

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of the Vice President
(Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
REPUBLICAN AWARDS DINNER
PITTSBURGH HILTON HOTEL
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

(AT 10:10 P.M. EST)

Thank you, Ed. Hugh Scott, two great distinguished Governors, Bill Scranton, Ray Shafer, Dick Frame, three wonderful Congressmen, Martha Bell Schoeninger, Luella and my long time and good friend George Bloom, fellow Republicans, discerning Democrats, believe me, I want to thank you for taking me into this wonderful family party here tonight. It is an honor and a thrill to be here.

(Applause.)

I would feel like an outsider except for the fact that so many of you have been so wonderful and so kind over so many years, such warmth and such friendship here. But also there is a tremendous vitality of the Republican Party.

If anyone thinks the Republican Party is dead, he ought to be here tonight just looking around this room.

(Applause.)

Ladies and gentlemen, I have a long and important speech here. I filed it with the press and I stand on every word that is in it. In view of the hour, and the dedication of those who are in this room who paid money to come here and still have to go to bed at some point --

(Laughter.)

-- I am going to selectively dip into this speech and use a few parts of it. The rest I stand on for the press.

Let me say first, George Bloom forgot to mention that my grandfather offered cash for a discount.

(Applause.)

(Laughter.)

His father wouldn't give any discount. Secondly, ladies and gentlemen, I said, "Please, George, when you tell that story don't say he was tight because his wife was a tea totler. He was just being careful with his money."

(Laughter.)

George has got to be one of the greatest men. I think he symbolizes all of those things that we believe in in this party, in terms of dedication. There are many wonderful

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chairmen here, county chairmen, party workers, cochairmen, captains of districts and all of you generous people who recognize the fact that you can't run the political system without some financial support. By your presence here, and your patience, you are making possible that support.

I just want to thank each and every one of you for being here, for your concern about the country which is the basic motivating force. Because of your concern about the country and the future, you are devoting your energies to the party. I would like to say I second what George said about people who don't register and don't take an active part and about those people having registered and then don't bother to vote.

That is not going to preserve that vitality in democracy. We have got to keep it. Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to say a few words first about a man I love and admire and I share that feeling with all of you.

It is one of the reasons why I enjoy so much the privilege and honor of presiding over the Senate. That is because the great minority leader is your senior Senator, Senator Hugh Scott.

(Applause.)

I have to say very frankly though, the job isn't exactly what you think it is because I am not allowed to speak without unanimous consent. Believe me, that is a tough spot to be in for anyone who has been a politician. I've only had unanimous consent twice, to speak, since I have been in this year.

(Laughter.)

But I would like to say a few words as a New Yorker from an adjoining state, a fellow Republican, about Hugh Scott and what he means to all of us. Three times the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania sent to the Senate, this man of intellectual brilliance, this man of powerful and moving elements. I can testify to that.

I have listened to him. I have watched him on the floor. I have seen the influence he has on the votes or the thinking and the votes on both sides of the aisle on the difficult, delicate questions which come before the Senate of the United States. He is a man of charm and quiet wit.

This is a man of profound scholarship, a man who could stake his claim on his mastery of history and the art of ancient China, let alone his statesmanship.

Four times the Republican Party chose him as its leader in the U. S. Senate and the last time by unanimous vote of all the Republican Senators. When Hugh Scott closes his Senate career, he will leave a legacy to be measured not only in legislation written but in votes cast in brave stands taken.

His record must be measured in humanity, in what is meant to the people of Pennsylvania and the people of the United States, and yes, ladies and gentlemen, the people of

the world. Millions of Americans now and for future generations will enjoy true equality of opportunity because Hugh Scott battled for civil rights long before it became fashionable.

(Applause.)

Millions of Americans now and for future generations will know better health, greater educational opportunity, more secure old age because Hugh Scott has made human needs his personal crusade.

(Applause.)

Hugh Scott's compassion for people is not in the abstract. When he promoted legislation for aid to America's latest wave of refugees, he did not stop there. He and his lovely wife, Marian, personally sponsored a Vietnamese refugee family as well. This is typical of not only the broad vision this man has, but the personal sensitivity and human understanding.

A few years ago, when I started the Commission on Critical Choices for Americans, we looked for members with a grasp of America's past and a vision of America's future. Obviously, Hugh Scott belonged on that Commission. We were honored when he accepted.

Now, Hugh Scott has told us that he will close this brilliant Senate career next year. I would like to say this of your senior Senator: Of millions it can be said they lived as good Americans. But of a privileged few it can be said that they created a finer America. In that select and shining company stands your Senator, Hugh Scott.

(Applause.)

His place is with the giants of that chamber -- with the LaFollettes and Dirksens of modern times, and with the Henry Clays and Daniel Websters of our past.

I am personally grateful for all the support Hugh Scott has given me through the years. But even more, along with all of you, I am thankful for the gift of friendship from this unique human being.

Hugh, indeed for me, it is an honor to have been here on this occasion and to have the privilege of sharing with all of your friends here this particular moment.

I have some very important things to say about George Bloom. But you know George Bloom better than I do. So, these are all, George, in the record. Your wife knows you better than I do. She knows all of these things. So, I am going to say just this: That George Bloom personifies for me the best qualities of dedicated leadership, day in and day out, year after year, devoted to the Republican Party, with the kind of vision and courage and dedication that has made this country what it is today.

He is a symbol of the opportunities and the qualities of America that make it unique and that have made it the greatest land in the world. George, I thank you for the privilege of being here.

(Applause.)

I have had the privilege of serving with your two great Governors who are here, Bill Scranton and Ray Shafer. Again, I have placed in the record my high esteem, great appreciation and admiration and respect to these two outstanding men, not only for the role that Bill played as Governor, but the role he continues to play as advisor to Presidents on domestic and international affairs.

It is not only my friendship with both of them, but the opportunity of working with Ray Shafer that I have the pleasure of doing right now, what I am doing. For his record of progressive leadership as the Governor of this great State in tackling the tough problems ahead of his time, which are being continually appreciated, his position and leadership now under the leadership which was so eloquently described by the former speaker --

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

But just a word about the party. First, since I said thanks to all of you for your generosity and for your support to the vitality of the Republican Party, it depends on the kind of support that you have given and are giving here tonight. I would just like to share with you a few thoughts about politics.

Some of you are politicians. Some of you are supporting politics. As a politician, I would like to say that politics, in my opinion, is a means to an end, not an end in itself. The end is good government. That is a very important distinction.

Therefore, our two-party system which I deeply believe is the strength and the vitality of our free society, each party has two basic responsibilities. The first is to analyze and appraise the domestic and international problems which we face in the various fields, economic, social, financial, military, diplomatic areas, and to come up with policies and programs to present them to the American people that will maximize economic growth, employment, environmental protection, equality of opportunity for all, create domestic and international financial stability and integrity and help control inflation, strengthen the goals of freedom, human dignity, peace both at home and abroad. We must recognize that in today's world, these goals can only be accomplished through great diplomatic skill and with dynamic and flexible capability.

Finally, essential to both is the maintenance of a truly effective international intelligence system. These are the basic problems that political leadership in both parties have to understand, have to master, and then have to come up with their party's position on these issues, the policies and the programs.

This is the basis of our system. Then the public has a chance to choose between the two. The other major responsibility of the political parties are to pick the candidates, the men and women for the positions of elected office and to support them in their campaigns, going before the people on the issues and with the programs.

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The party has to pick and support candidates dedicated to the fundamental principles on which this country was founded and on which this country has grown to greatness.

The candidates who are elected have to have the wisdom, the experience and the skill as well as the integrity and the courage and the vision to lead and to carry out the policies and the programs which will represent the best interests of our people, all of our people at home and at the same time, assure the survival and growth of free societies in a world with peace.

In accomplishing these tasks, no leaders of a free society since the days of our founding fathers, have faced greater challenges or more difficult and complex problems. These are the responsibilities of our two great political parties in America, the basis of our free society.

As we enter 1976, our Bicentennial year, I would just like to say in conclusion that I am confident the Republican Party can and will meet its responsibilities. I have great faith in America and in the American people.

I just want to say there is nothing wrong with America that Americans can't right.

Thank you very much.

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(AT 10:30 P.M. EST)