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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.



REMARKS TO THE
WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON
DOMESTIC AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1975

ALTERNATE OPENING NUMBER ONE:

BEFORE I BEGIN, I WANT MAYOR MAYNARD JACKSON TO
KNOW THAT I HAVE COME TO YOUR GREAT CITY OF ATLANTA WITH
GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS. THE GOOD NEWS IS: THE ENTIRE
WORLD IS TALKING ABOUT THE BIG M'S STUNNING FIRST ROUND
K.O. OF MUHAMMAD ALI. THE BAD NEWS IS: MUHAMMAD ALI
WANTS A REMATCH.

I REALLY WASN'T CONCERNED ABOUT THE FIGHT, MR. MAYOR.
I KNEW YOU COULD HANDLE YOURSELF WHEN I SAW THOSE TRUNKS YOU
WERE WEARING. I FIGURED ANYONE WHO GOES AROUND IN PANTS
LIKE THAT -- BETTER KNOW HOW TO FIGHT!

NO, I'M ONLY KIDDING, MR. MAYOR, I KNEW YOU
COULD HANDLE YOURSELF WHEN I SAW THOSE TRUNKS YOU WERE
WEARING. I FIGURED, ANYONE WHO GOES AROUND IN PANTS
LIKE THAT, BETTER KNOW HOW TO FIGHT!

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO ATTEND THIS YEAR'S FIRST
WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON DOMESTIC AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE HAD A VERY EVENTFUL, PRODUCTIVE
DAY -- SO I WILL TRY NOT TO REPEAT THE POINTS THAT OTHER
SPEAKERS HAVE ALREADY MADE.

BUT I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS ONE THING ABOUT THESE
CONFERENCES -- THEIR DIVERSITY. HERE IN ATLANTA,
FOR EXAMPLE, FIFTEEN DIFFERENT GEORGIA ORGANIZATIONS HAVE
PARTICIPATED -- ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING THE WHOLE
SPECTRUM OF LABOR, BUSINESS, AGRICULTURE AND CIVIC
ACTIVITIES.

THIS IS IMPORTANT FOR TWO REASONS.

IN THE FIRST PLACE, IT GIVES ME AND OTHER WASHINGTON
OFFICIALS PARTICIPATING -- JIM LYNN, CAP WEINBERGER,
BILL SEIDMAN, BILL BAROODY, FRANK ZARB, TOM KLEPPE AND
MIKE DUVAL -- A REAL OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS PRESSING
NATIONAL ISSUES WITH THE PEOPLE WHO ARE AFFECTED BY THEM.
IT IMPROVES THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN NATIONAL AND
LOCAL LEADERSHIP.

ONLY IN THIS WAY, TOGETHER, CAN WE GENERATE THE KIND
OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND TRUST WE WILL NEED TO TURN OUR
ECONOMY AROUND AND START AMERICA ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY.

SECONDLY, THIS VARIED, REPRESENTATIVE GROUP IS A
KIND OF MINI-AMERICA. SINCE MOST OF THE PARTICIPANTS
HERE CAN AGREE ON THE BROAD PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES WE
FACE † NOT NECESSARILY ON THE DETAILED SOLUTIONS, BUT
ON THE GENERAL THRUST † THEN I THINK THERE IS GOOD REASON
TO HOPE FOR BROAD NATIONAL AGREEMENT ON SOLUTIONS AS WELL.

AND THAT IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU
~~HERE THIS EVENING~~ / SOME OF THE SHARED CONCERNS AND IDEAS
THAT ARE BEGINNING TO EMERGE FROM THE NEW AND VIGOROUS
NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON ENERGY AND THE ECONOMY.

FOR ME, THEY REPRESENT THE COMMON INTERESTS THAT
WILL UNITE US INTO ACTION IN THE CRUCIAL DAYS AHEAD.

SINCE MY TELEVISION ADDRESS TO THE NATION AND MY
STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS OF TWO WEEKS AGO,
I BELIEVE THAT THIS PROCESS OF UNITING OUR PEOPLE IN THE FACE
OF CLEAR CHALLENGES HAS MADE GREAT PROGRESS. I SEE A
BROAD NATIONAL CONCENSUS FORMING IN AT LEAST FIVE MAJOR
PROBLEM AREAS: RECESSION; TAX RELIEF AND REFORM; JOBS AND
PRODUCTIVITY; ENERGY; AND, LAST BUT NOT LEAST, INFLATION.

TODAY, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE ENERGY CRISIS
BEGAN AND RECESSION BECAME A MAJOR CONCERN, MOST AMERICANS
ARE NOT ONLY SOLIDLY AGREED ON THE PROBLEMS WE MUST SOLVE --
BUT THEY ARE AGREED THAT SOLUTIONS MUST BE FORTHCOMING SOON.

TO START US ON THE ROAD TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY, MOST OF
US, FOR EXAMPLE, NOW AGREE THAT OUR FIRST ORDER OF NATIONAL
BUSINESS MUST BE IMMEDIATE TAX RELIEF TO HELP AMERICAN
CONSUMERS TO WAGE THEIR OWN PERSONAL BATTLES AGAINST RECESSION.

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AND I THINK MOST OF US ALSO AGREE THAT THE FIFTY MILLION
HARD-HIT MIDDLE-INCOME AMERICANS AS WELL AS SOME

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FIVE MILLION LOW-INCOME AMERICANS DESERVE A FAIR TAX BREAK.

I AM REFERRING TO FARMERS, TEACHERS, REPORTERS, EDITORS,
SECRETARIES, SALES PEOPLE, TRUCK DRIVERS, POLICEMEN,
FIREMEN, AND OTHER HARDWORKING MIDDLE-INCOME AMERICANS
WHO HAVE CARRIED THE BULK OF THIS COUNTRY'S TAX BURDENS.

IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS ENCOURAGING TO SEE LABOR,
BUSINESS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC RESPONDING SO WELL TO THE
PROBLEMS OF THIS RECESSION -- AND JOINING IN THE EFFORT
TO HELP SOLVE THEM. I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE MANY
EXCELLENT EXAMPLES OF VOLUNTARY ACTIONS TO FIGHT THE RECESSION.

IN A NUMBER OF CASES, WORKERS IN FINANCIALLY PRESSED
PLANTS AND BUSINESSES HAVE AGREED TO SHARE SHORTER WORKING
HOURS TO PREVENT LAYOFFS. THIS HAS HAPPENED IN THE GARMENT
INDUSTRY IN LOS ANGELES AND IN THE NEWSPAPER BUSINESS IN
WASHINGTON, D.C., AND IN OTHER PLACES ACROSS THIS NATION.

I COMMEND THESE ENLIGHTENED EFFORTS -- FOR THEY ARE
IN THE BEST AMERICAN TRADITION. TO ME, IT IS REASSURING
THAT OUR PEOPLE ARE STILL WILLING TO PULL TOGETHER AND SHARE
HARDSHIP IN DIFFICULT TIMES.

AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE BROAD-GAUGE NATIONAL UNITY
ON THIS PROBLEM, MANY LEADERS OF MAJOR NATIONAL LABOR
ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING LABOR MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S
UNITED LABOR-MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD, HAVE STRONGLY
SUPPORTED THE NEED FOR AN IMPROVED INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT
FOR AMERICAN BUSINESS AS WELL AS TAX RELIEF FOR THE AMERICAN
WORKER.

JUST AS PERSONAL INCOME TAX REBATES TOTALLING SOME
TWELVE BILLION DOLLARS WILL PUT MORE MONEY BACK INTO THE
ECONOMY, SO THE FOUR BILLION DOLLARS TAX BENEFIT I HAVE
PROPOSED FOR BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURE WILL PROVIDE MORE
CAPITAL TO CREATE NEW JOBS AND GREATER PRODUCTIVITY.

THERE HAVE BEEN MANY RECESSIONS IN OUR HISTORY.

IN FACT, IN MY TWENTY-SIX YEARS IN WASHINGTON, THE NATION

UNDERWENT AT LEAST FIVE RECESSIONS -- AND SURVIVED EACH ONE.

WE WILL COME THROUGH THIS ONE AS WELL. BUT THE ENERGY

CRISIS IS SOMETHING NEW AND DIFFERENT.

AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF ENERGY ABUNDANCE, MANY AMERICANS FIND IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHY WE MUST SUDDENLY TAKE STRONG MEASURES -- MEASURES THAT ARE ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT DURING A RECESSION -- TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE ENERGY TO MEET OUR NEEDS.

THE ANSWER IS THAT WE HAVE NO CHOICE. THE HARD DECISIONS HAVE BEEN POSTPONED TOO LONG. WE MUST ACT NOW. HERE IS WHY.

UNLESS CONGRESS ENACTS A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY POLICY,
SUCH AS I HAVE PROPOSED, BY 1977 WE WILL BE IMPORTING
AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT MORE FOREIGN OIL THAN WE ARE NOW.
BY 1985, WE WILL BE DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN SOURCES FOR MORE
THAN HALF OF OUR OIL NEEDS.

BEAR IN MIND THAT, AT THE TIME OF THE 1973-74 OIL
EMBARGO, WE WERE DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN SOURCES FOR A
LITTLE MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF OUR OIL. THE SERIOUS
DISRUPTION WHICH THAT EMBARGO CAUSED TO OUR ECONOMY IS
MINOR COMPARED TO WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF WE FAIL TO START
MOVING NOW TOWARD ENERGY INDEPENDENCE.

WE CAN ACHIEVE THIS INDEPENDENCE BY 1985 UNDER THE
PROGRAM I HAVE OUTLINED TO THE CONGRESS -- A PROGRAM WHICH
ENCOURAGES ENERGY CONSERVATION AS WELL AS FULLER DEVELOPMENT
OF OUR OWN ENERGY RESOURCES HERE AT HOME.

THE PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION I SIGNED TO RAISE THE
TAX ON IMPORTED OIL IS A START IN THE DIRECTION OF CONSERVATION
-- AND IT HAS ALSO HELPED TO MOVE THE CONGRESS TO ACTION.

THERE CAN BE HONEST DIFFERENCES ON THE DETAILS.

BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT, IF I HAD NOT TAKEN THIS ACTION

IN THE FIRST PLACE, THERE WOULD BE NO REAL MOVEMENT IN

THE CONGRESS AT THIS TIME TOWARD THE HARD AND CRITICAL

DECISIONS WHICH ARE VITAL TO OUR LONG-RANGE SURVIVAL.

\ TODAY, THIS IS NO LONGER TRUE. ACROSS AMERICA
AS WELL AS ON CAPITOL HILL, THERE IS A GROWING NATIONAL
CONSENSUS ON THE CRUCIAL NATURE OF THE ENERGY PROBLEMS AND
ON A WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT HARDSHIPS TO SOLVE THEM.
THIS, IN ITSELF, IS A GIANT FIRST STEP FORWARD.

Supply - crude oil / natural gas
Conservation - price mechanism
Equity - tax reductions / rebates
Security - protection against vulnerability

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THIS NEWLY-FORMING NATIONAL
CONSENSUS IS THE GROWING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE DANGER
OF INFLATION, AND -- LINKED TO IT -- THE NEED TO EXERT
SOME SORT OF BRAKE ON RUNAWAY GOVERNMENT SPENDING.

PUTTING IT ANOTHER WAY, FOR A LONG TIME WE HAVE
BEEN DEFERRING PAYMENTS ON SOME OF OUR BILLS AND WE NOW HAVE
A WHOPPER THAT'S DUE. AS YOU MAY KNOW, I SENT TO THE
CONGRESS BEFORE LEAVING WASHINGTON TODAY A PROPOSED BUDGET
OF THREE HUNDRED FORTY-NINE POINT FOUR BILLION DOLLARS FOR
THE 1976 FISCAL YEAR WHICH STARTS JULY FIRST. THE PROJECTED
DEFICIT FOR 1976 WILL BE OVER FIFTY BILLION DOLLARS -- A FIGURE
WHICH WOULD HAVE HORRIFIED ME AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS --
AND HORRIFIES ME NOW AS PRESIDENT.

FOR MY PART, I RENEW MY OFFER TO WORK WITH THE
NINETY-FOURTH CONGRESS TO REACH MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE ENERGY
AND ECONOMIC PROGRAMS. I HAVE OFFERED MY PLAN.
IF THE CONGRESS WILL COME FORWARD WITH ONE OF ITS OWN --
A FULL COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM, NOT JUST A SERIES
OF INDIVIDUAL CRITICISMS OR CONFLICTING PIECES OF
LEGISLATION -- I AM SURE WE CAN IRON OUT OUR DIFFERENCES.

WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN APART TOO LONG AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ARE NOT GOING TO WAIT FOREVER. IT IS TIME TO LAUNCH

AMERICA ON A NEW COURSE -- A RECOVERY COURSE.

I HAVE DONE, AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO, EVERYTHING I CAN

TO MOVE TOWARD THIS VITAL OBJECTIVE.

WE CAN -- AND WILL -- SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS.

THERE ARE ALREADY A NUMBER OF ENCOURAGING SIGNS THAT PUBLIC

CONFIDENCE IS RALLYING. I URGE THE CONGRESS TO JOIN IN

THIS NEW PUBLIC CONFIDENCE. QUICK ACTION ON THE PROGRAMS

I HAVE PROPOSED WOULD DO MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE TO HELP

ASSURE THE RAPID ECONOMIC TURN-AROUND WE ALL SEEK.

I AM DELIGHTED TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET
WITH YOU HERE TODAY. AND I HOPE THAT EACH OF YOU,
WHATEVER YOUR DIFFERENCES ON SOME OF THE SPECIFICS OF
THE PROGRAM I HAVE PROPOSED, WILL COME OUT OF THIS CONFERENCE
UNITED IN YOUR RESOLVE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH OUR COMMON
PROBLEMS -- TO SPEAK OUT FOR ACTION.

ALTHOUGH I HAVE A PLAN, THE UNITED STATES STILL DOES
NOT YET HAVE A PROGRAM. THIS WILL REQUIRE ACTION BY THE
CONGRESS -- AND SUPPORT FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.
I AM CONFIDENT WE WILL ACHIEVE BOTH.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT