

The original documents are located in Box 15, “9/13/75 - Remarks at a Meeting of the National Federation of Republican Women, Dallas, Texas” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - NAT'L FEDERATION OF

REPUBLICAN WOMEN

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

THANK YOU, CONNIE (Connie Armitage introduces you)

MARY LOUISE

SENATOR TOWER

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

BILL ARCHER

ALAN STEELMAN

JIM COLLINS

BOB KASTEN

JACK KEMP

Missouri

GOVERNOR BOND - WITH MUCH THANKS FOR A GREAT DAY YESTERDAY

MY OLD FRIENDS ^{+ 9/24} JOHN CONNALLY AND ANNE ARMSTRONG

AND ALL OF THE OTHER WONDERFUL REPUBLICANS WHO ARE HERE
TODAY

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

TO THE

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN

DALLAS, TEXAS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1975

(ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS)

THERE'S A SLOGAN THAT SAYS: NEVER UNDERESTIMATE
THE POWER OF A WOMAN. I CAN ASSURE YOU, THE NATIONAL
FEDERATION IS AN ORGANIZATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN WHOSE
POWER, PRESTIGE, PERCEPTION AND PURPOSE WILL NEVER BE
UNDERESTIMATED BY ANYONE! I KNOW IT. YOU KNOW IT.
AND NEXT YEAR A LOT OF DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES ARE GOING TO
KNOW IT, TOO!

FIRST, LET ME THANK PRESIDENT CONNIE ARMITAGE

FOR HER INTRODUCTION -- AND LET ME ALSO THANK CONNIE ON

BEHALF OF ALL REPUBLICANS FOR HER QUARTER CENTURY OF OUTSTANDING

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR PARTY. CONNIE, YOU HAVE MADE EXCELLENCE

LOOK ALL TOO EASY.

BUT THE FEDERATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN RICH IN
EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP AND I KNOW THAT PAT HUTAR (YOU-TAR)
WILL CONTINUE THIS TRADITION OF OUTSTANDING EXECUTIVE
ACHIEVEMENT. AS ONE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO ANOTHER, I PLEDGE
TO PAT MY FULLEST COOPERATION IN PUTTING OUR PARTY'S
PRINCIPLES TO WORK!

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, ITS MEN AND WOMEN,

WILL BE FACING AN HISTORIC CHALLENGE NEXT YEAR.

1976 WILL DETERMINE WHETHER WE CAN REGAIN OUR NUMBERS,

STATURE AND EFFECTIVENESS ON THE NATIONAL POLITICAL SCENE --

OR WHETHER AMERICA IS TRULY ON THE ROAD TO ONE-PARTY RULE.

TO MEET THIS CHALLENGE, WE NEED THE SPIRIT, THE DETERMINATION,
AND ABOVE ALL -- THE TALENT OF ALL REPUBLICANS.

WE NEED YOUR HELP. *As I have gotten the wonderful
help from The Michigan delegation.*
YEARS THE STRONG AND FREE SPIRIT THAT MADE AMERICA

MUST BE REKINDLED TO SAVE IT.

negative attitude

FRANKLY, I HAVE HAD IT WITH THE ~~NEGATIVITY~~ THAT

WOULD WRITE A SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY OF DOOM FOR AMERICA.

I HAVE HEARD TOO MUCH ^{*from people who say*} ~~ABOUT HOW~~ EVERYTHING IS FALLING APART,

HOW THE QUALITY OF LIFE IS SLIDING DOWNHILL, HOW THE DOLLAR

IS WORTHLESS, HOW MUGGERS AND MURDERERS HAVE DRIVEN

EVERYONE BEHIND LOCKED DOORS AND HOW EVEN THE PRESIDENT

OF THE UNITED STATES SHOULD STOP VISITING PUBLIC PLACES.

I DID NOT TAKE THE SACRED OATH OF OFFICE TO
PRESIDE OVER THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA.

Emphatically

I REJECT THE SCENARIOS OF PESSIMISM.

I LOOK TO THE FUTURE AND TO BUILDING UPON

A PROUD PAST. IN AMERICA'S FIRST CENTURY, A YOUNG NATION

FORGED POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIVE TO THE PEOPLE.

UNITY GREW FROM DIVERSITY. OUR SECOND CENTURY

TRANSFORMED AMERICA INTO THE MOST PRODUCTIVE NATION

THAT EVER EXISTED.

AMERICA VIBRATED WITH PIONEER COURAGE, THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE AND FREE TRADE UNIONS, THE
INCENTIVES OF FREE ENTERPRISE AND THE SHARING OF ECONOMIC
GAINS AT HOME AND ABROAD.

OUR THIRD CENTURY BEGINS IN LESS THAN A YEAR.

LET THIS NEW ERA BE ONE OF FULFILLMENT FOR THE INDIVIDUAL.

I SEE A CENTURY DEVOTED TO THE QUALITY OF PERSONAL AND FAMILY

AND COMMUNITY LIFE. I SEE PEOPLE SOLVING PROBLEMS RATHER

THAN WALLOWING IN DESPAIR.

I SEE PEOPLE MAKING THEIR OWN DECISIONS RATHER THAN
ABDICATING THEIR FUTURE TO THE MASSIVE "BIG BROTHER"
GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURES / OR TURNING OVER THEIR LIVES
TO THE "1984" NIGHTMARE SCRIPT OF WHAT OUR THIRD CENTURY
COULD BE.

IT IS MY FERVENT CONVICTION THAT A GOVERNMENT BIG

ENOUGH TO GIVE YOU EVERYTHING YOU WANT IS BIG ENOUGH TO TAKE

from you

~~AWAY~~ EVERYTHING YOU HAVE.

I ASK YOU TO SHARE MY VISION OF A THIRD AMERICAN

CENTURY IN WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL

AND NOT THE GOVERNMENT

MAKES PERSONAL CHOICES.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE AMERICAN SPIRIT THAT BROUGHT

US TO OUR 200TH BIRTHDAY HAS PRODUCED MEN AND WOMEN

WHO ARE DETERMINED TO PREVAIL OVER THE AGENCIES AND BUREAUS

OF GOVERNMENT THAT WOULD REDUCE HUMAN BEINGS TO COMPUTERIZED

ABSTRACTIONS.

I SEE AMERICAN INDIVIDUALISM AS THE SENTINEL OF 1976

STANDING WATCH OVER OUR FUTURE. NEVER FORGET THAT,

IN AMERICA, OUR SOVEREIGN IS THE CITIZEN. THE GOVERNMENT

EXISTS TO SERVE PEOPLE. GOVERNMENT MUST NEVER BECOME

AN UNRESPONSIVE MONSTROSITY THAT MASTERS EVERYONE AND

IS RESPONSIVE TO NO ONE.

~~THIS~~ MY VISION OF AMERICA'S THIRD CENTURY IS

A TIME OF ACHIEVEMENT RATHER THAN APATHY, FOSTERING HUMAN

GROWTH AND SPIRITUAL AND MORAL ^{greatness} ~~TRANSCENDANCE~~.

TWO CENTURIES OF STRUGGLE WON FOR AMERICA

A GREAT MEASURE OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE.

I AM PROUD TO BE PRESIDENT ~~OF~~ A FREE GOVERNMENT THAT CHECKS

AND BALANCES ITS OWN EXCESSES. I AM PROUD OF A FREE

ECONOMIC SYSTEM WHICH CORRECTS ITS OWN ERRORS,

CONTROLLED BY THE MARKETPLACE OF FREE AND ENLIGHTENED CONSUMERS.

I AM ESPECIALLY PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF A PARTY

THAT CHERISHES THE INDIVIDUAL AND BELIEVES IN GOVERNMENT

THAT DOES FOR THE INDIVIDUAL ONLY THAT WHICH HE OR SHE CANNOT

ACHIEVE ALONE.

THAT IS WHAT FREEDOM IS ALL ABOUT.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. King", written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

OUR FOREBEARS WHO FOUNDED THIS GREAT NATION

WERE DRIVEN BY A PASSION TO BE INDIVIDUALS.

THEY CREATED A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT THAT GAVE
FORM AND SUBSTANCE TO THAT REVOLUTIONARY GOAL.

BUT THEN THE POLITICIANS AND THEORISTS BEGAN TO INTRUDE

UPON THIS INDIVIDUALITY WITH THEORIES THAT BIG GOVERNMENT

AND FEDERAL SPENDING COULD CURE EVERY SOCIAL ILL.

THEY BEGAN TO PREACH THAT OUR FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM NEEDED

opposed
GOVERNMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS TO PROTECT THE INDIVIDUAL.

THEY STARTED A TREND THAT NOW THREATENS TO
ENGULF INDIVIDUALS AS WELL AS THE ENTIRE NATION.

A TRICKLE OF FEDERAL SPENDING FOR HUMAN NEEDS
HAS BECOME A TIDAL WAVE. *under Democratic Congressional
action,*

SOME LAWS NEEDED TO PROMOTE COMPETITION

HAVE BECOME A MAZE OF REGULATIONS THAT ARE STRANGLING
OUR ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

EVERY NEW DOLLAR APPROPRIATED, EVERY NEW LAW

THAT FETTERS FREE ENTERPRISE ERODES PERSONAL FREEDOM.

WE ARE LOSING THE FREEDOM THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE TO BUILD
THIS GREAT NATION.

THE FLOOD OF FEDERAL SPENDING COVERS A WIDE RANGE
OF INCOME REDISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS -- ^{*enacted by Congress*} PROGRAMS UNDER
↓
WHICH A QUALIFIED CITIZEN IS AUTOMATICALLY ENTITLED
TO SPECIFIC BENEFITS.

SOME OF THESE PROGRAMS ARE NECESSARY AND

those laws enacted by Congress

COMMENDABLE. BUT IN THIS FISCAL YEAR THEY WILL TOTAL
^

MORE THAN 168 BILLION DOLLARS. THEY WILL EAT UP

MORE THAN 45 PERCENT OF FEDERAL EXPENDITURES.

EVER-INCREASING GOVERNMENT SPENDING FOR SOCIAL

PROGRAMS THREATENS OUR WHOLE ECONOMY. IF THAT SPENDING

GROWS AT THE RATE OF THE LAST 20 YEARS, BY THE YEAR 2000

HALF THE PEOPLE IN THIS NATION WILL BE LIVING OFF THE OTHER HALF.

THIS TREND MUST BE REVERSED. and it will be.

EVERYBODY HERE KNOWS MY RECORD IN THE CONGRESS

WHERE I WON FIVE 'WATCHDOG OF THE TREASURY' AWARDS --

EVERY YEAR THEY WERE ISSUED WHILE I WAS IN THE CONGRESS.

IN THE WHITE HOUSE I HAVE CONTINUED TO FIGHT THE BIG SPENDERS.

BUT IT TAKES TIME TO UNDO THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY 25 YEARS OF

RECKLESS DEMOCRATIC SPENDING.

IF NOT STOPPED, THIS DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS
WILL BALLOON THIS YEAR'S BUDGET DEFICIT TO 70 BILLION DOLLARS,
80 BILLION DOLLARS OR EVEN 100 BILLION DOLLARS. WE CAN'T
LET THIS HAPPEN!

THE ONLY WEAPON AVAILABLE TO OUTNUMBERED
CONGRESSIONAL REPUBLICANS IS THE VETO. I HAVE USED IT
AND, IF NECESSARY, WILL USE IT AGAIN. *and again*

THESE VETOES ARE POSITIVE. THE FRAMERS

OF OUR CONSTITUTION INTENDED THAT THEY SHOULD BE.

THE EXPERTS TELL ME THAT MY VETOES THIS YEAR WILL SAVE

TAXPAYERS SOME SIX BILLION DOLLARS BY 1977.

~~NOT~~ THAT IS POSITIVE. *action by any standard,*

MY VETOES HAVE OFTEN RESULTED IN BETTER LEGISLATION,

WHEN I VETOED IRRESPONSIBLE BILLS AND ENOUGH CONGRESSMEN

AGREED TO SUSTAIN THE VETO, THE CONGRESS WAS FORCED TO

COME UP WITH BETTER BILLS ALONG THE ORIGINAL LINES I HAD

PROPOSED. THAT IS ANOTHER POSITIVE BENEFIT OF THE VETO.

I HAVE HEARD THAT THE WILD-SPENDING DEMOCRATS

IN THE CONGRESS WANT TO SWITCH BILLIONS OF DOLLARS FROM

NATIONAL DEFENSE INTO ^{more} SOCIAL PROGRAMS. THAT WOULD BE

DEAD WRONG.

I WILL FIGHT THEM EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

AS WE APPROACH THE CAMPAIGN YEAR OF 1976,

THE AIR WILL SOON BE FILLED WITH THE VOICES OF CANDIDATES,

THE RUMBLE OF BANDWAGONS, AND THE QUESTIONS OF POLLSTERS.

AND POLLSTERS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES WHO WILL BE ASKING

QUESTIONS.

I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS OF MY OWN TO ASK.

DO YOU WANT YOUR PRESIDENT TO ACCEPT, WITHOUT

A FIGHT, BUDGET-BUSTING APPROPRIATIONS BILLS?

Let's put it ^{another} way

~~WHAT I'M GETTING AT IS~~ -- DO YOU WANT TO BE DEEP IN THE

HEART OF TEXAS OR DEEP IN THE HEART OF TAXES?

DO YOU WANT YOUR PRESIDENT TO OPEN THE UNITED STATES

TREASURY TO EVERY CITY THAT HASN'T OR WON'T RESPONSIBLY MANAGE

ITS FINANCIAL AFFAIRS?

DO YOU WANT YOUR PRESIDENT TO ROLL OVER AND
PLAY DEAD WHILE THE CONGRESS PASSES MORE AND MORE
LEGISLATION TO STRANGLE FREE ENTERPRISE?

DO YOU WANT YOUR PRESIDENT TO GO ALONG WITH
THOSE WHO ABDICATE STATE AND LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY
TO A MASSIVE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY?

DO YOU WANT YOUR PRESIDENT TO ACCEPT
LEGISLATION THAT WILL CONTINUE AMERICA'S DEPENDENCE
ON UNRELIABLE FOREIGN OIL?

DO YOU WANT YOUR PRESIDENT TO ACCEPT, WITHOUT

A FIGHT, SLASHES IN OUR DEFENSE PROGRAM THAT WOULD MAKE

AMERICA NUMBER TWO -- IN A WORLD WHERE ONLY NUMBER ONE

COUNTS?

AS AMERICANS CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE

OF THIS GREAT NATION -- YOUR REPUBLICAN ANSWER TO EVERY ONE

OF THOSE QUESTIONS HAS TO BE A RESOUNDING "NO!"

I AGREE WITH YOU ~~AND~~ AND I INTEND TO FIGHT WITH

EVERYTHING AT MY COMMAND TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE:

- FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY IN GOVERNMENT;
- A VIGOROUS FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM;
- A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE;
- LOCAL CONTROL OVER LOCAL AFFAIRS;
- AND PRESERVATION OF PERSONAL FREEDOM FOR

THE INDIVIDUAL.

TODAY, THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AND THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE ARE IN TUNE AND IN STEP -- AND THEY'RE AN UNBEATABLE
COMBINATION. WITH YOUR TALENT, WITH YOUR ENTHUSIASM,
WITH YOUR HELP -- WE CAN MAKE 1976 A YEAR ALL REPUBLICANS
WILL REMEMBER -- AND DEMOCRATS MAY NEVER FORGET.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT