The original documents are located in Box 1, folder "1976/05/04 - President Ford Committee Fundraiser, Columbus, Ohio" of the Francis K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Ohio Village Remarks---Revised

I've done quite a bit of traveling throughout the United States this year, and I've also

~~Although I've been traveling in America in 1976,~~ ~~I've also~~ been traveling through American history. Ohio Village is one of the many excursions I've taken into the past. I've seen an ~~old West~~ adobe schoolhouse in the West, an oil "boom"town~~x~~ and Benjamin Franklin's home and ~~x~~ shop. ~~Although~~ All of these visits have reminded me of how much ~~in~~ our past ~~has~~ reveals about us today. It's interesting, of course, to see these buildings, and imagine what life was like by kerosene light. But I think there ~~are~~ is something else to stimulate our thinking---and that is how and why our ancestors survived and prevailed over their problems.

Every four years, we have Presidential elections to determine which person will lead our Nation. A President ~~naturally~~ officially is the head of the executive branch, but more than~~x~~ that he reflects what we believe about America.

It's not simply that ~~the~~ Jerry Ford is my husband that makes me want to see him elected President. ~~It is because of what~~

It is because he believes in the ability of ~~the American~~ people, and, truly he believes the strength of the Nation begins with each individual. ~~He hopes the next 100 years will be a time of focusing on individual achievement~~ He sees in our past achievements the beginnings of an even better America.

~~I~~ I think from being here today you share my feelings that ~~Jerry Ford~~ the President is the kind of honest, dedicated and talented person ~~we want~~ needed to lead America into the third century.

We need your help to elect him, because elections are won by people who ~~xhaxexkhexxxxxxxxxxx~~ work to elect good candidates believe ~~that government is only as good as they people who are elected to lead~~. I hope we can count on you to share your concern with your neighbors. Thank you for your very warm and friendly welcome today. I'll be sharing your enthusiasm with the President---who truly appreciates your caring enough to work for him.

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Ohio Village, Remarks May 4, 1976

(An old-time ~~The~~ American village ~~xxx~~ always seemed like it would have been a wonderful place to make friends.) And that's certainly the way Ohio Village has been for me ~~x~~ today. I've enjoyed meeting and talking with you.

I can't tell you how ~~xxxxxx~~ encouraging it is for me to ~~us when I~~ meet dedicated volunteers for the President like you. His success depends upon your hard work and willingness to get out and campaign. In this wonderful Republican state, we're looking for lots of strength and activity ~~from you~~. So thanks for all you've done, and please keep it up.

Today has been ~~xxxxxxx~~ a wonderful day for me---meeting new friends in such an interesting "old" town.

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Ohio Political Background

Ohio was one of the bright spots for the GOP in 1974. The House delegation is 15 Republicans to 8 Democrats, and Gov. James Rhodes is a Republican who won in 1974. In fact, the Ohio State Legislature is one of the few still under Republican control. The two Senators are John Glenn (D) and Robert Taft Jr. (R). Taft's seat is up this year, and he is seeking reelection.

Columbus, like Indianapolis, is an urban Republican stronghold, although it has an 18 percent black population. Also it is a white collar town with state government, banking and insurance providing most of the jobs. Ohio State University is located in Columbus.

Columbus is represented by two Republicans: Sam Devine of the 12th and Chalmers Wylie of the 15th. Devine had a tough race in 1974, because he was a strong Nixon loyalist.

The date of the primary is June 8th.

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Ohio Village Background

Ohio Village is a reconstruction of a typical Ohio county seat between 1800 and 1860. The fourteen village shops, stores, government buildings and homes represent the most popular styles of architecture found in Ohio during those years. Inhabiting the village are almost 30 craftsmen and interpreters, dressed in clothing of the period. All of them are from the staff of the Ohio Historical Society, and they tell about the industrial, social and political activities of the village to the visitors. The village was first opened to the public in 1974.

Ohio Village Background

The small American village always seemed like a grand place to make friends. And that's certainly the way Ohio Village has been for me today. I've enjoyed meeting and talking with you.

I'm on the campaign trail---because of people like you. I've met so many dedicated, hard-working Republicans during Jerry's years in public life, and I've made some wonderful friends and associations. That's what makes it easy for me to make these trips, because even though I may not have met you before---I knew about you.

Today has been a wonderful day for me. I want to close by encouraging you to keep working to elect the President.