

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of the Vice President  
(Detroit, Michigan)

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REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
AT THE  
MICHIGAN STATE REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE  
FUND-RAISING DINNER  
BALLROOM C, COBO HALL  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

AT 8:55 P.M.

Very Reverend Malcom Carron, I want to thank you for your lovely invocation.

And to Bill and Helen Milliken, I just have to say that I love Bill, and he is a tremendous friend. So you have to take it with a grain of salt, all the wonderful things he said. But I do appreciate it. That is fabulous. We have worked together. I had the privilege before Bill became Governor. And all the nice things he said about me really apply to him.

But before that you had another great governor with whom I had the privilege of working. George and Lenore Romney are sitting right down there. There are two great American citizens.

(Applause)

There is something about Michigan, that you and the Republican Party in Michigan seem to turn out the kind of people who really represent America, the best that is America, the things that America stands for. And I just feel at this dinner tonight, this is America right here at this wonderful gathering, and I am thrilled to be here with you.

(Applause)

Now, of course, your senior Senator, Bob Griffin, he is my boss. He didn't say that, ladies and gentlemen. So I have to consult him. I do it very discreetly -- mostly just call him, get him off the floor to get his advice. I did get into a little trouble.

(Laughter)

I had never been in the Legislative Branch of government before, so I have a tendency to be a little too spontaneous, ladies and gentlemen.

(Laughter)

But life is exciting, and one has a good time, but sometimes it gets you into trouble. But I apologized and got an ovation for apologizing and so forth. I would like to thank Bob for all he has done to help me learn the ways of the Senate. It is the greatest legislative body in the history of democracy, and I am thrilled to have the honor of presiding over it, even though I can't talk. So if I talk a little long, you will understand.

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(Laughter)

Now, I would like to say that I have been with Marv Esch all day, and believe me, ladies and gentlemen, you are lucky to have someone of his dedication, his brilliance -- I will talk a little about him in a minute -- running for the Senate of the United States to be your junior Senator -- two Republican Senators to represent the kind of America that we believe in. You have got two great men.

(Applause)

But I was with Jim and Ms. Damman all day, too, and, believe me, we understand each other. He was generous and I want to thank him. You pick the best-looking representatives. They are bright, dedicated, with integrity, but also very good-looking. I am thrilled to be with him and his wife.

We have had a lot of fun today, and I am here to support your candidates at all levels. Believe me, you have got wonderful candidates right across this state. This is going to be an exciting election, and I am thrilled to be here.

One of those who has established the standard, Ed Hutchinson, is retiring. There is a great Congressman who has represented you and all of us as a Nation. We hate to see him going, but every once in a while one of us decides we have had it or time catches up, and so I would just like to express my respect and admiration to him.

Now, another person from Michigan that I have admired and known for a long time is Elly Peterson. She has got to be one of the great Americans and capable Republicans. Where is she? There she is, sitting down there. That is just the way she would be. She is doing more for President Ford than any one single person. She did it during the nominating period and she is back there now.

I want to tell you, in my State it is the women that elect the candidates, and I have a feeling that is true for the United States. And if anybody can do it, Elly Peterson mobilizes them. I would like to thank her.

(Applause)

As far as Max Fisher is concerned, I consider he is an institution. I don't know what the Republican Party here or the Republican Party nationally would do without him. I would like to salute Max and thank him for what he has done for the party.

(Applause)

And Jay Van Andel, your dinner chairman, an outstanding person, dedicated person. This is a wonderful gathering here. It just takes all these various individuals to make democracy function.

And Ranny Riecker, we worked together today, and there is another wonderful person, your national committee-woman.

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And Peter Fletcher has got to be one of the most dynamic men I have seen in a long time. He has got more friends here. I have signed more autographs. I don't know whether to get \$1,000 extra each time.

(Laughter)

But I am deeply grateful for the fact that you are here and contributing.

I want to tell you, you have got in your great chairman, Bill McLaughlin, a great man. He needs still more money. This is going to help him, but he needs more. And if I know campaigns for the Senate, believe me, Marv could use a little money. And there is no law against sending a check in on your own if you want to for either one of them. I know everybody has done a lot, but it helps to have the funds necessary. And it is totally legal, so that everybody keeps straight on this.

(Laughter)

I would like to salute the candidates that are here, your candidates across the State, the party leaders and the workers of the party who are here, the unsung heroes of democracy, and the generous contributors that are here. That is something you might even consider doing again. And to you fellow Republicans, discerning Democrats and Independents, thank you.

Believe me, I am thrilled to be here. I have been campaigning all over this great, powerful and important State of yours today. There is something unmistakable in the Michigan air. I sense a Republican Party -- vigorous, vital and ready to roll on to victory on November 2nd. That is what I think is going to happen, and it is going to be leading the Nation.

(Applause)

I would like to say to you that all Americans can be thankful to Michigan in a lot of ways, politically and technically. When America needed a leader with honesty, with courage, with outstanding ability in a moment of crisis, Michigan gave us an honest, courageous leader of outstanding ability in Jerry Ford. And I want to tell you, we are lucky.

(Applause)

And I cannot think of a better place for a familiar Detroit slogan -- we Americans can be grateful that we had a Ford in our future, and that is what we have got. That goes for all the other manufacturers here, too. This is a political connotation. I don't want to take sides.

(Laughter)

I am here tonight because I am concerned about the future of America. I love this country. This is the greatest country in the world. And you are here because you love this country. And there isn't a person in the world who wouldn't give his eyeteeth to be in America. And there are about nine million of them here illegally because they all want to come here.

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We think we have got trouble. You ought to go visit, as Bill said, some of these other countries. No, it was Marv that said visit some of these other countries, and then you are going to come back and really appreciate what we have got. So let's keep it that way. Let's preserve these values for the future and the oncoming generations.

And I am concerned about preserving the leadership of President Gerald R. Ford. I am concerned about preserving our two-party system, the strength and vitality of America, and maintaining a strong two-party system. That means we must rebuild a strong Republican Party, which is what you are doing here. And, believe me, we need a two-party system back in the Congress of the United States so that you don't have a two-to-one majority in the Democratic Party.

When the Democratic caucus meets, they make decisions and pass them out to the committees and say, "This is what you are going to do." This isn't democracy as our founding fathers understood it and conceived it. This is something that verges on something that could be very dangerous, ladies and gentlemen -- the future of the values that we cherish.

Now, Michigan can strengthen both our party and our country by electing that outstanding candidate to the U. S. Senate -- Marv Esch.

I want to tell you, Marv, we are counting on you.

(Applause)

To me, this can be the start of the new trend of Republicans coming back to a really strong two-party system. He has got to be one of the most brilliant and effective members of the Congress. During a decade of outstanding service Marv has promoted tax incentives to stimulate investment and job expansion in private industry. He sponsored the Comprehensive Employment Training Act, which brought 175,000 jobs to Michigan. He sponsored revenue sharing.

The fact that he sponsored that, ladies and gentlemen, which is not popular in the Congress, because that is giving money back to the State and local government, government closest to the people, which is the best government, without strings -- it gives the elected representatives, governors like Bill here or the county executives or mayors or whoever it may be the opportunity to use those funds which come from us anyhow, because we send them to Washington, use those funds as our constituents want. And it is the local officials who understand the needs without being dictated to by Washington as to how we should spend the money and what the conditions are, and so tied up in red tape and bureaucracy that you can't make a decision.

I will never forget when Bill and my friend testified before this hearing. I conducted a series of hearings around the country for the President on the Domestic Council. Dan Evans is Governor of the State of Washington. He has got to be another great Republican Governor. He said two things that really stood out. He said, "We worked for months with lawyers and professionals to make an application to Washington. We prepared three

volumes which we sent down there for \$8 billion. We got back a little note from an unknown person in the department which replied, 'Sorry, since you prepared your application the regulations have been changed. Therefore it no longer is applicable. You will have to do it over under the new regulations.'

His second story, they wanted to make a savings of a million-and-a-half. They prepared another careful documentation, sent it down. They got back a little note saying, "Sorry, there is no provision in our regulation for savings."

Now, ladies and gentlemen, this wasn't the way America was built. It was built by people at the grass roots who had creativity and faith in this country, whether they were in the local government or entrepreneurs of our country. They were people with ideas.

This is what this Administration stands for and what Marv understood when he supported revenue sharing. I want to tell you, this revenue sharing, for every \$10,000 that is distributed back to government, do you know what it costs the taxpayers in overhead? One dollar. There are only 100 people that are distributing \$40 billion back to State and local government. This is the best-managed thing. There is no red tape and there is no regulation that goes with it. He saw that and he understood and he supported it.

Now, Marv started out about 19 points behind in the polls. Some of us have started out even further behind. He has closed that gap, ladies and gentlemen, very fast, coming right up. The last one was seven points behind. And there is no question in my mind, after listening to him, after watching him, after seeing the reaction to him, he is going to be your next junior Senator -- that is, if every one of us right through to election stays with him, works hard and helps him in every way we can, including, if you want, to send him a little, old check.

(Applause)

Now, I want to tell you, you have got some terrific and outstanding candidates in Michigan, and you ought to be out for them, and I know you are. That is because of your State chairman, your Governor, who inspire people of ability and integrity to make the sacrifice to serve their country at all levels.

I have had a chance to campaign with some of your congressional candidates -- terrific, attractive candidates running for Congress here in Michigan. Two of the most promising are right here in the greater Detroit area -- Carl Purcell, who can do a great job for Marv Esch's district, when Marv goes to the Senate; --

(Applause)

-- and Dave Serotkin, a young, rising star in the Republican Party. Dave came within an eyelash of winning last time in a heavily Democratic district. He is going to win this time and be your next Congressman, ladies and gentlemen.

(Applause)

We need them to join another outstanding incumbent from this area, Bill Broomfield. There is a great guy.

(Applause)

And all of your other representatives -- and I won't take the time to name them because you know them. You are here to support them. And I would just like to say I am thrilled.

Some newspaperman said, "What can you do for these candidates in Michigan?" I said, "The only thing I can do is provide a platform where you can come see them, listen to them, take pictures of them and learn what kind of outstanding people are running on the Republican ticket." If you tell the rest of the citizens in the State about them, they are going to be swept in office. That is all I can do. That is what I am here for.

(Applause)

Now, I would just like to say a few words about what is clearly the priority issue before the people in this campaign, and that issue is which candidate can do a better job of continuing America's economic recovery. To me, that is the heart of it. And America's economic recovery is the basis of opportunities for and the well-being of individual Americans.

Now, maybe Mr. Carter and Mr. Mondale think they can solve everybody's problems and they can do it all from Washington. But I would like to tell you they cannot. This country didn't grow to where it is today because it was dictated by Washington. It grew because of the Americans who were free people operating within a framework of laws within which they had the freedom to use their initiative, their imagination, their creativity and take risks. Those who want to make a riskless society today, that has got to be something that had nothing to do with our ancestors. If they were looking for a riskless society, they wouldn't have come here. And if they had come here, they wouldn't have come out west.

My great, great, great-grandfather was headed for Michigan with 11 children. When they got to New York State, his wife had had it, or the children had, whichever way. They settled down in Tioga County on what they named Michigan Hill. It is just by quirk of fate that I am not a Michigander.

(Applause)

Now, the question is which candidate is going to stimulate the economy to create new jobs for our growing labor force. And that is what Americans want, real, permanent jobs in private industry; not made work jobs paid for by the taxpayers. And this really is the heart of the difference, the heart of the program.

(Applause)

Which candidate is going to do a better job of fighting inflation to prevent it from eating away the people's income and drying up investment capital? My friends, the answer is clear. The man who best understands the vitality and strength of the American enterprise system is the President of the United States, your own Jerry Ford.

(Applause)

Now, we don't have to take that claim on faith, either. We can judge it on the basis of the facts.

Now, Jerry Ford didn't seek the Presidency. He was thrust into the Presidency in the midst of a Constitutional crisis -- not only with the war in Vietnam still creating dissension and division in America, but also during the most serious economic decline which has faced us since the Great Depression of the 1930's.

Yet look at how far he has proceeded in turning the economy around. More Americans are working today than at any time in our Nation's history, almost 88 million. It is a record.

Under President Ford the Nation's economy has grown by 3.7 million new jobs since March 1975, an average gain of 206,000 new jobs a month in the private sector of this country.

Now, sure, there is too much unemployment and there is a great deal of suffering. But, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to say that if the growth rate that he has encouraged through his policies continues, we are going to have another three million jobs, and we are going to get back to a point where we have what is known as full employment opportunities.

But it is not going to come by government guaranteeing everybody a job raking leaves or doing some other thing. It is going to come only because of the expansion of our economy and the growth of America in its strength and confidence and in the faith in the future. And that is what he believes in.

(Applause)

Now, the economists didn't think you could cut down inflation and get employment up at the same time -- all of them, left and right. And yet he has done that, ladies and gentlemen. He has cut inflation in half already, while employment has picked up almost 400 million. So we see someone who has faith in the fundamental principles on which this country grew.

In fact, the inflation rate is now close to five percent and is expected to be held within the five percent to six percent range through the rest of the year.

One economic indicator after another shows the economic trend is up. Now, I would just like to give you those and make a comment. Look at these -- personal income up 10.7 percent; industrial production up 8.6 percent; retail sales up 10.5 percent. Also orders for nondefense

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capital goods have risen 30 percent in the first 7 months of this year. Business investment in plant and equipment is expected to be at an annualized rate of \$127 billion the last quarter of this year.

Let me just say, sure, we have had a little slowing down, but I would like to say, as one who follows these things pretty carefully, that we were going at a pace where for a while there our economy was growing at a nine percent rate, and we were running a danger of overheating our economy and having inflation come back because there would be a shortage of manufacturing capacity and a shortage of raw materials because production was up. So we may find we were very fortunate that this little hold-down in the growth rate took place.

And the gross national product, which was in an actual decline during the first quarter last year, is now showing a 6.8 percent rise in real growth for the first half of this year.

The important question is this -- How did Jerry Ford turn the economy around? And this is a very interesting question, because he has done a fantastic job, plus restoring confidence and respect in the Executive Branch of government and the White House. That he did in addition.

He did it because he is a leader with guts, ladies and gentlemen, if you will excuse my language. That is not as bad as it sometimes is.

(Laughter)

My friends, when you have an appropriation bill in front of you, a spending bill, backed by powerful special interest groups, the easiest thing for a President to do is sign them. Believe me, I know. I was the Governor. Some group is always after more Federal money. There is no end to worthy causes. But Jerry Ford understood the danger and had the integrity and intelligence and the sheer guts to say "No!" 63 times to excessive spending bills.

(Applause)

And he said "No" by using his veto power -- and this is the interesting thing -- in the way that our Constitutional fathers intended.

I don't think Mr. Carter recognizes that that is the separation of powers between the Executive and the Legislative Branch, and this is the way the founding fathers set it up. That was to protect the interests of all the people.

When he sees something, he sees inflation coming, he knows the devastating fact is that it hurts most those who can least afford it, and he says, after study, "I am going to veto this," regardless of how popular it is, because it is in the best long-term interests of the American people, not to encourage the resumption of inflation. And so he has done it.

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Now, he has done it against the narrow interests of powerful pressure groups, and that takes a lot of courage. But Jerry Ford believes the important role of government in our society is to help people help themselves. That is what Abraham Lincoln thought -- "Only do those things for people which they can't do for themselves." -- and he believes that.

But he is against legislation, regulation and domination of every waking hour of our lives by the Federal Government.

This is the kind of man we need in the White House, and we are going to have him.

(Applause)

Now, let me take one other area. You know, the Democrats have tried to make out that he has not got a lot of courage and he has taken all these tough stands on vetoes because he is really not a leader, he is not a dynamic leader. But if you look at the record, ladies and gentlemen, he has taken one tough problem after another, he has studied it and sent recommendations to the Congress, which have been pigeonholed. On some they had hearings and some they let die and on some they didn't even have hearings. They put it off to the side and let it go.

Take crime, for instance. This is an area of deep concern to the people of America. The Congress failed to enact the President's anti-crime program at the last session. Mandatory sentences is what he was asking for. The President has declared that his crime-fighting proposals will be the first order of business in the next Ford Administration. The President wants mandatory prison sentences for violent crimes, mandatory sentences for the hard drug dealers and pushers, and he is right.

(Applause)

We got that through in New York State, and it is the only way to deal with them.

(Applause)

And these are things Congress can pass. Now, they are not responsible for the administration of criminal justice, but they can set the standards of the framework within which local government operates. And the President wants swift and certain punishment for criminals. And I have got to say I agree with him, ladies and gentlemen. And if we don't get back to it, we are going to have anarchy and not democracy and freedom in this country.

(Applause)

In short, the President wants your streets safe for decent citizens and unsafe for those who flaunt the law and threaten properties or life. And this is what he stands for. And the reason that it hasn't passed is because the Congress wouldn't act on it. It is not because of men like this. It is because of that two-to-one Democratic-controlled majority who would rather put politics and the chance of electing a Democrat President ahead of the national interest.

The President has more concerns about the people and their future than he has about being reelected. That is the kind of President we need.

(Applause)

And just like Marv, he had the courage to support revenue sharing. He supported it when he was minority leader. I know, because I was working on it for the Governors Conference, and he asked me to work with him in getting this passed in the Congress. It has been in function and was up for renewal after five years. I want to tell you, it has taken months to get the Congress to act on this -- again because they would rather dole the money out where they get credit for some categorical grant on which they can be identified, which has all kinds of restrictions and limitations to a point where -- I was going to say "we governors," but you know what I mean --

(Laughter)

-- those who are running local government get so tied up in this that they cannot be responsive to their own local constituents.

The President pushed this. He got it through. He signed the bill. And I want to tell you, it would not have happened and local government would not have gotten this money if it hadn't been for President Gerald R. Ford.

(Applause)

And I would just like to say that Detroit received \$200 million in the five years, the first round of this program, and under the new legislation, which Congress gave three-and-three-quarters years -- the President asked for five-and-three-quarters years, But under that, Detroit will get \$155 million. And they wouldn't have gotten that if he hadn't kept with it and kept constantly following the various committees to see that it got through. So that gives you a little idea.

Now, let me just say a word about the man who is campaigning somewhere else today, Bob Dole. I want to tell you, he is a great guy. Bob Dole is a very extraordinary man. And I think he was an outstanding choice that the President made for his running mate. He is first rate, he is able, he is dynamic as a candidate.

Bob Dole knows what makes America tick, and his whole adult life has been spent in the service of his Nation. He was a wounded war hero. He is a man of deep compassion. He is a champion of the handicapped, he worked hard for civil rights, was a cosponsor of the McGovern-Dole legislation to provide food stamps for the truly needy poor and to get those off who don't deserve or need the food stamps.

Now, when a candidate for Vice President is chosen by a political party, it should always be remembered, and this decision should be done with the knowledge that he may succeed to the Presidency, God forbid, if something happens. And I can tell you from personal knowledge that

Bob Dole has the strength, the intelligence, the experience and the character necessary to assume that job should anything happen during his term.

And I would like to just say parenthetically for the wives that are here, that he not only brings all these qualities, but he brings a brilliant and beautiful wife with him to this job, who is a member of the Federal Trade Commission in her own right. So you get two for one.

(Laughter)

Now, in conclusion, let me just say this campaign is unusual for me. I am not running for anything. That has got to be something because I have run for quite a few things.

(Laughter)

But I am campaigning here because I am deeply concerned about the future of America. Therefore, I want a President whose compassion is shown in actions for all our people and not just saccharin words. I want a President in power who does not seek to put one economic group against another, one section of this great country against another, but who unifies the Nation in the best interests of all Americans.

I want a President who sees not just the faults but the true greatness of America; a President who not only can encourage the dynamic growth of our free society at home, but command respect and friendship for us abroad. That is the kind of person we need, and we have such a man in President Ford.

And when the American voters step into that booth on November 2nd, in my opinion, they are going to ask themselves basically one question: "In whom can I place my trust and confidence to meet the problems in the next four years at home and abroad?" There is just one answer -- the man from Michigan, Gerald R. Ford, our next President of the United States.

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.

(Applause)

END

(AT 9:28 P.M. EDT)