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GEORGE BUSH ds

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, distinguished guests and
dear friends:

My fellow Americans, we have a lot of work to do.

My former colleagues, you and I have a lot of work to
do.

Let's get on with it.

I am grateful
~~Thank you~~ for your very warm welcome.

~~I hope it will be just as genuine when my Presidency
ends~~

~~It will be, if we work together~~

I am not here to make an inaugural address. The nation
needs action, not words.

Nor will this be a formal report on the State of the
Union. God willing, I will have at least three more chances
to do that *in this chamber*,

It's good to be back in the People's House.

(MORE)

But this cannot be a real homecoming. Under the Constitution, I now belong to the Executive Branch. The Supreme Court has even ruled that I am the Executive Branch, head, heart, and hand.

With due respect to the learned Justices -- and I greatly respect the Judiciary -- part of my heart will always be here on Capitol Hill. I know well the co-equal role of the Congress in our Constitutional process. I love the House of Representatives. I revere the traditions of the Senate despite my too-short internship there. As President, within the limits of basic principles, my motto towards the Congress is ~~communication, conciliation, cooperation and compromise.~~

communication, conciliation, compromise and cooperation. But this must be a two way street.

This Congress will, I am confident, be my working partner as well as my most constructive critic. I am not asking for conformity. I am dedicated to the two party system, and you know which party is mine.

I do not want a honeymoon with you. I want a good marriage.

I want progress and problem solving which requires my

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best efforts, and also your best efforts.

I have no need to learn how Congress speaks for the people.

As President, I intend to listen.

But I also intend to listen to the people themselves -- all the people -- as I promised them last Friday. I want to be sure we are all tuned in to the real voice of America.

My Administration starts off by seeking unity in diversity. My office door has always been open and that is how it is going to be at the White House. Yes, Congressmen will be welcomed -- if you don't overdo it.

The first seven words of the Constitution and the most important are these: We the People of the United States. We, the people, ordained and established the Constitution and reserved to themselves all powers not granted to Federal and State governments. I respect and will always be conscious of that fundamental rule of freedom.

(MORE)

Only eight months ago, when I last stood here, I told you I was a Ford, not a Lincoln. Tonight I say I am still a Ford, but I am not a Model T.

I do have some old-fashioned ideas. I believe in the basic decency and fairness of America. I believe in the integrity and patriotism of the Congress. And while I am aware of the House rule that one never speaks to the galleries, I believe in the First Amendment and the absolute necessity of a free press.

But I also believe that over two centuries since the First Continental Congress was convened, the direction of our ^{nation's} movement has been forward. I am here to confess that in my first campaign for President -- of my senior class in South High School in Grand Rapids, I headed the Progressive Party ticket.

Now I ask you to join with me in getting this country revved up and moving.

My instinctive judgment is that the State of the Union is excellent. But the state of our economy is not so good.

(MORE)

Everywhere I have been as Vice President, some 118,000 miles into 40 States and through 55 news conferences, the unanimous concern of Americans is inflation. For once all the polls agree. They also suggest that people blame government far more than either management or labor for the high cost of everything.

You who come from 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia know this better than I. That is why you have created since I left here your new Budget Reform Committee. I welcome it and will work with its members to bring the Federal budget into balance by fiscal 1976.

The fact is that for the past 25 years that I served here, the Federal budget has been balanced in only six.

Mr. Speaker, I am a little late getting around to it but confession is good for the soul. I have sometimes voted to spend more taxpayer's money for worthy Federal projects in Grand Rapids while vigorously opposing wasteful Federal boondoggles in Oklahoma.

~~I have sinned. But I repent, and will sin no more.~~

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Be that as it may, Mr. Speaker, you and I have always stood together against unwarranted cuts in national defense.

This is no time to change that nonpartisan policy.

Just as escalating Federal spending has been a prime cause of higher prices over many years, it may take some time to stop inflation.

But we must begin now.

For a start, before your Labor Day recess, Congress should reactivate the Cost of Living Council through passage of a clean bill, without reimposing controls, that will let us monitor wages and prices to expose abuses.

Let's be frank
1 The American wage earner and the American housewife are a lot better economists than most economists care to admit.

They know that a government big enough to give you everything you want, is a government big enough to take from you everything you have.

If we want to restore confidence in ourselves as working politicians, the first thing we all have to do is learn how to say "No."

The first specific request by the Ford Administration is not to Congress but to the voters in the upcoming November

elections. It is this: Support your ^{Candidates} representatives, Congressmen and Senators, Democrats or Republicans, conservative or liberal, who consistently vote for tough decisions to cut the cost of government, restrain Federal spending and bring inflation under control.

I applaud the initiatives the Congress has already taken. The only fault I find with the Joint Economic Committee's inflation study authorized last week is that we need its expert findings in six weeks instead of six months.

A month ago the distinguished majority leader of the Senate asked the White House to convene an economic conference of members of Congress, the President's economic consultants and some of the best economic brains from labor, industry and agriculture.

Later this was perfected by resolution to assemble a domestic summit meeting to devise a bipartisan action plan for stability and growth in the American economy. Neither I nor

my staff have much time just now for letter writing. So I will respond in person. I accept your suggestion and I will personally preside.

Furthermore, I propose that this summit meeting be held at an early date and in full view of the American public. They are as anxious to get the right answers (as we are).

My first priority is to work with you to bring inflation under control. Inflation is our domestic public enemy No. 1. To restore economic confidence, the government in Washington must provide leadership. It does no good to blame the public for spending too much when the government is spending too much.

I began to put my Administration's own economic house in order, starting last Friday.

I instructed my Cabinet officers and counselors and my White House staff to make fiscal restraint their first order of business, and to save every taxpayer's dollar the safety and genuine welfare of the country will permit.

(MORE)

unfortunately

Some economic activities will be effected more by monetary and fiscal restraints than other activities. Good government clearly requires that we tend to the economic problems facing our country in a spirit of equity to all of our citizens.

Tonight is no time to threaten you with vetos. But I do have that last recourse and am a veteran of many a veto fight in this very chamber. Can't we do the job better by reasonable compromise?

Minutes after I took the Presidential oath, the joint leadership of Congress told me at the White House they would go more than half way to meet me. This was confirmed in your unanimous concurrent resolution of cooperation, for which I am deeply grateful. If for my part I go more than halfway to meet the Congress, maybe we will find a much larger area of national agreement.

I bring no legislative shopping list tonight. I will deal with specifics in future messages, ~~and talks with you.~~ But here are a few examples, ~~of my seriousness.~~

Last week the Congress passed the Elementary and Secondary Education bill and I found it on my desk. Any reservations I might have about some of its provisions -- and I do have -- fade in comparison to the urgent needs of America for quality education,

I will sign it in a few days. I must be frank. In implementing its provisions, I will oppose excessive funding during this inflationary crisis.

As Vice President, I studied various proposals for better health care financing. I saw them coming closer together, and urged my friends in the Congress and in the Administration to sit down and sweat out a sound compromise. The Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan goes a long way towards providing early relief to people who are sick.

Why don't we write a good health bill on the statute books before this Congress adjourns?

The economy of our country is critically dependent on how we interact with the economies of other countries. It is little comfort that our inflation is only part of a world-wide problem, or that American families need less of their paychecks for groceries than most of our foreign friends.

As one of the building blocks of peace, we have taken the lead in working toward a more open and equitable world economic system. A new round of international trade negotiations started last September among 105 nations in Tokyo. The others are

The Executive Branch

waiting for the United States Congress to grant the necessary authority to proceed.

With modifications, the Trade Reform bill passed by the House last year would do that. I understand good progress has been made in the Senate Committee. But I am optimistic, as always, that the Senate will pass an acceptable bill quickly as a key part of our joint prosperity campaign.

I am determined to expedite other international economic plans. We will be working together with other nations to find better ways to prevent shortages of food and fuel. We must not let last winter's energy crisis happen again. I will push Project Independence for our own good and the good of others. In that too, I will need your help.

Successful foreign policy is an extension of the hopes of the whole American people for a world of peace and orderly freedom. So I would say a few words to our distinguished guests from the governments of other nations where, as at home, it is my determination to deal openly with allies and adversaries.

Over the past five and a half years, in Congress and as Vice President, I have fully supported the outstanding foreign policy of President Nixon. This I intend to continue.

Throughout my public service, starting with wartime naval duty under the command of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, I have upheld all our Presidents when they spoke for my country to the world. I believe the Constitution commands this. I know that in this crucial area of international policy I can count on your firm support.

Let there be no doubt or misunderstanding anywhere. There are no opportunities to exploit, should anyone so desire. There will be no change of course, no relaxation of vigilance, no abandonment of the helm of our Ship of State as the watch changes. We stand by our commitments and will live up to our responsibilities, in our formal alliances, in our friendships and in our improving relations with ~~any~~^{any} potential adversaries.

On this, Americans are united and strong. Under my term of leadership I hope we will become more united. I am certain

we will remain strong.

A strong defense is the surest way to peace. Strength makes detente attainable. Weakness invites war, as my generation knows from four bitter experiences.

Just as America's will for peace is second to none, so will America's strength be second to none.

We cannot rely on the forbearance of others to protect this nation. The power and diversity of the Armed Forces, the resolve of our fellow-citizens, the flexibility in our command to navigate international waters that remain troubled -- all are essential to our security.

I shall continue to insist on civilian control of our **superb** military establishment. The Constitution plainly requires the President to be the Commander-in-Chief, and I will be.

Our job will not be easy. In promising continuity, I can not promise simplicity. The problems and challenges of the world remain complex and difficult. But we have set out upon a path

of reason and fairness, and we will continue on it.

As guideposts on that path, I ~~can~~ offer the following:

-- To our allies of a generation, in the Atlantic community and Japan, I pledge continuity in the loyal collaboration on our many mutual endeavors.

-- To our friends and allies in this hemisphere, I pledge continuity in the deepening dialogue to define renewed relationships of equality and justice.

-- To our allies and friends in Asia, I pledge a continuity in our support for their security, independence, and economic development. In Indochina, we are determined to see the observance of the Paris Agreement on VietNam and the cease-fire and negotiated settlement in Laos. We hope to see an early compromise settlement in Cambodia.

-- To the Soviet Union, I pledge continuity in our commitment to the course of the past three years. To our two peoples, and to all mankind, we owe a continued effort to live, and where

possible, to work together in peace; for, in a thermo-nuclear age, there can be no alternative to a positive and peaceful relationship between our nations.

-- To the People's Republic of China, whose legendary hospitality I enjoyed, I pledge continuity in our commitment to the principles of the Shanghai Communique. The new relationship built on those principles has demonstrated that it serves serious and objective mutual interests and has become an enduring feature on the world scene.

-- To the nations of the Middle East, I pledge continuity in our vigorous efforts to advance the process which has brought hopes of peace to that region after 25 long years as a hotbed of war. We shall carry out our promise to promote continuing negotiation among all parties for a complete, just and lasting settlement.

-- To all nations, I pledge continuity in seeking a common global goal: a stable international structure of trade and finance

which reflects the interdependence of all peoples.

-- To the entire international community--to the United Nations, to the world's non-aligned nations, and to all others -- I pledge a continuity in our dedication to the humane goals which throughout our history have been so much a part of our contribution to mankind.

So long as the peoples of the world have confidence in our purposes and faith in our word, the age-old vision of peace on earth will continue to grow brighter.

I pledge myself unreservedly to that goal. I say to you in words that cannot be improved upon: Let us never negotiate out of fear, but let us never fear to negotiate.

As Vice President, I addressed myself to the individual rights of Americans in the area of privacy. There will be no illegal tapings, eavesdropping, buggings, or break-ins by my Administration. There will be hot pursuit of tough laws to prevent illegal invasions of privacy in both government and private activities.

(MORE)

On the higher plane of public morality, there is no need for me to preach tonight. We have thousands of far better preachers and millions of ~~books~~ ^{sacred Scriptures} to guide us on the path of personal right-living and exemplary official conduct. If we can make effective and earlier use of the moral and ethical wisdom of the centuries in today's complex society, we will prevent more crime and corruption than all the policemen and prosecutors governments can ever deter. This is a job that must begin at home, not in Washington.

I once told you that I am not a saint, and hope never to see the day that I cannot admit having made a mistake. So I will close with another confession.

Frequently along the tortuous road of recent months, from this chamber to the President's House, I protested that I was my own man.

^I
~~N~~ow realize that I was wrong.

I am your man, for it was your carefully weighed confirmation that changed my occupation.

(MORE)

I am the people's man, for you acted in their name, and I accepted and began my new and solemn trust with a promise to serve all the people, and to do the best I can for America.

When I say all the people I mean exactly that.

To the limits of my strength and ability, I will be the President of black, brown, red and white Americans, of old and young, of women's liberationists and male chauvinists and all the rest of us in between, of the poor and the rich, of native sons and new refugees, of those who work at lathes or at desks or in mines or in the fields, and of Christians, Jews, Moslems, Buddhists and Atheists, if there really are any Atheists after what we have all been through.

Fellow-Americans, a final word:

I want to be a good President.

I need your help.

We all need God's sure guidance.

With it, nothing can stop the United States of America.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENTIAL SCHEDULE

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO
CONGRESSIONAL JOINT SESSION

U. S. Capitol
Monday - August 12, 1974

8:28 p. m. Motorcade departs Virginia Residence en route
U.S. Capitol.

(Driving Time: 20 minutes)

8:48 p. m. Motorcade arrives South Door of the Capitol
(House Wing).

You will be met by:

Mr Ken Harding, House Sergeant-at-Arms
Mr. George White, Architect of the Capitol

PRESS POOL PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

8:50 p. m. Proceed to Holding Room (H-210) via elevator,
escorted by Mr. Harding and Mr. White.

NOTE: Inside South Entrance, Mrs. Ford
and the First Family will be met by
Mr. Luke Hicks and Mr. Don Anderson,
representatives of the House Doorkeeper,
who will escort them via elevator to
their seats in the Executive Gallery.

2. Presidential Address to
Congressional Joint Session
Monday - August 12, 1974

8:53 p. m. Arrive Holding Room and meet with Cabinet
Members and Counsellors.

NOTE: Shortly after your arrival, the Cabinet
Members and Counsellors will proceed to the
House Chamber.

8:53 p. m. Mrs. Ford and the First Family arrive
in their seats in the Executive Gallery.

8:57 p. m. The Escort Committee arrives in the hallway
outside the Holding Room.

Escort Committee is as follows:

Senator Mike Mansfield (D-Mont)
Senator Hugh Scott (R-Pa)
Senator Robert Byrd (D-W. Va.)
Senator Robert Griffin (R-Mich)
Congressman Thomas O'Neill, Jr. (D-Mass)
Congressman John Rhodes (R-Ariz)
Congressman John McFall (D-Ca)
Congressman Leslie Arends (R-Ill)

8:58 p. m. Depart Holding Room and meet Escort Committee in
hallway.

OFFICIAL PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

8:59 p. m. Proceed to House Chamber, escorted by Escort
Committee, Ken Harding and Bill Wannell (Senate
Sergeant-at-Arms).

9:00 p. m. Arrive Center Door of the House Chamber.

9:01 p. m. Announcement by Fishbait Miller, the
Doorkeeper.

9:01 p. m. Proceed down center aisle, escorted by Fishbait
Miller and the Escort Committee, to the Clerk's Desk.

LIVE NATIONWIDE TELEVISION



3. Presidential Address to
Congressional Joint Session
Monday - August 12, 1974

9:02 p.m. Arrive Clerk's Desk and greet the Speaker of the
House and President Pro-Tempore of the Senate.

9:03 p.m. PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

LIVE NATION WIDE TELEVISION.

9:25 p.m. Address concludes.

Depart House Chamber via the entrance route,
escorted by the two Sergeants-at-Arms and the
Escort Committee, and proceed to Congressman
Les Arends' (R-Ill) office for a private meeting
with Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Dirksen, David and Julie
Eisenhower, and the First Family.

NOTE: The Escort Committee will bid
adieu as you enter Congressman
Arends' Office (H-219).

9:25 p.m. Mrs. Ford and the First Family depart
Gallery seats en route Congressman Arends'
office.

9:27 p.m. Arrive Congressman Arends' office for private meeting.

9:40 p.m. Depart Congressman Arends' office en route motorcade
for boarding.

9:45 p.m. Motorcade departs the Capitol en route Virginia residence.

(Driving Time: 20 minutes)

10:05 p.m. Arrive Virginia Residence.

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*Photocopy From
Ford Personal Papers*

National Archives and Records Administration
Presidential Libraries Accession Sheet

GERALD R. FORD PERSONAL PAPERS, 1913-PRESENT

Accession: 90-NLF-024

Dates: 08/12/1974 - 08/12/1974

Scope and Content Note:

Annotated reading copy of the President's address to the Joint Session of Congress on August 12, 1974. The speech is in an envelope on which Mr. Hartmann wrote down the phrases which elicited applause or laughter.

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JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS
AUGUST 12, 1974

MR. SPEAKER, MR PRESIDENT, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND DEAR

FRIENDS:

Pause

MY FELLOW AMERICANS, WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO.

Pause

MY FORMER COLLEAGUES, YOU AND I HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO.

LET'S GET ON WITH IT.

I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR VERY WARM WELCOME.

I AM NOT HERE TO MAKE AN INAUGURAL ADDRESS. THE NATION
NEEDS ACTION, NOT WORDS.

NOR WILL THIS BE A FORMAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE UNION.
GOD WILLING, I WILL HAVE AT LEAST THREE MORE CHANCES TO DO THAT.

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK IN THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE.

BUT THIS CANNOT BE A REAL HOMECOMING. UNDER THE
CONSTITUTION, I NOW BELONG TO THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. THE SUPREME
COURT HAS EVEN RULED THAT I AM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, HEAD, HEART,
AND HAND.

WITH DUE RESPECT TO THE LEARNED JUSTICES -- AND I GREATLY
RESPECT THE JUDICIARY -- PART OF MY HEART WILL ALWAYS BE HERE ON
CAPITOL HILL. I KNOW WELL THE CO-EQUAL ROLE OF THE CONGRESS IN OUR
CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS. I LOVE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. I
REVERE THE TRADITIONS OF THE SENATE DESPITE MY TOO-SHORT INTERNSHIP
THERE. AS PRESIDENT, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF BASIC PRINCIPLES, MY MOTTO
TOWARDS THE CONGRESS IS COMMUNICATION, CONCILIATION, COMPROMISE AND
COOPERATION.

THIS CONGRESS WILL, I AM CONFIDENT, BE MY WORKING PARTNER
AS WELL AS MY MOST CONSTRUCTIVE CRITIC. I AM NOT ASKING FOR CONFORMITY.
I AM DEDICATED TO THE TWO PARTY SYSTEM, AND YOU KNOW WHICH PARTY
IS MINE.

I DO NOT WANT A HONEYMOON WITH YOU. I WANT A GOOD MARRIAGE.

I WANT PROGRESS AND PROBLEM SOLVING WHICH REQUIRES MY
BEST EFFORTS, AND ALSO YOUR BEST EFFORTS.

I HAVE NO NEED TO LEARN HOW CONGRESS SPEAKS FOR THE PEOPLE.

AS PRESIDENT, I INTEND TO LISTEN.

BUT I ALSO INTEND TO LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES -- ALL

THE PEOPLE -- AS I PROMISED THEM LAST FRIDAY. I WANT TO BE SURE

WE ARE ALL TUNED IN TO THE REAL VOICE OF AMERICA.

MY ADMINISTRATION STARTS OFF BY SEEKING UNITY IN DIVERSITY.

MY OFFICE DOOR HAS ALWAYS BEEN OPEN AND THAT IS HOW IT IS GOING TO

BE AT THE WHITE HOUSE. YES, CONGRESSMEN WILL BE WELCOMED -- IF YOU

DON'T OVERDO IT.

THE FIRST SEVEN WORDS OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE MOST
IMPORTANT ARE THESE: WE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES. WE, THE
PEOPLE, ORDAINED AND ESTABLISHED THE CONSTITUTION AND RESERVED TO
THEMSELVES ALL POWERS NOT GRANTED TO FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT. I
RESPECT AND WILL ALWAYS BE CONSCIOUS OF THAT FUNDAMENTAL RULE OF
FREEDOM.

ONLY EIGHT MONTHS AGO, WHEN I LAST STOOD HERE, I TOLD YOU

I WAS A FORD, NOT A LINCOLN. TONIGHT I SAY ~~/~~ I AM STILL A FORD,
BUT I AM NOT A MODEL T.

I DO HAVE SOME OLD-FASHIONED IDEAS. I BELIEVE IN THE BASIC
DECENCY AND FAIRNESS OF AMERICA. I BELIEVE IN THE INTEGRITY AND
PATRIOTISM OF THE CONGRESS. AND WHILE I AM AWARE OF THE HOUSE RULE
THAT ONE NEVER SPEAKS TO THE GALLERIES, I BELIEVE IN THE FIRST
AMENDMENT AND THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF A FREE PRESS.

BUT I ALSO BELIEVE THAT OVER TWO CENTURIES SINCE THE FIRST
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS WAS CONVENED, THE DIRECTION OF OUR NATION'S
MOVEMENT HAS BEEN FORWARD. I AM HERE TO CONFESS THAT IN MY FIRST
CAMPAIGN FOR PRESIDENT -- OF MY SENIOR CLASS IN SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL IN
GRAND RAPIDS, I HEADED THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY TICKET.

NOW I ASK YOU TO JOIN WITH ME IN GETTING THIS COUNTRY REVVED
UP AND MOVING.

MY INSTINCTIVE JUDGMENT IS THAT THE STATE OF THE UNION IS
EXCELLENT. BUT THE STATE OF OUR ECONOMY IS NOT SO GOOD.

EVERYWHERE I HAVE BEEN AS VICE PRESIDENT, SOME 118,000 MILES
INTO 40 STATES AND THROUGH 55 NEWS CONFERENCES, THE UNANIMOUS CONCERN
OF AMERICANS IS INFLATION. FOR ONCE ALL THE POLLS AGREE. THEY ALSO
SUGGEST THAT PEOPLE BLAME GOVERNMENT FAR MORE THAN EITHER MANAGEMENT
OR LABOR FOR THE HIGH COST OF EVERYTHING.

YOU WHO COME FROM 50 STATES, THREE TERRITORIES AND THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA KNOW THIS BETTER THAN I. THAT IS WHY YOU HAVE CREATED
SINCE I LEFT HERE YOUR NEW BUDGET REFORM COMMITTEE. I WELCOME IT
AND WILL WORK WITH ITS MEMBERS TO BRING THE FEDERAL BUDGET INTO
BALANCE BY FISCAL 1976.

THE FACT IS THAT FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS THAT I SERVED HERE,
THE FEDERAL BUDGET HAS BEEN BALANCED IN ONLY SIX.

MR. SPEAKER, I AM A LITTLE LATE GETTING AROUND TO IT BUT
CONFESSION IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL. I HAVE SOMETIMES VOTED TO SPEND
MORE TAXPAYER'S MONEY FOR WORTHY FEDERAL PROJECTS IN GRAND RAPIDS
WHILE VIGOROUSLY OPPOSING WASTEFUL FEDERAL BOONDOGGLES IN OKLAHOMA.

BE THAT AS IT MAY, MR. SPEAKER, YOU AND I HAVE ALWAYS
STOOD TOGETHER AGAINST UNWARRANTED CUTS IN NATIONAL DEFENSE. THIS
IS NO TIME TO CHANGE THAT NONPARTISAN POLICY.

JUST AS ESCALATING FEDERAL SPENDING HAS BEEN A PRIME CAUSE
OF HIGHER PRICES OVER MANY YEARS, IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME TO STOP
INFLATION.

BUT WE MUST BEGIN NOW.

FOR A START, BEFORE YOUR LABOR DAY RECESS, CONGRESS SHOULD
REACTIVATE THE COST OF LIVING COUNCIL THROUGH PASSAGE OF A CLEAN BILL,
WITHOUT REIMPOSING CONTROLS, THAT WILL LET US MONITOR WAGES AND
PRICES TO EXPOSE ABUSES.

Whether we like it or not

¹ THE AMERICAN WAGE EARNER AND THE AMERICAN HOUSEWIFE ARE A
LOT BETTER ECONOMISTS THAN MOST ECONOMISTS CARE TO ADMIT.

THEY KNOW THAT A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO GIVE YOU

EVERYTHING YOU WANT, IS A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO TAKE FROM YOU

EVERYTHING YOU HAVE.

IF WE WANT TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN OURSELVES AS WORKING
POLITICIANS, THE FIRST THING WE ALL HAVE TO DO IS LEARN HOW TO SAY

"NO."

THE FIRST SPECIFIC REQUEST BY THE FORD ADMINISTRATION IS
NOT TO CONGRESS BUT TO THE VOTERS IN THE UPCOMING NOVEMBER ELECTIONS.
IT IS THIS: SUPPORT YOUR CANDIDATES, CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS,
DEMOCRATS OR REPUBLICANS, CONSERVATIVE OR LIBERAL, WHO CONSISTENTLY
VOTE FOR TOUGH DECISIONS TO CUT THE COST OF GOVERNMENT, RESTRAIN
FEDERAL SPENDING AND BRING INFLATION UNDER CONTROL.

I APPLAUD THE INITIATIVES THE CONGRESS HAS ALREADY TAKEN.

THE ONLY FAULT I FIND WITH THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE STUDY

ON INFLATION AUTHORIZED LAST WEEK IS THAT WE NEED ITS EXPERT

FINDINGS IN SIX WEEKS INSTEAD OF SIX MONTHS.

A MONTH AGO THE DISTINGUISHED MAJORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE
ASKED THE WHITE HOUSE TO CONVENE AN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE OF MEMBERS
OF CONGRESS, THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC CONSULTANTS AND SOME OF THE
BEST ECONOMIC BRAINS FROM LABOR, INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE.

LATER THIS WAS PERFECTED BY RESOLUTION TO ASSEMBLE A
DOMESTIC SUMMIT MEETING TO DEVISE A BIPARTISAN ACTION PLAN FOR
STABILITY AND GROWTH IN THE AMERICAN ECONOMY. NEITHER I NOR MY
STAFF HAVE MUCH TIME JUST NOW FOR LETTER WRITING. SO I WILL RESPOND
IN PERSON. I ACCEPT YOUR SUGGESTION AND I WILL PERSONALLY PRESIDE.

FURTHERMORE, I PROPOSE THAT THIS SUMMIT MEETING BE HELD AT
AN EARLY DATE AND IN FULL VIEW OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. THEY
ARE AS ANXIOUS TO GET THE RIGHT ANSWERS AS WE ARE.

MY FIRST PRIORITY IS TO WORK WITH YOU TO BRING INFLATION UNDER
CONTROL. INFLATION IS OUR DOMESTIC PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1. TO RESTORE
ECONOMIC CONFIDENCE, THE GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON MUST PROVIDE
LEADERSHIP. IT DOES NO GOOD TO BLAME THE PUBLIC FOR SPENDING TOO MUCH
WHEN THE GOVERNMENT IS SPENDING TOO MUCH.

I BEGAN TO PUT MY ADMINISTRATION'S OWN ECONOMIC HOUSE IN ORDER, STARTING LAST FRIDAY.

I INSTRUCTED MY CABINET OFFICERS AND COUNSELORS AND MY WHITE HOUSE STAFF TO MAKE FISCAL RESTRAINT THEIR FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS, AND TO SAVE EVERY TAXPAYER'S DOLLAR THE SAFETY AND GENUINE WELFARE OF THE COUNTRY WILL PERMIT.

SOME ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES WILL BE EFFECTED MORE BY MONETARY
AND FISCAL RESTRAINTS THAN OTHER ACTIVITIES. GOOD GOVERNMENT CLEARLY
REQUIRES THAT WE TEND TO THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING OUR COUNTRY
IN A SPIRIT OF EQUITY TO ALL OF OUR CITIZENS.

TONIGHT IS NO TIME TO THREATEN YOU WITH VETOES. BUT I DO
HAVE THAT LAST RECOURSE AND AM A VETERAN OF MANY A VETO FIGHT IN
THIS VERY CHAMBER. CAN'T WE DO THE JOB BETTER BY REASONABLE
COMPROMISE?

MINUTES AFTER I TOOK THE PRESIDENTIAL OATH, THE JOINT
LEADERSHIP OF CONGRESS TOLD ME AT THE WHITE HOUSE THEY WOULD GO
MORE THAN HALF WAY TO MEET ME. 'THIS WAS CONFIRMED IN YOUR UNANIMOUS
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF COOPERATION, FOR WHICH I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL.
IF FOR MY PART I GO MORE THAN HALFWAY TO MEET THE CONGRESS, MAYBE WE
WILL FIND A MUCH LARGER AREA OF NATIONAL AGREEMENT.

I BRING NO LEGISLATIVE SHOPPING LIST TONIGHT. I WILL
DEAL WITH SPECIFICS IN FUTURE MESSAGES AND TALKS WITH YOU. BUT
HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF MY SERIOUSNESS.

LAST WEEK THE CONGRESS PASSED THE ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION BILL AND I FOUND IT ON MY DESK. ANY RESERVATIONS
I MIGHT HAVE ABOUT SOME OF ITS PROVISIONS -- AND I DO HAVE -- FADE
IN COMPARISON TO THE URGENT NEEDS OF AMERICA FOR QUALITY EDUCATION.
I WILL SIGN IT IN A FEW DAYS. I MUST BE FRANK. IN IMPLEMENTING
ITS PROVISIONS, I WILL OPPOSE EXCESSIVE FUNDING DURING THIS INFLATIONARY
CRISIS.

AS VICE PRESIDENT, I STUDIED VARIOUS PROPOSALS FOR BETTER HEALTH
CARE FINANCING. I SAW THEM COMING CLOSER TOGETHER, AND URGED MY
FRIENDS IN THE CONGRESS AND IN THE ADMINISTRATION TO SIT DOWN AND
SWEAT OUT A SOUND COMPROMISE. THE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH INSURANCE
PLAN GOES A LONG WAY TOWARDS PROVIDING EARLY RELIEF TO PEOPLE WHO ARE
SICK.

WHY DON'T WE WRITE A GOOD HEALTH BILL ON THE STATUTE BOOKS
BEFORE THIS CONGRESS ADJOURNS?

THE ECONOMY OF OUR COUNTRY IS CRITICALLY DEPENDENT ON
HOW WE INTERACT WITH THE ECONOMIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES. IT IS LITTLE
COMFORT THAT OUR INFLATION IS ONLY PART OF A WORLD-WIDE PROBLEM, OR
THAT AMERICAN FAMILIES NEED LESS OF THEIR PAYCHECKS FOR GROCERIES
THAN MOST OF OUR FOREIGN FRIENDS.

AS ONE OF THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF PEACE, WE HAVE TAKEN
THE LEAD IN WORKING TOWARD A MORE OPEN AND EQUITABLE WORLD ECONOMIC
SYSTEM. A NEW ROUND OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS STARTED LAST
SEPTEMBER AMONG 105 NATIONS IN TOKYO. THE OTHERS ARE WAITING FOR
THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO GRANT THE NECESSARY AUTHORITY TO PROCEED.

To the Executive Branch
X

WITH MODIFICATIONS, THE TRADE REFORM ~~WILL~~ PASSED BY THE
HOUSE LAST YEAR WOULD DO THAT. I UNDERSTAND GOOD PROGRESS HAS BEEN
MADE IN THE SENATE COMMITTEE. BUT I AM OPTIMISTIC, AS ALWAYS,
THAT THE SENATE WILL PASS AN ACCEPTABLE BILL QUICKLY AS A KEY PART
OF OUR JOINT PROSPERITY CAMPAIGN.

I AM DETERMINED TO EXPEDITE OTHER INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
PLANS. WE WILL BE WORKING TOGETHER WITH OTHER NATIONS TO FIND
BETTER WAYS TO PREVENT SHORTAGES OF FOOD AND FUEL. WE MUST NOT LET
LAST WINTER'S ENERGY CIRSIS HAPPEN AGAIN. I WILL PUSH PROJECT
INDEPENDENCE FOR OUR OWN GOOD AND THE GOOD OF OTHERS. IN THAT TOO,
I WILL NEED YOUR HELP.

SUCCESSFUL FOREIGN POLICY IS AN EXTENSION OF THE HOPES OF
THE WHOLE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR A WORLD OF PEACE AND ORDERLY FREEDOM.
SO I WOULD SAY A FEW WORDS TO OUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS FROM THE
GOVERNMENTS OF ^{OTHER NATIONS} ~~OTHER NATIONS~~ WHERE, AS AT HOME, IT IS MY DETERMINATION
TO DEAL OPENLY WITH ALLIES AND ADVERSARIES.

OVER THE PAST FIVE AND A HALF YEARS, IN CONGRESS AND
AS VICE PRESIDENT, I HAVE FULLY SUPPORTED THE OUTSTANDING
FOREIGN POLICY OF PRESIDENT NIXON. THIS I INTEND TO CONTINUE.

THROUGHOUT MY PUBLIC SERVICE, STARTING WITH WARTIME NAVAL
DUTY UNDER THE COMMAND OF PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, I HAVE
UPHELD ALL OUR PRESIDENTS WHEN THEY SPOKE FOR MY COUNTRY TO THE
WORLD. I BELIEVE THE CONSTITUTION COMMANDS THIS. I KNOW THAT
IN THIS CRUCIAL AREA OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY I CAN COUNT ON YOUR
FIRM SUPPORT.

of 2 emphasize anywhere.

LET THERE BE NO DOUBT OR MISUNDERSTANDING ANYWHERE, THERE
ARE NO OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLOIT, SHOULD ANYONE SO DESIRE. THERE
WILL BE NO CHANGE OF COURSE, NO RELAXATION OF VIGILANCE, NO
ABANDONMENT OF THE HELM OF OUR SHIP OF STATE AS THE WATCH
CHANGES. WE STAND BY OUR COMMITMENTS AND WILL LIVE UP TO OUR
RESPONSIBILITIES, IN OUR FORMAL ALLIANCES, IN OUR FRIENDSHIPS
AND IN OUR IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH ANY POTENTIAL ADVERSARIES.

ON THIS, AMERICANS ARE UNITED AND STRONG. UNDER MY TERM
OF LEADERSHIP I HOPE WE WILL BECOME MORE UNITED. I AM CERTAIN
WE WILL REMAIN STRONG.

A STRONG DEFENSE IS THE SUREST WAY TO PEACE. STRENGTH
MAKES DETENTE ATTAINABLE. WEAKNESS INVITES WAR, AS MY
GENERATION KNOWS FROM FOUR BITTER EXPERIENCES.

JUST AS AMERICA'S WILL FOR PEACE IS SECOND TO NONE, SO
WILL AMERICA'S STRENGTH BE SECOND TO NONE.

WE CANNOT RELY ON THE FORBEARANCE OF OTHERS TO PROTECT
THIS NATION. THE POWER AND DIVERSITY OF THE ARMED FORCES --
ACTIVE, GUARD AND RESERVE--THE RESOLVE OF OUR FELLOW-CITIZENS,
THE FLEXIBILITY IN OUR COMMAND TO NAVIGATE INTERNATIONAL
WATERS THAT REMAIN TROUBLED -- ALL ARE ESSENTIAL TO OUR SECURITY.

I SHALL CONTINUE TO INSIST ON CIVILIAN CONTROL OF OUR SUPERB
MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. THE CONSTITUTION PLAINLY REQUIRES THE
PRESIDENT TO BE THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, AND I WILL BE.

OUR JOB WILL NOT BE EASY. IN PROMISING CONTINUITY, I CAN
NOT PROMISE SIMPLICITY. THE PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES OF THE WORLD
REMAIN COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT. BUT WE HAVE SET OUT UPON A PATH
OF REASON AND FAIRNESS, AND WE WILL CONTINUE ON IT.

AS GUIDEPOSTS ON THAT PATH, I OFFER THE FOLLOWING:

-- TO OUR ALLIES OF A GENERATION, IN THE ATLANTIC
COMMUNITY AND JAPAN, I PLEDGE CONTINUITY IN THE LOYAL
COLLABORATION ON OUR MANY MUTUAL ENDEAVORS.

--TO OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES IN THIS HEMISPHERE, I PLEDGE
CONTINUITY IN THE DEEPENING DIALOGUE TO DEFINE RENEWED
RELATIONSHIPS OF EQUALITY AND JUSTICE.

-- TO OUR ALLIES AND FRIENDS IN ASIA, I PLEDGE A CONTINUITY
IN OUR SUPPORT FOR THEIR SECURITY, INDEPENDENCE, AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT. IN INDOCHINA, WE ARE DETERMINED TO SEE THE
OBSERVANCE OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON VIETNAM AND THE CEASE-FIRE
AND NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN LAOS. WE HOPE TO SEE AN EARLY
COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT IN CAMBODIA.

-- TO THE SOVIET UNION, I PLEDGE CONTINUITY IN OUR
COMMITMENT TO THE COURSE OF THE PAST THREE YEARS. TO OUR TWO
PEOPLES, AND TO ALL MANKIND, WE OWE A CONTINUED EFFORT TO LIVE,
AND WHERE POSSIBLE, TO WORK TOGETHER IN PEACE: FOR, IN A THERMO-
NUCLEAR AGE, THERE CAN BE NO ALTERNATIVE TO A POSITIVE AND PEACEFUL
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR NATIONS.

40

-- TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, WHOSE LEGENDARY
HOSPITALITY I ENJOYED, I PLEDGE CONTINUITY IN OUR COMMITMENT
TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. THE NEW RELATIONSHIP
BUILT ON THOSE PRINCIPLES HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT SERVES SERIOUS
AND OBJECTIVE MUTUAL INTERESTS AND HAS BECOME AN ENDURING FEATURE
ON THE WORLD SCENE.

-- TO THE NATIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST, I PLEDGE CONTINUITY
IN OUR VIGOROUS EFFORTS TO ADVANCE THE PROGRESS WHICH HAS BROUGHT
HOPES OF PEACE TO THAT REGION AFTER 25 LONG YEARS AS A HOTBED
OF WAR. WE SHALL CARRY OUT OUR PROMISE TO PROMOTE CONTINUING
NEGOTIATION AMONG ALL PARTIES FOR A COMPLETE, JUST AND LASTING
SETTLEMENT.

-- TO ALL NATIONS, I PLEDGE CONTINUITY IN SEEKING A COMMON

GLOBAL GOAL: A STABLE INTERNATIONAL STRUCTURE OF TRADE AND FINANCE

WHICH REFLECTS THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF ALL PEOPLES.

-- TO THE ENTIRE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY -- TO THE UNITED
NATIONS, TO THE WORLD'S NON-ALIGNED NATIONS, AND TO ALL OTHERS--

I PLEDGE A CONTINUITY IN OUR DEDICATION TO THE HUMANE GOALS WHICH
THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY HAVE BEEN SO MUCH A PART OF OUR CONTRIBUTION
TO MANKIND.

SO LONG AS THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD HAVE CONFIDENCE IN
OUR PURPOSES AND FAITH IN OUR WORD, THE AGE-OLD VISION OF PEACE
ON EARTH WILL CONTINUE TO GROW BRIGHTER.

I PLEDGE MYSELF UNRESERVEDLY TO THAT GOAL. I SAY TO YOU
IN WORDS THAT CANNOT BE IMPROVED UPON: LET US NEVER NEGOTIATE
OUT OF FEAR, BUT LET US NEVER FEAR TO NEGOTIATE.

at the request of Pres. Nixon

AS VICE PRESIDENT, I ADDRESSED MYSELF TO THE INDIVIDUAL
RIGHTS OF AMERICANS IN THE AREA OF PRIVACY. THERE WILL BE NO
ILLEGAL TAPINGS, EAVESDROPPING, BUGGINGS, OR BREAK-INS BY MY
ADMINISTRATION. THERE WILL BE HOT PURSUIT OF TOUGH LAWS TO
PREVENT ILLEGAL INVASIONS OF PRIVACY IN BOTH GOVERNMENT AND
PRIVATE ACTIVITIES.

ON THE HIGHER PLANE OF PUBLIC MORALITY, THERE IS NO NEED
FOR ME TO PREACH TONIGHT. WE HAVE THOUSANDS OF FAR BETTER PREACHERS
AND MILLIONS OF SACRED SCRIPTURES TO GUIDE US ON THE PATH OF PERSONAL
RIGHT-LIVING AND EXEMPLARY OFFICIAL CONDUCT. IF WE CAN MAKE EFFECTIVE
AND EARLIER USE OF THE MORAL AND ETHICAL WISDOM OF THE CENTURIES IN
TODAY'S COMPLEX SOCIETY, WE WILL PREVENT MORE CRIME AND CORRUPTION
THAN ALL THE POLICEMEN AND PROSECUTORS GOVERNMENTS CAN EVER DETER.
THIS IS A JOB THAT MUST BEGIN AT HOME, NOT IN WASHINGTON.

I ONCE TOLD YOU THAT I AM NOT A SAINT, AND HOPE NEVER
TO SEE THE DAY THAT I CANNOT ADMIT HAVING MADE A MISTAKE. SO
I WILL CLOSE WITH ANOTHER CONFESSION.

FREQUENTLY ALONG THE TORTUOUS ROAD OF RECENT MONTHS, FROM
THIS CHAMBER TO THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE, I PROTESTED THAT I WAS MY OWN MAN.

NOW I REALIZE THAT I WAS WRONG.

I AM YOUR MAN, FOR IT WAS YOUR CAREFULLY WEIGHED CONFIRMATION
THAT CHANGED MY OCCUPATION.

I AM THE PEOPLE'S MAN, FOR YOU ACTED IN THEIR NAME, AND

I ACCEPTED AND BEGAN MY NEW AND SOLEMN TRUST WITH A PROMISE TO

SERVE ALL THE PEOPLE, AND TO DO THE BEST I CAN FOR AMERICA.

WHEN I SAY ALL THE PEOPLE I MEAN EXACTLY THAT.

TO THE LIMITS OF MY STRENGTH AND ABILITY, I WILL BE THE
PRESIDENT OF BLACK, BROWN, RED AND WHITE AMERICANS, OF OLD AND YOUNG,
OF WOMEN'S LIBERATIONISTS AND MALE CHAUVINISTS AND ALL THE REST OF
US IN BETWEEN, OF THE POOR AND THE RICH, OF NATIVE SONS AND NEW
REFUGEES, OF THOSE WHO WORK AT LATHES OR AT DESKS OR IN MINES OR IN
THE FIELDS, AND OF CHRISTIANS, JEWS, MOSLEMS, BUDDHISTS AND ATHEISTS,
IF THERE REALLY ARE ANY ATHEISTS AFTER WHAT WE HAVE ALL BEEN THROUGH.

FELLOW-AMERICANS, A FINAL WORD:

I WANT TO BE A GOOD PRESIDENT.

I NEED YOUR HELP.

WE ALL NEED GOD'S SURE GUIDANCE.

WITH IT, NOTHING CAN STOP THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

#####

original 10/1/11

Arnold R. Ford

VICE PRESIDENT

1. on with it
2. at least 3 more times
3. people's house
4. head's hand (L)
5. CCCC
6. which party (L)
7. marriage (L)
8. app at WH (L)
9. overdo it (L)
10. Model T (L)
11. free press
12. progress
13. budget (L)
14. Oklahoma (L)
15. defense costs
16. COLC
17. big govt
18. white - suff
19. pers pres (L)
20. govt top to bottom
21. will permit
22. votes - hope
23. Ed bill
24. Health bill (64) L
25. RA for pols
26. continue
27. water change
28. second to none
29. Civil Ch
30. Soc Union
31. JFK - fear
32. no taping
33. morality
34. at home
35. bl & wh
36. make ch (L)
- 37.

THE WHITE HOUSE SPEECH COPY

Can do
no longer

Office of the Vice President
Washington, D.C. 20510