The original documents are located in Box 2, folder “10/22/74 - Morning Fundraiser, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
MORNING FUNDRAISER
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1974

THIS HAS CERTAINLY BEEN A GREAT MORNING. I DON'T KNOW WHICH I'VE ENJOYED MORE -- SEEING SO MANY GOOD, LOYAL, HARD-WORKING SOONERS -- OR SITTING DOWN TO A BREAKFAST I DIDN'T HAVE TO MAKE MYSELF!
BUT IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE THIS MORNING TO
PAY TRIBUTE TO THE GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS OF SENATOR HENRY BELLMON.

SENATOR BELLMON IS KNOWN AS 'THE MAN WHO'S 'TIGHT-FISTED WITH YOUR 
TAX DOLLAR.' TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, I DIDN'T KNOW HOW
TIGHT-FISTED HE WAS UNTIL WE FINISHED BREAKFAST -- AND THE WAITER
HANDED ME THE CHECK.
LET ME SAY HOW INSPIRING IT IS TO BE IN A STATE WITH

SUCH A STRONG AND VIBRANT REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATION. EVEN

THOUGH THE OTHER PARTY HAS A REGISTERED VOTER EDGE OF THREE TO ONE,

YOU HAVE ELECTED TWO UNITED STATES SENATORS AND WILL, HOPEFULLY,

ELECT A GOVERNOR ON NOVEMBER 5TH AND OTHER REPUBLICANS ACROSS

THE STATE. JIM INHOFE (INN-HOFF) WILL MAKE AN OUTSTANDING

GOVERNOR OF THIS STATE.
LET ME CONGRATULATE YOU FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TO MAKE

THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM A DYNAMIC REALITY ON OKLAHOMA.

WHAT MAKES A POLITICAL ORGANIZATION GO IS PEOPLE AND

ISSUES. THE OKLAHOMA REPUBLICAN PARTY OBVIOUSLY HAS THE

PEOPLE -- THE CANDIDATES AND THOSE WORKING FOR THE ORGANIZATION --

AS WELL AS MOST OF THE VOTERS. YOU ALSO HAVE THE ISSUES.

THE RESULTS PROVE IT.
I COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE --

FOR PUTTING THE REPUBLICAN PARTY ON THE **POLITICAL MAP** IN THIS STATE AND KEEPING IT THERE.
YOU HAVE LEARNED HOW TO MAKE THOSE WHO ARE NOMINALLY
MEMBERS OF THE OTHER PARTY NOT ONLY LISTEN BUT ACT ON WHAT YOU HAVE
TO SAY TO THEM. YOU HAVE IDENTIFIED THE PROBLEMS AND ADDRESSED
THEM IN A WAY WHICH HAS PERSUADED YOUR FELLOW OKLAHOMANS THAT
YOUR WAY IS THE BETTER WAY. PARTY ORGANIZATIONS IN OTHER
STATES SHOULD TAKE A LEAF FROM YOUR BOOK.
AN IMPORTANT PART OF ANY CAMPAIGN CLEARLY IS THE CANDIDATE. AND I AM TREMENDOUSLY IMPRESSED WITH THE OUTSTANDING SLATE YOU ARE PRESENTING THE OKLAHOMA ELECTORATE IN 1974.

ONE-HALF OF YOUR TERRIFIC SENATORIAL TEAM OF HENRY BELLMON AND DEWEY BARTLETT IS UP FOR RE-ELECTION THIS YEAR.

HENRY BELLMON HAS BEEN A THOUGHTFUL, ACTIVIST, HARD-WORKING MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE. HE IS THOROUGHLY HONEST AND NOT AFRAID TO HAVE THE COURAGE OF HIS CONVOLUTIONS.
SOME PEOPLE HAVE TRIED TO MAKE MUCH OF WHERE HENRY HAS DIFFERED WITH WHITE HOUSE POSITIONS. WELL, I RESPECT HIM FOR HIS FORTHRIGHTNESS AND FOR PUTTING THE CARDS ON THE TABLE. HE IS A GREAT AMERICAN AND A CREDIT TO THIS STATE.

I've observed Henry as a Republican Leader in the House, as Vice President, and more recently as PTA. He has broad interests. He knows from practical experience, the tough, down to earth problems facing the farmer, the working man, the businessman, the educator.

Henry and I share the desire for Quality Education for all our children. I am disturbed as he is with the vast differences in school court decision on busing. He suggests 12 agree with a commitment to fulfill the Key the Quality Education
ABOVE ALL, I RESPECT HIM FOR HIS INTEGRITY, WHICH IS A
precious commodity in every walk of life. It seems to be even
more so these days. But it applies to men like Henry Bellmon,
Dewey Bartlett, and your candidate for governor, the young and
dynamic Jim Inhofe. And I know it applies to Happy Camp whom
I have served with in the U.S. House.
I AM GLAD THAT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY HERE HAS RESPONDED

TO THAT CHALLENGE WITH THE AGGRESSIVE CANDIDATES FOR CONGRESS.

IN TULSA, YOU HAVE GEORGE MIZER, A MAN WITH AN IMPECCABLE

REPUTATION SO SORELY NEEDED THESE DAYS. IN THE SECOND DISTRICT,

RALPH KEEN IS DOING A FINE JOB BATTLING FOR WHAT IS NORMALLY A

DEMOCRAT SEAT AS IS MICKEY EDWARDS IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT.
I AM HOPEFUL THAT WITH YOUR HELP THESE HOUSE CANDIDATES WILL BECOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND COME TO WASHINGTON TO JOIN ME AND HAPPY CAMP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INFLATION.

HAPPY IS A HARD-FIGHTING, HIGHLY RESPECTED MEMBER OF THE HOUSE. HE KNOWS WHAT HIS CONSTITUENTS ARE THINKING AND STANDS UP FOR THEIR INTEREST WITHOUT ANY RESERVATIONS.
AS YOU ALL KNOW, I HAVE MADE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO
THE CONGRESS AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES ABOUT OUR CHIEF
PROBLEM -- INFLATION. I RECOMMEND A 31-POINT PROGRAM TO THE
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH AND A 12-POINT PROGRAM TO THE PRIVATE CITIZENS
WHEN I TALKED TO THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA LAST WEEK.
I intend to continue to talk about inflation. But I also intend to do something about it. And that is where I need your help.

Two weeks from today, on November 5th, you go to the polls in a most crucial election to elect the 94th Congress and fill many other offices and decide issues across the land. I urge you to cast your ballots for candidates who have committed themselves to helping me cut federal spending and curb inflation.
AS I HAVE WARNED BEFORE AND WILL AGAIN BEFORE THIS
CAMPAIGN IS OVER, AN INFLATION-PROOF CONGRESS IS ESSENTIAL.

IF THE ELECTORATE SUCCUMBS TO THE SIREN SONG OF THE BIG SPENDERS --
TO A TUNE CALLED "VETO-PROOF CONGRESS" -- WE WILL GET INSTEAD AN
INFLATION-PRONE CONGRESS -- AND MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT THAT!
WHAT WE ARE FACING IS NOT A QUESTION WHETHER WE CAN LIVE WITH LESS FEDERAL SPENDING. WE ABSOLUTELY MUST.

THE QUESTION IS WHETHER WE ARE WILLING TO FACE THAT RESPONSIBILITY SQUARELY.
SELF-DISCIPLINE AND PATIENCE ARE TWO RESERVES WE MUST CALL UP IN THE BATTLE AGAINST INFLATION. THE STEADY INCREASE IN PRICES, A RATE OF INFLATION OF MORE THAN 12 PERCENT -- THESE THINGS WILL NOT SURRENDER QUICKLY AND WITHOUT DIRECT ACTION ON THE PART OF EACH AND EVERY AMERICAN, INCLUDING THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT.
I HAVE PROMISED AN OPEN ADMINISTRATION, ONE THAT

WILL BE CANDID WITH PEOPLE. IF THAT REQUIRES THE STATING OF

UNCOMFORTABLE FACTS, I WILL NOT SHRINK FROM IT, PARTICULARLY

AS THEY CONCERN OUR PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1.
TWO WEEKS REMAIN BEFORE THE PEOPLE ENTER THE PRIVACY OF
THE VOTING BOOTHS TO EXPRESS THEIR PREFERENCES, THEIR HOPES FOR A
BETTER AMERICA. I HAVE HEARD AND READ WHAT THE PUNDITS ARE
SAYING ABOUT THE OUTLOOK. THE CONTENTION IS THAT THE REPUBLICAN
PARTY WILL TAKE A BEATING ON NOVEMBER 5th.

I DISAGREE. BECAUSE IF THE PUNDITS ARE CORRECT, IT
WOULD BE THE COUNTRY RATHER THAN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WHICH TOOK
A BEATING.
DOMINATION OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT -- DOMINATION, NOT MERELY CONTROL -- BY A BIG-SPENDING, VETO-PROOF CONGRESS COULD SET OFF AN INFLATIONARY SPIRAL WHICH WOULD MAKE TODAY'S PRICES AT THE SUPERMARKET SEEM LIKE PRE-WORLD WAR II BARGAINS.
THAT'S WHAT THE ELECTION THIS YEAR IS ALL ABOUT -- TO

ELECT CANDIDATES TO OFFICE WHO CAN CUT THE SPENDING, CUT THE RED TAPE -- AND CUT THE MUSTARD!'

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