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SEPTEMBER 28, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(Hasbrook, New Jersey)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE CANDIDATES BRUNCH
SHERATON HEIGHTS HOTEL
HASBROOK, NEW JERSEY

(AT 10:50 A.M. EDT)

Thanks very much.

Thanks very much, Dick, for your generous remarks. I appreciate them. I am just delighted to be here with you and Mayor Bill, and to be back in Bergen County. It is sort of like a homecoming for me, right across the river here.

I tell you, it is only a few months, then I will be back in New York State and will come over and spend more time with you again.

I am delighted to be here. I am particularly anxious to have this opportunity because I believe very strongly in the two-party system in this country. That has been the basis of the vitality of our democratic system in America, of democracy itself.

We have to keep it at all levels of government. I am excited to see the wonderful candidates which you are putting up for office who represent Bergen County and represent New Jersey, both at the national level and at the local level.

While I have only had the pleasure of riding over for about 35, 40 minutes, I had a tremendous impression of your two Congressional candidates. But I would like to start first with a man who isn't here, Dave Norcross, who is your candidate for the United States Senate.

To me, this is a tremendously important position and a tremendously important race because when you go back and think of the extraordinary accomplishments of President Ford during the last two years where he has taken and restored the prestige and public confidence in the White House and in the Executive Branch of government, restored the vitality of the economy and restored our prestige abroad, in a short period of two years and done this despite the lack of cooperation of the two-to-one Democratic Majority in the Congress of the United States, it has got to say something about President Ford's leadership and his character and his ability.

It also has got to say something about the two-party system and the fact that we need more Republicans in the Congress of the United States. We need Dave in the Senate.

(Applause.)

To me, somehow he symbolizes a lot of the qualities which this country is looking for today, young, dynamic, attractive, new ideas, fresh thinking. This is very important because we are living in a period of rapid change.

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Therefore, the ability to perceive the significance of change and the capacity to think conceptually and shape change is tremendously important. He knows from personal experience about many of the major problems which face this country. One of which, of course, is health, good health for all our people at reasonable costs.

This is a problem which the Congress has not yet grappled with. The President sent up legislation. They haven't acted on it. He knows the problem of the handicapped, another major problem in this country, and one which requires deep human concern and needs to be dealt with more effectively.

He is the champion of the honest election process. That is something which we all admire and respect and is needed, not only at the national level but is needed throughout the country.

He fought for clean elections, better election financing and openness in government. He is a rising star in the Republican Party. New Jersey needs him, the President needs him and the United States needs him.

So, ladies and gentlemen, let's see that we get Dave down there. That is number one.

(Applause.)

This same imbalance exists in the Congress. You have two very attractive, young, aggressive, bright, able, experienced Congressmen that you are offering to the people in Bergen County. I enjoyed coming over in the car with them and talking with them. They are our kind of people.

They are people who understand America, who care about individuals, who have compassion and yet who understand the basic forces that bring about opportunity and well-being for people.

Cap Hollenbeck is experienced in State and local government. That is very important because some people get to thinking that everything gets done from Washington. The rest of us believe that the government closest to the people is the best government. That is the government that these people understand and represent.

Now they can go down to Washington and bring that experience to Washington so they don't try to pull everything to Washington and leave the States and the local communities without effective representation that can be responsive to the people who elect them and responsible to the people who elect them.

He was former Councilman, State Legislator, Administrator, 37 years old, dynamic and a winner. What more could you ask?

(Applause.)

Jim Sheehan, another young man, and I like this accent on youth. I have been around a long time. So, I can appreciate youth more than some of you can who are not in that group.

He is a self-made businessman, business success. That speaks a lot because the strength and vitality of America has been and still is individual initiative and the American enterprise system. That is what built America. It wasn't the government that built it.

The government created the framework in which free private citizens built it. This country when it fought for this freedom was not only fighting for freedom of individuals but for economic freedom as well. Sometimes we forget that.

Everything was run from London. That is one of the major motivating factors that got the founding fathers to take the action they did. He was a former Mayor. Frankly, and this is a very good sign, he has got a whole host of volunteers working for him. That indicates that people like him and people care about him because they are willing to work for him.

Anybody that is willing to work for somebody on a voluntary basis has got to think a lot of that person. Those that are closest to him think a lot of him. You have two great candidates for the Congress of the United States and we need them both and they both are going to be elected, the way things look to me.

(Applause.)

It isn't only more Republicans at the national level, we need more Republican freeholders, right here in Bergen County. You have got in Pip, a man of vast experience in local government; in Harry, someone with background in engineering and government. There are a lot of tough, technical problems that have to be decided by government and a lot of the developments that are taking place in this world are technological developments.

To have people in government who understand them is a very valuable thing. Joan, she is a first rate Councilwoman, a very attractive personality, one who can represent the people of the county and do it with distinction and ability.

I am just delighted to be here and say we need all three of them.

(Applause.)

We need more Republicans at the grass roots and we need them all the way up, right to the Presidency.

I would just like to say a few words more about why President Ford is going to be reelected -- not reelected. He wasn't elected before. He went through that constitutional process, the 25th Amendment which I did.

I want to tell you, after you have had 400 FBI agents investigate you for six months and then go before a two-to-one Democratic Congress, if you get through that hurdle race, you have really got it, at least you have staying power.

(Laughter.)

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I admire what President Ford has been through. He never sought the Presidency. He was a Congressman, and a Minority Leader in the Congress, a very competent and efficient one. He knows the processes.

All of a sudden he found himself projected, first into the Vice Presidency, and then into the Presidency. As I said, when you look back two years ago and think that he has cut the inflation rate in half and on top of that, we have four million more jobs now than we did 16 months ago, that is an extraordinary fact.

That grew out of a growth rate which reached a peak of 3.8 percent which is an extraordinary growth rate, and to maintain that rate without pressures on the economy. We still have a need for more jobs, but no economist thought that you could stop inflation and get employment up at the same time. He did both. And he did it as I say, despite the fact that Congress would not cooperate with him.

He had to veto, it is a total of 50-some vetoes, measures which were very popular, very attractive, ladies and gentlemen. You know, everybody likes to spend money. The trouble is government in this country has overpromised and underdelivered for so long that we have run out of money.

They criticize that great City of New York over there for getting in some financial problems. They are criticizing the United States Congress. What Congress has done is what they, New York did, only they did it in spades. They have done so much we are going to have a 50, 60-billion-dollar deficit this year. The only difference is they could print the money and New York City couldn't.

The Congress and the country are going to be in trouble unless we stop this runaway expenditure and runaway inflation. The President has done it. He has vetoed these popular measures for people because he cares for people. He is concerned about people. But he knows in the long run their best interests are reflected by stopping inflation, because that is the most insidious tax. It hits those who can least afford it, those who are retired, on pensions or on social security or those on fixed income from pensions. They are the ones who suffer.

That was the number one goal; number two, to get the economy rolling, to get jobs that were meaningful jobs in the free enterprise system, not made jobs by government, adding to inflation, adding to expenditures. He has done it and things are coming back and he has restored, as I said, on top of that the strength of America and respect for America around the world and we are at peace, ladies and gentlemen. You add all those together, I want to tell you, that is what America wants.

(Applause.)

Here is a man with a record who has had experience and a man who has the trust of the American people. When they get in that booth, in my opinion, they are going to say who can best represent us in the next four years, meet our problems at home and abroad? Who has got a proven record? That is President Ford. That is why he is going to be reelected.

(Applause.)

The Democratic candidate has no experience on a national basis. He has no experience on the international basis. He compares everything to the State of Georgia, which is a great State, but it is not the United States, if you forgive me for saying so.

I think that if you just listen to him, you find that he changes positions as he gets a little information here, a little there. It doesn't enure to one's confidence in him. I think an increasing number of people are frightened as to what he might do if he gets in that position. I think that is what is going to happen when they get in that booth.

This election is going to be an exciting election. It is going to be close. President Ford is going to be reelected. He has a wonderful running mate in Bob Dole. I know Bob Dole very well. He has had experience as a county prosecutor. He was then a legislator in the State. He was then in the Congress of the United States. He was then in the Senate.

He was five and a half years in the war. He was a war hero. He was wounded. He lost the use of one arm. This man is a man of great compassion, special concern for the handicapped, special concern for equal rights. He has been a champion of civil rights, champion of Israel. He has been a man who has -- I will never forget.

I was at the Convention. I was up doing one of those television interviews and none other than George McGovern was on the program asking questions. He said, "How can Senator Javits, Senator Case and McC. Mathias accept Bob Dole? He is a conservative."

I said, "You know, Senator, if I remember correctly he was a sponsor of the food stamp bill to see that those in real need got food stamps and those who were abusing it got off the list."

One of the regular broadcasters who was handling this program said, "Yes, that is right. As a matter of fact, wasn't that the McGovern-Dole bill?" He said, "Yes, it was." He said, "I guess we better not talk about that anymore."

(Laughter.)

He just dropped that one. This man is a man who believes in the American enterprise system because in his opinion, and my opinion and President Ford's opinion that is the best way to have opportunities for Americans and for the well being of the American people. No society has done more for more people and given greater opportunity than our system of democracy and American enterprise.

Let's keep it that way. Let's keep it that way under the leadership of President Ford and a wonderful Republican ticket all the way.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)