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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *df*

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE  
ON DOMESTIC AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS  
THE COLISEUM, PORTLAND, OREGON, NOVEMBER 1, 1974

*Sumner*  
*Jay*

I AM PLEASED THAT BUSINESS, LABOR, CONSUMER, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE JOINED IN SPONSORING THIS MEETING TO IMPROVE THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE WHITE HOUSE.

YOU CAN GENERATE A NEW CLIMATE OF CONFIDENCE AND UNDERSTANDING ON NATIONAL ISSUES OF GREATEST CONCERN. THIS IS MY FIRST PARTICIPATION AS PRESIDENT IN THIS NATIONWIDE SERIES OF MEETINGS THAT CAN HAVE A VITAL IMPACT ON AMERICA'S RESPONSE TO THE STATE OF OUR ECONOMY, HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT, AND GENERAL DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

IN THIS CONTEXT, I WANT TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF CONFIDENCE IN OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM AND OUR ABILITY TO COPE WITH VERY SERIOUS ISSUES.

THE QUESTION OF "CREDIBILITY" IS STILL RAISED.

A MOOD OF CYNICISM EXISTS IN SOME QUARTERS. THERE ARE EVEN

THOSE WHO SAY THAT MY ADMINISTRATION'S OPENNESS IS JUST ANOTHER

COVER-UP. IS EVERYTHING PHONY AND CYNICAL?

I REJECT SUCH A CONCLUSION. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO

OFFER SOME THOUGHTS ON WHY THERE IS DOUBT AND DIVISION.

CONFIDENCE IN AMERICA'S INSTITUTIONS HAS BEEN

DETERIORATING SINCE THE EARLY 1960'S. THERE WERE ASSASSINATIONS,  
UPHEAVALS IN GREAT CITIES AND SCHOOL SYSTEMS, RIOTS, TERRORISM,  
CRIME, DRUG ABUSE, POLLUTION, THE VIETNAM WAR, THE WATERGATE  
AFFAIR WITH THE FIRST PRESIDENTIAL RESIGNATION IN AMERICA'S HISTORY,  
THE ENERGY SHORTAGE, RISING INFLATION, AND OTHER BLOWS TO AMERICA'S  
SELF-IMAGE.

THIS CHAIN OF EVENTS AFFECTED OUR INSTITUTIONS AND OUR  
WAY OF LIFE. IT DID NOT START WITH THE PRESENT INFLATIONARY  
PROBLEM. NOR WITH WATERGATE. NOR EVEN THE TRAGIC MURDER  
OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY. AMERICA AND THE WORLD ARE GOING THROUGH  
A HURRICANE OF RAPID CHANGE -- TECHNOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL,  
AND POLITICAL. AMERICANS PUT MEN ON THE MOON BUT HAVE YET TO  
COPE WITH RAPIDLY CHANGING LIFE ON EARTH. OTHER INDUSTRIAL  
NATIONS ARE ALSO IN VARYING DEGREES OF CRISIS -- OFTEN WITHOUT OUR  
RESILIENCE AND OUR RESOURCES.

THAT EXPLAINS MY PARTICIPATION IN TODAY'S MEETING.

I CAME TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT HOW AMERICANS CAN MOBILIZE TO  
REGENERATE OUR INSTITUTIONS, -- BEGINNING WITH THE ECONOMY.

I AM SPEAKING NOW TO REPUBLICANS, DEMOCRATS AND  
INDEPENDENTS, TO LABOR AND MANAGEMENT, AND TO EVERY SEGMENT OF  
AMERICAN SOCIETY. WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER. AND THAT IS WHY  
I CONSIDER IT SO IMPORTANT TO BE IN PORTLAND TODAY.

I HAVE OFFERED A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM TO MOBILIZE  
AMERICA AGAINST INFLATION. IT WAS GENERATED BY THE CONFERENCE  
ON INFLATION. A 31-POINT PROGRAM WAS PLACED BEFORE THE CONGRESS.  
A MASSIVE VOLUNTARY CITIZENS MOBILIZATION IS GEARING UP.  
NEW STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO COPE WITH THE ENERGY SITUATION.  
AND ALL OF OUR ACTIONS SEEK TO AVOID AN UNFAIR BURDEN ON THOSE  
WHO CAN AFFORD IT LEAST.



AMERICANS ARE RALLYING TO WHIP INFLATION. THEY CAN  
HELP BY DEMANDING ACTION ON THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS PENDING  
BEFORE THE CONGRESS. THEY CAN PRESS FOR STATE AND LOCAL  
INITIATIVES. THEY CAN INNOVATE VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS.

AMERICA DOES NOT REQUIRE DOGMATIC LAWS TO CONTROL

EVERY ACTION. NOR ARE MY POLICIES AS PRESIDENT UNCHANGEABLE.

I AM COMMITTED TO NO RIGID ECONOMIC FORMULA BUT THE BASIC

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY THAT MADE OUR ECONOMY THE ENVY OF THE WORLD.

AMERICA IS BUILT ON MUTUAL TRUST. IT IS GOVERNED  
BY POPULAR CONSENT AND CONSENSUS. FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL  
UNITS OF GOVERNMENT, RESPONDING TO THE PUBLIC, WILL WHIP  
INFLATION. I AM CONFIDENT THAT INDUSTRIES, BUSINESSES, AND  
GREAT TRADE UNIONS WILL WHIP INFLATION. I ALSO HAVE CONFIDENCE  
THAT CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS WILL WHIP INFLATION.

LET US BEGIN A DIALOGUE THAT CAN BUILD CONFIDENCE

BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTALISTS AND INDUSTRY, BETWEEN CONSUMERS AND

BUSINESS, BETWEEN LABOR AND MANAGEMENT, AND BETWEEN 213 MILLION

AMERICANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT AT THE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL

LEVELS.

GIVE DIALOGUE A CHANCE. CONTINUE TO CHALLENGE.

BUT ALSO CONTINUE IN THE SINCERE GOODWILL OF BOTH SIDES ON EVERY

ISSUE. INSTITUTIONS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN PEOPLE. LET US

NEVER LOSE FAITH IN HUMANITY -- NOR IN OURSELVES.

MEETINGS LIKE THIS ARE EXCELLENT FORUMS TO GENERATE  
CONFIDENCE. YET THE TIME HAS COME FOR ACTION AS WELL AS TALK.  
ACCORDINGLY, THE FUNCTION OF LEADERSHIP BELONGS TO THOSE PLACED IN  
RESPONSIBILITY. AS PRESIDENT, I ACCEPT MY OBLIGATION. AND I  
CALL UPON EVERY MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS, GOVERNORS, MAYORS, AND  
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED WITH GOVERNMENT AND THE LEADERS OF EVERY  
PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATION IN AMERICA -- INCLUDING THOSE  
REPRESENTED HERE TODAY -- TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY LEADERSHIP.

A FREE GOVERNMENT CANNOT COPE WITH INFLATION OR ENERGY

SHORTAGES OR ANY OTHER PROBLEM WITHOUT THE CONSENT AND COOPERATION

OF THE GOVERNED. TOO MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SAYING WHAT THE OTHER

GUY SHOULD DO TO WHIP INFLATION. SOME TELL US WHAT THE OIL

COMPANIES SHOULD DO. OTHERS WOULD INSTRUCT LABOR ON ITS

RESPONSIBILITIES. YET OTHERS HAVE ALL KINDS OF SACRIFICES TO

SUGGEST -- BUT NOT FOR THEMSELVES.

OUR GREAT NORTHWEST IS AWARE THAT INFLATION HAS DRIED  
UP THE SUPPLY OF MORTGAGE CREDIT AND SENT HOUSING INTO A TAILSPIN.  
AND IT HAS BEEN INFLATION THAT HIT CONSUMER CONFIDENCE AND PUT THE  
BRAKES ON CONSUMER SPENDING HARDER THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE  
WORLD WAR II.



I ASSURE THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHWEST THAT I DO NOT ACCEPT  
THE DISMAL PROPOSITION THAT POLLUTION IS THE INEVITABLE PRICE OF  
PROSPERITY NOR THAT WE MUST COMPROMISE THE ENVIRONMENT TO GAIN  
ECONOMIC GROWTH. WE CANNOT ENRICH OUR LIVES BY IMPOVERISHING  
OUR LAND. WE CAN RAISE <sup>THE</sup> BOTH STANDARD OF LIVING AND THE QUALITY  
OF LIFE.

THE WORST INFLATIONARY TOLL OF ALL IS THE MOST SUBTLE --

THE EROSION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE, THE LOSS OF FAITH IN THE

AMERICAN SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT. INDEED, THIS DISENCHANTMENT

SEEMS TO GROW AT THE SAME PACE THAT PRICES INCREASE. THAT IS

WHY FIGHTING INFLATION IS MY FIRST PRIORITY AS PRESIDENT.

AMERICANS HAVE THE WILL TO PRESERVE OUR ECONOMY

AND OUR INSTITUTIONS. THE CENTRAL, ABSOLUTELY CRUCIAL NEED MY  
PROGRAM UNDERSCORES IS TO CONTROL GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND TO  
FINANCE NEW OUTLAYS WITH NEW TAXES. GOVERNMENT SIMPLY CAN NO  
LONGER GO ON SPENDING BEYOND ITS MEANS. INFLATION, AS I HAVE  
SAID SO MANY TIMES, IS PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1.

THE FIGHT AGAINST INFLATION IS NON-PARTISAN. IT IS  
EVERYONE'S FIGHT.

IF I WERE TO TAKE THE EASY ROUTE OF ADDITIONAL PUMP-  
PRIMING AND DEFICIT SPENDING AS THE ECONOMY COOLS OFF THIS WINTER,  
IT WOULD REALLY CAUSE TROUBLE. WE COULD SEE THE CURRENT INFLATION  
RATE DOUBLED BY 1976.

AMERICA REMAINS A MODEL FOR THE WORLD. LATER THIS

MONTH, I AM VISITING THE FAR EAST IN PURSUIT OF THE PEACEFUL

RELATIONSHIPS ESSENTIAL FOR WORLD ECONOMIC STABILITY.

INFLATION CROSSES BORDERS AND OCEANS. A PRESIDENT MUST DO

LIKEWISE.

AS PRESIDENT, I AM CONVINCED THIS NATION CAN SHOW  
THE WORLD THAT AMERICANS RETAIN CONFIDENCE IN OUR SYSTEM.  
WE CAN CONSERVE. WE CAN STOP WASTING. WE CAN EXPAND OUR  
PRODUCTION BASE WHILE PRESERVING OUR NATURAL HERITAGE. WE CAN  
BECOME MORE EFFICIENT AND PAY AS WE GO FOR GOVERNMENT.

CYNICS AND SKEPTICS PREDICT THE END OF THE AMERICA

WE KNOW AND LOVE. THEY ARE VERY WRONG. I INTEND TO PROVE

THEY ARE WRONG BECAUSE I AM TOTALLY CONFIDENT IN THE DEDICATION

OF THIS GROUP AND SO MANY OTHERS THROUGHOUT AMERICA.

AS LINCOLN ONCE PUT IT -- THIS NATION IS STILL "THE  
LAST, BEST HOPE OF EARTH." AND A NEW AND STRONGER UNITED STATES  
WILL GROW FROM THE DISILLUSION OF THE RECENT PAST.

INDEED, THE ORDEAL WE HAVE GONE THROUGH SINCE THE EARLY  
60'S MAY SERVE LIKE A NATIONAL PURGE, CLEARING OUR SYSTEM, RENEWING  
OUR ENERGIES AND CREATING A NEW AND MORE REALISTIC AMERICAN ETHIC  
AND LIFESTYLE.



THE BOUNTIFUL RESOURCES OF THIS BLESSED LAND ARE  
AVAILABLE. LET US DEVISE A FUTURE BASED ON CONSERVATION AS WELL  
AS CONSUMPTION.

WE HAVE RUN SHORT OF ENERGY. WE HAVE RUN SHORT OF  
MORTGAGE CREDIT. AND WE HAVE RUN SHORT OF A LOT OF OTHER THINGS.  
BUT WE HAVE NOT RUN SHORT OF AMERICAN KNOW-HOW, OR THE AMERICAN  
SPIRIT OF FAIRPLAY, OR AMERICAN FORGIVENESS, OR AMERICAN  
SELF-RESPECT, OR AMERICAN PRIDE. NOR WILL WE EVER.

A GREAT NATIONAL TEST WILL BE IMPOSED IN THE DAYS AND  
MONTHS AHEAD. WE WILL MEET THAT TEST. I PLEDGE ALL MY  
ENERGIES TO A FREE SOCIETY WITH A STRONG ECONOMY, A SOUND  
ENVIRONMENT, SUFFICIENT ENERGY, AND A SECURE AND INSPIRING FUTURE.  
AND I ASK YOU TO JOIN WITH ME IN THAT QUEST.

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