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Excerpts from a Speech by Vice President Gerald R. Ford
At a Kentucky Fifth Congressional District Lincoln Day Dinner
At 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, 1974, at London, Ky.



FOR RELEASE AT 7:15 p.m. WEDNESDAY

~~The following are excerpts from the remarks of Vice President Gerald R. Ford at London, Kentucky:~~

• Agricultural production and farm income have reached ~~record~~ ^{new} record levels for three successive years. ~~A~~ ^A record harvest appears to be forthcoming in 1974.

• Administration policies are designed to combat inflation by increasing the food supply. We have released producers of major crops from Federal controls, increased farm exports to record levels, and expanded agricultural research programs.

• Farmers are faring better. ^{Our aim is to see them} ~~They are~~ adequately compensated for their hard labor in ^{raising} ~~growing~~ hogs and beef cattle and ⁱⁿ ~~for~~ growing the famous Kentucky tobacco.

• Costs of price support programs will decline as farm income rises. ^{The supply of} ~~A~~ Credit for rural electrification and telephone ^{service} ~~will~~ increase. Conservation funds will be focused on longrange public benefits. Rural development programs will be directed toward State and local plans and priorities.

~~Following the shortage of farm products in 1973, farm output reached record high proportions in 1973 and promises to reach even higher levels this year.~~ Federal expenditures for farm price support ^{dropped} ~~dropped~~ sharply this year and are expected to decline further ~~to under \$0.8 billion~~ in 1975.

• In order to maintain the growth of agricultural productivity, we are taking steps to encourage production of meat and soybeans.



"We are making this progress by decreasing Government regulation. The Agriculture Act of 1973, an achievement of this Administration, promises to ^{GET} ~~get~~ the Government off the farm in the years ahead. The Administration's policies encourage greater production which will translate into more income for the farmer, increased international trading benefits, and reasonable food prices for every American.

~~"The Administration will seek Congressional action to revamp programs which still require restrictive Federal control over production of certain farm commodities -- especially tobacco, peanuts, sugar, rice, and extra long staple cotton."~~

"We anticipate that the large 1974 harvest will serve as an excellent damper on the rapidly increasing food prices facing the consumer and simultaneously assure a reasonable profit ^{for the farmer.} ~~to agriculture.~~

"We have proposed to the United Nations that it convene a World Food Conference. This conference ^{is} ~~is~~ to be held next November. It is important to the American farmer, whose productivity has made this Nation the world's largest food exporter.

^{On another front,} "This Administration is pressing forward with Project Independence to assure ~~our own petroleum~~ ^{in petroleum} self-sufficiency and other energy resources. Our aim ~~by 1975~~ is to make America no longer vulnerable to the blackmail of other ~~countries~~ ^{countries}. While we strive to end the oil embargo, we ask the cooperation of friendly nations. President Nixon has pointed out that go-it-alone oil ^{policies} ~~policies~~ endanger the world's economy. Security and economic considerations are inevitably linked. Energy cannot be ~~separated~~ ^{separated} from either.



The Administration this week offered to share technology and emergency oil supplies if there is cooperative world action. We can have no real security in the world unless we are all secure. We seek cooperation, conciliation, and moderation. But we ~~feel that we~~ have a right to expect consideration from Nations ~~that~~ ^{to which} we give consideration.

A climate of peace has been generated in the world by the leadership of the Administration. This is the first year in over a decade that Americans are not engaged in war. We have extricated ourselves with honor from Vietnam. We have liberated our brave men who for so long were prisoners of war. We ended the draft. We helped to separate the warring parties in the Middle East and brought the world back from the brink of catastrophe. We have created new relations with China and the Soviet Union that would have been unthinkable a few years ago.

Breathe home, Instead of looking ^{solely} at the unfortunate rise in unemployment --- ~~partially because of temporary dislocation~~ ^{primarily} caused by the energy crisis --- let us look at the record number employed. This total is now in excess of 85.6 million, some 3.6 million at any other time more than in our peacetime history.

To meet rising living costs, we have increased Social Security and Veterans benefits. I say - and I state this emphatically - This Administration has responded to human needs.

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EXCERPTS FROM A SPEECH BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
AT A KENTUCKY FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT LINCOLN DAY DINNER.
AT LONDON, KENTUCKY
7:15 P.M. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1974

FOR RELEASE AT 7:15 P.M. WEDNESDAY



Agricultural production and farm income have reached record levels for three successive years. A new record harvest appears to be forthcoming in 1974.

Administration policies are designed to combat inflation by increasing the food supply. We have released producers of major crops from Federal controls, increased farm exports to record levels, and expanded agricultural research programs.

Farmers are faring better. Our aim is to see them adequately compensated for their hard labor in raising hogs and beef cattle and in growing the famous Kentucky tobacco.

Costs of price support programs will decline as farm income rises. The supply of credit for rural electrification and telephone service will increase. Conservation funds will be focused on longrange public benefits. Rural development programs will be directed toward State and local plans and priorities.

Federal expenditures for farm price supports dropped sharply this year and are expected to decline further in 1975.

In order to maintain the growth of agricultural productivity, we are taking steps to encourage production of meat and soybeans.

We are making this progress by decreasing Government regulation. The Agriculture Act of 1973, an achievement of this Administration, promises to get the Government off the farm in the years ahead. The Administration's policies encourage greater production which will translate into more income for the farmer, increased international trading benefits, and reasonable food prices for every American.

(more)

We anticipate that the large 1974 harvest will serve as an excellent damper on increasing food prices facing the consumer and simultaneously assure a reasonable profit for the farmer.



We have proposed to the United Nations that it convene a World Food Conference. This conference is to be held next November. It is important to the American farmer, whose productivity has made this Nation the world's largest food exporter.

On another front, this Administration is pressing forward with Project Independence to assure self-sufficiency in petroleum and other energy resources. Our aim is to make America no longer vulnerable to the blackmail of other countries. While we strive to end the oil embargo, we ask the cooperation of friendly nations. President Nixon has pointed out that go-it-alone oil policies endanger the world's economy. Security and economic considerations are inevitably linked. Energy cannot be separated from either.

The Administration this week offered to share technology and emergency oil supplies if there is cooperative world action. We can have no real security in the world unless we are all secure. We seek cooperation, conciliation, and moderation. But we have a right to expect consideration from nations to which we give consideration.

A climate of peace has been generated in the world by the leadership of the Administration. This is the first year in over a decade that Americans are not engaged in war. We have extricated ourselves with honor from Vietnam. We have liberated our brave men who for so long were prisoners of war. We ended the draft. We helped to separate the warring parties in the Middle East and brought the world back from the brink of catastrophe. We have created new relations with China and the Soviet Union that would have been unthinkable a few years ago.

(more)



Here at home, instead of looking solely at the unfortunate rise in unemployment --- caused primarily by the energy crisis --- let us look at the record number employed. This total is now in excess of 85.6 million, some 3.6 million more than at any other time in our peacetime history.

To meet rising living costs, we have increased Social Security and Veterans benefits. I say --- and I state this emphatically --- this Administration has responded to human needs.

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