

Remarks of Governor Mike Pence  
National Association of Broadcasters  
September 10, 2014

As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you, Kim.

To the Radio Advertising Bureau and the National Association of Broadcasters, it is my great honor to welcome the 2014 Radio Show and America's leading broadcasters to the great state of Indiana.

In my humble opinion you've come to the best state ever.

Home of the Indy 500 and the Indianapolis Colts; the birthplace of Michael Jackson and John Mellencamp; and a place where high school basketball is not a sport—it's a way of life.

You are on the home court of Hoosier hospitality, which will be in high relief throughout your stay in our capitol city.

And you come to a state that works, where we live within our means. We have a surplus, not deficits, and a AAA bond rating.

We've invested in roads and schools, and let people keep more of what they earn.

In case you are taking notes, Indiana will have the second lowest corporate tax rate in America in just a few years.

But I didn't come here to brag about Indiana.

Okay, I didn't come here just to brag about Indiana.

I really came to extend a Hoosier welcome to each and every one of the broadcasters here and to say thanks for all that you do for the communities and nation that you serve as part of the free and independent press.

You see, I've served in public office for 14 years: A year and a half as Governor and 12 years in Congress.

And if I only had 12 years left to live, I'd want to live them as a member of Congress, because those were the longest years of my life.

But before entering public service, I had the privilege for nearly 10 years to host a program on the most important and personal and accessible media in America—local broadcast radio.

I hosted a talk radio show in the early days of that format. I liked to say, "I'm a conservative, but I'm not a bad mood about it." I was kind of like Rush Limbaugh on decaf.

From my experience I can tell you from my heart: I believe in local radio. I've seen firsthand what local radio means to local communities.

When it's time to celebrate, we crank it up at the picnic or the party or the lake by turning your stations on.

When there's good news in Hometown America it's on local radio where we learn about it first.

And when things go wrong, people here in Indiana and all over this country turn on the radio first.

Thomas Jefferson said "Our liberty cannot be guarded but by the freedom of the press, nor that limited without danger of losing it."

On this eve of the anniversary of that tragic day in September 2001, we do well to acknowledge the vital role that each of you play in informing the nation in troubled times.

When Pres. Franklin Roosevelt spoke about that "day of infamy," Americans were huddled around the radio.

When the towers and the Pentagon were hit, most Americans first learned of that

tragedy as they went about their busy lives from the radio on their dashboard or desk.

And so as our commander-in-chief prepares to address the nation tonight about the American response to the barbarism of ISIS in Iraq, each of you will again play a vital role in ensuring that our citizens are informed of the nature of the threat and the necessity for action.

It will be on the radio that most Americans learn the details of the strategy and debate the American response.

I do applaud the president for engaging with our allies in an effort to defeat ISIS and look forward to him articulating his plans in more detail tonight.

Too much has been given and too much has been sacrificed for us to continue to shrink from our responsibilities abroad.

This cannot be one more speech followed by hesitation and indecision.

The Old Book says “If the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will know to get ready for battle?”

We need a strong and clear American response which will only happen if a strong and capable media informs our public and holds our leaders accountable.

Because of your efforts, I believe we as a nation will find the will to do what is necessary and remain firm in our convictions until we have ended this threat to our peace and security.

And, once again, more than anywhere else, it will be on the airwaves of American radio that Americans will come together, will be informed, discuss, and find the courage and resolve to prevail.

Abraham Lincoln said “Give the people the facts and the Republic will be saved.”

So, in these challenging times, for all you do to inform and entertain, for all you do to make our communities and our nation strong, I say to the leading broadcasters in America...here's to radio's past, present, and future. Here's to radio now and "next" radio.

Welcome to Indiana.

May God continue to bless you and your stewardship of the precious beacons that make up American radio.