

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

REMARKS AT SENATE-HOUSE DINNER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1976

The original documents are located in Box 27, “3/31/76 - Remarks at the Annual GOP Senate-House Dinner” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SENATE-HOUSE DINNER

SENATOR TED STEVENS (He introduces you.)

CONGRESSMAN GUY VANDER JAGT

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Betty
↑

IT IS A GREAT PERSONAL PLEASURE FOR ME TO JOIN

SO MANY GOOD FRIENDS FOR OUR ANNUAL REPUBLICAN

SENATE-HOUSE DINNER●

FIRST OF ALL, LET ME EXPRESS MY HEART-FELT
APPRECIATION TO ALL THE FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF OUR
DISTINGUISHED SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES FOR COMING HERE
THIS EVENING AND FOR HELPING TO MAKE THIS SUCH A
SUCCESSFUL EVENT.

ALL OF YOU ARE FAITHFUL FRIENDS OF OUR PARTY,
AS WELL, / AND I THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH FOR YOUR
CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO ALL THAT OUR PARTY MEANS TO
AMERICA.

OF COURSE, / I ALWAYS LIKE AN EVENING WITH MY
OLD FRIENDS FROM THE CONGRESS, ESPECIALLY MY FELLOW
REPUBLICANS.

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to each of

TONIGHT I BRING YOU PRAISE AND GRATITUDE FOR

THE FINE WORK YOU HAVE DONE IN THE 94th CONGRESS.

DESPITE THE OVERWHELMING ODDS AGAINST YOU,

REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS -- ON BOTH SIDES OF

THE HILL -- HAVE BUILT A FINE RECORD OF INNOVATION, OF

FAR-SIGHTEDNESS, OF RESTRAINT AND RESPONSIBILITY IN

THE AFFAIRS OF GOVERNMENT.

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT YOU ARE NOT TO BLAME FOR THE
RESULTS OF A RECENT SURVEY WHICH SHOWED THAT ONLY NINE
PERCENT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF
CONFIDENCE IN THE CONGRESS AS AN INSTITUTION.

IT IS JUST AS OBVIOUS WHERE THE BLAME DOES LIE --
WITH THE TWO-TO-ONE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY IN THE 94th CONGRESS.

THE RECORD OF THAT MAJORITY IS A RECORD OF
FAILURE. IT IS A RECORD OF TIMIDITY.

I HOPE AND TRUST THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL
REPUDIATE THAT RECORD -- AND RECTIFY THAT LOP-SIDED
RATIO -- ON NOVEMBER 2, 1976.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SHOULD BE VERY, VERY

GRATEFUL FOR THE SOLID AND RESPONSIBLE REPUBLICAN VOICES

IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS IN 1975 AND 1976.

I SAY IT'S HIGH TIME REPUBLICANS WERE A MAJORITY

IN THE CONGRESS ONCE AGAIN. YOU HAVE MY SOLEMN PLEDGE

THAT I WILL DO MY BEST TO HELP MAKE THAT HAPPEN IN 1977.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS CONTROLLED THE CONGRESS

FOR 38 OF THE PAST 42 YEARS.

ON ISSUE AFTER ISSUE AFTER ISSUE, DEMOCRATIC

CONGRESSES HAVE FAILED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE AMERICAN

PEOPLE. THEY HAVE FRUSTRATED MY ATTEMPTS AND YOUR

ATTEMPTS TO MEET THOSE NEEDS, AS WELL.

CONTROL CARRIES WITH IT RESPONSIBILITY,

AND TWO-THIRDS CONTROL MAKES THAT RESPONSIBILITY

INESCAPABLE.

THE LEGACY OF 21 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS DEMOCRATIC
CONTROL IS FOUND IN LAYER UPON LAYER OF FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY.
IT IS FOUND IN THE MULTIPLICITY OF GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS,
RED TAPE, AND FORMS TO BE FILLED OUT. IT IS FOUND IN
THE HEAVY BURDEN OF TAXES IMPOSED ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.
IT IS FOUND IN HIGHER AND HIGHER LEVELS OF FEDERAL SPENDING
FOR MORE THAN A THOUSAND GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THAT IT IS
USELESS TO LOOK TO THE CONTROLLING ELEMENTS OF THE DEMOCRATIC
PARTY FOR RELIEF FROM BIG GOVERNMENT.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS THE CAUSE OF BIG
GOVERNMENT.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IS THE CURE.

IF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT LIMITS ON THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT - AND THEY DO - THEY WANT A
REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

IF THEY ARE READY FOR THE ADDITIONAL 10 BILLION
DOLLAR TAX CUT WHICH I PROPOSED TO START JULY 1, BUT WHICH
THE DEMOCRATS REFUSE TO GIVE THEM, / THEN THEY ARE READY FOR
A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IN THE U.S. CONGRESS.

IF THEY ARE READY TO SUPPORT MY BUDGET PROPOSAL

THAT CUTS BY 50 PERCENT THE RATE OF GROWTH IN FEDERAL

SPENDING, WHILE THE DEMOCRATS PROPOSE A BUDGET BETWEEN

20 BILLION AND 30 BILLION DOLLARS HIGHER THAN MINE

THEN THEY ARE READY FOR A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IN THE

U.S. CONGRESS.

AS YOU KNOW, I'VE VETOED 46 BILLS IN THE PAST
19 MONTHS. THANKS TO THE STRONG AND OFTEN COURAGEOUS
SUPPORT OF REPUBLICAN SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN -- AND
WITH HELP FROM SOME DISCERNING DEMOCRATS ON THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE AISLE -- WE WERE ABLE TO SUSTAIN 39 OF
THOSE VETOES.

AND THANKS TO OUR GOING TO THE MAT FOR FISCAL

INTEGRITY, THOSE 39 SUSTAINED VETOES WILL SAVE THE

AMERICAN PEOPLE 13 BILLION DOLLARS.

THE SEVEN VETOES THAT WERE OVER-RIDDEN,

UNFORTUNATELY, WILL COST THE AMERICAN TAXPAYERS AN

EXTRA SEVEN BILLION DOLLARS. THAT AVERAGES OUT TO

32 EXTRA TAX DOLLARS FOR EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD

IN AMERICA.

sound fiscal management

IF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY,

THEY WANT A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

IF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FAVOR A BALANCED FEDERAL

BUDGET IN THREE YEARS, PLUS ANOTHER REDUCTION IN FEDERAL

TAXES, / THEY WANT A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IN THE CONGRESS.

TODAY, WHILE AMERICA'S DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN
ENERGY SUPPLIES CONTINUES TO GROW, WHILE WE APPROACH THE
POINT WHERE WE WILL IMPORT MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF OUR
OIL FROM FOREIGN SOURCES, THE MAJORITY IN THIS CONGRESS
ARE PURSUING AN ENERGY POLICY OF POLITICS AND DELAY.

THEIR POSITION ON THE ENERGY CRISIS IS TO TAKE
THE MOST POLITICALLY PALATABLE COURSE - AND HOPE THE
PROBLEM WILL GO AWAY AFTER ELECTION DAY.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THAT IT IS A
REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION THAT HAS PROPOSED EVERY ONE
OF THESE MAJOR ENERGY INITIATIVES:

- DEREGULATION OF NATURAL GAS;
- CREATION OF AN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AUTHORITY;
- THE NUCLEAR FUEL ASSURANCE ACT;

-- TAX INCENTIVES FOR ACCELERATED PETROLEUM

EXPLORATION;

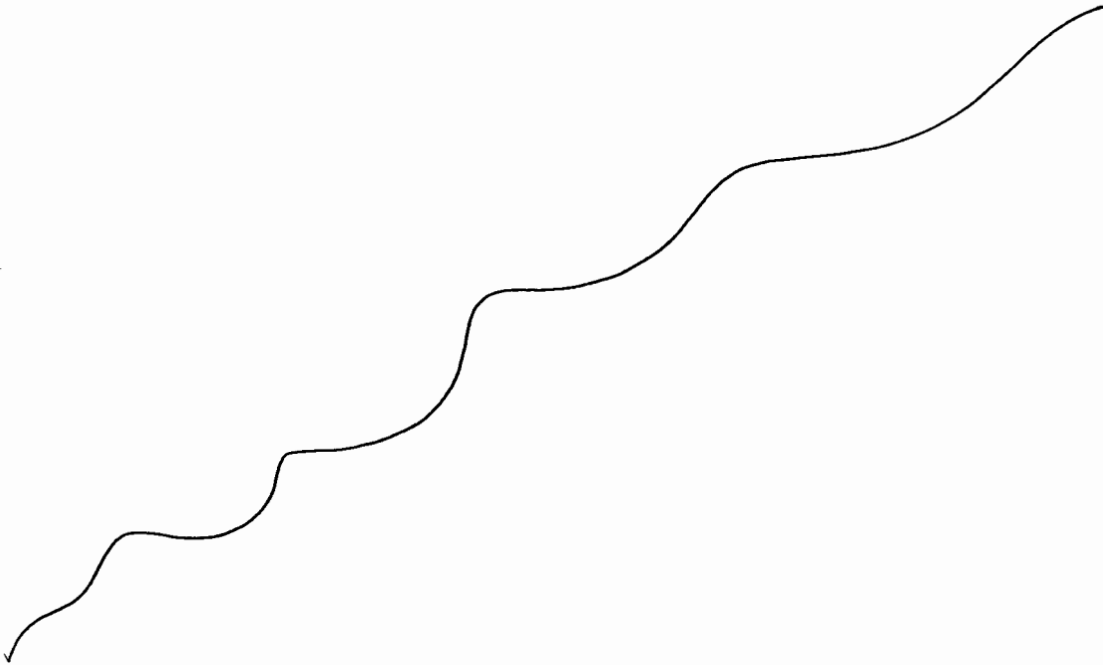
-- AND THE BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR INCREASED ENERGY

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

IF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

AND WE ABSOLUTELY MUST HAVE IT - WE NEED A LOT MORE

REPUBLICANS IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.



TODAY, WHILE 32 MILLION SOCIAL SECURITY
RECIPIENTS WONDER WHETHER THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND
WILL RUN OUT OF MONEY IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, WHAT ARE THE
DEMOCRATS IN THE CONGRESS DOING TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY
OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY FUND?

JUST BECAUSE IT'S AN ELECTION YEAR, WILL THEY

FAIL TO FACE UP TO THE GROWING DEFICITS IN THE SOCIAL

SECURITY FUND WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME TO MAKE POSITIVE

THE FUND TAKES IN AS MUCH AS IT PAYS OUT?

IF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT TO BE SURE THERE'S
A STRONG AND SOLVENT SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM IN THE FUTURE,
THEN THEY WANT A LOT MORE REPUBLICANS IN THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS.

AND FINALLY, TODAY, WHILE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SEEK CONTINUED ASSURANCE THAT AMERICA'S DEFENSES ARE

SECOND TO NONE -- WHILE I HAVE PROPOSED THE TWO LARGEST

DEFENSE BUDGETS IN HISTORY TO BOLSTER THAT ASSURANCE AND

GUARANTEE OUR SECURITY -- SOME DEMOCRATS IN THE CONGRESS

SEEK TO CUT THE DEFENSE BUDGET BY SIX BILLION DOLLARS.

IN FACT, OVER THE LAST SIX YEARS, ANTI-DEFENSE
MAJORITIES OF DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSES HAVE SLASHED DEFENSE
EXPENDITURES BY A TOTAL OF 32 BILLION DOLLARS.

I WAS VERY ENCOURAGED BY YESTERDAY'S ACTIONS
BY THE HOUSE AND SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEES IN SUBSTANTIALLY
APPROVING THE DEFENSE REQUESTS I HAD MADE.

I COMPLIMENT BOTH THE REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS

WHO HUNG IN THERE AND VOTED FOR A STRONG DEFENSE.

BUT THOSE VOTES WERE VERY CLOSE, AND WE'RE

A LONG WAY FROM FINAL PASSAGE.

IF THESE EARLY THREATS OF MAJOR DEFENSE CUTS

ARE REVIVED ALONG THE WAY -- AND CONGRESS SENDS ME A BILL

THAT FAILS TO MEET OUR ESSENTIAL DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS --

I WILL VETO THAT. *legislation* PERIOD.
1 W

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE KNOW THAT WE HAVE NO CHOICE
BUT TO MATCH STRENGTH WITH STRENGTH, THAT WE MUST MAINTAIN
OUR ABILITY TO DETER AGGRESSION, TO KEEP THE PEACE, AND TO
PROTECT OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

IF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TRULY WANT ASSURANCE THAT
AMERICA'S DEFENSES ARE UNSURPASSED, THEY WANT A LOT MORE
PEOPLE LIKE US IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

IN EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THE ISSUES I HAVE ADDRESSED
THIS EVENING -- AND THERE ARE MORE WE COULD NAME -- THE
DEMOCRATIC 94th CONGRESS HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT IS OUT
OF STEP AND OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.●

OUR TASK IN THIS ELECTION YEAR IS TO MAKE SURE

THAT A LOT MORE REPUBLICANS WHO ARE IN STEP AND

IN TOUCH WITH THE PEOPLE ARE IN OFFICE WHEN THE

95th CONGRESS CONVENES NEXT JANUARY.

I HAVE PROMISED REPEATEDLY -- AND I PROMISE
YOU AGAIN TONIGHT -- THAT I WILL DO EVERYTHING I POSSIBLY
CAN TO WIN A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IN THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS IN 1976.

ALMOST EXACTLY TWO YEARS AGO TONIGHT, I MADE
A SPEECH AS VICE PRESIDENT TO THE MIDWEST REPUBLICAN
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO.

I SAID AT THAT TIME -- AND I SAY AGAIN TONIGHT --

THAT THE PRESIDENCY ALONE CANNOT ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF

OUR CAUSE IF WE DO NOT WIN SUFFICIENT PARTY SUPPORT

IN THE CONGRESS FOR OUR PROGRAMS AND POLICIES.

FURTHERMORE, THAT SUPPORT CANNOT BE FULLY
INSURED WITHOUT STRONG REPUBLICAN INVOLVEMENT AND
REPRESENTATION IN THE STATE HOUSES AND CITY HALLS AND
COUNTY SEATS OF AMERICA.

I SAID TWO YEARS AGO -- AND I SAY NOW -- THAT

EVERY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY SHOULD

PLEDGE TO WORK WITHIN -- AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF -- THE

REPUBLICAN PARTY, TO CAMPAIGN NOT ONLY FOR HIMSELF OR

HERSELF -- BUT FOR THE WHOLE REPUBLICAN TICKET, FROM

TOP TO BOTTOM•

I SAID THEN -- AND I SAY NOW -- THAT I WILL

NEVER DO OR SAY ANYTHING TO WEAKEN OR DIVIDE THIS

GRAND OLD PARTY WHICH ALL OF US LOVE SO MUCH.

I HAVE ALWAYS CAMPAIGNED FOR THE UNITY OF OUR

PARTY, RECOGNIZING THAT CONSCIENTIOUS MEN AND WOMEN COULD

DIFFER ON PARTICULARS WITHOUT FORSAKING THE BASIC

REPUBLICAN PHILOSOPHIES TO WHICH WE ARE COMMITTED.

FOR THE 36 YEARS SINCE I FIRST TOOK AN ACTIVE PART
IN REPUBLICAN POLITICS, THIS HAS BEEN MY PHILOSOPHY AND
MY PRACTICE, AND I WILL NOT ABANDON IT IN 1976•

THROUGH THE YEARS, I HAVE CAMPAIGNED MANY,
MANY TIMES IN ALL OF THE 50 STATES ON BEHALF OF CANDIDATES
FOR THE CONGRESS, FOR THE SENATE, AND FOR GOVERNOR•

IN THE LAST YEAR ALONE, AS PRESIDENT, I HAVE
TRAVELLED TO 23 STATES AND RAISED SIX MILLION DOLLARS
FOR STATE AND LOCAL REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATIONS.

I AM PROUD THAT A LETTER I WROTE A FEW MONTHS AGO
HAS RAISED OVER TWO MILLION DOLLARS FOR OUR HOUSE
CANDIDATES. AND I HOPE WE CAN DO AS WELL OR BETTER
FOR OUR SENATE CANDIDATES THIS YEAR.

WE DO NOT SEEK TO ELECT REPUBLICANS SIMPLY FOR
THE SAKE OF OUR PARTY'S PRIDE. MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE
SEEK VICTORY TO SECURE OUR COUNTRY'S FUTURE.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT ONCE SAID, "THE FUTURE
LIES WITH THOSE WISE POLITICAL LEADERS WHO REALIZE THAT THE
GREAT PUBLIC IS INTERESTED MORE IN GOVERNMENT THAN IN
POLITICS."

THAT LESSON HAS APPARENTLY BEEN FORGOTTEN BY

TOO MANY OF TODAY'S DEMOCRATS.

IN THE LAST 15 MONTHS, FAR TOO MANY DEMOCRATS

IN THIS CONGRESS HAVE STEADFASTLY REFUSED TO BITE THE BULLET,

OR MAKE THE TOUGH DECISIONS ON MAJOR ISSUES FACING

AMERICA TODAY.

OUR SITUATION DEMANDS A NEW BIRTH OF THE CREATIVE

SPIRIT, THE COURAGE, THE SACRIFICE, AND THE DETERMINATION

WITH WHICH OTHER GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS HAVE MET THEIR

OWN CHALLENGES.

THAT EXAMPLE SHOULD RIGHTLY BE SET BY THOSE OF US

IN PUBLIC LIFE.

I AM PROUD THAT REPUBLICANS IN THE

HOUSE AND SENATE HAVE ACCEPTED THIS RESPONSIBILITY AND

SET THIS EXAMPLE SO FORCEFULLY DURING THE 94th CONGRESS.

I AM PROUD, TOO, OF THE RECORD OF PEACE AND

RISING PROSPERITY WHICH THIS REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION IS

PRESENTING TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THIS YEAR.

A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IN THE CONGRESS,

WORKING WITH ME, WOULD MAKE PROGRESS FOR AMERICA

SO MUCH EASIER AND MORE CERTAIN IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

IT IS NOT ONLY OUR DUTY BUT OUR GREAT OPPORTUNITY

TO WORK TOGETHER THIS YEAR FOR A COMMON VICTORY --

A VICTORY FOR THE PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAMS THAT UNITE US

AS REPUBLICANS.

LET US WORK TOGETHER, ~~THEN~~ ^{then} AND WALK TOGETHER

WITH THE GREAT AMERICAN PEOPLE IN THE PATH OF PEACE,

ON THE ROAD TO PROSPERITY, ON THE WAY TO VICTORY IN 1976.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT