

**The original documents are located in Box 15, “9/13/75 - Remarks Upon the Dedication of the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum, Midland, Texas” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies 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 Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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.

MUSEUM ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU, GEORGE.

(Rep. Mahon introduces you)

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

SENATOR JOHN TOWER

CONGRESSMEN HAROLD RUNNELS AND DICK WHITE

MAYORS ANGELO AND HEMPHILL

MR. RAMSLAND (Museum President)

MR. RASSMAN (Museum Board of Executors Chairman)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

*Beach*

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

*Petroleum  
Midland*

I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE IN WEST TEXAS -- AN  
AREA RICH IN NATURAL RESOURCES -- OIL, NATURAL GAS,  
CATTLE, GOOD LAND AND GOOD PEOPLE.

IN PARTICULAR, I AM BOTH PLEASED AND HONORED TO TAKE  
PART IN THE DEDICATION OF THIS FASCINATING PETROLEUM MUSEUM.  
I JUST WISH THE CEREMONY COULD HAVE BEEN HELD OUTDOORS BECAUSE  
I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT SHOWER OF ROSE PETALS FROM  
THE TOP OF THE RIG. BELIEVE ME, IN THE LAST YEAR, WHEN IT COMES  
*from the Congress*  
TO OIL, I'VE HAD VERY LITTLE COMING UP ROSES.

BUT I THINK IT VERY SIGNIFICANT THAT THE DRILLING RIG  
OUTSIDE IS NAMED AFTER SANTA RITA -- THE PATRON SAINT OF THE  
IMPOSSIBLE. WHEN IT COMES TO THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY,  
AMERICANS HAVE ALWAYS JOINED TOGETHER AND WORKED TOGETHER  
TO ACHIEVE THE SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE.

I AM CERTAIN THAT IN THE WEEKS AHEAD, THE CONGRESS AND  
I WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO AGAIN -- TO GIVE OUR NATION AN ENERGY  
PROGRAM THAT WILL CUT US FREE FROM DEPENDENCE ON INTERRUPTIBLE  
FOREIGN SUPPLIES. AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE MUST BE OURS TO  
DECIDE. IT CANNOT BE ENTRUSTED TO THE POLICIES OR PASSIONS  
OF OTHERS IN FAR-OFF FOREIGN LANDS.

AND I WANT TO THANK THE MAN WHO INVITED ME OUT HERE,

MY LONG-TIME CLOSE FRIEND, GEORGE MAHON. GEORGE AND I

SPENT COUNTLESS HOURS WORKING TOGETHER ON THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

ON APPROPRIATIONS, AND I KNOW WHAT A HARDWORKING, DEDICATED

REPRESENTATIVE HE IS.

*2 truly love, respect, & admire + respect Mary Helen*

*John Tower*

HISTORIANS SAY WE CLOSED THE AMERICAN FRONTIER IN

1890, BUT IN MIDLAND, IN 1975, THE ADVENTUROUS SPIRIT OF THE

FRONTIER IS OBVIOUSLY STILL THRIVING.

THE ENTERPRISE AND SPIRIT OF THE HARDWORKING

PEOPLE OF WEST TEXAS SHOWS IN THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THIS

REGION. THIS AREA FURNISHES THE NATION CATTLE AND

COTTON -- OIL AND NATURAL GAS.

YOU HAVE ALSO DEMONSTRATED HOW MUCH AMERICANS

CAN ACCOMPLISH WITH THE RIGHT INCENTIVES. INCENTIVES ARE

THE FUEL OF OUR FREE MARKET SYSTEM -- AND THE ENERGY WEST

TEXAS HELPS SUPPLY IS THE FUEL OF OUR ECONOMY.

THE PERMIAN (PERM - E - AN) BASIN PRODUCES 25 PERCENT  
OF THE NATION'S DOMESTIC OIL AND 20 PERCENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION. TO KEEP THIS OIL AND NATURAL GAS  
FLOWING FROM THIS REGION, THE NATION MUST MAKE IT  
ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE TO SEARCH FOR NEW PRODUCTION AND  
DEVELOPMENT METHODS.

THIS IS ONE OF THE MAJOR REASONS I BELIEVE DECONTROL OF  
DOMESTIC OIL PRICES IS SO NECESSARY.

THE VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE THIS WEEK SUSTAINING MY  
VETO OF AN EXTENSION OF THE OIL PRICE CONTROLS HAS PAVED THE WAY FOR  
DECONTROL. *2 hpc*  
1 WE ARE FINALLY ON THE ROAD TO ENERGY INDEPENDENCE.

SINCE 1971, AMERICA'S BILL FOR IMPORTED OIL HAS  
CLIMBED FROM JUST OVER THREE BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY TO  
25 BILLION DOLLARS TODAY -- A 700 PERCENT INCREASE.

THE 25 BILLION DOLLARS COULD PROVIDE MORE THAN ONE  
MILLION JOBS FOR AMERICANS.      ALTHOUGH THE 4.5 PERCENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN MIDLAND IN AUGUST IS BELOW THE NATIONAL  
LEVEL -- IT IS HIGHER THAN USUAL HERE.      UNEMPLOYMENT IS A  
PROBLEM WORRYING ALL AMERICANS.      IT IS A PROBLEM THAT MUST  
BE SOLVED BY A HEALTHY, THRIVING ECONOMY.



WITH FOREIGN PRODUCERS SUPPLYING 40 PERCENT OF OUR OIL  
NEEDS, AMERICAN JOBS AND DOLLARS ARE BEING HELD HOSTAGE BY OTHER  
*Because we are vulnerable*  
COUNTRIES. WE CANNOT CONTROL EITHER THE PRICE OR THE SUPPLY OF  
IMPORTED OIL. THAT MAKES US <sup>*very*</sup> VULNERABLE TO ECONOMIC  
DISRUPTIONS -- DISRUPTIONS WE CAN ILL-AFFORD IF WE ARE TO  
CONTINUE TO EXPAND OUR ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

IF WE DON'T GIVE AMERICA'S OIL INDUSTRY THE INCENTIVES  
TO SEARCH FOR NEW SOURCES AND NEW PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES  
THROUGH DECONTROL AND IF WE CONTINUE THE PRESENT TREND, WITHIN  
TEN YEARS WE WILL IMPORT MORE THAN HALF OF THE OIL WE NEED.

*heartbeat*

ENERGY KEEPS THIS NATION GOING.

ENERGY IS THE ~~PUMP~~

OF OUR ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

UNLESS WE MAKE SOME TOUGH

DECISIONS ABOUT ENERGY NOW, THE NATION IS IN DANGER OF

SUFFERING A DANGEROUS ENERGY EMERGENCY WHICH COULD COME AT

ANYTIME.

DECONTROLLING OIL PRICES AT HOME WILL MOVE US

TOWARD ENERGY INDEPENDENCE.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE WILL REQUIRE THAT WE FIND NEW  
ENERGY SOURCES AND DEVELOP NEW METHODS -- BUT THOSE SOLUTIONS  
WILL NOT COME OVERNIGHT. ACTION MUST BE TAKEN NOW TO SPUR  
THE SEARCH FOR NEW SOURCES. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
ARE CRITICAL ELEMENTS IN MY PROPOSED NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM.

BUT IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, WE WILL HAVE TO RELY ON  
*domestic*  
OUR MOST READILY OBTAINABLE ENERGY RESOURCES -- OIL,  
NATURAL GAS AND COAL -- TO MEET OUR ENERGY NEEDS.

NATURAL GAS IS ONE OF THE MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY  
ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF ENERGY. BUT DESPITE THE MANY PLUSSES  
OF NATURAL GAS, THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S POLICY  
TOWARD THIS VALUABLE ASSET HAS BEEN A VERY SORRY ONE.

OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS, THE FEDERAL POWER  
*as required by Congressional action*  
COMMISSION HAS KEPT INTERSTATE PRICES AT AN ARTIFICIALLY  
*1*  
LOW LEVEL -- AND THAT HAS SERIOUSLY HAMPERED EXPLORATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT.

WE MUST STOP FEDERAL REGULATION OF PRICES ON NEW GAS

FOR INTERSTATE USE.

~~I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT NATURAL GAS~~

DEREGULATION IS AN ADMINISTRATION PRIORITY

*a high priority goal of my Administration*

SOLVING THE ENERGY PROBLEM GOES BACK TO SOME BASIC

AMERICAN PRINCIPLES.

WE MUST PUT BACK INTO OUR ECONOMIC

SYSTEM MORE OLD-FASHIONED INCENTIVES.

THE PROFIT INCENTIVE

THE SEARCH FOR A BETTER LIFE

POPULATED THIS CONTINENT.

IT BROUGHT THOUSANDS OF

*pioneers*

DREAMERS TO WEST TEXAS

MEN AND WOMEN WILLING TO RISK

ALL TO FIND A LIVELIHOOD ON THE LAND OR <sup>*in*</sup> ~~UNDER~~ THE LAND.

WHAT HAS MADE AMERICA UNIQUE?

THE EXPLANATIONS

ARE AS VARIED AS THIS VAST NATION ITSELF.

BUT I AM

*one*

CONVINCED THAT ~~PERHAPS THE~~ KEY TO OUR UNIQUENESS IS THAT WE

WROTE INTO OUR FIRST GREAT DOCUMENT -- THE INALIENABLE

RIGHT OF THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

IN THAT PURSUIT -- AMERICANS HAVE DREAMED BIG

DREAMS -- TAKEN GREAT RISKS -- SOMETIMES FAILED MISERABLY

*but always with courage + determination*  
AND SOMETIMES SUCCEEDED MAGNIFICENTLY <sup>↑</sup> ~~THE~~ THAT FREEDOM

TO DARE IS THE SECRET OF OUR GREATEST NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS.

THE MEN AND WOMEN TO WHOM THIS MUSEUM IS DEDICATED

LIVED AND ENJOYED THAT FREEDOM TO THE FULLEST. THE SPIRIT OF

ENTERPRISE AND DARING THIS MUSEUM RECORDS IN THE PETROLEUM

INDUSTRY MUST BE KEPT ALIVE ALL ACROSS AMERICA. SO IN

THE MEMORY OF THOSE WHO DARED TO FOLLOW THEIR DREAMS --

*respectfully*

<sup>↑</sup> I DEDICATE THIS MUSEUM.

END OF TEXT

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT  
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN  
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS  
SUBJECT: Dedication of Permian Basin  
Petroleum Museum

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: \_\_\_\_\_

5:25 p.m., Saturday, September 13, Dallas, Texas

SPEECHWRITER: Pullen

EDITED BY: Theis

BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:

Scheduling, Research

CLEARED BY (Please initial):

- (X) OPERATIONS (Rumsfeld) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) CONGRESSIONAL/PUBLIC LIAISON (Marsh) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) PRESS (Nessen) JWG (For RV)
- ( ) LEGAL (Buchen) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) ECONOMIC POLICY BOARD (Seidman) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (Lynn) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) DOMESTIC COUNCIL (Cannon) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (Scowcroft) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) RESEARCH (Waldron) TR
- (X) MARGITA WHITE (FYI) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) ENERGY RESOURCES COUNCIL (Zarb) J. Asken for E2.
- (X) COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS (Greenspan) AB
- ( ) OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON (Baroody) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) \_\_\_\_\_