

The original documents are located in Box 6, folder “3/13/1975 - Remarks to Institute of Collective Bargaining Dinner” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *def.*

REMARKS TO

INSTITUTE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING DINNER

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1975

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MR. WINPISINGER (WIN-PEH-SINGER)

MR. KLASSEN

POSTMASTER GENERAL BAILOR

BILL USERY

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE THIS EVENING. I AM ALSO
PLEASED TO SEE THE ISSUANCE OF THE STAMP ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

OUR AMERICAN SYSTEM OF FREE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
IS UNIQUELY DESERVING OF THE SPECIAL HONOR IT IS RECEIVING
THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF THIS STAMP. HISTORY HAS SHOWN US
THAT ONLY WHERE THERE IS FREE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IS THERE
A FREE SOCIETY.

THE STAMP'S THEME, "OUT OF CONFLICT . . . ACCORD,"
IS ONE TO WHICH EVERY CITIZEN CAN SUBSCRIBE. THE FACT THAT
WE HAVE DEVELOPED A STRONG, FLEXIBLE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
SYSTEM STANDS AS A TRIBUTE TO THE MILLIONS OF MEN AND WOMEN
OF BOTH LABOR AND MANAGEMENT WHO HAVE DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO
BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA.

WE NEED TO BUILD AMERICA TODAY. WE NEED COURAGE
AND PATIENCE -- COURAGE TO FACE THE VITAL ISSUES BEFORE US AND
PATIENCE TO WORK OUT JUST SOLUTIONS. OUR PEOPLE CANNOT LIVE
ON ISLANDS OF SELF-INTEREST. WE MUST BUILD BRIDGES AND
COMMUNICATE OUR AGREEMENTS AND DISAGREEMENTS. ONLY THEN
WILL WE SOLVE THE NATION'S PROBLEMS. AND ONE OF THE LONGEST,
STURDIEST BRIDGES IN THIS LAND IS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

TODAY -- MORE THAN EVER IN THE PAST THREE DECADES --

THERE ARE REALLY THREE PARTIES AT EACH BARGAINING TABLE.

MANAGEMENT . . . LABOR . . . AND THE NATIONAL WELFARE.

THERE IS AN EVER-GROWING RESPONSIBILITY ON THE TWO SIDES FOR

RESTRAINT -- IN THE INTEREST OF THE THIRD PARTY -- OUR NATIONAL

INTEREST.

I ASK ALL OF YOU HERE THIS EVENING AND ALL MEMBERS
OF LABOR AND MANAGEMENT TEAMS AROUND THE COUNTRY TO REMEMBER
THAT THERE IS A SILENT PARTNER SITTING DOWN WITH YOU AT EACH
BARGAINING SESSION -- YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS EVERYWHERE.

LET US TRY TO REMEMBER THEIR INTERESTS -- AMERICA'S INTERESTS --
IN THE SEARCH FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS.

OUR OBJECTIVES -- YOURS AND MINE -- ARE AS OLD AS
HUMAN NATURE. IN EACH MAN AND IN EACH WOMAN ARE THE ROOTS
OF HIS OR HER OWN SURVIVAL. SO ~~IT~~ IT IS IN EACH
DEMOCRACY -- DEMOCRACY HAS WITHIN IT THE ROOTS AND STRENGTH
TO SAVE ITSELF. AND THAT STRENGTH IS NATIONAL UNITY AND
NATIONAL PURPOSE.

MANY AMERICANS SEE PRECIOUS LITTLE ADVANTAGE TO THE
NATION IN THE DEBATE AND THE DELAY THAT HAVE CHARACTERIZED
WASHINGTON IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS. RATHER THEY ARE CONVINCED
THAT ACTION -- CONCERTED ACTION -- IS NOW PRECIOUS TO THE
COUNTRY -- AND MAY, IN THE LONG RUN, PROVE PRICELESS.

IT IS SAID THAT AN ATMOSPHERE OF COMPROMISE NOW
PERVADES WASHINGTON. I BELIEVE THAT IS CORRECT AND THAT IS
GOOD. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT MOOD DEVELOP INTO A
MOVEMENT -- INTO AGREEMENT AND ACTION FOR AMERICA.

AMERICANS SEE DELAY AND DIVISION -- LACK OF
CONCERTED ACTION -- AND THEY DO NOT LIKE IT. THEY WANT TO
SEE SOME COLLECTIVE BARGAINING BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND
LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF THEIR GOVERNMENT. I HAVE SAID THAT
I AM WILLING TO COMPROMISE ON A TAX CUT AND I REPEAT HERE THIS
EVENING THAT I WILL COMPROMISE.

HOWEVER, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL NOT STAND FOR A
GOVERNMENT THAT IS STANDING STILL. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
WANT A TAX CUT -- NOW. I THINK MORE OF US OUGHT TO START
LISTENING TO AMERICA INSTEAD OF LISTENING TO OURSELVES HERE
IN WASHINGTON. AND I HEAR AMERICA CALLING FOR ACTION --
REASONABLE ACTION IN A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME -- AND I
SUGGEST ACTION BY THE END OF MARCH -- THIS YEAR!

LET US GET TO WORK. LET US GIVE RECESSION AND
UNEMPLOYMENT A NEW ONE-TWO -- THE PRESIDENT AND THE
CONGRESS HITTING BOTH OF THEM AT ONCE. AND IF WE DO SO,
WE WILL PUT ALL OUR WORKERS BACK TO WORK -- SO FREE
COLLECTIVE BARGAIN CAN FLOURISH.

END OF TEXT