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 Office of the Vice President
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PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
 AT THE SHERATON HOTEL
 PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

(AT 3:20 P.M. EDT)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I have to say it is a great pleasure to be back in Philadelphia, particularly to have a chance to be here in the middle of a campaign and with five such attractive Republican candidates for the Congress.

You all know John Heinz and his wife. He is your Congressman now but he is going to be your next Senator. I just would like to say, ladies and gentlemen, one of the interesting things to me is when you look back two years ago and think of the problems this country faced, the fact that we were torn by the Viet Nam war, Watergate, inflation starting, recession, depression, unemployment, and so forth, and the world situation and when you think where we are now and what President Ford has done despite the fact that he couldn't get the cooperation of a two-to-one Democratic Congress, you can understand why I am so enthusiastic about seeing these young and attractive candidates on the Republican ticket for the Congress of the United States.

Jim Mugford sitting right on my left is a young man, attractive, bright able. Sam Fanelli is an equally attractive, bright, able man. Terry Schade is another one; and Jesse Woods, experienced, a representative of the community who understands the problems. This is what we need, men and women in the Congress on a two-party basis so that this country can have the kind of representation that is going to stick to the fundamental values on which this country was built and which this President has pledged and which has brought our country back to peace in the world, with a revived economy at home, inflation cut in half, four million additional jobs in the last 16, 18 months.

There is still a lot of unemployment, yes. But the economy is rolling. We have got a growth rate that is going to put people back to work where the jobs are. That is in an expanding economy, plus restored confidence and respect in government, in the Executive Branch, in the White House.

So, I just would like to say that in my opinion, come November 2, President Ford is going to be the next President of the United States, this time elected.

He has a great Vice Presidential candidate in Bob Dole. He has experience in most government at all levels, a war hero, courageous, deep human concern. I think we have a great ticket and we are going to elect some wonderful Republicans in the Congress to have a balanced two-party system.

I would be delighted to answer any questions.

QUESTION: The Javits and Buckley opinion, how is that going to affect the President in New York, the polls?

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THE VICE PRESIDENT. You have to know New York very well. We have a very independent party in New York. We have all shades of thinking, political thought. It is just like democracy itself, where people take their own stands on the issues and in this case, as you remember four years ago we had a Republican candidate for the Senate.

He was beaten, and then there was a Democratic candidate for the Senate. He was beaten. Then there was an Independent candidate. He was beaten. Jim Buckley, we gave him the nomination to the Republican Party.

Jack Javits has his point of view. Jim Buckley has his. We reach right out in the right and the left, and have them all in there. That is one of those situations.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, now that a few days have elapsed, what is your assessment of the debate and how the President did?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I tell you, I think two things, the President came across, in my opinion, in my impression -- sure I am prejudiced. But, as you say, as time elapses, you see and feel these things. So, I thought he was a strong person, determined, dedicated, who believes in this country and who has the strength and courage and the knowledge to deal with the problems and he has the facts and understands the issues. I thought he came out very well.

QUESTION: How did Carter do?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I thought Carter showed the fact that while he has had experience as Governor, and I don't want to run down being Governor having done that for quite a few years myself, still Georgia isn't the United States.

He has never had any experience on a national or international basis. When he was asked the questions I think that his answers showed a lack of sharp focus on the specifics and slipped into generalities on important and philosophical concepts.

But when it got down to how he was going to bring them into reality, the substance wasn't there. It was hard to follow.

QUESTION: Now that a few days have elapsed, what is your reaction to Carter's Playboy interview?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: All I can say is this has got to be an unusual forum to discuss Christ's teachings.

QUESTION: Do you want to elaborate on that?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That is the way I reacted. I just didn't believe it.

QUESTION: What do you think of the charge that Dr. Kissinger and the President are using this African negotiation as a political ploy, that they are trying to create a climate of success?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: It has got to be made by

somebody totally ignorant of the world and what is going on today. This is, to my way of thinking, the most significant thing that the Secretary of State has done, to bring about a peaceful solution to the confrontation between the whites and the blacks in Africa, or the blacks and the whites, where we were on the verge of seeing what I am convinced was going to be human slaughter on a scale that has never been seen before. Hundreds of thousands of people, I think, were going to be killed.

QUESTION: Was there a solution or was it just a public relations approach to the situation? We are told that there really is not a solution that has been accepted.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Who is "we are told"? This is the most extraordinary solution that anyone has ever worked out. He got the agreement between the black community and the white community which nobody has ever been able to achieve. What have they been doing? For three generations the whites have been in Rhodesia. He has gotten an agreement that in two years there would be majority rule in Rhodesia.

The statements made by the five neighboring leaders were not a reflection totally of the agreements which had been reached. I think just like all politicians, you have to take a little tough stand once in a while to show that you are fighting for your interests as you are working out a compromise to achieve the intelligent answer.

Let me assure you, this is no public relations gimmick. This is one of the most significant, important diplomatic achievements in the history of international relations.

QUESTION: Do you think it will survive the criticism?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Yes.

QUESTION: How do you think the reports of the Special Prosecutor's office investigating U. S. Steel, and these links to golfing vacations, how will this affect Ford? The Watergate image is now being linked to him.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: There are two separate subjects there. One is golfing. The other is contributions. I don't think the Special Prosecutor is investigating the golfing.

QUESTION: Okay. But it is the same image.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Okay, let us be specific because this is an important step in relation to the campaign. President Ford went through months of investigation by 400 FBI agents, everything that he had done, said, thought, any actions, any contributions, whatever it was.

So that I have to say to you that after they had accumulated all these facts and after the Senate and House committees had gone into these things and after they had questioned him, and after he was voted in by a two-to-one Democratic Congress, I don't think there is anything left to be found that wasn't examined and considered by the Congress. Therefore, I have no concern about that.

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QUESTION: Do you think this is a political move at this time?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I will be perfectly honest. I have no idea what it is. It is unusual.

QUESTION: At this point, again the image of Watergate, of a man accepting things, in the golfing vacation situation, with U. S. Steel and then these reports of campaign contributions --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: You have to be careful. You sound like a politician rather than a reporter; two separate instances.

QUESTION: But with the same image.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No. The implication of one is there was something illegal. I don't believe it. He wouldn't be Vice President and then President because the group investigating him would have found out. The other is playing golf with somebody or accepting a hospitality.

We have gotten to a point where in the present climate after Watergate, we have a totally different way of looking at things and you have got to worry now if I stop and offer you a ride, if you are on the highway looking for a ride, that maybe somebody is going to say that I am trying to influence the press.

You know what I mean. You don't know whether you can give somebody a ride in a car, much less a plane, or whatever.

QUESTION: Do you think it has gone overboard since Watergate, this issue of morality?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I don't think overboard. I said the public is now using standards which have never been applied in this country before to relationships that have been perfectly relaxed. I don't think it is going to affect the situation.

I think there are a lot of people trying to make this an issue.

QUESTION: What about contributions from Gulf Oil Corporation, not only to Senator Scott in this State, but also to Congressman Heinz, do you think those things --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: There was a period when it was perfectly legal.

QUESTION: These were not legal, apparently.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Don't say, apparently.

QUESTION: I don't know.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Then you have to be careful. We cannot in this campaign --

QUESTION: Do you think he should be investigated?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: They have been investigated, the whole thing. If you saw Senator Scott after the committee had investigated they finally said there is no point to investigating any further.

QUESTION: The committee never said they investigated. They didn't call Senator Scott as a witness.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I saw the letter that the committee wrote.

QUESTION: That isn't an investigation.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No, they had been looking into this for a long time. They have all the facts.

QUESTION: In other words, you feel that Senator Scott is completely innocent of anything improper or --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I do. Senator Scott passed that money to others. It was perfectly legitimate.

QUESTION: Was that money that he got legal?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Yes.

QUESTION: That he passed to others?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That is right.

QUESTION: It was corporate funds, wasn't it?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That is right. But it was given to him as far as he was concerned. He didn't know that. It was given to him as a contribution. You can't hold somebody liable for something they don't know.

Now the corporation is having to make the restitutions or in legal terms, you know, the decision.

QUESTION: Congressman Heinz says his staff knew it wasn't proper money. He didn't know, perhaps.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I don't know anything about that situation. All I know is people who receive contributions that thought they came from individuals and regarded them as such, are perfectly legal in their actions. If somebody misrepresented the fact when they gave them the money, that is a different situation. That is why action has been taken against Gulf Oil Company.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, how do you see your own political role in the Republican Party following the election?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: A very relaxed, happy one. I am enjoying myself. I love this country. I believe in it. We have, I think, the best system. Sure, it is inefficient in many ways. No democracy has ever lasted as long. No country has ever given greater opportunities to more people and they have benefitted more under the system of democracy in the American enterprise system and freedom.

My feeling is let's preserve these values. Let's extend them.

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QUESTION: What do you think yourself doing next?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I am going to go back and spend time with Happy and the two little boys and catch up on my own affairs and families. I will be interested then in politics and serving the country. There are lots of ways.

QUESTION: What sort of ways, appointive, elective?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I have been doing it for 36 years. I have nothing to worry about at all. I know about government. I worked at all levels of government. I understand it. I understand politics pretty well.

This is an exciting period of change. This is the most exciting period in the history of our country. The opportunities are greater than they have ever been before.

QUESTION: Would you hope to be an appointee within the Ford Administration?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No, I am not going to take an appointive position.

QUESTION: Why?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Because I want to be with my family.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, you were talking before about the Ford Congressional candidates. The Republican Party in Philadelphia came in third in the last city-wide election. It is considered to be down on its heels, to say the least.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That is why we are so lucky to have these men willing to serve.

QUESTION: Yes, but what possible chance do they have of being elected?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: This is the exciting thing about a democracy. The people are willing to ride and take risks. I never started in any race in New York for Governor, and I won four times, at more than 35 percent. The lowest I was was at 24 percent at the start of the race.

I didn't say, "Look, I am not going to run because I haven't got a chance." A lot of people told me, "You shouldn't do it. You are crazy. You will never win."

QUESTION: Is there any comparison to a man named Rockefeller in a somewhat Republican Party division?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: We were a minority party by a million registered votes and we had four parties. You don't buy votes if that is what you are thinking about in New York. I don't know what happens anywhere else. But you don't do it in New York because we have lots of independent citizens, self-respecting people with great integrity and they vote for the person they believe in.

If you do it and you are running and you have been in office for 12 years and then you run again --

QUESTION: My question really is do you think that the Republican Party in big cities is losing ground because of its position on issues, issues involving the economy and people's perception of government?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No, I think the Republican Party in the cities has been weak traditionally. The Republican machinery was never like the machinery of the Democrats. The Democrats have had the city machines. That is traditional in the United States.

You take someone like Jack Javits. He carried New York City. I came within 17,000 votes, even though we were 800,000 behind in votes. I came within 17,000 votes of carrying the city. It depends on if you like people.

QUESTION: Is it ethnic politics?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No, forget that. People are interested in their problems, their concerns, their opportunities, some person who identifies with them, who likes them, who cares for them, they don't care whether he is a black, white, Catholic, Protestant, or whatever.

QUESTION: But President Ford is campaigning on an ethnic -- targetting on ethnics.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Where do you get this targetting?

QUESTION: When he went to Philadelphia, he went to the Italian market.

THE VICE PRESIDENT. You don't want to discriminate against the Italians, do you?

(Laughter.)

QUESTION: His aides said that ethnics will be an area that they will be focusing on hoping to get votes.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I think that is absolutely right. Too many people have ignored ethnics if that is the way you want to call it. I wouldn't use that word. They are all Americans.

The wonderful thing is these men have the courage to run knowing they are faced with odds but they believe in a two-party system. This is the vitality of democracy, the strength of democracy and I admire them.

QUESTION: What chance do you think the President has of taking Pennsylvania?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I think he is going to.

QUESTION: It is not a Republican State.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Forget this Republican State. If it was based on Republicans, what have we got, 20 percent of the vote in the country? So, you give up before you start.

QUESTION: Why is he going to take Pennsylvania?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Because people have trust and

confidence in him, his record.

QUESTION: Vice President Rockefeller, I just came in and I apologize for being late.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I appreciate your coming.

QUESTION: Could you explain the bit of mirth between yourself and Mr. Mansfield, I think it was -- Carl Albert.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Up on the podium. When you refer to mirth, what do you mean? I was talking to him about the history of Liberia. I explained what had happened.

I explained it accurately.

QUESTION: Yes, but there was some laughter and I think it was interpreted as --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: It was interpreted but it was not meant. We were sitting up there waiting for the President of Liberia with whom we had been talking with for about an hour in the Speaker's office.

We had talked to the President of Liberia about his accent. We had been discussing politics in the United States. So that there was a very informal, open relationship. Then we went on discussing this thing when we were sitting on the podium.

The rules of the House of Representatives are that the microphone that goes into the press is available for the Speaker's comments relating to the subject at hand, which was the introduction of the President and the President's people.

I mean the President, when he speaks what they did was -- this was, frankly, a violation of the House rules to use this conversation. But that was done. There was nothing in the conversation.

I just said that Senator Brooke was having a one-man reception which was true.

QUESTION: In your own estimation, why was that so?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Because he is a friendly person, a very close friend of mine and he reached out and shook hands with the Ambassadors as they walked by. There was nothing wrong with it.

We were sitting there waiting. If you sit up on those podiums as I do for hours, you would want to talk about something, too. I am not even allowed to speak in the Senate without unanimous consent, and the only time I got it was to apologize twice.

QUESTION: There are some people who suggested that you have begun to feel freer, perhaps.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: You got it. There is no question.

QUESTION: Tell us about the college incident.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: There was nothing planned about that, if you want to know the truth. It was totally spontaneous. It was just in response to a sustained salute that I was getting during my entire speech from a small group of college students. I finally, in a moment of weakness, returned the salute.

QUESTION: Do you expect to do more impromptu expressions like that?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I don't think you can expect that one. I might dream up something else.

QUESTION: You said that Pennsylvania is going to go Republican this year.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I think so.

QUESTION: Since McGovern four years ago, Pennsylvania has gone Democrat way back to Roosevelt's days.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Where is Ray Shafer? Governor Shafer --

QUESTION: No, I am talking about for President.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Republican Governor, great Governor.

QUESTION: What makes you say that Ford can win Pennsylvania this year? Is this the same as the McGovern race four years ago?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Nothing is ever the same. You don't want to go backwards and expect everything to be the same. Ray Shafer thinks he is going to win it here. I think so. I think he is going to win it in New York and New Jersey.

QUESTION: Have you got any reasons?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Yes, because he represents the thinking of the majority of the people. He believes in the fundamental values on which America was built and grew to its greatness. He is concerned about people, not in a demagogic sense, of stopping inflation and of creating the growth in our economy where jobs come from that, good and permanent jobs.

That is what people want. I think the people recognize he is a man of courage and integrity.

QUESTION: The gap is obviously narrowing between President Ford and Mr. Carter. There are some amateur political thinkers saying President Ford is sitting back and letting Carter try to lose the election and he is winning the election. They say it seems to be working. What would your reaction be?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: He is not sitting back. He would like to be out on the campaign trail. He loves to campaign. He did it all during his time in the House. But these are the closing days of Congress. I know it was true in the State legislature. I know it is true in Congress. The important legislation jams up in the last few weeks because that is when they trade off votes. They make the arrangements

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and then the modifications. They get the legislation through. This is a very dangerous period and the President knows as President of the United States, he has got to stay in Washington to be on top of the situation, to protect the interests of the American people.

QUESTION: Isn't he protecting campaign strategy?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No, ma'am. I watched him for a year and a half. This fellow has courage to veto things which are popular because he is afraid of impacts on inflation.

QUESTION: What about the allegation that Ford would not come up with anything innovative?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: You ought to see some of the legislation he sent to the Congress. They haven't even looked at it, like the Energy Independence Authority for \$100 billion.

QUESTION: What is so creative about that?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Obviously, you haven't read it. The whole thing is based on stimulating independence in energy production. If we haven't the energy in this country we are faced with a potential crisis.

QUESTION: What are your relations with Senator Case at this point? It seemed to me that there were some published reports that there was some difficulty that the Senator felt you had misused him I believe it was yesterday or some time over the weekend, within the last three or four days.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: This was a question as to whether Senatorial courtesy took precedence over national interests. That is the real question.

QUESTION: And you felt?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: National interest comes first.

QUESTION: Have you spoken with the Senator since?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I have called the Senator, but have been unable to reach him.

QUESTION: Do you mean he is not accepting your calls?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I know nothing about it. They couldn't find him. Maybe he is in retreat.

QUESTION: I would like to ask you one last question. I am sort of sorry that you are not running for office.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you. I am a little bit myself.

QUESTION: You are adding some color and candor which I think is lacking. What do you feel is the single most important issue for the people in the State of Pennsylvania? I know that there are many issues. I know

everybody is going to say crime, unemployment, and so on. What do you feel President Ford, by being reelected, can bring to the State of Pennsylvania?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I have to think in this moment in our history that the most important thing in the State of the Union, including the State of Pennsylvania, is the revitalization of our economy and the growing strength of America and the growth of America which go together from which jobs are created.

QUESTION: You are saying the job issue is the most important issue in the State of Pennsylvania?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Jobs really are an integral factor in this. I happen to think that we need to be strong and we need to grow both in order to provide jobs, in order to meet our obligations at home and abroad, and also we would include in those obligations, ecology.

There are those who feel that we can solve the ecology problem by no growth. My feeling is you have to have energy in order to stop pollution and therefore, growth is essential. Growth and ecological protection are not incompatible. They are one in the same; and jobs together with the others, also.

QUESTION: Is the main reason you are here this afternoon to introduce and show your support of the Congressional candidates?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That, and the President and Vice President. In other words, this is part of the Presidential campaign.

QUESTION: How do you feel about the recall of Mayor Rizzo?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I know nothing about it. It sounds to me like a local issue. I am campaigning nationally.

QUESTION: Do you know the Mayor personally?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No.

QUESTION: Do you think he will come out for President Ford?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I have no idea.

QUESTION: Have you had an opportunity to meet with Dr. Tolbert while in Philadelphia?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No, but I met with him in Washington one afternoon at great length, his Minister of Foreign Affairs, his Minister of Finance and Development. We had a most productive and intimate conversation. They are very good friends of mine. I have great respect for him and his Governor and his country.

Thank you very much.

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(AT 3:45 P.M. EDT)