The original documents are located in Box 31, "5/3/76 - Remarks at Wilson Park, Birmingham, Alabama" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

WILSON PARK ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- -- THANK YOU, CONGRESSMAN JOHN BUCHANAN
- -- CONGRESSMAN BILL DICKINSON
- -- CONGRESSMAN JACK EDWARDS
- -- MAYOR <u>VAN**N**</u>
- -- DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
- -- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

S 3 Marian

at

THE OUTSET LET ME THANK AND COMPLIMENT

THE FINE SAMFORD UNIVERSITY CHOIR. 4 The worldful bands.

IT'S GREAT TO BE IN BIRMINGHAM --

THE ALL AMERICAN CITY.

I HEAR YOU HAD QUITE A RACE YESTERDAY IN

TALLEDEGA (Talla-digga) -- THE WINSTON 500.

WELL, THE CAR I CAME IN THIS AFTERNOON MIGHT NOT

HAVE BEEN FAST ENOUGH TO BEAT BUDDY BAKER,

BUT WE'VE GOT ANOTHER RACE OF OUR OWN TOMORROW --

AND THAT'S A RACE WE'D SURE LIKE TO WIN.

WINNING SEEMS TO BE A HABIT IN ALABAMA

AND THE RECORD OF THE GREAT ALABAMA FOOTBALL

TEAMS SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. MY CONGRATULATIONS

TO BEAR BRYANT AND THE CRIMSON TIDE, AND

SHUG JERDAN AND THE AUBURN WAR EAGLES.

YOUNG AMERICANS, ALREADY STEPPING IN TO TAKE OVER
THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY, AND THE

PROFESSIONS.

MY OWN WHITE HOUSE STAFF HERE TODAY

AVERAGE UNDER 35 YEARS OF AGE.

I HAVE MORE PRIDE IN EACH AND EVERY ONE

THAN I CAN EXPRESS.

I BELIEVE IN AMERICA'S YOUNG PEOPLE

ABOVE ALL ELSE. IN 200 YEARS WE HAVE FORGED

FROM A STRUGGLING GROUP OF COLONIES THE GREATEST

NATION IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

OUR PROGRESS IN EVERY FIELD HAS BEEN

UNPRECEDENTED. AND MUCH OF THAT PROGRESS

HAS ALWAYS BEEN DUE TO THE STRENGTH AND CHARACTER

OF THE YOUNG AMERICAN.

A LOT OF DETRACTORS ARE SAYING WE'RE

BECOMING A SECOND RATE NATION.

grine 9/0

BUT WHEN I LOOK OUT OVER THIS CROWD

I CAN SAY

I AM PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN

AND PROUD OF AMERICA.

OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, AMERICA HAS

BEEN CHALLENGED AS RARELY BEFORE.

WE FACED THE WORST ECONOMIC RECESSION

IN FORTY YEARS.

WE BEAT IT

WE FACED MANY CHALLENGES TO PEACE IN

THE WORLD - AND WE ARE STILL AT PEACE.

WE FACED A CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE IN

GOVERNMENT - AND THAT CONFIDENCE AND THE

INTEGRITY OF THE WHITE HOUSE HAVE BEEN RESTORED.

THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE WILL BE EVEN

GREATER TODAY'S GENERATION OF AMERICANS

MUST MEET THOSE CHALLENGES AS OUR PARENTS AND

GRANDPARENTS MET THEIRS WITH COURAGE,

WITH SACRIFICE, WITH DETERMINATION, BUT ALWAYS

WITH LOVE FOR OUR COUNTRY AND OUR GOD.

GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY AND

ALL THE OTHER AMERICANS THROUGHOUT ALABAMA AND

ALL OVER AMERICA. IT IS MY GREAT HONOR

TO BE YOUR PRESIDENT.

WITH YOUR FAITH THE AND YOUR CONTINUED

SUPPORT, WE WILL FILL THE FUTURE WITH HOPE,

WITH GREAT ACHIEVEMENT AND WITH THE PROGRESS

THAT WILL KEEP AMERICA NUMBER ONE FOR GENERATIONS

TO COME.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT