

**The original documents are located in Box 19, “11/11/75 - Presidential Remarks, West Virginia GOP Fundraiser” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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## DINNER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU, ARCH (Gov. Arch Moore introduces you)

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS (COVERS KEY ELECTED OFFICIALS)

TOM POTTER (State GOP Chairman)

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

NOTE: Former U.S. Senator Chapman Revercomb will be at the head table)

Mike Beards

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

WEST VIRGINIA GOP FUNDRAISER

NOVEMBER 11, 1975

Mr. President:

At the conclusion of the dinner program you depart the head table to your left, proceed past the music section to the adjacent room where you will make an <sup>unannounced</sup> ~~announced~~ "drop-by" at the "Buckskin Council Scout Induction Ceremony". Attendance: 450 Cub Scouts; 100 Boy Scouts; 200 adult leaders. This is a mass induction ceremony covering the 10 county area of the Buckskin Council. Suggested remarks (cards) are in back of your speech box.

IT'S A REAL TREAT FOR ME TO BE BACK IN WEST VIRGINIA

AGAIN AND TO SHARE THIS MARVELOUS EVENING WITH ALL OF YOU

GOOD, LOYAL AND ENTHUSIASTIC WEST VIRGINIA REPUBLICANS.

I KEEP HEARING HOW THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WILL GO INTO THE 1976

ELECTIONS AS THE UNDERDOG -- AND SOMEHOW, THAT HAS A VAGUELY

FAMILIAR RING TO IT. ISN'T THAT WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT THE

MOUNTAINEERS AGAINST PITT LAST SATURDAY?

WHEN IT COMES TO FOOTBALL, I THINK I CAN SPEAK  
WITH SOME AUTHORITY, AND TONIGHT I'M PREDICTING THAT WHAT  
THE MOUNTAINEERS DID AT MORGANTOWN LAST SATURDAY -- YOUR  
GREAT REPUBLICAN TICKET IS GOING TO DO AT THE POLLS NEXT  
NOVEMBER!

THIS IS REALLY A GREAT EVENING AND BEFORE WE GO  
ANY FURTHER, I WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE  
FOR ITS SHEER RAW COURAGE IN THE WAY IT HAS HANDLED THIS  
DINNER. I SAY SHEER RAW COURAGE BECAUSE IT ISN'T EASY  
TO CHARGE 100 DOLLARS A PLATE FOR DINNER - IN A STATE WHOSE  
MOTTO IS: MOUNTAINEERS ARE ALWAYS FREE!

I'M VERY PLEASED TO BE WITH YOU TONIGHT -- PLEASED  
WITH THIS FINE TURNOUT, PLEASED TO BE BACK IN A STATE THAT  
IS KNOWN BY NATIVES AND VISITORS ALIKE AS "ALMOST HEAVEN."  
AND PLEASED TO BE BACK IN CHARLESTON, A CITY OF IMAGINATION,  
OF ENTERPRISE, AND ABOVE ALL, A CITY THAT IS BLAZING NEW TRAILS  
IN THE DELICATE SCIENCE OF REMOVING BRIDGES.

THE FIRST TIME I CAME TO WEST VIRGINIA WAS BACK  
IN 1949 TO MAKE A HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS IN  
BERKELEY SPRINGS.      I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT I SAID  
ON THAT OCCASION, AND PROBABLY NOBODY ELSE DOES EITHER.  
BUT I DISTINCTLY REMEMBER MY FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF  
WEST VIRGINIA,    THE BEAUTY OF ITS MOUNTAINS,  
THE WARMTH OF ITS PEOPLE.



THE IMPRESSIONS HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT OVER THE  
YEARS. BUT WEST VIRGINIA HAS CHANGED A LOT.

THE WEST VIRGINIA I SEE TODAY IS A NEW STATE.

THE BEAUTY OF THE MOUNTAINS REMAINS. THE WARMTH

AND HOSPITALITY OF WEST VIRGINIANS CONTINUE TO STRIKE

THE VISITOR LIKE A SUMMER BREEZE.

BUT THROUGH ALL OF THESE IMPRESSIONS, SOMETHING NEW

HAS BEEN ADDED. THAT IS THE FEELING OF THE PEOPLE HERE

STRIDING CONFIDENTLY INTO THE FUTURE WHILE RETAINING THE

HERITAGE AND CHARM OF THEIR PAST.

THE REASONS MAY BE COMPLEX. BUT THEY HAVE

A GREAT DEAL TO DO WITH COAL. YOUR STATE IS ONE OF THE

LARGEST BITUMINOUS COAL PRODUCERS IN THE NATION AND

AMONG THE LEADERS IN COAL EXPORTS.

THIS GREAT NATURAL RESOURCE HAS IMPROVED THE  
LIVING STANDARD OF MANY OF YOUR CITIZENS, ENRICHED YOUR  
STATE TREASURY THROUGH AN INCREASED TAX FLOW AND  
PROVIDED MUCH OF THE FUEL TO KEEP THIS NATION WARM,  
ITS LIGHTS BURNING AND ITS FACTORIES HUMMING.

BUT BEYOND THE SURGING DEMAND FOR COAL,  
WEST VIRGINIA'S PRESENT PROSPERITY CAN BE ATTRIBUTED  
IN LARGE MEASURE TO THE ENERGY, THE SELF-RELIANCE AND  
THE IMAGINATION OF YOUR CITIZENS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

UNDER THE ENLIGHTENED LEADERSHIP OF YOUR GOVERNOR,  
ARCH MOORE, YOU HAVE VASTLY IMPROVED YOUR HIGHWAY SYSTEM,  
RAISED THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION AT EVERY LEVEL, BUILT TOURISM  
INTO A 600 MILLION DOLLAR-A-YEAR BUSINESS, AND CONDUCTED  
A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL DRIVE FOR NEW INDUSTRY THAT HAS PAID OFF  
IN THOUSANDS OF JOBS AND AN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BELOW THE  
NATIONAL AVERAGE.



TONIGHT, I WOULD LIKE TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT  
ANOTHER FORM OF INDEPENDENCE.

TEN MONTHS AGO, WHEN I ADDRESSED THE UNITED STATES  
CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, I SAID THE STATE OF THE  
UNION WAS NOT GOOD. I CALLED ON THE CONGRESS AND  
THE COUNTRY TO MOVE IN A NEW DIRECTION. I POINTED OUT  
THE "WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING TO SEE HOW WE RESPOND."



THIS EVENING, LET US LOOK AT THE STATE OF OUR

ECONOMY COMPARED TO THAT VERY UNCERTAIN TIME LAST JANUARY.

WHILE THE ECONOMY IS NOT MY CENTRAL THEME - IT IS ENERGY -

NEVERTHELESS THE HEALTH OF OUR ECONOMY IS UNALTERABLY

LINKED TO A STABLE AND ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF ENERGY.

LAST JANUARY, SIMULTANEOUS RECESSION AND  
INFLATION WHIP-SAWED THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- CAUGHT IN  
THE MIDDLE. THE MONEY OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE  
WAS BEING ERODED BY DOUBLE-DIGIT INFLATION WHILE RECESSION  
CUT DEEPLY INTO OUR NATIONAL PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT.

TODAY, ALTHOUGH WE STILL HAVE A WAYS TO GO,

THE ECONOMY IS WELL ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY,

WE ARE MAKING MARKED PROGRESS.

THE SIGNS OF THIS PROGRESS ARE CLEAR FOR ALL TO SEE.

OUR GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1975

INCREASED BY MORE THAN <sup>11 7/10</sup>ELEVEN PERCENT - THE BIGGEST

QUARTERLY INCREASE IN TWO DECADES.

THAT'S PROGRESS.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION ROSE AT AN ANNUAL RATE

20%

OF TWENTY PERCENT DURING THIS SAME PERIOD -- THE

BIGGEST QUARTERLY INCREASE IN MORE THAN A DECADE --

AND PRODUCTIVITY AMONG AMERICAN WORKERS HAS BEEN STEADILY

IMPROVING FOR MONTHS.

AND THAT'S PROGRESS.

THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS WITH JOBS WENT UP BY

NEARLY 1.6 MILLION FROM MARCH THROUGH OCTOBER ALONE --

AND THAT'S PROGRESS.

FOR THE LAST EIGHT MONTHS, WE'VE HAD A SURPLUS OF

A BILLION-DOLLARS-A-MONTH IN OUR BALANCE OF TRADE WITH OTHER

COUNTRIES -- AND THAT'S PROGRESS, TOO.

INFLATION HAS BEEN CUT ALMOST IN HALF BETWEEN

*12%*

1974 AND 1975 -- DOWN FROM THE TWELVE PERCENT RANGE TO THE

*6%*

SIX PERCENT RANGE.

THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH --

*it is*

BUT ~~IT'S~~ PROGRESS.

THESE ARE ALL SIGNS OF GROWING ECONOMIC STRENGTH

AND STABILITY AND VITALITY.

THIS PAST YEAR HAS NOT SEEN THE DECLINE OF AMERICA

PREDICTED BY SO MANY LAST JANUARY. IT HAS WITNESSED

A RESURRECTION OF THE TRADITIONAL VALUES OF HARD WORK AND

TOUGHNESS-OF-SPIRIT THAT HAVE ALWAYS CHARACTERIZED

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN TIMES OF ADVERSITY.



*Believe me*  
↑

NO ONE ON EARTH WILL BURY US UNLESS WE BURY OURSELVES.

THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES OF 1975 -- CONTRARY TO THE  
FORECASTS OF FEAR -- WERE A SIMPLE AND STRAIGHT-FORWARD  
CHALLENGE TO ACHIEVEMENT.

TONIGHT, I REMIND YOU: WE NOT ONLY ACCEPTED

THAT CHALLENGE, WE DID SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

  


BUT I MUST FRANKLY ADMIT DISAPPOINTMENT IN  
GETTING THE CONGRESS TO MOVE ON ENERGY.      LAST FEBRUARY,  
THE LEADERS OF THE CONGRESS MET WITH ME AT THE WHITE HOUSE  
AND SOLEMNLY ASSURED ME THEY WOULD HAVE AN ENERGY PROGRAM  
ON MY DESK BY THE END OF APRIL.      WHEN THEY FAILED,  
THEY ASKED FOR MORE TIME, PROMISING AGAIN TO HAVE AN  
*an additional*  
ENERGY PROGRAM ON MY DESK WITHIN 45 DAYS.  
1

*Will*  
1

AS WE MEET HERE TONIGHT, THE WIND AND SNOW

OF A NEW WINTER ARE BEGINNING TO WHIP ACROSS SOME AREAS

OF THE COUNTRY.

*But*  
1

LIKE THE FLOWERS OF SPRING, THE

ENERGY PROMISES OF THE CONGRESS ARE FADED AND GONE.

SO FAR THIS YEAR, PROPOSED ENERGY LEGISLATION  
HAS BEEN INCORPORATED IN NEARLY 2,500 BILLS AND TIED UP  
IN 29 DIFFERENT COMMITTEES.

TONIGHT, I CALL ON THE CONGRESS ONCE AGAIN TO  
ACT RESPONSIBLY -- TO PROVIDE THIS NATION WITH A PROGRAM  
WHICH WILL PUT US ON THE ROAD TO ENERGY INDEPENDENCE.

WE MUST MOVE ON THIS PROGRAM NOW -- NOT AFTER

NEXT YEAR'S NATIONAL ELECTIONS | *But* -- NOW. THE AMERICAN

PEOPLE MUST HAVE RESPONSIBLE AND REALISTIC LEGISLATION

THAT WILL ACCOMPLISH OUR NATIONAL NEEDS AND GOALS.

AS PART OF THIS PROGRAM, WE MUST DEVELOP  
OUR MOST ABUNDANT AND MOST KNOWN ENERGY SOURCES --  
AND, AS ALL OF YOU HERE IN WEST VIRGINIA KNOW,  
THAT'S COAL.      COAL RESOURCES TOTAL MORE THAN  
THREE TRILLION TONS -- A SUPPLY THAT GUARANTEES THE  
UNITED STATES LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF ENERGY.

THE FACT IS ~~THAT~~ WE ARE NOT SO MUCH SQUANDERING

OUR FUEL RESOURCES AS WE ARE IGNORING THEM. WE ARE

LIKE A MAN IN A DESERT WHO IS DYING FOR WATER WHILE

AN OASIS LIES JUST BEYOND THE HORIZON.

UNLESS WE DEVELOP THE ENERGY SOURCES THAT SURROUND

US -- TAKE THE DIFFICULT STEPS REQUIRED TO MAKE THEM USABLE --

OUR THIRST FOR FUEL WILL CREATE SEVERE HARDSHIPS FOR

OURSELVES AND FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.



WHILE I AM PRESIDENT, THE FATE AND FUTURE OF  
AMERICA WILL NOT BE LEFT TO UNDEPENDABLE FOREIGN SOURCES  
OF ENERGY. // IN THE NEXT 25 TO 50 YEARS, OIL AND GAS --  
CONSTITUTING MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF THE FUEL WE NOW USE --  
MAY BE FAR TOO COSTLY TO BURN AT ANY PRICE.

BUT OUR NATIONAL COAL RESERVES HAVE MORE  
POTENTIAL AND ARE MORE PRECIOUS TO YOUR FUTURE --  
AND YOUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE -- THAN ALL THE MIDDLE EAST  
RESERVES OF FUEL AND ALL OF THE FUEL THROUGHOUT THIS  
VAST GLOBE. THE UNITED STATES CAN NOT AND WILL NOT  
BASE ITS NATIONAL DESTINY ON ENERGY THAT BELONGS TO  
OTHER NATIONS. THAT IS NOT OUR NATIONAL FUTURE.  
TO DO SO WOULD BE OUR NATIONAL FOLLY.

WE CAN AND WE MUST DEVELOP OUR OWN  
NATIONAL ENERGY RESOURCES WITHOUT DESPOILING THE  
ENVIRONMENT. IMPROVED MINING TECHNOLOGY CAN  
ENSURE SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND PRODUCTION OF COAL.  
WE CAN AND MUST PRODUCE TECHNOLOGY TO BURN COAL  
DIRECTLY WITHOUT PRODUCING ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE.

WE DO NOT HAVE A SHORTAGE OF RESOURCES.

WE DO HAVE A SHORTAGE OF USEABLE ENERGY -- AND A SHORTAGE  
OF DETERMINATION IN THE CONGRESS TO ACT, BECAUSE THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENERGY PROGRAM INVOLVES POLITICALLY  
DIFFICULT DECISIONS. BUT THE CONGRESS MUST CARRY OUT  
ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.

WE CAN PRODUCE AMERICAN ENERGY WITH AMERICAN

MONEY . . . . AN AMERICAN WORK FORCE AND AMERICAN

TECHNOLOGY . . . . FOR AN AMERICAN FUTURE.

AS I SAID EARLIER, THE "WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING

TO SEE HOW WE RESPOND."

ECONOMICALLY, WE ARE

ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY.

IN ENERGY, WE ARE STILL

AT A STANDSTILL.

THE CHOICE IS UP TO THE CONGRESS: TO STAND STILL  
IN ENERGY -- TO RETREAT FROM RESPONSIBILITY AND REALITY --  
TO THREATEN OUR ECONOMIC RECOVERY -- OR TO MOVE FORWARD  
WITH LEGISLATION THAT WILL PRODUCE ENERGY AND ECONOMIC  
STABILITY FOR THIS NATION.

I BELIEVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT --

AS THEY ALWAYS HAVE -- RESPONSIBILITY AND REALITY.

WE IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE IT --

TO PROVIDE THIS NATION WITH STRENGTH AT HOME AND ABROAD.

And, we will.



FROM MY TRAVELS ACROSS AMERICA, I AM CONVINCED

OF THIS: \ THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IS IN TUNE WITH THE HOPES  
AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE \- WITH THEIR DESIRES  
AND THEIR WANTS.

*Let's be specific*

~~IN PARTICULAR,~~ I HAVE FOUND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

WANT ENERGY INDEPENDENCE -- AND SO DO WE IN THE REPUBLICAN

PARTY.

THEY WANT A SOUND ECONOMY -- AND SO DO WE.

THEY WANT GOOD HOUSING, GOOD FOOD, AND A

GOOD FUTURE FOR THEIR FAMILIES -- AND SO DO WE.

THEY WANT THE 28 BILLION DOLLAR TAX CUT

I PROPOSED TO THE CONGRESS SO THEY CAN SPEND THEIR

OWN MONEY RATHER THAN HAVE THE GOVERNMENT DO IT --

*Federal* *for them*  
1 1

AND SO DO WE.

AT THE SAME TIME, THEY WANT A 28 BILLION DOLLAR

REDUCTION IN THE GROWTH OF FEDERAL SPENDING AS A START

TOWARD A BALANCED BUDGET -- AND SO DO WE.

THEY WANT THE GOVERNMENT TO HELP MEET THEIR NEEDS

WITHOUT ORDERING THEIR LIVES -- AND SO DO WE.

People the length & breadth  
of this land are learning  
A Government big enough  
to give us everything we want,  
is a Govt big enough to take  
from us everything we HAVE

THEY WANT AN AMERICA AT PEACE AND ACTIVELY  
PROMOTING PEACE WITH A STRONG INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY  
TO INSURE OUR PROTECTION -- AND SO DO WE.

THEY WANT AN AMERICAN DEFENSE SECOND TO NONE --  
AND SO DO WE.

IF WE SUCCESSFULLY CARRY THIS MESSAGE  
TO THE PEOPLE OF WEST VIRGINIA AND TO VOTERS ACROSS AMERICA  
IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS, WE CAN MAKE 1976 A GREAT YEAR  
FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY -- AND FOR THIS GREAT COUNTRY  
OF OURS. BUT WE NEED THE KIND OF CONTINUING SUPPORT  
YOU ARE PROVIDING BY YOUR PRESENCE HERE TONIGHT.

THE DECISIONS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE MAKE LESS  
THAN ONE YEAR FROM NOW WILL SHAPE THE COURSE OF THIS  
COUNTRY WELL INTO OUR THIRD CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE.

LET'S MAKE SURE WE DECIDE FOR AN AMERICA AT PEACE,  
FOR A NATION RENEWED, FOR A PEOPLE WITH PRIDE, FOR A  
FUTURE THAT SUMMONS US TO NEW ACHIEVEMENT AND GLORY AND  
GREATNESS. WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN DO IT!

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT