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Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO ETHNIC LEADERS



I appreciate this opportunity to meet with you today because I want to set the record straight on an issue that has received prominent attention in the past week -- the question of Soviet domination of Eastern Europe.

Let me be blunt: I did not express myself clearly when this question came up in the debate last Wednesday night. So that there can be no doubt about where I stand, let me spell out precisely what I believe:

- First, the countries of Eastern Europe are, of course, dominated by the Soviet Union. Were it not for the presence of more than 30 Russian divisions there now, the countries of Eastern Europe would long since have achieved their freedom.
- Second, the United States never has, does not now, and never will recognize, accept or acquiesce in this Soviet domination of Eastern Europe.
- Third, the peoples of Eastern Europe yearn for freedom; while their countries may be physically dominated, their spirit is not. Their spirit has never been broken and never will be. And some day they will be free.

That, ladies and gentlemen, is the essence of my position. It is what my commitment to the dignity of man and his inalienable right to freedom compels me to believe. It is what my whole record of public service has demonstrated I believe. And any man who seeks to persuade you that I think otherwise is engaging in deceit and distortion.

The original mistake was mine. I did not express myself clearly; I admit it. But in the last analysis, my record of 30 years of service in the Congress, as Vice President, and as President must speak for itself. More than a year ago, in July of 1975, I said that, "It has always been my policy ever since I entered public life, to support the aspirations for freedom and national independence of the peoples of Eastern Europe -- with whom we have close ties of culture and blood -- by every proper and peaceful means." I stand by that record today, and I am proud of it. I welcome making it an issue in this campaign.

But another critical issue -- one which you with particularly close ties to Eastern Europe, as well as the American people as a whole, should consider -- is whether a man who shows so little appreciation of America's strength, America's respect, and America's needs -- as my opponent has done in this campaign -- should be allowed to guide the fortunes of the most powerful nation on earth.

The American people have a right to ask whether a political candidate who has variously called for a \$15 billion cut, or a \$7 or 8 billion cut, or a \$5 to 7 billion cut in the defense budget, and who then complains that we are "not strong anymore," as Governor Carter has done, is truly the man to govern the only country in the world that can assure the defense of freedom and give hope to the millions of oppressed in Eastern Europe and throughout the world.

(MORE)

Finally, let me address the critical question of leadership, which Governor Carter has rightly raised. Do we want to entrust the leadership of this great Nation to a man who seeks to lift himself up to the White House by running down the reputation of the United States? Is the leadership we want that which claims that America "is not respected anymore" when it is the United States -- and the United States alone -- that is trusted by all sides in the Middle East, and by both black and white in Southern Africa?

America is the leader of the free world, and the American people are proud of it. But the kind of leadership America seeks for itself, the kind of leadership America offers the world, the kind of leadership we need for the future is the leadership of example, compassion and common sense. And if that is what we are, if that is what we want to be, then phrases such as "a disgrace to our country" -- phrases that demonstrate moral conceit rather than example, compassion, or common sense -- have no place.

I want the American people to understand the profound differences between us in areas of policy as well as philosophy. Therefore, I intend to fight Mr. Carter on the issues with all the ability I can command.

The challenges before us are immense if we are to successfully defend the principles of freedom and independence we celebrate this Bicentennial year. The free world looks to us as the last best hope for preserving this heritage. To be successful we must be strong. The fact is we are, and I intend to assure that in this critical hour America remains the strong, steady defender of freedom for all humanity.

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OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Brooklyn, New York)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
YESHIVA OF FLATBUSH HIGH SCHOOL

12:55 P.M. EDT

Senator Javits, Senator Buckley, Attorney General Lefkowitz, Congressman Peyser, Congressman Gilman, Dick Rosenbaum, Mr. Goldschmidt, Mrs. Eliach, Mr. Klein, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

I commend this outstanding Jewish institution and especially the Center for Holocaust Studies. From the greatest tragedy of the Jewish people came the greatest achievement of the Jewish spirit -- the rebirth of the State of Israel. This inspires Americans of all faiths.

The Jewish people, once tragic victims, today are symbols of human courage, pride and unconquerable determination, and I congratulate you for it. When I think of the terrible atrocities of World War II, when I recall the grim and moving day when I visited Auschwitz, when I think of the 6 million Jewish martyrs and others so brutally murdered, I reflect on how fortunate we are to be citizens of a country which exalts trust in God and God-given rights of every person to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

I was just presented with a small lapel pin inscribed with a Jewish or Hebrew word "Remember" -- and I will remember.

God has blessed our great land. With this blessing goes a great responsibility. As a free people, we must remember that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance.

In our lifetime there has been more than enough tragedy and terror, more than enough fanaticism and fear. My Administration has committed to combat effectively and affirmatively terrorism everywhere on a worldwide basis.

I shared the relief and the pride of the Jewish people last July 4 when our Independence Day was given an added dimension by the heroic Israeli rescue operation in Uganda. And I am proud of the fact that I was the first head of Government to praise this tremendous act of courage and determination by the State of Israel.

Just as I am determined to fight terrorism throughout the world, I will do everything in my power to fight terrorism in our own streets and neighborhoods, in New York and throughout the United States.

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We all know from the records and from personal experiences, there have been too many muggings and too many murders. The time has come to lock up those who make a career of crime and give the streets back to the people.

We are dedicated to American religious freedom, but religious freedom means little if people cannot walk in safety to their synagogues and to their churches, cannot feel secure in their own streets and in their own neighborhoods, and cannot be sure that society is as devoted to the rights of the victim as to the rights of the criminal. A free people must never capitulate to terrorism whether at foreign airports or in our own streets.



I am in Flatbush today to reaffirm that neighborhoods and communities like this are the life blood of America today. Let us expand and encourage the values inherent in our neighborhoods and in our traditions. America's future requires traditional common sense, not radical experimentation at personal expense. We must cherish and preserve our religious traditions, the family, the home and the rich heritage of many cultures and neighborhoods throughout America.

The United States is sound. We are secure. We are on the march to full economic recovery and a better life for all Americans.

But America's salvation will not be found in expensive new programs financed by you who pay the taxes and obey the laws. In the name of justice for some, we must not do injustice to others.

I am totally opposed, completely against arbitrary quotas in hiring and in education. Individual merit must be rewarded. Opportunity should be open to all Americans on an equal basis. I, today, renew my pledge to be President of all the people, not with wild promises and vague plans but with a proven record of performance.

The Arab boycott has been in existence since 1952, and I have opposed it since 1952. Our moral and legal opposition to the Arab boycott is being made forcefully clear, not only to the foreign governments but to the American business community.

Last week I ordered the Department of Commerce to make public every instance in which Arab boycott demands are reviewed from now on by American companies. Such disclosure will allow the public to monitor the response of business and industry.

I have not and will not tolerate the translation of foreign religious prejudice into domestic discrimination against American citizens.

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I am proud to be the first President to take strong, executive action to combat the boycott. In March of 1975, I initiated the first comprehensive White House review of the boycott problem. My action led in November 1975 to a series of Executive Orders that I issued especially to combat religious discrimination against American citizens.

During the 25 years that I was privileged to serve in the Congress of the United States, I acted, as you know, on numerous occasions to bring America's attention to the plight of Soviet Jewry.

As President, I am pressing for new movement on the issue of emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union. I raised this question personally with General Secretary Brezhnev, and I will raise it again and again.

It is immoral for any nation to either dominate other nations or to dominate the religious life and elementary human rights of its own citizens.

From the time that I first ran for Congress in 1948, I recognized that a strong Israel is essential to the cause of peace and the national security of the United States, and I am proud of that record.

That record is as old as the State of Israel, and you know where I stand. I stand firm in my commitment to Israel. I am proud that our delegation at the United Nations has fought and will fight any measure that condemns Zionism as racism or would deny Israel her full rights of United Nations membership.

America's policy of peace through strength has proven itself in the Middle East and throughout the world. Nobody questions our dedication to peace and nobody must doubt my willingness to use our strength when America's vital interests are at stake.

A strong defense is the best insurance for peace. But, our strength has never rested upon arms alone. It is rooted in our commitment to the highest standards of ethics and morality. As President, I am proud to say that peace in the Middle East has been enhanced by the trust that we have elicited on both sides. Israel's future is certainly brighter today than it was before I had the honor of becoming President of the United States.

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In the last two years the forces of moderation in the Middle East have grown stronger. The area's extremists and terrorists are on the defensive. Prime Minister Rabin, who has been my personal friend since he was Ambassador in the United States when I served in the Congress, said recently that relations between our two countries are at a peak.

The funds for Israel in my first two years of office totaled \$4 billion 300 million. Forty percent of the total American aid to Israel since 1948 was authorized during the Ford Administration.

Our support of Israel with weapons, not words, was summed up by Israel's Prime Minister Rabin, who said, and I quote, "The margin between what we want and what we get is very small." Israel's strength enhances the prospects for peace. I reaffirm today that as we pursue peace there will be no imposed solution. There will be no one-sided concessions.

I have met with Prime Minister Rabin and other Israeli leaders in Washington on many occasions since I became President. In my next term I intend to visit Israel and other Middle Eastern countries whenever such a trip would contribute most to a just and lasting peace.

My record as a friend of Israel speaks for itself. My record is one of realism, not rhetoric. My record is one of experience, not expediency. My record is one of performance, not promises.

I recall the timeless question asked by a great Jewish prophet, and I quote, "What doeth the Lord require of thee but to do justly and to love mercy and walk humbly with thy God."

As I visit with citizens like yourselves in neighborhoods like this, I am reassured by the goodness of the United States of America, a nation which strives to do justice and to love mercy. Let us walk humbly together in brotherhood with God as our guide.

Thank you very, very much.

END (AT 1:09 P.M. EDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 12, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(New York City, New York)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE DINNER

THE NEW YORK HILTON HOTEL



9:45 P.M. EDT

Nelson, Senator Jack Javits, Senator Jim Buckley, Governor Wilson, Attorney General Lefkowitz, distinguished Members of Congress, Mary Louise, Dick Rosenbaum, Gus Levy, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

That concludes my remarks. Thank you. (Laughter)

Obviously, Nelson, I am deeply grateful for your more than generous comments and, as I will say in a moment, there is no way that I can adequately express my appreciation for the superb job that you have done in the last two years.

I talked to Betty just before I came down -- and Nelson is one of her favorites, as Happy is one of mine (Laughter) -- and she said to give you her very best and to extend to all of you her deepest gratitude and appreciation. She wanted to be here, but in the last five days she has been in California, the State of Washington, Colorado, Buffalo, New York, and she is going out to four States in the next few days, so she asked me if you would think she was here in spirit if not in person and she said to say hello to all of you.

But, I do want to pay particular attention to the 13 all-American representatives of the various ethnic groups here from some 23 nations, as I understand it, and I am deeply grateful for their support, dedication and their understanding. Thank you very, very much.

Nelson, it is good to be hiding out in the White House here in New York. (Laughter) I spent last week hiding out in the White House in California, Oklahoma and Texas. I plan to spend the rest of the week in the White House in Missouri, Iowa and Illinois. What I am actually doing is playing hide and seek. I am looking all over trying to find the candidate who used to run around the country saying, "I will never lie to you." (Laughter)

I might say parenthetically he seems to have disappeared. (Laughter)

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But wherever I go, I do hear good things about another former Governor. I hear that he is one of the most enthusiastic, one of the most effective, one of the most energetic campaigners for the Republican cause in this crucial 1976 election. I hear he describes what we have accomplished in my 26 months as President a whole lot better than I do. He is Nelson Rockefeller, and his middle name is loyalty. Thank you.

In politics you can have charisma, you can have eloquence, you can have leadership, you can have character, you can have experience, and Nelson has all of these things. Believe me, though, the one thing that you really look for in this political arena most of all is loyalty, and Nelson has it, and I thank you very much.

If I might, I would like to add a very special comment. Nelson, not only for what you have done as Vice President, not only for what you have done for my candidacy and what you are doing in this campaign, but what you have done for our country all of your public life. Nobody will ever surpass the dedication, the devotion that has been demonstrated on behalf of his country over the years by our Vice President, and I think not only you here tonight but the people in the great Empire State and all of us in the other 49 States are deeply grateful for this wonderful public servant, whom I have gotten to know and love and trust, and who I think is super.

Now I would like to express my gratitude to your great State Chairman, Dick Rosenbaum, who has a subtle way of suggesting that maybe certain things ought to happen -- look at him blush. (Laughter) Well, we will do our best, Dick, to repay you for the first-class job you did in Kansas City.

Needless to say I have been gratified and deeply impressed by what I have heard and seen here in New York today. I am no judge of how big the crowds are or how enthusiastic the people are because I have never had the privilege of being a candidate in New York State before.

But, I can tell warmth in the eyes of people and I can tell by the way they look and feel and speak and yell and get together.

We had a great day in Brooklyn today, and I want to thank everybody for it.

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As Nelson said, the people of New York City are sorting out some of the most difficult financial problems any city in this country has ever faced. I know it has not been easy for New York City to pull through these financial problems.

During our travels through Brooklyn and Flatbush, I had an opportunity to talk to Senator Javits and Senator Buckley, and I told them as follows: As New York City continues to meet its responsibilities -- and I commend them and congratulate them -- I strongly favor the continuation of Federal cash flow assistance. It is good for the City and it is good for the country.

I also added another little comment. I told them I support the rebuilding of the West Side Highway. About 35 or 40 years ago, I was courting a very nice girl and I used to come down from New Haven and I used to ride and drive on that highway then. It was old and broken down then and it should have been replaced a long time ago.

As soon as the Environmental Impact Statement is ready, we will go ahead. And the second -- now this is the good news -- I think we sort of put a fire under them. They expect to have that all done in the next 30 days and you will get the go-ahead signal.

Now let me take just a few minutes. When I was here on the Fourth of July to see the Tall Ships, more beautiful sails came to this City, I think, than ever in the history of any city or any nation. There was promise, conviction and hometown pride. It was clearly demonstrated by anybody who came to the City on that occasion, and that new spirit--as we flew over in the helicopter or in our aircraft, that new spirit was demonstrated. It was hard earned and it was well-deserved, and I congratulate you all.

Now it has been eight weeks since Kansas City. We have come a long, long way, baby. (Laughter) We have the facts, we have the issues, we have the momentum, and we have three more weeks to go to win a great victory for the American people.

I said in Kansas City that we wouldn't concede a single State, we wouldn't concede a single vote; we would campaign from the snowy banks of Minnesota to the sandy plains of Georgia. And we have, and we are going to win on November 2.

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I have a firm commitment from Dick Rosenbaum, and Nelson, and Jack Javits, and Jim Buckley that we are going to carry New York with its 41 electoral votes. I have made a firm commitment to Jim Buckley, we are going to help him get re-elected to the United States Senate from the State of New York.

It would be very helpful in the next two years if we could have a good number of additional Republican Members of the House of Representatives who would stand tall and strong when the tough issues come down, people like Jack Wideler and others, so do your best in that regard.

I also told you in Kansas City that I was ready and eager to debate Mr. Carter face to face on the real issues. I still am (Laughter) if I can pin him down. We have heard a lot of double-talk from Mr. Carter, a lot of make believe mathematics, a lot of fuzzy and contradictory policy proposals. I still don't know where Mr. Carter stands on most issues, and I don't think he does.

One thing is pretty clear: Mr. Carter wants to be President, whatever he has to say to get there. I can sympathize. I understand it when he says he will have to take a few years to study national and international problems and get all of the facts. Let's give Mr. Carter a few more years to prepare himself. (Laughter) But, not on the taxpayer's money.

You know what I will do, because you know what I have done for the past 26 months. You know where we were then and you know where we are today -- peace, recovering from a recession, rebuilding pride in America in its 200th anniversary. You know what I have done as President despite the partisan obstructionism of a Congress stacked two to one against me.

We heard before the Convention that our party was sick, our party was dying. Now we hear the voters are overcome with apathy and really don't care who wins. I don't believe that. I just don't believe that. The American people do care, they have a clear choice and our job is to get them to the polls to register their choice for our country.

Make no mistake -- this election will decide the direction America is going to take in its third century of independence. Mr. Carter may be deficient in details, but the general direction of his philosophy is very, very plain. It is the same direction which his party has been leading this country for the last 44 years.

Don't forget that his party controlled the Congress and written all the laws in 40 out of the last 44 years. That is really what is basically wrong in Washington today. Mr. Carter wants more Federal Government; I want less. Mr. Carter wants higher Federal taxes for middle income taxpayers; I want lower taxes for everybody, especially the overburdened, shortchanged man in the middle.

Mr. Carter wants less defense insurance. I want the strongest and the best military capability science that money can provide. We can't do less than that.

Mr. Carter wants to reduce our commitments to our long and steadfast allies. I want to maintain America's world leadership for peace.

These are real fundamental differences, serious choices to be made by the people throughout this country. Mr. Carter, in his party's platform, charted one course for this country. No matter how he zigzags, there is no doubt where he wants to go. The direction Mr. Carter would take us is the same one that brought us heavy inflation, a tax load that kills initiative and slows economic expansion, a slowdown in research and development and oppressive interference by a know-it-all Federal Government.

I stand for a totally different direction. This year, my budget reduced -- as Jack and Jim and Jack Wideler know -- reduced the rate of growth by 50 percent, or one-half. Congress exceeded it by more than \$18 billion. But I still mean to submit -- and we can with the right Congress in the next two years -- I still mean to submit a balanced Federal budget by 1978.

It doesn't seem like much, but I think it is an encouraging trend. In the two years that I have been there we have reduced a proposed increase in Federal employees by 40,000, a projected increase, and we have actually reduced the number of employees in the civilian side of the Federal Government by 11,000. That is something that we can do, have done, and will do in the months ahead beyond those 11,000.

My 60 vetoes saved the American taxpayers \$9-1/2 billion. Mr. Carter constantly criticizes those vetoes and yet he castigates us for having too big a deficit. I am not sure how you can have it both ways. If his party's Congress, I might add parenthetically, had not overridden 12 of the vetoes that I made, we would have saved an additional \$16 billion more.

When I say that I stand for smaller Government, and my performance proves it, on the other hand Mr. Carter says he is for reforming and reorganizing the bureaucracy, but his performance tells a far different story, and I respectfully suggest you ask the taxpayers of Georgia. They don't tell the same story.

What do you think you will get from a Democratic President and another two-to-one Democratic Congress. One thing you will certainly get is more spending and bigger deficits. Another thing you will get is more runaway inflation. One thing you won't get is lower Federal taxes. Another thing you won't get is less Federal Government.

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So, the choice before our country is very clear. You know where I stand and I am proud of it. I have campaigned here ever since 1948 on the principle that a Government big enough to give us everything we want is a Government big enough to take from us everything we have.

About ten days ago, early in the morning in Washington, I got a call from a very courageous leader of Government, one of our dear and respected allies. Prime Minister Callaghan called and said--and I quote from a speech that he made because, as many of you know, they have had serious difficulties, not only more recently but over the years--and I read some of the excerpts from a speech that Jim Callaghan gave that I think are worth repeating here on this occasion.

Jim Callaghan courageously said, and I quote, "We have lived for too long on borrowed time, borrowed money and even borrowed ideas, nor will we succeed if we use confetti money to pay ourselves more than we produce."

Then the Prime Minister continued in this speech before his labor convention of his own political party, he went on to say, "Each time we did this, the twin evils of unemployment and inflation have hit hardest those least able to stand them -- the poor, the old and the sick."

I think that all Americans should learn a lesson from this courageous public leader in Great Britain and his very plain and straightforward talk to his fellow members of the Parliament.

I think the current crisis in Great Britain tells us more than any words can about the danger of too much Government, too much spending on borrowed money. The British pound has sunk to its lowest level in history. Inflation has been running over 25 percent. Government spending now accounts for 60 percent of the entire British economy.

As Republicans, we are not motivated by the love of Government power but the fear of it. We should be. We speak for those who work hard, pay their taxes, obey the laws and have the right to enjoy their own God-given liberty.

We are totally committed to a policy of peace through strength in a world where freedom is still threatened by aggressive adversaries. The United States of America must remain number one, and we will for our protection and for freedom around the world.

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I know how deeply all of you are devoted to the principles that we have been talking about -- Nelson and myself and others -- and I thank you from the bottom of my heart, Gus, and all of you, for your steadfast support.

But, there is one more effort that I would like to ask of you. Republicans alone cannot win this election. The principles we hold are just as dear to millions of our friends and neighbors who prefer to be Democrats or Independents.

Between now and November 2 I hope that every Republican will persuade just one Independent and one Democrat, two concerned citizens who feel as we do about the direction this country must take, to go to the polls and vote their true conviction regardless of party label.

If you do this person to person and friend to friend, we can and we will win a great victory for the American people and the principles that we all espouse regardless of how the label is after our registration.

The only way is to go forward together. There is no way we can lose except by resting before the last polls close. Together, not as partisans but as a proud American, we will get America off to a great start on our third century of this freedom in the greatest country in the history of mankind.

Thank you very much.

END

(AT 10:11 P.M. EDT)

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Yonkers, New York)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
YONKERS CITY HALL

9:36 A.M. EDT

Dick, Senator Javits, Senator Buckley, distinguished Members of the Congress, Governor Wilson, Mayor Martinelli, Monsignor Ed, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Today marks a major milestone in our continuing effort to make Government work better for the American taxpayer. In just a moment, I will sign into law a bill extending what we call general revenue sharing for another 3-3/4 years.

Many of you here in this group this morning played a very leading part in the passage of the original revenue sharing bill back in 1972. No one had a more significant role than two former Governors of the great State of New York -- Vice President Rockefeller and your own hometown friend Malcolm Wilson. Malcolm, congratulations.

In 1972, as the Republican leader of the House of Representatives at that time, I led the fight in the House of Representatives for the revenue sharing concept. In 1976, as President, I led the fight for the renewal of the general revenue sharing legislation. In 1980, as President of the United States, I will still lead the fight for continuation of general revenue sharing.

My strong support for revenue sharing stems from one very simple but very important fact. Revenue sharing is a people's program that works very well for all our people -- 215 million of them throughout the length and breadth of this land.

By the end of this year, 39,000 State and local units of Government will have received more than \$30 billion in general revenue sharing funds from the Federal Treasury. Here in Yonkers almost \$8 million in revenue sharing funds have been used for major transportation improvements, better fire and police protection, and other essential public services.

Throughout America, as many of the mayors that I see here this morning well know, revenue sharing has beefed up, enforced law enforcement efforts, made health services much more accessible, expanded parks and recreational facilities, held local property taxes in check and helped promote economic growth in literally thousands of communities. It is a good program, and we are lucky to have it.

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Revenue sharing success goes well beyond these excellent services. This program has reversed a dangerous trend toward centralization, unaccountable power in Washington, D. C. For decades, the Federal Government piled programs of narrow categorical aid, one on top of another. By 1972, there were more than 1,000 separate Federal grant programs, each equipped with its own Federal bureaucracy, its own set of rules and regulators.

With revenue sharing, we have begun to restore the necessary balance among Federal, State and local units of Government to restore local control over local concerns. That means you in Yonkers, you in Westchester will be making the decisions rather than some bureaucrat on the banks of the Potomac, and I have a lot more faith in you than I do in them.

The general revenue sharing program for the \$30 billion that in five years will be distributed has only 100 Federal employees. For every \$800 in the revenue sharing budget, its own budget, only \$1 goes for administrative costs or overhead, the best record in the Federal Government.

Now despite the obvious success of general revenue sharing, it has faced some very strong opposition from within the majority party in the House as well as in the Senate. The reasons for this opposition from the many Democratic Congressmen in Washington are clear and very simple.

Democrats in Washington don't trust local Government. Democrats in Washington want to tell you how to run your State and local affairs. Over the years Democrats in Washington created big Government. They have a stake in preserving it. They are firmly committed to it and, without a President who is willing to say no, they would make it even bigger, more powerful and more expensive.

I am willing to say no, not only by exercising the Presidential veto but by calling for positive imaginative alternatives to Government by Washington decree, alternatives like general revenue sharing.

Governor Carter has stated his opposition to revenue sharing in its present form, calling it a big hoax and a mistake. He says he opposes general revenue sharing with State Governments but he apparently had no trouble whatsoever in finding uses for the \$140 million in general revenue sharing funds that came to Georgia during his one term as Governor of that State. As far as I know, he didn't send a single penny of that big hoax revenue sharing back to Washington during those four years.

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He knew in his heart, as most Governors know, that revenue sharing is vitally important. It is a vitally important resource of State governments as well as local units of government. We know that revenue sharing has been a major success at every level of Government.

The legislation that I will be signing into law will make the program an even greater success. It will extend revenue sharing for another 3-3/4 years. It will provide \$25 billion 600 million to State and local units of government.

But, most importantly, it will give to you here in Yonkers, in Westchester and in the State an even greater voice in deciding how your tax dollars that go to Washington and come back to you will be spent at the local level.

The City of Yonkers is particularly appropriate for the signing of this bill. This city has 204,000 residents and its distinguished Government officials are committed to solving your own problems in your own way with your own imagination, and with your own hard work.

I congratulate each and every one of you for your very recent breakthrough in selling many millions of dollars in Yonkers bonds on the public market. This is an encouraging sign of health in which thousands of cities and towns throughout America proudly share because of the success of the revenue sharing program.

With confidence that this legislation will make a good program even better, I will very shortly right down there sign into law the General Revenue Sharing Extension Act of 1976.

Congratulations to you, to those who worked on it, and good luck and God bless you.

END (AT 9:46 A.M. EDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 13, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(White Plains, New York)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
WHITE PLAINS CITY HALL



11:02 A.M. EDT

Dick Rosenbaum, Senator Javits, Senator Buckley, distinguished Members of the House of Representatives, Mayor Delveccio, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

At the outset, let me express my deep gratitude and appreciation for this wonderful crowd, to see all of these tremendous young people from all of the high schools, and I am especially appreciative of the student body of Archbishop Stepinac.

But, may I say one other comment. I had a wonderful day in the State of New York yesterday in Flatbush and Brooklyn and Manhattan, and we have had a superb day so far in Yonkers and White Plains.

But, it has been made especially meaningful to me because I have had with me your two outstanding United States Senators, Senator Jack Javits and Senator Jim Buckley. But, I have also been privileged to have the various Members of Congress who represent the various areas in the State of New York that I have been privileged to visit in this day and a half so far. They are quality people. Send them back and give me some help by getting some more good people like that.

Mayor Delveccio said that White Plains has a great, wonderful historical background. I was looking just the other day, in contemplation of coming to White Plains, that 200 years ago young Americans fought the British Redcoats right in the battle of White Plains.

In 1976 a different kind of battle is raging the length and the breadth of this country. In this battle the citizens of White Plains and all Americans are not fighting Redcoats but red tape and red ink, and we are going to win that battle, too. That is the basic difference between Plains, Georgia and White Plains, New York.

My opponent from Plains, Georgia makes the promises. You here in White Plains, New York would have to pay for them, and you don't want to, so let's win this battle November 2.

MORE

One of the most important issues in this campaign is taxes. You heard over the last few months all four sides of the same question, three of them from Mr. Carter. As a matter of fact, the liveliest debate of this campaign has been the debate between Jimmy Carter and Jimmy Carter. He says he is for a balanced budget but he refuses to support the 60 vetoes that have saved the American taxpayer \$9-plus billion.

He says America is weak militarily but he wants to cut the defense budget by \$15 billion. Jimmy Carter says he is against inflation, but he supports the Democratic platform with \$100 billion to \$200 billion in new spending. He can't have it both ways, and we are not going to let him have it both ways.

He says he is for tax reform, but he reneged on his promise to provide specifics before the election. He says he is for higher taxes for people earning over \$14,000 a year. But, I say -- and listen carefully -- I say the middle income taxpayer is already overtaxed, overburdened and under-represented.

Jimmy Carter says he wants to tax the churches except on their church property. I am opposed to that and I know you are. I have been told few things upset New Yorkers as much as your skyrocketing taxes. I think that bothers people all over the country. The way to reverse that trend is not to expand Government spending but to cut it back, and thanks to my 60 vetoes you know which candidate for President stands for cutting back expenditures, holding the line and reducing your taxes -- it is Jerry Ford.

Property taxes all over the country are climbing. But, let me add this: They would climb a lot faster if we didn't have general revenue sharing, which I just signed into law in the City of Yonkers. Revenue sharing is the kind of a specific program to help all of you, to encourage all of you to solve your problems at the local level.

Let me tell you something that some of you may have forgotten. Last February Jimmy Carter came out in favor of eliminating the deduction for mortgage interest on your Federal income tax return. Obviously, when the American people rebelled he retreated back into the same old generalities.

Well, there is no such confusion about my stand on that deduction of mortgage interest. Jerry Ford supports that deduction. I did for 25 years in the House of Representatives and I will do it for the next four years as President of the United States.

I am not going to let homeowners become the next endangered species. Jimmy Carter would.

MORE

To me, tax reform means tax reduction. Nine days ago I signed into law a tax bill which extended the cuts that I recommended last year. But, the Tax Reform Act of 1976 fails to include some other suggestions that I have proposed to give the proper kind of tax relief that the taxpayers deserve. For example, I recommended that we increase the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. That is a meaningful tax return to the middle income taxpayer, and we are going to get it next year if we didn't get it this year.

You know we have heard a lot of talk in this campaign about compassion. Our Government must always show compassion toward the truly needy. The time has come, as I see it, to show as much compassion toward the people who make the generosity of Federal Government programs possible in the first place. But, let me add this great big important extra comment: How about a lot of compassion for the American taxpayer? That is what Jerry Ford stands for.

The people of White Plains work hard for every dollar that you make. You are the people who get up early every day, go to bed tired every night, quietly building a better life for your families and your fellow citizens. You pay the taxes, you obey the laws, you are the people who make possible the good things that Government does.

So, when a Federal spending bill reaches my desk, I keep each and every one of you in mind. It may be Congressional compassion, but it is your money and that is why I have vetoed 60 bills sent down to the Oval Office from Capitol Hill, because they want to spend and spend and spend, and Jimmy Carter wants to spend and spend and spend, and I am going to be there to be compassionate about your tax dollar, period.

The American people cannot afford to have leaders who try to be all things to all people. The President of the United States must be the same thing to all people. When voters look at the record of the last two years, they will see that the United States has made an incredible comeback.

Today we are on the steady road to peace, prosperity and trust. But, on November 2 we will reach a fork in that road. We can continue the policies and the leadership that have brought us back from a national nightmare, back from recession, back from international conflict, or we can take instead the same old path that leads to bigger Government--higher taxes and more inflation and more unemployment. The choice to each and every one of you voters in this great State of New York, that is your choice. Through two difficult years, I have stood for the little taxpayer against the big tax spender. It is from your ranks that I come and on your side that I stand.

On November 2 I ask that each and every one of you stand with me. I would appreciate your help.

END (AT 11:15 A.M. EDT)

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(New City, New York)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
ROCKLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE

12:25 P.M. EDT

Dick Rosenbaum, Senator Javits, Senator Buckley, Congressman Ben Gilman, distinguished guests, wonderful people from Rockland and Orange County:

I love you. Thank you. I am deeply, deeply grateful to the fine Congressman that you have from this Congressional District. All of you know Ben Gilman. You know the job he has done. You know that he got the Otisville Prison for you. You know he works day after day for you. Let me congratulate you, and reelect Ben Gilman.

In the last day and a half I have had a great privilege to be in the State of New York. We started out in Manhattan, we went to Brooklyn, we were in the Flatbush, we, this morning started in Yonkers, we were in White Plains, and now we are in Rockland County with all the fine people from Orange County along side of us.

But all during this time where we have had great crowds like all of you here, I have had the privilege and the honor of having with me your two outstanding United States Senators -- my good friends Jack Javits and Jim Buckley -- and I want you to give them a great big show of appreciation.

I can't express to them adequately my personal appreciation and gratitude. But now let me express particularly to the young people who I see here from the various schools -- elementary, secondary and otherwise -- their coming here and warmly welcoming their President.

Let me say I couldn't think of a better way to spend a brisk fall afternoon than being in this particular county with all of you. I only wish that I could talk to each one of you individually.

Since I can't, let me tell you what I would do, what I would say to each of you if I could sit down with you over a cup of coffee or just a plain, old sandwich. Let me give you some straight talk from the White House.

MORE

Mr. Smith, I would say to you, or to Mrs. Jones, you have been hearing an awful lot of words and a lot of numbers in the last several weeks. You have heard statistics, percentages and conflicting claims. I don't believe those are the most important things in this campaign. Let me tell you what I believe and believe very deeply is the most important thing -- and that is you and you and you and 10,000 people who are here in Rockland County right now.

But each of you between now and November 2 have some clear choices to make, and let me present some of the alternatives.

My opponent leaves a lot of issues up in the air, but he is clearly in favor of additional Federal spending, Federal spending which he endorses -- \$100 billion or \$200 billion each year.

I happen to believe -- and this is where the choice is very clear -- I happen to believe in restraining Federal spending, holding the lid on expenditures from the Federal Government, so we can dampen the threat of inflation and let you keep more of your own hard-earned money in your pocket.

Do you want your taxes raised so you can pay for those hundred billion dollar programs of Jimmy Carter? (Chorus of no's) I think I heard that loud and clear.

Let me talk for just a minute about taxes. You know where I stand. I recommended last year a \$28 billion tax reduction which included a tax reduction of the personal income exemption, increasing that exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. Do you want that tax reduction?

I think you want your personal taxes cut. Jimmy Carter wants to raise them. Whose side are you on?

Mr. Carter wants to increase the tax or take away the deduction for those people who are buying homes who get a deduction from the interest payments on those mortgages. I am against Jimmy Carter on that. I am against Jimmy Carter's plan to tax church property other than the churches themselves.

Whose side are you on?

MORE

Let me talk for just a minute. We want to have peace at home, a prosperous economy, less inflation, less Federal spending, less Federal taxes. But, if we are going to keep peace at home, we have to have the peace throughout the world. I don't think you can keep the necessary military strength to meet the challenges around the world by cutting the defense budget \$5 billion. I think we have to have the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps number one, and that is what Jerry Ford wants.

I am not willing to take a chance with a weakened national security. The United States represent leadership throughout the world. We are at peace today. Not a single young American is fighting or dying on a foreign battlefield today because we are strong and we are going to stay that way. But, the United States as a leader throughout the world has an obligation to stand tall and strong with certain allies and friends throughout the world.

The Ford Administration stands shoulder to shoulder with the State of Israel. We believe in its security and survival and independence. But, let me conclude with just this final observation: I have been your President for two years. Let's look at the record. Inflation is half of what it was when I became President. More Americans are working today than at any time in the history of the United States.

But, Jerry Ford won't be satisfied until every American who wants a job has a job period. And as Dick Rosenbaum said, when I became President there was a loss of faith and trust in the White House itself. I believe that in the last 24 months we have restored that trust that is essential in the Oval Office, and I can assure you in the next four years we will maintain that trust, that confidence, that candor, that openness and that straight talk, and that is what the American people want.

But, let me say this one final word to all of you. Between now and November 2 you have to make a very important choice. I need your help. This is a critical, crucial election. It is an election that will make the determination whether the United States goes down one path or another. Our path -- the path I represent -- is a healthy economy at home, peace throughout the world and trust in the White House.

I want to represent you in your White House in the Oval Office in the next two (four) years. I need your help. Can I count on it?

Thank you very much. Good luck and God bless you.

END (AT 12:36 P.M. EDT)

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Paramus, New Jersey)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
GARDEN STATE PLAZA

2:51 P.M. EDT

Senator Cliff Case, distinguished guests,
ladies and gentlemen:

As I came in from the highway into the plaza,
I saw a wonderful sign. It said, "Jersey Loves Jerry."
Let me reciprocate. Jerry loves Jersey.

Let me thank you all from the bottom of my heart
for all of you being present. And I believe the fact
that there is such a tremendous crowd here today puts
to rest the allegation that the American people are
not concerned about this election. You are concerned,
the American people are concerned, and you all have good
reason to be concerned. We are right, they are wrong,
and we are going to win in Jersey and 40 other States.

You in Jersey care and you care very deeply,
because you have a great stake in this election. Despite
what my opponent tries to say and the hedging that he
does, despite his attempts to take both sides of almost
every issue, there is a clear choice between Jimmy
Carter and President Ford.

The choice is, do you want the Federal
Government to spend more and more of your money in the
next four years? Do you want the Federal Government to
interfere more and more in your daily lives in the next
four years? I think the American people have been over-
taxed, overburdened, and with Jerry Ford as President
we are going to change that in the next four years.

The American people have had enough double-
talk, fuzzy talk, doubtful promises. The American
people want a Government that will promise only what it
will deliver and will deliver everything it promises.

You heard my opponent say that he is going to
balance the Federal budget. And then the next thing, he
turns around and he approves of, endorses supporters
about all of these programs that are going to cost \$100
billion more each year. He can't get away with it. The
American people won't let him get away with it, and you
in Paramus won't let him get away with it.

MORE

I think you in New Jersey know how risky it is when a candidate says one thing on the campaign trail and then does something else when he gets in public office. You have been burned before here in New Jersey. You have learned what it is like when a candidate faces the voters with a smile and then turns his back on them later. You have learned it with every dollar you pay for your State income tax here in New Jersey.

There is a good alternative to that kind of political acrobatics. You know where I stand. I am for the little taxpayer and against the big tax spender.

But let's talk about taxes. Jimmy Carter wants to withdraw the income tax deduction of the interest on your mortgage payments. I am against his position. I am for the taxpayer. He wants to collect more money from you with all of that income tax deduction. Jimmy Carter wants to tax your churches except the church property. I am against that tax proposal. Jimmy Carter wants to increase Federal income taxes on all medium and middle income taxpayers on up. Jerry Ford wants to increase your personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. I want to cut your taxes. He wants to increase your Federal taxes.

I happen to believe that the best tax reform is tax reduction, and this Administration holds the lid on Federal spending, cuts down on our national deficit, makes it possible for us to have an honest tax deduction. That is the kind of Government you are going to get with Jerry Ford as President for the next four years and a better Congress to work with.

When I became President two years ago, America was deeply troubled. In the last two years, America has made an incredible comeback. In two short years, we have added 4 million new jobs in this country. In the last two years, we have cut the rate of inflation in half. In the last two years, we restored trust in the White House.

And let me emphasize right today that there is not a single young American fighting and dying on foreign soil because of Ford foreign policy. We are at peace because we are strong. We are going to stay strong.

Jimmy Carter wants to undercut your Defense Department with a \$15 billion reduction in Federal spending for the Army, the Navy, the Air Force. That is not the way to keep the peace. That is not the way to be sure, to be certain that we have peace in America, we have peace around the world.

The Ford Administration has achieved the peace and we are strong and diplomatically skillful, and we are going to keep the peace in the next four years.

MORE

The American people want a steady, experienced hand handling our national affairs in our international relations, someone who knows a little bit about what is good for us at home as well as us abroad.

Let me say that I have had nothing but the finest experience in working with Cliff Case and his Republican associates in the House of Representatives. I am very impressed with the kind of programs that are good for New Jersey that Cliff Case and others have sponsored and made available through their ability and skill in the Congress.

But, let me add this: Cliff does a super job and I have a long list of things that have been accomplished. But Cliff Case could do more for New Jersey and you could do more for yourself with some of those good Republican candidates for the House of Representatives. Send them down to Washington.

Let me conclude with this observation and comment. We have heard a lot -- a great deal, I might say -- about trust in this campaign. But, it is not enough for anybody to say trust me. Trust must be earned. Trust is not guessing what a candidate means. Trust is leveling with the American people before the election about what you are going to do after the election. Trust is not being all things to all people. Trust is being the same thing to all people. Trust is saying what you mean and meaning what you say.

In the two years that I have had the honor and privilege of being your President, by the progress that we have made at home, by the successes we have had abroad, by the way in which we run the White House -- open, candid, straightforward -- I think I have earned the trust of the American people.

Now I need your help. We have to carry New Jersey. We have to carry a great State like New Jersey. When I say that I had seen this wonderful sign on the way in -- "Jersey Loves Jerry" -- I want to reiterate what I said at the outset, that Jerry Loves Jersey.

But to do what all of us have to do--you in New Jersey and your fellow Americans from all over the country-- we have to win that election November 2. I need your help. We can win in New Jersey. We are going to win throughout the United States. It will be a great day November 3 for America for four more years of Ford.

END (AT 3:00 P.M. EDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 12, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Brooklyn, New York)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE CROWD IN
BAY RIDGE

3:05 P.M. EDT

It is nice to see you.

Let me make one or two comments. I am delighted to be here in this wonderful community with Senator Javits and Senator Buckley. Give them a big hand.

Let me say very quickly, what do we want in America? We want peace and we want prosperity and we want trust, under your President.

I think your President, Jerry Ford, has restored trust in the White House. You can now believe what you hear out of the White House.

Number two, America is at peace. There is not a single young American fighting and dying on foreign soil today, and we are going to keep it that way.

But we want to give a better quality of life right here in America. What we want is a job for everybody who wants to work, and we will get him a job. We want a home for everybody who will work and save for it, and we are going to get that under the next four years.

We want to be certain that you can walk down this street or that street and be safe, and we are going to take care of the crime problem in America, period.

We want these young people that I have seen on both sides of the street -- we want them to get an education so that they cannot only have an education but one that will do them good when they get old enough and want a job, and we are going to get that in the education system.

But let me just conclude with this observation: November 2 is a critical testing point for America. If you want a country that is strong at home, strong abroad and with peace and prosperity, vote for Jerry Ford. I ask for your support.

Thank you.

END (AT 3:10 P.M. EDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 13, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Union, New Jersey)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE CROWD AT THE
TOWN AND CAMPUS INN

5:05 P.M. EDT

Thank you all very, very much. These wonderful bands, I thank each and every one of you. Thank you very much.

It is great to be in Union. I saw a sign on the way here, a sign that means a great deal to me. The sign said, "Jersey Likes Jerry". Let me respond by saying Jerry likes Jersey. You are great.

I like Jersey because I know good people like Cliff Case, like Bob Kean, who I had the honor of serving with for a number of years. I like the kind of people that you have joined with me in my campaign. And I am in New Jersey because New Jersey is a very important State.

I have heard rumors, I hear talk, I read some stuff that is written that the American people are apathetic, they are not going to vote, they don't care about this election.

Let me say very strongly, I believe the American people do care. You care because there is a clear difference between Mr. Carter and myself. He wants to increase your taxes. I want to reduce and decrease your taxes.

Mr. Carter wants to increase Federal spending. I want to hold a lid on Federal spending. Mr. Carter wants to have you cut our national defense. I think that is wrong. America has to stay number one, and we will under President Ford.

So, when you come right down to it, there is a choice. The American people are concerned, they do care, and I say again, Jerry Ford loves Jersey just like Jersey loves Jerry.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 5:07 P.M. EDT)

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Union, New Jersey)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT A
PRESIDENT FORD COMMITTEE RECEPTION

TOWN AND CAMPUS INN

5:20 P.M. EDT

Thank you, Matt; thank you, Cliff; thank you, Millicent; thank you, Dave; thank you Tom Kean, I thank all of you. You know, I have said it before, but I want to say it again. I saw a sign down the road that says "Jersey Loves Jerry." But, let me reciprocate -- Jerry loves Jersey.

I owe a great debt of gratitude to the New Jersey delegation that went to Kansas City and came through with, I think, flying colors. It depended upon the great organization and the support of Tom Kean, Millicent, Matt and everybody else. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Incidentally, I want you to make darned sure that you re-elect Matt, that you re-elect Millicent, you elect Dave so we can have a far better Congress to help Cliff Case in the next four years.

You know out in Kansas City in my acceptance speech I said I was going to not concede a single State, a single vote, and we were going to campaign from the snowy banks of Minnesota to the sandy plains of Georgia.

We are doing it. We were in New York yesterday. We had a great reception in Flatbush, in Brooklyn in Manhattan. We have been in Yonkers and White Plains and Rockland in Orange County. We were in New Jersey, had two great stops, including this one, and I am encouraged. I know we are going to carry New Jersey November 2, period.

One of the most important issues in this campaign, especially in New Jersey, is taxes. The people of New Jersey have already heard four sides of the tax issue.-- two from Governor Carter and two from Governor Byrne.

You know firsthand how risky it is when a candidate says one thing about taxes on the campaign trail and then does something else when he gets into office. You know what it is like when a candidate faces the voters with a smile (Laughter) and then turns his back on them later. You have been burned before.

I will just say this: I think Mr. Carter has tried to do the same thing to you.

MORE

Let me give you some examples. First, back in February Mr. Carter said he wanted to eliminate the home mortgage interest deduction on your Federal income tax return. Not long after that he said maybe he wouldn't eliminate it. He said, as it stands now -- nobody is sure, certainly Mr. Carter -- just what he wants to do on this particular item.

Second, a few weeks ago Mr. Carter suggested that he would raise income taxes for anybody from the mean to the medium income tax level, which means about \$14,000 per person. Now he says, "That isn't what I meant." He says he has not studied the subject at all but he will let us know how he really feels after he has been in office for a few months.

Let me talk straight to you. That is too darned late. I think the people of New Jersey ought to know, along with 215 million other Americans, before the election what Mr. Carter really intends to do about your taxes after the election. Third, Mr. Carter proposed putting a tax on all church properties other than the church building itself. He wants to tax church-supported schools, church-supported hospitals, church-supported orphanages and church-supported retirement homes. Those activities are just as much a part of the church's work as the physical place of worship and we shouldn't let him get away with that kind of a tax policy.

Fourth, Mr. Carter -- his platform that he embraced and many people say he wrote -- calls for between \$100 billion and \$200 billion in additional Federal spending, yet he talks about balancing the budget without raising your income taxes. He can't have it both ways. He can't talk about compassion and not have compassion for the hard working middle income taxpayers in this country.

The American people have a big heart but too many politicians mistake that big heart for a blank check, and I don't think the American people want to give that kind of authority to a candidate for the Presidency of the United States who says one thing on Monday and another thing on Tuesday. He is on both sides of the issue, and he cannot be trusted with this kind of a statement on that kind of a platform.

We have got to beat him in New Jersey and in Michigan and in 48 other States. It is not an act of compassion to prevent a young couple from buying a home because Federal borrowing for deficit spending sends interest rates up. It is not an act of compassion to put generations of Americans deeply in debt and mortgage their future before they are born. You worked very hard, every one of you here and all of those several thousand outside. You worked very hard for the money that you earn. Your tax dollars should work just as hard for you as you worked for them. You know who pays the bill for each campaign promise. You know when the bills come due you get stuck with them, predicated on false promises before an election.

In the last two years I vetoed some 60 various bills sent down to the Oval Office from Capitol Hill. My vetoes saved us \$9-1/2 billion. I am darned proud of that record. And if we had had more stalwart Republicans up there to help with those vetoes we could have saved you another \$16 billion. So, that is a good reason why we ought to change the Congress and get the right kind of a Congress for the next two years.

Mr. Carter talks about tax reform. I think the best tax reform that we can talk about is tax reduction, cut spending, cut taxes, keep more of your own money. For the last 10 years now Federal spending has grown at an alarming rate, thanks to an overtaxing, overspending, overburdening Congress.

The budget that I submitted to the Congress last January sought to cut the rate of growth in Federal spending by 50 percent. I asked for a \$28 billion tax reduction coupled with a \$28 billion reduction in Federal spending. The Congress sent me a \$10 billion tax reduction and an \$18 billion increase in Federal spending. That is going the wrong way, and that is another reason why we have to change this Congress in this election.

The most meaningful tax reduction, the one you understand the best, the one that helps the middle income taxpayers the most, is an increase in the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. If you take a family of three children, a husband and wife, one taxpayer, that family gets, under my proposal to increase the personal exemption by \$250 -- that family would get \$1,250 more, more, more in tax reduction. That is the kind of meaningful tax reduction that you ought to get, 215 million Americans ought to get, and that is what President Ford proposed, and that is what he will propose in January of next year as President of the United States.

As I have said before, the middle income taxpayer gets shortchanged. He has been shortchanged for the last 22 years. He has been shortchanged by a Congress controlled for 22 years by the Democratic Party.

Mr. Carter calls our tax laws a disgrace. Well, he ought to look back and see the pages of history. What political party has controlled both the House and the Senate for the last 22 years? They have passed every tax law; they have passed every loophole.

I think you know where to put the blame. Let's make sure, darned sure we get more good Republicans from the State of New Jersey to go down and help us with this tax problem in the next session of the Congress.

MORE

We have less than three weeks to go. It hardly seems possible. It is a very crucial three weeks, but the decisions that people make in the State of New Jersey, New York, Michigan and 47 others, those decisions will determine the direction of the American people in our great country for the first four years of our third century.

Mr. Carter and his party platform offer more promises, more programs, more spending, more taxes, more inflation and more unemployment. I say the Government is already too big, too powerful, too costly, too remote and too deeply involved in your personal life.

I want your Government to be made your servant, not your meddling master.

I am a candidate for the Presidency because I have a deep conviction and faith, a deep inward feeling that the American people want to go the direction we want to take them. And, therefore, I come to the great State of New Jersey to ask for your help and your support.

New Jersey is a key State. New Jersey can make the difference whether we have enough electoral votes on November 2 to win.

So, let me just conclude by saying I know we will win in New Jersey. Jerry loves Jersey, and I have a good feeling that Jersey loves Jerry like Jerry loves Jersey.

Thank you very much.

END

(AT 5:33 P.M. EDT)

OCTOBER 14, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

Statement by the President

When I was chosen to be Vice President, I underwent the most intensive scrutiny of any man who has ever been selected for public office in the United States. My past life, my qualifications, my beliefs--all were put under a microscope and in full public view.

Nonetheless, all of you here tonight and many in our listening audience are aware of allegations in recent weeks involving my past campaigns.

As I have said on several occasions, those rumors were false. And I am very pleased that this morning the Special Prosecutor has finally put this matter to rest, once and for all.

I have told you before that I am deeply privileged to serve as the President of this great nation. But one thing that means more to me than my desire for public office is my personal reputation for integrity.

Today's announcement by the Special Prosecutor reaffirms the original findings of my vice presidential confirmation hearings.

I hope that today's announcement will also accomplish one other major task: that it will elevate the Presidential campaign to a level befitting the American people and the American political tradition.

For too many days, this campaign has been mired in questions that have little bearing upon the future of the nation. The people of this country deserve better than that. They deserve a campaign that focuses on the most serious issues of our time--on the purposes of government, on the heavy burdens of taxation, on the cost of living, on the quality of our lives, and on ways to keep America strong and at peace. Governor Carter and I have profound differences of opinion on these matters. I hope that in the 20 days remaining in this campaign, we can talk seriously and honestly about these differences so that on November 2nd, the American people can make a clear choice and give one of us a mandate to govern wisely and well during the next four years.

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OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF REMARKS
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT
AND
MARTHA GRAHAM
UPON BEING PRESENTED WITH
THE MEDAL OF FREEDOM

THE STATE DINING ROOM

10:13 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Martha and distinguished guests:

It is wonderful to have you here tonight. And let me say at the outset, I apologize for being a little late. I had a friendly engagement with some of my friends from the press here. (Laughter)

But it is nice to have you here, and particularly in this Bicentennial year. I think each of us has celebrated the spirit and the vitality of the United States, and the person we are honoring tonight, Martha Graham, has been doing that for as long as most of us can remember.

When Martha Graham began her career in modern dance -- and I became a better authority on it since I married Betty (Laughter) -- she has not only raised people's eyebrows but she has raised sights. A true pioneer, she continuously broke new ground and challenged old assumptions.

Her innovations were so original that one startled traditionalist was reported to have said, "How long do you intend, Martha, to keep this up?" I think today America is very thankful that she is still keeping it up, and we congratulate her.

Martha Graham has not only expanded the horizons of modern dance, but she also moved inward to convey the deepest types of emotion. In doing so, she created what one critic labeled "an original way of communication." Long before the phrase "body language," Martha, entered our vocabulary, Martha Graham was using the human form to express human feelings.

Martha Graham's name, we all recognize, has become synonymous with modern dance. In addition to her work as a performer and a choreographer, she has provided inspiration and counseling to generations of young people, including Miss Betty Bloomer of Grand Rapids, Michigan. (Laughter)

MORE

Her pupils learn that self-discipline is not an obstacle to creativity but a vehicle; that hard work does not distract from inspiration but rather allows it to reach its fullest dimension. And most of all, they learn to meet a situation with courage and complete honesty.

Over the years as a great dancer, Martha Graham has received many, many awards. Tonight she receives an award as a truly great American. Her visits abroad have given the word real meaning -- "ambassador". She has shown very clearly to all the world what is possible when personal genius is allowed to flourish under artistic and political freedom.

In America, the arts have blossomed, and we are justly proud of the great strides that we have made. Last year in the arena of dance alone there were more than four times as many professional dance companies as there were in 1965.

But the continued survival and the continued growth of the arts in America requires more than just the genius of the artist. It also requires the foresight, the generosity of both public and private sectors in order to have adequate support.

Tonight I take pleasure in announcing that I intend to seek full funding for the cultural challenge, grant program over the next three years. This will provide \$12 million in new Federal money for the arts next year and approximately \$50 million over the next three years. Because these grants will be made on the basis of one Federal dollar for every three raised from other sources, it can serve to generate \$200 million in new support for the arts.

Many, many people in this audience tonight were instrumental in providing the financial support that enabled Martha Graham's dance troupe to inspire America and truly to inspire the world.

Let me assure you that we in the Federal Government are going to do our part, Martha, to encourage the Martha Grahams of the future.

Tonight, however, there is only one Martha Graham, and all of America is very, very proud of her. And now, Martha, would you please join me here.

Martha, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to present to you one of our Nation's highest honors, the Medal of Freedom, and let me read, if I might, the citation before I actually put the sash in the appropriate place.

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The citation reads as follows: "Dancer, teacher, choreographer, Martha Graham has captivated the world with her magic and has left a legacy of imagination with all who have witnessed her talent. Her energy, creativity and daring have opened new doors of expression in dance. Her followers and friends adore her, and her country, the United States of America, is proud to proclaim her a brilliant star and a national treasure."

I, as well as Betty, decided that we won't try to pin this medal on her tonight, but we did think you might like to see it, and it will be her's, and we are honored that you are here and it is a great tribute to you and all Americans.

We are deeply grateful for your many, many contributions, Martha.

MS. GRAHAM: Mr. President and my very dear Betty, this is an overwhelming moment and there is very little to say even if you have an Irish tongue that my grandmother said was hung in the middle. (Laughter)

It is a little difficult for me to talk on such an occasion, but America has stood with me. I did not leave, I did not go to any country until I felt I had something to say, from here, and there is one woman here tonight who gave me my first chance. She signed a co-note. She was a co-maker at a bank, the National City Bank. Her name is Frances Steloff.

I had to have two co-makers, and then I paid it off. And it was \$1,000, and it was a tremendous amount of money. And then, about two years later, I had only one co-maker. Then I did not have to have any. And then, finally, when I didn't borrow any more, they came and asked me why I didn't borrow. (Laughter)

But when the President said that this lady had said "How long will you keep this up, Martha," -- it is dreadful; dreadful. She had seen me in Denison during the floating period. And I am deeply grateful to that period, but time does not stand still. She said this to me. I said, "I will keep it up as long as I have an audience."

I am dependent on those people to support me, and I can only say that they have, individually and my Government, and I am so happy about your news tonight and your endowment of the arts because there is a saying in Asia, "They had no poet so they died." In other words, the city, the country had no one to sing or to dance their imagination and their dreams and their faith, so they disappeared from the memory of man.

I like to feel that those of us who are dancers have contributed toward a singing voice that will go on for a long time, and this is the first wonderful big step, and I thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: May I offer a toast on behalf of Betty and myself to our superstar and a person that truly deserves the Medal of Freedom.

END

(AT 10:23 P.M. EDT)

file

PRESS CONFERENCE NO. 38

of the

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

7:31 P.M. EDT
October 14, 1976
Thursday

In Room 450
The Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C.

THE PRESIDENT: Good evening. Will you please sit down.

I do have a brief opening statement. When I was chosen to be Vice President, I underwent the most intensive scrutiny of any man who has ever been selected for public office in the United States. My past life, my qualifications, my beliefs all were put under a microscope and in full public view. Nonetheless, all of you here tonight -- and many in our listening audience -- are aware of allegations that came forth in recent weeks involving my past political campaigns.

As I have said on several occasions, these rumors were false. I am very pleased that this morning the Special Prosecutor has finally put this matter to rest once and for all.

I have told you before that I am deeply privileged to serve as the President of this great nation. But, one thing that means more to me than my desire for public office is my personal reputation for integrity.

Today's announcement by the Special Prosecutor reaffirms the original findings of my Vice Presidential confirmation hearings. I hope that today's announcement will also accomplish one other major task -- that it will elevate the Presidential campaign to a level befitting the American people and the American political tradition.

For too many days this campaign has been mired in questions that have little bearing upon the future of this nation. The people of this country deserve better than that. They deserve a campaign that focuses on the most serious issues of our time -- on the purposes of Government, on the heavy burdens of taxation, on the cost of living and on the quality of our lives and on the ways to keep America strong, at peace and free.

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Governor Carter and I have profound differences of opinion on these matters. I hope that in the 20 days remaining in this campaign we can talk seriously and honestly about these differences so that on November 2 the American people can make a clear choice and give us, one of us, a mandate to govern wisely and well during the next four years.

Ladies and gentlemen, I will be glad to answer your questions.

Fran?

QUESTION: Mr. President, would you also like to set the record straight tonight on an issue that John Dean has raised?

Did you at any time use your influence with any Members of Congress or talk to lobbyist Richard Cook about blocking a 1972 Watergate break-in investigation by Wright Patman's House Banking Committee?

THE PRESIDENT: I have reviewed the testimony that I gave before both the House and the Senate committees and those questions were asked. I responded fully.

A majority of the Members of the House committee and the Senate committee, after full investigation, came to the conclusion that there was no substance to those allegations.

I do not believe they are any more pertinent today than they were then, and my record was fully cleared at that time.

MORE



QUESTION: Mr. President, in the past several days you have made two major decisions, one to sell Israel compression bombs, sophisticated weaponry, even though their request had been hanging fire for many months. You also decided to give the wheat price support, the 50 percent boost, even though the Agriculture Department said the day before that there was no economic justification for these.

Can you state flatly that none of these decisions was designed to enhance you politically?

THE PRESIDENT: Categorically, those decisions were based on conditions I think justified fully the decisions that I made. In the case of the four items that were cleared for delivery to the Government of Israel, those items have been on the list for consideration. Those items have been analyzed by the various departments in our Government. And the net result was that I decided, after discussing the matter with my top advisers, that those items should be cleared for the Government of Israel.

QUESTION: On what justification do you give such weapons and why did you bypass the Pentagon and the State Department?

THE PRESIDENT: I made the decision, and that decision is mine --and they may have been a little disappointed that they did not have an opportunity to leak the decision beforehand--and I felt that it was a decision only for the Commander-in-Chief, and I made it as such, and based on recommendations that were made to me by responsible people, the top people, giving me advice in this regard.

On the other question regarding the increase in the loan rates, in May of 1975 I vetoed an agricultural bill on the basis that I thought it was not good legislation at that time. But I said at that time in the veto message that I would be very watchful to make certain that if conditions changed we would increase the loan rate.

In May of 1975, for example, the price of wheat was about \$3.35 a bushel. Recently, the price of wheat was about \$2.79 a bushel. There was a very severe drop. And in order to make certain that wheat will be marketed properly and the farmer will have an opportunity to market that wheat which he produced at our request of full production, and in order for the farmers, the wheat farmers, to have adequate financing to proceed with their fall planting of winter wheat, I decided that it was in the best interest of full production for the American farmer that those loan rates be increased. They were based on a commitment I made in May of 1975, and changed conditions today.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, in the course of the Watergate Prosecutor's investigation of your income taxes, your taxes were made public, leaked to the press at one point, and in those taxes, it showed at one point you took money from your political organization and used over \$1,000 for a family vacation to Vail and several hundred dollars for personal clothing.

I wonder if you would address the propriety of action like that.

THE PRESIDENT: I think you have to bear in mind, as I recall those initial payments, for airline tickets and for the others, were made out of what we call the Fifth District account, and within, I think it was a week, or two weeks at the most, I reimbursed that account fully in both cases.

QUESTION: In the case of reimbursements, the tax information also showed that your personal bank account, if it were, went down in the red something like \$3,000, but it was soon reimbursed, and there was a question left as to how you reimbursed that \$3,000.

THE PRESIDENT: That was my next paycheck. (Laughter)

I think a few people in this country have written checks and then waited until the end of the month and then mailed the checks -- maybe you haven't done it, but I suspect a few people have -- and we mailed those checks after we had the money in the bank account. But I wrote the checks before the end of the month. It is a perfectly legitimate thing and there was never an overdraft in my account. (Laughter)

QUESTION: Mr. President, there have been some questions a few weeks ago about your taking, accepting, golfing vacations and travel from lobbyists and corporations. It has been quite some time since these allegations were made. I wonder if you can clear this up tonight. Just how often, how many times, did you accept free travel and golfing vacations from lobbyists and corporations?

THE PRESIDENT: To the best of my recollection, the ones that came to light are the ones involved -- there might be one or two more, but I can't recollect the instances.

QUESTION: Mr. President, if I may follow up on Frances Lewine's first question, I don't think you quite answered the question. The question is not about your testimony at the time specifically, it is about the new allegations from John Dean that, in fact, you did discuss six times with Mr. Cook the matter of blocking the investigation by the House of Watergate and at the time you said, at the time that you went through your investigation, you mentioned, you said you did not recollect such discussions. Do you now recollect discussions with Mr. Cook on that subject?

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THE PRESIDENT: I will give you exactly the same answer I gave to the House Committee and the Senate Committee. That answer was satisfactory the House Committee by a vote of 29 to eight, and I think a unanimous vote in the Senate committee.

The matter was fully investigated by those two committees and I think that is a satisfactory answer. I am not going to pass judgment on what Mr. Dean now alleges.

QUESTION: Mr. President, would you oppose, on the Dean matter, would you oppose a review of White House tapes and investigation by the Special Prosecutor an investigation that has been called for by Congressman Conyers and Congresswoman Holtzman?

THE PRESIDENT: That is a decision for the Special Prosecutor to make. I have never, at any time, in the just previous investigations or at any other time, interfered with the judgment or the decisions of the Special Prosecutor, and I wouldn't in this case.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, you have been going up and down the country, most recently in New York and New Jersey, saying things are getting better, things have improved and there is a definite difference between you and your other candidate, Mr. Carter.

There is a 7.8 percent unemployment rate. The Commerce Department today announced that retail sales fell by 1.1 percent. The stock market took a nose dive. Mr. Friedman, a conservative economist, says nothing that either you or Mr. Carter offers will cause a change in the rise of Federal spending, and finally Mr. Greenspan -- your own advisor -- predicted today a continued 6 percent inflation rate.

THE PRESIDENT: Let me set the record --

QUESTION: I don't understand how things are getting better.

THE PRESIDENT: Let me set the record straight. There is a very distinct difference between Federal spending proposals by President Ford and those of Governor Carter. Governor Carter has endorsed, embraced, sponsored, 60-some new programs that will cost \$100 billion a year at a minimum and \$200 billion probably on an annual basis. So, there is a distinct difference between Governor Carter on the one hand and myself. He wants to spend more and I want to hold the lid on Federal spending.

Let's talk about the status of the economy. In the first quarter of this calendar year, the rate of growth of GNP was 9.2 percent. It fell in the second quarter to 4.5 percent. It looks like the third quarter will be in the range of about 4 percent.

I have checked with the responsible advisors to me in this area and they expect a resumption of the rate of growth of GNP in October, November and December of over 5 percent and probably closer to 6 percent, and they expect that same rate of growth in 1977.

We have had a pause, but we could not sustain the rate of growth of the first quarter of 1976, when it was 9.2 or .3. We are now coming out of the dip or the pause that we had, and I believe that all, or practically all, economists recognize that the economy is continuing to improve and will get better in this quarter and in 1977.

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QUESTION: Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes?

QUESTION: Mr. President, in keeping the lid on Federal spending, are you willing to accept the continued physical and social deterioration of the big cities of this country? A Marshall plan sort of approach has been offered. Would you, if elected, move in that direction?

THE PRESIDENT: I would not embrace any spending program that is going to cost the Federal Treasury and the American taxpayers billions and billions and billions of dollars. We have good programs for the rehabilitation of our major metropolitan areas. I just signed a general revenue sharing bill. We fully fund the Community Development Act. We fully fund the mass transit legislation.

We have a number of very good programs that are in operation today, and about three months ago I appointed the Secretary of HUD, Carla Hills, to head a Cabinet Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization. That committee is working together very closely so that we get the full benefit out of all the Federal dollars now available to help our inner cities and major metropolitan areas.

I think we are doing a good job and to all of a sudden just throw money in doesn't make any sense because you are bound to have more deficits, more taxes and more inflation.

So, I think we ought to make the programs we have today work and they are working and will solve the problem.

Yes?

QUESTION: Mr. President, a review of your travel logs from this fall and last fall shows that for a comparable period last fall you spent exactly as much time on the road -- 15 days last fall -- when there was no campaign and no election than you have this fall when there is a hotly contested Presidential election.

Doesn't this lend a little bit of credence to Governor Carter's charge that you have been hiding in the White House for most of this campaign?

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THE PRESIDENT: Tom, didn't you see that wonderful picture of me standing on top of the limousine with the caption "Is He Hiding?" The truth is, we are campaigning when we feel that we can be away from the White House and not neglect the primary responsibilities that I have as President of the United States.

I think you are familiar with the vast number of bills that I have had to sign. We have done that. That is my prime responsibility, among other things. We do get out and campaign. We were in New York and New Jersey earlier this week. We are going to Iowa, Missouri and Illinois between now and Sunday.

We will be traveling when we can, but my prime responsibility is to stay in the White House and get the job done here, and I will do that and then we will campaign after that.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, how do you account for, at this rather late stage in the campaign, so many voters are telling pollsters that they remain undecided and many more are saying that they may not bother to vote at all?

THE PRESIDENT: It is disturbing that there are these statements to the effect that voters are apathetic. I believe we have tried to do everything we possibly can to stimulate voter participation. I want a maximum vote in this election on November 2 and in every way I possibly can we are going to stimulate it between now and November 2.

I can't give you an answer as to why there is apathy. I am going to do what I can to overcome that apathy and, naturally, I hope to convince 51 percent of the people in enough States so that we get enough electoral votes so that we can continue the policies of trust, peace and growing prosperity in the United States.

QUESTION: Mr. President, do you think it is proper for a Member of Congress to accept a golfing vacation or golfing weekend trip, and would you, now that you are in the White House, accept such a trip?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not accepted such a trip since I have been Vice President or President. And when I was in the Congress I have done as I said in the limited number of instances that have been in the paper.

Yes?

QUESTION: Mr. President, you said that in your debate with Jimmy Carter, your statement on Eastern Europe demonstrated a certain lack of ability to think fast on your feet. Without intending to once again review the merits of that debate, how important, in your judgment, is it for a President to think fast on his feet to do his job properly?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is vitally important for a President to make the right decisions in the Oval Office, and I think I have made the right decisions in the Oval Office. I have admitted that in that particular debate I made a slip in that one instance, but I would like to compare that one slip with the documented instances that we found in Governor Carter's presentation a week ago when he made some 14 either misrepresentations or inaccurate statements.

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And while we are on that subject, I would like to say that I feel very strongly that the attitude that he took on that occasion, where he said America was not strong, where he said the United States Government had tried to get us into another Vietnam in Angola, and where he said the United States had lost respect throughout the world.

I don't approve of any candidate for office slandering the good name of the United States. It discourages our allies and it encourages our adversaries.

Yes?

QUESTION: Mr. President, on the debates, two of them have happened and one is to come. Do you have any thoughts perhaps on changing the rules for the third debate, and also, do you feel impeded since you are President and know more than you can say in public?

THE PRESIDENT: About the only improvement I would make is to get Mr. Carter to answer the questions. (Laughter)

QUESTION: Mr. President, could you tell us why it took you six days and four clarifications before you finally admitted that you had in fact made a mistake in the debate in your remarks on Eastern Europe?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it took some thoughtful analysis because, as someone may have noticed, there was a letter to the editor in the New York Times a day or two ago by a very prominent ethnic, a man by the name of Janovitz, as I recall, who said that my answer was the right one. But it all depends on how you analyze the answer.

But I wanted to be very clear to make certain that the Polish-Americans and other ethnics in this country knew that I knew that there are some 30 Soviet divisions in Poland and several of the other Eastern European countries.

On the other hand, I want to say very strongly that anybody who has been in Poland, for example, as I have in 1975, and seen the Polish people, the strong, courageous look in their face, the deep feeling that you get from talking with them, although they recognize that the Soviet Union has X number of divisions occupying their country, that freedom is in their heart and in their mind, and they are not going to be dominated over the long run by any outside power.

Now we concede for the time being the Soviet Union has that military power there, but we subscribe to the hopes and the aspirations of the courageous Polish people and their relatives here in the United States.

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QUESTION: Mr. President, if they tried to overthrow that power, would you look favorably on helping them in some way?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think we should answer that question. I don't think it is going to happen. I don't think we should respond to that kind of a question in a press conference.

Yes?

QUESTION: Mr. President, you have had some harsh words for your opponent's performance in the second debate, and yet every public opinion survey that I have seen showed you lost that debate and it was one that was on foreign and defense affairs, which are supposed to be your strong suit.

Do you agree that you lost that second debate and, if so, why? Or, if you think you won it, why do you think that happened?

THE PRESIDENT: I think there is a poll that shows the conclusion you have just set forth. I don't necessarily agree with that, but there were some very specific answers that were given by people who were interrogated afterwards. If you will look at that list of special questions that were asked of people who responded, it showed that in those cases -- and I think they were the very fundamental ones on specific issues -- knowledge, firmness, strength -- that a majority of people thought I had prevailed.

QUESTION: Mr. President, the Federal Power Commission has authorized the increase in the price of new natural gas. That is something you favored. The original estimate was that it would cost the American consumer \$1.3 billion a year. Now we are told that it may be as high or higher than \$3 billion a year. Do you think that price increase should be rolled back or should it stand?

THE PRESIDENT: The fundamental issue is, if you don't get a price increase you are not going to have any new natural gas. So, the question is, are you willing to pay for enough gas to heat our homes and to heat our factories so people will have jobs? We have to give an incentive to people to go out and find new natural gas sources, and if you don't give them that incentive, there won't be any heat for their homes or heat for their factories and will lose the jobs.

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QUESTION: Are you willing to risk another jolt to the economy from this large price increase?

THE PRESIDENT: I think a bigger jolt would be to have the jobs lost and the houses cold.

QUESTION: Mr. President, earlier in your campaign you said you intended to stress positive themes. Yet, in your most recent campaign appearance you concentrated on attacking Governor Carter. Tonight you accused him of slandering the name of the United States.

Do you think you have done all you can to elevate the level of this campaign and can we expect you to continue the way you have been in the last week or so?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is very positive to talk about tax reductions, as I have recommended to the American people that we increase the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. That is very positive and very affirmative, and certainly in contrast to what Mr. Carter wants, which is to increase taxes for people with a medium or middle income level, which is about \$14,000. That is a distinct difference.

I am on the affirmative side. He is on the negative side.

QUESTION: Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, Sarah? (Laughter)
You knew I would get around to you.

QUESTION: Thank you. When you were in Congress you filed an income tax return for those years saying that you had very little money left over. Like a lot of us, you have about \$5 left over for spending money, I believe.

I wonder if you had included your golf fees and your dues at Congressional and Burning Tree? I believe you belonged to both of them, didn't you, and they are very expensive. You must have been strapped for funds. Who was helping you pay those large golfing expenses? You golfed three to five times a week, I believe.

THE PRESIDENT: First, that is an inaccurate statement and you know it, Sarah. (Laughter) When you are the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives and on the job, you don't play golf three to five times a week. I am sorry you said that because you know that is not true.

Now, let me just say that I paid for those golfing dues or charges by check, and the committee and everybody else, the Internal Revenue Service, the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation, the FBI and now the Special Prosecutor have all looked into those in depth and in detail and they have given me a clean bill of health, and I thank them for it.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, the Washington Post had an article today which noted that Ford Motor Company paid no taxes last year, paid no taxes the year before. Do you think that is fair and what are you going to do about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think it is proper to remind the American people that those tax laws which are on the statute books were written by the Democrats who controlled the Congress for the last 22 years. If they are wrong, it is the fault of the majority party in the Congress.

QUESTION: What are you doing to change that?

THE PRESIDENT: We have made recommendations to the Congress over the last year and a half for some modifications in the income tax legislation, but how that would affect that particular company I can't give you the answer.

QUESTION: Mr. President, in a recent speech -- I am afraid I don't recall where -- you cut a line from your text in which you said something about the campaign should not be just a quiz show to see who gets to live in the White House for the next four years. And I assume you stand by that advance text. Were you trying to suggest that the debates have not been as effective as they should have been, they have not kept up the level of the campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: Ann, you know, you read the advance text. I hope you are listening when I speak. You know, on many occasions, I add a little here and I take something else out. Oftentimes, I don't get those texts until maybe a half, three-quarters of an hour before I make the speech. So, I make the judgment myself. Those are the recommendations of the speechwriters.

Now, I didn't think that was an appropriate thing to say and, therefore, I didn't include it in the text that I gave to the meeting that you referred to.

QUESTION: Let me put it this way: Do you think the debates have helped keep up the level of the campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the debates have been very wholesome. I think they have been constructive. I was the one that initiated the challenge. I believe that they ought to be an institution in future Presidential campaigns. I really believe that. And for that reason, I didn't think that sentence in that prepared text which I deleted reflected my own views.

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QUESTION: Mr. President, thank you. A little while ago you gave us an idea of how you balance your family budget, you kite checks. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no, I don't. No, I don't. I have never been overdrawn, young lady.

QUESTION: The question is, then, how is it that you are able to live on from \$5 to \$13 a week in cash as has been reported by the Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal in 1972?

THE PRESIDENT: I repeat that the Internal Revenue Service, the FBI, the Joint Committee on Taxation, two committees in the House and in the Senate, and an overwhelming majority of the Members of the House and Senate, believed the testimony. They went back and checked every one of those income tax returns from 1973 back six years, and they gave me a clean bill of health. Now, it has been reinvestigated for the fourth time by the Special Prosecutor and he concurs with the previous investigations.

Those are the facts of life. I write checks.

Thank you all. Thank you very much.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 8:00 P.M. EDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 15, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Ames, Iowa)

THE WHITE HOUSE
REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
FISHER THEATRE



12:22 P.M. CDT

Governor Bob Ray, Dr. Parks, Mrs. Peterson, Jill Wagner, Congressman Grassley, Mayor Fellingner, Ken Fuller, students, faculty and guests:

It is great to be in Ohio -- Iowa State. (Laughter) You know we Michiganders have Ohio State on our mind. But, it is great to be at Iowa State University. This University has a long, long tradition of excellence in agricultural education, training and research, and you have a pretty good football team, too.

You score a lot of touchdowns. I congratulate you, but we are going to score a lot of touchdowns for the United States of America in the next four years, also.

Just three days ago, the Department of Agriculture released its October forecast predicting the second largest wheat crop and the largest corn crop in American history. This new record will be achieved in spite of serious drought conditions in many areas of this great country.

I am delighted to be in the heart of America to see some of that bumper crop being harvested this afternoon. We are all proud of you wherever we come from in the United States of America. This record corn crop is a graphic illustration of an overriding non-political fact that transcends all the noise, the rhetoric of this election year.

America is blessed with farmlands and farm know-how unequal anyplace on this earth. The corn belt and the other great growing areas of our bountiful country are renewable, not depleting assets worth far more than all the diamonds in Africa, all the oil of the Middle East and all the gold in Fort Knox.

Today, a single American farmer can feed 56 people. No other nation comes close to that record. The Soviet Union has one-third of its people engaged in agriculture and they frequently fall short of their needs.

MORE

American agriculture has maintained an average of 6 percent increase in productivity year after year. No other segment of our society, or any other society, has been able to do that well, and I congratulate you on behalf of 215 million Americans.

You have been so successful because you have used your own ingenuity, your own inventiveness, your own initiative to produce the finest and the most abundant food and fiber throughout the world. If you were to continue meeting the needs of this country and our trading partners throughout the world, you must continue to have this kind of freedom--freedom from the meddling hands and the long arm of an arbitrary, autocratic Government.

What are the results of this policy? Average farm income over the last three years has been higher than ever before in the history of America. For the farmer in Iowa, total net income on the average has risen from about \$6,900 in 1965 to about \$14,800 in 1975. You no longer have heavy Government held surpluses held over the market depressing your prices, costing the taxpayers \$1 billion a year -- or \$3 million a day -- in storage and handling fees.

Instead of storing grain in Government bins, we are selling it in a free market in record volume. Farm exports hit a record of \$22 billion in the last fiscal year, our sixth straight year of record farm exports, and I am glad to say that exports are expected to be about \$22 billion again in this fiscal year.

We will export nearly three billion bushels of wheat and feed grains in this marketing year, an all-time record. We did it without any Government board selling your exports, as some countries do, and under a Ford Administration we will never have that kind of arbitrary action -- a Government board selling your hard work, hard earned profits from your farms.

We did it without any international reserve where this country could be outvoted one hundred to one. We have worked out a long-term agreement, as all of you know, with the Soviet Union, which commits them to buy at least six million metric tons of grain every year for the next five years. In dollars and cents, that is at least \$1 billion worth of grain sales every 12 months.

This agreement gives us a stable, long-term foreign market. It assures us of a more consistent flow of payments from abroad. It assures the American farmer that the Soviet Union will be a steady customer whether they have good crops or bad.

MORE

In the past, Soviet grain purchases have been erratic, secretive, unpredictable, causing prices to fluctuate widely, leaving the American farmer on the short end. The Soviets have already bought over six and a half million metric tons of wheat and corn for the first year of this agreement.

To date, we have sold the Soviet Union more than eight million metric tons of grain and soybeans from this year's crop. By this arrangement, the private marketing system has not only been preserved, but it has been strengthened.

We are moving in the right direction toward greater prosperity for the American farmer, and we will keep moving in that direction in the next four years.

These good sales, good prospects, are the fruits of free trade. They are also the benefits of peace and aggressive, successful negotiations. They are the just rewards of the Iowa farmers' hard work, and we appreciate it.

In Kansas City last August, I said that we would never use the bounty of America's farmers as a pawn in international diplomacy. Today, I repeat that statement.

I also said in Kansas City there will be no embargoes, and I repeat that statement here in Ames today.

MORE

There is a fundamental difference between Mr. Carter and me on that question. In an interview published on August 8, 1976, Mr. Carter was asked, would you favor using our economic leverage to get the Russians to cease and desist from aggressive actions? Mr. Carter replied, "Yes, I would."

In our second debate, he told 90 million Americans that a new Arab oil embargo would amount to an economic declaration of war and that he would instantly respond with a total embargo against the offending country, shipping them nothing, including food. Those are the things he said about his plans for your products in the future.

But more important is what Mr. Carter didn't say. When he made his acceptance speech at the Democratic Convention in New York City there was no mention of farm policy, not once in 40 minutes. At the Republican Convention, I said, "We will carry out a farm policy that assures a fair market price for the farmer, encourages full production, leads to record exports and eases the hunger within the human family." I think you like my comments better than his.

That is a pledge that I was proud to make, a pledge that I will proudly carry out for the next four years. Despite the good overall record I mentioned earlier, some farmers -- yes, too many, are having a hard time of it right now. Cattle prices are way too low. Wheat prices are too low. The weather has not been a very good friend to a lot of farmers in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota, and other parts of our great country.

I have already done something about the cattle situation. I tried earlier this year to halt the importation of foreign beef through a free trade zone in Puerto Rico. Diplomatic, administrative and legal roadblocks prevented us from carrying out what I wanted to do to help the cattle producer. I then went to the Congress, which failed to act on my request to curb these imports.

Therefore, last week in Dallas, Texas, I signed a Presidential proclamation to limit beef imports and thereby help the American beef industry. I have repeatedly said that I would not under any circumstances permit the United States to become a dumping grounds for foreign beef.

I have already done something about Government loan rates for grains. On Wednesday, I ordered an increase in the Government loan rates for wheat from \$1.50 to \$2.25 a bushel; for corn, from \$1.25 to \$1.50. These adjustments, as you know far better than I, will permit the bumper crops to be marketed in a much more orderly way, and will help farmers to properly finance next year's planning.

MORE

And I have also done something about the great tradition of the American family farm. Earlier this year I called upon the Congress to increase the Federal estate tax exemption. I fought hard for it and was proud to sign it into law a few days ago. This increases the estate tax exemption from \$60,000 to the equivalent of \$175,000.

This new law also permits estate tax payments on family farms to be stretched out over an extended period. These tax reforms will go a long, long way to help save the family farm from the Federal tax collector.

But I must add one other comment: The Congress failed to go along with my proposal to permit tax exempt transfers from spouse to spouse, but next year I am going to put the pressure on the Congress and will keep it there until they do something about this situation.

I am also trying to do something about the drought. (Laughter) I have just signed legislation authorizing the establishment for the first time in American history of a national policy to develop new methods of combatting the crippling drought conditions that have cut farm production far too frequently. Under this new program the Commerce Department will conduct research and develop means of modifying the effects of severe weather changes to protect the farmer.

This new program, with some extra funding, is in addition to the increases that I approved for other agriculture research and development in this year's budget at a time when we were faced with serious financial problems in the Federal Government, at a time when I kept the lid on, or actually cut back a number of Federal programs. But agricultural research has produced wonders for America and the world, and we must continue making sound investment in research and development in agriculture in the future for us and those around the world.

Those are some of the things that our Government can and should do to help you. The Government should never try to dictate how farmers should farm. I have faith in the ability of America's farmers to make their own decisions, to determine what and how much they will plant. As long as I am President, agriculture will have an understanding friend in the White House in the Nation's capital.

Of course, Mr. Carter says he is a farmer's friend, too. But what kind of a friend is he? Mr. Carter wants to go back to the old discredited Government meddling in the farmer's affairs. He wants to build up a stockpile of farm surplusses once again. He has proposed a stockpile of 25 million metric tons of grain with half of it to be held in Government bins.

MORE

His underlying philosophy of Government interference won't change. His philosophy is best exemplified by the Humphrey-Hawkins bill, embraced by Mr. Carter, which envisions export controls and licensing unprecedented in peacetime economy.

Mr. Carter does have a strange way of changing his accent as he moves about this great country. (Laughter) In California, he tries to sound like Caesar Chavez. In Chicago, he sounds like Mayor Daley. In New York, he sounds like Ralph Nader. (Laughter) In Washington, D. C., he sounds like George Meany.

Then Mr. Carter comes to the farm belt. He becomes a little, old peanut farmer. (Laughter)

The President has to take the same position wherever he goes, and that is the kind of a President I have been and will continue to be for the next four years.

When the Agriculture Department was created by Abraham Lincoln in 1862, its motto was "Agriculture is the foundation of manufacturing and commerce." It was true then; it is true today.

The farmer is the main spring of the American economy. U.S. farm exports have provided the foundation for our economic recovery, which is now underway. It has taken mankind countless centuries to reach a worldwide population of 4 billion, but just 35 years from now there will probably be 4 billion more people living on this earth.

We initiated a World Food Conference in Rome in 1974, and one of our delegates at that time was Senator Bob Dole, who will be the next Vice President of the United States. At that Conference, experts concluded that the United States, Canada and Australia combined, the three biggest food exporting countries in the world, could not hope to meet the food demands of the world if the population doubled in that short a time. Yet we must. The American farmer can do anything he sets out to do if the Government will just leave him alone.

The Ford Administration and the American farmer share the same ideals, the same confident approach to the future, the same belief in our land and the same concern for the undernourished and starving millions throughout the world.

You and I together stand for hard, productive work, for honesty, straight talk and basic morality. You and I together stand for lean, responsive, fiscally-sound Government, and you and I together working for the next four years can make this great country better and better and better. Let's do it.

MORE

We believe in a minimum of bureaucratic control over farming. We believe in agricultural policies geared to a free market economy. We believe that the farmer himself should decide how to use his land, his capital and his labor for a profit.

We don't believe that profit should be capriciously taxed away from him or his family. The choice is clear. Government is already too large, too powerful, too costly and too deeply involved in the lives of every American.

Mr. Carter cannot carry out his promises without bigger bureaucracies and higher taxes.

I want a new generation of freedom in America, freedom for all of us to do what we want to do and what we ought to do. The kind of an America you want and I want is an abundant America, one of record farm income, record crops, record exports and record acreage back into production, and freedom for the farmer to make his own decisions and to reap the rewards of his hard labor.

I have come here today to ask for your support and for your vote on November 2. You know where I stand. I will not let you down.

Thank you very, very much.

END (AT 12:46 P.M. CDT)

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Ames, Iowa)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
UPON SIGNING H. R. 15059
EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK CREDIT ACT EXTENSION

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

3:23 P.M. CDT

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

I am glad to be in the Iowa version of the Rose Garden. (Laughter) I don't think they can say we are hiding out in the Rose Garden in Washington, D. C., because we are in the beautiful new complex of the Iowa State School of Veterinary Medicine, and it is a pleasure and a privilege to be here.

But it is also a great pleasure and a privilege to be able to sign this legislation which extends the Emergency Livestock Credit Act through September 30, 1978.

American agriculture and our livestock industry in particular is the envy of the world. We all want to keep this industry strong so that our farmers and ranchers can continue to provide the food that America needs.

This legislation provides a useful and necessary program to insure that the livestock industry can obtain the credit it needs in order to return to a healthy and a stable position.

This and other actions I have recently taken, such as signing the much needed packers bonding legislation and the imposition of quotas on meat imports, will help to strengthen the American livestock industry. I consider it critically important that we continue to provide the relief to the livestock industry where it is experiencing the current economic adversities.

The bill which I will sign very shortly will assist livestock producers, provide stability in the marketplace, and help to insure an adequate supply of meat for the American consumer at reasonable prices.

Thank you all very much.

END (AT 3:26 P.M. CDT)

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Joliet, Illinois)

THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF REMARKS
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT
AND
SENATOR ROBERT DOLE
IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SHERATON JOLIET INN

9:50 P.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: Bob?

SENATOR DOLE: Yes, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: You did great, and Betty and I on our anniversary are very, very grateful for the anniversary present, because your performance was superb and we are all applauding and very, very proud of your accomplishments.

SENATOR DOLE: I am very proud of you, Mr. President, and I hope I did a good job. I had a bad cold but I guess my voice held out long enough.

THE PRESIDENT: You were confident. You hit hard but hit fairly, and you differentiated the issues, I think, very effectively between their platform and ours, between our promises and theirs where we have consistently said that taxes ought to be reduced, and they have, as we all know, played both sides of the street.

You have done a fine job in showing that they are the big spenders, and we are the ones that think we should spend responsibly and effectively.

And I think the most telling point you made -- there was no answer by Senator Mondale -- we are at peace and our foreign policy has achieved it and will maintain it. And the comment you made to the effect that not a single American is fighting or dying on foreign soil tonight ought to give great reassurance to the American people that our policy of peace through strength is the highest policy of morality in foreign policy.

SENATOR DOLE: Mr. President, I meant that, and I tried to say it as best I could, and I think a great deal of that credit goes to you. We are at peace for the first time in a long time. We are having the election at peace, and I think it means a great deal to Americans, mothers and fathers and young people, and it is due to your leadership, Mr. President.

MORE

I wish I had thought of some of the other things you mentioned, but you always think of things -- (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Let me say, Bob, you thought of a lot of very effective points and you have some great friends here from the State of Illinois -- we are in Joliet -- Chuck Percy, Bob Michel --

SENATOR DOLE: I can hear Chuck laughing. Hi, Chuck, how are you doing? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: John Anderson is here, and you have the Illinois delegation standing tall and strong with you, and we are all very proud. And the best to Elizabeth.

SENATOR DOLE: I have Governor Connally -- he is standing upstairs talking to Fred. And Mrs. Connally and Elizabeth went upstairs to proclaim victory.

THE PRESIDENT: I think you did.

SENATOR DOLE: If they didn't do it, I was going to do it. (Laughter)

Thank you very much, Mr. President. Goodbye.

THE PRESIDENT: You were great, Bob.

Goodbye.

END

(AT 9:56 P.M. CDT)