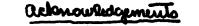
The original documents are located in Box 25, "3/12/76 - Remarks at a Public Forum at Buffalo Grove High School, Chicago, Illinois" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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- . Thank you, Dick (Ogilise entroduces you)
- · Senodor Perey
- · Cougressman McChory
- Mayor Fabish
- · Mayor Ryan
- · Dr. Miller (Buffalo H.S. Principal)
- · Students and Gueste



. MY OLD FRIEND MARGUERITE CHURCH

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

PUBLIC FORUM AT BUFFALO GROVE HIGH SCHOOL

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1976

IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE

WITH YOU THIS EVENING IN YOUR BEAUTIFUL BUFFALO

GROVE HIGH SCHOOL.

THIS IS THE LAST STOP OF OUR VISIT TO ILLINOIS THIS WEEK AND I'M ESPECIALLY GLAD TO BE WINDING UP MY TRIP HERE, BECAUSE I HAVE ALWAYS HAD SO MANY GOOD FRIENDS IN THIS AREA. IN FACT, I BROUGHT QUITE A FEW OF THEM DOWN TO WASHINGTON TO WORK WITH ME

-2-

MY DAUGHTER SUSAN HAS A FRIEND WHO TEACHES AT THIS VERY HIGH SCHOOL, AND A WEEK AGO MY SON JACK WAS SPEAKING AT SOME COLLEGES NEAR HERE I HOPE HE WAS MAKING FRIENDS, TOO. 2 hand middle

my well.

I LOOK FORWARD TO ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS,

BUT FIRST LET ME MAKE A FEW BRIEF REMARKS.

THINK BACK FOR A MOMENT ABOUT HOW THINGS

WERE A YEAR AND A HALF AGO.

OUR COUNTRY WAS BADLY TROUBLED. OUR

NATIONAL SPIRIT HAD BEEN WEAKENED BY A LONG AND DIVISIVE

MILITARY CONFLICT, AND BY THE SHOCKS OF POLITICAL

ABUSES.

OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY HAD BEEN WEAKENED AS WELL, AND IN ITS UNHEALTHY STATE IT WAS THREATENED BY THE UNPRECEDENTED DOUBLE THREAT OF RECESSION AND INFLATION. THAT WAS THE SITUATION CONFRONTING ME WHEN

I MOVED INTO THE WHITE HOUSE. MY TOP PRIORITY WAS TO GET OUR NATION BACK ON ITS FEET, AND TO

RESTORE ITS CONFIDENCE.

I SET ABOUT CONDUCTING AN OPEN AND RESPONSIBLE

ADMINISTRATION, FOLLOWING THE DICTATES OF LAW AND

That to promise more thank could produce. Produce all that 2 promet OF MY OWN CONSCIENCE. Popla AND I REFUSED TO BE PANICKED INTO DANGEROUS

ECONOMIC POLICIES THAT WOULD HAVE THREATENED OUR

COUNTRY'S LONG-TERM GROWTH.

THE STATISTICS SHOW OUR ECONOMIC POLICIES

HAVE BEEN THE RIGHT ONES. INFLATION IS LESS THAN HALF WHAT IT WAS. ALL THE JOBS LOST DURING THE RECESSION HAVE BEEN RECOVERED.

86.3

BUT THOSE STATISTICS DON'T TELL THE WHOLE STORY. CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IS UP AGAIN TOO, AND AMERICANS ARE BUYING CARS AND RETAIL GOODS AT AN INCREASED RATE. AMERICANS ONCE AGAIN FEEL CONFIDENT TO INVEST IN THEIR FUTURE, AND THEIR NATION'S FUTURE.

OUR INFLATION RATE IS STILL TOO HIGH,

AND THERE IS STILL TOO MUCH UNEMPLOYMENT. BUT WE ARE TAKING FIRM STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, AND WE'RE GOING

TO KEEP UP THE PACE.

FOR ONE THING, WE'RE GOING TO KEEP DOWN THE COST OF LIVING BY KEEPING DOWN THE COST OF GOVERNMENT. WE'RE GOING TO IMPROVE THE FEDERAL PROGRAMS THAT DO WORK, AND GET RID OF THE FEDERAL PROGRAMS THAT DON'T WORK.

.

TAKE REVENUE SHARING. THAT IS A FEDERAL

PROGRAM THAT WORKS. IT IS CHEAP TO ADMINISTER ---

THE RUNNING COSTS ARE LESS THAN ONE-TWELFTH OF ONE CENT

ON EVERY DOLLAR HANDLED.

AND IT COMBINES THE EFFICIENCY OF THE FEDERAL

REVENUE RAISING SYSTEM WITH THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF YOUR

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

UNDER THE CURRENT FIVE-YEAR GENERAL REVENUE

SHARING PROGRAM, WHICH ENDS THIS DECEMBER, ILLINOIS STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES WILL HAVE RECEIVED OVER

ONE AND A HALF BILLION DOLLARS.

IT'S BEEN A GOOD INVESTMENT AT THE STATE

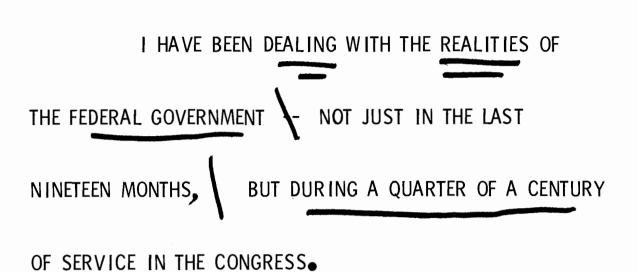
AND LOCAL LEVEL. IT HAS HELPED TO MAINTAIN COMMUNITY SERVICES. IT HAS HELPED EDUCATE YOUR CHILDREN. IT HAS HELPED KEEP DOWN YOUR TAXES. REVENUE SHARING HAS PROVEN ITS VALUE IN

ANY REALISTIC APPRAISAL OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S

ROLE. THAT'S WHY, WITH THE HELP OF THE CONGRESS,

I INTEND TO EXTEND AND INCREASE THIS PROGRAM.

BECAUSE REALISM IS WHAT I BELIEVE IN, NOT RHETORIC.



I BELIEVE MY EXPERIENCE HAS A LOT TO DO WITH WHAT I CAN ACCOMPLISH FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

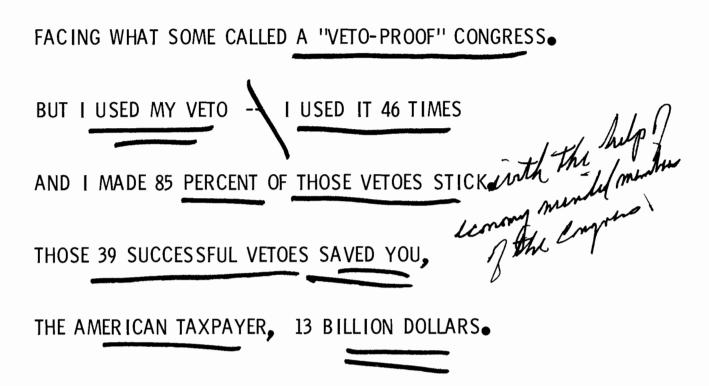
ONE THING MY EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME IS

AMERICA NEEDS STRONG DEFENSES TO KEEP IT SECURE AND AT PEACE. I BELIEVE IN PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH AS A NATION TODAY, WE ARE SECOND TO NONE IN MILITARY STRENGTH AND I INTEND TO KEEP IT THAT WAY. ANOTHER THING MY EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME

IS HOW TO USE THE MACHINERY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

FOR EXAMPLE, I CAME INTO THE WHITE HOUSE



I INTEND TO KEEP UP MY PRESSURE ON THE BUDGET-BUSTERS. WITH THE SAME KIND OF SENSIBLE APPROACH TO FEDERAL SPENDING WE'VE TAKEN THIS YEAR, WE CAN HAVE A BALANCED BUDGET BY 1979. THAT MEANS ADDITIONAL MAJOR TAX CUTS WILL BE POSSIBLE PUTTING MONEY BACK INTO YOUR HANDS, WHERE IT BELONGS. A BALANCED BUDGET IS ONLY PART OF THE

BALANCED POLICY I INTEND TO PURSUE THROUGHOUT THE

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

WE NEED A NEW BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN

FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES. A NEW BALANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN AND THE GOVERNMENT WHICH SERVES HIM. A NEW BALANCE BETWEEN THOSE WHO PAY TAXES, AND THOSE WHO BENEFIT FROM THEM.

-25-

ALL THESE ELEMENTS OF A NEW BALANCE WILL GIVE OUR GREAT NATION A NEW STRENGTH AND A NEW STABILITY. WE WILL HAVE A SOUND AND SOLID BASE ON WHICH TO BUILD AN EVEN GREATER AMERICA \checkmark AN AMERICA THAT WILL CONTINUE TO BE A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR THE BEST HOPES OF THE ENTIRE WORLD.

AND NOW I WILL BE GLAD TO ANSWER YOUR

QUESTIONS

(END OF TEXT)