

The original documents are located in Box 14, “8/30/75 - Remarks at the AFL-CIO Labor Day Benefit, Augusta, Maine” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

REMARKS AT THE
AFL-CIO LABOR DAY BENEFIT

AUGUSTA, MAINE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1975

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU, GOVERNOR LONGLEY

MR. DORSKY (THE HOST - PRESIDENT OF STATE AFL-CIO)

SENATORS MUSKIE AND HATHAWAY

CONGRESSMEN COHEN AND EMERY

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

← MAYOR ELVIN

FIRST, ON BEHALF OF THE CHILDREN AT THE PINELAND
HOSPITAL AND TRAINING CENTER, MAY I THANK ALL OF YOU HERE
TODAY FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION AND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS
TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THIS MUCH NEEDED THERAPEUTIC
SWIMMING POOL.

IF THERE IS ANYONE WHO RECOGNIZES AND VALUES THE

THERAPEUTIC BENEFITS OF A SWIMMING POOL, IT'S ME --

I SALUTE THE MAINE AFL-CIO -- ITS MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND

SUPPORTERS -- FOR BRINGING THIS POOL, THIS MEANS OF

THERAPY AND A LITTLE BIT OF HAPPINESS AS WELL, INTO THE

LIVES OF THESE TROUBLED CHILDREN. THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH.

LET ME ALSO THANK GOVERNOR JIM LONGLEY FOR HIS
VERY KIND INTRODUCTION. GOVERNOR LONGLEY AND I HAVE
AT LEAST ONE THING IN COMMON -- IN COLLEGE WE BOTH WON
OUR LETTER IN FOOTBALL.

BUT FRANKLY, I'M ALWAYS A LITTLE APPREHENSIVE

WHEN A FORMER FOOTBALL PLAYER INTRODUCES ME. IT ALL

GOES BACK TO THE TIME I WAS INTRODUCED BY A FORMER

TEAMMATE FROM MY OLD MICHIGAN FOOTBALL TEAM.

HE GOT UP AND SAID, "LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT MIGHT
INTEREST YOU TO KNOW THAT I PLAYED FOOTBALL WITH JERRY FORD
FOR TWO YEARS -- AND IT MADE A LASTING IMPRESSION ON ME.

I WAS QUARTERBACK. JERRY FORD WAS THE CENTER.

AND YOU MIGHT SAY, IT GAVE ME A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT VIEW
OF THE PRESIDENT!"

AS A NATION, WE PAUSE THIS WEEKEND TO PAY
TRIBUTE TO OUR COUNTRY'S WORKING PEOPLE. LET US THIS
YEAR GIVE THIS WEEKEND SPECIAL MEANING BY CONSIDERING,
NOT ONLY THE WORKING PEOPLE, BUT THE MILLIONS OF OUR
FELLOW CITIZENS WHO ARE OUT OF WORK THROUGH NO FAULT OF
THEIR OWN.

SO, TODAY, I WANT TO ADDRESS MYSELF BOTH TO THE
WORKING PEOPLE -- AND TO THOSE WHO ARE TEMPORARILY
UNEMPLOYED -- IN MAINE, ELSEWHERE IN NEW ENGLAND, AND
ALL OVER AMERICA.

HERE IN MAINE, AND THROUGHOUT NEW ENGLAND, YOU
HAVE A WORK ETHIC OF INDIVIDUAL ENTERPRISE, YANKEE INGENUITY,
SKILLED CRAFTSMANSHIP, AND AN INDEPENDENT SPIRIT DEVOTED
TO FREEDOM. YOUR DETERMINATION IS AS ENDURING AS YOUR
LEGENDARY ROCK-RIBBED COASTS.

BUT YOU, LIKE MANY OTHER AMERICANS, HAVE ENDURED

MORE THAN YOUR SHARE. YOU ARE AMONG THE CITIZENS WHO

SUFFERED THE HEAVIEST IMPACT OF RECESSION, INFLATION,

EMPLOYMENT, AND THE ENERGY CRISIS.

I AM AWARE OF THE SPECIAL BURDEN OF THE ENERGY
CRUNCH ON MAINE AND NEIGHBORING STATES. I AM ALSO
AWARE OF THE FRUSTRATION OF INDIVIDUALS ON FIXED INCOMES.

LABOR DAY IS NO HOLIDAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE OUT
OF WORK. THE LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE UNITED STATES
IS TOO HIGH BY ANY STANDARD.

I HAVE HEARD REFERENCES TO SO-CALLED "ACCEPTABLE"
RATES OF UNEMPLOYMENT. I DO NOT RECOGNIZE THE
ACCEPTABILITY OF ANY LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT AS LONG AS
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO WORK AND CAN'T FIND JOBS.

MY ADMINISTRATION IS DETERMINED TO HELP CREATE ENOUGH

NEW JOBS, ON A SOUND ECONOMIC BASE, TO MAKE EVERY DAY

A REAL "LABOR DAY."

WHEN STATISTICS ARE PUBLISHED ON THE LOSS OF JOBS,

THERE ARE SOME LOSSES WHICH ARE NOT PUBLISHED.

I REFER TO THE LOSS OF HOPE AMONG THE HIGH SCHOOL
AND COLLEGE GRADUATES SEEKING THEIR FIRST JOB, \ THE LOSS OF
SELF-ESTEEM AMONG THE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS WHO ARE LAID OFF, \
THE LOSS OF SECURITY AND LIVING STANDARDS THAT PEOPLE WORKED
FOR YEARS TO ACHIEVE, \ AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL,
THE LOSS OF FAITH IN AMERICA'S FUTURE.

THESE ARE TRAGIC LOSSES. THEY ARE LOSSES THAT THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CANNOT ENDURE.

TODAY, I REAFFIRM MY PLEDGE TO DO EVERYTHING
IN MY POWER TO GENERATE NEW JOBS.

BUT TO ACHIEVE THE JOB STABILITY WE WANT, I WILL CONTINUE
TO OPPOSE STOPGAP PROGRAMS THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD --
PROGRAMS CONCEIVED IN PANIC AND PARTISANSHIP, THAT WILL
LEAD TO NOTHING BUT NEW ROUNDS OF INFLATION AND EVEN
WORSE UNEMPLOYMENT.

in America 16 -

OUR SYSTEM NOW PROVIDES 85 MILLION JOBS. THIS
A

REPRESENTS 26 MILLION MORE JOBS THAN EXISTED IN AMERICA A

QUARTER-CENTURY AGO. IT REPRESENTS ABOUT 1.2 MILLION

MORE JOBS THAN LAST MARCH, INDICATING MOVEMENT IN THE

RIGHT DIRECTION.

I AGREE WITH GEORGE MEANY THAT JOBS ARE WHAT LABOR
DAY IS ALL ABOUT. I JOIN WITH ALL WORKING PEOPLE ON THIS
OCCASION WHEN AMERICA HONORS ITS WORKERS -- ORGANIZED
AND UNORGANIZED -- IN A DETERMINED RESOLVE TO PUT AMERICA
BACK TO WORK.

THE DOOR OF THE WHITE HOUSE IS OPEN, AS IT HAS
BEEN SINCE I BECAME PRESIDENT, TO THOSE WHO CHAMPION THE
CAUSE OF AMERICA'S WORKING PEOPLE. AS LONG AS I REMAIN
IN OFFICE, MY DOOR WILL REMAIN OPEN. NOR WILL I CLOSE
MY HEART TO THE PLIGHT OF THE MILLIONS WHO ARE UNABLE TO
FIND WORK.

THERE HAVE BEEN FAVORABLE INDICATORS OF AN EASING
OF RECESSION. THE RATE OF INFLATION THIS YEAR IS MUCH LESS
THAN IT WAS IN 1974. BUT THE CREATION OF NEW JOBS IS
GOING TO BE A TOUGH JOB FOR ALL OF US.

MAKING SURE THAT THE JOBS OUR ECONOMY PROVIDES ARE GOOD

JOBS WITH A GOOD FUTURE / REAL JOBS AND NOT MAKE-WORK

JOBS -- IS GOING TO BE EVEN TOUGHER.

WE HAVE BEEN MAKING PROGRESS. SINCE MARCH,

MORE THAN ONE MILLION PERSONS HAVE FOUND WORK.

BUT TO GET BACK TO WHERE WE WERE JUST A YEAR AGO, WE ~~ARE~~

must

~~GOING TO HAVE TO~~ PRODUCE 3.2 MILLION MORE JOBS, ~~AND~~ EACH

YEAR FROM NOW UNTIL 1980, AS OUR LABOR FORCE EXPANDS, OUR

ECONOMY MUST PROVIDE WORK FOR ANOTHER 1.6 MILLION PEOPLE.

BY 1980, WE MUST CREATE OVER 11 MILLION NEW JOBS.

THAT IS A BIG ORDER. IT CANNOT BE FILLED BY
GOVERNMENT ALONE, \ OR BY INDUSTRY ALONE, \ OR BY UNIONS
OR POLITICIANS ACTING ON THEIR OWN.

BUT THE PROBLEM CAN AND WILL BE SOLVED IF WE ALL

WORK TOGETHER, JUST AS YOU IN THIS HALL ARE TODAY UNITED TO

HELP LESS FORTUNATE HUMAN BEINGS. IT CAN BE SOLVED WITH

THE SPIRIT OF JOINT COOPERATION DEMONSTRATED BY MY

LABOR-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

WE HAVE DEVELOPED A STRONG, FLEXIBLE COLLECTIVE
BARGAINING SYSTEM WHICH STANDS AS A TRIBUTE TO THE MEN
AND WOMEN OF BOTH LABOR AND MANAGEMENT WHO HAVE DEVOTED
THEMSELVES TO BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA.

WHILE THE GOVERNMENT CAN'T DO EVERYTHING, IT CAN
DO SOME THINGS.

IT CAN HELP STIMULATE THE PRIVATE SECTOR OF THE
ECONOMY TO CREATE THE JOBS NEEDED TO PUT PEOPLE TO WORK AND
PROVIDE WORK FOR THOSE ENTERING THE LABOR FORCE.

DURING THE PAST YEAR, AMERICAN WORKERS AND BUSINESSES

RECEIVED A FEDERAL TAX CUT TO INCREASE PURCHASING POWER

AND STIMULATE GROWTH.

IT GENERATED JOBS AND MOVEMENT

TOWARD ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

WHILE THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SYSTEM IS NO
PERMANENT SOLUTION TO JOBLESSNESS, IT TEMPORARILY KEEPS
INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETY FUNCTIONING.

SOME \$20 BILLION IN BENEFITS WILL BE DISBURSED IN
1975, PROVIDING A MEANS OF INCOME MAINTENANCE
FOR UNEMPLOYED WORKERS. THAT MONEY, PUMPED INTO THE
ECONOMY, SERVES AS ANOTHER BUILT-IN STABILIZER BY
PROVIDING PURCHASING POWER TO THE UNEMPLOYED WORKER.

THIS YEAR WE INCREASED THE NUMBER OF WEEKS OF
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FROM THIRTY-NINE TO SIXTY-FIVE
WEEKS. WE HAVE EXTENDED COVERAGE TO TWELVE MILLION
PEOPLE NOT PREVIOUSLY PROTECTED.

I HAVE PROPOSED TO THE CONGRESS OTHER NECESSARY
IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE IN SUCH AREAS AS ADEQUACY AND
DURATION OF COVERAGE. USING NEW INSIGHTS AND
EXPERIENCE, WE WILL WORK WITH THE CONGRESS TO IMPROVE
THE SYSTEM.

I AM AWARE THAT SOME WORKERS IN MAINE AND ELSEWHERE
HAVE LOST THEIR JOBS AS A RESULT OF IMPORTS FROM ABROAD.
LAST MAY, SOME 300 EMPLOYEES OF THE ALLEN QIMBY VENEER
COMPANY IN BINGHAM, MAINE, BECAME THE FIRST WORKERS TO
BE CERTIFIED UNDER THE TRADE ACT OF 1974 AS ELIGIBLE FOR TRADE
ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE NEARLY FORTY-YEAR HISTORY
OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION IN THE STATE OF MAINE, YOUR
STATE APPLIED THIS MONTH FOR A \$2.4 MILLION FEDERAL LOAN TO
PAY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS STARTING IN
SEPTEMBER. I AM PLEASED TO SAY TODAY THAT WE ARE
GRANTING MAINE'S REQUEST.

I CANNOT STRESS TOO MUCH THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION
RECOGNIZES THE EQUAL IMPORTANCE TO RECOVERY OF CONTROLLING
INFLATION AND OF CREATING GOOD JOBS. THESE JOINT GOALS
ARE ESSENTIAL TO OUR PROGRAM OF RESTORING THE STRENGTH OUR
ECONOMY NEEDS.

ALL OF US -- LABOR, MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNMENT --
MUST WORK TOGETHER IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE LONG-TERM ECONOMIC
HEALTH.

I CALL ON BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY TO DO EVERYTHING
POSSIBLE TO BRING BACK LAID OFF WORKERS, TO REASSESS THE
JOB ASSIGNMENTS OF THOSE EMPLOYED BENEATH THEIR TRUE
QUALIFICATIONS, AND TO GIVE OPPORTUNITIES TO YOUNG PEOPLE
EAGER TO JOIN THE LABOR FORCE.

I APPEAL NOT ONLY TO THE PATRIOTISM AND COURAGE

AND DETERMINATION OF AMERICA'S WORKING PEOPLE BUT TO THESE

SAME QUALITIES IN BUSINESS PEOPLE.

I ASK MANAGERS TO TAKE A NEW LOOK AT WAYS TO EXPAND
PRODUCTIVITY TO MAKE POSSIBLE THE REHIRING AND NEW HIRING
OF WORKERS. I ASK THEM TO BE MORE AGGRESSIVE IN SEEKING
NEW MARKETS AT HOME AND ABROAD TO CREATE NEW JOBS.

ECONOMIC PROGRESS DEPENDS ON OUR ABILITY TO FOSTER
CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND INCREASE THE PRODUCTIVITY OF OUR
WORKERS. THE SHARE OF OUR GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT
COMMITTED TO PRIVATE INVESTMENT MUST INCREASE OVER THE
NEXT FEW YEARS IF WE ARE TO REACH OUR ECONOMIC POTENTIAL.
ECONOMISTS ESTIMATE THAT TOTAL INVESTMENT REQUIREMENTS
COULD BE IN EXCESS OF \$4 TRILLION.

OUR FINANCIAL ABILITY TO INCREASE PRODUCTION IS

DECLINING. THIS DECLINE IS CURTAILING NEEDED GROWTH IN

JOBS AND INCOME. IT UNDERMINES OUR ABILITY TO COMPETE

INTERNATIONALLY.

ONCE THIS BECOMES CLEAR, I AM CONFIDENT THERE

WILL BE UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEED FOR TAX POLICIES TO CHANNEL

RESOURCES INTO THE EXPANSION OF PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY.

WE MUST NOT CONDEMN OUR FELLOW CITIZENS TO
UNEMPLOYMENT BECAUSE THE MODERN TOOLS NEEDED TO COMPETE
IN WORLD MARKETS ARE LACKING.

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS PROPOSED REFORMS
TO THE CONGRESS TO STIMULATE WHAT ECONOMISTS CALL
"CAPITAL FORMATION" THROUGH TAX INCENTIVES. BUT I PREFER
THE TERM "JOB CREATION." THAT IS WHAT MY PROPOSALS
ARE ALL ABOUT.

I ASK THE CONGRESS TO JOIN WITH ME IN THIS COMMITMENT
TO OUR NATION'S FUTURE, TO MORE JOBS, INCOME AND FULL
ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

TO INSURE A STRONG ECONOMIC SYSTEM, WE MUST
MAINTAIN AN ANTITRUST POLICY WHICH VALIDATES OUR COMMITMENT
TO COMPETITIVE MARKETS.

AS WE REDUCE GOVERNMENT REGULATION OF BUSINESS,
WE MUST BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT OUR ANTITRUST LAWS ARE
VIGOROUSLY ENFORCED.

COMPETITION, WHEN FREED OF GOVERNMENT REGULATION AND
SUPPORTED BY ANTITRUST LAWS, IS THE DRIVING FORCE OF
OUR ECONOMY. IT WILL DRIVE COSTS DOWN AND ASSURE
NEW JOBS. THAT IS THE STORY OF AMERICA'S AMAZING GROWTH.

LET ME EMPHASIZE THIS IS NOT AN ADMINISTRATION

OF SPECIAL INTERESTS; NOT OF BUSINESS INTERESTS NOT OF

LABOR INTERESTS.

THIS IS AN ADMINISTRATION OF THE PUBLIC

INTEREST.

WE WILL NOT PERMIT THE CONTINUATION OF MONOPOLY

PRIVILEGE, WHICH IS NOT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

IT IS MY JOB AND YOUR JOB TO OPEN THE AMERICAN MARKETPLACE,

IT IS OUR JOB TO CREATE NEW JOBS.

AS WE WORK TOGETHER TO OVERCOME PROBLEMS OF
INDIVIDUALS, LET US REMEMBER OUR FOUNDING FATHERS' VISION
OF A NATION IN WHICH PEOPLE WORK TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON
GOOD.

I HAVE OFTEN STATED MY CONVICTION THAT WE MUST HAVE

A NATIONAL DEFENSE SECOND TO NONE. LABOR HAS STOOD

AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE DEFENSE OF LIBERTY, IN WAR AS IN PEACE.

BUT DEFENSE MUST REST UPON MORE THAN ARMS AND ARMIES.

DEFENSE DEPENDS UPON THE STRENGTH OF THE AMERICAN INDIVIDUAL,

THE UNITY OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY, THE FOOD IN THE AMERICAN

KITCHEN, AND THE SELF-ESTEEM THAT GOES WITH THE AMERICAN

PAYCHECK.

WE MUST MAINTAIN THE SOCIAL FABRIC OF AMERICA

FOR THE NATIONAL DEFENSE TO BE CREDIBLE. IF WE CANNOT

BELIEVE IN OURSELVES AND IN OUR FUTURE AS A NATION,

WHAT WILL THERE BE LEFT TO DEFEND?

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, AMERICAN PATRIOTS --
WORKING PEOPLE, BUSINESS PEOPLE, AND FARMING PEOPLE --
RISKED THEIR LIVES SO THAT THIS NATION MIGHT BE BORN.

TO WIN INDEPENDENCE, THEY SURMOUNTED GREAT INDIVIDUAL
DIFFERENCES IN BACKGROUND, CULTURE AND OUTLOOK.

THEY WORKED, AND FOUGHT AND DIED TOGETHER FOR A COMMON
CAUSE NONE OF THEM COULD ACHIEVE ALONE.

ALTHOUGH CONDITIONS HAVE CHANGED GREATLY IN
200 YEARS, I AM FULLY CONFIDENT THAT THE SPIRIT THAT SAW US
THROUGH IN 1776 WILL GUIDE US TO A GREAT FUTURE.

I KNOW THAT AMERICA'S WORKING MEN AND WOMEN WILL BE
IN THE FOREFRONT. WE DEPEND UPON YOU AND WE HONOR YOU.

END OF TEXT

FOR RELEASE 10 A. M. SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1975

GOVERNOR' INTRODUCTION OF PRESIDENT FORD--CIVIC CENTER, AUGUSTA, MAINE

THIS MORNING HERE IN THE STATE OF MAINE WE HAVE LIVING PROOF THAT THE AMERICAN DREAM IS POSSIBLE. WE ALSO HAVE PROOF TODAY THAT OUR SYSTEM DOES WORK AND PERHAPS THE PERSON AS RESPONSIBLE AS ANYONE IN OUR HISTORY FOR HELPING PROVE THAT THE AMERICAN SYSTEM WORKS IS OUR SPECIAL GUEST TODAY.

THIS MEETING HERE THIS MORNING IS ALSO PROOF THAT MAINE PEOPLE CARE FOR AND ARE PROUD OF OUR SYSTEM AND WE TOO ARE MAKING THE SYSTEM WORK.

HERE IS WHAT I MEAN:

(1) HERE TODAY WE HAVE A REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT BEING GREETED AND HONORED BY THE STATE OF MAINE'S LABOR LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS AND I WILL SAY PARENTHETICALLY THAT THERE ISN'T A BETTER QUALITY WORK FORCE DOING AN HONEST DAY'S WORK FOR AN HONEST DAY'S PAY ANY BETTER THAN WE HAVE HERE IN MAINE.

(2) HERE WE HAVE THE ONLY SITUATION IN THIS COUNTRY IN WHICH REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMEN, DEMOCRATIC SENATORS AND AN INDEPENDENT GOVERNOR FROM THE SAME STATE COME TOGETHER TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE GREATEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.....JOIN WITH ME IN EXTENDING THE HAND OF WELCOME TO MAINE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS
SUBJECT: AFL-CIO Speech

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: _____
10:15 a.m., Saturday, August 30, 1975, Augusta, Maine

SPEECHWRITER: Friedman
EDITED BY: Theis

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CLEARED BY (Please initial):

- (X) OPERATIONS (Rumsfeld) _____
- (X) CONGRESSIONAL/PUBLIC LIAISON (Marsh) _____
- (X) PRESS (Nessen) Just
- () LEGAL (Buchen) _____
- (X) ECONOMIC POLICY BOARD (Seidman) LWS
- (X) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (Lynn) Jim Jura
- (X) DOMESTIC COUNCIL (Cannon) George Humphrey
- () NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (Scowcroft) _____
- (X) RESEARCH (Waldron) AW
- (X) MARGITA WHITE (FYI) _____
- () ENERGY RESOURCES COUNCIL (Zarb) _____
- (X) COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS (Greenspan) _____
- () OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON (Baroody) _____
- () SECRETARY DUNLOP 171
- () _____