

ORIGINAL

REMARKS
OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

INTRODUCING
VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE

at

THE FIFTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

New Orleans, Louisiana
April 25, 1978

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REMARKS
OF
THE HONORABLE GRIFFIN B. BELL
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

INTRODUCING
VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE
at
THE FIFTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 1978

New Orleans, Louisiana

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1978

P R O C E E D I N G S

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2 THE MODERATOR: * * * It is our
3 pleasure to have the Attorney General, our former colleague,
4 Griffin Bell of Georgia, a wonderful State to live in and to
5 come from, to present our speaker.

6 [Applause.]

7 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: Thank you, Chief Judge
8 Brown. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

9 Protocol has it that I should introduce the Vice
10 President by simply saying, "Ladies and gentlemen, the Vice
11 President of the United States".

12 I saw that happen not long ago when someone said
13 that before they introduced the Chief Justice, and everyone
14 applauded because this was a long-winded speaker and he was
15 well known for that. It did deter him; but it won't deter
16 me.

17 [Laughter.]

18 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: Because I have two or three
19 things I want to say.

20 The first is that I'd sure rather be here than in
21 Philadelphia.

22 [Laughter.]

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: I don't know about the Vice
President, I'm just speaking for myself.

[Laughter.]

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: Bob Haynesworth asked me
2 what I thought about being Attorney General, and I didn't
3 tell him this story, but I will now.

4 There was a lawyer arguing before a court in
5 Texas, he'd been arguing a long time, and he said to the judge,
6 "Is Your Honor with me?" The judge said, "Yes, I am, but if
7 I could get back to the beginning, I would leave you."

8 [Laughter.]

9 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: I went with the Vice
10 President to the Second Circuit last fall, and I told him if
11 he made a good speech I might get him invited to the South.
12 He said that he would appreciate that very much.

13 So I asked Bob and Judge Brown about getting him on
14 the program here and they've worked it out, and we are
15 certainly glad to have him.

16 I told him he'd be among friends, it would be a
17 warm audience, and I think you demonstrated that as we walked
18 in.

19 I want to tell you, warn you about some things about
20 the Vice President. In the first place he comes from a
21 State that has tried to take over the nation. They had the
22 Vice President at one time, they now have another Vice President.
23 They have the Chief Justice. They have another Justice on the
Supreme Court. It's a small State to have the Chief Justice
and another Justice out of nine Justices.

1 We recently had a swearing-in of the new Director
2 of the FBI. They were all there, the Chief Justice, Justice
3 Blackmun, Vice President Mondale. Only two people were there
4 from Georgia, the President and me.

5 [Laughter.]

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: Now, our speaker, the
7 Vice President, denies that he was a person that had a very
8 affluent childhood. He was a son of a Methodist minister.
9 He says that he had a hard time, but I don't think so. He
10 had a brilliant military career. He was in the Army for three
11 years, and he rose to the rank of Corporal.

12 [Laughter.]

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: But here's one good thing
14 about him: he's a lawyer. He graduated from law school
15 cum laude. And I like lawyers; the President doesn't!

16 [Laughter.]

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: The President is always
18 saying, "I'm not a lawyer, and I'm proud of it."

19 [Laughter.]

20 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: I said to him not long ago
21 that I'm not an engineer and I'm proud of it.

22 [Laughter.]

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL: But it's good to have a
lawyer as Vice President, because we have to stand up against
this non-lawyer President sometimes.

1 Our speaker, the Vice President, was Attorney
2 General of his State for four years; he served twelve years
3 in the Senate. He wrote a fine book on "The Office of the
4 Presidency." I have a feeling that that had something to
5 do with the President picking him to be Vice President,
6 because this book came out not so long before the selection
7 process ensued; and I know that the President was aware of
8 the book.

9 The Vice President and I never knew each other be-
10 fore he became Vice President and I became Attorney General,
11 but we've become warm friends. I think he does a good job.
12 I admire him. And I think one of the best things he does is
13 somehow survive in a White House full of people from Georgia.

14 [Laughter; applause.]

15 [At this point Vice President Mondale gave his
16 speech]

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