## The original documents are located in Box 40, folder "Ford, John - Events - Campaigning in California, 10/21/76" of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

## **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

TALKING POINTS FOR JACK FORD TO HUGHES AIRCRAFT WORKERS (3-5 minutes informal)

(Background: Hughes Aircraft does about a billion and a half dollars of Government business every year. It is owned by the Hughes Medical Foundation. The Company works in the forefront of satellite and electronic technology, both classified and non-classified. They produce such things as spy satellites and missile guidance systems.)

## Talking Points:

- 1. I am here to thank you in the name of my Father, the President of the United States, in the name of my generation, and in the name of every American for the immense contributions you have made to the peace, security, and prosperity of every American family.
- 2. You are working here on the very forefront of technology—and you have assembled the finest and most skilled group of scientists, engineers, and technicians to be found in your field anywhere in the free world—and I believe, anywhere on the globe.
- 3. Your contributions range from INTELSAT satellites which have revolutionized world communications and brought peoples everywhere closer together, to the latest in electronic equipment for the military forces of the free world.

- 4. Your teams of scientists and engineers and technologists are today the front line of the free world, in the literal sense of the word, in our conflict with those who oppose freedom and independence. Your teams represent as valuable a natural resource for the United States today, in real strategic terms, as were the coal and iron and rubber which made victory possible in World War II.
- 5. The breakthroughs which your teams are constantly making are part of the reason why our bombers and missiles remain the credible deterrent that they are.
- 6. I'd like to thank you for a lot of the other specific accomplishments you've made over the years and are still making today. Many of these are still classified, and I won't go into them all in detail. But I will say this to you, however; the President of the United States knows what you are doing. He appreciates what you are doing. And the message he send you is this: "Keep up the good work! American needs you."
- 7. The President knows that we cannot afford to weaken the strength you represent by arbitrary and mindless defense cuts. The President knows that you cannot dissolve skilled research teams today, and expect to be able to reassemble them years later in an hour

of desperation, when we find ourselves once again behind the Soviets in some utterly vital area of technology. The President believes that mindless defense cuts in areas such as yours to be as dangerous to peace, as were the massive defense cut backs during the isolationist period of the 1920s and 1930s. And all of us remember the price we paid in 1941 in blood when our enemies found that we were weak. There is no such thing as bargain basement security.

- 8. Every person here knows that if we ever sink into a position where we are perceived by our enemies to be number two, our vital oil supplies from the Middle East will be threatened, new pressures will develop in against Berlin, and Cuban troops armed and transported by the Soviet Union may be probing, not in Angola, but against targets among our own neighbors in this hemisphere.
- 9. Every person here also knows that there is a direct link between national security and jobs. In fact, the unprecedented expansion in the world economy since World War II has only been possible because of the American security umbrella—and the feeling of security and encouragement it gave millions to make longterm investments in plants, machinery, and jobs, confident that the risks were justified by the prospects for world peace, stability, and growth.

- 10. Once the feeling of security is jeopardized, either from an internal or external threat, the creation of new jobs slows down immediately, as millions of small and larger investors put their capital into various international havens of security or into gold. This has been particularly true in the third world—and represents today one of the biggest impedents to growth there.
- 11. If this should happen in the United States, and if the people were somehow to lose faith in the future as the result of an unwise, unstable, reckless, or irresponsible Administration, the same thing could take place here.

But we are not about to let that happen. With your help, it never will. Keep up the good work!

## PARTISAN POINTS OF A MORE DIRECT NATURE

- 1. Mr. Carter's platform actually amounts to an overall policy of "fire them and hire them." First 5-7 billion dollars in defense cuts would put you and thousands upon thousands of others out of work. Then the Humphrey-Hawkins bill would try to put you to work elsewhere in dead-end public service jobs. That formula is a triple disaster. It would mean less defense, it would mean less real employment, and it would mean more taxes and more inflation.
- 2. We're frankly having a little difficulty trying to figure out exactly how many billions Mr. Carter is going to cut out of the defense budget--sometimes he says 15 billion, sometimes 8 billion, sometimes 5-6 billion.
- 3. In fact, people are having a little difficulty trying to figure out Mr. Carter at all. Down in Plains, Georgia, folks who know Mr. Carter describe how he begins each day: He gets up out of both sides of the bed, washes his mouth out with soap, and then has his favorite breakfast: waffles.
- 4. When Mr. Carter finishes cutting the 5-15 billion in defense programs, and starts adding the 50-100 billion dollars in new domestic programs, remember who is going to pay for them. It's like the man who invites you and your wife out to dinner at the most expensive restaurant in town,

orders the most expensive thing on the menu, and then slips out the door, leaving the tab with you.

- 5. But I don't have to remind you about the billions of dollars in defense cut backs that Mr. Carter and Mr. Mondale have promised us if they win this election.
- 6. I don't have to remind you about Mr. Mondale's voting record on defense issues—and about the fact that Mr. Carter picked this man to stand in for him as President of the United States should be die in office.
- 7. Mr. Carter and Mr. Mondale are not wicked men.

  They mean well. But it is naive to believe that peace
  will last one day longer than the ability of the military
  power of the United States to stand up to aggression. In
  matters of defense, better a few more billions in defense
  now, than a great deal of blood later.
- 8. If you agree, give us a hand in November. And let's keep America strong, together.

