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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 24, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Pasadena, California)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
GOLDEN CIRCLE RECEPTION

THE GEORGIAN ROOM
THE HUNTINGTON-SHERATON HOTEL



9:00 A.M. PDT

I can't express adequately my deep appreciation to all of you who have supported the party and supported our efforts with your Golden Circle participation. It is wonderful to be in California after a hard day yesterday in Virginia, where we got a wonderful reception; in North Carolina, where the enthusiasm was really spectacular; and where the results in South Carolina were far beyond our expectations.

I might just give you one poll that is somewhat indicative. I went to the Notre Dame-South Carolina football game, the last half. I went to the latter half because in that half South Carolina outscored Notre Dame, (Laughter) even though they didn't win the ball game. But anyhow, we went to the State Fair and they have a big poll like you see for the community chest and the like. Ten days ago we were behind on a ratio of three to two. Yesterday we had roughly 10,500 votes and my opponent had 7,300.

What I am really saying is that we are making substantial inroads in those areas where my opponent thought he had a free ride. He doesn't, and the net result is we are going to do very well in many parts of the country where a month ago it didn't look very optimistic. But, when you get to the bottom line for us to win this election and to keep the direction this country is on -- which I think is a solid, a very optimistic future -- it is critical that we win California.

California is a State that we must win, and all of you coming here early on Sunday morning and your long support for the party and the principles that we stand for is indicative of the concern you have. So, if you can just double, redouble, quadruple your efforts between now and November 2 and we win California, we will keep America going in the right direction.

Thank you very, very much.

END

(AT 9:03 A.M. PDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 24, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Fountain Valley, California)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
FOUNTAIN VALLEY RECREATION CENTER

2:20 P.M. PDT

Thank you very, very much, Duke, or John Wayne.
We love you however we use the name.

Congressman Chuck Wiggins, our fine Congressional candidates, Bob Badham, Jim Combes, Dan Lungren, Glenn Ford, Ed Nelson, this wonderful group of singers, we really appreciate the talent and the contribution. Thank you very, very much.

And then it is a great privilege for an old "has-been" athlete to have on the platform here with us Steve Garvey, Andy Etchebarren, Don Sutton. I thank you all very, very much.

I am especially honored, it is really a rare privilege to come to California and to see such a tremendous turnout, and one of the highlights of this campaign -- and I can say it without any hesitation or qualification -- is to have Duke do the honors of introducing me and giving me an opportunity to say to all of you and to the many, many millions of people here in California what I believe in and where I stand.

It has been wonderful to come back to California. As I said in Kansas City, I do not concede a single State or a single vote. I believe that the American people in all 50 States want straight talk. They don't want their candidate for the Presidency to promise more than he can deliver, but they want him to deliver everything that he promises.

Since Kansas City, I have come to this great State on two occasions. Betty has been here several times and three of our children have visited various parts of this State. You have given us, as a family, a warm and enthusiastic reception.

But let me reciprocate by saying we admire you, we love you, and we thank you.

I have a feeling, after being here, that the Ford-Dole ticket will carry California on November 2. And while I am here, let me extend to all of you a very special invitation: Come to Washington next January 20 and help us inaugurate the Jerry Ford-Bob Dole ticket for the next four years.

MORE



You know where I stand. I stand for limited Government, for fiscal responsibility, for rising prosperity, for lower taxes, for military strength and peace throughout the world. Not a single young American is fighting and dying on foreign soil today, and we are going to keep it that way.

After so many, many years in which America's defensive needs were shortchanged by the Congress, I proposed the two largest defense outlays in America's history and I convinced the Congress during this last session that they have been playing with fire and that if we were going to keep the peace that we had, that they could not go through the routine that they followed in the past. And they went along with the kind of defense spending that I proposed, the kind that means we not only have security today but we will have it in the years ahead. And let me say, the next Congress, under the Ford-Dole Administration, will have to keep the same commitment to the American people.

Let me add parenthetically, my opponent in this campaign -- and I say this with some sadness -- has proposed a defense cut of at least \$5 to \$7 billion. That kind of defense cut would require troop withdrawals from strategic outposts overseas, delay or cancel many of our new, advanced weapons systems, such as the B-1 bomber, a slowdown in our ship construction program or some degree of damage in all of these areas, which means closing defense plants and military bases right here in the United States and quite possibly in this great State of California.

You don't want that, neither do I, because America must be strong if we are to be the leader, if we are to maintain the peace, if we are to repel aggression, if we are to deter those who would destroy our kind of society.

I pledge to you that in the next four years we will keep our defenses strong and we will keep the peace and freedom that is so dear to all of us.

After so many years of runaway growth in Federal spending, with the Federal budget escalating much too rapidly, I submitted a budget for this current fiscal year which cut the rate of growth in Federal spending by 50 percent. I have held the line on Government spending with 66 vetoes and saved the hard-pressed American taxpayers more than \$8 billion.

And let me look each of you, as a family, right in the eye -- those 66 vetoes have saved each family approximately \$200. That is progress and we will continue that progress in the future.

MORE

Because I have had the will and the courage and sometimes a little toughness, because I have been able to say no to excessive spending, we will have a balanced budget submitted in 1978. But more importantly, as we cut the rate of growth of Federal spending, as we restrain the kind of spending that is uneconomical, non-productive, as we accomplish that, I promise to you that we will have another tax reduction at the Federal level.

But, let me tell you where we are going to have that tax reduction. We are going to give that tax reduction to the middle income taxpayer, who over the years has been shortchanged by the Congress. The middle income taxpayer deserves a break and Jerry Ford will see to it that you get it. The way to do it was the way I proposed in January -- to increase the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000 per person.

Let me illustrate what that means to the head of the household who next January makes out his income tax return. If he has a family of three children, himself and his wife, that means that that taxpayer will get an additional \$1,250 in exemption. That is meaningful. The Congress didn't do it this year, but next year I am going to keep the pressure on that Congress. If they don't do it next year, we will keep the pressure on them the next year, and if they don't do it then, you take them and you lick them in the polls in 1978.

Now, after so many years of uncontrolled inflation, we have cut inflation by half in the past two years, and I pledge to you that we will do even better under the Ford-Dole Administration.

After the worst recession in 40 years, it wasn't pleasant. You know we were in a troubled time. We have added four million jobs to the American economy in the last two years -- not by creating deadend jobs at the taxpayers' expense but by stimulating jobs with a future in a private economy where five out of those six jobs exist in our society.

Too many people are out of work, I admit. We are not satisfied with the progress that we have made, but more Americans were working, were on the job in 1976 than ever before in the history of the United States. That is a tremendous comeback from where we were just a year and a half ago. That is progress.

America has made incredible progress in the last two years, and you and you and millions like you -- wonderful Americans -- ought to be proud of what we have done. I am and you are, but we are going to do better.

MORE

After suffering a tragic betrayal of public trust two years ago, America has had faith restored in the White House. My Administration has been open, candid, straightforward. We have talked straight from the shoulder, and we will keep it that way for the next four years.

As I told the Southern Baptist Convention in Norfolk, Virginia earlier this year, I firmly believe that private morality and public service can and must go hand in hand, and this is what we have done and this is what we will do.

But what I have mentioned so far is only a part of the record of the Ford Administration in the past two years. Farm exports and farm income are at an all-time high. A major effort is already underway to cut and slash the red tape in Federal bureaucracy. We are working for peace and justice in the Middle East, and throughout the world, and America is respected and trusted.

In every field America is on the move, on the march. We have made a tremendous, unbelievable come-back in the past two years, and I pledge to you the next four will be even better. You can believe me when I say with conviction that America is sound, America is secure. This Nation is on its way to a better quality of life, 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, not promises. We do not need a Government to do everything for us or to tell us everything we can or cannot do. America is different.

We should never forget that a Government big enough to give us everything we want is a Government big enough to take from us everything we have. We have a great talent, a great reservoir of industry and ability in this great country, and it is not all concentrated on the banks of the Potomac.

Just this week--let me as an illustration point out to you--America made a clean sweep of the Nobel Prizes in economics, chemistry, physics, medicine and literature. This is the first time in American history that a single country has been the home of all of these great awards. We should be proud.

Because of these accomplishments of great Americans, I am proud to be a citizen of the United States, and as I look around this great crowd, I know that each and every one of you are just as proud as I am of America.

MORE

We have had our problems. In the last two years we have come a long, long way. At home and abroad we are putting away our old differences, we are putting aside our old problems, we are healing our wounds. There is an old saying that used to be common in the House of Representatives. I think it is apropos: "We can disagree in America without being disagreeable."

That is the kind of healing, that is the kind of feeling that we want in this country so that we can march together for a better America for ourselves but, more importantly, for our children and our grandchildren.

This record of two years is a record that I am proud of, a record the people of California and the concerned citizens throughout America -- Democrats, Independents and Republicans -- 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 the Medicare so that our older citizens can enjoy the health and happiness that they have earned. There is no reason why our older citizens should have to 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 ourselves, but provide 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, the family business, the family farm, that will give business in America the tax incentives that build new plants, to modernize the old ones and to create millions and millions of more jobs for the American working man.

Give me your mandate, and we will expand the recreational opportunities and restore the healthy environment of this country as our legacy for those generations to follow. Give me your mandate, and I will lead this nation on the path of peace through strength and we will live in peace and in freedom in the United States of America.

I have no fear whatsoever for this country, for America, for the future is a friend. 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 won't let you down.

Thank you very, very much.

END (AT 2:40 P.M. PDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 24, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(San Diego, California)

THE WHITE HOUSE

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION
WITH THE PRESIDENT

THE WESTGATE PLAZA HOTEL

9:00 P.M. PDT

QUESTION: How do you feel about your San Diego reception?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that the reception here tonight is one of the finest, if not the best, and I want to thank everybody tonight that is here -- 35,000 to 40,000 people on a Sunday night, and the warmth and the friendliness and the enthusiasm, well, I will sleep better. It convinces me we are going to carry California.

QUESTION: How do you feel about the race now.

THE PRESIDENT: I think we will surprise some people. I am confident. I think we will come out on top on November 2.

QUESTION: What do you intend to emphasize in this final week of blitz?

THE PRESIDENT: Trust, peace and prosperity.

Thank you all very, very much.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 9:02 P.M. PDT)

EMBARCOED FOR RELEASE
UNTIL 6:00 a.m., (EDT)
MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1976

OCTOBER 24, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(San Diego, California)

file

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
PREPARED FOR BROADCAST
OVER THE MUTUAL RADIO NETWORK



MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1976

Today I'd like to talk a little common sense on inflation.

Inflation should really be seen as a tax. It cuts into your paycheck or your savings just as surely as writing out your income tax check. And make no mistake about it, inflation is caused by government.

Two years ago when I became President, the inflation rate was 12% -- the cost of everything was going up 12 cents on the dollar each year. Today the rate of inflation is down to less than 6% -- that's a lot better. But obviously we must keep right on working at it.

What's important in this election is to understand what we've been doing right to bring inflation down -- and what we must avoid if we are to continue making progress.

In the past two years, our policies have worked to bring inflation down for three reasons:

- First, excess Government spending had to be brought under control. So I have vetoed Congressional bills 66 times. An argument could have been made for signing every one of those bills. But if inflation was going to be licked, we had to have the courage to draw the line on spending. I did it. And I'm going to keep on doing it, because I don't believe the American people should be taxed anymore -- and inflation is just another high tax.
- Second, while fighting inflation we had to do everything we could to reduce unemployment. So, while inflation has been cut in half, we've also helped create 4 million new jobs in America in 17 months -- and that's a peacetime record. And we've maintained essential Government services in our cities, and for our schools -- and, most important, for our national defense. We've even had some tax cuts, and we can have more if we stick to the course we're on.
- Finally, we've recognized the reality that inflation cannot be ended overnight. For a decade in America we've had a series of sudden changes in our economic policy. And every time there was not immediate success, we've rushed to a new approach. Well, we've been on a steady and stable course for two years now -- and it's working. I think it would be a serious mistake to change that course.

(MORE)

America will lose the battle if spending goes up too fast or if inexperienced hands take over our economic policy and send us charging off in a whole new direction.

America is back at peace again. There's honor in your White House again. Four million new jobs in 17 months. And inflation cut in half.

Things are getting better. That's why we're feeling good about America. We know we still have a lot of work in front of us. But we remember where we've been and we know how far we've come.

We've all fought the battle against inflation. We know that the enemies are government spending and drastic changes in policy. Let's stay on our steady course.

With it we can welcome America's third century with a new generation of freedom in which government controls its excesses, its taxes, its spending to let you enjoy the fruits of your own hard work. I think that is what freedom is all about.

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EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
UNTIL 6 A.M. (EDT)
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26

OCTOBER 25, 1976

File

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Portland, Oregon)

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY
BY THE PRESIDENT OVER MUTUAL RADIO NETWORK
8:15 A.M., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1976



Good morning. I would like to talk with you this morning, as this year's campaign nears its end, about a subject that is very much on the minds of most American families--taxes. As I have traveled around our country in recent weeks, people have told me, Mr. President, things are going well. America is going back to work. There is a new spirit of confidence in our land. But there is one problem that is bothering us very much--the heavy burden of taxes.

I completely sympathize with this feeling. And I have tried to do something about it. I asked Congress to cut taxes this year at a rate that would have put an extra \$200 in the pocket of the average American family. But Congress turned me down. Next year, with the mandate of your votes behind me, I will go back after them again--and this time we will succeed.

I want to cut taxes, not simply because I want American taxpayers to be able to keep more of their hard-earned dollars, but also because more money for the American consumer means more growth for the American economy--which in turn means more jobs, higher return on investments and greater prosperity for all of us.

Federal income tax payments per capita have gone up more than five times since 1950--more than twice the rate of inflation. This means that we taxpayers are giving more and more of our dollars to the federal treasury--dollars that we could otherwise be using for ourselves and our families.

Of course, when I asked Congress to cut taxes, I linked that request to a matching cut in federal spending. Reducing taxes while continuing to increase spending is nothing but a cruel illusion. Money for that added spending must come from somewhere. If it does not come from taxes, then it must come from inflation--the harshest and most unfair tax of all. By standing up to Congress against increased federal spending, I have at least been able to preserve the tax reduction that we put through last year. The opposition party, in contrast, has promised new programs calling for huge increases in federal spending during the next four years.

The total cost of these programs would be about \$200 billion--requiring a fifty percent increase in federal taxes. Just four key programs promised in the Democratic platform, including the Humphrey-Hawkins federal jobs bill, would cost just over \$100 billion.

A tax increase of this kind would not only place an unfair burden on American taxpayers. It would wreck our economy, raking off funds needed for investment, driving up inflation, causing a new and deeper recession. We have seen in Britain the result of excessive taxation, and unwise government spending--inflation, recession, economic stagnation. I am determined to prevent any similar fate from overtaking our own country.

We Americans have always been prepared to pay our fair share of the costs of maintaining a free society. We know that taxes are not going to go away. But we also know that taxes pushed too high become a threat to freedom itself. The time has come to take a stand. Next Tuesday, with your help, we will check the growth in government spending, and pave the way for a new cut in federal taxes.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 25, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(San Diego, California)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
UPON HIS DEPARTURE FROM
LINDBERGHFIELD

8:32 A.M. PDT

I have an announcement this morning before taking off for Washington and Oregon.

I am pleased to announce that the Secretary of Commerce will designate 36 counties along our border with Mexico--in California, Arizona, but Mexico and Texas--as the Southwest Border Economic Region. This region is being established in a response to a request by Governor Brown, together with the Governors of New Mexico, Arizona and Texas.

The request has been analyzed by the Department of Commerce, which has recommended establishment of this development region to me. I am convinced that organizations of a regional commission, as authorized by an amendment to the Public Works and Economic Development Act, passed in 1975, will make a major contribution to promoting economic development in the border counties.

California counties to be included in this development region are San Diego, Riverside and Imperial. As an economic development region, the Southwest border area will become eligible for Federal assistance in organizing projects to develop local economic resources. This ties in with my personal philosophy that the proper role of the Federal Government is to help regions and communities work out solutions on their own problems.

Thank you very much. We have enjoyed it here. It is a wonderful part of California and, of course, we love California.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 8:35 A.M. PDT)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 25, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Seattle, Washington)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT
PIER 57

12:46 P.M. PDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very, very much, Dan, Joel Pritchard, and may I at the very outset introduce a very good friend of mine. He is a good friend of all of yours. You have seen a lot of him lately, but you would like to see him in person -- Joe Garagiola. He can run as well as talk. (Laughter)

MR. GARAGIOLA: I am not very good at making political speeches. I just believe in people, I believe in President Ford and for the first time in my life I believe I have booked a winner.



THE PRESIDENT: I would also like to express my deep personal appreciation to the master of ceremonies, Peter Graves, who went with us in Illinois, who was with us in California. Thank you very, very much Peter.

In this process you get some experience on bands. Well, let me say that the Bellevue band, the Greenan band and the Everett band -- they are all first-class.

I can't express deeply enough my appreciation to Dan Evans, and when people say he is a Governor's Governor, believe me, that means something to me. I respect his tremendous job for you, and I am deeply appreciative of his personal friendship. Thank you very, very much, Dan.

I said in Kansas City in August a few months ago that we wouldn't concede a single State and we won't concede a single vote. We haven't, and we won't, and that is why we are going to win on November 2.

When I see such a tremendous crowd here on the waterfront of Seattle, I am absolutely confident with the enthusiasm that you have that we are going to carry the State of Washington on November 2, and we will win in this election across the country.

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While I am here in Seattle, let me extend a very special invitation for all of you to come to Washington, D.C. on January 20, 1977 to be a part of the inauguration of Jerry Ford and Bob Dole. 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, for peace in the world, and I am proud to stand here in Seattle and say not a single young American is fighting and dying on any foreign soil today, and we will keep it that way.

After so many years in which America's defensive needs were shortchanged, I proposed the two largest defense outlays in America's history, and that was tough to convince the Congress to stop slashing away -- in effect, cutting away -- our military capability.

The people of Seattle not only understand the importance of a strong national defense, but you have been doing something about it. The nation is proud of the vital role which Seattle and the Boeing Company have played in making America the leader in aviation, both civilian as well as military. Congratulations.

At this moment the Boeing B-52 is the backbone of our strategic bomber force, an absolutely indispensable element in preserving peace through strength. Let me add that my opponent in this campaign, I think mistakenly so, has promised a defense cut of at least \$5 to \$6 billion. That kind of defense cut would require troop withdrawals from strategic bases overseas; delay or cancel advanced weapons systems like the B-1 bomber; a slowdown in our ship construction program, which helps to keep the peace throughout the world. It would mean closing defense plants at military bases right here, possibly -- not only in the United States as a whole but the State of Washington as well.

You don't want that either. I don't want it, and we will keep our defenses strong in the next four years of a Ford Administration, so we can maintain the peace, deter aggression and stand tall and strong with our allies as well as facing up to any challenges of our adversaries. That is my pledge to you for the next four years.

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 of Federal spending by one-half. I have held the line on Government spending with 66 vetoes and saved you, the hard-pressed taxpayers, more than \$9 billion.

Let me tell you what that means to an individual tax-paying family. Nine billion dollars saved in the Federal Treasury -- those vetoes saved each American family about \$200 in Federal spending in the last 12 to 18 months.

MORE

Because I have not been afraid to say no to excessive spending, we will submit a balanced budget for the Federal Government in 1978, and we will have another tax reduction for the American taxpayer in the meantime. Listen carefully. My idea of tax reform is tax reduction. I propose raising your personal income tax exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. Congress didn't act on that proposal. I can't understand why.

What would it mean to an individual tax-paying family? I was in a plant the other day. One of the workers asked me, "What are you doing about tax reduction?" I told him how we wanted to raise the personal income tax reduction by \$250 per dependent or taxpayer. I said, "How many children do you have," and he said, "Three -- a wife, two children and himself." Under my proposal this would mean that that taxpayer, when he fills out that tax return in 1977 or 1978, that he would get \$1,250 more in a personal exemption. I think that is good tax reform.

We all know that the middle income taxpayer has been shortchanged in America, and so the Ford proposal for tax reform, which is tax reduction, will give the kind of tax relief that the middle income taxpayer needs and wants, and if the next Congress won't do it in 1977 or 1978, we will go to the American people and we will beat those that keep on shortchanging the middle income taxpayer.

Now, after so many years of uncontrolled inflation, as Dan Evans said, we have cut inflation in half in the past two years, and I pledge to you we will do even better in the next four.

Now, after the worst recession in 40 years--I didn't like it; you didn't like it--we have added four million jobs in the American economy in the past two years, not by creating deadend, underproductive jobs at the taxpayers' expense, but by stimulating jobs with a future in the private economy where five out of the six jobs in America exist today.

Too many people are out of work. We are not satisfied with the progress we have made, but I say with some pride that 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 18 months ago.

After suffering a tragic betrayal of public trust two years ago, America has had its faith restored in the White House itself. My Administration has been open, candid, straightforward. We call 'em as we see 'em. We talk straight from the shoulder and we will keep it that way for the next four years.

MORE

In every field America is on the move, on the march. We have made an incredible comeback in the past two years and we are not through yet. 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. 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, not promises. We don't need a Government in Washington to do everything for us or to tell us everything we can or cannot do.

As I travel the length and the breadth of America, I find that we have a great reservoir of talent and industry in America, and it is not all concentrated on the banks of the Potomac. You have it here in Washington, and, believe me, we have it in 49 other States.

Jimmy Carter said we are not respected any more. This week, America made a clean sweep of the Nobel Prizes for economics, chemistry, physics, medicine and literature. This is the first time in the history of the awarding of those prestigious awards that a single country has been the home of all these winners. That doesn't sound like a second rate operation to me.

I am proud to be a citizen of this great country, just like you are. We have had our problems, but in the past two years we have come a long, long way. At home and abroad we are putting our old differences aside, we are putting old problems behind us, healing the wounds, the anger that existed some two years ago. It is a record that I am proud to run on, a record the people of Washington and concerned citizens throughout the whole United States -- Democrats, Independents and Republicans -- who can and will support this ticket of Jerry Ford and Bob Dole on November 2.

Give me your mandate and we will reduce the growth of Government even 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 our older citizens should have to go broke just to get well.

Give me your mandate and we will create a tax system that is fair to all, that will preserve the family, the family home, the family business, the family farm, that will give to business the tax incentives to build new plants, modernize old ones, and create more and more jobs throughout America.

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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.

I have no fear for the future of this great country. The future for America is a friend, and as we go forward I promise you once more, as I promised you before, to uphold the Constitution, to do what is right as God gives me the right 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 1:02 P.M. PDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 25, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Portland, Oregon)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
UPON HIS ARRIVAL TO
PORTLAND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

3:21 P.M. PDT



Thank you very much, Bob Packwood.

Really, I feel very humble coming to the great State of Oregon and to have the endorsement of Edith Green, the endorsement of Mrs. Tom McCall, and the endorsement of such a prestigious group as you see on my right.

I think Oregon is extremely well-served by the two fine Senators that it has in Mark Hatfield and Bob Packwood. Of course, it was great to see my good friend, Wendell Wyatt.

I am delighted to be here and have an opportunity to come back and renew acquaintances in the State of Oregon, and I can assure you that in the remaining days of this campaign I will try in a very constructive way to point out the significance of this election, the fundamental differences that exist, and why, in my judgment, there ought to be a selection of Jerry Ford and Bob Dole as our leaders for the next four years.

I can assure you that what we have done in the past two years will simply be a forerunner of the kind of progress I think America can make and will make in the first four years of our third century.

Nothing was more inspirational to me than that wonderful Fourth of July when America celebrated its Bicentennial. I found all over America -- and it was reported by the news media I think with great enthusiasm because it showed a change -- America was healed, America was on the move, and we all look forward to a great opportunity to do the things in the next four and the next one hundred years that must be done to make that vision of our forefathers a reality.

So, I thank Edith. She has taken on the leadership with two others, George Feldman and Dom DiMaggio, to get all the Independents and Democrats who feel, as I do, that this country does have an opportunity to do those wonderful things that our forefathers gave us the opportunity to do. I just couldn't come to Oregon and get a finer display of the kind of support that I want, and I thank each and every one of them from the bottom of my heart.

Thank you.

END (AT 3:25 P.M. PDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 25, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Portland, Oregon)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AND
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION
WITH THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS

THE SHERATON-PORTLAND HOTEL

4:24 P.M. PDT

THE PRESIDENT: Vince Wasilewski (Laughter) -- I have learned a little Polish in the last few days (Laughter) -- it is great to be back in Oregon with so many good friends, and I feel sort of self-conscious after hearing all the wonderful comments and endorsements by Edith and the humor of your former Governor Tom McCall and the fine comments made by Bob Packwood.

I just want to say to you that it is a great privilege to be here in Oregon, and Edith hasn't asked me for any comments I might make about the debates, but I have made the observation that I think we would be better if Jimmy Carter answered the questions and I questioned my answers. (Laughter)

Well, thank you for the invitation to be here and participate in this regional conference. I would greatly prefer the opportunity to just respond to your questions.

I have a brief statement.

Just one week from tomorrow about 215 million Americans and roughly 150 out of that 215 million have an opportunity to vote. Tragically, it is indicated that no more than 50 percent of those eligible will vote. But, I hope and trust in the remaining eight days that through your efforts and the efforts of my opponent and myself, we can stimulate a greater participation.

I think it is one of the most crucial campaigns in at least my lifetime. The impact that all of you can have in stimulating participation can be very significant. Your coverage, as far as I have been able to observe, whether it is locally or by the networks, has been fair, evenhanded.

MORE



It is also true that there is an abnormal number of undecideds. It is my job and that of my opponent to try to persuade that very significant element to participate and to make a decision.

I am a little prejudiced as to where I hope they cast their final ballot, but it is my job and that of my opponent to point out the very fundamental differences that I think exist -- what he intends to do if he were President both domestically and internationally, and what I will do following the two years that I have had the privilege of being your President.

The American people really in the past, I think, have used exceptionally good judgment, and I have great faith that in the next eight days there will be decisions made by them that will point the direction in which this country goes.

I hope and trust that I can be persuasive in giving them the option that I offer of the kind of programs we have had as a foundation for a better America for the next four years leading into our third century of America's history.

It is also true that there is an abnormal number of undecideds. With this, I will be very glad to respond to any questions.

QUESTION: My question for you today is, how do you feel the broadcasters have treated you during the election campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: I say with great sincerity that I feel the broadcasters have been fair, evenhanded. I might have changed a little story here and there (Laughter) but as I said I have made a mistake or two, but overall I think the electronic news media has handled this election with great fairness, great equity and in the highest tradition of your profession.

QUESTION: Thank you, sir.

QUESTION: Washington, Oregon and Montana are three States -- among about 19, I believe -- that have initiative ballot measures regarding nuclear energy and the proponents believe we need more rigid controls on nuclear power plants and the opponents where the measures will stop further growth of nuclear power.

What is your recommendation to the voters of these States regarding nuclear power as a future source of energy?

QUESTION: My question for you today is, how do you feel the broadcasters have treated you during the election campaign? MORE

QUESTION: Washington, Oregon and Montana are three States -- among about 19, I believe -- that have

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I am not a voter in Oregon or any of the other States where that issue is on the agenda, but let me give you my personal feelings concerning the role of nuclear energy.

As this country faces the tremendous task of trying to meet certain goals by 1985 where we must have a much higher degree of energy independence than we have today, as you look at the potential sources of energy that we have in the United States, if we are going to make ourselves more invulnerable between now and 1985 against any Arab oil boycott, nuclear energy has to play a significant part.

But I, at this point, like to emphasize that nuclear energy utilization must have the highest safety standards possible that our scientific genius can give us.

Now, since I have been President, we have significantly increased our research and development funds in the energy resource and development agency so that by whatever means we can scientifically increase that safety factor.

But, I would like to add this parenthetically: The statement I make on nuclear energy I make in Washington, D.C., I made it in California in May and I make it in Oregon today. It doesn't change. Nuclear energy is an important, significant part of our overall energy program and, therefore, with adequate safety and adequate safeguards, I think that we must have in Oregon and the other 49 States a nuclear energy program.

QUESTION: First, I commend you on being able to pronounce the name "Oregon" properly. We are very proud as broadcasters for having been able to bring debates to the public and to provide an opportunity for the public to see both you and your opponent. We would ask you whether or not you would support the permanent or regular removal of the problems of 315 on Presidential debates in the future in order that they can be held without the exegesis and the burden that was previously employed by that act.

Secondly, would you also suggest removal of 315 for other debates at other levels so we could take another step forward on the First Amendment rights?

THE PRESIDENT: This is a very difficult question to give any pat answer to. I think you and this industry recognize it probably better than I. I believe in free debate among political candidates at all levels.

When I was a candidate on 13 occasions for the House of Representatives, I either challenged my opponent when I first ran against an incumbent, or I accepted a challenge whenever an opponent challenged me in the succeeding 12 elections.

MORE

As you know, I challenged Mr. Carter to the debates that we have had this year. I think they should be institutionalized in our American political system.

Now, how you can do it in a legislative way without precluding candidates who might have a legitimate reason to be a participant, that is one problem. The other is I understand in some States there are as many as 19 Presidential candidates who are legitimately on the ballot in some States.

So, the conflicts that you run into are almost insoluble. I think if I had a choice, I would leave it up to the good judgment of those that have the responsibility in the electronic media to use how they think the airways ought to be used.

I have never seen that abused where it has been given some flexibility so if 315 has to be amended to put more burden on you, more responsibility on you, a responsibility that I think you have handled well, I would favor it.

QUESTION: If we can have the burden, we will take the responsibility.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I am from Pendleton, one of the other cities you visited this year.

THE PRESIDENT: I remember it vividly out there in that wonderful arena.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I have an easy question for you, I believe. Of our two industries, radio and television, television gets much of the glamour but as a radio broadcaster, I know most of the people in my town start their day with the radio.

Sir, I would like to know, on an average day -- and I realize the past few have not been average for you -- how do you start your day? How much time do you spend with radio, sir? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: What was the last? I didn't hear that.

QUESTION: How much time do you spend with radio? Is radio important in your day?

THE PRESIDENT: I usually get up about 5:15 in the morning. I spend a couple of hours reading the Washington Post and the New York Times and the daily news summary and my intelligence briefing, and I usually do a little exercising to try and keep in reasonable shape.

MORE

I get to the office at roughly 7:30 or a quarter of 8:00. While I am reading in the morning before breakfast, I either have the radio on, if television isn't on, or I have the television on while I am -- (Laughter) -- I have the television on while I am eating breakfast. But, I think it is a very important part of the first two, two and a half hours of the day: One, to get the news as it comes in two of the major newspapers in the East, and the news summary that I get, plus the up-to-date news that comes early in the morning with radio first and television second.

I wouldn't try to balance them in minutes, but I am the beneficiary of both.

QUESTION: Mr. President, this may seem like a broadcaster question, but it is really a public interest one in a way, and I know you are a sports fan. We have had a recent example here of where Home Box Office, a pay cable organization, was able to outbid local stations or an interested network in the NIT tournaments and in a very short period of time -- perhaps two or three years -- pay cable is going to be able, due to its affluence and income, to outbid networks and local stations for much of the top and choice programming, including sports, and I would like to ask you what your view is on the siphoning of free broadcast programming to pay cable?

THE PRESIDENT: It is my recollection that I just signed a bill within the last week that in effect had an agreed solution as far as cable television taking some of the programs from some of the networks that are now handling our sports programs. The copyright legislation which Edith and I--along with Wendell Wyatt, who I think is here--I am sure, can remember the debates that Dick Poff and Manny Seller and others had about seven or eight years ago.

But, it is my understanding in the bill that I signed there is an agreed resolution of how that problem between regular broadcasters and cable people handle the pick-up of programs. Am I wrong in that?

MR. WASILEWSKI: Unfortunately, sir, it does not apply.

QUESTION: I guess perhaps your general view about pay cable, highest price to the smallest market, you know, the philosophy of it.

THE PRESIDENT: I love sports broadcasts and anything that takes that away from me as a viewer or listener, I am going to raise the devil about it. (Laughter)

QUESTION: Mr. President, broadcasters have been working for an increase from three years to five years for license renewal periods. I wonder if you would comment on this longer license renewal period.

THE PRESIDENT: As I recall, Congressman Jim Broyhill of North Carolina has been sponsoring the extension from three to five years. I have supported that proposal. I think it is in the interest of the industry and in the interest of the public as a whole.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, many of us applauded your efforts and your speeches on the general area of deregulation. When you are elected President, will you support the proposals to deregulate the radio and television stations in this industry?

THE PRESIDENT: I did not submit to the Congress any deregulation legislation in this area. I did submit to the Congress regulatory reform in the trucking, the airline and the railroads. I am not familiar with any specific legislation -- at least none has come to my attention from my staff -- for any deregulation of this industry by the Federal Communications Commission.

Until I see what such proposals might be, what impact such proposals might have, I think the current circumstances, with the exception of going from a three- to a five-year license period, I think the situation has been reasonably well handled. So, without having more information I think it would be premature and unwise for me to make an off-the-cuff comment.

I would welcome recommendations from your industry. I am sure that Vince and all of you will see to it that I hear about it. (Laughter)

QUESTION: Mr. President, as a past member of the NAB Television Board, I would like to ask you, do you think the family viewing hour concept has been good for national television, and do you favor more industry self-regulation as opposed to Government regulation?

THE PRESIDENT: I will answer the last question first. I strongly feel that self-regulation is infinitely preferable to Government regulation, period.

Since our children are now grown up and we don't have any grandchildren yet, and since I seldom get back to the Residence to watch any programs until about 8:00 or 8:30, I am really not the best judge of how the programs have been going. But, believe me, the impression I get is that the honest, bona fide efforts to take this period of time and focus it in a wholesome direction, in a self-regulatory way, I wholly applaud. I have heard minimal complaints about the way it has been done.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I am from Sacramento, where I do think you remember being there.

THE PRESIDENT: I certainly do. (Laughter)

QUESTION: It has been reported recently that Mr. Carter would make his first appointment to the Federal Communications Commission from the ranks of the Ralph Nader group. Do you have some feelings along those lines? (Laughter)

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THE PRESIDENT: I think we could find a more objective person (Laughter) than somebody that comes from that organization. I am proud of the appointments that I have made to the various regulatory agencies. I am proud of the person that I selected to be a member of the Supreme Court. We picked in that case -- and I use it as an illustration -- a person who was fully qualified legally, who was overwhelmingly approved by a potentially very critical United States Senate, dominated by individuals who are perhaps much more liberal than I.

But Circuit Court Judge John Paul Stevens was an outstanding jurist and he was overwhelmingly approved. So, for the first vacancy in the FCC, I would seek to appoint somebody of that same caliber in this particular field.

I don't think we ought to pull somebody out of a certain segment of our society just to perhaps show off a bit.

QUESTION: Mr. President, several months ago a member of your staff, Mr. Paul MacAvoy, issued a proposal which was so overwhelmingly in favor of cable television that it has caused serious concern among broadcasters.

May I ask whether you endorse Mr. MacAvoy's proposal and whether its goals will receive your active support if you are elected?

THE PRESIDENT: That report came to me roughly three or four months ago, as I recollect. I was not satisfied with that report. I told the group to go back and to reevaluate the overall situation and to report back to me when they had, in my opinion, made recommendations that I felt were more in line with my own views. That group has not yet reported back to me -- and I can't tell you when they will -- but I did not approve of the one that was submitted to me.

QUESTION: Mr. President, what future role do you see for the Office of Telecommunications' policy under your continuing leadership?

THE PRESIDENT: The Office of Telecommunications is currently more or less the telecommunications advisor to the President himself. There is a division of opinion in the Administration. One group advises me that it ought to be folded into a reasonably comparable unit within the Department of Commerce, the feeling being that those two were duplicating one another. Others feel that the Office of Telecommunications ought to be maintained as the communications advisor to the President, and probably expanded in some respects.

I anticipate that between now and January I will make a decision and I expect to have an opinion paper from the two differing views within the Administration. I don't think it is proper for me to make that judgment today, preempting the hard work that I know both are doing. I will make a judgment before January and make that recommendation to the Congress.

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QUESTION: Mr. President, I think your schedule is dwindling.

THE PRESIDENT: I am enjoying this. (Laughter)

QUESTION: Mr. President, past Administrations have been highly critical of our free enterprise broadcast system. Since you have had the opportunity in your world travels to see how other countries operate theirs, how would you compare our system to theirs?

THE PRESIDENT: From my observations in the numerous foreign countries that I have visited, it is my strong conviction that our radio-television system here is far preferable to what I have seen overseas. On the other hand, I think it is proper for me to say that I have given more support, financially and otherwise, to public broadcasting than any other President. I think public broadcasting plays a very important role in our society, and I am pleased with the management and the content that I personally observed.

But, I think we basically want the free enterprise part of broadcasting to continue its very vital role. I would vigorously oppose any nationalization of the electronic media in this country.

Competition from public broadcasting is healthy and it performs a certain function. But, to have a totally monopolistic electronic situation in this country would be an anathama to me, and I would vigorously oppose it.

QUESTION: Mr. President, do you think broadcasters might gain equal status with the print media, as far as the Fairness Doctrine is concerned, at least some time in the near future?

THE PRESIDENT: Would you repeat that again? You are getting me in the midst here. (Laughter) I like them all. (Laughter)

QUESTION: Do you think broadcasters might gain equal status with the print media as far as the Fairness Doctrine is concerned, at least some time in the near future?

THE PRESIDENT: In all honesty, when I say I feel friendly toward the news media, period, that is all-encompassing. I do. I don't always like every story I hear or every comment made on radio or television, but I have always adopted the feeling that I had a job to do in the Congress as Minority Leader or as President, and I hope they understood my responsibilities.

In turn, I understand that they have a responsibility -- a responsibility to the public, a responsibility to their employer -- and I have always felt that they performed very admirably. Don't get me in-between who is the best or the worst between the electronic and the writing press. I have enough trouble without that. (Laughter)

THE PRESS: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

END (AT 4:52 P.M. PDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 25, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Portland, California)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AND
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

PORTLAND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

5:20 P.M. PDT



THE PRESIDENT: I just thought we might take a minute to answer some of your questions before we take off for Pittsburgh. We have had a wonderful two days in California, Washington and now in Oregon. We are very optimistic. We think the momentum is going with us. We are going to surprise some people and to stop here in Oregon with Edith and all the others who came forward and indicated their support just makes this stop a wonderful one and a very fine last few days.

So, if you have any questions, go ahead.

QUESTION: Mr. President, are you surprised to be finding yourself running literally neck and neck with Jimmy Carter at this late stage in the campaign, and are you confident of turning it around in one week?

THE PRESIDENT: When you look back before our Convention in Kansas City--where we were 33 points behind nationally and now we are virtually neck and neck--I think we are going to win because we have the momentum going with us. I think it proves the American people support what we have done in the last two years and know that from that foundation we can build a better America in the next four.

So, I am just very, very thankful for the support we are getting from people all over the country.

QUESTION: Mr. President, our Senator was warned that if the nuclear initiative should pass in this State or other ones, that the Federal Government might intervene, we might see the Congress stepping in to tell the States to build nuclear plants anyway. Do you foresee that happening?

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't want to pass judgment on anything of that kind. I expressed myself this afternoon that I believe nuclear energy is a very important ingredient in our effort to become energy independent by 1985. At the same time, I fully recognize that we must and we will maximize our efforts to achieve safety in the development and the implementation of a nuclear energy program.

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Our scientific efforts are superb in this country. The best recognition, I think, is the fact that we won seven of the Nobel prizes, the first time in the history of those prizes that one nation had a sweep. As I recall, three or four of those people were nuclear experts. So, we are going to get safety, we are going to have adequate safeguards and we are going to get nuclear power. I think it will be in the best interests of the United States.

There is a young lady back there.

QUESTION: Do you think that a comprehensive health care program is imminent and, if you do, can you talk about what form you think it will take?

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Carter has embraced comprehensive mandatory national health insurance. I think there is a better answer. I feel that the Federal Government with the kind of recommendation that I have made for catastrophic health insurance for the individuals in our senior citizen area, they need catastrophic health insurance, and I am going to get the Congress to do something about it in the next session.

But, I don't think we should federalize health care, as Mr. Carter proposes to do. I don't think that is the right answer. It hasn't worked in the countries around the world where they have tried it on a mandatory basis. I think there is a better answer, and the one I propose is the best one.

QUESTION: Mr. President, could I ask you again the question that I asked you earlier in the day?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course, Phil.

QUESTION: Why have you stopped attacking Jimmy Carter by name, as you were doing just a few days ago, or before the last debate? Have you stopped because you found it was backfiring?

THE PRESIDENT: Not at all. We found that his programs were not catching on. We found that our affirmative approach was making significant headway, and when you are doing the right thing by talking about programs that the public supports -- peace, restoration of trust and a healthier economy -- the people support it. Why should I bother about the programs the public is apparently turning down that he recommends?

QUESTION: So from now on you are not going to attack Jimmy Carter by name in the rest of the campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not going to go that far. There may be some slip or some mistake that he is prone to make, and if he does, I will remind the American people of it so I can get the press to do the same.

MORE

QUESTION: But no more of this waffler and all this other business that you were calling him just a few days ago?

THE PRESIDENT: I said we were going to be very affirmative, Phil, and I hope that the American people will do as I think they are doing -- they are going to accept and endorse and embrace the affirmative Ford programs, and the polls show we are doing real well.

QUESTION: Mr. President, on your schedule, I believe you were to meet with a bunch of labor leaders from Oregon here at 5 o'clock. Did you, in fact, meet with them? There were some reports that none of them showed up.

THE PRESIDENT: It is my understanding that for various reasons which you ought to ask them, they were not available.

QUESTION: Did you meet with any labor leaders while you were here?

THE PRESIDENT: You would be very pleased to know, I am sure, that Tom Murphy, the head of the Bricklayers, a week or so ago, endorsed the Ford candidacy. He is the head of the international group.

QUESTION: But you didn't meet with any of the important leaders?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I did not.

QUESTION: Mr. President, the last-minute saturation campaign on TV and on radio that you are conducting, do you think this is a last ditch attempt to gain the momentum that you need, or was this planned all along?

THE PRESIDENT: This was a well-planned campaign, and we followed the program that we outlined after Kansas City almost precisely. And we are now utilizing the legal resources the way we thought they could best be utilized, and I think they are going to be effective, because we have good television advertisements, they are all affirmative.

Our campaign strategy was decided right after Kansas City. It is working, as we have gone from a deficit of 33 points around the country. So, we are neck-and-neck, and we have the momentum, and I would rather win in the fourth quarter than be ahead in the first.

QUESTION: Why didn't you appear with Ronald Reagan at any time during this Far West campaign?

MORE

THE PRESIDENT: Because he had other commitments, I think there was a telegram which I understand --

QUESTION: Some of your aides said they didn't believe that excuse, that they felt that he was up at his ranch forming another party so, if you lose on November 2 he can come out.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, you are in a very disagreeable mood today. (Laughter) And you are such a nice guy. Why are you so disagreeable today?

QUESTION: You don't have any suspicions?

THE PRESIDENT: Not at all, because I called him and talked to him the day before and he had a long-standing commitment and he made the suggestion himself.

QUESTION: That he not be on the show with you?

THE PRESIDENT: That he could not break these irrevocable commitments, and he made the suggestion that he would send a telegram, which he did, which was circulated with the press. And I talked to him personally. So, I know precisely what his plans were, how firm those commitments were and he made the suggestion to send the telegram.

Gosh, Phil.

QUESTION: You believe him?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, don't be so disagreeable.

QUESTION: Mr. President, would you be inclined to go to Texas if you had a choice?

THE PRESIDENT: We hope to go to Texas before November 2.

QUESTION: Would you invite Governor Connally to share the trip with you?

THE PRESIDENT: I would certainly hope that he would, and I know from the last trip to Texas that John Connally is doing 110 percent on behalf of President Ford and Bob Dole, so I am confident that, unless he has some other commitments that make it impossible, that John Connally will be on the program.

Can you imagine a better team -- Garagiola, Connally and Green? Man, that will be something.

Yes, Dick?

QUESTION: Did you hear that Jimmy Carter was hiding out down in Plains this weekend?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, if he was hiding in Plains, I understand that Helen Thomas found him. (Laughter) I understand she asked him a few very pertinent questions, which I know Helen can be real tough. I am glad she is down there helping his cause.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Mr. President.

END (AT 5:35 P.M. PDT)

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Portland, Oregon)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
UPON HIS ARRIVAL TO
THE SHERATON-PORTLAND HOTEL

3:50 P.M. PDT

Thank you all very, very much for coming out here. I know that this is a special effort on your part, but it is a wonderful welcome for me to come to Oregon, to Portland, and to have the fine support of people like Bob Packwood, Mark Hatfield and, of course, my very good friend, Edith Green, and Mrs. Tom McCall, and to have the demonstration of friendship and support from so many of you.

Let me say that in the remaining eight days between now and November 2, I will be campaigning on the programs that have been successful. In the last two years--you know how tough it was two years ago when I became the President on August 9, 1974. We had lost trust in the White House; we were on the brink of the worst recession in 40 years; inflation was over 12 percent; and we were still involved in the war in Vietnam.

The American people, working with me, have been able to turn this situation around, and we have made incredible progress. We are on the way to a healthy economy. Inflation is less than 6 percent; we have 4 million new jobs; 88 million people are working in America -- the highest in the history of the United States.

We are out of the war in Vietnam, and we have the capability to stay at peace, and I am proud to say to you, as I say to your fellow Americans, not a single young American is fighting and dying on foreign soil today, and we are going to keep it that way.

But, the progress we have made in the last two years is not what we need or want, but it is the foundation from which we can build, and in the next four years, with your support, we can build those things that will give to all of us -- you in Oregon and all of the 215 million Americans in 40 other States -- the quality of life that is so essential, not only for us but those to follow. And I pledge to you that in the next four years we will do better than we have done, and you will be proud of America, as I am.

Thank you very, very much.

END (AT 3:54 P.M. PDT)

OCTOBER 25, 1976

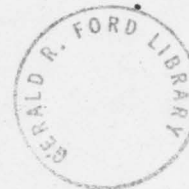
Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)

file

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BE DELIVERED TO THE
PITTSBURGH ECONOMIC CLUB

GRAND BALLROOM
PITTSBURGH HILTON HOTEL



Some 20 years ago, speaking before the League of Women Voters, President Eisenhower was asked about the goals of United States foreign policy.

"The foreign policy of our nation is not difficult to state," he said. "We are for peace -- peace first, last and always."

Today that remains the central purpose of American foreign policy. It has been the purpose of every Administration since I went to Washington more than a quarter of a century ago.

In fact, looking back over those years, through the terms of six Presidents -- three Democrats and three Republicans -- you will find that while the emphasis may have changed from one Administration to the next, the foundations of American foreign policy have remained essentially the same.

There have been misjudgments. Sometimes we have made commitments that have exceeded our capabilities. Sometimes we have been heavy-handed. But the record of achievement far exceeds that of failure.

Throughout my time as President, I have shaped our foreign policy according to these four basic principles:

- First, we have sought to maintain America's unquestioned military strength;
- Second, we have tried to maintain and strengthen our friendships with our allies;
- Third, working from a position of strength, we have sought to reduce tensions in the world and to avert the threat of a nuclear holocaust;
- Finally, we have tried to act as leader and as peacemaker in resolving the many difficult problems that have arisen within a community of nations that has been constantly expanding.

There is no better testimony to the wisdom of our policies than the fact that today America is at peace. Not a single one of our men is fighting or dying on any foreign battlefield. The draft no longer hangs over the heads of the younger generation.

Today America is strong, ready to meet any challenge to our security. Our relationships with our allies have never been better -- a point that has been echoed repeatedly as leaders of other nations have streamed to our shores to share in our Bicentennial celebration. And our adversaries respect us; they respect our commitment to freedom and they respect our strength and our will to protect it.

The peace that exists today is directly related to our collective hard work and skillful diplomacy. I am very proud of what we have accomplished. I am very proud to be the first President since Dwight Eisenhower to seek election with America at peace.

What now concerns me is that during the closing weeks of this Presidential campaign, it has become apparent that America is now being asked by my opponent to make a fundamental change in the direction and conduct of U. S. foreign policy. As citizens and as voters, you are being asked to decide whether you wish to build on the great traditions of American foreign policy-- the traditions that can keep us strong and at peace--or whether you wish to break from those traditions, venturing into the unknown with a doctrine that is untested, untried, and in my view, potentially dangerous.

This doctrine deviates substantially from the solid principles of the bipartisan foreign and defense policies of the past 30 years. It has a strong flavor of isolationism. If it is applied in practice in the same way that it is described by campaign oratory, there is a significant risk it could lead to major international crises. Let us look a few moments at the most significant differences between the policies of my Administration and those that are offered as an alternative.

During the two and a half years of my Presidency, I have fought hard to strengthen our national defense. When I took office, defense spending was a smaller share of the national budget than at any time since before the Korean War. We were at the razor's edge in defense strength. If the Congress had continued cutting our defense budgets, we would assuredly have drifted into a position of military inferiority.

One of the most significant achievements of this Administration is that we have now reversed that slide. And as long as I am President, we are going to have an Army, a Navy, an Air Force and a Marine Corps that are unsurpassed in military capability. I know it is costly. As President Eisenhower once said, "A good defense is never a cheap defense." But for the sake of peace and freedom we must be willing to make the sacrifices that maintain America's military might.

Now consider the alternative that is being offered to the American people in this election. Instead of maintaining our military strength, the alternative proposed is to slash billions from our defense budget, stripping us not of waste but of military muscle. The B-1 bomber is a prime example. I believe it is essential to our security to go forward with production of this new aircraft which has met and surpassed every test to date. It would replace the aging B-52, so that our pilots can defend America in aircraft that give us a reliable capability for penetrating improved air defense systems of our potential adversaries. So the differences in defense spending are clear: I want to continue on a course which I believe will keep us strong and free; the alternative is to head down a road which could raise doubts about our strength and determination on the part of our friends and potential adversaries.

A second basic principle of America's policy is to maintain strong, durable relationships with our allies.

When I took office, America was in the midst of a constitutional crisis. We were still suffering from the bitterness of Vietnam. And we were faced with a deteriorating economy. The world was watching to see if we would recover. They knew it was critical to their own future, because if America became mired in self-doubts, then the peace of the world would be jeopardized.

I am proud of our record during this period of testing:

-- We have led the world out of the most dangerous recession since the 1930's and launched our economic recovery without producing another round of devastating inflation.

-- The economic comeback of the industrialized democracies is being accomplished not with the beggar-thy-neighbor policies of the 1930s but with an unprecedented degree of cooperation, as witnessed by the Summit Meetings in France and Puerto Rico of the leading industrial democracies.

-- In Europe, we have injected new vigor into the Atlantic alliance. We have successfully resisted Congressional pressures to reduce our NATO troop commitments, we have worked closely with our allies on the energy crisis, on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, on economic policies and on coordinating our approaches to East-West diplomacy. The alliance in Europe has never been stronger.

-- We have also made significant progress in the Middle East. The United States stands staunchly by Israel, supplying in just two years time over 40% of all U. S. aid to that country since its founding in 1949. At the same time, we have earned the respect and confidence of the Arab nations. Today, the United States is the only major leader trusted by both sides in the Middle East; they want our leadership, and we will continue to provide it.

-- We can also look to Asia with new confidence today. We now enjoy the strongest links ever with Japan. This was symbolized by the first visit ever of the Emperor to the U. S. and my own visit to his homeland -- the first visit to Japan by an American President.

We have remained steadfast in the Korean peninsula. We have put the Vietnam war behind us in a way which has protected our essential interest and maintained America's respect in that part of the world.

-- We have opened the door to better relations with China.

Now let us look at the alternative that is being offered in this election.

-- Instead of holding firm in Asia, we are told that we should pull our troops and major weapons systems out of Korea -- an invitation to disaster not only there but in Japan as well.

-- In Europe, we are told that we should not "close the door" to consultations and "friendships" with the communist leaders of Italy, France and Portugal. I am deeply concerned over the impact that such an approach would have upon the democratic parties that have, for decades, waged a struggle to preserve freedom against communist tyranny.

-- In the Middle East, the alternative appears distinctly hostile to our friendships with moderate Arab states. I can tell you from experience that such a total departure from current policies could drive these countries into the arms of the Soviets, threatening the stability of the area and eventually inflicting enormous harm upon the very country that it purports to help, the State of Israel.

Let us look now at still another basic principle of our foreign policy: to reduce tensions with our adversaries and reduce the threat of nuclear war.

Over the past two years, we have taken significant strides down the path toward halting and reversing the strategic arms spiral. Early in my Administration I met with General Secretary Brezhnev in Vladivostok, where we pledged our mutual efforts to reach a new agreement limiting nuclear armaments. Today an agreement embodying the Vladivostok records is 90% complete. I am confident that it can be successfully concluded in the near future, and that we can work for even further reductions in nuclear weapons. When that agreement is reached, the prospects for reducing the dangers of

But let us never forget American Presidents have learned that tough talk by itself is insufficient; it is too easily dismissed as bombast. Our rhetoric must be backed by substance, a strong national defense, strong alliances, and strong diplomacy.

In place of a strong defense, the alternative called for in this election is a weakened defense. In place of strong alliances, we are offered troop pullbacks and sweeping reviews of America's commitments to its allies. In place of the strategic arms agreement at Vladivostok--which provides for equal numbers at a level requiring Soviet reductions--the alternative proposed is a freeze at current levels. This major step backward would lock us into force levels which for the Soviet Union would be higher than agreed at Vladivostok and for the United States significantly lower.

In the past, American Presidents have always known they should never say in advance precisely what course of action this country would take in the event of an international crisis. The reason for such an approach ought to be obvious enough. When a potential adversary knows what you will and won't do in advance, your flexibility is limited and his is increased. He can probe with impunity or redirect his efforts at more tempting targets. The acquisition of knowledge about such intentions in advance is one of the major reasons why countries spend vast sums for intelligence activities. Thus, it was with some surprise that I heard a specific proposal for total economic warfare against the Arabs in the event of another oil embargo. I thought such a statement of a specific course of action in advance was a singular mistake which, once made, would not be repeated. I was, therefore, surprised to hear him make the same mistake at Williamsburg in his ill-advised comments concerning what he might or might not do if the future security of Yugoslavia was threatened. Statements of this kind, as we learned over twenty-five years ago, instead of serving the cause of peace, invite conflict. They invite aggression rather than deter it. I have to assume that this statement simply reflects inexperience.

Ladies and gentlemen: Even though America is at peace today, we must recognize that we continue to live in a dangerous world--a world hostile to freedom. Unrest is still seething in many parts of the globe.

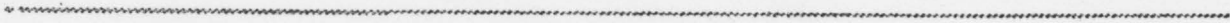
The challenge to American diplomacy during these next four years will be equal to any other period in our lifetime. We must complete negotiations on a SALT agreement to replace the current treaty, which expires in October of 1977. We must continue our efforts to defuse the powderkeg in Southern Africa. We must work to achieve a just, stable peace in the Middle East. We must restore prosperity. And we must deal intelligently and compassionately with the new agenda of world issues such as nuclear proliferation, economic interdependence, food, energy, pollution, and growing populations.

We can succeed in these tasks only if we remain true to the great principles that have guided United States foreign policy for more than a quarter of a century.

This is not a time to weaken to our own defense, to refuse to equip our troops with essential new weapons, to undermine democratic leaders by hinting at new relationships with communist leaders in Western Europe, to withdraw our troops from South Korea, to upset the balance in the Middle East, or to concede such nations as Yugoslavia to the Soviet sphere.

This is a time to benefit from and build upon the wisdom we have inherited.

MORE



The peace we enjoy today is not an accident.

The peace we have today is a product of the patient diplomacy and the determination of the past.

To preserve the peace, we must be willing to pay the price for a mighty military force.

To preserve the peace, we must be willing to shoulder the burdens of our alliances and friendships.

To preserve the peace, we must be tough-minded and persistent in dealing with our adversaries. Never -- not once -- can we drop our guard.

To preserve the peace, we must apply the enormous talent and technology of America to advancing gains made in far-flung corners of the world, stretching from the Middle East to Africa.

To preserve the peace, we must be generous and compassionate toward others less fortunate than ourselves.

Finally, to preserve the peace, we must be true to the ideals of America -- to our love of freedom and dignity and justice for all humankind.

These are my goals as your President. They are the goals of a great nation. With your help, with your prayers, I will continue their pursuit during the next four years. And I pledge to you today, that as long as I am your President, I will never let you down.

Thank you.

END

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 26, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AND
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION
WITH THE
PITTSBURGH ECONOMIC CLUB

PITTSBURGH HILTON HOTEL



8:57 A.M. EDT

Mr. Burnham, Mayor Flaherty:

It is a great privilege and pleasure to have the opportunity this morning to say a few words and answer a few questions before the Pittsburgh Economic Club. Some 20 years ago, speaking before the League of Women Voters, President Eisenhower was asked about the goals of the United States' foreign policy. He said, and I quote, "The foreign policy of our Nation is not difficult to state. We are for peace -- peace first, last and always."

Today, that remains the central purpose of every American foreign policy. It has been the purpose of every Administration since I went to Washington more than a quarter of a century ago. In fact, looking back over those years through the terms of six Presidents -- three Democrats and three Republicans -- you will find that while the emphasis may have changed from one Administration to another, the foundations of American foreign policy have remained essentially the same.

8:57 A.M. There have been some misjudgments. Sometimes we have made commitments that exceeded our capabilities. Sometimes we have been heavy handed. But, the record of achievement far, far exceeds that of failure.

Throughout my time as President, I have shaped our foreign policy according to these four basic principles: First, we have sought to maintain America's unquestioned military strength. Second, we have tried to maintain and strengthen our friendship with our allies. Third, working from a position of strength, we have sought to reduce tensions in the world and to avert the threat of nuclear holocaust. Finally, we have tried to act as a leader and as a peace maker in resolving the many difficult problems that have arisen within a community of nations that has been constantly expanding.

There is no better testimony of the wisdom of our policies than the fact that today America is at peace. Not a single one of our young men is fighting or dying on any foreign battlefield. The draft no longer hangs over the head of our younger generation.

8:57 A.M. There have been some misjudgments. Sometimes we have made commitments that exceeded our capabilities. Sometimes we have been heavy handed. But, the record of achievement far, far exceeds that of failure.

MORE

Today America is strong, ready to meet any challenge to our national security. Our relationships with our allies have never been better, a point that has been echoed repeatedly as leaders of other nations have streamed to our shores in our Bicentennial celebration, and our adversaries respect us. They respect our commitment to freedom and they respect the strength and the will to protect it.

The peace that exists today is directly related to our collective hard work and skillful diplomacy, and I am very, very proud of what we have accomplished. I am very proud to be the first President since Dwight Eisenhower to seek election with America at peace.

What concerns me is that during the closing weeks of this Presidential campaign, it has become apparent that America is now being asked by my opponent to make a fundamental change in the direction and the conduct of U.S. foreign policy. As citizens and as voters, you are being asked to decide whether you wish to build on the great traditions of American foreign policy, the policies that kept us strong and at peace, or whether you wish to break from these traditions, venturing into the unknown with a doctrine that is untested, untried and, in my view, potentially dangerous.

This doctrine deviates -- deviates substantially -- from the solid principles of bipartisan foreign and defense policies of the last 30 years. It has a strong flavor of isolationism. If it is applied in practice the same way that it is described in campaign oratory, there is a significant risk it could lead to major international crises.

Let us look for a few minutes at the most significant difference between the policies of my Administration and those that are offered as an alternative. During the two and a half years of my Presidency, I have fought hard to strengthen our national defense. When I took office defense spending was a smaller share of the national budget than at any time since before the Korean War. We were at the razor's edge in defense strength. If the Congress had continued cutting our defense budget, we would assuredly have drifted into a position of military inferiority.

One of the most significant achievements of this Administration is that we have now reversed that slide. And, as long as I am President, we are going to have an Army, a Navy, an Air Force and a Marine Corps, that are unsurpassed in military capability.

I know it is very costly. As President Eisenhower once said, and I quote, "A good defense is never a cheap defense," end quote.

MORE

But for the sake of peace and freedom, we must be willing to make the sacrifices that maintain America's military might.

Now consider the alternative that is being offered to the American people in this election. Instead of maintaining our military strength, the alternative proposed is to slash billions from our defense budget, stripping us not of waste but of military muscle. The B-1 bomber is a prime example.

I believe it is essential to our security to go forward with the production of this new aircraft, which has met and surpassed every test to date. It would replace the aging B-52 so that our pilots can defend America in an aircraft that gives us a reliable capability for penetrating improved air defense systems of our potential adversaries. So, the differences in defense spending are clear.

I want to continue a course which I believe will keep us strong and free. The alternative is to head down a road which could raise doubts about our strength, our determination, on the part of our friends as well as potential adversaries.

A second basic principle of America's policy is to maintain strong durable relationships with our allies. When I took office, America was in the midst of a constitutional crisis. We were still suffering from the bitterness of Vietnam, and we were faced with a deteriorating economy. The world was watching to see if we could recover. They knew it was critical to their own future because if America became mired in self-doubt, then the peace of the world would be jeopardized.

I am very proud of our record during this period of severe testing. We have led the world out of the most dangerous recession since the 1930s, and launched our economic recovery without producing another round of devastating inflation.

The economic comeback of the industrial democracies is being accomplished not with the "beggar thy neighbor" policies of the 1930s, but with an unprecedented degree of cooperation, as witnessed by the summit meetings in France and Puerto Rico, of the leading industrial nations.

In Europe, we have injected new vigor into the Atlantic Alliance. We have successfully resisted Congressional pressures to reduce our NATO troop commitments. We have worked closely with our allies on the energy crisis, on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, on economic policies and on coordinating our approaches to East-West diplomacy. The alliance in Europe has never been stronger.

MORE

We have also made significant progress in the Middle East. The United States stands staunchly by Israel, supplying in just two years over 40 percent of all U.S. aid to that country since its founding in 1948. At the same time, we have earned the respect and the confidence of the Arab nations.

Today, the United States is the only major leader trusted by both sides in the Middle East. They want our leadership and we will continue to provide it.

We can also look to Asia with new confidence today. We now enjoy the strongest links ever with Japan. That was symbolized by the first visit -- the first visit ever -- of the Emperor to the United States, and my own visit to his homeland, the first visit to Japan by any American President.

We have remained steadfast in the Korean peninsula. We have put the Vietnam War behind us in a way which has protected our essential interest and maintained America's respect in that part of the world. We have opened the door to better relations with China.

Now let's look at the alternative that is being offered in this election. Instead of holding firm in Asia, we are told that we should pull our troops and major weapons systems out of Korea--an invitation to disaster, not only there but in Japan as well.

In Europe we are told that we should not close the door to consultation and friendship with the Communist leaders of Italy, France and Portugal. I am deeply concerned over the impact that such an approach would have upon the democratic parties that have for decades waged a struggle to preserve freedom against Communist tyranny.

In the Middle East the alternative appears distinctly hostile to our friendship with moderate Arab nations. I can tell you from experience that such a total departure from current policies could drive these countries into the arms of the Soviets, threatening the stability of the area and eventually inflicting enormous harm upon the very country that it purports to help -- the State of Israel.

Let us look now at still another basic principle of our foreign policy: To reduce tensions with our adversaries and reduce the threat of nuclear war. Over the past two years we have taken significant strides down the path toward halting and reversing the strategic arms spiral.

Early in my Administration I met with General Secretary Brezhnev in Vladivostok, where we pledged our mutual efforts to reach a new agreement limiting nuclear armaments. Today, an agreement embodying the Vladivostok accords is 90 percent complete. I am optimistic that it can be successfully concluded in the near future and that we can work even further for reductions in nuclear weapons.

When that agreement is reached, the prospects for reducing the dangers of a nuclear holocaust will brighten around the world.

But, let us never forget American Presidents have learned that tough talk by itself is insufficient. It is too easily dismissed as bombast. Our rhetoric must be backed by substance, a strong national defense, strong alliances and strong diplomacy.

In place of a strong defense, the alternative called for in this election is a weakened defense. In place of strong alliances, we are offered troop pull-backs and sweeping reviews of America's commitments to its allies. In place of the strategic arms agreement at Vladivostok -- which provides for equal numbers at a level requiring Soviet reduction -- approximately 200 -- the alternative proposed is a freeze at current levels. This major step backward would lock us into force levels which for the Soviet Union would be higher than agreed to at Vladivostok, and for the United States significantly lower.

In the past, American Presidents have always known they should never say in advance precisely what course of action this country would take in the event of an international crisis. The reason for such an approach ought to be very obvious. When a potential adversary knows what you will and won't do in advance, your flexibility is limited and his is increased.

He can probe with impunity or redirect his efforts at more tempting targets. The acquisition of knowledge about such intentions in advance is one of the major reasons why countries spend vast sums of money for intelligence activities.

Thus, it was with some surprise that I heard a specific proposal for total economic warfare against the Arabs in the event of another embargo. I thought such a statement of a specific course of action in advance was a singular mistake which once made would not be repeated. I was, therefore, surprised to hear him make the same mistake at Williamsburg in an ill-advised comment concerning what he might or might not do if the future security of Yugoslavia was threatened.

Statements of this kind -- as we learned over 25 years ago -- instead of serving the cause of peace invite conflict. I have assumed that this statement -- and I say this with some sorrow -- simply reflects inexperience.

Ladies and gentlemen, even though America is at peace today, we must recognize that we continue to live in a very dangerous world, a world hostile to freedom.

MORE

Unrest is still seething in many parts of the globe. The challenge to American diplomacy during the next four years will be equal to any other period in our lifetime.

We must complete negotiations on a SALT agreement to replace the current treaty, which expires in October 1977. We must continue our efforts to defuse the powder keg in Southern Africa.

We must work to achieve a just, stable peace in the Middle East. We must restore economic prosperity.

We must deal intelligently and compassionately with the new agenda of world issues, such as nuclear proliferation, economic interdependence, food, energy pollution and growing populations.

We can succeed in these tasks only if we remain true to the great principles that have guided United States foreign policy for more than a quarter of a century.

This is not a time to weaken our defense, to refuse to equip our troops with essential new weapons, to undermine democratic leaders by hinting at new relationships with Communist leaders in Western Europe, to withdraw our troops from South Korea, to upset the balance in the Middle East or to concede such nations as Yugoslavia to the Soviet sphere.

This is a time to benefit from and build upon the wisdom that we have inherited.

The peace that we enjoy today is not an accident. The peace we have today is a product of the patient diplomacy and the determination of the past.

To preserve the peace, we must be willing to pay the price for a mighty force. To preserve the peace, we must be willing to shoulder the burdens of our alliances and friendships.

To preserve the peace, we must be tough minded and persistent in our dealings with our adversaries.

Never -- not once -- can we drop our guard. To preserve the peace, we must apply the enormous talents and technology in this great country to advancing gains made in far-flung corners of the world, stretching from the Middle East to Southern Africa.

To preserve the peace, we must be generous and compassionate toward others less fortunate than ourselves.

MORE

Finally, to preserve the peace we must be true to the ideals of America, to our love of freedom and dignity and justice for all mankind.

These are my goals as your President. They are the goals of a great Nation. With your help, with your prayers, I will continue to pursue during the next four years these policies, and I pledge to you today that as long as I am your President I will never let you down.

Thank you very much. I would be delighted to respond to questions.

I can't see through the lights, but go ahead.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I would like to turn perhaps to an economic rather than a foreign policy question. Will you outline specific programs you will recommend to Congress which will stimulate capital formation and thereby the creation of jobs for our growing working forces?

THE PRESIDENT: I will submit in January a tax reduction program that will have two major prongs. Number one, I firmly believe that the middle income taxpayer in this country over the last decade has been shortchanged, and our analysis indicates that the best way to help and assist that wide range of taxpayers in this country is to increase the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. That will be the fundamental.

I should add that I recommended that to the Congress in January of last year. After fooling around with the tax problem for almost 10 months, they ignored it. But they are going to get it right back on their desk in January and, if they don't pass it, then, we are going to go after them next year, and if they don't pass it then, we are going to go after them in the next election in 1978.

But that would help, as I have indicated, in the consumer area. But, at the same time, I feel that we have to make some reductions in our corporate income tax rates; that you cannot, under the present circumstances, finance the expansion, the modernization and all the other things that are essential at the present Federal income tax burdens that business bears.

So, we are going to approach the problem on the one hand to increase consumer purchasing power at the Federal level and, at the same time, create tax incentives for business to provide more jobs.

QUESTION: Mr. President, Governor Carter has stated that a philosophical goal of his Administration would be to keep the Federal Government's share of our gross national product in 1981 at a level that approximates that of today, i.e., the Federal Government's share of our total economic pie, which stays constant after decades of growth.

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Do you subscribe to this goal or would you promote the perhaps more ambitious goal of a slight reduction in the Federal Government's share of our total economic pie by the end of your next Administration?

THE PRESIDENT: I do, and I think we can do it in several ways. Number one, I believe that we can continue sufficient pressure on the Congress to restrain the rate of growth of Federal spending. The figures indicate that for the past 10 years the rate of growth of Federal expenditures has been about 11 percent. And if you project that into the next quarter of a century the problem you, I think, are concerned about multiplies.

So, in the budget that I submitted last January for Congressional consideration reduced that rate of growth by 50 percent or a rate of growth of 5-1/2 percent. We made some headway. The Congress added about \$18 billion over the actual dollars that I recommended for the budget for the current fiscal year, but that is better than they have been doing over the past 10 years.

So, what we hope to do in the future is to continue that pressure so the rate of growth of Federal expenditures keeps going down. I concede you will have to have some increase just because of inflationary pressures. But, if we can make it not a 5-1/2 percent rate of growth but 2 or 3 percent or 4 percent, we achieve part of the answer that I think you are concerned about.

On the other hand, if we can expand our total GNP in this country by a healthier economy through tax reductions so that we can expand our industrial capacity, expand as I said a moment ago, the consumer capability to participate by spending his money rather than having the Federal Government spend it, we increase the pie in size and we reduce at the same time, as I said a moment ago, the rate of growth of Federal spending.

So, I am not going to be satisfied with what my opponent says is apparently a satisfactory division. I think it is wrong and we ought to change it, and my programs will.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I would like to ask a question of a somewhat different nature, with the debates so fresh in our minds.

As a representative of the television media, my station contributed 6 hours of prime time as a public service for the Presidential and Vice Presidential debates which, incidentally, as we all know, were carried by all three TV networks, really leaving the television viewer with very little alternative. (Laughter) Also, many think that these debates have even set a precedent that all future Presidential candidates will feel obliged to follow.

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Do you really think the debates are worth all this either to you as a candidate or to the American public? And, in retrospect, would you have preferred a different format allowing more direct confrontation with Governor Carter?

THE PRESIDENT: Number one, I think the debates should be institutionalized in our Presidential campaigns. I think they could be improved, and I made a comment the other day, I guess after the second debate, that they would be improved if Mr. Carter would answer the questions and I would question my answers.

But to be serious, I do feel that we now have another four-year period, and experts in the media, experts in the academic world, experts from other areas of our society ought to sit down and maybe consult with my advisers, Mr. Carter's advisers, and maybe get a thought or two from either one of us, and I think they should be a part of the political system every four years.

But I am confident there can be improvement in the mechanics and some of the other aspects that I think would help to educate and stimulate the American voter.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, many people in our country, including myself, are somewhat confused as to the exact state of unemployment in this country. Governor Carter has stressed repeatedly that the unemployment is the highest in the nation's history, while you have stated more people are employed today than ever before.

Could you clarify these seemingly contradictory statements?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we are both probably right, but I think in order to understand what appears to be a conflict, the people must recognize that we have the largest work force in the history of the United States. So, when I say we have 88 million people gainfully employed, an all-time high in the United States, that is accurate because we have more potential people in our work force than we have ever had before.

When Mr. Carter says the unemployment numerically is the highest, he is noting a statistic, which is likewise accurate, but only because we again have more people working -- I mean, more people who are eligible or desire work in this country.

Now, one point that bothered me -- and I cite this as an historical fact, not making any comment as to who was right or who was wrong, or whether there was any political blame assessed -- but when Mr. Carter says that the unemployment in the early fifties was far, far lower than it is today -- and it was -- I think it is also very legitimate for me to say, because it is historically accurate, that we had three million five hundred thousand young men and women in the military engaged in a military conflict and today we have two million one hundred thousand young men and women in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines.

It is one million four hundred thousand fewer than we had two years ago. It is the smallest active duty military force since Korea, and if we had another one million four hundred thousand on active duty, which we don't have, we could significantly claim that our unemployment figure was quite a bit less.

But, I don't think that is the way to achieve unemployment, or to improve the statistics. We have enough men in the four services, men and women, to do the job to keep the peace, and I want that one million four hundred thousand out in the labor market trying to get a job or working at a job in our civilian economy, and we are still going to take care of the job opportunities of about two to two and a half million new ones every year because we are going to have an expanding economy, primarily in the private sector.

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QUESTION: Mr. President, most economists recognize that plans such as the Humphrey-Hawkins bill, some forms of national economic planning, will necessitate wage-price controls. Would you advocate under any circumstances wage-price controls and, if so, what would be sufficient cause?

THE PRESIDENT: Early in my Administration I took a firm stand -- which has not changed, which will not change -- against wage and price controls, including standby wage and price controls. I don't think they work. Our neighbor to the north, Canada, has had them now for what, 18 to 24 months? Their economic recovery has been slower than ours with many more dislocations than we have had as we have come out of the recession.

Some of our Western European countries to one degree or another have tried them in recent months and their recovery in each case is slower than ours, with the possible exception of West Germany. So, I strongly disapprove of wage and price controls, even on a standby basis.

Our true competitive economic system is the best way, in my judgment, to solve our economic problems and to insure the kind of economic prosperity that we want.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I am afraid our time is running short. The City of Pittsburgh must get to work, and I understand you have a steel mill to visit.

On behalf of our members, guests, officers and directors, I would like to thank you very much for attending this meeting with us this morning.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

END (AT 9:36 A.M. EDT)

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
FORD CITY SHOPPING MALL

1:14 P.M. CDT

Chuck Percy, Ron Bukema, Governor Ogilvie, Edith Green, Joe Garagiola, Senator Carl Curtis:

It is great for President Ford to be in Ford City. Thank you. Let's make all of Illinois Ford country November 2.

With this kind of enthusiasm and the wonderful welcome that we had a week ago Saturday in downstate Illinois, I can say with confidence that we are going to carry the State of Illinois November 2. Are we?

While I am here in Ford City, let me extend to all of you a very special invitation next January to come to the inauguration in Washington, D.C. of Jerry Ford and Bob Dole.

Let me say you are here because you want to know where I stand on the issues. I stand on your side for limited Government, for fiscal responsibility, for rising prosperity, for lower taxes, for military strength and peace throughout the world.

Not a single young American is fighting or dying on foreign soil today, and we are going to keep it that way. After so many years in which America's defense needs were shortchanged, I proposed the two largest defense budgets in the history of the United States, and I was able to convince the Congress to stop slashing away at military spending.

After so many years of runaway inflation and runaway growth in the Federal budget, I submitted a budget to the Congress last January that cut the rate of growth in Federal spending by over half.

I have held the line on Government spending with 66 vetoes and saved you -- and I emphasize you -- the hard-pressed taxpayers, more than \$9 billion.

MORE

Those vetoes saved each American family about \$200 in Federal spending, and that is progress. Because I have not been afraid to say no, to say no to excessive spending, we will submit a balanced budget by 1978 and we will have another tax reduction for the American taxpayer in the meantime.

My idea -- and listen very carefully -- my idea of tax reform is tax reduction -- tax reduction for the shortchanged, middle income taxpayer. Therefore, I recommended that you have your personal income tax exemption increased from \$750 to \$1,000. That is the kind of tax reform that we want.

After so many years of uncontrolled inflation we have cut the rate of inflation in half in the past two years.

I commit, I promise, we will do better each year and the next four years. After the worst economic recession in 40 years, we have added four million jobs to the American economy in the past two years, not by creating deadend jobs at a taxpayer's expense, but by stimulating jobs with a future in the private economy where five out of the six jobs exist anyhow.

I admit, too many people are still out of work. We are not satisfied with the progress that we have made, but more Americans were on the job in 1976 than ever before in the history of this country -- 88 million -- and that is a tremendous comeback from where we were 18 months ago.

After suffering a tragic betrayal of public trust two years ago, America has had its faith restored in the White House itself.

My Administration has been open, candid, frank, forthright and we are going to keep it that way for the next four years.

In every field America is on the move. We are 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 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.

MORE

My record is one of progress, not platitudes; performance, not promises. We do not need a Government to do everything for us or to tell us everything we can or cannot do. This is a pledge of the Ford Administration.

We have a great reservoir of talent in industry throughout all 50 of our States. It is not all concentrated on the banks of the Potomac.

Jimmy Carter says we are not respected any more. This week America made a clean sweep of the Nobel Prizes for economics, chemistry, medicine and literature. This is the first time in the history of these awards that a single country, the United States, has come home with every winner. We should be very proud. I might add, that record doesn't sound like a second rate operation to me.

As I look around this great crowd and thank you all for coming, I am proud to be an American and I know that you are. And although we have had our problems in the past two years, we have come a long, long way. At home and abroad, we are putting aside old differences, we are putting old problems behind us and healing our wounds. It is a record I am proud to run on, a record the people of Illinois and concerned citizens throughout America -- Democrats, Independents and Republicans -- will support on November 2.

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

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 the happiness that they have earned. There is no reason why they should go broke just to get well.

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. Then we will give business the tax incentives to build new plants, to modernize old ones and to create more jobs.

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.

I find, or have no fear for the future of this great country. The future for America is a friend, and as we go forward together I promise you once more, as I promised you before, to uphold the Constitution and to do what is right as God gives me to see the right, and to do the very, very best I can for America.

God helping me, I won't let you down.

Thank you very, very much.

END (AT 1:24 P.M. CDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 26, 1976

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
WOODFIELD SHOPPING MALL

8:11 P.M. CDT



Thank you very, very much, Jim Thompson, the next Governor of the great State of Illinois.

It is great to be here in this wonderful plaza and to have the opportunity of being on the platform not only with Jim Thompson but my good friend and your first class outstanding United States Senator, Chuck Percy.

But let me add, we have here two former colleagues of mine in the House of Representatives who I hope and trust that you will strongly support, Phil Crane and Sam Young.

And let me add one other point: Jim Thompson can't do the job alone in running the State of Illinois the way you want it run. He has an outstanding State ticket and I hope you will pull that lever and go right down the line for that State ticket to help Jim Thompson do the job.

I can't imagine a more wonderful way to end a beautiful day in the State of Illinois than to come to this plaza and see so many wonderful people who are going to support Jerry Ford for President. Let me extend to every one of you a special invitation to come to Washington, D. C. next January 20 to participate in the inauguration of Jerry Ford and Bob Dole as President and Vice President of the United States.

As we come to the final countdown in this great election that will determine the direction of this country for the next four years and will determine the direction perhaps of the next century in America, I want each and every one of you to know where I stand. I stand on your side for limited Government, for fiscal responsibility, for rising prosperity, for lower taxes, for military strength, for peace in the world, and may I say, aren't we proud that not a single young American is fighting or dying on foreign soil tonight. As your President, we will keep it that way for the next four years.

After so many years of runaway growth in Federal spending, I submitted a budget last January in which I cut the rate of growth in Federal spending by over half. I have held the line on Government spending with 66 vetoes and saved you, the hard-pressed American taxpayers, more than \$9 billion.

MORE

Those 66 vetoes saved each American family \$200 in Federal spending, and that is progress by any standard. Because I have not been afraid to say no to excessive spending, we will submit a balanced budget for the Federal Government in 1978, and we will have another tax reduction for the American taxpayer in the meantime.

My idea of tax reform is tax reduction. I proposed raising your personal income exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. What does that mean to a family of five -- three children, a husband and a wife? Let's bring it right down to practicalities.

That means if Congress had done its job, next April when the head of the family would have made out that return, that taxpayer could have taken \$1,250 more in personal exemption. Congress didn't do it. We are going to get them next year. If they don't do it next year, we will go after them the next year, and if they don't do it then we will go after them in the next election in 1978.

After so many years of uncontrolled inflation, we have cut the rate of inflation in half in the past two years and we will do even better in the next two years, in the next four years.

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 by stimulating jobs with a future in the private economy where five out of the six jobs exist today.

Too many people are still 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 great country -- nearly 88 million people gainfully employed, and we should be proud of it.

That is a tremendous improvement over where we were, and we are going to do better in the future. After suffering a tragic betrayal of public trust two years ago, America has had its faith restored in the White House itself.

My Administration has been open, candid, forthright, straightforward, and we are going to keep it that way in the next four years.

In every field, America is on the move, on the march. We have made an incredible comeback in the past two years and we are not through yet. You can believe me when I say that 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, and we won't let you down.

MORE

My record is one of progress, not platitudes; performance, not promises. Listen to this very carefully. We do not need Government to do everything for us or to tell us everything we can or cannot do. We have a great reservoir of talent and industry in this country, and it is not all concentrated on the banks of the Potomac. It is right here in Illinois, in Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin and the other 45 or 46 States.

Jimmy Carter says that the United States of America is not respected anymore. This week America made a clean sweep of Nobel prizes for economics, chemistry, physics, medicine and literature. This is the first time in the history of Nobel prizes that a single country has been the home of all of these winners. That doesn't sound like a second-rate operation to me. Does it to you?

I am proud to be a citizen of this great country and I kind of gather you are, too. We have our problems, but in the past two years we have come a long, long way. At home and abroad, we are putting our old differences aside. We are putting our old problems behind us and healing our wounds.

It is a record that I am proud to run on, a record the people of Illinois and concerned citizens throughout America -- Democrats, Independents, Republicans -- will support on November 2, and we are going to win.

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 the happiness that they have so richly earned. There is no reason why they should have to go broke just to get well.

Give me your mandate and we will create a tax structure that is fair to all, that will preserve the family home, the family farm, the family business, that will give business tax incentives to build new plants, to modernize old ones and to create more jobs.

Give me your mandate and I will lead this nation with pride 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 for America. The future is our friend and as we go forward together, I promise you once more -- as 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 I can for America. God helping me, I will not let you down, and let me conclude by saying I love you.

Thank you. Good night.

END

(AT 8:27 P.M. CDT)