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(Bird) PT

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *ly*
March 15, 1975
FINAL DRAFT

TALKING POINTS FOR MEDIA LUNCHEON, NOTRE DAME, INDIANA,
MONDAY, MARCH 17, 1975

1. I am pleased to have the opportunity to meet with editors, publishers and broadcasters from six states -- Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin and Michigan -- as part of my campaign to convince America that this recession can be whipped and that we can become energy independent.

2. So far, I have visited Atlanta, Houston, Topeka, Hollywood (Florida) for this twofold purpose: First, to convey to influential opinion makers the urgency of the need for quick action by the Congress on the economy and energy. Second, to obtain your ideas, your views and your wisdom to take back to Washington, where, believe me, we need all three.

3. The Congress has been riding the brake pedal instead of the accelerator. Proposals to meet our economic and energy problems have been before the Congress for two months and two days -- from the State

of the Union to now. But the only completed legislation so far has been negative -- a bill to prevent me from placing higher fees on the imports of oil to cut our domestic consumption.

4. Notre Dame says I am a "doctor" -- and I tell you the Congress has not taken this doctor's advice or his medicine. Admittedly, some of that medicine is unpleasant. But it was offered to get the Congress moving. And, on the tax front, we are finally seeing action. But on energy we're not much further along in solving our problems than we were two months ago.

5. I am hopeful that the Senate and House will complete action on a tax cut for individuals and for business this week. I am ready to compromise on a figure somewhere between the \$16 billion cut I propose and the higher figure the Congress has proposed.

6. On energy proposals, the plan I proposed will make us energy independent by 1985. Basically, it would cut down oil consumption at home

and imports from abroad. It would develop new sources of oil within this country. It would cut our oil imports over the next decade to dribbles.

7. In energy, what we are talking about is a foreign policy matter as well as a domestic problem. Our status as a major and prosperous Nation able to deal from strength is severely threatened by our growing dependence on foreign oil.

8. The Arab oil cartel showed a favorable current account surplus of \$8 billion in 1973. This leaped to \$60 billion last year. On the other hand, the \$2.5 billion current account surplus in 1973 of the industrial countries shifted to a \$33.5 billion deficit in 1974.

9. In the accommodation I reached postponing the second and third dollars on imported oil 13 days ago, I challenged the Congress to come up with something we can agree on by May 1. That deadline should be met with the kind of program that recognizes the danger we are in.

10. In short, I believe we have the programs to meet our problems.

I ask your support -- where you can give it -- in urging the Congress to

effective, quick action. We can't delay longer.

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TO: THE PRESIDENT
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS
SUBJECT: Media Luncheon

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: _____

1:40 p.m., March 17, 1975, South Bend, Indiana

SPEECHWRITER: Fred Bird

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