

**The original documents are located in Box 2, folder “10/19/74 - Greensboro, North Carolina” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1974

IF I MIGHT CHANGE THE LYRICS SOMEWHAT: NOTHING COULD  
BE FINER THAN TO BE IN CAROLINA IN THE AFTERNOON!

THANK YOU FOR THIS WONDERFUL WELCOME AND TURNOUT.

GOVERNOR HOLSHAUSER, I AM NOT EXACTLY A STRANGER TO NORTH CAROLINA,  
BUT I ASSURE YOU THAT I AM CONSTANTLY AMAZED BY THE HIGH DEGREE OF  
SPIRIT I WITNESS ON EVERY VISIT I MAKE TO THE TARHEEL STATE.

Mr. Holshouser

Jesse Helms  
Jim Boycott  
Vernon Beard  
Earl Britt  
Jim Martin  
Steve Ratchie  
Ward Purnoy  
Bill Stevens

Jim Carson

AS YOU KNOW, I WAS HERE JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO OUT

AT PINEHURST TO PLAY IN A GOLF TOURNAMENT. YOU'LL BE RELIEVED

TO KNOW THAT I DID NOT BRING MY CLUBS WITH ME TODAY.

THERE ARE TWO REASONS WHY I AM PARTIAL TO  
NORTH CAROLINA. THE FIRST IS THAT JUST SOUTH OF HERE AND  
THROUGHOUT THIS PARTICULAR AREA, A GREAT DEAL OF FURNITURE IS  
MANUFACTURED. AS YOU KNOW, WHERE I COME FROM IN GRAND RAPIDS,  
MICHIGAN, WE ARE ALSO KNOWN FOR THE FURNITURE WE MANUFACTURE.  
BELIEVE ME, THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH HAVING IN COMMON THE  
TRAIT OF BUILDING STRONG AND STURDY STRUCTURES FOR THE FUTURE  
OF AMERICA.

THE SECOND REASON I AM PARTIAL TO NORTH CAROLINA IS  
THAT I SPENT SOME TIME HERE DURING THE WAR -- JUST DOWN THE ROAD  
AT CHAPEL HILL. I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT FINE PEOPLE LIVED HERE  
AND HOW CLOSELY I IDENTIFIED WITH THIS STATE. I WAS AN OFFICER  
THEN IN THE NAVY'S V-5 PHYSICAL FITNESS PROGRAM FOR AVIATORS.

I ALSO MET AT THE TIME AND BECAME GOOD FRIENDS WITH A MAN WHO  
SERVES NORTH CAROLINA'S 8TH DISTRICT SO WELL IN THE CONGRESS:

EARL RUTH. EARL, I AM HAPPY YOU WERE ABLE TO MAKE IT HERE TODAY,  
AND I KNOW YOU ARE GOING TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON NEXT YEAR TO  
CARRY ON YOUR GREAT RECORD OF SERVICE TO YOUR DISTRICT.

NORTH CAROLINA IS TO BE CONGRATULATED FOR HAVING A DEGREE OF LEADERSHIP THAT IS ENVIED BY OTHERS. ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS IS YOUR FINE GOVERNOR, JIM HOLSHOUSER.

BESIDES EARL, THERE ARE ALSO SOME OF MY OTHER FORMER CONGRESSIONAL COLLEAGUES HERE: JIM BROYHILL, VINEGAR BEND MIZELL AND JIM MARTIN. THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT YOU WILL ALL BE BACK WORKING WITH ME IN THE 94TH CONGRESS.

I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE NORTH CAROLINA DELEGATION  
IS HEARD IN WASHINGTON, D. C. AND THERE IS ONE BENEFICIARY:  
CHIEF  
^  
THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

NOW, LET US GET TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND. THE BUSINESS  
AT HAND IS THE DECISION THAT THE VOTERS ALL OVER AMERICA ARE GOING  
TO MAKE IN TWO AND ONE-HALF SHORT WEEKS. THAT DECISION WILL  
TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE DIRECTION OF AMERICA IN A TIME OF GREAT  
TESTING.

THAT IS WHY I AM HERE TODAY ON BEHALF OF BILL STEVENS  
FOR SENATOR AND WARD PURRINGTON AND STEVE RITCHIE FOR THE  
CONGRESS. THAT IS WHY I AM PROUD TO RECOMMEND THAT YOU  
ELECT JIM CARSON TO THE REMAINDER OF HIS TERM AS ATTORNEY GENERAL  
OF THIS GREAT STATE.

THESE VOTES CAST ON NOVEMBER 5TH ARE GOING TO REPRESENT THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION A CITIZEN CAN MAKE IN A DEMOCRACY. I AM GOING TO BE AS FRANK WITH YOU AS I HAVE TRIED TO BE BEFORE ALL OF MY FELLOW AMERICANS. IN THE BLUNTEST TERMS: I NEED THESE MEN IN THE CONGRESS. I NEED THE HELP OF BILL STEVENS TO GUARD THE PUBLIC TREASURY FROM THE RAIDS OF THE BUDGET BUSTERS.

I NEED YOUNG MEN LIKE STEVE RITCHIE AND WARD PURRINGTUN  
TO CARRY THE BALL FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT -- THE TYPE OF  
GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL BRING THE SAME KIND OF COMMON SENSE TO  
THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AS EACH OF YOU HAVE TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL  
FAMILY ECONOMIES.

I HAVE BEEN ACROSS THIS ENTIRE COUNTRY OVER THE LAST  
YEAR -- MOST RECENTLY THE MIDWEST, THE EAST, AND NOW THE SOUTH.  
NEXT WILL BE THE WEST. THE MESSAGE IS THE SAME EVERYWHERE:  
LET'S DO SOMETHING. LET'S STOP WRINGING OUR HANDS IN FRUSTRATION.  
LET'S STOP CASTING ACCUSATIONS AND SEEKING POLITICAL BROWNIE  
POINTS WITH OUR PROBLEMS. LET'S DEAL WITH OUR CONCERNS.  
THAT IS THE MESSAGE I HAVE HEARD.

IT IS A MESSAGE THAT SAYS, IT IS TOO LATE FOR POLITICS  
AS USUAL. IT IS TOO LATE TO PLAY GAMES WITH THE ECONOMIC FUTURE  
OF EVERY WORKING MAN AND WOMAN ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.

THAT IS WHY I AM HERE TODAY. I WANT TO LET THE  
PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA HEAR FROM ME IN NORTH CAROLINA.  
THERE MIGHT BE SOME PEOPLE WHO WOULD RATHER CRITICIZE THAN  
FIND SOLUTIONS. BUT I AM NOT ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE. NEITHER ARE  
THE MEN I HAVE INTRODUCED TO YOU TODAY. THEY ARE ACHIEVERS --  
NOT COMPLAINERS. THEY ARE DO-ERS --- NOT POO-POOERS.

THE ECONOMIC PROGRAM I SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS

AND THE NATION ON OCTOBER 8TH WAS THE RESULT OF WEEKS OF INTENSIVE

STUDY AND THE FRUITION OF A MASSIVE SUMMIT CONFERENCE WHICH

SOLICITED WIDESPREAD VIEWS FROM ALL SECTORS OF AMERICA.

I SUBMITTED THAT ECONOMIC PROGRAM IN GOOD FAITH.

I BELIEVE IT WILL WORK IF WE WILL ONLY GIVE IT A CHANCE.

YET, WHAT HAS BEEN THE REACTION? THE RESPONSE FROM THE

GREAT MAJORITY OF AMERICANS HAS BEEN HEART-WARMING. THEY ARE

PITCHING IN TO WIN. BUT STILL OTHERS IN CONGRESS AND ELSEWHERE,

I AM SORRY TO REPORT, WOULD RATHER HAVE A POLITICAL ISSUE THAN

AN ECONOMIC SOLUTION.

THIS IS NO TIME TO SEEK POLITICAL ADVANTAGE FOR

ANY PERSON OR ANY PARTY. OF COURSE, I WANT MY PARTY TO WIN.

BUT I ASSURE YOU THAT I DO NOT WANT IT TO WIN AT THE EXPENSE OF

THE NATIONAL WELLBEING.

ON NOVEMBER 5TH, THE DECISION IS UP TO YOU AND  
MILLIONS OF OTHER VOTERS ACROSS THE LAND. YOU CAN CHOOSE  
TO SEND TO THE CONGRESS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARTY WHICH  
HAS CONTROLLED US FOR 38 OUT OF THE LAST 42 YEARS AND  
HELPED CREATE THE PROBLEMS WE ARE NOW TRYING TO SOLVE.

OR YOU CAN VOTE TO CHANGE THINGS. YOU CAN VOTE TO PUT AN END  
TO END ~~THE~~ ONE-PARTY RULE IN CONGRESS. YOU CAN VOTE TO ENHANCE  
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES.  
YOU CAN VOTE FOR MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE COMMITTED TO PLACING  
CURBS ON FEDERAL SPENDING AND TO FIGHTING INFLATION.

THE TEAM OF BILL STEVENS IN THE SENATE AND WARD

PURRINGTON AND STEVE RITCHIE IN THE HOUSE WILL WORK WELL FOR YOU

~~NORTH~~  
IN ~~SOUTH~~ CAROLINA. I RECALL THAT STEVE WAS THE ONLY AIR FORCE

FIGHTER ACE IN THE VIETNAM CONFLICT. THAT MEANS THAT STEVE IS

A STRAIGHT SHOOTER. SO IS WARD AND ALL OF THE OTHERS WHO NEED

YOUR HELP TO BRING SOME PERSPECTIVE AND BALANCE TO THE CONGRESS OF

THE UNITED STATES.

IN SHORT, WHAT I NEED IS A CONGRESS, THAT IN THE WORDS  
OF A TELEVISION COMMENTATOR, WILL PRAISE THE LORD AND PASS  
THE LEGISLATION.

THANK YOU.

# # #