

The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “Third Debate: Closing Statements” of the White House Special Files Unit Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.



During my 25 years in the Congress, five Presidents led this country. I worked with all of them. I watched them make decisions. I disagreed with them when I thought they had made the wrong decisions.

When I became President two years ago, I found there was quite a difference between making the critical decisions and second-guessing them.

Since taking office under very difficult circumstances, I have done my best to put this Nation back on even keel, to chart a steady course for the future.

Now I stand for election to a full term as your President. An American campaign must have its share of bumper stickers and television commercials and slogans. But these are not the means for deciding who should lead this country for the next four years.

These are the things that matter: America is celebrating its Bicentennial year in freedom. America is

steadily recovering from the worst recession and the worst inflation in forty years. America has had its faith restored in the White House. America is at peace.

We have come a long way. We have a long way still to go. Whatever the outcome of this election, I have been proud to serve as your President. I love this country, as you do. It would be the highest honor of my life for you to say, "Jerry, you've done a good job for America. Keep right on doing it."

Thank you, and good night.

#



25 years (Congress)

5 Presidents led

Worked with them

Disagreed with them

Wrong decisions

Became Pres.

Difference - making 2nd guessing

Taking office - difficult circ.

Even keel - steady course - Future

Election - Full term

Campaign - bumper stickers, TV, slogans

Not means - lead country



ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

Come long way
Long way to go.
Whatever outcome / period
To have been Pals.
Love country so you do
Highest honor - for you
to say - I done you
job for America. Keep
right

Things that matter

Celebrating bi-centennial

Recession - inflation

Faith restored

Peace

Come long way - long way to go

Outcome - election

Proud to serve

Love country - as you do

Highest honor

Jerry - good job - do it

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

During May 25

Leat 2 yrs - found etc

Service taking office,
even feel
steady course

No stand for election for
full term

Bumper stickers, T.V. commercials
dozens.

These are things that matter
Bi centennial
Recovery from recession &
youth inflation