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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 27, 1976

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AND
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION
AT THE
NATIONAL AVIATION FACILITIES
EXPERIMENTAL CENTER



11:18 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: It is great to be in sunny New Jersey. We left the snowy banks of Illinois this morning, so it is nice to be here.

It is always a great pleasure for somebody in politics to be able to correct the record. I understand one of the members of the opposition ticket was in New Jersey, maybe in this area a few days ago, and made some inaccurate statements about the National Aviation Facilities Experimental Center. I know a little bit about that.

I was here in March of 1974, and at that time Senator Case and the then Congressman Charlie Sandman had briefed me very fully about the deep concern of the people of this area for the possibility of a movement or closing of this famous facility in this part of the State.

I went back to Washington, looked into it, and we started the action which culminated in my decision as President to keep the facility here. And it had been contemplated, or at least talked about, being transferred from here to Oklahoma. It is here because I made the decision to keep it here, and I am glad to report that as a result of Secretary of Transportation Coleman's analysis, he has recommended and the Ford Administration has decided to put \$50 million into this facility here in this area.

So, any allegations by anybody, for political benefit, to the contrary is just inaccurate. The facts are the Ford Administration is keeping it here, a \$50 million decision, which will lead to about 1,800 construction jobs and it will also lead to about 2,000 more jobs in the facility itself as it expands.

So, I want that record clear and very well understood. The Ford Administration did it.

Now I would be glad to answer a few questions. May I first get some questions from the local press?

Any questions?

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QUESTION: Mr. President, Jimmy Carter says that your political organization is slandering he and his family by publishing a cartoon in the Heartland PFC publication in the Midwest showing him holding a Bible in one hand and a Playboy Magazine in the other. Is that the kind of advertising you would sanction?

THE PRESIDENT: It is my understanding that everything in that pamphlet was in the public domain. It was nothing that was generated by the President Ford Committee. It was material that was already published by other sources in the public domain.

QUESTION: Including the cartoon?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, it is. That is true.

QUESTION: Mr. President, in a town that is a week away from a statewide referendum on gambling, just for Atlantic City -- this is strictly for Atlantic City -- do you have anything to say on that?

THE PRESIDENT: That is a decision, of course, for the voters of this area, or the State of New Jersey. Although I have reservations about legalized gambling, I would not want to interject myself into a strictly local issue.

QUESTION: Mr. President, how would you assess your chances now, sir? Do you think you have it locked up?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we have lots of momentum. The traveling press that have seen the wonderful crowds we have had in California, in Oregon, in Washington, culminating in an unbelievable, fantastic crowd in Chicago last night of about 40,000 to 50,000, can't help but be impressed with the fact that we have the momentum.

It reminds me just a bit of the kind of momentum that one of my idols, a Democrat, Harry Truman, experienced in the final days of his campaign. We have the momentum going, the people are interested, and I think we are going to surprise some folks.

QUESTION: Mr. President, why is it that you only made a strong statement about the Nixon Administration in response to a question -- you never made that on your own, about the imperial White House?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I was asked last night the difference between the Ford Administration and the Nixon Administration, and I made the very accurate comment that the Ford Administration is not an imperial Presidency. We don't have the ceremony and the pomp and the dictatorial attitude.

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As a matter of fact, I have significantly reduced the power and authority of the White House Staff and we have turned decision-making over to responsible people like the Secretary of Transportation, Bill Coleman, to the Attorney General, to the Secretary of HUD.

The White House performs the function that was set up in the Constitution, and we believe that an imperial Presidency is not in conformity with my own personal ideas nor is it in conformity with what I think our Founding Fathers believe.

QUESTION: Mr. President, in your last comment on the question of the Patman investigation, you said that you had been cleared by committees and the Attorney General. Now it turns out that the Attorney General made the most cursory examination -- he didn't even talk to Mr. Timmons. Can you comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I have full faith in the total integrity of the Attorney General, Mr. Edward Levi, and his decision, I think, fully and completely ends that matter.

QUESTION: Do you think the case is closed on that, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I have full confidence in the Attorney General. He is a man of great integrity. I think he has done a good job and I am sure the decision he made is the right one.

QUESTION: Mr. President, as it stands right now, Eugene McCarthy will be on the New York State ballot next Tuesday. If this decision is made final, how will this affect the fight for New York State's 41 electoral votes?

THE PRESIDENT: I am really not the best judge of that. Eugene McCarthy is a very fine person. I have known him ever since both he and I took the oath of office on January 3, 1949. We came to the Congress simultaneously. Gene McCarthy has made a very excellent record in the House of Representatives and in the Senate. He ought to be on the ballot under State law where it is permitted, and I think the people of New York or elsewhere ought to have a chance to vote for him if they feel it is the right decision.

Thank you all very much.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 11:25 A.M. EDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 27, 1976

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
STATE MEETING

HADDON HALL HOTEL

12:28 P.M. EDT



Mr. Schwartz, Senator Cliff Case, distinguished members and guests of the New Jersey School Board Association:

First, let me express my deep gratitude and appreciation for Cliff Case, a long and close friend of mine, for joining me here on this occasion. I had hoped to bring a longstanding friend of education with me this morning. She was on the plane, but didn't feel -- we have been working her pretty hard -- that she could get here, but I am sure many of you know former Congresswoman Edith Green of Oregon. She wanted me to express to all of you her best wishes to you and to the educational system in this great State of New Jersey.

It is a great privilege and pleasure to join you, the largest school board association in the whole United States, as you consider some of the very serious challenges that face you in your responsibilities. Our nation has, as I understand it, about 105,000 school board members, the largest group of elected officials in this whole country.

You are, because of your responsibilities, a tremendous, creative force in our society, and I congratulate you. You serve without pay, but you carry tremendous responsibilities for the betterment of America. I think you do a great job. Congratulations.

You and all the school board members represent really the essence of democracy. For young Americans, you represent the first contact that they have with formal Government. School board members elected or chosen under the system in each community responsible for the education of young people within that community are fundamental and unique to our country's system of education. The local control that you represent is not only an American tradition; it makes awfully good sense.

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Educational problems, as well as educational priorities, are different not only between States but within individual States.

Firsthand experience gives you the special sensitivity to understand the concerns of the people that you represent and to respond to them in an affirmative way.

You may remember how I dealt with a recent Federal ruling that would have prohibited father and son, mother and daughter school events. Let me assure you I will stay on guard against such unwarranted Federal intrusion into community affairs.

I am a firm believer--and have been all of my political life--in local control of community schools. The course of American education must be chartered in our nation's community, not in Washington, D.C.

In the past decade America has responded to the problems of education with a wide variety of Federal programs designed to meet special and specific needs through assistance to State and local school agencies. Each new program was aimed at educational problems of particular segments of our population.

As a result, the proliferation of narrow, categorical programs has caused confusion, duplication as well as waste. Local citizens and administrators are buried under an avalanche of forms, applications and reports generated by no less than 110 separate and frequently overlapping Federal aid to education programs.

I think it is unbelievable -- and I certainly understand those hard working administrators -- but it must seem to them as if the explosion of knowledge is only exceeded by the explosion of paperwork. (Laughter)

As President, the first piece of major legislation that I signed shortly over two years ago was the Omnibus Education Act. It improved the distribution of Federal education funds. It unclogged the administration of Federal education programs.

Earlier this month I was very pleased to sign the Education Amendments of 1976. These amendments will make it possible for State and local school officials to participate more actively in the planning of Federally supported education programs, especially in the field of vocational education.

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These have been moves in the right direction, but in a major proposal I sent to the Congress in March of 1976, I urged the further consolidation of Federal education programs in the interest of service to local schools, effective administration, as well as economy.

Under this proposal -- and it was encouraging that most State school administrators with whom I talked personally strongly favored it and many local school officials with whom I met and discussed it with personally favored it -- it would have consolidated 24 categorical grants into a single block grant.

The States, the communities -- not some well-intentioned but not locally-oriented bureaucrat in Washington -- would decide how this money would best help their schools. That is what we really want -- the money to go to your school districts directly with a minimum of red tape as far as Washington D.C. is concerned.

This proposal, which I have tried to describe in very general terms, recognizes and enhances the important role of school board members like yourself. Within certain very broad guidelines, each State would establish its own plan for spending Federal education funds. It would be required to take your views into account in establishing the structures and the procedures for drawing up that plan. Furthermore, each State plan for spending Federal funds would have to provide that at least 75 percent of the funds supplied are passed through to local education agencies.

Since I made this block grant proposal, some positive suggestions have come forward from the working people in the educational system of this country that I think will improve it, and I firmly suggest to you that in January of this year we will submit it again with those improvements, and I hope the Congress responds.

But whatever the final form -- and I am sure with the reaction from the educational organizations and educational leaders -- I am certain that it will be a great improvement in the delivery of Federal aid to education and to community control of community schools.

So, I urge the kind of cooperation that I know I can get, the Congress can get, so that we can all work together because each and every one of us is totally dedicated to a better and better educational opportunity for all of our children.

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In spite of my conviction that Federal spending must be held in check -- and I hold that very deeply -- I have, because of my strong personal dedication to American schools, urged that Federal education actually be increased. My block grant program, which I described just a moment ago, did call for increased spending in each of the three fiscal years after its enactment.

But, let me point out another area of deep mutual concern. At Ohio State University two years ago -- and every time somebody from Michigan mentions Ohio State we have to be a little careful (Laughter) -- he urged that the transition from the world of education to the world of work, a crucial juncture in the life of every single individual, and to be explored.

I said at that time, at a commencement address at Columbus, that the nation needs new ways to bring the world of work and the world of institutions of education together. The United States Office of Education and the Departments of Commerce and Labor, private industry and private business, have responded to my challenge in a very encouraging way.

In the past two years, scores of programs have been developed to help high school students prepare for very worthwhile occupations while completing their education. These developments are new, they are exciting, they are inviting, and they are a fine, fine example of how Government as a helpful servant rather than a meddling master in the area of education can be constructive.

This is the sort of cooperative new effort that is needed across the whole education spectrum. School board members, parents, teachers, religious leaders, Government officials, businessmen -- we all have to work together to meet the educational challenges of America's third century.

We had a wonderful celebration on July 4, and a new spirit seemed to be generated or exposed in America on that great day. I hope and trust -- and I firmly believe -- that that spirit will continue in our third century to give to all of us and those that follow not only the vision of what we want -- freedom, liberty, responsibility -- but will give us the opportunity to make that dream a reality.

As I close, I pledge my cooperation and my continuing effort on behalf of American education. With your support, I will keep working to untie the red tape that binds you, to continue our American tradition of local education control, to see that Americans are well-educated and that America is well-prepared for this exciting future that I foresee.

It has been a pleasure and a very high honor to have the opportunity of joining you this morning, and I thank you very, very much.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 27, 1976

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY FIELDHOUSE

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

2:48 P.M. EDT



Jim Nolan, Father Driscoll, members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation, students, faculty and guests:

May I express my deep appreciation for the opportunity to accept the invitation of the political union and particularly you, Jim. I understand that this organization has a background as a political debating society. Well, following the three debates I had with my opponent, I was asked on several occasions, would I make suggestions for the future or comments on the past. I said, "Well, I hope they do become institutionalized in our political future," and then I said -- as I reflected on the debates -- that I would make two observations: One, I hoped that Jimmy Carter would answer his questions (Laughter) but I also said I thought I ought to question my answers. (Laughter)

But, as you have noticed, I have three very special guests here today that are close to me and have been very helpful. One you have met, our son Jack. Then I also have another special guest who has been working with me and traveling to help the cause, and I think it is especially appropriate in an educational institution with the great reputation that you have here at Villanova. One of the outstanding Members of the House or the Senate for 19 years was a Democratic Member of the Congress, Representative Edith Green. Edith Green, I can tell you, was a formidable opponent and a welcome ally. We worked together on many, many programs. We seemed to understand and try to do things in conjunction on educational matters. But Edith Green of the great State of Oregon, who retired two years ago, has been helping me. I just want you to know Edith Green is with me and helping in my ideas and recommendations concerning education. Edith, will you please stand up.

But there is another guest that has been going with us. You recognized him when he walked in, but let me tell you, when I was very young, as a matter of fact, I it was part of my ambition to be a baseball player. Obviously, I didn't succeed. (Laughter) But then after I came back from World War II, I was trying to practice a little law and I was doing a little high school football broadcasting. Obviously, I didn't succeed. (Laughter)

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But we have here Joe Garagiola. Maybe I shouldn't say this about Joe's career, but I think Joe feels it is good to be on a winning team for a change. (Laughter)

It is great to be here at Villanova, and I am deeply appreciative of the warm welcome. As we come into the home stretch of this great campaign, I can't think of a better place to be than at this great university. I can't think of a better place to be at this great university that has been the alma mater of so many fast runners. As a matter of fact, the only thing that would make me worry about running against Jimmy Carter would be if he had Jumbo Elliott as his coach. (Laughter) But let me tell you something else. This one long-distance run is one race I am going to win.

Villanova University is truly an outstanding example of those privately supported institutions which have contributed so much to America's greatness and to our country's progress. Your share in America's distinguished tradition of private higher education, a tradition that is a century older than our country itself.

I am strongly opposed to a suggestion made by my opponent in this campaign that the Government tax all church-supported properties other than the church building itself. This would have serious implications as I have analyzed the problem, not only for church-supported schools but for church-supported hospitals, orphanages and retirement homes.

As far as our Government is concerned, those activities are as much a part of the church's mission as the church's place of worship. There is a constitutional separation of church and State in this country, and I will not see that separation sacrificed for a few more dollars in Federal tax revenues.

Americans must never forget that privately endowed colleges and universities like Villanova serve important public functions. Today, as in the past, they help prepare our national leadership in arts, the sciences, law, medicine, religion and in business, as well as in Government.

The strength, the vitality of America's privately endowed colleges and universities are essential to our educational system in America. If these private institutions should close, shifting the burden from private donors to public taxpayers, the tax load would be infinitely heavier. We must not let this happen, and as far as I am concerned, we will not.

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Let me repeat with emphasis what I have said many, many times before. I approve, support and encourage the principle of volunteer giving to help finance higher education, and I will continue to strongly oppose any legislative proposals which discourage such support, including those which would limit charitable tax deductions, disallow the full value of appreciated assets or exclude the State tax deductions.

We must also find, and find as quickly and effectively as possible, ways through the tax system of actually easing the burden of families whose sons and daughters attend nonpublic schools and to help families cope with the expenses of a college education.

Although I am a product of public education through the University of Michigan, I was the beneficiary of a law school education at Yale Law School.

But, I believe very deeply that the competition of nonpublic schools to the public school system is helpful in upgrading and maintaining the level of the public schools.

Competition in education is just as important as competition on the athletic field, in business or elsewhere, and we must maintain our nonpublic school systems throughout the United States.

Let me tell you something else that I haven't forgotten.

Two years ago, in October of 1974, when I visited Philadelphia, some of your fellow students thoughtfully gave me a Villanova football jersey. (Laughter)

After a year or about a year after that, I understand that some of you saw photographs of my daughter Susan wearing it. (Laughter)

Well, Susan couldn't be here today, but I think you will recognize this jersey.

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As you obviously saw, that jersey had number 76 on it, and it is on there, as I understood it, because some of you were encouraging me to run in 1976. I took your advice. (Laughter) And with your help, we are going to win November 2.

I have come to this great university to share with you some views that I have of America in 1976 and my hopes for America in the next four years and beyond. During the last two years in the aftermath of a very difficult war and a painful ordeal of economic adversity and political crisis, we reached a very critical turning point in America's history.

Throughout most of your lives, as I look around this wonderful audience, America has been in turmoil. Some of our most beloved leaders have been assassinated; there was a war that seemed to have no end; there were destructive riots on our streets and on some of our college campuses; we suffered runaway inflation and the worst recession in 40 years; we were betrayed by corruption at the highest levels of our Government.

Fortunately, the skies are much brighter this October. And I think we can say that the Administration has had something to do in turning the economy around. We are in the midst of growing prosperity. More Americans were on the job in 1976 than ever before in the history of the United States, some 88 million people gainfully employed. Many, or I should say too many people are still out of work, but we are on the move and I will not be satisfied until every American who wants a job has a job.

We have cut inflation in half and we are making continuous headway in that regard. America is at peace. There are no young Americans fighting or dying on any foreign soil today, and I say with emphasis, we are going to keep it that way.

Perhaps most important of all, America's trust in the White House has been restored. As I said on taking the oath of office as President on August 9, 1974, our long national nightmare is over. In the last two years the United States of America has made an incredible comeback, and we are not through yet.

In 200 years as a free people, much has changed in our Nation, but America's basic goals remain the same. Americans want a job with a good future; Americans want homes in decent neighborhoods and schools with quality education; Americans want physical security, safety against war and safety against crime; safety against pollution in the water we drink and in the air that we breathe; we want medical and hospital care when we are sick and costs that will not wipe out our savings; we want the time and the opportunity to enlarge our experience through recreation and through travel both at home and abroad.

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These are the goals which every politician and every citizen, I think, truly has for America. They are not some mystic vision out of the future. They are the continuing agenda for action in this great country.

So, the question in this campaign of 1976 is not who has the better vision of America. The question is who can best make that vision a reality.

The American people are ready for the truth, simply spoken, about what Government can do for them and what Government cannot and what it should not do. They will demand performance, not promises.

There are some in this political year who claim that more Government, more spending, more taxes and more control over our lives will solve our problems. More Government is not the solution. Better Government is the solution.

It is time that we thought of new ways to make Government a capable servant rather than a meddling master. It is time we trusted the American people with the truth, that a Government big enough to give us everything we want is a Government big enough to take from us everything we have.

It is not enough for anyone to say trust me. Trust must be earned. Trust is not having to guess what a candidate means. Trust is leveling with the people before the election about what you are going to do after the election.

Trust is not being all things to all people, but being the same thing to all people. Trust is not cleverly shading words so that each separate audience can hear what it wants to hear, but saying plainly and very simply what you mean and meaning what you say.

I am proud of the maturity of the American people who demand more honesty, truthfulness and candor of their elected representatives. The American people, particularly young people, cannot be expected to take pride or even participate in a system of Government that is defiled and dishonored, whether in the White House or in the halls of Congress.

Personal integrity is not too much to ask of public servants. We should accept nothing less and the American people will not do so.

On November 2, the thoughts, the feelings of our Bicentennial will be expressed in a specific choice: What will we take with us into our third century? What will we leave behind? What sort of Government will help us reach our goals, not burden us with excess baggage?

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Our Nation's founders did not seek to guarantee our happiness, only our freedom to pursue happiness in our own way. The Government alone cannot make life meaningful. It can protect your freedom to pursue happiness, but it cannot make you happy. It can protect your freedom to worship, but it cannot give you faith in God. It can help you to be healthy and well-educated, but it cannot plant purpose in your mind or in your body.

Only you, the individual, with the help of family, church and community, only you can do just that.

Recently, we have heard a great deal about the apathy and the frustration of American voters in this election. But I see hopeful signs in this Bicentennial election and every day that passes -- particularly in the last week -- I have become more and more encouraged. I see not sterile cynicism and skepticism, but the signs of a new realism emerging all over this great country. Americans are realizing that there is only so much the Government can do for you and that every promise has to have its price.

We have been laying the foundations for a great third century in America, not on false promises or empty optimism but on a sound and realistic attitude towards ourselves and towards our system.

For the past two years, I have done my best to put this Nation back on an even keel, to chart a steady course for our country's future. We have come a long, long way. We have a long way to go to do all the things that this country has the potential to do.

We can build an America that not only celebrates history but makes it, that offers limited Government and unlimited opportunity that concerns itself with the quality of life, that proves individual liberty is still the key to common progress.

I have been very proud to serve as your President. I love this country just as all of you do. It would be the highest honor of my life for you and your fellow Americans to say to me November 2, "Jerry Ford, you have done a good job. Keep right on doing it."

Thank you very much.

END (AT 3:13 P.M. EDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 27, 1976

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
GOP FUND-RAISING DINNER

PHILADELPHIA CIVIC AUDITORIUM

7:52 P.M. EDT



Bill Simon, the great Secretary of the Treasury; my good friend and your great Senator, Senator Hugh Scott; my good friend, and again your great Senator, Dick Schweiker; your next Senator, John Heinz; a very fine former colleague of mine in the House of Representatives, Larry Coughlin:

I am here to first express my deep appreciation for the wonderful job that all of you did under the leadership of Drew Lewis at the time of the Convention in Kansas City. I want to thank Drew. I want to thank Dr. Ethel Allen. I want to thank all of you who did such a wonderful job. Thank you very, very much.

But I add very quickly, it has been wonderful to come to the State of Pennsylvania, or the Commonwealth, I should say. Like yesterday I was in Pittsburgh early in the morning, and who was right at my side? Dick Schweiker. I appreciate that kind of loyalty, that kind of cooperation. That is what we are getting in Pennsylvania.

In Kansas City, I said that we were not going to concede a single State, we would not concede a single vote, and we haven't. We have campaigned the length and the breadth of this country, and the net result is we have the momentum going. We have the momentum going because we have the right programs, because we are appealing to the patriotic spirit, the faith that people in this great country have in their Nation, the kind of Government that we have.

And let me give you one or two things that I would like to use, or have you use, in the remaining days of this very critical campaign. There are many reasons why we can appeal to Independents, Democrats, Republicans. But there are two things that I think are almost overriding.

Peace -- one of the greatest achievements of this Administration is the fact that we have peace and not a single young American is fighting or dying on any foreign soil tonight, and we have the military strength and the diplomatic skill to keep it that way in the next four years, and we will.

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It would be tragic if the military strength that we have was in any way eroded by suggestions by some that we should slash \$5 to \$7 billion away from those necessary funds from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, because I can tell you, as one who has negotiated with our allies to strengthen our relationship, as one who has sat across the table negotiating with the leaders of adversary nations, it is so reassuring to know that when I say America is strong, America is united, we have the United States Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines standing ready to do a job. We can depend on them and we are going to keep them number one.

As I travel in many, many States, another overriding concern of the American people is that their tax burden is rising, locally and statewide. I can say -- and look them right in the eye -- and say to taxpayers in Oregon or California, New York or Pennsylvania, that President Ford recommended in January of last year a \$28 billion tax reduction with a \$28 billion restraint on Federal spending.

Congress gave us half of both. They didn't cut the rate of growth in Federal spending as much as they should have, as much as I proposed. They only gave the American people half of the tax reduction that I recommended.

But let me say this: We laid it on the line. We recommended the best way to help the shortchanged middle income taxpayer -- and he has been given short shrift in the last 10 years -- we recommended -- and Bill Simon I can recall very vividly saying, "Mr. President, this is the way to do it" -- we proposed that we increase the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. Congress didn't respond. I can't understand it, but nevertheless they didn't.

But, let's take an example. This is what you can tell people as you campaign in Philadelphia or the surrounding suburbs or anyplace else -- that if Congress had done its job, a man who has a wife and three children, when he would make out his income tax returns next April, under President Ford's plan he could have had for his five that he is accountable for -- he would have had \$1,250 more in personal exemption, and that would have made a difference to that taxpayer.

Now I make a pledge to you. Congress didn't do the job. It is going to be on their shelf next January. When I submit the budget, the economic plan, we are going to recommend the same thing, and if they fail the American people again, we will put it on their platter in January of 1978, and if they fail again in the Congress, then we are going to the American people in that next election in 1978 and we are going to beat those individuals in the Congress that don't respond with the right kind of tax reduction.

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Well, those are the things -- peace and a tax reduction.

But now let's talk about the new spirit I find in America, whether it is on the West Coast or the East Coast. The spark was really lighted here in Philadelphia on July 4. I am sure many of you attended the great ceremonies that we held in the City right here.

The American people have been disillusioned. They lost faith and trust in their country, maybe in themselves. But we turned things around. We restored trust in the White House; we ended the war in Vietnam; we have been quite successful in battling inflation, from over 12 percent to under 6 percent; we have added 4 million jobs.

But the main thing that happened on July 4 was there was a rebirth of spirit. The American people got that old patriotism back. Instead of fighting with one another, they got together. There is a new belief, not only in our form of Government but in each other, and in themselves.

And so America has made an incredible comeback. We have the momentum going, and I happen to believe that when the people go to those polls on November 2 they are going to say "Jerry Ford, you did a good job. We want you to do it for the next four years."

So, I thank you all. I thank Billy Meehan, Bill Devlin, your two great Senators, your next Senator, Larry Coughlin, all of you. We have five and a half days to go. We can do it. Pennsylvania is crucial. Let's make certain that the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania leads the pack so that we will have four good years under Jerry Ford.

Thank you.

END (AT 8:02 P.M. EDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 27, 1976

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
PLYMOUTH MEETING MALL

9:00 P.M. EDT

Congressman Larry Coughlin, Senator Dick Schweicker, Congressman Bud Shuster, your good friend Bob Butera, and all of the other dignitaries here on the podium:

It is wonderful to be in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I love you, and we are going to win.

As I travel around the country, the crowds get bigger, the enthusiasm becomes even greater, but there is one thing I am an authority on; that is, the quality of the bands. Inside you have the wonderful Journeying String band, the Plymouth White March band, and as I came in I couldn't help but notice the fine music and the wonderful appearance of the Central Bucks Marching band, the North-South Marching Eagles and the Sun Valley High School band. Thank you all. They are the best. Congratulations. I deeply appreciate them all being here.

Let me be very straightforward with you tonight. It is great to be back in Pennsylvania. You have given me a wonderful welcome here. We had a wonderful welcome in Pittsburgh yesterday, and I thank all of the wonderful people from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the support that we are going to get on November 2, and we are going to carry the Keystone State.

I am going to extend to you a special invitation from Betty and myself. Come on down to Washington, D.C. January 20 and see the Ford-Dole ticket sworn in on inauguration day.

As we come to the final countdown days -- and we have just six days left -- I want you to know where I stand. I stand on your side for limited Government, for fiscal responsibility, for rising prosperity, for military strength, for peace in the world.

I remind each and every one of you that not a single young American is fighting or dying on any foreign battlefield tonight, and we are going to keep it that way.

After so many, many years in which America's defenses were short-changed, I proposed the two largest defense outlays in the history of the United States. I was fortunate enough to convince the Congress of the United States not to slash and cut our defense appropriations in 1976.

MORE



After so many years of runaway growth in the Federal budget, I submitted a budget for this fiscal year which cut the rate of growth in Federal spending by one-half. I have held the line on Government spending with 66 vetoes and saved you, the hard-pressed American taxpayer, \$9 billion and each family in this country \$200 in Federal spending, and we are going to do better next year.

Because, as your President, I have not been afraid to say no to the big spenders in the Congress. We will submit a balanced budget in 1978 and we will have another tax reduction for the American people in addition.

My idea of tax reform is very simple -- it is tax reduction. I proposed last year, in January of 1976, that the Congress increase your personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. Let me be very specific. I am sure in this great group here tonight there are families where there are three children, a husband and a wife. If Congress had done its job, if Congress had done as I recommended, that family next April in making out their income tax return, would have had \$1,250 more of tax exemption.

Congress failed you. We are going to put it on their doorstep next January. If they don't do it in 1977, we are going to submit it in 1978, and if they don't do it then, we will beat 'em in the next election.

I firmly believe that the middle income taxpayer -- which is about 50 percent of the American taxpayers -- they have been short-changed. Jerry Ford is on their side, and we are going to get that kind of tax reduction out of the next Congress, I pledge to you.

Since I have been your President in August of 1974, we have cut the rate of inflation by one-half, and I pledge to you we will do even better in the next four years.

After the worst recession in 40 years, we have added four million jobs to the American economy in the last two years, not by creating deadend taxpayer jobs but stimulating jobs with a future in the private economy. That is where we can make this country prosperous again. We will get tax reductions to get jobs, and we will get tax reductions so you will have more of your own money to spend for yourself and your family, and that is another pledge.

We still have too many people out of work. We are not satisfied with the progress we have made but more Americans were on the job in 1976 than ever before in the history of the United States -- nearly 88 million -- and that is a tremendous comeback from where we were just a year and a half ago.

MORE

After the 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 and straightforward, and we are going to keep it that way in the next four years under Jerry Ford.

I can stand before this wonderful group in Plymouth Mall and say America is on the move, America is on the march, the nation is sound, the nation is secure. This nation is on the way to a better quality of life for all Americans. 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. Yes, we have our troubles, but in the last two years we have come a long, long way. We have made incredible progress, and we are going to make more in the next four years.

Here at home we are putting our old differences aside, we are putting old problems behind us, and we are healing the wounds. I am proud to be a citizen of the great United States of America. I look out here and I know that every one of us are just as proud to be an American as I am.

Since August of 1974 America has had a restoration of trust. We ended the war in Vietnam. We are making headway out of the recession. It is a record that I am proud to run on, a record the people of Pennsylvania and concerned citizens all across this nation -- Independents, Democrats, Republicans -- will support this record on November 2.

Give me your mandate, and we will reduce the rate of growth of the Federal 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 happiness they have so richly earned.

There is no reason why they should have to go broke just to get well, and they won't under a Ford Administration.

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

Give me your mandate, and I will lead this nation on the path of peace through strength and we will live in peace, in freedom in the United States. I have no fear for the future of America. The future is a friend of America. As you and I 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 that I can for America. God helping me, I won't let you down.

Thank you very, very much.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 27, 1976

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
VALLEY FORGE MUSIC FAIR

9:58 P.M. EDT

Thank you all. Won't you all sit down, please.

Thank you very much, Faith, and thank all of you wonderful, dedicated, loyal, Delaware County Republican workers and the tremendous senior citizens from this area.



It is a high honor and a very rare privilege for me to have an opportunity to say a few words tonight. Of course, I am here to urge all of you to elect John Heinz your next United States Senator. And of course I strongly urge you to make darned sure that John Kinney goes down to the House of Representatives. Of course, Dick Schulze and Bud Shuster, they did a great job, so make sure you send them back.

I have never been to a political meeting where I occupied this kind of podium before. (Laughter) The last time I had spectators or participants or the public all around me was back when I was playing football at the University of Michigan. That was so long ago it was back when the ball was round. (Laughter)

But let me say something, or make a suggestion. I have been in Pittsburgh yesterday and I had the privilege and honor of being there with Dick Schweiker, who was with me at the J & L plant and was with me as I spoke to the Pittsburgh Economic Club. Dick has been traveling with me, and I want to express to him -- and he is with me here tonight -- my deep appreciation for your loyal and dedicated support.

As I started to say, I would like to experiment tonight. As I said, this is a new format. For the next 15 minutes, I would like to hear a pin drop. I don't want you to cheer if I say anything that might inspire you. I hope you won't moan or groan, and please don't fall asleep. (Laughter)

But I would like to talk very seriously and very straight from the shoulder, and let you refresh your memory, if you would, for just a moment. Go back to August of 1974. Naturally, I will never forget that occasion because on August 9 of that month, I was sworn in as President of the United States.

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America was in very deep trouble. Faith and confidence in the White House had been lost. I think there was an undercurrent of lack of faith, really, among 215 million Americans, in our Government and our future. We certainly were suffering the worst inflation since the turn of the century -- over 12 percent. We were on the brink of the worst economic recession in 40 years, and we were still involved very substantially in Vietnam.

I can recall very vividly after taking the oath of office in the East Room of the White House and going with Betty to the Oval Office and saying to her that we had to stand tall and strong, because we loved America, as all Americans do. But we had to find a way to put the ship on an even keel and to set a steady course.

And slowly but surely, because the American people felt that they had a new trust in the White House itself and that we weren't going to panic and we weren't going to try any quick fixes that sounded good but didn't have any substance -- so slowly but surely there was this restoration of confidence in America, its Government, its people, its principles, its aims, its objectives.

People could begin to see that because we were doing the right thing in the economy that the rate of growth of inflation was beginning to dampen down, that the dollar was not eroding as rapidly as it had in 1973 and 1974. And although we were in a recession--unemployment was going up and employment was going down--they saw that we were doing fundamentally the right thing to get us out of the problems we were in. Then, of course, we left Vietnam and our allies were reassured by the strength that we had in America and our adversaries saw that we meant business and we were going to be respected.

So, then, we started to move. And you could feel the new spirit that was generating in America. And you, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, probably participated more directly because of the Bicentennial affairs that took place in Philadelphia.

But wasn't that a wonderful experience for all Americans that we could celebrate our 200th birthday with a rejuvenation, a rebirth, the spirit that our forefathers developed when they put this country together 200 years ago, 13 colonies, less than 3 million people.

But they faced adversity and they came out of it and gave us this blessing, that on the Fourth of July after all our troubles, America seemed to be on the move again. There had been this incredible feeling that faith had been restored, that progress was on its way and we could look down the road with real vision, a vision of achievement, that we could not only read about history, but we could make history in our third century.

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Now we have a great election, a great election that is just five and a half days away, really. It is the first election of a President in our third century. It is an election that will undoubtedly make a difference in the course that America takes, not only for the next four years but for the next century.

You know what the differences are, but let me talk about what I foresee as what will be done in the next four years if I have the opportunity to be your President. We have gotten most of our past troubles out of the way so we can begin to have some things done that will be an added element to the quality of life that we have here in America.

What do we want? We certainly want a job for every American who wants to work. We are not going to argue about statistics. I want the kind of a society where the free enterprise system makes it possible for any American who wants to work to get a job, and we are going to achieve that objective in the next four years.

But the quality of life not only depends on the job but it depends on the home, the family. The housing industry has been in some trouble during our economic recession, but I was so encouraged the last two months. The statistics indicated that we were really on the upswing.

And what does that mean? It means that people are willing to invest, they have a little extra money for that down payment, they can gamble on those monthly mortgage payments.

So, we are going to try and help them, my Administration. We are going to cut the down payments by 50 percent. We are going to make sure that if a person has a 20- or 30-year mortgage, that the monthly payments are less when a young couple is earning less. And the monthly payments will be higher when a person has more money as he advances up the salary scale. But the strength of this country is the home, the family, and we want those neighborhoods preserved.

And then, of course, we want good health care. I think the American people do get good health care, but we have to make positive that it is health care they can afford. And we owe a very special obligation to the older citizens of this country -- some 33 million, as I recall the figure -- people who have worked hard, and saved, mainly living on retirement incomes. We owe them an obligation. That obligation, I think, is to make certain that if any one of them has an extended, prolonged, expensive illness, that instead of having their savings depleted by the kind of costs that do occur -- and I venture to say in this room tonight, everybody here knows of that kind of a serious tragedy in any family.

MORE

So, that is why I proposed to the Congress last year what is called catastrophic health insurance so that any one of our older citizens, senior citizens, cannot have any more than a \$750-a-year bill for hospital or medical expenses. That relieves them and gives them the kind of security that I think would be better for their frame of mind and certainly for their savings that they have earned over the years.

But, speaking of the senior citizens -- and I know there are some here -- there are other things that we must do. Cut the rate of inflation -- we have done quite well but we are going to do better. From over 12 percent to under 6 percent, that is better than a 50 percent rate of progress. But we have to get it down, and we will.

Then we have to make sure that the cost of living escalators for Social Security payments are there for them to count on. But I have to say that we owe an obligation likewise to make sure that that Social Security trust fund is sound financially.

I proposed a method that I think was fair to achieve that. Congress didn't respond. But we have an obligation to those who are retired and those who will shortly be retired so that that trust fund is available and they don't have to worry about it.

And then, of course, of all the people in our great country who need most the protection from crime, it is our older senior citizens. So, we have got to do something in the quality of life area to make certain, to make positive that those who commit a crime are convicted and go to jail.

My Administration has always felt that the emphasis should be on the victims of crime, not the people that commit the crimes.

Let me tell you what we are trying to do. There are unfortunately in our society some who are what we call hardened criminals, career criminals. Starting better than a year ago, we tried in 12 cities a program of helping State and local law enforcement officers, the courts, with a career criminal program. They went in there and they identified 2 or 3 or 5 career criminals and they went after them with an amazing rate of success.

I think they, in the 12 cities, have a record of conviction of about 90 to 95 percent, and the average sentence is 20 years in jail. That is what ought to happen to them. But then, now that it has been successful, we are going to expand it, I think, to 24 or 36 cities in the next 12 months.

But it is an obligation of every one of us to our senior citizens that they can walk to the store, go to church, visit their friends in safety, on the streets wherever they may live.

But also we need to make certain that our younger generation has a quality education. The Federal Government does contribute to local and State educational programs. But I was dumbfounded just the other day to find that there are 110 different Federal educational programs. If you can, imagine how many bureaucrats in Washington are managing 110 educational programs.

But anyhow, what we have tried to do and what we are going to do is to simplify it. Instead of having 110 individual programs, we are going to try and have a single block grant program in the major areas, the major 25 programs. We will increase the money and, at the same time, we will diminish the number of forms. We will get the money for the teachers and for the students. Doesn't that make a lot of sense to you? It sure does to me.

Then I think we have to see how we can finance some of these programs. Last January, as the Members of the House and Senate know, I presented a budget to them that was different than budgets had been in recent years. We found that the rate of growth of Federal spending over the last ten years had been going up at the rate of 11 percent per year. Unbelievable.

If you projected that for the next 25 years, this country would have been in dire fiscal circumstances. So, we decided that we were going to put a lid on the rate of growth of Federal spending, and we did. We cut it in half.

Now, the Congress didn't respond as well as they should, but they did a little better than they had been doing. But, at the same time that I recommended that we cut the rate of growth of Federal spending, I said for every dollar we save in Federal spending, I recommend a dollar in tax reduction.

I put two main points in that tax reduction program. I said, number one, the middle income people in this country have been short-changed. Those middle income people -- who really are 50 percent of the taxpayers in America -- could get the best tax relief by a suggestion of increasing the personal exemption, which is now \$750 a year, to \$1,000 a year.

The other day I was visiting a factory and talking to some workers and one of the men said, "Well, Mr. President, what will you do for my family under your tax proposal or tax reduction recommendation?" I said, "Well, how many children do you have?" He said, "I have three and a wonderful wife." I said, "All right, if Congress had done the job instead of going off in the wrong direction in tax reduction," I said "next April when you figured out your income tax return, you could have had, with three children, a wife and yourself \$1,250 more in personal exemption." He said, "Gosh, how could the Congress be so stupid not to do that?"

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Anyhow, let me say this: We are going to submit it to 'em in January. We will give 'em another crack at it because the middle income taxpayers need that relief. But, in order to create the jobs that are essential and necessary in America -- and we have about 2,000,000 to 2,500,000 that are coming into the labor market, our younger people that are finishing school -- industry has to have an incentive to expand in their locations where they may be, or to build a new plant, to buy better equipment.

So, I think the business community ought to get some tax relief so they can create the jobs that are so important if we are going to give job opportunities in the private sector.

Oh, I know some people in Congress advocate putting everybody on the Federal payroll. That is a deadend, no-advancement area. What we need is the job in the private sector where people can work with certainty and with an opportunity for advancement.

One final point. Nothing pleases me more that we say and say with honesty -- there is not a single young American fighting or dying on any foreign battlefield tonight. But to maintain that, we have to be strong enough to convince our allies that we are prepared to work with them to preserve the peace in the free world.

We have to be strong enough so when the President sits down and looks at the head of Government of an adversary nation straight in the eye, he has to know that America is strong and that America has the will, America has the courage and fortitude to do what is right. The only way you can have that is to have an Army, a Navy, an Air Force and Marine Corps that are number one.

I don't think that you can cut the Defense Department, as some suggest, and have our military capability unsurpassed. To deter aggression, to meet any challenge, to protect our national security, I believe that the President of the United States has an obligation to see to it that the necessary funds are there to buy the best weapons, to have the best leadership, to have the best training, to have the strength that adversaries respect and allies appreciate.

Then America can keep the peace that we have and be the leader in the world, and we will under this Administration.

One final thought. Faith tells me that the party workers in Delaware County are the best not only in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, but in the whole United States. Pennsylvania is a key State in this election. We can win or lose. We can have the direction of America going one way if Pennsylvania is on our side and the country can go another way if Pennsylvania is on the other side. It is that very practical result.

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So, Delaware County is the county that can make the difference. So, all 3,000 of you here I hope will maximize your efforts and turn in the biggest vote, a vote for America, a vote for America's future. We are on the march; we are on the way. There is a new faith; there is a new spirit.

What you do between now and November 2 when the polls close will make a significant difference in the third century of America's future. I know you won't let America down and, as the next President, I won't let you down.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 10:25 P.M. EDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 28, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Cincinnati, Ohio)

THE WHITE HOUSE



STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Later today, I will be releasing a comprehensive statement on nuclear policy, calling upon all nations of the world to join in a cooperative effort to expand the benefits of peaceful uses of nuclear energy while preventing nuclear proliferation.

The actions I am announcing are designed to:

- strengthen the commitment of all nations to the goal of non-proliferation,
- change and strengthen U. S. domestic policies and programs to support our non-proliferation goals, and
- establish a stronger foundation for increasing the use of nuclear energy in the U. S. and abroad.

The State of Ohio will have an important role to play in meeting these objectives. We must have new capacity to provide fuel for nuclear power plants here and abroad. The additional uranium enrichment plant that we are going to build at Portsmouth, Ohio, is critical to that capacity.

Construction of the Portsmouth plant is now expected to cost \$4.4 billion and will mean 6,000 new jobs for Southern Ohio. The Administrator of ERDA has assured me that construction of that plant can begin early next year.

Construction of the plant at Portsmouth will assure a central role for Ohio for years to come in providing fuel needed for nuclear power plants in the United States and around the world.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 28, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Indianapolis, Indiana)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL

9:05 A.M. EST

Governor Otis Bowen, it has just been wonderful to have worked with you and those words were, I hope, deserved. They certainly are appreciated.

But it is great to see so many old friends here: Congressman John Myers, Bud Hillis, Bill Hudnut, your fine mayor and, of course, your next United States Senator, Dick Lugar. Then I understand somewhere in the audience is an old and very dear friend of mine, Bill Bray. Bill, thank you.

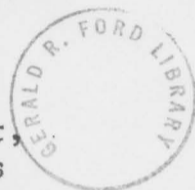
But equally important, I understand you have some top-notch Congressional candidates, Larry Buell and David Crane. Elect them. I need them. You need them in Washington, D. C.

I am deeply grateful to Mr. McAllister for heading up this wonderful affair, and, of course, I am extremely grateful to Forrest Tucker for being a great master of ceremonies so early in the morning.

There are two friends, I understand, Forrest did introduce, but I would like to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to both of them. They are making an extraordinary effort to be helpful. First, a fellow you have heard about, Joe Garagiola. Joe, where are you?

I am extremely indebted to one of the outstanding Members of the House of Representatives -- I should say really in the Congress -- and I think Bill Bray, Bud Hillis and John Myers, would verify this -- one of the outstanding Members of the United States Congress during my many years there. She and I served together, she on the Democratic side of the aisle and I on the Republican. There was no person in the Congress who was more knowledgeable, more far-sighted, more helpful to education in the Congress on either side of the aisle than former Congresswoman Edith Green, and I want to express my appreciation for her loyal and wonderful support. Thank you very, very much, Edith.

Obviously, it is wonderful to be here in Indianapolis, a city growing stronger under good Republican management and Hoosier pride, a city with a tradition of outstanding leaders from such men as Dick Lugar and Bill Hudnut.



Before Bill became your mayor, he was a colleague of mine in the House of Representatives. This year it is Dick Lugar's turn to go to Washington and on November 2 you are going to send him there.

Bill Hudnut and Dick Lugar are both so talented that I think we ought to agree to share them. You can keep one here to keep Indianapolis on the right track, as long as we can have the other one in Washington to get Congress back on the right track.

Let me say a word or two about your great Governor. When Doc Bowen came to Indiana to its State House four years ago, that was one house call that helped over 5 million people. His wisdom and his experience have served you so well in the past four years, and I just am so encouraged to see that the voters of the great State of Indiana are apparently going to give him an overwhelming victory. That is a great, great tribute to you, Doc, for the superb job you have done.

Now we have less than a week to go before Election Day. One of the major issues in this Presidential campaign has been the state of our national economy. Of all the differences between Mr. Carter and me, none is more important than our differences over economic policy. These differences have a lot to do with our contrasting views of what the fundamental role of our Government should be in the United States of America.

I was interested to read a recent summary by the National Association of Business Economists. Sixty percent of those professional economists replied that a Ford Administration would be far more likely to pursue economic policies in the national interest. Only 14 percent gave such a vote of confidence to Mr. Carter.

The Ford Administration in the two years-plus has earned the confidence of the American people by addressing our immediate problems while maintaining a long-term view of economic policy,

When I came to office two years ago, the economy was suffering the most disastrous consequences of many years of short-term and short-sighted policies. We had experienced budget deficits in 14 of the last 15 years. Wage and price controls -- they burdened us with a tax structure which did not encourage sufficient capital formation.

We all remember what the consequences were. Inflation was growing, confidence was shrinking among consumers and among businessmen, and our economy was in the early stages of the worst recession in 40 years.

I don't mind admitting I faced considerable pressure from the Congress and elsewhere to try the same old short-term solutions. They sounded good on paper, but, believe me, in the 25 years that I had been in Congress and seen us go through the same experiences, I knew deep in my heart that that was not the road to travel.

The economic downturn, as you will recall, set off a clamor for huge emergency Federal subsidies for more and bigger Federal programs and higher deficit spending. I rejected this policy of panic, and I think we were right.

Instead, I chose policies designed to build long-term, sustained economic growth without inflation. Instead of trying to buy our way out of the recession by throwing open the doors of the Federal Treasury, we took steps to revitalize American business and American industry. The result has been a recovery built on a very solid base. We cut inflation by more than half. From the frightening annual rate of over 12 percent, our latest monthly figures show it running at 4.8 percent. That is real progress.

Equally important, my Administration is putting America back to work. Since the recession low of March, 1975, total employment has increased by nearly 4 million people. We have more American working today than ever before in the history of the United States, nearly 88 million.

Unemployment is still too high. Let me point out, however, that its failure to drop more sharply this year is the result of an unprecedented increase in the size of the American labor force. That great increase in the size of the labor force is a sign of renewed confidence in the health of our economy and the dramatic increase in job opportunities.

Let me say very strongly, I won't be satisfied until every American who wants a job has a job. Those jobs won't be secure, those pay checks won't be protected unless we keep inflation under control. Inflation hurts all of us, especially our older citizens on fixed incomes. It robs their savings, their purchasing power and everybody else's.

Inflation not only cuts out purchasing power, it ultimately cuts confidence and is the most basic element in a sustained recovery. Consumers, fearful of inflation, hold back on purchases. We vividly recall that in late 1974, inventories accumulate, production slows down, businessmen defer investment in plants and equipment, and jobs are lost. We know this scenario much too well. We have seen it happen before in our history. We must not let it happen again, and this Administration will not permit it in the next four years.

America's confidence in its economy has been restored. We have shown that inflation can be driven down, can be cured. Now we must keep America's confidence by continuing to hold the line. We must keep raising America's high standard of living. Our economic progress depends, as always, on our ability as a Nation to foster capital investment and increase the productivity of our workers.

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I have proposed reforms to the Congress to stimulate what some call capital formation through tax incentives. That is a big mouthful, but I prefer to use the term -- and it is much more meaningful -- job creation, because that is what the proposals would do as a practical matter.

To meet our employment goals, to create 10 million jobs over the next four years, 2,500,000 each year for the next four years, will require a substantial increase in the share of our Gross National Product committed to the private sector.

Some of the so-called tax loopholes condemned by my opponent are in fact important tools to encourage capital formation. They are incentives for business expansion, for business investment, so our economy can employ more people and produce more goods and more services. America's Government must make it easier, not harder, for American business to find the capital that makes the whole system work.

In our third debate, last Friday -- and I might make a comment about that -- I was asked if I had any suggestions about the debates. I said, number one, they ought to be institutionalized -- and I hope they will in future campaigns -- but I had a personal observation. I hoped that Mr. Carter would answer his questions (Laughter) and that I would question my answers. (Laughter)

As I was saying, I was asked in the debate last Friday -- or my opponent was asked -- what were the reasons behind his rather drastic slippage in the polls. In my view, one very important reason for his precipitous decline in popularity is that since his party Convention he has relied very, very heavily on the discredited old formula of more promises, more programs and more spending.

The American people today are in a very realistic frame of mind. They know that every promise has its price. The price in Governor Carter's case would be a minimum of \$100 billion up to maybe \$200 billion every year out of the Federal Treasury. That is the price of the new spending programs that he endorses.

You and I know that there are only two alternatives: The Federal Government can pay for those programs by increasing taxes or it can borrow the money to pay for them, putting more pressure on the credit markets, making it harder for business and industry to find the money that they need, adding to the deficit and fueling the fires of inflation. That, in my judgment, is the wrong approach altogether, and I will vigorously disapprove of it in the next four years.

We need to hold down the rate of growth in Federal spending, and as the Members of Congress who are here know, when I submitted the budget in January of last year I said we could not afford the 11 percent increase in Federal spending that had been the trend for the last 10 years. So, I submitted a budget that would reduce that rate of growth by 50 percent to an increase of 5-1/2 percent.

MORE

Congress didn't respond. They did a little better than they had been doing, but they have a long way to go. Let me say to every Member of Congress, Democrat or Republican, we are going to submit a budget in January of next year that will have the same pressure on Federal spending, and I want their support to keep the lid on that spending.

I have been trying to keep that lid on, and we have done that with some 66 vetoes, and saved the American taxpayer -- or saved the American Treasury -- about \$9 billion, averaging about \$200 per family in Federal spending.

In addition, let me say, we can reduce taxes if we act responsibly in restraining the growth of Federal spending. We can reduce taxes for private individuals and corporations as well.

I have proposed -- and I reiterate here -- the increase in the personal exemption by one-third, from \$750 to \$1,000, and trimming the corporate income tax rate at the same time. The most necessary tax reform today is tax relief for the middle income taxpayer, so I submitted a tax reduction bill to the Congress last year that called for the increase in the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000.

Congress didn't respond. I don't understand why because I was talking to some workers out in the factory the other day and one of the men legitimately asked me, "What are you doing about my tax burdens? They are going up locally. They are going up statewide." I said, "Well, I proposed that Congress give to you this increase in the personal exemption." I said, "How many children do you have?" He said, "I have three." It turned out he had a wife and three children. I said, "If Congress had been smart, they would have given you that kind of tax relief, which would have given you the opportunity next April when you make out your 1040 return, you would have \$1,250 more in personal income tax exemption." I said, "How could Congress be so stupid not to do it?"

We are going to submit it to them in January. We are going to submit the same proposal to them in January, and if they don't pass it in 1977, we will resubmit it in 1978. If they don't pass it in 1978, I am going out and try to beat them all in the election in 1978.

I have indicated to you that I intend to propose as the first order of business in Washington next January an additional tax cut of \$10 billion. As soon as the Congress is organized, I intend to meet with its leadership -- Democrat and Republican -- so that we can put a tax cut at the top of the legislative agenda for 1977.

In the meantime, I believe that every candidate for Federal office, from the White House to the House of Representatives, has an obligation in the closing days of this campaign to say precisely where he stands on tax cuts. Specifically, I call upon all candidates for the Congress to tell their prospective constituents before the election, not after the election, whether they will support the kind of additional tax cuts that I have proposed.

I pledge to the American people that I will seek tax cuts as the number one priority in the next Ford Administration, and I ask for the help of voters in electing a Congress that will work with me toward that end.

My view is that our Government should return more money and more power to the American people and to the State and local authorities closest to the American people. In recent years, we have seen a trend toward greater centralization, greater power in Washington and less State and local authority in your respective communities and States. This trend has not only hurt the American economy, but it has sapped the American spirit.

The continuing economic crisis in Great Britain -- you may have read yesterday that it was worse yesterday than it has been before -- tells us all we need to know about the dangers of too much Government, too much spending on borrowed money. Just a few days ago the value of the British pound dropped to a new all-time low. Inflation has been running at approximately 25 percent. Government spending in Great Britain now accounts for 60 percent of the entire British economy.

The courageous -- and I emphasize courageous -- British Prime Minister of that troubled nation has gone to the very heart of the problem. Listen to what he said just a few weeks ago to his own Labor Party, the party that played an important role in helping to create the crisis that they face. Prime Minister Jim Callaghan said -- and I quote -- "We used to think that you could spend your way out of a recession and increase employment by cutting taxes and boosting Government spending." He went on to say, "I will tell you in all candor, that option no longer exists and that insofar as it ever did exist, it worked by injecting inflation into the economy. Each time that has happened, the average level of unemployment has risen." He went on to say, "Higher inflation followed by higher unemployment, that is the history of the last 20 years in Great Britain." We must not let that happen in the United States. We can avoid it, and as long as I am President of the United States we will avoid it.

That is but one of the many important reasons I am a candidate for the President in 1976. I need your help and I need your support. I need your vote on November 2.

You know where I stand. You know what I have done. You know what we can do. Under my Presidency in the next four years -- and with your support and our victory here in Indiana and nationwide next November 2 -- I will never let you down.

Thank you very, very much.

END (AT 9:31 A.M. EST)

OCTOBER 28, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Covington, Kentucky)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
UPON HIS ARRIVAL TO THE
GREATER CINCINNATI AIRPORT

12 NOON EDT



Well, thank you very much, Governor, Bob Taft, the members of the Congressional delegations from both Ohio and Kentucky. It is great to be in the Southern Ohio area.

But I did want to make a very special announcement here. I am releasing a comprehensive statement on nuclear policy, calling upon all nations of the world to join in a cooperative effort to expand the benefits of peaceful uses of nuclear energy while preventing nuclear proliferation.

The actions that I am announcing today are designed to strengthen the commitment of all nations to the goal of nonproliferation; change as well as strengthen U.S. domestic policy and programs to support our nonproliferation goals; and to establish a very strong foundation for increasing the use of nuclear energy in the United States and abroad.

The State of Ohio will have an important role to play in meeting these new objectives. We must have new capacity to provide fuel for nuclear power plants here as well as abroad. The additional uranium enrichment plant that we are going to build at Portsmouth, Ohio, is critical to that capacity. Construction of the Portsmouth plant is now expected to cost \$4 billion 400 million, and will mean 6,000 new jobs for Southern Ohio.

The Administrator of the Energy Research and Development Administration has assured me that construction of that plant can begin early next year, which means early 1977. Construction of that plant at Portsmouth, Ohio, will assure a central role for Ohio for years to come in providing fuel needed for nuclear power plants in the United States and around the world.

And I thank the members of the Ohio delegation for the strong support that they have given me in making this announcement possible. And I particularly point out Bob Taft, Bill Harsha, and the rest of the Southern Ohio delegation that has done so much to make this announcement possible.

I thank you very, very much.

END (AT 12:03 P.M. EDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 28, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Cincinnati, Ohio)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT
FOUNTAIN SQUARE



12:40 P.M. EDT

Thanks very, very much, Governor Jim Rhodes, Senator Bob Taft.

I am certainly looking forward to having Bob Taft down there to help me in the next four years, so he can help Ohio in the next six years. Send him back. We need him, and so do you.

But it is also great to see so many of my old and very dear friends from the House of Representatives: Bill Gradison, Don Clancy, Tom Kindness, Bud Brown, Jim Harsha, Gene Snyder, Doc Carter.

Well, there is one special person, too, a former Senator, just resigned as our Ambassador to East Germany, John Sherman Cooper.

Well, it is just great to be here in Cincinnati, the home of the Big Red Machine. You didn't concede a single game in the World Series, and we won't concede a single State or a single vote on November 2.

A few days ago, I understand you had a pretty big celebration here on behalf of the Reds, and I would, too -- back-to-back world champions. Boy, what a record.

And I am very, very proud to have some of the men here who made that championship possible. We have Ted Kluzewski. You know, I know something about Ted. He not only helped the big bats break loose in that World Series, but what a hitter Ted was in his own day.

And then Ken Griffie. I have been trying to run as fast as Ken does when he goes for first base.

Then, Pete Rose. Pete, who plays baseball like that great American spirit: Give us a chance and we will get there ahead of everybody, period.

But there is another baseball friend of all of yours and a great friend of mine who is here. He had a little color that he added to the World Series, a great friend of mine who has been campaigning with me, Joe Garagiola.

MORE

But, you know, it is also a great honor and privilege for me to be here on this platform with some of the great athletes that represent Cincinnati so well, the champions of some of the sports in our Olympics, the Bengals, the Cincinnati Stingers, I thank them all for being here and wish them all the very, very best.

But let me extend to all of you a special invitation. On January 20, a pretty significant day, I invite every single one of you to come to Washington and participate in the Jerry Ford-Bob Dole inauguration.

Johnny Grant came in from California. He handled a great rally like this in Orange County, and thank you, Johnny, very much.

As I said, Jim Rhodes has been a loyal friend, a great Governor, and I want to express my deep appreciation to him for the job he has done for you, but also for the help and assistance that he has given me. Thanks very much, Jim.

We are at the countdown, fellows. We are at the countdown where it makes a difference for all the men and women, the young and the old. On November 2, some big decisions are going to be made.

But let me point out to you, today America is at peace. No American is fighting or dying on any foreign soil, and we are going to keep it that way. Your lives are not being threatened by war or interrupted by the draft. I have spent most of my time in the last two years working for peace, and I am determined to keep America out of war in the next four years.

And what does that mean? That means that America's young people, like the many young people I see in this great audience here today, can go to school and get a good education. That means they can plan their careers confidently, buy a home, raise a family and look forward to a great life.

I pledge, as I said a moment ago, that in the next four years, because we are strong militarily, because we are skillful diplomatically, that America will be at peace, and we will keep it that way. Thank you for that support on that key issue.

But here in this great part of Southern Ohio, you make a substantial contribution to our military weaponry that is so essential. I refer here to the contribution to the B-1 bomber program where GE puts those engines together so we can have replacements for our aging B-52s. We need the B-1. There is no right -- it would not be fair to send our young pilots in the years ahead to do a job for you and for me in an aircraft, a weapons system that is older than they are, and that won't be the case under President Ford.

MORE

We not only have to keep ourselves strong militarily and skillful diplomatically, we have to keep our economy strong. I know Ohio believes, as I do, in growth and in progress. I announced this morning at the airport a very important decision, which is particularly important to Southern Ohio. My new policy is designed to keep America number one in the nuclear energy field in order to maintain our world leadership in that area.

We must maintain our position as a major reliable supplier of fuel for nuclear power, not only in the United States but around the world. The diffusion plant near Portsmouth, Ohio has played a leading role in supplying enriched uranium for electric power plants in the United States and for the rest of the world.

Last May I announced that we will build an add-on plant in Portsmouth, Ohio. The Energy Research and Development Agency is now asking for bids for further design work on this add-on plant. The construction -- listen to this -- the construction on this important addition at Portsmouth is to begin next year, early 1977.

This is a \$4 billion 400 million construction project, and it means 6,000 construction jobs right here in Southern Ohio.

America needs more good productive jobs like that created by a healthy growing economy. My policies have brought up America from the depths of its worst recession in 40 years and with your support we can continue the march to a sound and sustainable prosperity. With your support, I will continue the sensible, common sense approach that we have to your Government by keeping the lid on Federal spending, by doing an even better job in cutting the rate of inflation.

You know when I became President a little over two years ago the cost of living was increasing at the rate of over 12 percent. By doing the right thing, keeping a lid on Federal spending, by having tax reduction, stimulating the economy in the right way, we have cut the rate of inflation under 6 percent, and we are going to do better in the next four years.

But if we are going to have the kind of an economy that is one that will make jobs available in the private sector, we have to have additional tax reductions. There is an old saying that I firmly believe in -- the best tax reform is tax reduction. As I look across this group here this morning on Fountain Square, I know that most of you are in the middle income tax paying brackets. The record shows that the middle income taxpayers have been short-changed, and we are going to change that in the next Congress.

MORE

I recommended to the Congress last January that the personal exemption ought to be increased from \$750 to \$1,000. That is a one-third increase in the tax exemption you would be getting. But, I was out to a plant the other day and I asked the man, I said, "How big a family do you have?" He said, "I have three kids and a wife." I said, "If the Congress had acted responsibly in this last session, they would have done what I proposed be done last January, which would have been to increase the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000 and you, Mr. Taxpayer, with three kids and a wife and yourself, when you make out that income tax return next April, you would have had \$1,250 more of personal exemption."

Now, Congress didn't do what I proposed, but Congress is going to have it on their doorstep when they come back, and they better pass it. If they don't pass it in 1977, we are going to go after them in 1978, and if they don't do it in 1978, we are going to beat them in the election in 1978.

Now let me tell you something else that I support. I mentioned it in the last debate. In my view, we lost a great, great American tradition when the Supreme Court ruled out voluntary prayer in public schools. Every child should have the opportunity for voluntary prayer in school, and I strongly support a constitutional amendment that would permit voluntary prayer in public schools.

We have much to do. We have to keep strong so we can keep the peace so that when I negotiate with an adversary, whether it is from the Soviet Union or any other country, or when I negotiate with our allies, they know America is number one.

We have much to do to keep the economy strong so we have prosperity for our people. We must do what is right so that our older people have an opportunity to enjoy the quality of life that they have so richly earned. But let's do all these things together. I ask for your vote so we can keep America strong, peaceful, prosperous and free.

It would be the highest honor of my life for you to say to me here in Southern Ohio and all over this country, "Jerry Ford, you have done a good job. Keep right on doing it for the next four years."

Thank you very much.

END (AT 12:56 P.M. EDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 28, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Cleveland, Ohio)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
FUND-RAISING RECEPTION FOR
SENATOR ROBERT TAFT, JR.

KARLIN HALL

6:41 P.M. EDT



Thank you very, very much, Bob Taft.

You can't imagine the thrill it is, how really humble I feel to be on this platform in this great Karlin Hall with the two greatest Governors in the history of Ohio, as well as the finest mayor of a great city; and then a person who is going to follow in the great tradition that he has built on his own record and the great tradition of his father, your Senator Bob Taft.

If I might take just a minute to introduce a member of my family, we have three boys and a daughter, Susan, and our son, Mike Ford, has been here in the State of Ohio all day and will be with me tonight. He is a divinity student up in Boston, Massachusetts. He is out campaigning for his old man. (Laughter) I would like to introduce to you our son, Mike Ford.

Let me reemphasize right here in Karlin Hall how proud I was to have shared with you your bread and salt, and I am equally proud to be your President and your friend. It is great to have had the opportunity of going down Fleet Street. The good mayor has told me on many occasions about his home, his neighborhood, his friends, and I saw it firsthand. And to be here in Karlin Hall really gives me a great, great thrill.

If I might add a special observation and comment, us Michiganders look at people from Ohio and, you know, (Laughter) we have nothing but great, great respect for you. (Laughter) And when I was first getting started in politics Frank Lausche was your Governor. I never thought when I took that step to run for the House of Representatives that I would ever have the opportunity to meet and work with Frank Lausche, but fate made it such that Frank went to the United States Senate and I stayed in the House of Representatives, and over the years we not only became good friends but we recognized that our philosophies -- even though he was a Democrat and I was a Republican -- were virtually identical.

MORE

We believed in the same basic sound principles that had made America great, and to have a statesman of his stature -- he mentioned his age, I didn't -- make the effort to come and to speak as he did about his friend, Jerry Ford, I will never forget it. It will be a high moment in my political career.

The thing that impresses me about the many people I see here and what I saw on each side of the street is that you have so many wonderful traditions, such distinctive and delicious food, a uniquely spirited way of life, a very special place in this great American family.

Through your support for people like Frank Lausche, Jim Rhodes, Bob Taft, myself, we want to make certain that what we do politically preserves these unique things that each and every one of you represent.

We think those different heritages must be kept alive, and I can assure you, as your President for the next four years, I will be listening, I will be responding to your concerns, individually and collectively.

MORE

Each of your group is unique and, as I said out on the street, I was taught early in my life by a wonderful Sunday school teacher that the beauty of Joseph's coat is its many colors. The strength of our great country is the fact that we are all different, that we share that same great hope of freedom, of liberty not only for ourselves but for all mankind.

You share a deep, deep devotion to your family and your churches and your neighborhood. These are the best American values. They are the values that really keep America united. They are my values. You are my concern, and I know that America is your concern.

My Administration has been working to insure that what you have earned, what you have built for yourself, your churches, your local groups, your social club, will be here tomorrow for them, your children, to enjoy.

We must insure that your family will have the healthy neighborhoods like this one. Ralph Perk told me he was born a house or two away from where he now lives and the neighborhood has retained its great strength and character. We must keep, across this nation, not just in Cleveland, this kind of neighborhood so that people can build a decent and better life for themselves.

A family needs a neighborhood that is safe. A family needs a neighborhood that is stable. A family needs a neighborhood of local churches, local shops and local schools. The first day of this year, January 1, I signed into law -- some of you may remember -- the Mortgage Disclosure Act to prevent redlining and neighborhood decline.

Two months ago I met with ethnic leaders to see what more we could do and, as a result of that meeting--and Ralph Perk, as I recall was there--I created a President Ford Committee of urban development and neighborhood revitalization.

I charged that committee with developing a sound fiscal policy, a sound Federal policy to help preserve our neighborhoods. That policy will be based on local initiative and local control, and I will see that that policy is carried out over the next four years.

I am deeply aware of another issue that troubles many of you, especially those of you from Eastern Europe. This Bicentennial year, as you celebrate, as we all celebrate American liberty, you are concerned to see that your friends and relatives abroad who do not share all of your freedoms, your friends and relatives are not forgotten.

MORE

America cares today as it has always cared. We stand for freedom and independence in 1976 as we stood for freedom and independence in 1776. My position during my total political career in the Congress, as Vice President and now as President has remained the same; that is, the spirit of the peoples of Eastern Europe has never been broken and never will.

The United States, as a matter of fundamental principle, supports the aspirations for freedom and national independence for the people of Eastern Europe and as long as I am President of the United States, our great country will never recognize or acquiesce in the Soviet domination of Eastern Europe.

As we celebrate our Bicentennial -- and wasn't that a wonderful day on July 4 of 1976 -- we must make certain that the whole wide world knows the torch of freedom in the Statue of Liberty still burns brightly and always will.

What a great day this has been in Cincinnati, here in Cleveland, culminating in this great occasion in Karlin Hall. But let's make November 2 an even greater day with its victory for all 215 million Americans.

I ask for your help, I ask for your support, I ask for your vote so we can continue to keep America strong, proud and free. With your help, we will do it, and I will never let you down.

Thank you very, very much.

END (AT 6:55 P.M. EDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 28, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Cleveland, Ohio)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
SUN NEWSPAPER GOOD NEIGHBOR
AWARD BANQUET

MARRIOTT HOTEL



7:45 P.M. EDT

David, Governor Rhodes, Mayor Perk, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

It really is a great honor and a very high privilege to congratulate the Good Neighbors selected in 46 suburban neighborhoods in the Greater Cleveland Area, to congratulate not only the winners but the families, as well, and your distinguished mayors and your community leaders.

I commend David, the 12 Sun Newspapers, as very good neighbors, for providing this good recognition to all of you for bringing a good ray of sunshine into the lives of others. It is a wonderful occasion and I am honored to be here.

My understanding is that none of the winners of the Good Neighbor Awards sought the nomination. (Laughter) In politics you have to do that. But, no politics were involved in your selection. Nevertheless, you won the popular vote and all of the electoral votes in each and every one of your communities. Believe me, as I understand it, there was no apathy on each and every one of you.

I recall the many good neighbors that Betty and I had in communities where we lived. Of course, our home is Grand Rapids, Michigan, but our four children were brought up in Alexandria, Virginia. Believe me, good neighbors in both places were essential and just wonderful as far as our young family was concerned in Betty's and my married life. The spirit in both of those communities I know firsthand is still alive. But it is also alive here in Ohio, but more importantly, it is alive throughout the United States.

Our traditional values in this great country just haven't gone out of style. As individuals, I understand you noticed that snow needed to be shoveled off the sidewalks of some elderly neighbors, that hot meals were required by people stricken by illness, that a blind person needed a ride to a shopping center, that neighborhood teenagers needed help with their school work, if someone was away and their pets needed some food, that a disabled veteran and a new neighbor needed friendship.

MORE

You didn't refer them to some Government office or agency, whether it was local, State or Federal, for assistance. You responded as a human being to other human beings. And I think that is what makes America work; it always has. It is what America really is all about -- neighborliness, kindness, homes, families, religious values -- all adding up to that special quality of what we proudly call Americanism.

As I look around this room tonight, it is obvious to me that Americanism has not died. Americanism is alive; it is well. It is living from Cleveland to Rocky River, to Parmis and North Royalton, to Richmond Heights, to Shaker Heights, Garfield Heights. Gosh, I can't think of all the other communities. (Laughter) But they are all wonderful communities in this great State of Ohio, and it is similar, I am sure, in all the communities throughout the United States.

I am proud to say that as long as I am President I will do all that I possibly can to keep that wonderful spirit alive.

(The President was presented with the National Good Neighbor Award.)

Thank you very much, David.

I could make quite a speech about John Collins -- even before he nominated me. (Laughter) You might be curious, he is 90-something now. He was the mayor of East Grand Rapids, I don't know, countless years, and he was a very hard-working, dedicated, religious man. He worked for -- some of you may have used their products -- the Bissell Carpet Sweeper Company for years and years and years -- I mean years.

But John Collins lived out in East Grand Rapids, which is a suburb like Shaker Heights in Cleveland. John Collins, every day that he was employed, walked from East Grand Rapids, rain or snow or sleet, down to his factory where he was employed. He would drive down and you would say, jump in. Oh, no, John walked that route for about 50 years every day, about five or six miles, home and back.

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But he was a super mayor because he was interested and concerned with people and he finally, on the orders of his family and his doctor, was convinced that he ought not to seek continued public service.

But John is the kind of a person that really ought to get that award, and I feel honored that he would think that highly of me. But, I really accept that award, and I say this sincerely on behalf of all of the American people because I find as I travel around this wonderful, wonderful country where we live that we are all good neighbors with one another. We can disagree without being disagreeable. We can work to keep America moving.

Probably the most inspirational day that I ever spent in my life, certainly as President, was the Fourth of July last year -- or this year, I should say -- when we celebrated our 200th birth'ay. I had the privilege of making a few remarks at Valley Forge and reminding the people there of the sacrifices that were made on our behalf by George Washington and that cold and scraggly army and then in Philadelphia where it all kind of began, culminating in New York City and seeing those tall ships from all over the world.

But those three affairs were not the only ones that were held in America to show therebirth of our spirit and the rekindling of our faith and the rejuvenation of what America stands for. We have a new direction. We are in motion. We are moving forward. All of the anger and divisiveness of a few years ago has disappeared.

We are all together, and I know that as we enter our third century, we have an opportunity through good neighborliness, through dedication to our principles as a country, not only to read history as we can -- and it is the history of 200 years -- but to make history in our third century, to make the history that our forefathers gave to us as their vision, to make it a reality for us, but more importantly for our children and our grandchildren.

That is the mission that we have. That is the responsibility we bear, but we do it because we are proud of America and proud of what it stands for and honored to have, each and every one of us, the opportunity to do for America what we feel so deeply to make it the reality of the dreams of our forefathers.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 7:57 P.M. EDT)

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(St. Louis, Missouri)

THE WHITE HOUSE



STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

One of the major concerns of my Administration during the next four years will be to help provide conditions under which older Americans can continue to live secure and fulfilling lives.

We all owe a debt to our older citizens. They are the ones who built our economy, and established the moral bases on which our country has grown. We must not let them down.

First of all, we must make sure that they can look forward to futures that are economically secure. But even more important than that, we must see to it that we continue to have a society and a country of which our older citizens can be proud. That, above all, is the reward that they ask.

I am proposing a specific program to help provide the foundation on which older Americans can continue to build constructive lives.

First, I will work with the next Congress to enact a catastrophic insurance plan for older Americans, so that never again will the savings of a lifetime be wiped out through a single illness. Under this plan, medical and hospital costs will never rise above \$750 in a single year.

Second, I will call on the next Congress to assure the integrity of the Social Security system. Social Security benefits are rights that have been earned by retired workers and their families. The federal government is legally and morally bound to make sure that the fund is secure. But because of the rise in the cost of living, the Social Security fund is now paying out more than it takes in. It is therefore essential to the security of retired citizens, both now and in the future, that we raise the level of the fund to the point at which it will meet projected costs.

Third, I will continue to check the rise in federal spending, in order to keep the inflation rate going down. Inflation hits hardest at our older citizens, many of whom are living on retirement incomes. If we devalue their dollars, we are robbing them of savings and pension benefits that they built up through years of labor.

Fourth, I will call on the next Congress to enact my anti-crime package, which will help protect the security of our streets and homes. Legislation that I have placed before Congress will provide tougher sentencing procedures for drug-pushers, hijackers, kidnappers, and lawbreakers who use dangerous weapons in the commission of their crimes.

Fifth, I will continue to include representative older Americans on advisory councils related to federal consumer protection programs.

Sixth, I will launch a program for neighborhood revitalization, to direct federal urban programs to protect and restore the quality of life in the urban neighborhoods in which many of our older citizens live.

Of course, in a larger sense, the entire Ford program is a program for older Americans-- because its purpose is to build a peaceful, prosperous, secure America-- the objective which older Americans share with all other citizens.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 29, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE
WISCONSIN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

MECCA AUDITORIUM

9:10 A.M. CDT



Thank you very, very much, Paul duVair. It is wonderful to be back in Wisconsin to see some of my old and very dear friends, Congressman Bob Kasten, former Governor Warren Knowles, and an old friend of mine in my political party, Ody Fish.

But it is a very special privilege and pleasure for me, if I might have the dispensation, to introduce to all of you a very dear friend of mine who is also a great and longstanding friend and supporter of education. I take the pleasure of introducing her because she served as a Member of the House of Representatives with me for 19 years. She was on the other side of the aisle. She was a very formidable person in debate. I always did better when she was on my side.

But let me assure you there was never a more knowledgeable, more dedicated person in the field of education than the former Democratic Member of the House of Representatives, Edith Green.

Naturally, I am very pleased and proud that she, having retired voluntarily from the Congress two years ago, is now serving as a valuable contributor to my campaign. But I think it is interesting to note that she served on the House Committee on Education and Labor and was Chairman of the Subcommittee on Post Secondary Education. And it is also of some consequence to note that she received both the Oregon and the NEA Citizens Award. So, you know Edith is real quality.

But I am honored to appear before the Wisconsin Education Association Council, a distinguished group of professional teachers, to discuss a subject of vital importance to all of us and to the Nation -- America's schools.

We in America have from our very earliest days developed an educational system as significant and as revolutionary as our political structure. Educational opportunity for all citizens was a crucial part of the vision which our Nation's founders had. They knew that ignorance and freedom could not co-exist.

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Education is now the Nation's number one business. Today, 60 million Americans attend school, 10 million in post-secondary education and 50 million in elementary and secondary schools. Over 2-1/2 million Americans are school teachers and school administrators.

More money is spent on education in America than any other single governmental endeavor. In all, America is making a huge investment in quality education and American taxpayers expect a substantial return for their investment.

My Administration shares their expectation and their concern in America's continuing and striving to be the world's finest. No other sphere of activity is so closely bound to the lives of all Americans. The strength of our political system is dependent on educated sovereign people.

Early generations of Americans looked upon education as a cherished privilege, a stepping stone to a successful and a happy life. Our schools, our colleges educated millions of immigrant children who spoke no English when they arrived on our shores. These people and their descendants valued education above all.

To them, self-discipline was both essential and natural. If self-discipline was missing, then imposed discipline in the home and the school was accepted as reasonable and proper.

Today, these attitudes have eroded. Education, particularly in America's urban centers, has been inundated by a barrage of social problems. Schools are facing a litany of ills -- drugs, disruption, violence that victimizes both teachers and students, increased racial tensions, and the excessive demands for schools to be all things to all people.

In the midst of all of this, it is not surprising that education and our children suffer. Headlines, if not personal family experiences, tell us that crime in the schools is a very serious problem. The National Education Association reports that over the past few years there has been a dramatic increase in school crime and school violence.

Some of today's parents say teachers must understand our children better. I say it is hard for a teacher to understand a student who is threatening him or her with a knife. No teacher should be subject to physical or verbal assault by students. Nor should any teacher be fearful of physical abuse by undisciplined students -- and I add this with emphasis -- nor by the undisciplined parents of those students.

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We can, and I honestly think that we must, keep the school rooms of America places to learn, to uplift, to move forward. If our schools fail, we fail; and if they succeed, we succeed.

The heart of America's education system, the key to success or failure for the millions of students sitting in classrooms, is not buildings or dollars spent. The key is the classroom teacher. All of us as individuals and collectively as a Nation owe much, a very great deal, to our teachers during our lifetime.

Who among us does not recall the impact made on his or her life by that very special teacher? I could recite a number in my own lifetime who have contributed very significantly to whatever circumstances or success that I have had, and I value their contributions very deeply.

Our teachers, our schools have made it possible for the United States to lead the world in science and technology, in medicine, in agricultural production, and in space exploration. With all of the problems, our teachers still have given us the best educated youngsters in the world today, and I congratulate all of you for that accomplishment.

But how can we help our teachers meet the awesome demands of the future? How can we channel more of the \$130 billion now spent on education each year into classrooms to benefit our children and avoid the bureaucratic snarls that somehow seem to plague too many school systems?

In the past decade America has responded to problems of education with a variety of Federal programs designed to meet specific needs through assistance to State and local school agencies. Each new program was aimed at educational problems of particular segments of our population. As a result, the proliferation of narrow categorical programs has reached a point, really a crescendo, where it is causing confusion, duplication, and I think unnecessary waste,

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Local citizens and administrators are buried under an avalanche of paperwork, generated by no less than 110 separate and frequently overlapping Federal aid to education programs, and we have got to do something about it.

My Administration will not try to out-promise or out-bid the opposition. You know that every new program has its price and every politician who promises new programs has an obligation to say how much it will cost and who will pay for it. You are too sophisticated, too experienced, too knowledgeable to simply throw your weight to the highest bidder. I owe you more than an auction for Federal education dollars. I am working for meaningful, much needed reform in Government's whole approach to educational assistance.

As President, the first piece of legislation that I signed back in August of 1974, over two years ago, was the Omnibus Education Act. It improved the distribution of Federal education funds; it unclogged to some extent the administration of Federal education programs. This was a distinct move in the right direction, but in a major proposal that I sent to the Congress in March of this year, I urged the further consolidation of Federal education programs in the interest of service to local schools, effective administration and bona fide economy.

Under my proposal, 24 categorical grants would be consolidated into a single block grant program. The States and the communities, not some faceless bureaucrat in Washington, would decide how this money would best be spent to help their students and their teachers do a better job.

It was interesting in this past year since that proposal was made that all or most of the State educational heads, or whatever their precise title might be, agreed with the proposal because they felt that was a far more effective way -- with infinitely less red tape -- to get that money for elementary and secondary education from the Federal Government right at the local level.

I am optimistic that with the year that we will have had to educate people who want the job done, that we can convince the next Congress that this is the way to take whatever the funds are that the Federal Government makes available and get it to the source where we want the job done as quickly, as economically and as effectively as possible.

Now, in spite of my conviction that Federal spending must be held in check -- and just about a year ago that was a tough decision that I had to make -- I have, because of my strong personal dedication to America's schools, urged that Federal assistance be increased for the current fiscal year. The block grant program that I mentioned a moment ago calls for the increase in spending in each of the three fiscal years after its enactment.

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As I said a moment ago, I am optimistic that that consolidation program will be accepted by the Congress with the kind of increases that I think can be justified and will be extremely helpful in solving some of the local and even the State financial problems involving schools.

When I spoke in Ohio State -- and, you know, somebody from Michigan who gets invited to speak at a commencement at Ohio State, you never forget the experience (Laughter) and they treated me better as a commencement speaker than they treat the Michigan football teams from time to time (Laughter) -- but when I was at Ohio State two years ago, I urged that the transition from the world of education to the world of work, a very crucial juncture in the life of every individual be explored by the most knowledgeable people in the field of education.

I said at that time the nation needs new ways to bring the world of work and institutions of education close together. The response from the education and business communities has been more than heartening. The U.S. Office of Education, the Departments of Labor and Commerce, private business and industry have responded to my challenge in a very encouraging way. In the past two years, scores of programs have been developed to help high school students prepare for worthwhile occupations while completing their education. These developments are exciting, they are innovative and they are a fine example of Government as a helpful servant rather than a meddling master in the area of education.

American schools have met and overcome many challenges in our nation's first two centuries. Today we have a civilization which has reached unparalleled heights of material well being, a civilization that has uncovered many of the secrets of the physical world. But even more important are our moral and intellectual values, the elements that constitute the very essence of civilization.

A Gallup poll this year reported -- and I quote -- "The public is overwhelmingly in favor of instruction in morals and moral behavior in the nation's public schools." Many years ago a great President, President Theodore Roosevelt, put it much more dramatically. He said, and I quote, "To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society." I wholeheartedly agree.

Unfortunately, too many citizens are uninformed, or, worse, unconcerned about the workings of their Government. Too many young Americans are graduating from our schools with a feeling that the law is a threat and that Government is an enemy. Too many are cynical. Too many don't care.

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We cannot uphold our society's system of values by simply lecturing our children that it is good. We can only assure its future by educating our children to be aware of and to respect its strengths and, at the same time, give them the knowledge and the incentive to correct its faults.

Only then will they understand why America's moral values must be preserved, even though our society constantly changes. Only then will they understand that truth, equity and justice are more than mere words, but a way of life. Meeting the educational challenges of America's third century must not be the responsibility of educators and teachers alone. They cannot and must be called upon to assume the burden of curing all of society's ills single-handedly. It must be a cooperative effort by parents, school board members, teachers, religious leaders, Government officials, businessmen, labor leaders, every single one of us.

We do face great problems in America today. Overcoming them requires more than dollars, more than technology, more than programs. We need a belief in ourselves. We need the will, the education, the discipline to take action.

Let us take a new look at ourselves in America. Let us see a constructive partnership between the education community and the rest of our society. Let us seek the highest standards in every aspect of American life.

As Daniel Webster once wrote, and I quote, "If we work upon marble, it will perish. If we work upon brass, time will efface it. If we rear temples, they will crumble to dust. But, if we work upon men's immortal minds, if we imbue them with high principles, with a just fear of God and love of our fellow men, we engrave on those tablets something which no time can efface and which will brighten and brighten to all eternity."

Thank you very much.

END (AT 9:32 A.M. CDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 29, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

THE WHITE HOUSE
REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
FORD-DOLE COMMITTEE RECEPTION
THE MARC PLAZA HOTEL



9:54 A.M. CDT

Thank you. It is wonderful to be in Milwaukee. It is wonderful to be with all you great Badgers.

When I left Kansas City, I said we would not concede a single vote and we would not concede a single State. We don't, and we expect to win Wisconsin.

I want to express my deep appreciation to all of the people, whether they were in one part of the Republican Party or the other part of the Republican Party or some other area. I appreciate very deeply the unification and the joint effort that is being made in the great State of Wisconsin so that we can go forward together for a victory on November 2.

I was going to tell Odie and Warren later today and ask them to express it to you, but I see so many nice people here I am going to do it myself. (Laughter) I am going to invite every one of you to come down January 20 and be there for the inauguration of Jerry Ford and Bob Dole.

I do want to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to Bob Kasten and Bill Steiger, who have just been extremely helpful. I need them down there. You need them down there. We just need to add a few more to the Wisconsin delegation.

I would like to make one or two comments that I think might be helpful to you as you work in the next next four days--we are in the countdown period--to convince those Independents and those Democrats that they ought to join with us in what really has become a crusade.

I was so pleased at the tremendous outpouring of warmth and friendship of the crowd outside of the hotel here. It is just wonderful, but it is indicative of what we are finding all over America.

More and more Americans are realizing the great change that has taken place since August of 1974. We were in troubled times. People were mad at each other. They were divided. They had lost faith in America. There was a lack of faith in the White House itself. Inflation was over 12 percent. We were on the brink of the worst recession in 40 years. We were still involved in Vietnam. It was a troubled time for America. We were in turmoil.

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But what we tried to do was to put the ship on an even keel and steer a steady course. Gradually, we have turned the economy around. Inflation is less than 6 percent. We have added four million jobs. Instead of a recession, we are moving toward a strong healthy economy. We are out of Vietnam. And, I am proud to say to you -- and you should say it to everybody -- this Administration has no young Americans fighting or dying on foreign soil.

You can go to the high schools and colleges today and say to every young man, you aren't faced with selective service. We have an all-volunteer military force, a military force of two million one hundred thousand that is well-trained, well-equipped, well-led, a force that is number one. Under President Ford, we are going to keep it number one.

My opponent wants to cut a minimum of \$5 to \$7 billion out of the defense program. You can't negotiate with our adversaries. You can't strengthen our allies if you are going to have a weaker U.S. military force. We have to stay strong to be at peace, and under my Administration with strength and diplomatic skill, we are going to stay at peace and get our third century kicked off in the right way for our young people, for America, for all mankind.

One other point. As I said, we are moving so that we are getting, I think, a healthy and strong economy. It is not as good as we would like it, but the remedies that we recommended, Congress finally approved in part. But the remedy that we must have for the next four years is a restraint on Federal spending so that we in good conscience can say to the American people you can have another tax reduction.

Last year I recommended to the Congress that we increase the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. That is meaningful. Let me illustrate it. I was in a plant the other day and one of the workers in the plant said, "Well, what are you doing about my taxes?" I said, "Well, how many children do you have?" He said, "I have three," and a man and wife. I said, "If Congress had been responsible, we could have given to you -- when you make out your income tax next April you would have had \$1,250 increase in your personal exemptions." But Congress didn't act. I think it was wrong. I think it was irresponsible, but that recommendation from me is going to be on their desks in January of next year, and if they don't pass it in 1977, it will be on their desk in 1978, and if they don't pass it then, we will go out and beat them in 1978.

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The middle income taxpayer has been short-changed too long under the Federal tax system. But, at the same time, if we are going to create jobs, we have to give industry and incentive. So, coupled with this increase in the personal exemption, I think we have to give some tax relief in the corporate income tax so they will have the wherewithal to expand, to build new plants to provide those jobs, and we have two million to two million-and-a-half of young people coming into the labor market every year, and we can't have a stagnant economy if we are going to provide those young people with jobs.

Now my opponent wants to take care of the unemployment by deadend taxpayer financed jobs. I am against it. I am for the free enterprise system.

Thank you all very, very much. Wisconsin is crucial, Wisconsin is critical. If we carry Wisconsin, we are in, so what your job is, is to maximize what you have done. We have been grateful for what you have achieved, but boy, it is like the last quarter of the big game, and this is big because it determines America's course, America's direction in the next four years.

Thank you. I want your help. Let's maximize it and Wisconsin be in favor of a Wolverine.

Thank you.

END (AT 10:03 A.M. CDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 29, 1976

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AND
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

LAMBERT INTERNATIONAL FIELD



11:52 A.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning.

It is nice to be here with Jack Danforth and Gene McNary.

It is great to be back and have the memories of that last visit with the tremendous crowd we had. What was it, 35,000 to 40,000? So, it is a pleasure to be in St. Louis, Missouri, and you make certain that Missouri goes for Jack -- which there is no question, I guess -- and Kit Bond, myself and the rest of the ticket.

I would be glad to answer a question or two.

QUESTION: Mr. President, what is your reaction to the decline in the leading economic indicators for the second month in a row?

THE PRESIDENT: We did expect some falling off because of the pause, but on the other hand, we are very encouraged by the tremendous increase in housing starts for the second month in a row. We are very impressed with the fact that several surveys show that consumer confidence is in good shape.

We think that as we move ahead in the fourth quarter -- and we are in the fourth quarter now -- there will be good results by the end of this quarter.

QUESTION: Mr. President, have you approved the sale of computers to China that would be useful in its defense, you or your Administration?

THE PRESIDENT: I approved the sale of computers on the recommendation of the Department of Defense, on the recommendation of the National Security Council and on the recommendation of the Department of Commerce. They all approved them and they are not related to any defense capability, as far as the PRC is concerned.

QUESTION: Why didn't you make it public, Mr. President? Why did this have to be revealed by reporters? You say you have an open Administration.

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THE PRESIDENT: I can't give you the answer. I signed it. I assumed that it was part of a regular process. There was no question about it. The Department of Defense recommended it; the Department of Commerce recommended it, the NSC recommended it. These particular computers had no relationship whatsoever to our national security.

QUESTION: Mr. President, could you tell us why you called Senator Dole at 5:00 a.m., as reported from Denver?

THE PRESIDENT: I was going to have a busy day, as you knew, and I wanted to make sure that I said hello to him and wished him well and urged him to keep up the good work. It was just 7 o'clock our time and, as you know, we were about to take off. That was the most opportune moment for me to give him a call.

QUESTION: How will the drop in economic indicators affect the campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the American people know we made very significant progress against the battle against inflation. The latest figures show the cost of living has gone up at the rate of 4.4 percent, which was considerably less than the 12 percent inflation that I inherited, so that we have made almost a two-thirds successful battle in winning the war against inflation.

So, as long as we are winning the battle against inflation, I think the American people will think that is a significant gain, and it will be reflected in the campaign.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all very much.

END (AT 11:56 A.M. CDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 29, 1976

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
LUTHER ELY SMITH MEMORIAL PARK



12:27 P.M. CDT

Thank you very, very much Jack Danforth. May I say at this point, nothing would make me happier than to have Jack Danforth as your next United States Senator. You need Jack Danforth, and I need him, so let's go work and make sure he is elected November 2.

It is great to be back in Missouri, to have the opportunity of being in a State so wonderfully handled by your fine, fine Governor, Kit Bond, and his very, very able Lieutenant Governor, Bill Phelps.

I am indebted, of course, to your good friend and mine, Gene McNary. Gene, thank you.

But there are two wonderful people here who have made extraordinary efforts. Peter Graves has been your master of ceremonies. Peter, thank you very, very much; and one of my all-time favorites, Al Hirt. Al, thank you.

A very dear friend of mine and a great person who was born and brought up right here in St. Louis has been traveling with me for the last ten days. Unfortunately, he had a prior commitment that prevented him from coming here to St. Louis. But, I have gotten to know I think one of the most fabulous people in this whole country. Do any of you remember the name of Joe Garagiola?

Joe has taken about ten days of his time and is out campaigning on behalf of Jerry Ford and Bob Dole. The other day we were flying from someplace to someplace, and Joe and I were sitting and I was listening to those wonderful stories that he tells about baseball. I was a rookie baseball player that never made it. Joe was telling of not only some baseball stories, and then we got to talking about St. Louis and he was telling how he was brought up here in a wonderful Italian neighborhood.

Today, Joe said, "I can't be with you, but will you say hello to Father Saul Paulevy for me," who did such a wonderful job in retaining the character and the integrity of that neighborhood where Joe was brought up. So, I say to you on behalf of Joe Garagiola: "Hi."

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But we have some awfully fine Congressional candidates here that I would like to recognize. We want Jack Danforth in the United States Senate, but we also -- and this is very important -- want Joe Badarocco in the House of Representatives. We sure would like Joe Frappier in the House of Representatives. Bob Witherspoon would be very helpful. Then I know you have a first-class candidate in Bob Steiner. Let's make sure that Missouri makes that kind of an affirmative contribution to a better Congress that will be sworn in on January 3.

Now, if I could take just a few minutes to express my deepest appreciation for this tremendous gathering here in front of the old court house, and to indicate to you that I have kept the pledge that I made when he left Kansas City, I said I would campaign every State, I would not concede a single vote, I would not concede a single State and the net result is we have campaigned the length and the breadth of this country. We were 33 points behind in August and right now we have the momentum and we are going to win on November 2.

Let me extend an invitation on behalf of Betty and myself to all of you -- all of you, even some of those good Carter people out there. (Laughter) I extend an invitation to every one of you to come to Washington on January 20 and see Jerry Ford and Bob Dole inaugurated President and Vice President.

Let me tell you why we are going to win. Take just a minute to refresh your memory back to August of 1974. We had a troubled country. America was in turmoil. People were mad and angry with one another. They had lost their faith in actually our Government. We were suffering inflation of over 12 percent. We were on the brink of the worst economic recession in 40 years. We were still involved in a tragic war in Vietnam.

I became President on August 9. It wasn't a happy day, but I had faith in the American people, I had faith in our form of Government, and I decided that we had to keep the ship of State on an even keel, that we had to set a steady and firm course. You know, because our people responded, all of you in St. Louis and Missouri, all over the country, you rejoined me in that faith, that trust, that confidence.

Today, I think the American people, whether they agree with me on every issue, believe that the man in the White House can be trusted, that confidence has been restored in the Oval Office.

But, we have also made great progress. Instead of inflation at 12 percent, the latest figures are 4.4 percent. That is headway. Yes, we had a recession. Unemployment was too high. Employment was dropping, but again, the American people recognized that quick fixes and phony programs are not the solution, are not the solution to make America healthy and prosperous, and because we moved steadily and progressively forward, today we have four million more people working than we had 18 months ago, and that is progress.

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We have 88 million people working in America, an all-time high. But, I make a pledge to you. I am not satisfied with the unemployment we still have, but I will promise you that President Jerry Ford will not be satisfied until every person who wants a job has a job, period.

But I am also very, very proud to say -- and look each and every one of you in the eye and say -- isn't this great that there is not a single young American fighting or dying on foreign soil today?

And we are at peace because America is number one militarily, and we are going to stay that way under President Ford. We are not going to cut and slash and gut the Defense Department. We want the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and Marines to have the kind of military hardware so that they can deter aggression, that they can protect our national security, that they can give to the President the kind of strength that makes it possible for him to negotiate from strength with our adversaries and to stand with our allies and put together this free world so it can stand against aggression and stand for freedom and liberty for all people throughout the world.

As I look around this great audience, there are some wonderful people here, and I suspect most of you fall in what is called the middle income class. You should be proud of that. We are proud that America has a middle income class, because they are the strength, the real life blood of American society.

But the middle income people in the last 10 years have been short-changed under Federal taxes. Last January, I made a proposal to the Congress that would have remedied that situation. I recommended that the Congress increase the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. That is a one-third increase.

And I was out to a factory the other day talking to some people, and one of the men said, "Well, what would that do to me if Congress passed it?" I said, "How many kids do you have?" He said, "I have three." So, it turns out to be a family of five. I said, "If Congress had been smart enough they would have done what President Ford recommended, and then next April when you have to fill out your income tax return, you would have had \$1,250 more in personal exemption."

Well, the Congress was irresponsible, unresponsive, and they didn't do it. Next January, I am going to put that same proposal on their desk, and if they don't pass it, I will put it on their desk the next January, in 1978, and if they don't pass it then, will you help me beat them in the next election in 1978?

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The best tax reform that I know is tax reduction, and the kind of a tax reduction program I recommended is meaningful. It will help 50 percent of the American taxpayers when they need it. So, let's make sure that instead of the kind of talk that I hear from my opponent where one day he says he might give a tax reduction, the next day he says he isn't sure -- you can count on President Ford to be on your side to reduce taxes in 1977.

Let me conclude with this observation: This election in three days will determine the direction of this country, not only for the four years but for the next 100 years, which is our third century of American history.

Our forefathers, 200 years ago, drafted the most wonderful document for the governing of people in the history of mankind, and on July 4 of this year we celebrated our 200th birthday. You had celebrations the length and the breadth of America. I was privileged to go to Valley Forge and to see where the straggling army of George Washington fought that battle. I was privileged to be in Philadelphia where it all began. I was privileged to be in New York City to see those Tall Ships where countries from all over the world came to pay respect to the greatest country in the history of mankind.

Out of that wonderful birthday celebration, America had a rebirth of spirit, a restoration of confidence and a feeling that America was on the move. We can keep it on the move if you do your job on November 2, 1976.

I have been honored to be your President for the last two years through the tough, difficult times we have had. I have nothing but the highest aspirations for all of you who kept your cool and stayed with us during those tough times.

I would be honored to be your President in the next four years, and I would be so pleased, I would be so proud, if you would tell me, "Jerry, you have done a good job, keep right on doing it."

Thank you very much.

END (AT 12:45 P.M. CDT)

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
ALLSTATE INSURANCE COMPANY
NORTHBROOK, ILLINOIS

2:45 P.M. CDT

Chuck, President Boe, my former colleagues in the House of Representatives, Bob McClory, Phil Crane, Sam Young and, of course, my very dear friends and wonderful supporter, your former fine Governor, Governor Ogilvie:

It is just nice to be out here with the Allstate family, and I thank you for the very, very warm welcome. This stop this afternoon is another milestone in a great day. We started in Pittsburgh this morning, going to the Jones and Laughlin field steel plant. We first made a speech before the Economic Club of Pittsburgh, and then we flew to the Chicago area and had a wonderful greeting out at Ford City. (Laughter)

I was delighted and now to come to Allstate, it really is nice. But let me say one thing, that if you have time tonight, I would hope that you would take 30 minutes and watch a program we are putting on Channel 7. The master of ceremonies is going to be somebody you have heard of, particularly if you are interested in sports. Joe Garagiola is going to be the master of ceremonies. Joe is one of the individuals who volunteered to come out and be an active supporter and campaigner with me; in addition, a former colleague of ours a good Democrat from the State of Oregon, former Congresswoman Edith Green, and I think we are going to have Chuck and maybe some others on the program.

It will give you, I think, a new flavor. I should have added -- I apologize -- I think Betty is going to be on it, too. (Laughter) But, I keep going around the country trying to get my votes up to her polls.

It is wonderful to be here and let me take just a few minutes to outline for you some points that I think are worthy of your attention and hopefully will be persuasive to you when you make that very vital decision a week from today.

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It is just seven days from now. Naturally, I can recall very, very vividly August 9, 1974. It was the day that I took the oath of office and walked from the East Room of the White House to the Oval Office. It was a period of great trouble in America. We had gone through the trauma of Vietnam. There was anger, bitterness, divisiveness.

We were on the brink of the worst recession in 40 years and we had inflation of 12 percent or more. There was still the problem in Vietnam with some 50,000 Americans being withdrawn and the circumstances that brought back bad memories, and then, of course, there was the lack of trust and confidence in the White House itself.

It was not a very opportune time for a new person to become President of the United States. But, it was my decision that we had to meet first things first, and one of those was to restore without any hesitation or qualification the restoration of trust and confidence in the White House itself.

I think by being open, by being candid, by being straightforward, the American people -- whether they agree or disagree with whatever policies -- know that their President is a person that they can trust and a person who will, in his own way, seek to do what is right for America, above all else.

Then we had the very difficult problem of how to meet the challenge of the worst recession in 40 years, and at the same time make a tremendous effort to reduce the rate of inflation, which, as I said, was 12 percent or more.

But by being firm in the restraint on Federal spending, by not succumbing to quick fixes--and many of them emanated from the Congress--we were able to gradually and, I think, positively reduce the rate of inflation so that as of today the annual rate of inflation is somewhere between 5.5 and 6 percent.

Now, that is still too high, but I can assure you the policies this country is following today are policies that will keep the pressure on, and we will win that battle and get the rate of inflation down so that we can have a healthy, sustained economy, and the kind of prosperity that all of us know is possible in this great, great country.

Early in 1975, I am sure some of you can recall-- I can--unemployment began to soar and employment started to plummet. The net result was we had a real trauma in America, the worst recession since the depression days of the 1930s, and a few of us can remember the hardships that many, many families went through in those days.

MORE

But instead of losing our cool and trying to do some things that might have been appealing on the surface but fundamentally wrong in an economic sense, we did the things that were compassionate to help those that were tragically unemployed but, at the same time, we initiated programs and restored the confidence of the American people in their economic system. And the net result was we have come out of this recession.

You may have heard me say that we have regained 4 million jobs in the last 18 months. That is true. You have heard my say perhaps that we have 88 million people working today -- an all-time high -- and that is true.

You may have heard Mr. Carter say the other day in the debate that we had more people unemployed than any day since the Depression of the Thirties. That is true.

But there is one point I think we have to make in all honesty; it is historically accurate. As he alleged, or said, in the 1950s, the early 1950s, we had a low unemployment rate. That is accurate. But let me point out, at that time we had 3,500,000 young men and women in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, and a good share of them were overseas.

At the present time, we have 2,100,000 young men and women in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. That is 1,400,000 less than we had 18 to 20 months ago.

I think we can whip the problem of unemployment. We can have a healthy economy. We can still have an all-volunteer military force, and we don't have to be engaged in a military conflict.

The way to solve unemployment is by stimulating the free enterprise system with tax incentives, tax reduction. We don't have to put young men in uniform to solve the problem of unemployment in America.

As I said, we have an all-volunteer Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, and they are good, they are career people, and we are strong because we have the right weapons systems, good leadership, outstanding young people, and they are volunteer recruits. And I can say with great pride that the United States is at peace. Not a single young American is fighting or dying on any foreign battlefield tonight, and they won't.

But now that we have turned things around -- and I happen to think the American people in this great country have made incredible progress in the last two years -- but now we have new opportunities.

Here is where I think we ought to focus in the next two years, the next four years. We ought to focus on trying to improve the quality of life for our 215 million Americans. What does that mean? It means first that we want an economic environment so that people who want to work will have a job.

I am not going to argue about statistics. The only criterion by which I judge whether we are doing a good job or not is that the time must come where every young American who wants to work will have a job in America. One of the things that makes America great is the capability and the fact that so many Americans own their own home.

I saw some figures just the other day that some 60 to 65 percent of the people in America own their own home or are in the process of buying it. Let me say, having said that, I am not going to take away the deductibility of interest payments on your income tax returns.

But how do we stimulate the capability, particularly for the young, to get a new home? Just the other day the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Carla Hills, announced a 50 percent reduction in down payments. That is vital for the young people who are trying to make their first investment.

Many of the loaning institutions are beginning to undertake the kind of mortgages so that in the early days of a mortgage the monthly payments are less when the earning capacity is smaller and the monthly payments increase as one's earning capacity increases. I think that is an imaginative approach.

But the best thing we can do for those that want to buy a house is to see to it that we win the battle against inflation, and we can do that by cutting the rate of growth of Federal spending, as we tried to.

In January, I submitted a budget to the Congress where instead of having an 11 percent rate of growth in Federal spending as we had had for the last 10 years, we tried to cut it in half to 5 or 5-1/2 percent. We were quite successful. We should have been more so.

I vetoed 66 bills in my best effort to put a little bit of pressure on that big spending Congress up there. I might say parenthetically, that saved the taxpayers about \$9 billion or, if you average it out, about \$200 per family in the United States.

But the main point is, jobs, housing, health care -- I don't believe you have to federalize health care in the United States to maintain or to improve the health care of the American people in this society in which we live.

MORE

The problem of crime -- when I became President in 1974, the rate of crime in America was about 18 percent -- unbelievable. In 1975, it was cut back 50 percent to 9 percent. That is still too high. But the encouraging news is that in the first 6 months of 1976, the rate of increase is 3 percent, and we have had significant reduction in some of the more serious areas of crime.

Let me tell you one way in which we have tried to solve the problem. All the experts tell us there is a group in our society -- hardened criminals, professional criminals -- they impose upon all of us law-abiding people a very high percentage of the crime committed in America.

So, we have in the last 12 months had a career criminal program. It has resulted in a significant number of hardened career criminals being apprehended, convicted -- 95 percent of them have gone to jail, and that is where they belong, and that is where they better stay.

One further comment that I think is something all of us ought to really think about: Statements have been made that America is not respected any more; America's role in the world is not what it ought to be; that our leadership is less than it should be. Let me take one or two examples.

Do you realize that in the last two weeks all seven Nobel Prizes for physics, chemistry, economics, et cetera -- every one of them went to an American for the first time in the history of the Nobel Prizes being awarded. I think that is a pretty good record.

And let me add, in the opportunities that I have had to negotiate with adversaries and to work with allies, the allies are honored to be associated with us; the adversaries respect us. They respect the 215 million Americans. They respect the kind of Government, the kind of freedom that we have in America, and they know that the American people, when the chips are down, are united in the feeling that we have for the blessing of America. They know that America is strong militarily, economically, industrially, but most important, morally and spiritually.

So, whether it is allies wanting to be associated with us or adversaries who respect us and will not challenge us, every American in this country can be proud of our history and can be proud of the things that we are going to do to make that vision of our forefathers a reality in the third century of America's great history.

Thank you very, very much.

END (AT 3:04 P.M. CDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 29, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Houston, Texas)

THE WHITE HOUSE
REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AND
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION
WILLIAM P. HOBBY AIRPORT



3:40 P.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: I think the people of the great Lone Star State know of President Ford's deep commitment to a strong national defense program. Everybody here knows that I have worked for two years with the Congress trying to get the Congress to go along with the kind of a defense budget that is needed and necessary now as well as in the future. We were fortunate in the last Congress to obtain considerable success in that regard.

I am looking forward to a continuation of a strong national defense program. That is the most effective way to keep the peace, the most effective way to insure our domestic security.

I want everybody in Texas to know what a great contribution they have made to the security in the United States. Your military industry here in Texas, not only in the building of aircraft but in electronic communications systems, as well as all the other things, are very significant in making our defense program the kind that will produce results in deterring the enemy, maintaining the peace and meeting any challenge.

I also wish to compliment the young men and women who man the military installations from El Paso to Houston. They do a tremendous job on behalf of our national security.

So, it is great to be in Texas with all the fine people that have contributed so significantly to my campaign. And I might add one footnote, in the last five days there has been a very notable, very evident upturn in the polls, a very discernible increase in crowds all over the United States, whether it is in the Southeast, the Middle West, the Northeast or elsewhere.

We have the momentum going and we expect it to keep going, because we have the right programs and we have good leadership and good organization, and with that kind of momentum we are going to surprise some people on November 2.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, with the court decision today in New York regarding Mr. McCarthy, can you afford to lose Texas and still win the election on Tuesday?

THE PRESIDENT: We are very optimistic, of course, about winning Texas. It is a very key State. On the other hand, we don't write off New York even if by chance the court does decide in the final analysis that Senator McCarthy will be precluded from offering himself as a prospective candidate in New York State.

Texas is crucial. I think we have some good news that has been coming. It is getting better. And when you look at how well we are doing in California, how well we are doing in some other States, as I said a moment ago, we are going to surprise some people.

QUESTION: Mr. President, this has been a grueling campaign for you. Are you looking forward to the end of this on Tuesday night?

THE PRESIDENT: Do I look tired? (Laughter) I tell you, I get stronger every day, and for good reason.

QUESTION: How far behind do you see you are at this point, and is there time left to catch up?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we are neck-and-neck, and when you have momentum and the opposition is trying to put their finger in every dike to try and stop the erosion, obviously we have the momentum going and they are frantic and frustrated and frenzied. And, gee, I just feel good about it, just wonderful.

Thank you all very much.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Mr. President.

END (AT 3:45 P.M. CDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 30, 1971

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Houston, Texas)

THE WHITE HOUSE
REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
HOUSTON MUSIC THEATRE

10:47 A.M. CDT



Thank you very, very much, my dear friend, John Connally. May I say at the outset that John and Nel Connally are the kind of people that Betty and Jerry Ford like because they are great citizens of Texas, wonderful citizens of the United States, and we love them, and so do you.

But, it is a pleasure to be here in Houston and in the great State of Texas and to have an opportunity to wish my very, very, very best to Bill Archer, to Ron Paul and to Ellen Steelman. With a rally like this in Texas, I think we are going to win, and win overwhelmingly.

On behalf of Betty and myself, I am going to issue a very special invitation to all of you here to come on down to Washington on January 20 and participate in the inauguration of Jerry Ford and Bob Dole.

Let me reiterate in my own way the working relationship that John Connally and I have had for 20 years. I sat in the House of Representatives, first as a Member of the Committee on Appropriations--the Defense Appropriations-- and the most articulate, the most effective, the most knowledgeable witness before our committee was John Connally. You should be proud of him.

I was in the Cabinet Room the day that the announcement was made that John Connally was going to be the Secretary of the Treasury. The President couldn't have picked a finer man for that fine job, and we are lucky.

But, you also have some other great Texans who are helping in this campaign. Ray Richardson -- Ray Hutchinson, excuse me--a dear friend of mine at home is Ray Hutchinson -- but Ray, I want to thank you very much for the superb job you have done in organizing the State of Texas. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

But then at the head of the President Ford Committee is another great Texan, Jim Baker, and I thank Jim for the fine job that he has done.

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As we near the countdown on this great election, I recall vividly August 9, 1974. When I took the oath of office as your President, this country was in deep trouble. People were angry with one another. America was divided. There was a great loss of confidence in ourselves, in our Government and in our nation. We were suffering unemployment that was reaching a very high level. Inflation was over 12 percent. We were on the brink of a recession. We were still involved in Vietnam.

Yes, America was having trouble. As I took the oath of office, I said subsequently that I had not been elected by your ballots, but I asked for your prayers. The American people responded with their prayers, and we put the ship of State on an even keel. We set a steady course, and the net result is we have restored confidence in the White House because your President has been open, candid, straightforward, and I will do the same for the next four years.

We decided that the way to whip inflation was to reduce Federal spending, to reduce the rate of growth of Federal spending, and we have. Inflation, instead of being 12 percent -- the last figure, 4.4 percent. That is progress.

We were able to end our involvement in Vietnam, and I am proud to say to all of you in Houston and the other wonderful Texans that not a single American is fighting or dying on foreign soil today. We are strong and free because we have the finest Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines in the whole world, and we are going to keep it that way.

Mentioning our national security, there is a distinct difference, as John Connally said, between my position and that of my opponent. I believe that a defense must be fully funded so we can buy the most sophisticated, the most modern weapons. Number one, to keep the peace through strength and, number two, to meet any challenge by any adversary from any place in the world. And under my Administration today -- and in the future -- America will be number one.

In contrast, my opponent says today he would cut \$5 to \$7 billion out of the defense bill. A year ago he said he would reduce it by \$15 billion. In either case, any such reduction in national defense funding would be gambling with the security of the United States today, and in the future, and we won't let that happen.

We are going to keep our nation strong to meet any challenge to get the respect from our allies, but we must also keep America strong here at home. Yes, we have gone through the worst recession in 40 years, but because of the character of the American people, because of our dedication to the free enterprise system, we are on the verge of the kind of prosperity that we will have under this Administration during the next four years.

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But this brings up the distinct differences between President Ford on the one hand and my opponent on the other hand. I believe the best way to stimulate our economy, to provide jobs for everyone that wants a job, is to give tax reductions to the individual, particularly the middle income taxpayer, and to give a tax reduction to industries so that they can have an incentive to expand their plants, to build new plants, so that jobs for more Americans will be in the private economy, not deadend jobs that Jimmy Carter wants to give out of the Federal Treasury.

Over 50 percent of the taxpayers in this country today fall in what we are proud to say is middle America. I proposed last January a tax reduction that would give to the middle income taxpayer the kind of tax relief that he deserves. The best tax reform that I know is tax reduction. I submitted to the Congress a proposal that made a lot of sense and would have given the kind of relief that you would appreciate. I recommended that we increase the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000.

Congress, unfortunately -- and I think irresponsibly -- rejected that proposal. I was talking to a worker in a plant just a week or so ago and he said, "Well, what will you do about my taxes?" I said I had proposed a tax reduction that would be meaningful to him. I asked how many children did he have. He said he has three. It turned out he had a wife, three children and himself. I said, "If Congress had done the right thing by you and millions like you, when you have the opportunity to fill out your tax return next April, you would have had \$1,250 more in personal exemptions." He said, "Gosh, how could the Congress be so irresponsible?"

So, I made a pledge to him and I will make the same pledge to each of you. When Congress gets back next January, they will have on their desks a proposal to increase that personal exemption. I hope they are responsible in 1977 to give that kind of tax relief. But, if they aren't, we will repeat it in 1978 when they reconvene. But then, if they don't pass it by the next election, we will go out and beat them because the American people will need that kind of tax relief.

So, as we look as to what the issues are between now and November 2, each one of you -- and millions like you all over the country -- have a very crucial decision to make. If you believe in strength at home, strength abroad, if you believe in the kind of an America that has taken us from three million people 200 years ago to a nation of 50 States and 215 million Americans, if you believe in the principles that have made America so great that we are envied by allies and adversaries around the world, you will vote for Jerry Ford and Bob Dole.

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America has made an incredible comeback in the last 26 months. We have made it because of the character of people like yourselves. We have made it because we believe in the free enterprise system, we have made it because of the Constitution that was given to us by our forefathers, the greatest document in the history of mankind.

Yes, as I said on that day, August 9, 1974, I had not been confirmed by your ballots, but I have since been supported by your prayers. Now I can ask you on Tuesday, November 2, to not only support me by your prayers but to support me by your ballots.

Thank you very, very much.

END . (AT 11:03 A.M. CDT)