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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

REMARKS FOR THE MILWAUKEE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 1975

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU, BILL (Bill Baroody introduces you)

MR. WATSON (Key Business sponsor)

MR. SCHMIDT (Key Labor sponsor) AND

HEADS OF THE OTHER SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

CONGRESSMAN BOB KASTEN

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

(ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS)

I HAVE BEEN A PART OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR
26 YEARS NOW AND IT SADDENS ME TO SEE THE EVER-WIDENING
COMMUNICATION GAP BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND OUR CITIZENS.

I THINK THE DESPAIR MANY AMERICANS FEEL OF EVER MAKING
THEIR WISHES KNOWN WAS BEST SUMMED UP ON THE ENVELOPE
OF A LETTER I RECENTLY RECEIVED. IT WAS PLAINTIVELY
ADDRESSED TO: PRESIDENT GERALD FORD -- OR VICE PRESIDENT
NELSON ROCKEFELLER -- OR SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER
-- OR JUST PLAIN ANYONE WHO WILL LISTEN.

WELL, I ALONG WITH KEY MEMBERS OF MY
CABINET AND STAFF -- HAVE COME HERE TODAY TO LISTEN.
WE HAVE KEPT THE SPEECHES TO A MINIMUM -- AND,
HOPEFULLY, OUR RESPONSIVENESS TO A MAXIMUM.

WITH THE REPUTATION YOU WISCONSIN PEOPLE
HAVE FOR HARD WORK AND KEEN TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW,
I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR QUESTIONS, CONCERNS AND IDEAS
ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY.

BUT FIRST, LET ME BRIEFLY TOUCH ON SOME
OF THE BASIC DIRECTIONS I BELIEVE OUR NATION CAN AND
SHOULD TAKE IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD.

OBVIOUSLY, THE ECONOMY IS ONE OF OUR
PRINCIPAL CONCERNS. GRADUALLY, STEP BY STEP,
THE AMERICAN FREE ENTERPRISE ECONOMY HAS CREATED OVER
THE YEARS A BETTER LIFE FOR MORE PEOPLE THAN ANY OTHER
SYSTEM IN THE WORLD.

YET, IN THE PAST YEAR, WE HAVE SEEN IT PASS
THROUGH SOME VERY DIFFICULT TIMES. RECESSON
ON THE ONE HAND AND INFLATION ON THE OTHER HAVE STRAINED
THE ECONOMIC SECURITY OF MILLIONS OF AMERICANS.

SOME OF THE CAUSES OF OUR ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES
WERE BEYOND OUR CONTROL -- INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS
PROMPTED THE SKYROCKETING OIL PRICES. OTHERS WERE
THE RESULT OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY -- SUCH AS
INFLATIONARY SPENDING.

BUT, ON THE BASIS OF THE LATEST FIGURES,
THE DARKEST DAYS OF THE RECESSION ARE BEHIND US.
THE AMERICAN ECONOMY IS STARTING THE SUSTAINED RECOVERY
WE ALL DESIRE. WE ARE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET,
HOWEVER, AS FAR AS THE RECESSION IS CONCERNED.
UNEMPLOYMENT IS FAR TOO HIGH AND MUST BE BROUGHT
DOWN. WE MUST GET OUR FACTORIES PRODUCING AT
MAXIMUM CAPACITY AGAIN.

AND, WHILE WE CONTINUE FIGHTING THE
RECESSION, WE MUST ALSO FIGHT JUST AS HARD AGAINST
RISING INFLATION. THE JULY INCREASE IN THE
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX WAS A CLEAR WARNING THAT
WE MUST NOT RELAX FOR A MOMENT IN THE BATTLE AGAINST
INFLATION. AND WE WILL NOT.

TODAY, YOU ALREADY HAVE HEARD FROM
SOME OF THE KEY PEOPLE IN MY ADMINISTRATION ON ENERGY,
INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT AND NEW INCENTIVES FOR THE
WORKING PEOPLE AND EMPLOYERS. I HOPE WE CAN
GO FURTHER INTO THESE AND OTHER AREAS IN THE QUESTIONS
YOU HAVE SAVED UP.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT

(QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION FOLLOWS)