

The original documents are located in Box 12, “7/16/75 - Opening Talking Points: Presidential Introductory Remarks, Defense Department Management Conference, Armed Forces Policy Council” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

OPENING TALKING POINTS:

PRESIDENTIAL INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

ARMED FORCES POLICY COUNCIL

JULY 15, 1975

I. I'M VERY HAPPY TO BE HERE AT THE PENTAGON
TODAY FOR THIS MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE WITH THE ARMED
FORCES POLICY COUNCIL. MY VISIT TO THE PENTAGON IS
NOT THE FIRST BY A PRESIDENT, AND I PROMISE IT WON'T
BE THE LAST.

2. I'M GOING TO BE PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN
MANAGEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT. I WANT EVERY DEPARTMENT,
AGENCY AND EMPLOYEE TO OPERATE MORE EFFICIENTLY AND
EFFECTIVELY.

3. ONE OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITIES IN THIS ADMINISTRATION IS TO GET GOVERNMENT IN BETTER SHAPE TO DO WHAT IT'S SUPPOSED TO DO.

I MET WITH THE HEADS OF REGULATORY AGENCIES LAST WEEK TO STRESS THE SAME POINT.

I INTEND TO HAVE SIMILAR MEETINGS WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS IN THE FUTURE.

4. THE JOB THAT YOU IN THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT DO
IS A CRITICAL ONE. OUR NATIONAL SECURITY HAS TO BE
THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY. I INTEND TO SEE THAT YOU GET
WHAT IS NEEDED TO DO THE JOB, BUT WE MUST NOT SPEND ONE
DOLLAR MORE THAN IS NECESSARY.

5. THE PENTAGON SPENDS A LITTLE OVER ONE-
QUARTER OF THE FEDERAL BUDGET. A LOT OF PEOPLE
THINK THAT'S TOO MUCH, PARTICULARLY IN PEACETIME.

6. A LOT OF PEOPLE ALSO THINK THAT THE PENTAGON
ISN'T EFFICIENT WHEN IT COMES TO SPENDING MONEY.

QUESTIONS OF OVERRUNS, WASTE, INEFFICIENCY,
EXTRAVAGANCE ARE OFTEN RAISED.

7. IT'S UP TO EACH OF YOU IN THIS ROOM TO
PROVE THESE PEOPLE WRONG. THE CHALLENGE FOR THE
FUTURE IS TO DO MORE WITH LESS. YOU IN THE DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT ARE WELL AWARE OF THIS, AND I'M COUNTING
ON YOU TO HELP.

8. I AM HERE TODAY TO HEAR FROM YOU, JIM,
ABOUT YOUR PROGRESS IN MANAGING THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT,
AND I WILL TURN THIS MEETING OVER TO YOU NOW.

END OF TEXT