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~~XXXXXX~~ REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD

TO THE GRATIOT COOUNTY REPUBLICAN LINCOLN DAY DINNER

MARCH 30, 1974

I wish very much that I could be ~~right~~ ^{IN PERSON} at your Lincoln Day Dinner ~~in~~ ^{ALMA} I'm ~~sorry~~ ^{tourist} to miss the chance of seeing and ~~being~~ ^{talking} with so many of my good friends in Gratiot County. ~~But that isn't possible.~~ ^{BUT THAT ISN'T POSSIBLE}

~~She~~ thanks to your General Chairman, Sally ~~MacKellar~~ ^{ELECTRONICALLY}, we will be able to talk ~~together~~ ^{together} She has given me ~~a few of~~ the questions you'd like ~~to discuss~~ ^{to discuss}, so let's ~~get~~ ^{get} into those right away.

Frank Malik wonders why gasoline costs so much in Michigan despite the large refinery capacity in the State. Well, Frank, as I understand it, ~~the~~ ^{the} large factor in ~~rising~~ ^{the} increased gasoline prices is the increased cost of imported crude oil. As you know, much of Michigan's oil comes from Canada which has raised its prices. Michigan's own oil production is not enough to supply its needs. It's not much comfort, but the people in the Federal Energy Office tell me that Michigan's ~~prices~~ ^{those} are not substantially higher than ~~in~~ ^{those} other parts of the country--especially some of the prices we're paying out ~~in~~ in the East--where much imported ~~oil~~ oil is used.

A different question on the energy situation comes from Gordon Everitt, who is concerned about the effects of gasoline shortages on Michigan's tourist industry. That concerns me, too, Gordon. I've spoken repeatedly about the need to protect recreation areas from economic problems resulting from reduced tourism. I'm encouraged by the efforts of the ~~Michigan~~ ^{Michigan} Department of Commerce to promote group travel. And I'm ~~pleased by~~ ^{pleased by} the improving gasoline situation, ~~now~~ ^{It looks more and more as if we'll have a near normal summer.} that the oil embargo has ended. ~~tourist industry~~ ^{tourist industry} The Federal Energy Office is aware of Michigan's ~~problems~~ ^{problems}, and ~~is confident~~ ^{is confident} Michigan's future needs can be met.



Still another energy-related question comes from Harold Doyle, who ~~thx~~ asks about the possibility of a national transportation policy to improve on the piecemeal efforts of the past. That is a very good question, Harold on a very important subject. ~~The Department of Transportation has just told Congress that~~

~~it is trying to~~ correlate and organize the various federal efforts in the Transportation field. I feel confident ~~a great deal of attention will be~~ given to a comprehensive policy for future transportation needs. ~~On the subject of the~~ ~~This is particularly important for Michigan, which has such a complex transportation~~

network, so I ~~shall~~ will be paying close attention to Federal efforts in this area.

Dr. Jack Stack wants to know about ~~an area of special importance~~ to him and other professionals---the Professional Standards Review Organization ~~which Congress ordered set up.~~ I am sure they will be set up, Dr. Stack, ~~At the present time,~~ the guidelines for the organization have not been established, and therefore it is impossible to state what direction may be taken in regard to penalties for non-compliance. This is an area which will have to be very carefully investigated as we move toward implementation of the Act in January of 1976.

Back to energy again, with a question from Harold Zimmerman about allocations for aviation fuels. Here again, the end to the oil embargo should ease the situation. even before that happy event The Federal Energy Office tells me that ~~general aviation~~ had been receiving allocations comparable to those for automobile use. But that private recreational use of planes had been curtailed. with the lifting of the embargo Hopefully, this ~~may~~ improve particularly if each of us ~~continues those~~ conservation measures which helped so much last fall and winter.

Example
That ~~was~~ cooperation was a great ~~of~~ of what we Americans can do if we ~~are~~ just are determined enough. And it's a great lesson for us Republicans. ~~I hear a lot of gloomy talk about this being a bad year for Republicans.~~ Not if we get out and work for our candidates. ~~If we have the determination,~~ we can and will win. Your very presence at the ~~dinner~~ dinner in Alma tonight is a great start for Republicans in Gratiot County ~~for~~ for 1974.

~~I am sorry, but I am not sure if you are the person I am looking for.~~
I thank you for allowing me to greet you this way---If you have further questions,
and your^S,
my good friend Cong. Al Cederberg, ~~he~~ will be happy to visit with you.

So Al---I'll turn things over to you. May you all have a most pleasant evening.

