

The original documents are located in Box D18, folder “Amway Sales Convention, Grand Rapids, May 29, 1965” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. The Council donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Amway Sales Convention May 29th Grand Rapids

1965

In this age of consensus when the hand-out from Washington has become a way of life for millions of Americans, when citizens are virtually being forced to lean on the federal government, it is refreshing and inspiring to know there are those who still take a positive approach.

I speak of two young men in Ada, Michigan who are widely-known as "the co-founders of an American opportunity"... as working champions of the free enterprise system.

Rich DeVos and Jay VanAndel deserve long and loud applause for their pioneering spirit, their staunch belief in our Republic, and their dedication to the principles upon which this Nation was founded.

I salute the accomplishments of these businessmen and their courage for believing that each of us owes the world something.

At this crucial moment in our Nation's history, there is a strong need for Americans to give more of themselves than they receive.

Rich and Jay have summed up their philosophy, I believe, with just a few words when they said of their company "it is simply a group of people....doing the best job they know how, for the benefit of the most people."

more-



While we see thousands of Americans like you working very hard to make the free enterprise system continue to grow in the face of increasing federal control, we also see the need for more citizens to be aware of threats to our political society.

I believe there are several basic concepts deeply ingrained in our form of government that are in some jeopardy today.

It is my considered judgment and opinion that unless these basic concepts are saved, the situation in the next decade or two would be quite different.

I speak today in a non-partisan way. What I will discuss with you should be of concern to both Republicans and Democrats....and most certainly to the so-called independent voters who cast their ballots mainly in presidential elections....and who pride themselves on having no active interest in any one political party.

(GO TO SPEECH CARDS)



In this age of consensus when the hand-out from Washington has become a way of life for millions of Americans, when citizens are virtually being forced to lean on the federal government, it is refreshing and inspiring to know there are those who still take a positive approach.

I speak of two young men in Ada, Michigan who are widely-known as "the co-founders of an American opportunity"... as working champions of the free enterprise system.

Rich DeVos and Jay VanAndel deserve long and loud applause for their pioneering spirit, their staunch belief in our Republic, and their dedication to the principles upon which this Nation was founded.

I salute the accomplishments of these businessmen and their courage for believing that each of us owes the world something.

At this crucial moment in our Nation's history, there is a strong need for Americans to give more of themselves than they receive.

Rich and Jay have summed up their philosophy, I believe, with just a few words when they said of their company "it is simply a group of people....doing the best job they know how, for the benefit of the most people."



While we see thousands of Americans like you working very hard to make the free enterprise system continue to grow in the face of increasing federal control, we also see the need for more citizens to be aware of threats to our political society.

I believe there are several basic concepts deeply ingrained in our form of government that are in some jeopardy today.

It is my considered judgment and opinion that unless these basic concepts are saved, the situation in the next decade or two would be quite different.

I speak today in a non-partisan way. What I will discuss with you should be of concern to both Republicans and Democrats....and most certainly to the so-called independent voters who cast their ballots mainly in presidential elections....and who pride themselves on having no active interest in any one political party.

(GO TO SPEECH CAR 15)

