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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *df.*

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS TO
THE JOINT SESSION OF KANSAS STATE LEGISLATURE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1975

Handwritten:
8208
2/11/75

I AM PROUD TO BE HERE IN THE GREAT STATE OF KANSAS

-- WHERE PEOPLE SEEM TO HAVE A SPECIAL REGARD, NOT ONLY

FOR THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP -- BUT THE RESPONSIBILITIES

AS WELL. I UNDERSTAND THAT SIXTY-EIGHT PERCENT OF THE

68%

KANSAS ELECTORATE WENT TO THE POLLS IN NOVEMBER -- AS

AGAINST A NATIONAL AVERAGE OF ONLY FORTY PERCENT. AND SO,

40%

LET ME TAKE THIS OCCASION TO SALUTE THE CONCERNED CITIZENS

OF KANSAS. IT'S A REAL PLEASURE TO BE IN A STATE WHERE

VOTING ISN'T CONSIDERED A SPECTATOR SPORT!

Judge Butts

Pravon Dale

*Marion Service
Fay Wynn*

Hubert Schubert

*Gov. Bob Bennett
Lt Gov. Shelby Smith
Speaker McMill
Senator Rogers.*

EVER SINCE I WAS A YOUNGSTER, I HAVE HAD A
SPECIAL FEELING FOR KANSAS -- BECAUSE KANSAS IS WHERE
DOROTHY LIVED BEFORE SHE WENT TO VISIT THE WONDERFUL LAND OF
OZ -- WHERE ALL KINDS OF STRANGE, WHIMSICAL AND UNEXPECTED
THINGS HAPPENED. BUT I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THAT IF
STRANGE, WHIMSICAL AND UNEXPECTED THINGS WERE WHAT DOROTHY
WAS REALLY INTERESTED IN, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE GONE TO OZ.
SHE WOULD HAVE COME TO WASHINGTON.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO
ADDRESS THIS JOINT SESSION OF THE KANSAS STATE LEGISLATURE.
I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK MY GOOD FRIEND, GOVERNOR BOB
BENNETT, AND MY FORMER COLLEAGUES IN THE CONGRESS,
SENATORS JIM PEARSON AND BOB DOLE, FOR URGING ME TO
ATTEND THIS EVENT. THEIR ADVICE HAS HELPED TO OPEN
UP A NEW PHASE OF MY EFFORT TO MOBILIZE OUR COUNTRY
TO MEET THE ECONOMIC AND ENERGY CHALLENGES.

IN LESS THAN AN HOUR, I WILL BE ADDRESSING A
GATHERING OF MIDWESTERN GOVERNORS ON THESE TWO SUBJECTS.
LATER THIS AFTERNOON, I WILL MEET WITH THE PRESS FOR A
TELEVISED NEWS CONFERENCE.

BUT THIS EVENT, HERE IN YOUR BEAUTIFUL AND
HISTORIC STATE CAPITOL BUILDING, BRINGS ANOTHER VITAL
FACTOR INTO PLAY. I REFER, OF COURSE, TO THE
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF STATE GOVERNMENTS.

THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. AMERICA FACES

GRAVE CHALLENGES TODAY. I HAVE BEEN VERY FRANK --

YOU MIGHT EVEN SAY BLUNT -- IN DESCRIBING THE SERIOUSNESS

OF OUR ECONOMIC SITUATION TO THE PEOPLE. I FEEL --

AS I AM SURE YOU DO -- THAT THEY DESERVE THE TRUTH,

AND, FOR FAR TOO LONG, THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN SUGAR-COATED

REASSURANCES WHILE PRESSING PROBLEMS WENT UNTENDED.

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED
IN ACTION RATHER THAN RHETORIC. I HAVE OFFERED THE
NATION AN ACTION PROGRAM TO FIGHT AN INFLATIONARY RECESSION,
TO TACKLE THE ENERGY CRISIS, TO CREATE JOBS AND TO FOSTER
ECONOMIC STABILITY.

I DON'T PRETEND THAT MY PLAN IS PERFECT. BUT

IT IS A PLAN. AND, SO FAR, NO ONE HAS COME FORTH

WITH A BETTER IDEA. THERE HAVE BEEN CRITICS.

THERE HAVE BEEN QUESTIONS. BUT NO ONE HAS PUT FORTH

A COMPREHENSIVE, WORKABLE ALTERNATIVE.

SO WHAT I ASK YOU -- JUST AS I HAVE ASKED THE
CONGRESS IN WASHINGTON -- IS THAT WE WORK TOGETHER,
IN A POSITIVE WAY, TO SOLVE AMERICA'S PROBLEMS. I ASK
FOR YOUR COUNSEL, YOUR SUGGESTIONS AND, ULTIMATELY,
YOUR SUPPORT.

AND THE SOONER WE ACT, THE BETTER IT WILL BE

FOR KANSAS AND FOR THE NATION. CONSIDER, FOR EXAMPLE,

THE IMPACT THAT FURTHER DELAY IN THE ENERGY FIELD WILL HAVE

ON FARMERS HERE AND IN OTHER AGRICULTURAL STATES.

UNLESS WE START NOW TO ACHIEVE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE,
THE AMERICAN FARMER WILL GROW MORE AND MORE DEPENDENT
ON THE FOREIGN OIL CARTEL FOR THE ENERGY PRODUCTS HE NEEDS
TO SOW AND REAP HIS CROPS. HIS COSTS, HIS PROFITS |
AND HIS PRODUCTIVITY WILL ALL BE AT THE MERCY OF FOREIGN
FORCES. THE FARMER WOULD BE TRAPPED BETWEEN GROWING
PRESSURES FOR LOWER FOOD PRICES IN THE MARKETPLACE AND
HIGHER COSTS FROM HIS ENERGY SUPPLIERS. ANY WAY
YOU LOOK AT IT, THAT IS A NO-WIN PROPOSITION FOR THE
AMERICAN FARMER.

AND THAT IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY I AM SO

ADAMANT ABOUT OUR NEED TO ACT NOW ON THE ENERGY FRONT.

WE CANNOT LET THINGS SLIDE ANY FURTHER. WE HAVE

WAITED TOO LONG ALREADY.

AT THE SAME TIME, THOUGH, I RECOGNIZE THAT
THE FARMER MAY WELL BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMMEDIATE
IMPACT MY ENERGY PROGRAM WILL HAVE. IN THE SHORT
TERM, OUR CONSERVATION TAXES ON FOREIGN OIL WILL RAISE
HIS ENERGY COSTS. I CAN UNDERSTAND THIS CONCERN.
AND I AM DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

IN MY STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE, AND IN MY
TELEVISION ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON THE ECONOMY, I STRESSED
THAT NO INDUSTRY OR GEOGRAPHICAL AREA WOULD BE ALLOWED
TO SUFFER A DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN OF THE ENERGY PROGRAM.
THIS DEFINITELY APPLIES TO THE AMERICAN FARMER.

I RENEW MY PLEDGE TO YOU TODAY. AS LONG AS

I AM PRESIDENT, THE AMERICAN FARMER WILL RECEIVE THE FUEL

HE NEEDS TO DO HIS JOB. I WILL NOT LET AMERICAN

AGRICULTURE RUN OUT OF GAS.

AS A TAX RELIEF, THE RESULT OF INCREASING THE
INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT FROM SEVEN TO TWELVE PERCENT WILL BE
A SAVINGS OF THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY MILLION DOLLARS FOR
AMERICA'S FARMERS AND RANCHERS.

I HAVE ALSO INSTRUCTED THE FEDERAL ENERGY
ADMINISTRATOR, FRANK ZARB, TO DESIGN FOR THE AGRICULTURAL
COMMUNITY A REBATE PROGRAM TO COMPENSATE THE FARMER
FOR INCREASED ENERGY COSTS CAUSED BY OUR CONSERVATION
PROGRAM.

WE WILL BE ANNOUNCING THE DETAILS OF THIS PROGRAM
WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. BUT I WANTED YOU TO KNOW
NOW THAT THIS PROBLEM IS AT THE TOP OF MY LIST OF CONCERNS
AS WELL AS YOURS.

LET ME GIVE YOU ANOTHER CLEAR CASE WHERE ENERGY
ACTION IS NEEDED THAT CAN MATERIALLY BENEFIT THE PEOPLE OF
KANSAS.

AS YOU KNOW, THE DEMAND FOR NITROGEN FERTILIZER

HAS BEGUN TO OUTPACE ITS SUPPLY. THE REASON FOR THIS

of outmoded

IS SIMPLE. UNDER THE CURRENT REGULATORY SYSTEM,

↑

NATURAL GAS SUPPLIERS HAVE NO INCENTIVE TO INCREASE,

OR EVEN MAINTAIN, ADEQUATE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

THUS FAR THIS YEAR, NATURAL GAS CURTAILMENTS
HAVE ALREADY RESULTED IN THE LOSS OF ABOUT ONE HUNDRED AND
FORTY THOUSAND TONS OF NITROGEN FERTILIZER. ESTIMATES
FOR TOTAL LOSS DURING THE YEAR RANGE FROM TWO HUNDRED
THOUSAND TONS TO FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND TONS.

TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF HOW IMPORTANT THIS IS,
A LOSS OF TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND TONS IF IT WERE ALL
CONCENTRATED IN CORN YIELD, WOULD REDUCE THE 1975 CROP
BY ABOUT ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY MILLION BUSHEL, OR
ABOUT TWO AND ONE HALF PERCENT OF THE TOTAL CORN CROP.

WE SHOULD HEAD THIS PROBLEM OFF BEFORE IT GETS

OUT OF CONTROL. AND THE WAY TO DO THAT IS TO

DEREGULATE THE PRICE ON NEW NATURAL GAS. BUT TO DO THIS,

I WILL NEED YOUR SUPPORT, THE SUPPORT OF PUBLIC OPINION,

AND ULTIMATELY, THE AGREEMENT OF THE CONGRESS.

~~I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ANNOUNCE AN IMPORTANT ACTION~~

~~I AM TAKING TO CREATE NEW JOBS AND STIMULATE THE ECONOMY.~~

~~I HAVE TODAY ORDERED THE RELEASE OF UP TO TWO BILLION~~

~~DOLLARS IN ADDITIONAL FEDERAL HIGHWAY FUNDS.~~

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ANNOUNCE AN IMPORTANT ACTION
I AM TAKING IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUESTS OF MANY GOVERNORS.

THEY HAVE POINTED OUT TO ME THAT OWING TO THE
SOFTNESS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY THEY WILL BE ABLE TO
ACCELERATE WORK ON OUR HIGHWAY SYSTEM AT LOWER COSTS
THAN IN THE RECENT PAST.

ACCORDINGLY, I HAVE ORDERED THE RELEASE OF
UP TO TWO BILLION DOLLARS IN ADDITIONS TO FEDERAL HIGHWAY
FUNDS.

~~IN MY RECENT MEETINGS WITH MANY OF THE NATION'S~~

The Governors,

~~GOVERNORS, THEY HAVE ASSURED ME THAT THESE FUNDS ARE~~

~~CRITICALLY NEEDED AND CAN BE PUT TO IMMEDIATE USE IN HIGHWAY~~

~~CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS THAT CAN BE UNDERWAY BY JUNE 30, 1975.~~

~~THIS ACTION WILL CREATE UP TO ONE HUNDRED AND~~

~~TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DIRECT AND SUPPORTING JOBS IN AN~~

~~INDUSTRY THAT HAS BEEN HIT HARD BY THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN.~~

help

one of the hardest hit

1

IN REACHING THIS DECISION, I CONSIDERED THAT

~~THE USE OF THESE ADDITIONAL FUNDS WILL QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY~~

~~PROVIDE JOBS AS WELL AS CONSTRUCTION CONTINUITY IN OUR~~

authority is

~~INTERSTATE SYSTEM FROM MONIES ALREADY AVAILABLE IN THE~~

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND.

I URGE STATE GOVERNMENTS TO FOCUS THESE ADDITIONAL

FUNDS, FIRST, ON PROJECTS THAT WILL PRODUCE JOBS ^{meaningful} ~~QUICKLY~~;

SECOND, ON IMPROVEMENTS THAT WILL ENHANCE HIGHWAY SAFETY;

AND THIRD, ON PROJECTS THAT WILL COMPLETE KEY LINKS IN THE

INTERSTATE SYSTEM.

PRIORITY WILL ALSO BE GIVEN TO URBAN MASS

TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS WHICH STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS

AGREE SHOULD BE SUBSTITUTED FOR LESS CRITICAL HIGHWAY PROJECTS.

SOLVING OUR PROBLEMS WILL NOT BE EASY.

BUT I WOULD REMIND YOU OF SOMETHING THAT A MAN FROM
ABILENE, KANSAS, ONE OF THE GREATEST MEN THAT KANSAS
EVER PRODUCED, ONCE SAID:

"FREE MEN DO NOT LOSE THEIR PATIENCE, THEIR
COURAGE, THEIR FAITH BECAUSE THE OBSTACLES ARE MOUNTAINOUS,
THE PATH UNCHARTED. GIVEN UNDERSTANDING, THEY
INVARIABLY RISE TO THE CHALLENGE."

DWIGHT EISENHOWER KNEW THIS WAS TRUE, AND HE
PROVED IT, AS A GALLANT COMMANDER DURING WORLD WAR TWO
AND AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. AND HE HAD
SOMETHING ELSE TO SAY ABOUT AMERICAN HISTORY AND THE
AMERICAN CHARACTER THAT I BELIEVE BEARS REPEATING TODAY,
WHEN WE ARE HEARING SO MUCH FROM THE PROPHETS OF GLOOM
AND DOOM.

"IT HAS BEEN THE TOUGH-MINDED OPTIMISTS," IKE
SAID, "WHOM HISTORY HAS PROVED RIGHT IN AMERICA."

THIS WAS TRUE IN IKE'S TIME, AND IT IS TRUE IN
OURS AS WELL.

I AM A TOUGH-MINDED OPTIMIST. I KNOW YOU
ARE, TOO.

I BELIEVE IN AMERICA AND I BELIEVE IN AMERICA'S
FUTURE. I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU DO, TOO, BECAUSE WE
ARE OPTIMISTS. AND I KNOW THAT, TOGETHER, WE CAN
GET THE TOUGH JOB DONE.

END OF TEXT

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. *aj.*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 7, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN
FROM: PAUL THEIS *AT*
SUBJECT: Speech Material for Houston and Topeka

Attached are:

1. Suggested remarks for use at the Houston energy conference on Monday.
2. Talking points for use before the Southwest governors dinner in Houston on Monday evening and the media breakfast Tuesday morning.
3. Suggested remarks for use before the Kansas legislature in Topeka on Tuesday.
4. Talking points for use at the Regional Governors meeting in Topeka on Tuesday.

Attachments