The original documents are located in Box 15, “9/8/75 - Remarks at a Reception for Members of the Republican National Committee” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
THANK YOU, MARY LOUISE
SENATOR STEVENS
SENATOR DOLE
CONGRESSMAN RHODES
CONGRESSMAN VANDER JAGT
NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
FIRST, LET ME WELCOME YOU ALL TO THE WHITE HOUSE --

FOR THIS NIGHT ONLY, ALSO KNOWN AS KANSAS CITY EAST!

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU TONIGHT.

I REALLY MEAN THAT, BUT IN ALL HONESTY I DO HAVE TO SAY THAT /

AFTER LAST FRIDAY, IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE ANYWHERE TONIGHT!
2. THANK YOU FOR COMING. AS YOU KNOW,

I'VE BEEN DOING A GOOD BIT OF TRAVELLING AROUND THE COUNTRY,

MEETING WITH REPUBLICANS WHENEVER I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY.

WHAT I FIND IS AN ENTHUSIASM AMONG REPUBLICANS THAT MUST BE

CONTAGIOUS -- FOR I SEE IT EVERYWHERE.  I LIKE WHAT I SEE.

TO ME, THIS ENTHUSIASM ASSURES THAT 1976 WILL BE A GOOD YEAR

FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.
3. BUT THERE IS MUCH WORK TO DO BEFORE THE 1976 ELECTIONS.

REGISTRATION IS AN EXAMPLE. THERE ARE SOME 50 MILLION POTENTIAL VOTERS IN THIS COUNTRY WHO JUST DON'T TAKE THE TIME TO REGISTER AND ANOTHER 25 MILLION WHO REGISTER BUT DON'T VOTE. WE MUST REACH OUT TO THESE POTENTIAL VOTERS AND TO THOSE WHO CLASSIFY THEMSELVES AS INDEPENDENTS.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY HAS A LOT TO SAY TO THESE POTENTIAL VOTERS. THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT ECONOMIC PROGRESS, ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL DEFENSE, THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE AND DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY IN AMERICA -- AND SO ARE WE.
THEY WANT A GOOD EDUCATION FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN,

GOOD HOUSING, GOOD HEALTH CARE AND GOOD FOOD FOR THEIR FAMILIES

-- AT PRICES THEY CAN AFFORD -- AND SO DO WE.

4. THESE ARE BASIC CONCERNS THAT AFFECT ALL OUR LIVES

REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL PERSUASION. THESE ARE THE ELEMENTS

THAT DETERMINE THE QUALITY OF OUR LIVES WHICH IS THE GREAT

CHALLENGE WE FACE AS WE ENTER OUR THIRD CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE.
5. THIS YEAR, 1975, IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT OFF-YEARS IN THE HISTORY OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. THIS IS THE YEAR WE MUST LAY THE GROUNDWORK TO RUN THE CAMPAIGNS TO ELECT REPUBLICANS AT EVERY LEVEL NEXT YEAR.

6. THE NEW 1974 CAMPAIGN LAW CALLS FOR A STRONGER WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARTY ORGANIZATIONS AND CANDIDATES.
BECAUSE OF THIS, THE ABILITY OF REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES TO WIN ELECTIONS AT EVERY LEVEL WILL DEPEND HEAVILY ON HOW SUCCESSFUL OUR REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN IS -- HOW MANY DOORS WE KNOCK ON.

EACH POTENTIAL VOTER MUST BE IDENTIFIED AS TO PARTY AFFILIATION, REGISTERED AND THEN GOTTEN TO THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY.

OUR REPUBLICAN COMMITMENTS TO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY IN GOVERNMENT, TO A VIGOROUS FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM, TO A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE, TO LOCAL CONTROL OVER LOCAL CONCERNS, AND TO PERSONAL FREEDOM FOR THE INDIVIDUAL -- ARE COMMITMENTS SHARED BY THE VAST MAJORITY OF AMERICANS.

WE BELIEVE, AS ABRAHAM LINCOLN SAID, THAT THE LEGITIMATE OBJECTIVE OF GOVERNMENT IS "TO DO FOR THE PEOPLE WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE, BUT WHAT THEY CANNOT, BY INDIVIDUAL EFFORT, DO AT ALL OR DO SO WELL FOR THEMSELVES." WE BELIEVE THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE GROWN WEARY OF GOVERNMENT'S OVERSTATED PROMISES AND OVERBEARING CONTROLS.
WE BELIEVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE READY TO DO GREAT THINGS FOR THEMSELVES AND FOR THEIR COUNTRY.

8. WE CAN MAKE THESE YEARS GREAT ONES FOR THIS COUNTRY -- BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP AND THE HELP OF ALL AMERICANS WHO SHARE OUR VIEW OF THIS COUNTRY AND OUR VISION OF WHAT'S NEEDED TO MAKE IT EVEN GREATER.
LET'S MAKE SURE WE KEEP THE DOOR OF OUR PARTY OPEN WIDE TO ALL
WHO WANT TO JOIN US IN THIS EFFORT -- INSTEAD OF OPENING IT
JUST A CRACK FOR A FEW. LET US WORK TOGETHER FOR A COMMON
VICTORY RATHER THAN WORKING AGAINST EACH OTHER FOR SURE DEFEAT.

9. I PLEDGE TO DO MY PART: TO WORK WITH YOU TO BUILD
THIS PARTY OF OURS INTO THE MOST EFFECTIVE POLITICAL WEAPON POSSIBLE
IN ADVANCE OF THE 1976 CAMPAIGN. TOGETHER, WE CAN -- WE WILL --
DO IT.

END OF TEXT