

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13, 1975

Office of the Vice President
(Norman, Oklahoma)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT RESIDENCE OF
MR. AND MRS. JACK BLACK
NORMAN, OKLAHOMA

(AT 12:15 P.M. CDT)

Thank you very much.

To have your two Senators, Dewey Bartlett and Henry Bellmon, old colleagues in the gubernatorial ranks, and to be here with Ray Shafer, it is sort of like a reunion.

I want to tell you there are no two finer representatives in the Senate of the United States than the two distinguished gentlemen you have sent down there to represent you, and you are lucky.

Not only are you lucky but we are lucky as a country, and that is even more important to the nation as a whole, because we are all part of a big nation.

I would like to thank Jack and Claudia for this hospitality and bringing together such a wonderfully attractive and friendly and gracious group of men and women, as you have done. This is the nicest party and I am deeply grateful to you.

Happy feels very badly not to be here, but her daughter was going to boarding school for the first time yesterday and she felt -- and I think she was right -- that she ought to be with her and take her, which she did.

She would love to have been here. I talked to her on the phone this morning. She sent her best to everybody. She is going to miss the game this afternoon, but she is with you in spirit.

So I want to thank you very much, the two Blacks, for what you have done in making this party possible, and letting me have the pleasure of meeting so many wonderful people. It is a very attractive gathering and you have awfully nice children.

I met some across the street. I don't know whose children they are, but they are awfully good looking. When you see these young people and you think about our responsibilities, those of us who are fortunate to be in office, whether we are elected or not.

(Laughter)

You just think, well maybe we sort of are the trustees for their future and that as such we have a tremendous responsibility.

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We have enjoyed and lived in one of the great periods in history of civilized man in this nation. We are a free nation. We have enjoyed the tremendous growth and prosperity and the spreading of opportunity for people.

Now we are in a period of rapidly changing accelerating change in the world with all kinds of new problems and, therefore, we have to reappraise and reexamine what has been done, what is happening in the world and what our responsibilities are.

This is the very serious moment because we are trustees for their future. What we do is going to determine whether they are going to enjoy the same kind of pleasures, privileges and opportunities which we have. So it is a serious moment as well as an exciting moment.

But before getting into that, I am clutching this button that somebody gave me, and I am very grateful. It says, "Getting better with age." I know about the age. I just hope I am getting better.

(Laughter)

I have got to put it on. You Okies look so young that I don't think I will. But I would like to say what a pleasure it is to have the chance to be with Paula, and I congratulate you on picking a woman as your State Chairman because I am a great believer that brilliance is not confined, nor leadership qualities, to the male sex alone.

Therefore, to see someone with her ability and enthusiasm and drive and leadership qualities taking hold as she has, to me gives the kind of confidence in the future of the Republican Party that one likes to feel, because, let's face it, there are more women in this country than there are men anyhow.

We had a wonderful drive over. I have to say I was impressed. I have been in politics a long time. We have had some very fine State chairmen and we have a very good one right now. But, Paula, he has got nothing on you.

So when I get here and meet Brenda, that has got to be a second thrill for me and I just want to tell you, I am also impressed. I think this shows what is happening in the Republican Party.

Sure, we are a minority party and you think you are a minority party here, but you ought to come to New York. We have a million votes registered plurality against us.

So we are familiar with this thing. We have to open our arms and take in all of the people of this country and I think slowly they are beginning to realize and particularly in this period where we are going through some very difficult moments of reappraisal.

I am going to come to what Dewey was saying in the car, because he put it in a way that I think makes it very simple and

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clear to see what is ahead of us and what we have to do now, if we are going to avoid the dangers that are ahead. In doing so, I think the Republican Party's basic principles and precepts are those which this country needs at this moment in history.

They needed it before but they need it right now, that combination of fiscal integrity and deep human concern is what General Eisenhower talked about, the head and the heart.

This combination is really the essence of the strength of our Judeo-Christian heritage, our democratic heritage, the pioneer days, and bringing us right down to the present.

I would also like to mention Nancy because this tradition is carrying on here and I am very impressed with her, too.

Then, of course, your National Committeeman and your National Committeewoman, Skip and Grace, two friends of George Hinman, who is here, and two distinguished representatives on the national scene.

The National Party is very important, as well as the State and the local parties because this is the whole fabric. I must say that those of you who are in Party organization work, who give of your time and energy, are the unsung heroes of our democratic system because the men and women who work in the Party, who give the time, they do it voluntarily.

It is part of the great tradition in America of not only opportunity, but responsibility and the assumption of responsibility by individual citizens.

Those who select the party of their choice and then work in it, that I admire.

I want to thank all of you who are leaders at various levels in the Party, State, County, national, local, because this is what gives the strength of the two-party system and the two-party system is the vitality of our free society.

I would like to salute all of you distinguished Republicans and discerning Democrats who are here in this room.

(Laughter)

I have to mention discerning Democrats because, frankly, had it not been for some discerning Democrats, I wouldn't have been Governor. So I am very grateful to them. I think this is one of the strengths of our country, that voters today are very selective.

They have Party affiliations. Some don't, but most do. If they feel that a man or a woman running for office can better reflect their feelings, their thinking about the needs of the country, at whatever level, they are willing to switch. That is the strength of democracy.

I would like especially to thank all of you who have come here, particularly those who had the courage as Democrats

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to come here and to support the Party financially because I have mentioned the leadership and the workers. They need some financial support because this is not an inexpensive business trying to run.

We have some very interesting new laws that Congress has passed about spending for campaigns. It has been very helpful to some of us, but it makes it very difficult for the Party.

My family is grateful.

(Laughter)

As a matter of fact, they feel they got me off their back for the first time in 20 years. But it does mean that the Party has more trouble so that this leads us into a situation where, in a wonderful gathering like this, the Blacks have made possible, where all of you people who have a deep interest in, concern for the well-being of this country and the future of this country and your coming here, and your making possible through your contributions the strength of the Party, not only for the County because this is a very wonderful County and a very attractive group of people, as I said.

The State organization, of course, has a fund for candidates. As candidates, they support throughout the whole State so that if you have any surplus money, they could use that to help you with your candidates. I am just thinking out loud here as we are going along.

(Laughter)

Let me just go back for a moment to what Dewey and I were talking about in the car. He was talking about a conversation he had with a very bright Assistant Secretary in the Department of the Treasury, who was looking ahead at the projections of the rate of growth in government spending in this country.

I think probably everybody in this room recognizes the fact that business and private enterprise produce 83 percent of the tax revenues directly or indirectly for government. They do it either through the taxes you pay or through the earnings and taxes that your employees pay or dividends.

That is what keeps America going. It is this free enterprise system, the creativity of individuals, the imagination and the great flexibility which exists so somebody who has a new idea is not inhibited. He can go out and do it, carry it out, or she can, and if it is successful, then it grows.

That is what built America. That is why in 200 years we have reached a standard of living higher than any other known civilization in the history of man. It is fantastic. It is this free system and the creativity of the individuals. That is what has made possible government's ability to do things for people.

We have a little problem in that we have had this wonderful history and, based on our spiritual heritage of

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wanting to help those in need and we have reached out the hand of fellowship to help those in need and perhaps gets mixed up sometimes a little bit with politics.

We overreach and we overpromise and we underdeliver and we overspend and we haven't got the revenue and we have gotten ourselves into a very tough situation because once you get these things started, they keep on rolling.

I have got to say that as Governor, I tried to do the things, whether it was an education in health or in other fields to help our people because I have always believed that good education and good health was essential to equality of opportunity and that this was the way people were prepared for really playing their role in a free society.

However, now we have about 863 Categorical Grants where the Federal Government is in every possible area that you can think of, where you could help anybody and all of those funds are on a matching basis and they say to the States, and Ray knows and Dewey knows, that if you enrich and improve your program, no matter how good it is, you may be spending too much money in that area already as we have been, but you have to enrich and improve in order to get the Federal money.

That is sort of dangled out here. It is attractive and you are under pressure because if you don't take it, you are criticized. If you do take it and you are enriched, then you find yourself caught with all of the regulations, both in the legislation and then the regulations by the bureaucracy, and they change those regulations all the time.

So the first thing you know with 863 of these, you no longer are in control of your operation. We now have reached a point in government, come to business in a minute, but in government, elected officials can say to their constituents, we are responsible for the management of this program and if you don't like the way it is being done, we will change it because they are dependent on two other levels of government.

This is a very dangerous situation in terms of our Federal system because it is the lack of responsibility of any elected official to be able to be responsive.

This is something that I think is very serious and the result is not only have people been disillusioned about government and become cynical about government, but they find that their elected officials cannot be responsive to them.

In the process, we get to what Dewey said, that with these programs, if you continue at the present rate, which is about a growth of 7 percent a year of GNP on spending, if you continue this down the road 10 years, it would take all of the earnings of corporations to pay the increased cost of government -- this would be not just what you pay in taxes, but all of your earnings -- to pay the increased cost of government in the next 10 years.

This is where we get to the problem of how does private

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enterprise continue to invest and expand and get employment because people want jobs in private enterprise, because that is where they got the security. They want those jobs.

How is that going to be done and how are we going to have the capital formation if this happens?

Then you add one other area which is the regulations, whether it is pure water, water quality, air quality, safety standards, equality of opportunity and all of the other regulations and those again are in the hands of both laws and bureaucracy, and the bureaucracy is constantly changing the regulations.

When you go to invest \$100 or \$100 million, you can't tell on the basis of your figures today whether the conditions will be changed, the regulations will be changed and you can't afford to make the investment.

Therefore, the danger is that you hesitate to make the investment and then the danger is if that happens, somewhere along the line people are going to start saying private enterprise is failing, the government has to take it over.

That is what worries me most. Then we have lost the vitality and the strength of our system. This is where we are in America today.

I will end up, because I know you all want to get to this game, and so do I. So I will end up very fast on this.

What the President wants to do is to recognize this reality of the trend we are on and the dangers of this trend in regulations, in expenditures, in the dampening effect, in the deadening effect it is having on the creativity of free enterprise, free citizens, and to restudy these and come up with recommendations of how do we restructure programs designed to help people all in a very sincere and dedicated way, but do it in a way that will really help the people and still do it in a way that won't destroy the society because in the long run the people are only going to be benefited by the strength of the society. We have seen that. That is where we have gotten.

That is our basic problem. This is the assignment on the domestic front. He has given the Domestic Council, and I am going to start very shortly having hearings around the country in the economic field, in the social field, hopefully that with alternatives for him so that in his January Message to the Congress of the United States he will be able to make recommendations how do we restructure these programs that are designed to help protect and strengthen individuals without undermining and destroying our system.

This is quite an exciting challenge but we have been 30 years doing this. Now is a good time to stop, take a hard look at this, and come up with a simplified system where you get rid of some of this red tape, overlapping and let's get back -- I feel very strongly and I am sure Dewey and Ray does -- let's get back where States have got a responsibility and local

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government has.

I believe in States' rights providing States assume their responsibility and always have, and I have fought for it. But States have lost that. Local governments are losing it.

Let's get it back to the strength that made America what it is today, and I believe very strongly in what you said, Dewey, that there are no problems that we face that we Americans can't handle if we want to do it. We do and we can.

I thank you for letting me be here.

END (AT 12:35 P.M. CDT)