

The original documents are located in Box 5, folder “1/16/75 - Remarks to Group of Mayors, Governors, County Officials and State Legislators (Includes notes by President Ford)” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Franklin -

"We must all hang
together or assuredly we
shall all hang separately."

Emergency Public Service Program

(1) formula loans
Cities

(2) Rural areas -
water & sewer

(3) Unemployment benefits
extension

(4) Public Works

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Long term unemployment

Revenue sharing

- 1) Energy cost re-embursement
- 2) Extension

No new Spending

- 1) Programs
- 2) Pay

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Geographical area
protection.

Cooperation.

Garment workers
Washington Star

Environment / Energy

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *df.*

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS TO THE
SELECT GROUP OF MAYORS,
GOVERNORS, COUNTY OFFICIALS AND
STATE LEGISLATORS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1975

MR. VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARIES SIMON AND MORTON,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM SURE YOU ARE NOT OVERJOYED WITH THE IDEA OF
COMING TO WASHINGTON ON A GREY JANUARY DAY TO HEAR GLOOMY
WORDS ABOUT OUR NATION'S PROBLEMS. THE PROBLEMS I HAVE
BEEN SPEAKING ABOUT THIS WEEK TO THE PUBLIC AND TO THE CONGRESS
ARE PROBLEMS WITH WHICH YOU ARE ALL TOO FAMILIAR. BUT I WANTED
TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME DETAILS OF OUR PLAN TO TACKLE ECONOMIC
AND ENERGY DIFFICULTIES.

WE HAVE CHOSEN SOME DIFFICULT OBJECTIVES, BUT THIS
ADMINISTRATION, HOPEFULLY WITH STRONG CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT,
WILL BE WORKING WITH YOU TO REACH THESE GOALS.

AT THE SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE,
BEN FRANKLIN SAID, "WE MUST ALL HANG TOGETHER OR ASSUREDLY
WE SHALL ALL HANG SEPARATELY."

FRANKLIN'S WORDS ARE PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE FOR
THOSE OF US WITH LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES IN AMERICA TODAY.

WITHOUT YOUR WHOLEHEARTED HELP AND COOPERATION,
IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THIS NATION TO SOLVE ITS ECONOMIC
AND ENERGY PROBLEMS. A UNITED FRONT IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS --
AND I WANT TO ENLIST YOUR SUPPORT FOR THIS EFFORT.

SECRETARY SIMON AND SECRETARY MORTON HAVE GIVEN YOU
PREVIEWS OF HOW THE ECONOMIC AND ENERGY PROGRAMS CAN WORK.

NOW LET US TALK ABOUT YOUR ROLES IN ATTACKING
RECESSION AND INFLATION.

ONE OF THE MOST DEVASTATING PRODUCTS OF THE RECESSION
IS UNEMPLOYMENT. SOME CITIES ARE NOW COPING WITH DOUBLE
DIGIT UNEMPLOYMENT. BUT THE EMERGENCY PUBLIC SERVICE
PROGRAM PASSED BY THE CONGRESS IN DECEMBER SHOULD SOON BEGIN
TO HELP EASE THIS PROBLEM. THE LAW PROVIDES PUBLIC SERVICE
JOBS ON A FORMULA BASIS. SOME CITIES HAVE NOT MOVED AS
QUICKLY AS THEY SHOULD TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS NEW PROGRAM,
AND IF YOU ARE INVOLVED IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT, PLEASE MAKE
FULL UTILIZATION OF THIS PROGRAM AN IMMEDIATE PRIORITY.

THIS LAW ALSO PROVIDES FOR HIRING UNEMPLOYED CITIZENS FOR WATER AND SEWAGE PROJECTS IN RURAL AREAS, RECOGNIZING THAT ALL THE JOBLESS ARE NOT CONCENTRATED IN URBAN AREAS -- AND THIS ADMINISTRATION IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE ECONOMIC HEALTH OF OUR RURAL AREAS.

ANOTHER SECTION OF THE LAW EXTENDS UNEMPLOYMENT
COMPENSATION, AND STILL ANOTHER PART PROVIDES FOR SPECIAL
ATTENTION TO PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS THAT WILL HELP CREATE PUBLIC
SERVICE JOBS.

THIS IS EMERGENCY LEGISLATION WHICH, OF COURSE,
DOES NOT SOLVE LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS. BUT WHEN SO
MANY AMERICANS ARE OUT OF WORK, WE CANNOT WAIT TO RESTRUCTURE
THE ECONOMY BEFORE WE ACT.

HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT TAKES ITS TOLL IN MANY WAYS -- SEVERE
FAMILY HARDSHIPS, DISRUPTED LIVES, EVEN HIGHER CRIME RATES
AND LESS INCOME IN CIRCULATION. UNEMPLOYMENT IS NOT THE DISEASE,
BUT IT IS A SERIOUS SYMPTOM. LIKE A HIGH FEVER, UNEMPLOYMENT
IS A DANGER SIGNAL THAT MUST BE TREATED.

IN MY STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE YESTERDAY, I
ASKED FOR TWO BILLION DOLLARS IN ADDITIONAL REVENUE SHARING
FUNDS TO HELP OFFSET HIGHER ENERGY COSTS. I HAVE LONG
BEEN COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF REVENUE SHARING AND, SINCE
ENACTED, THE REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM HAS JUSTIFIED MY
FAITH.

THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE
BY THE HARD WORK OF YOU GOVERNORS, MAYORS, LEGISLATORS
AND COUNTY OFFICIALS. YOU HAVE MADE THE HARD CHOICES
ABOUT HOW AND WHERE TO SPEND THESE FUNDS. DESPITE OUR
COMMON NATIONAL PROBLEMS, INDIVIDUAL STATES AND COMMUNITIES
HAVE SPECIFIC DIFFICULTIES REQUIRING PARTICULAR SOLUTIONS,
AND THIS IS WHY REVENUE SHARING HAS BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL.

AS ADMINISTRATORS AND LEGISLATORS, YOU ARE ALL AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS OF HOLDING THE LINE ON BUDGETS WHEN SO MANY COSTS ARE GOING UP BECAUSE OF INFLATION. MY OBJECTIVE IS TO HOLD DOWN FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICITS AS WELL -- AND I WILL VETO NEW SPENDING PROGRAMS WHICH THE CONGRESS SENDS TO ME EXCEPT IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY.

THESE ARE NOT THE BEST OF TIMES; ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT ARE BESET BY PROBLEMS. YOU KNOW THESE PROBLEMS FIRST HAND.

YOU SEE THE UNEMPLOYMENT LINES AND, AT THE SAME TIME . . .
THE HIGHER COSTS OF RUNNING POLICE DEPARTMENTS . . . PUBLIC SCHOOLS
. . . UNIVERSITIES . . . PARKS AND GARBAGE PICKUPS. I AM KEENLY
AWARE THAT HIGHER ENERGY COSTS WILL STRIKE HARD AT YOUR BUDGETS.

ALTHOUGH SECRETARY MORTON DEALT THOROUGHLY WITH THIS
TOPIC, I WOULD JUST LIKE TO UNDERLINE THE ADMINISTRATION'S
DETERMINATION TO SEE THAT NO AREA OF THE COUNTRY WHICH RELIES HEAVILY
ON IMPORTED OIL IS UNDULY PENALIZED BY THE ENERGY CONSERVATION
PROGRAM.

EVENHANDEDNESS IN SHARING THE BURDENS OF RECOVERY

WILL BE A WATCHWORD IN 1975.

I PROMISED WHEN SWORN IN THAT I WOULD GIVE THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE STRAIGHT TALK . . . AND, IF I PROJECTED A ROSY ECONOMIC
PICTURE AT THIS TIME, I WOULD BE REMISS IN MY RESPONSIBILITY
TO YOU AND TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY.

ALTHOUGH OUR ECONOMY IS AILING, THE NATION ITSELF IS
STRONG, BECAUSE WE HAVE TREMENDOUS RESOURCES AND TALENTS
AVAILABLE. THIS NEVER-ENDING STRENGTH IS THE POWER OF THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE TO COPE WITH PROBLEMS AND OVERCOME THEM.

I WOULD LIKE TO CITE AN EXAMPLE OF THIS CAPACITY TO COPE THAT I LEARNED OF RECENTLY. IN THE GARMENT INDUSTRY IN NEW YORK CITY, WORKERS AGREED TO SHARE THE WORK AVAILABLE TO KEEP AS MANY WORKERS EMPLOYED AS POSSIBLE. GOVERNMENT CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT LEGISLATE SUCH SOLUTIONS, BUT ACTIONS LIKE THAT ONE TESTIFIES TO THE WILLINGNESS OF AMERICANS TO COOPERATE.

THESE ACTIONS ARE AMONG THE INTANGIBLES. I AM SURE

THERE ARE MANY OTHERS.

GOVERNMENT MUST SET AN EXAMPLE FOR PRIVATE INDUSTRY.

FOR THIS REASON, I ASKED THE CONGRESS TO HOLD THE LINE ON INCREASES

IN SALARIES AND BENEFITS FOR GOVERNMENT WORKERS AND THOSE ON

SOCIAL SECURITY AT FIVE PERCENT -- INSTEAD OF GIVING AUTOMATIC

COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES.

INFLATION MAKES THIS DIFFICULT MEDICINE TO PRESCRIBE,
BUT UNLESS WE BREAK INTO THIS INFLATIONARY CYCLE AT SOME POINT,
INCREASED INCOMES WILL NEVER KEEP PACE WITH INFLATION.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CANNOT URGE PRIVATE INDUSTRIES
AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO HOLD THE LINE ON SALARIES UNLESS IT
SETS THE PACE. WE CANNOT HAVE A DOUBLE STANDARD IN AMERICA
THAT PUTS THE BURDEN TOO HEAVILY ON ANY PART OF OUR POPULATION.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRIFICES REQUIRED TO MAKE THE
ECONOMIC AND ENERGY PROGRAMS WORK WILL BE AT THE CENTER OF THE
DEBATE IN THE CONGRESS. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THERE IS HONEST
DISAGREEMENT ABOUT HOW TO ACHIEVE A GOAL, BUT THERE CAN BE NO
DISAGREEMENT ABOUT THE NEED FOR ACTION.

GIVING BUSINESSES ENOUGH INCENTIVES TO GROW, WITHOUT
HIGHER CONSUMER COSTS, IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE NEED FOR A
DELICATE BALANCE. THE ECONOMIC HEALTH OF OUR BUSINESSES AND
INDUSTRIES WILL MEAN JOBS AND TAX REVENUES.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS MUST NOT BE IGNORED IN OUR
SEARCH FOR ENERGY. THIS IS ONE OF THE PRIME REASONS WHY
I WILL PROPOSE LEGISLATION TO SEEK NEW AND CLEANER ENERGY SOURCES.
BUT ALL OF US WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT THE NEW REALITY OF ENERGY
DEMANDS AND THE NEED FOR MODIFICATIONS OF SOME STANDARDS.

IN THE COMING MONTHS, LOCAL AND STATE OFFICIALS WILL
STAND IN THE CROSSFIRE OF CONTROVERSY THAT IS BOUND TO RESULT
FROM THE LOCATION OF ENERGY PLANTS, INCREASED USE OF COAL,
AND EXPANSION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY USE. YOUR SKILLS AS MODERATORS
AND COMMUNICATORS WILL BE REQUIRED IN REACHING PRODUCTIVE
COMPROMISES.

WE ARE A FAMILY OF PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT IN AMERICA . . .

A FAMILY THAT MUST PULL TOGETHER. THE ABUNDANCE OF OUR

NATIONAL HERITAGE -- AGRICULTURAL, ECONOMIC, POLITICAL,

TECHNOLOGICAL AND SPIRITUAL -- MUST NOT BE SQUANDERED IN BICKERING.

BEN FRANKLIN'S ADVICE "TO HANG TOGETHER" IS AS TIMELY
AS IT WAS TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO. BUT WHILE WE CAN LOOK BACK
WITH PRIDE IN OUR PAST, WE MUST THINK MORE ABOUT WHAT WE WANT
AMERICA TO BECOME IN THE FUTURE. WE CAN HONOR OUR HERITAGE
BY MAKING SURE THIS NATION STAYS A PROUD AND PROGRESSIVE LAND
FOR OUR CHILDREN AND OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN.

ALL OF US IN THIS HISTORIC ROOM HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY
TO HELP MOVE THIS NATION INTO THE NEXT CENTURY FREE AND SECURE.
AND THE WORDS WE SPEAK AND THE LAWS WE WRITE WILL BE JUDGED
BY WHAT THEY ACCOMPLISH. AND I HAVE GREAT FAITH THAT WITH
HARD WORK AND TOUGH DECISIONS, THIS NATION WILL CONTINUE
TO BE STRONG IN CHARACTER AND IN ACCOMPLISHMENT.

THANK YOU.

END OF TEXT

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN *per JC*
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS *JAT*
SUBJECT: President's remarks to Select Group
of Mayors, Governors, County Officials
and State Legislators

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 16, 1975, East Room, the White House

SPEECHWRITER: Kaye Pullen

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BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:

Jim Falk, Research Office, State of the Union Message

CLEARED BY (Please initial):

(X) OPERATIONS (Rumsfeld) _____

(X) CONGRESSIONAL/PUBLIC LIAISON (Marsh) *Jm*

(X) PRESS (Nessen) *RHN*

() LEGAL (Buchen) _____

() ECONOMIC POLICY BOARD (Seidman) _____

() OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (Lynn) _____

() DOMESTIC COUNCIL (Cole) _____

() NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (Scowcroft) _____

() RESEARCH (Waldron) *LD*

(X) OTHER Jim Falk, Domestic Council *Jim Falk*

() _____

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