

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(Chicago, Illinois)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE SALUTE TO THE PRESIDENT DINNER
GRAND BALLROOM, CONRAD HILTON HOTEL
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

AT 9:12 P.M. CDT

It is always an experience, ladies and gentlemen, to be introduced by my good friend Bob Hope. By the time Bob gets done, I feel more like a survivor than a speaker.

Fellow Republicans, there is just one message tonight at this Salute Dinner -- Jerry Ford should, can and will be the next President of the United States.

(Applause)

When Jerry Ford was catapulted into the Presidency, he inherited three major crises -- Watergate, a Constitutional crisis; Viet Nam, a crisis of national disunion deeper than anything since the Civil War; inflation and recession -- the Nation's worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

Yet, in two short years Jerry Ford has restored trust and confidence to the White House. He has cut inflation in half, and the economy is on the upswing. Americans are once again optimistic about the future, and America is at peace throughout the world.

(Applause)

And the last President that could make that statement was another great Republican, Dwight David Eisenhower.

(Applause)

Jerry Ford was able to do it because he is the leader with compassion and guts. Because he has a deep concern for people, he has had the courage to do the tough things that would protect their best long-term interests.

He knows that the politically popular quickie Federal Government palliatives only make things worse in the long run. He has had the guts to say "No!" to excessive spending.

He knows that economic freedom is indivisible from political freedom and that people cannot enjoy human dignity unless our system provides economic opportunity. President Ford recognizes the proper role of government -- to help people to help themselves, not to legislate, regulate and dominate every waking hour of our lives.

(Applause)

Jerry Ford grasps the greatness of America, the goodness and creativity of her people, and the unlimited opportunities that lie ahead.

Jerry Ford is a President whose vision of the future of America is rooted in his deep faith in the fundamental values and institutions that brought this Nation to greatness.

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When the American voters step into that booth on November 2, they are going to ask themselves basically one question -- in whom can I place my trust and confidence to meet the problems of the next four years at home and abroad?

There is just one answer -- Jerry Ford -- our next President.

(Applause)

The Republican Party is grateful to President Ford for his choice of a running mate. Bob Dole knows American government from the grass roots up. He brings character and courage to the ticket -- and a brilliant and beautiful wife, who is a member of the Federal Trade Commission in her own right. So, ladies and gentlemen, you get two for one in this case.

(Laughter, applause)

Bob Dole is a man of infinite compassion, a champion of civil rights, a supporter of the deserving poor, a champion of the handicapped, a strong supporter of the American enterprise system and fiscal integrity, a wounded war hero, and a supporter of Israel and a strong America.

Ladies and gentlemen, as the current Vice President of the United States, it is my proud privilege to present to you the next Vice President of the United States -- Senator Robert Dole.

END

(AT 9:18 P.M. CDT)