

The original documents are located in Box 31, “5/7/76 - Remarks Upon Arrival at Offut Air Force Base, Omaha, Nebraska” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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5/7/76

10:30 a. m.

(Gergen) THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

Nebraska Arrival Remarks - Long Version

I'm delighted to come home to my native state today. As you say out here, Nebraska represents "the good life", so I'm glad to be here.

It's no secret that the Republican race for the Presidential nomination has suddenly and unexpectedly become a horse race and that Nebraska could be a pivotal state.

If there is any single message that I want to communicate to my supporters in Nebraska and elsewhere, it is this:

Today our fight for the Presidency begins anew. It begins here. It begins now. And it will continue on until we've won a great triumph.

If this were merely a personality contest, it would make little difference. But it's much more than that.

This is a fight for economic prosperity in the United States of America. We have cut inflation by 75%; we have created almost three million new jobs; farm income is rising. But the job is unfinished, and we are the best qualified people in the country to finish it.

This is a fight to preserve and expand human liberty in the United States. We have stemmed the tide of big government in Washington, D. C., but now we must reverse it and roll it back.

This is a fight to preserve and strengthen the peace for the United States. Our alliances are strong, our arsenals are fully prepared to meet any threat, and our negotiators are standing tough at the bargaining table. Now we must have a mandate to continue.

Finally, this is a fight to restore public faith and confidence in our democracy. We have erased the stains of scandal from high offices in Washington. There is a new sense of trust between our people and our leaders. Now the belief in honor, in openness, and in integrity must be maintained in the White House.

So the stakes are high. Failure could mean the end to all that we have aspired. Success would mean that we can build upon these last two years, providing America with new hope and new directions for the last quarter of the 20th Century.

We can; we must; and indeed we shall fight on now to victory. And our fight begins anew here this afternoon in Nebraska.

Thank you.