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Mr Pres

I will present
the Ford Energy Package
to this crowd at 9AM
tomorrow — a plug will
help — Rog

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. *ds*

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

GOP NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1975

(ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS)

FIRST, I WANT TO CONGRATULATE MARY LOUISE SMITH
ON THE EXCEPTIONAL JOB SHE HAS DONE AT THIS CONFERENCE.

MARY LOUISE HAS BEEN SPENDING MORE AND MORE OF HER TIME
TALKING TO LARGE GROUPS. THEN AGAIN, BOB STRAUSS,

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, HAS BEEN SPENDING MORE
AND MORE OF HIS TIME TALKING TO LARGE GROUPS NOT

AUDIENCES -- CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT!

2951

Mary Louise
Cabinet.
Congress.

TONIGHT, BEFORE I GO ANY FURTHER, LET ME

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR KINDNESS, YOUR ENTHUSIASM AND

YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT, I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW GOOD

IT FEELS TO BE AMONG SO MANY GOOD, VETO-PROOF FRIENDS.

THE TIME YOU ARE SPENDING IN WASHINGTON IS

VERY IMPORTANT -- FOR ME, FOR YOU, AND FOR OUR COUNTRY.

THE STRENGTH, THE ENTHUSIASM AND THE KNOW-HOW YOU HAVE

SHOWN IS PROOF THAT CREATIVE, ACTIVE AND WINNING REPUBLICANS

WILL NEVER BE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES.

IF WHAT I HEAR IS CORRECT, MANY IN THIS AUDIENCE
ARE NEW AT MEETINGS OF THIS SORT. YOU HAVE SPENT YOUR
OWN MONEY TO COME HERE. THE NEW ENERGY YOU ARE
GENERATING WILL BE FELT THROUGHOUT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.
YOUR INVOLVEMENT AND YOUR DEDICATION WILL GROW -- AND
OUR NATION WILL BE THE BENEFICIARY.

YOUR PROGRAM IS IMPRESSIVE, AND I WANT TO
COMMEND MRS. SMITH AND HER CO-WORKERS FOR PUTTING SUCH
IMPORTANT EMPHASIS ON THE "NUTS-AND-BOLTS" WHICH BIND
THE PARTY STRUCTURE TOGETHER.

AND I AM DELIGHTED THAT TEN OF YOUR COLLEAGUES

SELECTED AT RANDOM HAVE JOINED US AT THE HEAD TABLE TONIGHT --

BECAUSE THIS SYMBOLIZES THE NEW AND BROADER BASE THIS

PARTY SEEKS.

NEARLY A YEAR AGO, I APPEARED BEFORE A REPUBLICAN
MEETING SIMILAR TO THIS IN CHICAGO. I SAID THEN THAT WE
MUST NEVER AGAIN PERMIT AN ELITE GUARD SERVING A SINGLE
PURPOSE TO EXCLUDE AND IGNORE THE REGULAR PARTY ORGANIZATION.
I RENEW THAT PLEDGE TO YOU HERE TONIGHT.

THEN, AS NOW, I FEEL THAT WORKING THROUGH
AND WITH THE ESTABLISHED PARTY STRUCTURE IS THE RIGHT WAY
TO GO. NEW ELECTION LAW REFORMS -- PARTICULARLY
THOSE DEALING WITH FINANCES -- VALIDATE THE POLICY THAT
I ADVOCATED LAST YEAR.

THEY DO NOT RULE OUT COMMITTEES AND OTHER VOLUNTEER GROUPS

WORKING IN COOPERATION WITH THE PARTY STRUCTURE. BUT

THEY DO TEND TO FAVOR THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM IN WHICH I HAVE

ALWAYS PROFOUNDLY BELIEVED.

AS TO MY ROLE IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, YOU CAN
BE SURE THAT WHENEVER IT IS PROPER -- AND I STRESS THAT POINT --
I INTEND TO EXERT MY EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF GOOD REPUBLICAN
CANDIDATES AND THE REBUILDING OF REPUBLICANISM TO THE
FULLEST, CONSISTENT WITH MY DUTIES AS PRESIDENT.

OBVIOUSLY, THE DEMANDS AND DUTIES OF THE
PRESIDENCY IMPOSE CERTAIN LIMITATIONS ON MY POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.
BUT I PLEDGE TO YOU NOW -- THAT I WILL BE IN THE MIDDLE OF
THE 1976 CAMPAIGN NOT ONLY FOR THE PRESIDENCY BUT ON BEHALF
OF REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES FOR THE HOUSE AS WELL AS THE SENATE
AND FOR STATE GOVERNORS AND OTHER ELECTIVE OFFICES ACROSS
THE COUNTRY. I'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR A GOOD MANY YEARS
AND I'M TOO OLD TO CHANGE MY GOOD HABITS NOW.

SPECIFICALLY, I WANT TO WORK CLOSELY WITH
MARY LOUISE SMITH, WITH GUY VANDER JAGT IN HOUSE RACES,
WITH TED STEVENS IN SENATE RACES, WITH KIT BOND IN THE
GOVERNORS' RACES AND WITH OUR PARTY CHAIRMEN AND --
HOW DO WE SAY IT NOW -- NATIONAL COMMITTEE - PERSONS? --
IN EACH OF THE FIFTY STATES, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO AND THE TERRITORIES.

BUT YOU AND I KNOW ONE FUNDAMENTAL FACT:

THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTION I CAN MAKE TO THE COUNTRY

AND TO THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WILL BE TO MAKE SOLID PROGRESS

IN SOLVING OUR NATIONAL PROBLEMS -- PARTICULARLY OUR

DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES. AND I INTEND TO DO JUST THAT.

AS TO MY OWN PLANS, I CAN TELL YOU TONIGHT WITHOUT
EQUIVOCATION THAT I FULLY INTEND TO SEEK THE NOMINATION OF THE
REPUBLICAN PARTY AS ITS CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT IN 1976!

THERE IS NOTHING "IFFY" ABOUT THAT STATEMENT.

I INTEND TO SEEK THE NOMINATION.

I INTEND TO WIN.

I INTEND TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT.

AND I INTEND TO WIN THAT, TOO!

OF COURSE, I WILL NEED YOUR HELP AND SO WILL ALL

OTHER REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES IN 1975 AND 1976.

BUT BEFORE WE GET INTO 1976, WE HAVE TEN MORE
MONTHS OF 1975. THEY ARE CRUCIAL.

I HAVE LAID BEFORE THE DEMOCRATIC-CONTROLLED
CONGRESS FULLY DETAILED PROGRAMS TO REVERSE THE RECESSION,
TO CONTAIN OUR RECENTLY RAGING INFLATION, AND TO START
FREEING US FROM THE THREAT OF OIL BLACKMAIL.

ALTHOUGH THE RESPONSE WAS DEADLY SLOW AT FIRST,
A SENSE OF GREATER URGENCY MAY NOW BE ARRIVING ON CAPITOL
HILL -- AND FOR THAT WE CAN ALL BE GRATEFUL.

BUT I AM GOING TO KEEP THE HEAT ON -- AT LEAST
AT SIXTY-EIGHT DEGREES.

AMERICANS ARE DEMANDING ACTION. THEY ARE

RIGHTFULLY FEARFUL THAT SOME PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON ARE SO

INSULATED THAT THEY DON'T KNOW THE DESPERATION OF BEING JOBLESS

OR OF LIVING ON AN INADEQUATE FIXED INCOME OR PENSION

THAT CAN'T CATCH UP WITH RUNAWAY PRICES.

WE ARE BEGINNING TO GET A GRIP ON INFLATION,
BUT UNEMPLOYMENT IS STILL TOO HIGH. THE PROBLEMS
WHICH DESPERATELY NEED TO BE DEALT WITH HAVE BEEN GROWING
FOR SOME TIME. SO I ASK THE DEMOCRATS IN MASSIVE
CONTROL OF THE CONGRESS: WHERE ARE THE TOUGH, COORDINATED
AND COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS WHICH OUR URGENT AND
INTER-RELATED ECONOMIC AND ENERGY PROBLEMS DEMAND?
A PIECE HERE, A TOUCH THERE, DO NOT ADD UP TO AN EFFECTIVE
TOTAL PROGRAM.

I SAY IN ALL SINCERITY TO MY CRITICS IN THE
CONGRESS AND ELSEWHERE: IF YOU DON'T LIKE MY PROGRAM,
SHOW ME A BETTER ONE.

EVEN ON SOMETHING SO WIDELY SUPPORTED AS A
STIMULATIVE TAX CUT -- WHICH OUGHT TO BE SOMETHING EASY
FOR THE CONGRESS TO ENACT -- THERE HAS BEEN THE KIND OF
DELAY THAT IS INEXCUSABLE.

EXTREMELY DIFFICULT CHOICES MUST BE MADE THIS
YEAR AND IN SUCCEEDING YEARS BY THE CONGRESS TO LIMIT THE
GROWTH OF FEDERAL BUDGETS AND DEFICITS. BUT THE RESULTS
FROM CAPITOL HILL ARE DISAPPOINTING.

UNLESS MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS HAVE THE POLITICAL
COURAGE TO CUT BACK OR CUT OUT VARIOUS WELL-INTENTIONED
PROGRAMS, WE WILL SOON COME TO THE POINT, BY SIMPLE
ARITHMETIC, WHERE HALF OF THIS COUNTRY'S ENTIRE GROSS
NATIONAL PRODUCT WILL BE TAKEN BY OUR VARIOUS LEVELS OF
GOVERNMENT. ALREADY, WE ARE SPENDING APPROXIMATELY
ONE-THIRD OF OUR GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT
AT ALL LEVELS.

THIS TREND COULD DESTROY THE FUNDAMENTAL

FREE-ENTERPRISE CHARACTER OF THIS COUNTRY AND THE ECONOMIC
INCENTIVES WHICH HAVE MADE US THE LEADER OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED
DEMOCRACIES.

I BELIEVE THAT ONLY A REVITALIZED REPUBLICAN
LEADERSHIP IN ALL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT CAN CHANGE THIS
COURSE. THE ACCUMULATED ACTIONS OF SOME THIRTY-EIGHT
YEARS OF DEMOCRATIC-CONTROLLED CONGRESS OUT OF THE LAST
FORTY-TWO YEARS WILL NOT BE REVERSED BY THIS CONGRESS.
AND I DON'T INTEND TO TURN IN MY KEY TO THE WHITE HOUSE
UNTIL WE HAVE REVERSED THIS TREND.

NOW IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT, BECAUSE OUR
NATIONAL PROBLEMS ARE SO SERIOUS, WE SHOULD NOT BE
WASTING TIME ON THE PROBLEMS OF OUR PARTY -- OR ANY PARTY.

YET IT IS PRECISELY BECAUSE OF OUR NATIONAL
PROBLEMS THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO LOOK TO OUR PARTY AND
ITS REVITALIZATION EVERYWHERE.

I KNOW WHAT THE POLLS SHOW -- AS YOU DO --

AND I SAY WITH ALL THE CONVICTION I CAN COMMAND:

THE STANDING OF OUR PARTY HAS HIT ITS LOWEST POINT,

AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED. IT IS GOING UP FROM THIS POINT

FORWARD!

IF WE FAIL TO REBUILD EFFECTIVELY, THE COST WOULD NOT
BE MEASURED BY THE FATE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY ITSELF.

IT WOULD BE MEASURED BY THE DEPRIVATION OF A BASIC
RIGHT OF ALL AMERICANS -- A FREE CHOICE IN POLITICS.

IT WOULD BE MEASURED BY THE DEATH OF THE EFFECTIVE TWO-PARTY
SYSTEM SO VITAL TO THIS NATION.

IN FAR TOO MANY CITIES AND COUNTIES AND EVEN SOME STATES, THERE IS STILL VIRTUAL ONE-PARTY RULE. VOTERS CAN ONLY RATIFY THE DECISIONS OF THE SINGLE SURVIVING PARTY. AND IN FAR TOO MANY OF THESE SAME AREAS, CORRUPTION AND ABUSE OF POWER MARCH HAND-IN-HAND WITH ONE-PARTY MISRULE.

THE ABIDING VIRTUES OF A STRONG TWO-PARTY SYSTEM

ARE THREE-FOLD: FIRST, IT PROVIDES CONTINUING CHOICE.

SECOND, THE SYSTEM FORCES THE MAXIMUM OF ACCOMMODATION

AND COMPROMISE, INSTEAD OF PROMOTING STALEMATES ENCOURAGED

BY SPLINTER PARTIES. THIRD, THE SYSTEM EXCLUDES THE FANATIC

FACTIONS WHICH CANNOT BE ACCOMMODATED BUT INCLUDES THE BROADEST

RANGE OF REASONABLE DIFFERENCES -- AND THUS HOLDS BOTH MAJOR

PARTIES CLOSER TO THE MAINSTREAM OF PUBLIC OPINION.

TO MAKE SURE THAT REPUBLICANS ARE REALLY ON THE RISE,
WE MUST MAKE SOME PRACTICAL CHANGES IN OUR POLITICAL WAYS --
NOT IN PRINCIPLES, BUT IN APPROACH.

AS A STARTER, WE MUST DISCARD THE ATTITUDE OF
EXCLUSIVENESS THAT HAS KEPT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY'S DOOR CLOSED
TOO OFTEN WHILE WE GIVE SPEECHES ABOUT KEEPING IT OPEN.

WE MUST ERECT A TENT THAT IS BIG ENOUGH FOR ALL WHO
CARE ABOUT THIS GREAT COUNTRY AND BELIEVE IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY
ENOUGH TO WORK THROUGH IT FOR COMMON GOALS.

THIS TENT MUST ALSO BE KEPT OPEN TO THE GROWING NUMBER
OF INDEPENDENT VOTERS WHO REFUSE TO WEAR ANY PARTY LABEL, BUT WHO
WILL SUPPORT THE STRONG CANDIDATES AND GOOD PROGRAMS WE PRESENT.
THESE VOTERS MUST BE WELCOMED AND WON TO OUR CAUSE.

WE MUST BE PREPARED, THEN, TO OVERCOME THE CYNICISM
OF VOTERS BY OFFERING CANDIDATES OF OUTSTANDING ABILITY AND
ROCK-HARD INTEGRITY. WE MUST ALSO BUILD A PARTY THAT WORKS
ALL THE TIME. IT MUST BE MORE THAN A PRE-ELECTION FORCE
THAT GOES OUT OF BUSINESS AFTER THE BALLOTS ARE COUNTED.

AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, WE MUST
DEMONSTRATE CONCLUSIVELY THAT, AS A PARTY, WE CARE ABOUT
PEOPLE -- THAT WE CARE ABOUT PEOPLE FIRST, LAST, AND ALWAYS.

OVER THE PAST DECADE OR SO, THE ATTITUDES OF THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE CHANGED ABOUT GOVERNMENT IN GENERAL
AND POLITICS IN PARTICULAR.

YEARS OF WAR, THREE MAJOR ASSASSINATIONS,

OFFICIAL DUPLICITY, AND RAPID AND SHOCKING CHANGES IN THIS

NATION'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STRUCTURE HAVE COMBINED WITH

INSTANT COMMUNICATIONS TO ERODE OLD VIEWS AND LOYALTIES.

PEOPLE HAVE BEGUN TO TUNE OUT POLITICAL PARTIES AND POLITICS

AS USUAL.

ONE MEASURE OF THIS IS THE DISMAL RECORD OF VOTING
IN LAST NOVEMBER'S ELECTION. ACCORDING TO A NATIONAL
SAMPLING BY THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, A BARE TWENTY-ONE PERCENT
OF PERSONS EIGHTEEN TO TWENTY YEARS OLD BOTHERED TO GO TO THE
POLLS.

FEWER THAN HALF OF THE PERSONS OF VOTING AGE IN THIS COUNTRY IN 1974 ACTUALLY CAST A BALLOT FOR OR AGAINST ANY PERSON OR PARTY. THE ACTUAL FIGURE WAS ONLY FORTY-FOUR POINT SEVEN PERCENT. THE SAME SAMPLING SHOWED THAT MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF THE CITIZENS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE HAD NOT EVEN REGISTERED.

YET, THE FIGURES I HAVE CITED PROVIDE US WITH
A ROUGH ROAD MAP TOWARD THE ROUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL PARTY
REFORM. IF NEARLY EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE EIGHTEEN-TO-TWENTY
YEAR-OLDS DID NOT VOTE LAST TIME, FOR EXAMPLE, THEN
OBVIOUSLY THEY MUST BE A PRIORITY TARGET FOR OUR EFFORTS.

AND I KNOW AT FIRST-HAND THAT MANY OF YOU
HERE TONIGHT ENLISTED VOLUNTEERS FROM THIS VERY AGE GROUP
WHO PROVED TO BE AMONG THE BEST AND MOST CAPABLE WORKERS
IN CAMPAIGNS IN WHICH YOU WERE INVOLVED. WE NEED MORE,
NOT LESS, OF THESE YOUNG IDEALISTS WHO HAVE THE BIGGEST
STAKE IN OUR NATION'S FUTURE.

OUR PROGRAM FOR REFORM MUST RECOGNIZE THAT
CHRONIC NON-VOTERS AS WELL AS VOTERS JUST AREN'T BUYING
THE OLD IDEA THAT VIRTUE AND WISDOM ARE THE MONOPOLY OF
ONE PARTY OR THE OTHER. BY STAYING HOME LAST NOVEMBER,
MORE THAN HALF THE PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY SAID, IN EFFECT --
A PLAGUE ON BOTH YOUR PARTIES. AS A RESULT, WE ARE
GOVERNED TODAY BY A MAJORITY OF A MINORITY.

THUS, THE MAGNITUDE OF OUR JOB MUST NOT BE
MEASURED SOLELY WITHIN OUR OWN PARTY, BUT WITHIN THE LARGER
SCOPE OF THE NATION AND ITS FUTURE.

OUR FIRST AND MOST URGENT TASK IS TO WORK TOGETHER
TO RESTORE THE FULL TRUST OF OUR FELLOW AMERICANS IN THE ON-GOING
EXPERIMENT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT.

LET LAST NOVEMBER MARK NOT MERELY THE LOW POINT OF
OUR PARTY, BUT ALSO THE UPTURN OF THE BASIC TRUST AND GOOD WILL
WE MUST HAVE FOR ONE ANOTHER, FOR OUR SYSTEM OF POLITICS AND
GOVERNMENT, AND ABOVE ALL, FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS GREAT
REPUBLIC.

THANK YOU.

END OF TEXT