROUD - TO BE ONE OF 200 MILLION AMERICANS. I PROMISE MY FELLOW CITIZENS ONLY THIS: TO UPHOLD THE CONSTITUTION, TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT AS GOD GIVES ME TO SEE THE RIGHT, AND WITHIN THE LIMITED POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENCY, TO DO THE VERY BEST THAT I CAN FOR AMERICA.

I WILL DO THESE THINGS WITH ALL THE STRENGTH AND GOOD SENSE THAT I HAVE , AND THROUGH YOUR PRAYERS.

THANK YOU.



Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, members of the Supreme Court, members of the Cabinet, members of the Congress, and friends all:

I am swept by many emotions as I stand here before you, the first Vice President in our history to be appointed to office. Most of all, I feel very humble. At the same time I see my new job as an exciting challenge.

I have been, in effect, elected to the office of Vice President by members of Congress. I am grateful for the vote of confidence I have received from my peers. It is the next best thing to a vote of the people. I believe that together we can do much to build public confidence in our political processes.

We have made history here today. We have established precedents for generations to come.

Now let us do our utmost to erase from our lives the atmosphere of continuous political confrontation that has so often pervaded relations between the Congress and the Executive Branch.

I have been told that my hope of acting as a conciliator between the legislative and executive branches of the Federal Government is an empty dream. I do not believe that. As I look into the faces of the men and women I have served with in the Congress, I see great encouragement. I like what I read there; I do not despair.

Perhaps what we all should do is to take a cue from our young people, those who are so concerned about the quality of our lives.

I take courage from the bit of history we are enacting today. I do believe the legislative and executive branches of our government can work together, although they are divided politically. I am confident that you and I -- all of us -- will join hands to help heal this country and to lift this Nation to new heights.

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STANLEY J. CHARLAMB, M. D.
MIDTOWN PLAZA, SUITE 723
700 EAST WATER STREET
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13210



Stanley J. Charlamb, M.D.
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file

AN ADDRESS BY GERALD R. FORD
BEFORE A JOINT MEETING OF THE CONGRESS
AFTER BEING SWORN IN
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1973



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###



Gerald R. Ford

December 11, 1973

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
Vice President of the United States
Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

On behalf of the American Broadcasting Company, I extend most gracious thanks to you for making your first network guest appearance an exclusive one for ISSUES AND ANSWERS. We were so happy to have you as the "man of the hour."

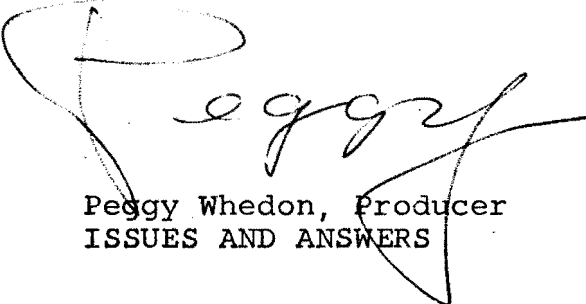
The news coverage received from your appearance has been tremendous; front-page news was made in The Washington Post, The Baltimore Sun, The Philadelphia Inquirer, and The Wall Street Journal. Transcript requests have been above our normal flow.

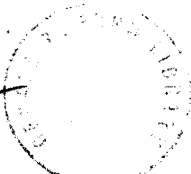
I am also most grateful to Paul for being such a great press secretary and for being so patient with us in lining you up for ISSUES AND ANSWERS. I'm sure he has a stack of letters and telegrams.

Once again, thank you Mr. Vice President.

With every good wish, I am,

Most cordially,


Peggy Whedon, Producer
ISSUES AND ANSWERS



CC: Paul Miltich