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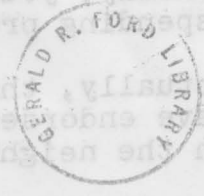
October 16, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Lincoln, Illinois)

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF TELEGRAM

Mr. James Earl Carter, Jr.
Plains, Georgia



Dear Jimmy:

I am in receipt of your telegram of October 15, 1976, and appreciate your desire to clarify your positions on the issues. I think it is vitally important that the American people understand exactly what you do stand for, and I am delighted to assist in that effort.

Your telegram to me this morning unfortunately leaves unclear whether you are repudiating positions that you have taken on these important issues, or whether you are persisting in denying that you took these positions in the first place.

Frankly, you have changed your positions on these and other important issues so often that it is difficult for me and the American people to understand who you are and what you really represent.

Let me take up the specific issues that you mention, one by one.

First, you claim that I misrepresented your position in saying that you have called for a \$15 billion cut in defense spending.

The fact is that the Savannah Morning News for March 18, 1975, quotes you as telling the Savannah Rotary Club that "\$15 billion could be cut from the defense budget and not weaken this nation's military capability."

Again, on March 20, 1975, the Los Angeles Times reported that you told a Beverly Hills News Conference that "The Ford defense budget for this year could be cut by about \$15 billion without sacrificing national security."

I recognize and have stated that at other times you have promised defense cuts of varying sizes -- always in the multi-billion dollar category. The point is that you would make huge cuts in America's defense preparedness -- just how huge you evidently are not sure. If you have changed your position on this issue once again, I and the public would appreciate clarification.

Second, you say that I have incorrectly charged you with advocating "tax increases for low and moderate income wage earner."

With regard to "moderate income wage earners," on September 18, 1976, you answered a question from the Associated Press on how you would change the tax burden by saying, "I would take the mean or median level of income and anything above that would be higher and anything below that would be lower."

The interviewer pointed out that the median is "somewhere around \$12,000" and you agreed. There is no public record that you have ever repudiated that statement. Your specific reference to raising taxes for everybody above the mean or median income -- actually now around \$14,000 still stands. Third, you deny having proposed "elimination of the mortgage interest tax deduction."

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Actually, you made this promise at the League of Women Voters candidate forum in Boston on the night of February 23, 1976, before a national television audience. You have since been more general in your promises to close "tax loopholes." But this is the one loophole that you are specifically on record with a promise to repeal.

Finally, you say that I have unfairly accused you of favoring "spending programs that would total over \$100 billion."

Actually, the total cost of the Democratic platform, which you have endorsed, would be far more than \$100 billion -- probably in the neighborhood of \$200 billion.

The \$100 billion figure, to which I have referred, is the cost of only four specific programs that are provided in the Democratic platform. These are: The Humphrey-Hawkins Job Bill, costing \$10.3 billion in the first year; the Kennedy-Corman National Health Insurance Program, costing \$70 billion in the first year; the Griffith Negative Income Tax, costing \$9.9 billion the first year; and the Perkins Federal Education Bill, costing \$12 billion the first -- a total cost of just over \$102 billion in the first year. Costs in subsequent years would be sure to rise rapidly, requiring higher taxes, higher inflation, or both.

It is, of course, your right to change your position on any or all of these issues. What you have done instead is to claim that you never took the positions in the first place.

The facts, however, are part of the documented record.

So long as you do not acknowledge these views and publicly reverse them, it must be assumed that these are still positions which you stand behind.

While your current effort to clarify your positions on the issues appears to be limited to the above items, it seems to me there is the need for further clarification on many additional issues. I would also like to assist your clarification effort in a few additional areas:

1. Do you really believe, as you stated in San Francisco, that America is no longer respected?
2. Do you really believe, as you stated in San Francisco, that our country is not strong any more?
3. Do you really believe, as you stated in an interview with Liberty Magazine, that church property, other than the church building itself, should be taxed?
4. Do you really believe we can defend freedom and avoid Communist domination of our allies by withdrawing our troops from Korea and reducing other commitments overseas?
5. Do you agree with your chief economic adviser who, according to the New York Times of Monday, said that your economic policies will increase inflation?
6. Do you agree with your chief economic adviser who, according to the New York Times of Monday, said that a Carter administration would not cut taxes?

I, and the American people, look forward to your answers and clarifications.

GERALD R. FORD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 16, 1976

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
JOLIET AMTRAK STATION
ABOARD "THE HONEST ABE"



9:11 A.M. CDT

George, Senator Chuck Percy, your next Governor, Jim Thompson, other distinguished Members of the House and some wonderful guests who are going to be traveling with us through the heartland of Illinois:

Let me say Betty and I are deeply grateful for the warm welcome we had last night and the wonderful welcome here today.

Our anniversary was a success because of all of you. Thank you.

As George said, Abraham Lincoln was here in Joliet a few years ago. I think it is significant that Abraham Lincoln, when he was in Joliet, made his famous speech that a house divided against itself cannot succeed.

Jimmy Carter wants to divide America. President Ford wants to heal America, and that is where we are going.

Betty and I are here and starting this wonderful trip through Illinois because we want your help and we want your vote.

We have restored trust to the White House. We have turned the economy around, and we have peace. Not a single young American is fighting or dying on foreign soil today, and that is progress and we want your help.

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As I listen and I read about Jimmy Carter, I can't help but come to the conclusion -- and I think you will, too -- that Jimmy Carter will say anything anywhere to be President of the United States.

When he is in California he sounds like Cesar Chavez. When he is in Chicago he sounds like Mayor Daley. When he is in New York he sounds like Ralph Nader. When he is in Washington, D. C., he sounds like my good friend George Meany. He wanders, he wavers, he waffles, and he wiggles. He isn't the man you want for President of the United States.

Let's talk very quickly about three subjects. Taxes -- President Ford believes that the best tax reform is tax reduction, and Jerry Ford recommended we are going to get eventually an increase in the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. That is a real meaningful, important tax reduction, and that is what we stand for.

What does Jimmy Carter want to do with your taxes? Jimmy Carter says he will increase taxes for all people with a median income and on up, which means that anybody who is earning \$14,000 a year or more is going to have his taxes increased under Jimmy Carter. Do you want that?

Jimmy Carter says he is going to increase Federal spending. He has embraced the Democratic budget and the Democratic platform, which will call for tax increases or spending increases of \$100 billion a year.

Then he says he is going to reorganize the Federal Government. What did he do in Georgia? He was Governor for four years. He increased the number of State employees by over 25 percent. He increased spending by over 50 percent. He increased the bonded indebtedness of Georgia by over \$200 million. Could you trust him to reorganize our Federal Government?

But let's talk about defense. Jimmy Carter, on two occasions, said he would cut the defense budget by \$15 billion. And then he had the gall to tell the American people, 90 million of them, last week that he never said it. Can you trust him? Jimmy Carter says he is going to cut defense spending, and then he says America can't be weak any more. He can't have it both ways.

There was a great, great President a few years ago named Teddy Roosevelt. Teddy Roosevelt once said, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." Jimmy Carter wants to speak loudly and carry a flyswatter. (Laughter)

Jimmy Carter has said America is not respected any more. I said that was slandering the United States and 215 million Americans. What is the truth?

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Let me very quickly just quote from some of the distinguished leaders around the world and what they say about the United States. The Prime Minister of Ireland said, "It isn't" -- he said, "The ties that were forged between us are today stronger and firmer than ever."

President Giscard of France said, and I quote, "I do not think there has ever been a time when contacts between our two Governments have been more frequent, consultation more sustained and cooperation more goodwilled."

And then the Chancellor of the Government of West Germany said, "At no time during the past 30 years have relations between our countries been closer and cooperation more trustful and direct than today."

Jimmy Carter doesn't know what he is talking about. I don't think you should let him tear down the respect and the admiration that people around the world have for this great country. We are respected, and when he says that we are not respected he is slandering the United States of America.

Well, Betty and I are delighted to be here. We thank you for the warm reception. We need your help. We want your votes. We are going to carry Illinois and win November 2.

Thank you very much. Have a good day. We love you. We will be back. And in the meantime, make darn sure you reelect George O'Brien, Jim Thompson, Sam Young, and all of the good Republicans in the State of Illinois.

Thank you.

END (AT 9:19 A.M. CDT)

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
PONTIAC AMTRAK STATION

ABOARD "THE HONEST ABE"

10:40 A.M. CDT

It is great to be in Pontiac, Bill Harris' home town. Let me introduce some of the very special guests we have on "The Honest Abe" special: Senator Chuck Percy; Jim Thompson, the next Governor of the State of Illinois; of course you know Bill Harris -- where is Bill, there he is; and then an old favorite of yours of many, many years, Les Arends; the next Congressman from this district, Tom Cochran; and then a favorite of mine, (Laughter) Betty Ford; Ed, how are you, Ed Madigan, and a fine, fine Congressman. Re-elect him, too.

Betty and I are delighted to be in Pontiac, Livingston County. We had a good start in Joliet this morning. I couldn't help but notice that Abe Lincoln made a very famous statement in the State of Illinois just a few years ago when he said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Jimmy Carter wants to divide America. President Ford wants to heal America, and that is where we are going.

Betty and I are here in the great State of Illinois because we want your help, we need your vote, and with your help we are going to carry Illinois on November 2 and we hope and trust that we can do it emphatically and successfully and win that election for the good of America on November 2.

I can't help but make the observation that Jimmy Carter will say anything anywhere to be President of the United States. When he is in California, he sounds like Cesar Chavez. When he is in Chicago, he sounds like Mayor Daley. When he is in New York, he sounds like Bella Abzug. (Laughter) When he is in Washington, D.C., he sounds like George Meany. And when he comes to Illinois, he sounds like just a little old peanut farmer. (Laughter) He wavers, he wanders, he wiggles and he waffles, and he shouldn't be President of the United States.

Now let me just give you what I think is the reason Betty and I can come here and honestly ask you for your support. Since I have been President, we have restored trust and confidence in the White House. Since I have been President, we have turned the economy around and the United States today is on a surge toward the kind of prosperity that we expect and will have in the four years under President Ford. Thirdly, the United States is at peace, and I am proud to say that not a single young American is fighting or dying on any foreign soil under this Administration.

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One other very important point -- taxes, spending, national security. Jerry Ford believes the best tax reform is tax reduction, and that is why I recommended to the Congress that they increase your personal exemption from \$750 per person to \$1,000. The Congress didn't do it, but we are going to pressure them to do it in 1977 and we will keep on pressuring them until they do do it. Tax reduction is the best tax reform.

Now what does Jimmy Carter want to do about your taxes? He had an interview a few weeks ago and he said that he would increase taxes on all taxpayers from median income on up, and that means that 50 percent of the taxpayers in the United States will have a tax increase under Jimmy Carter.

So, the issue is clear. President Ford wants to reduce the middle income taxpayer's obligations to the Federal Government. Jimmy Carter says he will increase them. So, when you go to that ballot box, think about how you can get a fair shake in the Federal tax payment that you have to make.

One other point: I think we have got to put the lid on Federal spending. Jimmy Carter has embraced 60-some spending programs that will add \$100 billion to \$200 billion annually to the Federal expenditure.

Jimmy Carter also says he wants to reorganize the Federal Government. Let me point this out: When he was Governor of the State of Georgia, four years, he increased the number of State employees by 25 percent or more, he increased the spending by the State of Georgia by 50 percent or more, and he increased the bonded indebtedness of the State of Georgia by over \$200 million. Can you trust him with that record to reorganize the Federal Government? I don't think you can.

Let me say this: Jimmy Carter, on two occasions, has made public statements that he would cut defense spending by \$15 billion. Of course, he denied it, but the facts are he did say it. He wants now to cut defense spending \$7 to \$9 billion, or \$5 to \$6 billion. At the same time, he says the United States is not strong enough. Now he can't have it both ways.

And let me remind you of a statement made by a great President of the United States -- Teddy Roosevelt, who once said, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." With the kind of cutbacks in defense spending that Jimmy Carter wants to make, Jimmy Carter in effect is saying speak loudly and carry a flyswatter. (Laughter)

Jimmy Carter has said that the United States, our country, is not respected any more around the world. That is an inaccurate statement. Every single leader in the free world has said that relations between the United States and their country is good, never been better, and when Jimmy Carter says that your country and my country are not respected, Jimmy Carter is slandering 215 million Americans and the United States of America, and we shouldn't stand for it and we won't.

Page 3

So I say to you, Betty and I are delighted to be in the Land of Lincoln, here in Pontiac, Bill Harris' hometown.

I urge you to elect Jim Thompson, your next Governor. I urge you to elect Bill Harris. I urge you to elect Tom Cochran. I urge you to give support to the kind of record of performance that we have given to you in the last two years, and I say Betty and Jerry won't let you down during the next four years.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 10:50 A.M. CDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 16, 1976

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
BLOOMINGTON AMTRAK STATION

ABOARD "THE HONEST ABE"

12:10 P.M. CDT



Good morning.

Betty and I are delighted to be in the great State of Illinois, in particular in Bloomington and McLean County. Thank you very, very much.

Let me introduce some good friends of yours, good friends of ours. First, your Senator Chuck Percy; then the next Governor of the great State of Illinois, Jim Thompson; and your good friend, an outstanding Congressman, Ed Madigan, and then George Lindberg, your State Comptroller -- reelect him.

And then Betty and I are delighted to have on this whole train trip, the old "Honest Abe" special, we have Les Arends, who served you so well.

Let me say a word or two. As I said, Betty and I are so delighted to be in Illinois. We have had a wonderful morning and now we start a great afternoon.

Betty and I celebrated our 28th anniversary last night up in Joliet, Illinois. We are here because we feel that in the last two years since I have been your President we have turned things around in this great country. We have restored trust, honesty to the White House. We have turned the economy around from the worst recession in 40 years to a real program of prosperity for the future in America.

We have achieved the peace, and we have the military capability and the diplomatic skill to keep the peace and, I remind you, as I think all Americans recognize, that not a single young American is fighting or dying on any foreign soil tonight or today.

So, this record of trust, prosperity and peace, I lay along side the record of Jimmy Carter and his promises. And Jimmy Carter, it seems to me, as he goes from one part of the country to the other, says anything, anywhere, to get to be President of the United States.

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When Jimmy Carter is in California, he tries to sound like Cesar Chavez. When Jimmy Carter is in Chicago he tries to sound like Mayor Daley. When Jimmy Carter is in New York he tries to sound like Bella Abzug. (Laughter) And when he comes to this great farm land of Illinois he tries to sound like just a little, old peanut farmer. (Laughter) He wanders, he wavers, he wiggles and he waffles. I think the American people deserve better than that.

The American people are concerned about taxes. President Ford believes the best tax reform is a tax reduction. President Ford recommended to the Congress that the Congress increase your personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. The middle income taxpayer has been shortchanged and we are going to change it.

Jimmy Carter--he wants to increase Federal taxes for all people from medium income on up. That means that 50 percent of the taxpayers of this country would get a tax increase under Jimmy Carter. Do you want that?

Jimmy Carter wants to spend more Federal money, your taxes that you have worked hard for, earned. Jimmy Carter embraces the Democratic platform which calls for 60-some new programs that would add \$100 billion minimum per year to expenditures by the Federal Government. Do you want that?

Jimmy Carter--he says he is going to reorganize the Federal Government. Well, let's look at his record in Georgia. After four years in Georgia, he increased State employees by over 25 percent, he increased spending in the State of Georgia by over 50 percent, and he added \$200 million to their State indebtedness. With that kind of a record, can you imagine what he would do to your Federal Government?

All I can say is, if you like Jimmy Carter you like to pay taxes. I don't think you want Jimmy Carter as your next President of the United States.

You all recognize that we have the peace. We have a strong Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. Jimmy Carter wants to cut the Federal budget for the Defense Department by \$15 billion. I don't think that is the way to keep America number one. I think that would weaken America in our efforts to maintain the peace.

Jimmy Carter wants to slash the programs that have kept the peace for us and will keep it in the future. With that kind of a reduction of spending for the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and Marines. It reminds me of a statement once made by a great American President, Teddy Roosevelt, who said, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." Jimmy Carter, with that kind of a reduction for our military establishment, is speaking loudly and wants to carry a flyswatter. (Laughter)

MORE

Page 3

Jimmy Carter has said the United States is not respected any more. Heads of Government from all over the world believe that the United States is number one, the United States is the leader in the world. When Jimmy Carter says that the United States, your country and my country, is not respected, he is slandering America, and I don't like it.

So, Betty and I are delighted to be with all of you in this great part of the United States. We have worked hard. We think we have a record of performance.

We are here to ask for your help and to ask for your vote on November 2.

END (AT 12:20 P.M. CDT)

OCTOBER 16, 1976

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
LINCOLN AMTRAK STATION
ABOARD "THE HONEST ABE"



1:29 P.M. CDT

Hi, everybody. It is great to be in Pontiac. I have just been corrected -- Bloomington and Lincoln. (Laughter)

Let me say on behalf of Betty that we have had a delightful day, starting with Joliet, and it is great to be here. It is just wonderful to see such a tremendous crowd. Ed Madigan, your outstanding Congressman, tells me there are more people here than in the community itself. Thank you very much.

Before saying a word or two, Betty and I reiterate our appreciation. Let me introduce some people who have joined us in this trip through the heartland of Illinois. First, I would like to introduce to you the next Governor of the State of Illinois, Jim Thompson. Let me add how grateful I am that Chuck Percy, your outstanding United States Senator, has been with us all day long. Thank you, Chuck.

It would be the best thing for the State of Illinois to have George Lindberg, your State Comptroller, for the next two years -- four years. Then it is so wonderful to have the opportunity of saying that my association with Ed Madigan, when I was in the House and his support for me while I have been President of the United States, I appreciate it. He is good for us, he is good for Illinois and he is great for the United States.

Let me take just a minute to let you in on some inside information. This morning I got a telegram from Governor Carter, who is attempting to clarify his position on a number of important issues. Specifically, there seems to be some confusion over exactly where Jimmy Carter does stand on a number of issues.

I sent him a telegram indicating that I am delighted to help him clarify his position on such important issues as income taxes, the deductibility of mortgage interest payments, Federal spending programs and the defense budget. The Governor denies that he is for increasing taxes on middle income families. I pointed out to him that in an interview with the Associated Press he specifically stated that he wanted to increase income taxes on those families whose income level is above the medium, which is approximately \$14,000 per year.

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I am against increasing anybody's taxes. I think we should cut taxes for the American people. The Governor denied that he had advocated eliminating the deduction for home owners' interest payments. I pointed out to the Governor in my telegram that last February -- last February 1976 -- in a debate sponsored by the League of Women Voters, he stated that he would advocate eliminating the tax deduction for interest paid on home mortgages. President Ford is against the elimination of that deduction for home owners on their mortgage payments.

Governor Carter denied that his new spending program would cost \$100 billion annually. I pointed out to him in my telegram that the spending programs proposed in the Democratic platform that Governor Carter helped to write would probably cost close to \$200 billion annually.

Specifically, such proposals as the Humphrey-Hawkins bill, the national health insurance proposal, the Perkins educational bill, a negative income tax, would cost approximately \$100 billion annually.

I firmly believe that we should keep a lid on Federal spending. The only way to hold down the cost of living is to hold down the cost of Government. I would much rather give tax cuts to the American people than to think up new ways to have the Federal Government spend your hard earned tax dollars.

Governor Carter, in the telegram to me, stated that he had not called for a \$15 billion reduction in the defense budget. I pointed out in my telegram to him that in March of 1975, in Savannah, Georgia and again in a press conference in Los Angeles, California, he called for a \$15 billion reduction in the defense budget.

I firmly believe that it is in our national interest. I strongly believe that in order to keep peace throughout the world, the United States must remain number one, and you can't stay number one with a \$15 billion reduction in the defense budget.

We cannot preserve our independence and provide help and assistance for freedom around the world, defend our own national interest, unless we are willing to have the finest military capability that the American people can buy, and under President Ford we are number one and under President Ford for the next four years we are going to stay number one.

I also suggested to Governor Carter that he might want to clarify his position on a number of other issues that are of interest to the American people. First, he really believes, as he said in an interview with Liberty Magazine, that church property should be taxed. Number two, does he agree with his own economic adviser that his economic programs would lead to additional inflation? Does he really believe that our nation is not strong enough? Does he really believe, as he stated in San Francisco, that America is no longer respected? I closed in my telegram to Governor Carter by saying that I eagerly await his response to these questions and I look forward to our next debate in Williamsburg.

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Betty and I have loved the opportunity to be in Illinois. We are here because we want your help. We are here because we want to carry Illinois. We believe with the warm and friendly receptions that we have gotten in Illinois that we are going to carry Illinois, and we are going to win on November 2.

For the last two years since I have had the honor of being President of the United States, we have restored trust--we have restored trust in the White House--we have turned the economy around, and we are on the way to real prosperity in America. We have peace, and I am proud to say that not a single young American is fighting and dying on foreign soil today. That is a record of performance, and I ask you to match that against the promises of Jimmy Carter.

Jimmy Carter--when he goes to California, he tries to sound like Cesar Chavez. When Jimmy Carter goes to Chicago, he tries to sound like Mayor Daley. (Laughter) When Jimmy Carter goes to New York, he tries to sound like Bella Abzug. (Laughter) When he comes to Illinois, he tries to sound just like a little, old peanut farmer. (Laughter) Jimmy Carter wavers and wanders, he wiggles and waffles. (Laughter)

Let me say the issues that we face today are taxes. The best tax reform I know is tax reduction. As I said in that telegram, Jimmy Carter wants to increase taxes for all above the medium income, which means that 50 percent of the taxpayers of this country will have a tax increase.

The issue of spending is a very pertinent one because that is your hard-earned tax dollar. Jimmy Carter wants to increase spending. President Ford wants to keep a lid on Federal spending.

Jimmy Carter says he wants to reorganize the Federal Government. Well, let's look at how he did it in Georgia. In Georgia, after four years, he increased the number of State employees by 25 percent or more. He increased the spending of the State of Georgia by 50 percent or more. He increased the indebtedness of the State of Georgia by over \$200 million. With that kind of a record, do you want to trust him to reorganize your Federal Government?

If you like Jimmy Carter, you like more taxes. I don't think the American people want more taxes. They want reduced taxes, as they will get, as they have gotten, under President Ford.

Let me just conclude by saying that Betty and I love being here. We love our country, as all of you do.

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When Jimmy Carter says that the United States, our country, is not respected any more, that is not true, because leaders of the free world, the people of the free world do respect the United States. And when Jimmy Carter says our country is not respected, he is slandering America. I don't like it and you don't like it, and he is not going to be President for the next four years.

I am going to come down and have the privilege and honor of shaking hands with as many of you as I possibly can. But while we are doing that, while I am trying to do that, we have some very honored and very prominent and special guests on board this train who have come from faraway places in our country to show their support for me. I am going to ask your outstanding United States Senator Chuck Percy to introduce them to you and then they will come and join me in extending the warm hand of friendship to all of you.

Thank you.

END (AT 1:44 P.M. CDT)

OCTOBER 16, 1976

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
SPRINGFIELD AMTRAK STATION
ABOARD "THE HONEST ABE"

4:03 P.M. CDT



Let me introduce a few of my very, very good friends, and a special one. We celebrated our 28th anniversary last night in the great State of Illinois. I want you to know my bride, Betty Ford.

This is my third visit to Springfield in the time that I have been President. But before making a few observations and comments, let me introduce some people that you know that I know you want to support; first, my good friend, your Senator, Chuck Percy. And let me introduce to you -- I shouldn't have to -- but I want you to know that it is important for this district, for the State of Illinois, and for the United States that you reelect your Congressman Paul Findley. And can I give you some good, sound, friendly advice? I think you ought to elect an outstanding candidate who will be a great Governor -- Jim Thompson. And then I think it would be great if you also did the same thing for George Lindberg, as State Comptroller.

As I said at the outset, it is great to be in Springfield and in Illinois. We have had a wonderful day coming from Joliet. Betty and I are here because we want your help. We think we have a record of performance, a record that shows that we have restored confidence and trust in the White House.

We have turned the economy around from the worst recession in the last 40 years, and right today we are on the road and a path toward real prosperity, not only for 1977 but for the kind of prosperity that will be good for America for a long, long time. And I won't be satisfied until every American who wants to work has a job.

But also we have peace, and we have the military capability and the diplomatic skill to keep the peace, and I am very proud that not a single young American is fighting or dying on any foreign soil today. That is a good record.

So, in the last two years-plus we have restored trust in the White House, we are on the road to real prosperity and we have peace. That is a record of performance. I lay that along side of the promises made by Jimmy Carter. It seems to me that Jimmy Carter will say anything anywhere to get to be President of the United States. When Jimmy Carter is in California he sounds like he is trying to be Cesar Chavez. When Jimmy Carter is in Chicago he tries to sound like Mayor Daley. When he is in New York he sounds like Bella Abzug. (Laughter) But when Jimmy Carter comes down to Illinois, down State, Jimmy Carter tries to tell you he is just a little, old peanut farmer. (Laughter)

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Jimmy Carter -- he wanders, he wavers, he wiggles and he waffles. (Laughter) I think you deserve a better candidate for the Presidency than Jimmy Carter, and Jerry Ford is the candidate that I want you to support on November 2.

I believe that the best tax reform is tax reduction, and Jerry Ford tried to get it for you with an increase in the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. That would be sound tax relief, tax reduction, for the middle income taxpayer who has been shortchanged by the Democratic Congress.

Jimmy Carter -- he wants to increase taxes for the individuals who will go from the median income on up. That means that under Jimmy Carter's platform, Jimmy Carter will increase the taxes of 50 percent of the Federal taxpayers in America.

Let me tell you, if you like Jimmy Carter, you like taxes. I think you prefer Jerry Ford, who wants to reduce your middle income taxes. A big issue, a major difference, between Jimmy Carter and myself -- I think we have to keep a lid on Federal spending. I think the Federal Government has to pull in its belt and stop spending your money as recklessly as we have.

Jimmy Carter embraces the Democratic platform, which calls for 60 new programs that will spend a minimum of \$100 billion more each year, and if you cost them all out, it will probably cost you \$200 billion more a year. I don't think the American people want that kind of spending, which means more inflation and more taxes.

But, Jimmy says, well, he is going to reorganize the Federal Government. Jimmy Carter, when he was Governor of the State of Georgia, told the people of Georgia the same thing. What happened? Well, in four years he increased the number of State employees by over 25 percent, he increased the spending by over 50 percent and he added to the funded indebtedness of Georgia by \$200 million.

Well, with that kind of record in Georgia, I think it would be catastrophic if he tried to do the same thing with the Federal Government. I don't think you want that kind of reorganization. I think you want a Federal Government that is responsive and responsible to the American people, and under the Ford Administration we are going to give you that.

Now, Jimmy Carter on two occasions -- once in Savannah, Georgia and once in Los Angeles -- said that the Defense Department ought to be cut by \$15 billion. He denied it, but the facts are that is what he said. On the other hand, Jimmy Carter says America isn't strong enough. Now, you can't cut the defense budget by \$15 billion and keep the United States number one. We are number one under President Ford and we are going to keep you number one for the next four years under President Ford.

MORE

But, as we have traveled from Joliet down here to Springfield, we have gone through the heart of the agricultural area of this country. It has been a great privilege and honor for us to see so many people who produce the food and the fiber that makes America really run. Five percent of the people produce more than enough for us to eat and wear and, at the same time, produce enough for us to sell overseas.

Every one of us ought to be thankful that we are blessed with the farmers of America who through their hard work do that job for us, and I thank each and every one of them for making America strong with their efforts.

A few days ago many of you probably heard Jimmy Carter say that America is not respected anymore. That isn't true. The leaders of the world, whether they are the leaders of the free world or the leaders behind the Iron Curtain, respect the United States of America, and when Jimmy Carter says that America isn't respected, I think he is slandering our country, slandering the efforts, the beliefs, the convictions of 215 million Americans.

Jerry Ford has faith and trust and confidence in the American people in our great country. I am proud of America, and with me as President for the next four years we will keep America number one.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 4:14 P.M. CDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 16, 1976

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
CARLINVILLE AMTRAK STATION

ABOARD "THE HONEST ABE"

5:30 P.M. CDT

While we are waiting for the news media, I want to introduce some of the special guests that have been riding with Betty and me on the train all day long. Let me say it is great to be in Carlinville. It is wonderful to be in Illinois. We have had a great day, and I thank all of you very, very much.

I like that sign, "Carlinville Welcomes President Ford," and I like that sign there, "The Findley Trailriders like President Ford."

It is wonderful to be here in the company with your great Senator, Chuck Percy. It is wonderful to be in the district so ably represented by Congressman Paul Findley. Send him back for your good, for Illinois' good and for the good of the United States.

We have had Jim Thompson with us. Jim Thompson will be a great Governor on November 2. Make darned sure you elect him as your next Governor of the State of Illinois.

Now let me make a comment or two. Betty and I have had a great day, starting with Joliet, coming here, ending in Alton. We are here in Illinois because Illinois is a very important State in this election November 2.

We want your help. With your help, we can carry Illinois. With Illinois we can win the election on November 2, and you will have Jerry Ford as your President for the first four years of our third century.

In the last two years, as your President, we have done three things that are good for America. We have restored trust that is necessary in the White House. The American people know that we are open, we are candid, we are straightforward. The American people know that they can trust the White House under President Ford.

Number two, in the last 18 months we have turned the economy around from the worst recession in the last four years so that we are now on the rise. I won't be satisfied until everybody who wants a job has a job. We will get it under our program for prosperity in America.

MORE

Number three, I am proud of the fact that we are at peace and that not a single young American is fighting, dying anyplace on this earth today, and we are going to keep it that way under President Ford.

I am proud of the fact that I have a record of performance, and I ask you, as voters, to lay that record of performance alongside the promises made by Jimmy Carter. Jimmy Carter will tell anybody anything anywhere just to get to be President of the United States.

Let me illustrate. When Jimmy Carter is in California, he tries to sound like Cesar Chavez. When Jimmy Carter is in Chicago, he tries to sound like Mayor Daley. When Jimmy Carter is in New York, he tries to sound like Bella Abzug. Then, when Jimmy Carter comes down to this great farmland in the area of Carlinville, he tries to make you believe that he is just a little old peanut farmer from Georgia.

Jimmy Carter wanders, he wavers, he wiggles and he waffles. I think the voters of Illinois will take my record of performance over Jimmy Carter's promises any day.

Let's take the issue of taxes. I believe the best tax reform is tax reduction. I submitted to the Congress a recommendation to increase the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. The middle income taxpayers of this country have been shortchanged, and the Ford program will restore equity to those middle income taxpayers who have got short shrift.

Jimmy Carter, he said -- quoted by the Associated Press -- that he would increase the taxes for all people in the medium income tax bracket. Jimmy Carter is saying to the taxpayers of this country that he would raise the taxes of 50 percent of the American people.

Who do you want, a President who promises to give the middle income taxpayers a break or do you want Jimmy Carter, who is going to add to the tax burden of the middle income taxpayers? I think you will take Jerry Ford.

Anybody that likes Jimmy Carter likes taxes. Don't buy him. Let's talk about spending. In the two years that I have been President, I have tried to put the lid on Federal spending because when you have more and more Federal spending, it will mean more and more inflation.

Jimmy Carter has embraced the platform that he helped to write, which calls for 60 some new programs, and if those programs become law, it will add anywhere from \$100 billion a year to \$200 billion more in Federal spending. I think the American people want the Federal Government to spend less, not to spend more.

MORE

Jimmy Carter has said that he is going to reorganize the Federal Government. Let me tell you what Jimmy Carter did when he reorganized the government of Georgia. In the four years that Jimmy Carter was President -- I mean Governor of Georgia -- Jimmy Carter increased the number of State employees by more than 12 percent. In the four years that Jimmy Carter was Governor of Georgia, he increased the spending of the State of Georgia by more than 50 percent. And, as Governor of the State of Georgia, he increased the bonded indebtedness of that State by over \$200 million.

Now if you take that record and he became President, I don't think you would want him reorganizing the Federal Government. I believe you will vote for President Ford because he is making the Federal Government more responsible and more responsive, and he is going to keep the lid on Federal spending.

Then let me take a minute to talk about agriculture. I know in this area -- this is part of that great breadbasket of America. I know that you have produced corn and soybeans and wheat. I know that you are a great contributor to the bounty of America. If you look at the farm policy of this Administration against the promised farm policy of Jimmy Carter, I believe in expanded production, record exports, the use of the free market. I believe that under our policies we have expanded agriculture and we are going to continue to keep the farmers making the decisions and keep the Government out of your pocket and off your farm. That is what I think you want.

Now let me talk for just a minute about national security. We have a wonderful country. This country is strong internally and America is strong. We are number one.

Jimmy Carter, on two occasions, has said if he became President he would cut the defense budget by \$15 billion. Let me tell you what that will do. It sounds good. Of course, he doesn't know where he would do it, but it sounds good. If we were to cut the defense budget we would strip the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and Marines of the necessary weapons that they need to keep America number one.

America is at peace because America is strong. Jimmy Carter would undercut the strength of our military and make this country weak defensively. I think America wants a strong defense. America wants peace. You want Jerry Ford to be your President so we will stay number one in the next four years.

MORE

Page 4

Last week, Jimmy Carter said, "America is not respected any more." If you look around the world, if you talk to the leaders, whether they are in the free world or whether they are on the other side, they respect America. They know America is good. They know America is strong. And when Jimmy Carter says America is no longer respected, he is slandering America.

I am proud of America like you are, and let's keep America strong so we can continue to be proud of it and be respected around the world.

END (AT 5:43 P.M. CDT)

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(St. Louis, Missouri)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT
NORTHWEST PLAZA

8:06 P.M. CDT

Governor Bond, Lieutenant Governor Phelps, Gene McNary, distinguished guests, all of you wonderful people from Missouri:

I love you and I won't let you down.

This is a tremendous gathering and it is a wonderful experience to come to Missouri after a super day. We started early, and to have this kind of a turnout in this great State really gives us the kind of a lift and will continue the kind of momentum that will give us the victory in Missouri and in the United States on November 2.

You have been introduced to all of these real superstars on the platform with me. They have been out working just as I have from Joliet to Alton to St. Louis, and let me express to each and every one of them my deep gratitude and great appreciation. It is the kind of inspiration to me that makes this job ever so much easier. They are wonderful people and I thank them very, very much.

You know, it is great to be in St. Louis, the "show-me" State of Missouri. In case you hadn't noticed, this is what my opponent calls "hiding out in the White House." (Laughter) In the last 10 days, I have "hidden out" in California, in Oklahoma, in Texas, in New York, New Jersey, Iowa, Illinois, and now to come to Missouri, it is a great, great week, and I love you.

We are not only going to win in Missouri; we are going to win that election November 2. But that not only goes for the Ford-Dole ticket but also for your great Governor, Kit Bond. Kit Bond is the kind of a Governor that you should be very, very proud of.

What has he done for the State of Missouri? He has restored honesty and integrity, he has balanced your budget without any new taxes, and he has increased jobs in the State of Missouri. Boy, if I was in Missouri, I would be proud of him and I would want him to be your Governor again, and so should you.

And let me say we can't wait to get Jack Danforth down to the United States Senate, so send him there November 2.

MORE

But the State of Missouri also has a wonderful opportunity to send some additional strengthening Members of the House of Representatives -- Bob Snyder, Joe Frappier, Joe Badarocco, Bob Witherspoon -- send them down, give us some help. They need your support and we need them in the House of Representatives.

As I said, we started in Joliet awfully early this morning. Betty and I have had a wonderful welcome every place we have been, and the culmination here just is an inspiration.

I have come here to ask for your support, your vote on November 2, so we can carry Missouri. Can I have that support?

In the last two years that I have had the honor and the privilege to be your President, we have had a record that I think is one of performance. It is a record of restoring honesty and confidence and trustworthiness in the White House. It is a record of turning the economy around, from the worst recession in the last 40 years to an economy that is moving forward, and with the kind of programs that we believe in, we are implementing, we are going to have a solid, prosperous economy for the next four years, kicking off the next century of America's progress and pride.

But then in the last two years we have established peace. Because we are militarily strong, because we are diplomatically skillful, America is at peace, and I can say with great pride that not a single young American is fighting and dying on any foreign soil tonight, and that is good for America.

So, on the basis of two years of trust, prosperity, peace, a record of performance, let's take a look at what Mr. Jimmy Carter wants to offer. (Chorus of boos) Right on; right on. (Laughter)

Jimmy Carter wants to be President so badly that he will say anything to anybody anywhere, and that is not the kind of a President we want of the United States of America.

When Jimmy Carter goes to California, he tries to sound like Cesar Chavez. When Jimmy Carter goes to Chicago, he tries to sound like Mayor Daley. (Laughter) When Jimmy Carter goes to New York, he tries to sound like Bella Abzug. (Laughter) But when he goes to Illinois or Missouri, he just says, I am a little, old peanut farmer. (Laughter)

But the truth is that Jimmy Carter wavers, Jimmy Carter wanders, Jimmy Carter wiggles a little bit, and Jimmy Carter waffles an awful lot. (Laughter)

I think you want the record of performance of Jerry Ford against those promises of Jimmy Carter.

MORE

Let's talk about taxes. I am real happy to be in a State that is so ably governed as the State of Missouri under Kit Bond. Kit Bond, as I said a moment ago, has balanced your budget without any increase in taxes.

But let's talk about Federal taxes. The best tax reform that I know is tax reduction. The record shows that the middle income taxpayers have gotten shortchanged in the last 10 years. I recommended to the Congress in January of this year that we give a tax reduction to the middle income taxpayers by increasing the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. That is the way to give relief to those hard working, law-abiding, fine, decent people who are in the middle income brackets, and I am going to pressure the Congress to give that tax relief. If they don't do it next year, we will do it the next year. That is what we have got to give to those taxpayers who work hard, obey the laws and do what is right for this great country. That is my record.

Now, what does Jimmy Carter want to do? A few weeks ago he had an interview with the Associated Press -- I almost said another interview (Laughter) -- but he had this interview with the Associated Press, and he said that he would be in favor of increasing taxes for all people of median income or above. That means that 50 percent of the taxpayers of this country would get a tax increase. (Chorus of boos) Boy, I like that reaction.

Jerry Ford wants to give you tax relief. Jimmy Carter wants to increase your taxes. Who do you want for President? (Chorus of Jerry Ford's) Keep it going. Keep it going.

All right. Let's talk about another subject. I have tried to keep the lid on Federal spending so that we could get our house in order. Jimmy Carter embraces -- in fact, he wrote the Democratic Party platform that calls for some 60 new programs, a minimum annual additional cost of \$100 billion, maybe as high as \$200 billion more. Jimmy Carter wants to spend and spend and tax and tax, and add to those inflationary costs every day.

Now Jimmy Carter says he is going to do something about reorganizing the Federal Government. Well, you know, you have to look at what somebody has done to see what they might do. So, let's look at Jimmy Carter's record. Old Al Smith used to say, "Let's look at the record."

So, we take a look at Jimmy Carter's Governorship of the State of Georgia. When he was Governor of Georgia, he increased the number of employees by over 25 percent; he increased the spending in the State of Georgia by more than 50 percent; he added to the bonded indebtedness by over \$200 million.

I will just say this: If that is an example of how he is going to run your Federal Government, I don't think you want Jimmy Carter for the next four years.

MORE

We all know that the United States is strong militarily. We have an Army, a Navy, an Air Force, a Marine Corps which is number one, and because they are they keep the peace for the United States. They keep the peace, and we are respected by our adversaries as well as our allies.

What does Jimmy Carter want to do about the Defense Department? He wants to gut it. He wants to cut it by \$15 billion a year. Jimmy Carter talks about being strong, and then he wants to destroy the capability of our military forces to meet the challenge, to keep the peace, to deter aggression.

There is a great, great American President, Teddy Roosevelt. You know what Teddy Roosevelt one time said: "Speak softly and carry a big stick." Jimmy Carter, who wants to gut the Defense Department, he talks loudly and carries a flyswatter. (Laughter)

Last week Jimmy Carter said that America is not respected any more. In the first place, it is not true. The United States of America, your country and my country, we are respected; we are loved by people all over this world. The leaders of one country after another say that the United States today is the most trusted ally and the most respected adversary.

I don't like a candidate for the Presidency saying that your country and my country is not respected. That is slander, as far as the United States of America is concerned.

And so I say to you, we should be proud of America. We should look with faith and trust at a Government who has given freedom to so many people for so long a time, a country that has given so much opportunity, a country we love, we respect and admire.

And I would love the opportunity to be your President for the next four years. We want to carry Missouri. We are going to win the election.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 8:23 P.M. CDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 19, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT



I am extremely pleased by today's announcement that housing starts totalled over 1.8 million units, at an annual rate, in September, up over 17 percent from August and up almost 40 percent from September of 1975. Housing permits in September and new home sales in August also show healthy increases.

This is excellent news for the construction industry, and illustrates the increasing confidence of builders and home buyers in the strength of the underlying economic recovery.

The preliminary GNP data released today indicated that the economy grew at an annual rate of 4.0 percent in the third quarter. While this indicates that the pause in the recovery has continued for two quarters, it should be noted that the figures on overall production mask some promising news. The overall growth rate was held down by a decline in inventory accumulation. However, final sales to consumers, investors, and governments rose by 4.4 percent compared to 4.2 percent in the second quarter and 3.7 percent in the first quarter. These figures indicate a greater willingness to spend on the part of consumers and businessmen and, like the housing starts data, indicate growing confidence in the durability of the recovery.

As I indicated last Thursday -- and today's news supports it -- my advisers in this area 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. They expect that same rate of growth in 1977.

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PRESS CONFERENCE NO. 39
of the
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

2:00 P.M. EDT
October 20, 1976
Wednesday

In the East Room
The White House
Washington, D. C.



THE PRESIDENT: Won't you all sit down.

It is easier to get in the Rose Garden. I guess we had better go back to it. We just had a door knob break off. (Laughter)

QUESTION: That is a sign of the times.

THE PRESIDENT: You can't blame that on me.

Helen?

QUESTION: Mr. President, regardless of the allegations of influences at the time, and in view of the long national nightmare we went through, do you have any regrets, any remorse for the role that you played in helping to block the first investigation of one of the worst White House scandals in history? And I have a follow-up.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe what I did in working with the Republican Members of the House Committee on Banking and Currency was a blocking of an investigation of Watergate. I did that because the Republican Members of that committee specifically asked me to get them together.

Now what that committee would have done was, as I understood it, to investigate a very limited part of certain campaign activities. It didn't have any intention or have any program to do anything beyond that.

So, what I did was at the request of the responsible people on the Banking and Currency Committee and, under the circumstances, as I knew it then, I think I would do exactly the same thing.

QUESTION: Well, Mr. President, there also is a widespread speculation that you may pardon Mitchell, Haldeman and Ehrlichman as all part of the same package. Is there any validity to that?

MORE

THE PRESIDENT: There is absolutely no validity whatsoever to that rumor. In fact, you are the first one that has raised it with me, so I want you to know it and I want everybody else to know it. There is no credence whatsoever to it.

QUESTION: Mr. President, in the past week, two top men in your Administration -- FBI Chief Clarence Brown, and General George -- I mean Clarence Kelley and General George Brown, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff -- have come under criticism for their comments involving curbs on the press and aid to Israel.

I want to know, have you made any comment on this? What is your view of this incident, and if you are elected would you keep these two men in these responsible jobs?

THE PRESIDENT: I am glad that the Counsel of the White House, through the Attorney General, did stop what I understood was to be a speech by Clarence Kelley. From what I know about the speech, I think it would have been ill-advised and would not reflect the views of President Ford in his relationship with the press.

Now, General Brown had an interview six or eight months ago. It was released at a time when I am certain that General Brown didn't anticipate it would be released, and it was released in part and not in whole.

General Brown, after consulting with Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld, did appear before the press, both of them, and explained the entire context of the interview. The total interview would lead any reasonable person to a different interpretation than the excerpts that were taken from it and were released to the press.

I happen to believe General Brown and I have reviewed the whole text of that interview myself. Some of those statements were impudent (imprudent) and were ill-advised, and I certainly don't believe that General Brown, in that position, ought to make those kind of comments in several instances, but I also don't believe it was fair in the prospective or released text that certain excerpts should be taken, and several of them taken out of context.

Now General Brown was just recommended by me and he was confirmed by the Senate for a two-year term as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. I would expect him to stay. He has a superb military record -- 35 years of devoted service in wartime -- and I think he has been a fine Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. But he made one or two ill-advised statements and I hope and trust that he won't do it again.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, you would keep both him and Mr. Kelly in their jobs?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, because I think Clarence Kelly has taken a very serious situation in the F.B.I. I think he straightened it out and I think he is a person that all of us can have trust in as far as the job as the job as the Director of the F.B.I.

QUESTION: Mr. President, at your last news conference you said that the campaign to date had been, quoting you, "mired in questions that have little bearing on the future of this nation," and that you would try to elevate the level of the discourse from there on. Subsequently you seemed to be preoccupied with suggesting that Mr. Carter was a dissembler and again to use your words, "an individual who waivers, wanders, wiggles and waffles," and your campaign organization has sponsored reproductions in advertisements of the front cover of Playboy Magazine. Is that what you meant by elevating the level of the discourse?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is graphic and accurate to say that Mr. Carter does waiver, wander, wiggle and waffle. There are plenty of illustrations, as a matter of fact, that that is true. Now the language is a little graphic, but there is nothing personal about it. I didn't attack his integrity or anything close to that. Now Mr. Carter did have an interview in Playboy Magazine. I haven't looked at the magazine. I am sure there are about seven million Americans, I understand, who will look at it and will probably read the article. (Laughter) But I reiterate what I said once before, I turned down an invitation by Playboy Magazine to have an interview such as Mr. Carter did. These are all factual statements either by myself or factual statements as to an interview that he had in a certain magazine.

QUESTION: Mr. President, Mr. Carter yesterday said that if he was elected he would end the Arab boycott. I wonder if you consider this a legitimate matter --

THE PRESIDENT: You mean the Arab oil embargo or the Arab boycott?

QUESTION: The Arab boycott on Israel -- I misspoke. I wonder if you consider this a legitimate objective and if you would like to do the same thing?

MORE

THE PRESIDENT: The Ford Administration is the only Administration since 1952 when the Arab boycott went into effect that has done anything in the Executive Branch of the government. Now Mr. Carter says that he would end it -- very short sentence. I resent the inference of that. The Arab boycott was initiated in 1952. In effect he is saying that President Eisenhower didn't do anything, that President Kennedy didn't do anything about it, that President Johnson didn't do anything about it, President Nixon didn't do anything about it, and he infers I haven't, and of course he is inaccurate there. But I resent that he is challenging those other four Presidents-- Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon -- because I know they opposed the Arab boycott just as much as I do and as much as Mr. Carter does. And I wonder if anybody can be so naive as to say in one sentence that he is going to do something that four other outstanding individuals didn't do even though they opposed the same thing, and I think it is ridiculous for him to make that kind of an allegation.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, since your nomination, your decision to choose Robert Dole as Vice President has been one of the most important ones you have had to make. His record both during the campaign and in Congress has been one of extreme partisanship; for example, in his support of nominations to the Supreme Court of Haynesworth and Carswell and his actions on the Watergate investigation.

What can you point to in his career that shows that he has that judgment, that initiative and that leadership that Americans are looking for in a Vice President and potential President?

THE PRESIDENT: He served in the House of Representatives and in the United States Senate, I think, for 16 years. I believe that his record as a Representative and as a Senator is an excellent record. In fact, it is a record of longer tenure than Senator Mondale.

So, on that basis, he is better qualified than Senator Mondale. They have different philosophies. Mondale is a very liberal Senator, and Dole is a moderate to conservative, but I think Bob Dole, on the basis of his record of service in the Congress, is fully qualified to be Vice President.

QUESTION: Mr. President, if I could go back to that Playboy interview for a moment, sir, if you haven't read it or seen Playboy, why do you think it is fair to criticize Mr. Carter about it.

THE PRESIDENT: I have read the article. I haven't read it in the magazine.

QUESTION: Well, if I could follow up on that, when you criticize him, is it because you specifically disagreed with some things that he said in that, or is it because of the political benefit that a person might be expected to get in criticizing Playboy Magazine?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know why Mr. Carter agreed to the interview. That is not for me to judge. That was a decision made by him. I don't think a President of the United States ought to have an interview in a magazine that has that format. It is a personal conviction.

QUESTION: Mr. President, a moment ago, when you were talking about the Arab boycott, you were accusing Mr. Carter of inferring that previous Presidents had done nothing about it, but you prefaced that with a statement that the Ford Administration is the only one that had done anything about it since 1952. Aren't you and Mr. Carter making the same accusations.

MORE

THE PRESIDENT: I have done it. He says that he is going to end it. I think the affirmative action that I have taken -- and it has been proven, I think, helpful, because of what has transpired since I think it was October 7 when the actual order was issued that would force companies who had participated to have their names revealed -- I think this will be a big deterrent. I hope it will.

I am against that Arab boycott, but I repeat, I am the first President that has taken any affirmative action, and I think the way that Mr. Carter stated it was a reflection on previous Presidents who I know felt as strongly as he does that an Arab boycott is contrary to the philosophy that we as Americans have.

QUESTION: If you are saying that previous Presidents did nothing about it, aren't you, in effect, making the same accusation against him?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I said he said they had not done anything about it.

QUESTION: You have said the Ford Administration is the only one that has done anything.

THE PRESIDENT: Anything that is required that companies put their name on the line that they participated or had received information, that is correct.

QUESTION: During your last debate with Jimmy Carter, Mr. Carter stated that if there was another Arab oil boycott and he was President of the United States, he would break that boycott by countering it with a boycott of our own.

Mr. President, do you think this is a realistic possibility? Could the United States break down an Arab boycott or embargo by penalizing them by refusing to sell materials to them and, secondly, even if it is realistic, would it be in the best interest of the United States?

THE PRESIDENT: My answer would be that I would not tolerate an Arab oil embargo, but I add very quickly in the current atmosphere, because of the leadership of the Ford Administration, you aren't going to have an Arab oil embargo. Let me tell you why.

In 1973, we had the Yom Kippur War. That was settled. We had the Sinai I agreement, followed by the Sinai II agreement.

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This Administration in the Sinai II agreement was able to expand the peace effort in the Middle East because the Arab nations on the one hand and Israel on the other trust the Ford Administration.

You won't find among Arab nations today the same attitude that prevailed at the time of the Yom Kippur War. You won't find the possibilities of another Middle East war today that you had in 1973. So, the probabilities of an Arab oil embargo are virtually nil because of the leadership of this Administration.

Now, furthermore, I do not agree with the proposed recommendation of Mr. Carter, if there was one. He said he would cut off food, he would cut off trade, he would cut off military arms.

I think we can avoid any Arab oil embargo and not have to resort to cutting off food that American farmers have produced and sell abroad in order to help our economy here at home.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, many people are saying that the candidates are showing no vision. What is your vision for America?

THE PRESIDENT: My vision for America, first, is that we shall be a Nation at peace as we are today. My vision of the next four years is also that we will have a better quality of life; that we will have our younger people having a better opportunity for quality education; that every person who wants a job will have a job; that the best health care will be available, at prices people can afford; that we will have a record of safety and security in the streets of America for those 215 million Americans who ought to be able to walk in their community or any other part of the country without the threat of crime. My vision would also include an opportunity for greater recreation capability.

In other words, peace, a job, better health, better education, no crime or control over the criminal situation, and a better opportunity for recreation -- those are the visions that I have.

QUESTION: Many people, though, are asking whether you truly have a vision for the underprivileged, whether you really care.

THE PRESIDENT: When you say a job for everybody who wants to work, I think that certainly indicates that you have a deep concern for the people who are disadvantaged, unemployed.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I wonder if you have made any wagers with your family, friends or staff about what the popular and electoral vote will be on November 2?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't made any wagers with my family as to the outcome, but all of us -- my four children, Betty and myself -- believe that when the votes are finally counted, the American people will want four years of the progress we made in the last two, and a better America during that period. But there are no wagers as to whether we are going to win or not.

QUESTION: Mr. President, the comment by Secretary Butz that led to his resignation was made in response to a question about the commitment of this Administration to blacks and other minorities. What is the commitment of this Administration? What plans do you have to expand the entering into the society of black and other minorities in the next four years if you are elected?

MORE

THE PRESIDENT: We have a number of good programs at the present time. We certainly will continue to enforce the Civil Rights Act that was passed when I was in Congress, which I supported. We will enforce it as to the right to vote, as to housing, as to the opportunity for minority business. We will cover the spectrum to make sure that any minority -- not just blacks but any minority -- Mexican-Americans, Chicanos, generally, blacks -- all minorities in this country ought to be treated equitably and fairly, and they will under the existing laws as they have been for the last two-plus years.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, Barry Goldwater has said that he agrees with General Brown in the sense that Israel is a military burden of the United States and that we may deplete our own armor to supply Israel and we may give Israel too many arms, too much arms. Is Israel a burden in your opinion and will we deplete our own arms in giving Israel arms.

THE PRESIDENT: That is a very good question and I would like to expand a bit in my response, if I might. The United States is dedicated to the security and survival of Israel. The three million Israelis are a democratic state in an area where democracy doesn't flourish. We have many, many good firm fine ties with the people and with the Government of Israel. I want that to be understood very clearly.

Now you have to look at the broad picture when you look at the United States and Israel's military circumstances. At the time of the Yom Kippur War, the United States came immediately to the aid of Israel with substantial military hardware and military equipment. We drew down from our reserves in Western Europe, in the NATO forces, U.S. hardware that was sent to Israel. Now that was not an irreparable situation in NATO because in the interim, from 1973, we have virtually made up that draw-down but for a period of time one could say that the immediate needs of Israel in a crisis were a burden to the United States.

On the other hand, since I have been President, from August 9, 1974 to the present time, in order to make Israel strong militarily the Ford Administration has either granted or sold about \$2-1/2 billion worth of military equipment to the state of Israel. The net result is today Israel is stronger militarily than it was prior to the Yom Kippur War because of the support of the Ford Administration.

So today Israel is not a burden militarily to the United States because of the forthright action of the Ford Administration, and you have to take the comments that have been made in the proper context. Israel is a strong ally who doesn't want U.S. troops to be a participant in any future military engagement there because Israel is strong and the Ford Administration has contributed significantly to making them strong. But in the 1973 Yom Kippur War, some emergency actions had to be taken.

Now we have overcome it. Israel is strong and they are a good ally and we are dedicated to their security and survival.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, there has been a good deal of discussion, sir, and concern that the issues discussed in the campaign have been too narrow, and you and Mr. Carter haven't discussed a broad enough range of issues, and that frankly very often during the debates you have been rattling off pre-rehearsed answers to questions regardless of the questions.

How about that large question, and would you have any particular initiative for America's troubled cities in another term.

MORE

THE PRESIDENT: Let me speak very forthrightly. I can't speak for Mr. Carter, but we don't anticipate what those questions are going to be from members of the press. We answer them based on our knowledge or our experience. In my case, they are not pre-rehearsed, and any allegations to that effect just aren't accurate.

Now let me say this about the Ford Administration and its reference to the needs and requirements of our major metropolitan areas. The Ford Administration, with general revenue sharing, with the Community Development Act, Mass Transit Act, with the LEAA program, and a number of other programs, has given more money to major metropolitan cities, to our big cities in this country than any previous Administration. That is a fact.

Now the net result is sometimes those programs have overlapped. And so about five months ago I asked Secretary of HUD, Carla Hills, to head a Cabinet-level committee called the Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization, and some time, I hope -- maybe this week or next -- we will have that Cabinet committee's recommendations so we could better utilize the vast amounts of money, the billions and billions of dollars that have gone from the Federal Treasury to our cities, so that they will be better utilized, and I am looking forward to that report. I am looking forward to having it published because I am told that it has some very good recommendations of how we can better utilize what we are making available.

QUESTION: Mr. President, in addition to doing what you did in connection with the Patman inquiry in 1972, at the request of the Republican Members of the Patman Committee, were you also asked by Mr. Nixon or anyone acting for him on the White House Staff to do that?

THE PRESIDENT: As I recall my testimony, John, before one -- maybe both committees -- I said I had never been contacted by President Nixon, by Mr. Ehrlichman, by Mr. Haldeman or by Mr. Dean, and I said that I had virtually daily contact with Mr. Timmons, who was the head of the Legislative Liaison Office. But, to the best of my recollection, neither he nor anybody in his office asked me to take a hand in the Patman action or the committee action. That was my testimony in 1973; it is my testimony, or my answer to your question today.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, you stated that Governor Carter once advocated a \$15 billion cut in the defense budget. He said that is not so, that he only wants to cut \$5 billion or \$7 billion out and he wants to take it all out of waste.

I would like to know, why don't you join Governor Carter in coming out in favor of cutting that much waste out of the defense budget?

THE PRESIDENT: First, the record is clear that on two occasions Governor Carter did say -- once in Savannah, Georgia and once in Los Angeles -- and he was quoted in reputable newspapers -- that he would cut the defense budget \$15 billion.

Now, it is true, according to what he says today, that he has gone from a \$15 billion cut down to a \$5 to \$7 billion cut. I am glad to see that as he gets better educated in these matters that he understands that you can't do that to the Defense Department and be strong enough to meet the challenges of the Soviet Union or anybody else.

All right. The Ford Administration in January of this year recommended to the Congress the military budget that called for spending what we call obligational authority of about \$112.5 billion. We said that you could keep the military strong and keep the peace as we have it with that kind of a military budget, providing the Congress would take certain other actions to improve the efficiency and achieve economies in the Defense Department, and I think those proposed economies totaled about \$4 billion.

Now, the Congress, when they got all through, only approved about \$1 billion and a half to \$2 billion of those economies that the Ford Administration recommended for the Department of Defense. So, we were on record in January for some very specific economies and improved efficiencies in the Defense Department.

The net result is Congress wouldn't go along with it. They wouldn't change the laws. But, we are going to send up a budget in January for the Defense Department that will provide for the necessary funding to keep the peace, but we will also send up the kind of economy and efficiency recommendations that we made last January.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all very much.

How do you like the afternoon shows? (Laughter)

END (AT 2:30 P.M. EDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OCTOBER 21, 1976

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
ANNUAL DINNER OF THE
ALFRED E. SMITH MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



THE WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL

7:37 P.M. EDT

Your Emminence, I thank you very, very kindly for your very warm and exceedingly kind introduction.

Members of the Smith family, Governor Carey, Senator Javits, Senator Buckley, Mayor Beame, Mr. Silver, Dr. Rusk, distinguished officials, guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Let me say first how busy it is, keeping running the country and the campaign at the same time. We seem to go from one place to another without pausing. Sometimes it gets confusing, but it is always nice to come back here to Philadelphia. (Laughter) I should say thank you and good night. (Laughter)

But, you are not going to get off that easy. You know one of the first speeches I made when I became Vice President-designate in 1973 was here at the Alfred E. Smith Memorial Dinner. I got out a copy of that speech and read it.. It was very short. I have in mind Al Smith's famous political maxim, "Don't speak until you have something to say." He also had a favorite line with a surprisingly modern ring, "Never promise anything you are not perfectly sure you can deliver."

It is no wonder that so many politicians of both parties come here every year to pay tribute to Governor Al Smith's memory. But, the dinner also gives opposing candidates a chance to meet in good fellowship for a brief respite from the ardors of their campaign, and I sincerely regret that Governor Carter is not here yet. (Laughter)

We are coming into the home stretch of this great campaign, and tomorrow is our last debate, only this one is going to be a little different from the others. Governor Carter is going to answer his questions and I am going to quetsion my answers. (Laughter)

MORE

I do have a message for Governor Carter. It is about some new security measures we have taken. We just installed a special lock on the front door of the White House. (Laughter) It is "Jimmy-proof."

I wish I had time to mention all of the distinguished Americans who are here this evening. Looking around this head table, I am not sure whether it is October at the Waldorf or Thanksgiving at Hugh Carey's. (Laughter)

Let me just say a word about your exciting Senatorial race right here in the great Empire State. Before the program, I asked Cardinal Cooke what significance he would attach to the fact that this year Jim Buckley and Pat Moynihan -- two good Irish Catholics -- are running for the United States Senate. Cardinal Cooke said it meant only one thing -- God answers prayers. (Laughter)

Tonight, rather than talking about what divides us, I would rather focus on what unites us: a deep belief in the Almighty, a deep belief in the dignity of human life, a deep belief in the morality of American leadership.

Earlier this week Cardinal Cooke dedicated a church on Staten Island which had been destroyed by fire only a few years ago. The people of that church had rallied and worked together to restore what they had originally created, and so deeply believed in.

Similarly, in the last two years the American people have rallied. We have restored our belief in ourselves and in our system of Government. During our great Bicentennial celebration this past July, we felt that renewed spirit. The sight of those tall ships from all over the world made every American stand taller.

It is one thing to cite the problems that we have in America, to list our complaints and to note the frustration over things that don't work, the disillusionment with Government that has grown so widespread.

But, we should do more. Our politics ought to mean more than noting a negative tone or negative mood in America and becoming its champion. Our politics ought to be able to capture the hope that there is in America and to find out how to nourish it in specific ways.

MORE

There is a wide range of institutions in between which can bridge the gulf between the person and the huge, impersonal institutions of modern life. These same institutions can solve problems which are beyond the power of men and women to meet as individuals and beyond the power of Government to even understand. They are the communities which a free people freely formed -- the communities of families, of neighborhoods, of friends, the communities of faith and charity.

The Jewish-Christian tradition from which this great country emerged encouraged people to help other people in need, especially the stranger, the newcomer. Those of us who were called upon to serve a people born into that tradition do well to recognize the abundance of good will and neighborliness that characterizes such people.

If we ask everything of Government, as powerful as Government in America is today, we soon may end up looking to Government to set the standards for compassion and for care.

We may soon forget that the highest standards were already set for us -- not on Capitol Hill, but long ago on two loftier peaks: On Sinai and the Mount of Olives.

So, it has been a great honor, Your Eminence, to take part in this evening's demonstration, of how good and how great is the heart of this great city and how strong are the bonds of compassion and concern that unites us as Americans.

Before I go, I note that among those absent tonight is one distinguished American who has brought his infectious good humor to many gatherings just like this one, one we can justly call the rightful heir in our time of Al Smith's nickname, "The Happy Warrior." My good friend and the good friend of many people here, Hubert Humphrey, is fighting another battle just tonight in Sloan-Kettering Hospital. He should know that he has our heartfelt prayers for a very speedy and complete recovery. We look forward to having him with us again next year, and I may dare say that vote among us all is unanimous.

Many years ago I shared a banquet podium just like this with the then Vice President Hubert Humphrey. What I said then I say again to you, to all my supporters and to all Governor Carter's supporters, and to Governor Carter himself: As we head into the final days of this great campaign, the things that unite us as Americans are far more enduring than the things that divide us. Let's all remember that both Democrats and Republicans are striving together to create a more perfect union with liberty and justice for all.

MORE

Page 4

Our unwritten compact of respect for the convictions of others and faith in the tendency of others allows Americans the luxury of rugged political competition. Let's all work to banish war from our shrinking world and hate from our expanding hearts, to make this whole planet as full of friendship and felicity as this room tonight.

Thank you and good night.

END

(AT 7:50 P.M. EDT)

OCTOBER 22, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
UPON DEPARTURE TO
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

THE SOUTH LAWN



THE PRESIDENT: Let me thank the Suitland and St. John Bands. I think they have done a great, great job. I like the way they play that last song. It is the Michigan Victor's Song and that is what is going to happen November 2.

Obviously I am overwhelmed by the wonderful turnout here this morning. I thank you all for coming. I am deeply grateful for your support, and let me say without any hesitation or reservation, we are going to win November 2 and we won't let you down.

This has been a long campaign. But political campaigns -- and I have been through 14 of them -- are very, very similar to athletic contests. You will often find in football or baseball that one team will appear to be outclassed, will start from behind, but because they work together, because they feel they have the right approach, the right plans, the right programs, and because they never give up, they win in the last quarter or the ninth inning.

Which reminds me that out in Kansas City all of the polls indicated we were some 33 points behind. That would seem to be almost an insurmountable lead to overcome. We figured it out mathematically and between that date and November 2 it meant we had to change approximately 150,000 to 200,000 people as to how they were going to vote between that date and Election Day. But a certain phenomena took place. The American people decided we had a good convention, we had a good platform, we were pulling together, and we had the right vision and the right programs for the American people. The net result was the polls began to show very, very quickly that we were gaining in a phenomenal way, and right today the polls are so close that I think we have an excellent opportunity to pull the political surprise of the century and to come back and win.

As I look at the next 12 or 13 days -- and that's all that is left -- what we do between now and then will make the difference in the direction this country is going to go in the next four years, building a foundation for the next century of American history.

MORE

If we go the way that our platform calls for, the way I believe and Bob Dole believes, we can keep the peace that has been achieved through the strength of our military capability and our diplomatic skill, we can enlarge the opportunities for economic progress so that we can honestly say that there will be a job for every American who wants a job, there will be a home in a decent neighborhood for every person or couple that wants to work and save and buy a home. It is the direction of security on our streets for our young as well as our old against crime in America. It means giving to the American people the best medical care available at affordable prices. It means greater opportunities for recreation in the wonderful, scenic places we have all over America. It means that the American people can live in a society where there has been healing, not division; where we can disagree without being disagreeable; where we can look forward in the next four years and far beyond to a quality of life, peace abroad and peace at home with prosperity for all. That's the direction we want to go and that is what is going to win November 2.

So I thank you all for being here. We will be out there working every day from now until November 2. And when the polls close on that fateful day, I want to be able to say, and I know each one of you wish to say, that you made a maximum effort to see to it that the direction of America is the right direction for the next four years.

Thank you very, very much.

END

OCTOBER 23, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Richmond, Virginia)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
STATE CAPITOL GROUNDS



9:40 A.M. EDT

Thank you very, very much, Governor Godwin. It is a very high honor and a very great privilege for me to be in this great State capital, and have the kind and very generous observations and compliments by your great Governor, Mills Godwin.

May I say it is a pleasure also to be on the platform with Congressman Ken Robinson, Lieutenant Governor Dalton and my old and very dear friend who I served with in the Congress of the United States for many, many years, former Governor Tuck.

Distinguished officials, ladies and gentlemen: At Kansas City, I said that I would not concede a single State, I would not concede a single vote, that I would campaign from the snowy banks of Minnesota to the sandy plains of Georgia. I have kept that pledge -- just today Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, ending up in California. So, let me say without any hesitation or reservation, we are going to see as many people as we can to keep that pledge that I would not concede a single vote or a single State.

I had last night one of the greatest honors to spend the night with Governor Mills Godwin and his lovely wife Catherine. Back in the days when Governor Godwin was a Democratic Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, I envied him, I respected him and I had a long hope that some day we could be together. And let me say very, very strongly that Governor Mills Godwin is one of the giants of American politics, and we are proud of him.

But I am also proud to say that Virginia is the second home of the Ford family. We lived in Alexandria for some 25 years before we moved into the White House. In fact, for the first few days after taking the oath of office on August 9, 1974, we lived in our home in Alexandria and actually commuted to the White House and to the Oval Office. So, one could honestly say for a limited period of time Virginia was the White House for the United States.

Our four children went to the public schools in Alexandria. I paid taxes in the State of Virginia. I even belong to the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Company in Alexandria, thanks to my good friend Marshall Beverly of Alexandria. (Laughter)

MORE

Yes, the Commonwealth is widely known, and properly so, as the Mother of Presidents, and I am proud to be an adopted son. Our Bicentennial celebration vividly reminds us of the native sons and daughters of Virginia who have written glorious chapters in the history of this great country. Their names are American legends -- George and Martha Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Patrick Henry, George Mason, William Henry Harrison, Zachary Taylor, John Tyler, Woodrow Wilson, John Marshall, Robert E. Lee, Harry Byrd, Senior, and now Harry Byrd, Junior.

In this campaign you know where I stand. I stand on your side for limited Government, for fiscal responsibility, for rising prosperity, for lower taxes, for military strength and for peace in the world. I stand for your principles. Can I count on your support November 2?

After so many years of war, America has enjoyed the blessings of peace with freedom. Not a single young American is fighting and dying today on any foreign battlefield, and I intend to keep it that way. Not a single American wife or sweetheart, mother or father, is wondering whether their loved ones will be a wartime casualty tomorrow, and I intend to keep it that way.

After so many years in which America's defensive needs were shortchanged, I proposed in 1975 and again in 1976 the two largest defense outlays in America's history and convinced the Congress to stop slashing away at our military spending and our defense capability.

After many, many years of runaway growth in the Federal budget, I submitted a budget for fiscal year 1977 which cut the rate of growth in Federal spending in half. I have held the line on Government spending with 64 vetoes and saved the hard-pressed taxpayers \$9 billion.

Because I have not been afraid to say no to excessive spending, we will submit a balanced Federal budget by 1978 and we will have another tax cut in the meantime for the hard-pressed American taxpayer.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has a well-deserved reputation for financial integrity, and I will do my very best in the next four years to see that your Federal Government matches that reputation you so well earned under Governor Mills Godwin.

After so many years of uncontrolled inflation, we have cut inflation in half, and will do even better in the future, because you know, as I know, that inflation is the cruelest tax of all. It hits all segments of our population, but particularly those who live on fixed incomes.

MORE

Now, after the worst recession in this country in the last 40 years, we have added four million new jobs to the American economy, not by creating deadend jobs at the taxpayer's expense but by stimulating jobs with a future in the private economy where five out of the six jobs in America exist today. Still, too many people are out of work. We are not satisfied with the progress that we have made, but more Americans were working in 1976 than ever before in the history of this country, nearly 88 million, and that is a tremendous comeback from where we were just 18 months ago.

After suffering a tragic betrayal of public trust two years ago, America has had its faith restored in the White House. My Administration has been open, candid, forthright, and we will keep it that way during the next four years.

As I told the Southern Baptist Convention in Norfolk earlier this year, I firmly believe that private morality in public service can and must go hand-in-hand, and it will under a Ford Administration.

This is only a part of my Administration's record over the past two years. We inherited a great many difficulties, as I said in the debate last night. But I was honored to come and to try and serve you during this very troublesome period in American history.

I have outlined some of the things we have done but let me quickly tick off some of the other things I think are accomplishments. Farm exports and farm income are at an all-time high. A major effort is already underway to cut red tape in the Federal bureaucracy. We are working for peace and justice in the Middle East and throughout the world. In every field, America is on the move. We have made an incredible comeback in the past two years, and I promise we are not through yet.

You can believe me when I say America is strong, and we will keep it strong, because the American people are willing to pay the price for that kind of national security.

You can believe me when I say this Nation is sound, this Nation is secure, this Nation is on the way to a better quality of life for all Americans, and this Administration has earned the trust of the American people.

My record is one of progress, not platitudes; performance, not promises. It is a record I am proud to run on, a record the people of Virginia and the concerned citizens throughout this country -- Democrats, Independents, and Republicans -- will support on November 2.

MORE

Give me your mandate and we will reduce the growth of Government still more.

Give me your mandate and we will insure the integrity of the Social Security system. We will improve Medicare so that our older citizens can enjoy the health and happiness that they have earned. There is no reason they should go broke just to get well.

Give me your mandate and we will make sure that this rich Nation does not neglect its citizens who are less fortunate than we, but provides for their needs with compassion and with dignity.

Give me your mandate and we will create a tax structure that is fair to all, that will preserve the family home, the family business, the family farm, and give our industry an opportunity through tax incentives to provide jobs by modernization, building new factories, competing abroad, so that America's economy will be healthy and strong for the betterment of all.

Give me your mandate and we will expand the recreational opportunities and restore the healthy environment of this great country as our legacy to future generations.

Give me your mandate and I will lead this Nation on the path of peace through strength and we will live in peace and freedom in the United States of America. I have no fear for the future of America. The future to all of us is a friend. And as we go forward together I promise you once more what I promised you before -- to uphold the Constitution, to do what is right as God gives me to see the right, and to do the very best that I can for America.

God helping me, I will not let you down.

END (AT 9:55 A.M. EDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 23, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Columbia, South Carolina)

THE WHITE HOUSE
REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FAIR



4:20 P.M. EDT

Let me thank all of you for the opportunity to come to Columbia, South Carolina, to the great State Fair.

I would just like to introduce a member of our family, who went to the fair while I went to the football game. I would like to introduce to you my son, Steve Ford.

Two weeks ago I went to the Texas State Fair. This morning I stopped at the North Carolina State Fair. Here I am at the South Carolina State Fair. I love fairs. Thank you very, very much.

But what I like best is those figures up there.

But let me be serious, if I might. We have a great campaign that is about to come to its conclusion on November 2. The issues are very important. We have been hearing that only about 50 percent of the people are going to vote. I hope that is not true, because the course and direction of this Nation could well be decided on November 2, and that course and that direction for the next four years and perhaps for the next century.

Let me tell you where I stand. I stand for a strong national defense. America must be number one, and will be number one. We have the best Army, the best Navy, the best Marine Corps, the best Air Force, and under President Ford we are going to keep it that way.

But we also have to have a strong economy, and that means not only an industrial economy but it means a strong agricultural economy. We believe very strongly that American agriculture is probably one of the most important segments of our society, and we are going to keep agriculture in America strong under President Ford for the next four years.

MORE

I think a few of you may have heard the debate last night. I am not going to ask you who won, but I do want to repeat one or two things that I believe are very important for us to remember.

Two years ago, in August, this country was in serious trouble. Today, we have made a substantial amount of progress. We have gone from a lack of trust in the White House to confidence and trust in the White House under President Ford. We have gone from inflation of over 12 percent two years ago to a rate of inflation under 6 percent, and it is going down. We have made a lot of progress in winning the battle against inflation, and we are going to make a lot more between now and the end of the next four years.

But then, let me make one other observation. America is at peace. We are at peace, because we are strong. Not a single young American is fighting and dying on any foreign battlefield tonight. We are able to do that because the United States has the military capability and the diplomatic skill through strength in our allies and respect from our adversaries.

But the most fundamental thing that is important in America is our moral and spiritual strength. The United States is a Nation where each and every one of us has an opportunity to participate -- to participate in Government, to pray to God, to have our own religion, and strengthen the character of America. And I think by any standard we can say we are proud of America and we are proud to be Americans.

Thank you very, very much.

END

(AT 4:30 P.M. EDT)

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Raleigh, North Carolina)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE FAIRGROUNDS

12:17 P.M. EDT

Governor Holshouser, Liddy Dole, Dave Flaherty, distinguished officials and guests:

It is great to get together with one of my family again, our third son, Steve Ford.

I also wish to express my deep appreciation for the fact that an old and very dear friend of mine, Congressman Jim Broyhill, is here.

For many, many reasons, it is a great privilege and a very high honor to be back here in the Tarheel State, and I thank you for the wonderfully warm and hospitable welcome.

In Kansas City, I promised not to concede a single vote or a single State. I meant it, and let me give you where I have been to prove the point. Some people have said, well, I have been spending my time in the Rose Garden. Some people have been saying I have been hiding out. Well, here is the itinerary.

Today I was in Virginia, now in North Carolina, and later in South Carolina; last week in Oklahoma, Texas; the week before in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. I don't think that is hiding out in Washington, D. C. (Laughter)

A couple of weeks ago I opened up the State Fair in Texas, but Jim Holshouser told me if I wanted to see a really big fair, I would have to come to North Carolina. I am here and I love it. Thank you.

Well, while I am here, let me extend a very special invitation to come to Washington next January for the inauguration of Jerry Ford and Bob Dole; or, to put it another way, you all come. (Laughter)

In Kansas City, I knew I had picked an outstanding teammate or running mate. Bob Dole has a superb record, not only in the House of Representatives but in the United States Senate. But I didn't really understand that I got such a big dividend when we got Liddy Dole with Bob Dole, and thank you very, very much.

Let me express my deepest appreciation to your outstanding United States Senator Jesse Helms, and the two fine Congressmen that I know so well, Jim Broyhill and Jim Martin. Let's add a few more just like them on election day.

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Over the years, I have developed a very close and warm friendship with the people of this State, dating back -- I went to law school here one summer at the University of North Carolina (Laughter), I spent a few months in Chapel Hill -- (Laughter) -- assigned there by the Navy in World War II. My oldest son, Mike, and his wonderful wife, Gayle, graduated from Wake Forest and, of course, as I mentioned earlier, we are delighted to have that wonderful Southern accent, that beautiful gal, Elizabeth Hanford Dole, from Salisbury, North Carolina.

But let me talk very straight to you for a few minutes. You know where I stand. I stand on your side for limited Government, for fiscal responsibility, for rising prosperity, for lower taxes, for military strength and for peace in the world. Not a single young American is fighting or dying on any foreign soil today, and I intend to keep it that way.

After so many years in which America's defensive needs were shortchanged, I proposed the two largest military budgets in America's history, and I was able to convince the Congress to stop slashing away at military spending.

After so many years of runaway growth in the Federal budget, I submitted a budget for this fiscal year which cut the rate of growth in Federal spending in half. I have held the line on Government spending with 64 vetoes and saved you, the hard-pressed taxpayers, \$9 billion.

Because I have not been afraid to say no to excessive spending, we will be able to submit a balanced Federal budget by 1978 and, in addition, we will have another tax reduction for the American taxpayer, particularly the middle income taxpayers of this country.

My idea of tax reform is tax reduction. I am sure you recall that I submitted to the Congress a proposal to increase the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. That is meaningful tax reduction to the long shortchanged middle income taxpayers. Congress didn't pass it, but I make a pledge to you that I am going to keep the pressure on the next Congress until they do and, if they don't, they will hear about it in the next election.

After so many years of uncontrolled inflation, we have cut the rate of inflation by better than 50 percent. We will do even better in the future. After the worst economic recession in 40 years, we have added 4 million jobs to the American economy in the last 18 months, not by creating deadend jobs at the taxpayer's expense, but we have added these 4 million jobs by stimulating the private economy where five out of the six jobs are in America today.

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Too many people are still out of work. We are not satisfied with the progress we have made, but more Americans were on the job in 1976 than ever before in the history of the United States, nearly 88 million, and that is a tremendous comeback from where we were just a year and a half ago. After suffering a tragic betrayal of public trust just two years ago, America has had its faith restored in the White House. My Administration has been open, candid, straightforward, and we will keep it that way for the next four years.

As I told the Southern Baptist Convention in Norfolk earlier this year, I firmly believe that private morality in public service can and must go hand-in-hand.

I mentioned only a part of the Ford Administration's record in the past two years, but let me add just a few more. Farm exports and farm income are at an all-time high. A major effort is already on the way to cut red tape in the Federal bureaucracy. We are working for peace and justice in the Middle East and throughout the world. In every field, America is on the move, on the march.

We made an incredible comeback in the past two years and we are not through yet. You can believe me when I tell you that America is strong and will be kept strong, because the American people are willing to pay for that kind of national security.

You can believe me when I say this Nation is sound, this Nation is secure, this Nation is on the way to a better quality of life for all Americans, and this Administration has earned the trust of the American people for the next four years.

My record is one of progress, not platitudes; performance and not promises. We don't need Government to do everything for us or to tell us everything we can or cannot do.

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We have a great reservoir of talented industry in this country and it is not all concentrated on the banks of the Potomac River. You have got it here in North Carolina; it exists all over America. That is where the progress will come as we move ahead in our third century in the United States. More often you will find it on the banks of the Neuse River here in Raleigh or on the beautiful New River we helped to save in the mountains of Western North Carolina, or on the Outer Banks down east.

Let me say I was deeply grateful to your great Governor Jim Holshouser for listing some of the things that this Administration has done in working with his Administration. The relationship between your Governor and myself is a close one, and I can say -- because I know a few Governors around the country -- in Jim Holshouser you have one of the best, and you should be proud of him.

Having spent as much time as I have during my life in the great Tarheel State, I think I know something about the way the people in North Carolina feel. I don't think you here in North Carolina are ready to see our free economy bogged down with even more rules, regulations, red tape and red ink, and I hope you will register your opinion loud and clear on November 2.

This great State Fair is a good example of what people can do by themselves. We have the most productive farmers in the history of mankind. One American farmer today feeds 56 other people. The farmers of North Carolina, as Jim Holshouser said, will bring in their highest income from their tobacco crop in 1976. I compliment you for it. We are proud of that productivity.

I want to preserve the family farm in North Carolina, and throughout America. I have been fighting all year to revise the estate tax laws to insure that you won't have to sacrifice your farms just to pay the Federal tax collector.

I recommended this increase in the personal exemption in the estate tax from \$60,000 to a higher figure. The Congress finally passed it, and I was pleased that they raised, on my recommendation, the tax exemption from \$60,000 to something like \$175,000 and stretched out the payments on those estate taxes.

This is constructive legislation because the family farm means so much to the people of North Carolina, as well as in the other 49 States. For those who want to own a home in rural America, I am announcing today that I have directed the Department of Agriculture to raise the moderate income limit for rural housing loans from \$12,900 to \$15,600.

This change, coupled with the recent increase in the low income limit from \$8,500 to \$10,000, and lowering the interest rate to 8 percent, will greatly increase our ability to help rural families buy a home of their own and a home is the most important factor in building a strong America.

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But rural vitality is not all that North Carolina has going for it. The North Carolina Research Triangle and the other fine colleges and universities in this State have helped make America the most advanced technological and educational society in the history of mankind.

Just this week America made a clean sweep in the Nobel Prizes for Economics, Chemistry, Physics, Medicine and Literature. This is the first time in history that a single country has been the home of all of these winners. I am proud to be a citizen of the great United States of America, and you and I can be proud of what has been done and we can be proud of the progress we are going to make in the future.

We have our problems, but in the last two troubled years we have come a long, long way: our long national nightmare is over; four million new jobs have been created in less than two years; inflation cut more than half; trust has been restored in the White House; America is at peace at home as well as abroad; we are putting our old angers aside; we are putting our old problems behind us and healing our wounds.

It is a record I am proud to run on, a record of the people of North Carolina and concerned citizens -- Democrats, Independents and Republicans -- throughout America will support on November 2. Give me your mandate and we will reduce the growth of Government still more. Give me your mandate and we will insure the integrity of the Social Security system.

We will improve Medicare so that our older citizens can enjoy the health and happiness that they have so richly earned. There is no reason that they should have to go broke just to get well.

Give me your mandate and we will make sure that this rich and wonderful nation does not neglect its citizens who are less fortunate than ourselves but provides for their needs with compassion and with dignity. Give me your mandate and we will create a tax structure that is fair to all, that will preserve the family home, the family business, the family farm and give industry in America the opportunity to modernize, to expand, so that we can create more jobs for the young who are coming into the labor market.

Give me your mandate and we will expand the recreational opportunities and restore the healthy environment of this great country so that we can leave a legacy to future generations of America. Give me your mandate and I will lead this nation on the paths of peace through strength and we will live in peace and freedom in the United States of America.

MORE

Page 6

I have no fear for the future of America. The future is our friend, and as we go forward together, I promise you once more -- as I have promised you before -- to uphold the Constitution, to do what is right, as God gives me to see the right, and to do the very best that I can for America. God helping me, I will not let you down.

Thank you very, very much.

END (AT 12:37 P.M. EDT)