

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of the Vice President  
(Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)

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PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE  
VICE PRESIDENT  
AT THE  
PITTSBURGH HILTON HOTEL  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

(AT 4:40 P.M. EST)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure and honor indeed, to be here in Pennsylvania, in Pittsburgh and to have the opportunity of appearing at the Fund Raising dinner for the Republican Party. I would just like to say that I have a great many friends here and had the particular pleasure of coming out on the plane with two men I admire tremendously, one a former governor of yours, Bill Scranton, with whom I have served and for whom I have a tremendous respect for his perception and understanding of the problems of State government; and then secondly, your senior Senator, Hugh Scott, whose presence in the Senate has been one of the sources of great satisfaction to me in the fact that I have the honor of presiding over that body.

He has been a friend of mine for a great many years, a long time associate, a man whom I admire tremendously. I would just like to say these are two people who in my opinion are the kind who have made this country what it is today, a powerful, strong, free land.

I would be delighted to answer any questions.

QUESTION: Governor?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Yes, sir.

QUESTION: Since Senator Mathias suggested a third force in the next campaign, have you developed any ideas on its advisability and would you support one if there were one?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No, sir. I have not developed any ideas on the subject. Secondly, I would say that President Ford is my candidate and in my opinion, he will be the nominee of the Republican Party. That is the man I am supporting.

QUESTION: Suppose he were not?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That is a speculation which seems to me so unlikely that I wouldn't give it consideration.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, are you concerned about the allegations about Senator Scott?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No, sir.

QUESTION: How do you consider the situation?

THE VICE PRESENT: I think he is one of the outstanding public servants in this country.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, you were Chairman of the National Commission on Productivity and in fact, three Pittsburghers also serve on this commission. What has the commission come up with in ways to increase our productivity and is an end to our economic trouble in sight?

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THE VICE PRESIDENT: I would wish that the Commission could bring an end to our economic troubles. I think the Commission is not in a position to undertake as extensive a project as that. But the Commission is working in three principal areas. One, that related to the morale and well being of the workers and their relationship with the management, which is a very important factor, one of the three factors.

Number two, science, technology and capital. The combination of these three, of course, is essential to maintaining a competitive free enterprise system.

Three, government regulation. Increasingly, government regulation is making it more difficult for not only free enterprise, the private enterprise, private individuals, but also for State and local government to use the kind of initiative and creativity that has been the strength of this country for the simple reason that there is so much uncertainty resulting from the number of regulatory bodies and the constant changing of regulations so to invest funds, you are not sure what the rules of the game are going to be.

And if you are not sure what the rules of the game are going to be, you hesitate to invest. Therefore, you don't invest, in many cases. This results in the lack of growth, the lack of jobs, the lack of strength and vitality in our economy. It is a serious factor.

The Commission is working in those three areas and will issue a report of its findings, initial findings within a matter of weeks.

QUESTION: Governor, you told the members of the Republican Governors meeting in Wichita, that the chances for the passage of revenue sharing were about 50-50.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That was my personal opinion.

QUESTION: Democratic Governors just yesterday called for immediate passage so that a plan could be effected. Has anything happened in the interim to make you more or less optimistic about that?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, the President has in addition to supporting revenue sharing and its immediate passage, has now called upon the Congress to pass legislation to assist New York City, not as a bail out but in a transition period following the taking of the necessary action to restore fiscal integrity in the city and a balanced budget, and so forth, which will be perhaps a three-year period of guarantee of municipal obligations, up to \$2 billion, something.

When he calls for that, if Congress acts on that, the balanced budget of New York City will be based on an estimate of three or four hundred million, maybe it is more. I have forgotten what it is, four, maybe six hundred million of revenue sharing funds.

Therefore, if revenue sharing were not passed at this session before Christmas, it would throw the whole fiscal situation of New York back into a chaotic state again. So, the Congress is going to have an incentive to act on revenue sharing, if they are going to act on New York City and if they are going to prevent a return of the chaotic situation which is existing.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, we are shocked by some of the revelations coming out of the Senate Intelligence Committee regarding the FBI, and especially

regarding former Presidents. What should be done about it? What curbs do you think ought to be placed on Presidential power?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I haven't participated in the investigation of the FBI. I did head up the Committee on Investigating Violations of Civil Liberties and Domestic Statutes by the CIA. I would think, frankly, that the same limitations would apply on the protection of individual rights under the Constitution from the FBI that apply to the CIA.

I think that we spelled out, I don't know, maybe it was 30, 35 recommendations in that report. I think that violations have got to be stopped. I think really that it has got to be on the agency itself.

I don't see how you can legislate action on the President, really. I think it would have to be on the agency. Unless you have a specific thought in mind, which if you did, then I could react to that thought.

QUESTION: For instance, when the President orders a name check on an American journalist, what sort of curbs could be instigated to stop that kind of thing or do you think that is sometimes necessary?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I know that in New York State before appointing anyone to a position of any importance in government, we had a Bureau of Criminal Investigation of each person. This proved to be a very important and very valuable means of avoiding making any serious mistakes in appointing people to responsible positions in government.

You are talking of a different situation, one relating to a newspaper reporter. I would assume that only if there was some suspicion or concern that such an individual was representing a foreign government in some undertaking that was designed to undermine the security and the well being of the United States, would be justification, such as an overthrow of the government, which is not permitted by the Constitution. In other words, it is action under those circumstances that would be warranted.

QUESTION: Are you saying that perhaps some of the activities of former presidents might not have been justified?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I wasn't aware of that. You asked me. I am not familiar with the individual actions which you are talking about. You talked about investigations of press. I think that to undertake an investigation to issue an order for a wire tap, which would take, I would assume, an authority by the Attorney General or the court, of course wire taps do, all wire taps, that that would have to be based on some justifiable concern which related to national security.

QUESTION: Governor, would you accept any Presidential draft under any conditions, whatever?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I have no plan regarding the future at all.

QUESTION: Even after December 1976?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No, sir.

QUESTION: Governor, do you view Soviet and Cuban intervention in Angola as a serious threat to detente?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Threat to detente; I view it

as a serious intervention in the internal affairs of the country. You would have to define what you had in mind about detente in order for me to understand whether I considered it a threat to detente.

My feeling about detente is that it is designed, the concept is to create a basis whereby the United States and the Soviet Union, both of whom have a nuclear capability of a devastating capacity, to avoid confrontation between these two countries which could lead to a tragic situation for the world.

Whether the situation in Angola is going to be considered as part of that, certainly it isn't a very encouraging aspect of detente. But whether it is a serious threat to detente, I wouldn't be in a position to say.

QUESTION: Would you view a Soviet naval base on the coast by the sealanes, would that be a threat?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I really think these are questions you either ought to ask the Secretary of State or the President of the United States. This is not my responsibility. I am a staff assistant to the President and not an interpreter of national policy or even more, a determiner or a definer of national policy in areas that have not already been defined.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, earlier this fall there were several elements in Pittsburgh and elsewhere who were concerned over the efforts of the Rothchild Empire in France to take over the Kopperweld Corporation. Specifically, with regard to that or in general with the idea of foreign corporations taking over American companies, do you have any thoughts?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Of course, this is the first time that this situation has taken place in this form. It has largely in the past been in the reverse. U. S. investments were in foreign countries, where we were doing what we now are complaining about in this case, or concerned about in this case, a European company coming in and taking control over an American corporation.

I think the United States Government has got to determine whether there are any national security questions involved or the Congress of the United States has got to define policies regarding investments in critical areas in U. S. private corporate enterprise, what percentage and are they going to set certain limitations.

These are new questions for us because we haven't had to face these before. This is a new question. I can understand the local communities being very concerned. But I don't think as yet there is a clearly defined policy on the part of the United States Government by the Congress of the United States on questions of this kind. It is a very interesting one.

I saw an article in the paper the other day that said there is about \$20 billion in foreign investments now in the United States, a great deal of money is coming in from abroad. I don't think we have a nationally defined policy on this subject. But there are enough situations of this

kind that I would expect that there will have to be. And one would go one step further and say that we as an open society increasingly becoming interdependent with the economies of other countries, including those economies of countries that have centrally controlled economies and we, therefore, have to design methods whereby we can preserve our free economy in the face of controlled economies acting in an international market. It raises some very interesting and difficult new questions for an open society.

QUESTION: Do you think it is a good idea for foreign corporations to take over American companies? Are you concerned about it?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I don't see how the United States can go abroad and control foreign companies and when foreign corporations come here, we say they can't control our companies. Something seems to be a little inconsistent about that. We have to have a policy that is consistent. This is what countries all over the world have been complaining about our doing over a period of years. Now the shoe is on the other foot.

QUESTION: Beyond the possibility of a foreign country, foreign representatives coming in, taking over defense contract firms, that sort of thing, beyond that, do you feel it is necessary to preserve that free forward capital?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Let's say in this case this company was to be moved out of the area. That I think would be a cause for the people in the area to want to move to prevent the actual acquisition or control of the company. Whether that is a national policy at issue for the United States Government as a whole -- a private American company can go abroad.

They can take a corporation that is producing goods here. The costs now are higher there. There are all kinds of restrictions and so forth. So, they can go and build a plant in Singapore, manufacture the goods and reimport them. This is what George Meany means by exporting jobs. This is the other side of the coin.

QUESTION: Should our Congress stay out of that when it doesn't pertain to national security?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That is why I say, this is why I set up the Commission on Critical Choices for Americans to study some of these issues. We are in a fast moving period in this world. We are faced with issues. They raise problems we haven't thought through. I think we can't act on a knee-jerk reaction basis. We have to have a policy. We have to find what are our best interests, if we believe in free trade and we want to see a free world.

We know we are dependent on the importation of raw materials and energy. We are dependent for jobs in America on the exports of manufactured goods and food products. We have to think twice before we slap restrictions on a small segment of international trade or international investment and commerce because we don't know what the reactions will be. This is a complex, interesting but very

important subject.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, have you yet been filled in on what may have happened on the President's trip to China?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No, sir. Nobody has come back yet.

QUESTION: Have you been communicated with and told what the substance of the talks were?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No, sir. Have you?

QUESTION: I haven't checked my mail.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Neither have I. I haven't seen anything in mine yet, though. But I wondered whether there was something big that you were thinking about.

QUESTION: I ask because they have been getting very little detail on the substance of the discussions.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: My information has come through the press and the media in general. I saw there was no communique.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, having met recently with Spanish leaders do you feel that Spain is going to make a peaceful transition to a new form of government or will there be trouble?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Hopefully, they will make the peaceful transition.

QUESTION: Why do you believe this?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Because I talked to the King at some length. This is his desire, his objective. This is the desire and objective of the Spanish people as I saw it reflected over there in discussions and in the press. They are very intelligent people.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, earlier, sir, you reaffirmed your support of Senator Scott. In light of those allegations, what are your thoughts about the fact that Mayor Flaherty today called for the Senator's resignation?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Sounds totally like a political statement to me, and maybe he is looking for the office.

QUESTION: Do you think that Senator Scott ought to take some action to clear the air on these allegations?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I haven't seen anything that was of any substance that he did not comment on forthrightly, simply and flatly. He just said this is the fact, period.

QUESTION: Did Senator Scott confer with you on his decision?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Senator Scott and I have been friends for a long time. But I have not tried to advise him on his political activities and vice versa. But I have the greatest affection and respect for him. I have watched him now for one year in the Senate of the United States and his depth of understanding, his vision, his breath of human concern, his dedication to this country, his understanding of international relations, I think are almost without equal, so that Pennsylvania and this country have benefitted from the unique qualities of leadership of this great legislator.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, should Senator Scott announce this evening he is not seeking reelection, you talked about his depth of understanding; do you feel in international relations there will be a place for him in the Administration in that field?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I have no basis for judgment on either part of your statement. I don't make the appointments in the Administration. I don't determine what Senators should decide to run or not run. I couldn't be helpful on that, I am afraid.

QUESTION: Thank you.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: It is a pleasure.

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(AT 5:00 P.M. EST)