

people who have evoked my admiration and respect in my life-time but, during the time that this campaign got rather heated — and during the time that a lesser man may have been inclined to interject into my particular efforts, in this all-out attempt to be elected, certain advice that may have been very upsetting to me — under intense circumstances Mr. Nixon showed a restraint, a confidence in me that few people have ever exhibited. And I can only say this: that as a Vice President, I will be as loyal as a Vice President has ever been to a man, not because the job requires the loyalty — which of course it does — but because of my personal feeling about Mr. Nixon.

My sincerest thanks to all those friends and supporters and staff who worked so hard for the Nixon-Agnew ticket. They meant so much to our victory. They'll mean so much to us in the future. I'm intensely grateful to the American people for allowing me to play an important role in the magnificent work that lies ahead.

And, of course, the family and I will have much to do. I suppose we'll have to look forward to the not too tasteful task of vacating what is probably the finest Governor's Mansion in the United States. But we will begin to do this after I have spent the remainder of the week cleaning up some State business, and I hope I will get a few days off next week before pitching in to prepare for the tremendous task that lies ahead.

My very sincere thanks to you all for your support during the campaign, and we anticipate the continuation of your efforts in the future.

Thank you.

Questions and Answers

Q. Were you surprised by the closeness of the race?

A. The question was: Was I surprised by the closeness of the race? I really can't say that I was, because I always approach every political election that I have been involved in, including the ones that I simply worked in rather than being a candidate, as a very unpredictable set of circumstances — so I can't say that I was surprised.

I had the feeling, as we came into the last week of the campaign, that it was indeed going to be a very close thing, and it ran a little closer than would make you comfortable — but we kept the faith through it all.

Q. Governor, what do you consider your major contribution during the campaign? What do you consider your major contribution to the ticket?