

**The original documents are located in Box 6, folder “3/4/75 - Statement on Veto of H.R. 1767” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *af.*

STATEMENT ON VETO OF H.R. 1767

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1975

IN MID-JANUARY, I SAID THIS COUNTRY NEEDED AN IMMEDIATE  
FEDERAL INCOME TAX CUT TO REVERSE THE CURRENT RECESSION AND CREATE  
MORE JOBS.

I WENT TO THE NEW CONGRESS WITH A SPECIFIC PROGRAM OF  
LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS AGAINST RECESSION, INFLATION AND ENERGY  
DEPENDENCE. I ASKED CONGRESS TO ACT BY APRIL FIRST.

I USED THE AUTHORITY CONGRESS HAD GIVEN THE 'PRESIDENT  
*import fees*  
TO APPLY ADDITIONAL ~~TARIFFS~~ ON MOST FOREIGN OIL.

I DID THIS FOR TWO REASONS: FIRST, AS AN IMMEDIATE STEP  
TOWARD ENERGY CONSERVATION -- THE ONLY STEP TAKEN SO FAR TO SLOW  
THE INFLOW OF FOREIGN OIL AND THE OUTFLOW OF AMERICAN DOLLARS;  
AND, SECONDLY, TO PROMPT THE CONGRESS TO ACTION ON ENERGY  
INDEPENDENCE.

THE CONGRESS RESPONDED INITIALLY BY SAYING IT NEEDED  
MORE TIME. IT PUSHED THROUGH THIS ACT (HOLD IT UP) TO TAKE  
AWAY PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE <sup>*import fees*</sup> ~~TARIFFS~~ ON FOREIGN OIL  
FOR NINETY DAYS.

I AM VETOING THIS NEGATIVE ACT FOR THE COMPELLING  
REASONS OUTLINED IN A MESSAGE SENT TO THE CONGRESS TODAY,  
HOWEVER, I MEANT WHAT I SAID ABOUT COOPERATION WITH THE  
CONGRESS. I WANT TO GIVE THE CONGRESS A REASONABLE TIME  
TO ACT, AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION WHICH  
HELPS NOBODY, LEAST OF ALL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

I DO THIS READILY BECAUSE THE MOST IMPORTANT BUSINESS  
BEFORE US AFTER FIFTY DAYS OF DEBATE IS STILL THE ECONOMIC  
STIMULANT THAT COULD BE PROVIDED BY THE INCOME TAX REFUNDS  
TO INDIVIDUALS, AND JOB-CREATING TAX CREDITS TO FARMERS AND  
BUSINESSMEN THAT I CALLED FOR IN JANUARY.

LAST FRIDAY, THE MAJORITY LEADERS OF THE CONGRESS

*import fees*

ASKED ME TO DELAY SCHEDULED INCREASES IN THE ~~TARIFF~~ ON FOREIGN OIL

FOR ANOTHER SIXTY DAYS WHILE THEY WORK OUT THE SPECIFICS OF THEIR

OWN ENERGY POLICY.

I FIND THIS REQUEST REASONABLE.



THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THE CONGRESS IS FINALLY  
MOVING ON OUR URGENT NATIONAL ENERGY PROBLEM. I WELCOME  
THESE EFFORTS AND THE LEADERSHIP SHOWN. I AM, THEREFORE,  
AMENDING MY ~~TARIFF~~ PROCLAMATION TO POSTPONE FOR TWO MONTHS  
THE INCREASES SCHEDULED FOR MARCH AND APRIL.

HOPEFULLY, WE CAN AGREE ON AN ENERGY PROGRAM BY

MAY FIRST.

A MOST COMPELLING REASON FOR THIS SIXTY-DAY

POSTPONEMENT IS THAT I WANT NO PART IN DELAYING THE SPEEDY

ENACTMENT BY THE CONGRESS OF THE INCOME TAX CUTS WHICH CAN BE

ON THIS DESK BY THE END OF MARCH.

WE HAVE EXACTLY FOUR WEEKS.

BUT SUBSTANTIAL

WHAT WE NEED NOW IS A SIMPLE TAX CUT TO REVIVE

OUR ECONOMY AND MAKE MORE JOBS.

WHAT WE NEED NEXT IS A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PROGRAM

TO END OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL PRODUCERS.

WHAT WE DON'T NEED IS A TIME-WASTING TEST OF STRENGTH

BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT. WHAT WE DO NEED

IS A SHOW OF STRENGTH THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CAN ACT

DECISIVELY AND WITH DISPATCH.

END OF TEXT