The original documents are located in Box 25, "3/13/76 - Public Rally at North Carolina Shopping Center, Winston-Salem, North Carolina" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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PUBLIC RALLY AT NORTH CAROLINA SHOPPING CENTER

WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1976

-1-

I WELCOME THIS CHANCE TO TALK TO YOU THIS

AFTERNOON, AND I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING

VERY DEAR TO ME -- THIS GREAT NATION OF OURS.

UNITED STATES, AS I'M SURE YOU DO, AND I THINK THE

EXPERIENCE OF THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF SHOWS JUST HOW

WELL-FOUNDED THAT FAITH IS.

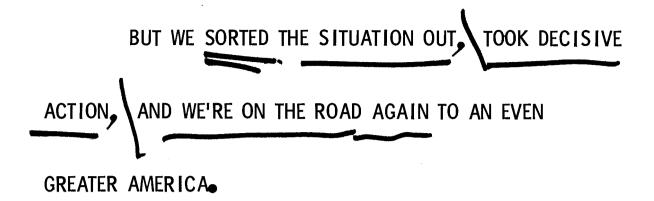
-3-

THAT OUR ECONOMY WAS HEADING TOWARD ANOTHER GREAT

DEPRESSION. THERE WAS DOUBLE-DIGIT INFLATION,

CLIMBING UNEMPLOYMENT, AND CONSUMER CONFIDENCE WAS

SERIOUSLY SHAKEN.



-5-

WE DID IT WITH HARD WORK AND DETERMINATION,

JUST AS AMERICA HAS ALWAYS DONE IT.

WE'RE SOLVING OUR PROBLEMS, AND WHILE SOME MAY I HAVE FOUND THAT THE HARDER I WORK,

THE LUCKIER I GET. AND MOST AMERICANS ARE FAMILIAR

WITH THIS KIND OF LUCK.

-7-

IT IS THE KIND OF LUCK WHICH OUR FOREFATHERS

FOUND 200 YEARS AGO WHEN THEY HAMMERED OUT THE

PRECEPTS OF THIS GREAT DEMOCRACY.

BY SETTING A COMMON SENSE COURSE DURING THE
WORST RECESSION OF THIS NATION IN THE PAST 30 YEARS,
LET ME TELL YOU HOW LUCKY WE ALL GOT.

-9-

INFLATION HAS BEEN CUT IN HALF. EMPLOYMENT

HAS RISEN BY 2.2 MILLION SINCE LAST MARCH, GIVING US

BACK ALL THE JOBS WE LOST TO THE RECESSION. THE INDEX

OF LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATORS JUST RELEASED REGISTERED

THE SHARPEST RISE IN SIX MONTHS.

INVESTMENTS FROM ABROAD IN AMERICAN STOCKS AND BONDS

HAVE GROWN DRAMATICALLY. WE WOUND UP 1975 WITH THE

STRONGEST BALANCE OF TRADE IN HISTORY. AND AMERICAN

BUSINESSMEN AND FARMERS EXPORTED MORE THAN WE IMPORTED

FROM ABROAD.

-11-

THERE ARE NO GIMMICKS FOR A STABLE ECONOMY,

JUST AS THERE ARE NO GIMMICKS FOR A LASTING PEACE.

THEY ARE BOTH BUILT WITH SOUND AND HONEST WORK.

I BELIEVE IN THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM

BIGGER DEFICITS, I REJECTED BIGGER SPENDING,

BIGGER GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION.

-13-

INSTEAD I INITIATED TAX CUTS FOR INDIVIDUALS

INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESS EXPANSION AND JOB PRODUCTION

AND EXTENDED INCOME CUSHIONS FOR THOSE AMERICANS OUT

OF WORK. AND AMERICA WORKED ITS WAY OUT OF THE

RECESSION

I INTEND TO KEEP ON WORKING IN WASHINGTON,

TO KEEP ON MAKING SURE THAT YOUR FEDERAL TAX DOLLARS

ARE USED WISELY AND WELL.

-15-

I'M GOING TO KEEP UP MY PRESSURE ON THE

BUDGET-BUSTERS. IF WE CONTINUE OUR SOUND AND

SENSIBLE APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT SPENDING, WE CAN

HAVE A BALANCED BUDGET BY 1979.

MORE MONEY BACK INTO YOUR HANDS -- BECAUSE THAT'S

WHERE IT BELONGS. YOU HAVE AS MANY, IF NOT MORE,

GOOD USES FOR THAT MONEY THAN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

DOES.

-17-

AND NO ONE CAN HONESTLY SAY IT'S A JOB THAT CAN BE DONE

OVERNIGHT.

BUT WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE WORKING

CAREFULLY AND STEADFASTLY TOWARD THAT GOAL -- AND WE

ARE GOING TO ACHIEVE IT.

WE ARE CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO ACHIEVE A BALANCED

BUDGET AT THE EXPENSE OF OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE.

IF THERE'S ONE THING HISTORY HAS TAUGHT US IN THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IT'S THAT WE CAN REMAIN AT

PEACE ONLY IF WE REMAIN STRONG.

-19-

THROUGHOUT MY 27 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

IN THE CONGRESS AND IN THE WHITE HOUSE, I HAVE ALWAYS

SPOKEN OUT FOR A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE.

I BELIEVE OUR MILITARY MIGHT - WHICH IS
SECOND TO NONE IN THE WORLD -- REPRESENTS A VERY
WISE INVESTMENT.

-21-

IT ENSURES THAT NO ENEMY WILL BE TEMPTED,

AND NO ALLY OF OURS WILL BE INSECURE.

IT REPRESENTS

OUR COMMITMENT TO PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH.

A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE SHOWS THE WORLD THAT AMERICA

STANDS READY TO DEFEND THE FREEDOM WHICH AMERICA

STANDS FOR.

-23-

AMERICA STILL CHERISHES THE OLD VALUES

WHICH HAVE MADE IT GREAT. AND WE ARE MOVING AGAIN,

MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

WITH YOUR HELP AND GUIDANCE, WE WILL BUILD

AN EVEN GREATER AMERICA, AN AMERICA IN WHICH OUR

BRIGHTEST DREAMS STILL COME TRUE.

END OF TEXT