

The original documents are located in Box 16, “9/19/75 - Remarks at an Oklahoma GOP Reception” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

(ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS)

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE IN OKLAHOMA
AGAIN -- AND LET ME ALSO THANK YOU FOR THE FINE WELCOME
YOU GAVE TO VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER LAST WEEK.

NELSON TELLS ME THAT WHEN HE WENT TO THE FOOTBALL GAME
LAST SATURDAY, HE WAS MET WITH NOTHING BUT UNREMITTING
KINDNESS, HOSPITALITY AND FRIENDSHIP -- WITH JUST ONE
EXCEPTION: THE GUY WHO GAVE HIM OREGON AND THREE POINTS.

WHAT BETTER TIME TO BE IN OKLAHOMA -- THAN

STATE FAIR WEEK AND THE BEGINNING OF THE FOOTBALL SEASON?

great

IT'S ~~REFRESHING~~ TO BE HERE -- TO MEET SO MANY ENTHUSIASTIC

REPUBLICANS ALREADY PLANNING AND WORKING FOR NEXT YEAR'S

ELECTIONS.

THE OKLAHOMA REPUBLICAN PARTY HAS SENT TWO HARDWORKING,
DEDICATED AND EXTREMELY ABLE MEN, HENRY BELLMON AND DEWEY BARTLETT,
TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE. ALTHOUGH WE CAN'T TAKE CREDIT FOR
THE ELECTION OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN JARMAN, I KNOW YOU ARE PLEASED
AS I AM THAT HE'S NOW ON OUR TEAM.

IN FACT, HE'S THE NUMBER ONE REPUBLICAN IN SENIORITY IN
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE
HIM WORKING FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AS HE HAS ALWAYS
WORKED FOR AMERICA.

WE NEED MORE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS LIKE

DEWEY, HENRY, AND JOHN. FROM THE SPIRIT I SEE AND

FEEL HERE TONIGHT, THAT NEED WILL BE MET -- COME

NOVEMBER 1976.

THERE IS THE SAME FEELING OF RENEWAL AND
ANTICIPATION HERE I'VE DISCOVERED IN STATE AFTER STATE
DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

THIS REVIVAL OF OPTIMISM IS BASED ON SOUND
POLITICAL REALITIES.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT ECONOMIC STABILITY.

THAT STABILITY -- THE VERY FOUNDATION OF OUR DEMOCRACY --

CAN COME ONLY FROM FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY. WE REPUBLICANS

BELIEVE IN SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TAXPAYERS' MONEY -- YOURS

AND MINE.

TODAY, THIS NATION IS SEEING THE UNHAPPY RESULTS
OF AN OBSOLETE AND OUTDATED POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY WHICH
HOLDS THAT IF YOU JUST SPEND ENOUGH FEDERAL MONEY, YOU
CAN SOLVE EVERY PROBLEM IN OUR SOCIETY.

THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS -- THE AMERICAN PEOPLE KNOW
THAT FEDERAL DOLLARS ARE THEIR DOLLARS. THEY WANT SOME OLD-
FASHIONED THRIFT IN THE WAY THEIR MONEY IS SPENT. ONE OF THESE
DAYS THE BIG SPENDERS IN THE CONGRESS MAY FIND THIS OUT. LET'S
MAKE NOVEMBER 2, 1976, THAT DAY OF RECKONING.

THE WAY TO REDUCE FEDERAL OVER-SPENDING AND
ITS DANGEROUS OFFSPRING -- INFLATION -- IS TO ELECT A
CONGRESS WITH SOME COMMON SENSE ABOUT DOLLARS AND
CENTS.

UNTIL THAT HAPPENS, THE ONLY WAY REPUBLICANS,
OUTNUMBERED NEARLY TWO TO ONE IN THE CONGRESS, CAN HEAD
OFF MASSIVE SPENDING AND EFFECT A BALANCE IN HOW WE SPEND
OUR TAX MONEY IS WITH THE VETO. I'VE USED IT BEFORE --
37 TIMES, TO BE EXACT -- AND I WILL USE IT AGAIN, IF I
HAVE TO.

BUT THERE IS A BETTER WAY -- A SURER WAY -- TO
RESTORE FISCAL SANITY TO THE CONGRESS: ELECT MORE REPUBLICANS.

IF THE SOUNDINGS FROM MY TRAVELS ACROSS THIS
GREAT COUNTRY ARE CORRECT -- AND I THINK THEY ARE -- MOST
AMERICANS WANT WHAT WE IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WANT:

-- A FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM UNFETTERED BY OBSOLETE REGULATIONS WHICH STIFLE PRIVATE INITIATIVE RATHER THAN STIMULATE IT.

-- FISCAL RESTRAINT AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE WAY THEIR TAX MONEY IS SPENT.

-- A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE WHICH IS THE BEST
ASSURANCE OF PEACE.

-- LOCAL CONTROL BY LOCAL PEOPLE OVER LOCAL
PROBLEMS.

-- AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, MORE FREEDOM ~~BE~~

~~FOR~~ ^{FOR} INDIVIDUALS AND GREATER SAY IN THEIR OWN AFFAIRS.

THESE ARE THE GUIDEPPOSTS WHICH HAVE POINTED THE
WAY FOR THIS NATION FOR 200 YEARS AND DIRECTED THE EFFORTS
OF OUR PARTY FOR OVER 100 YEARS.

THESE ARE THE PRINCIPLES REPUBLICANS BELIEVE IN AND MOST AMERICANS SUPPORT.

AS YOU HERE IN OKLAHOMA ARE WELL AWARE, WE ARE ON THE EVE OF A MAJOR POLITICAL CAMPAIGN -- TO ELECT A PRESIDENT, A CONGRESS AND GOVERNORS AND MAYORS AND STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS ACROSS AMERICA.

THE AIR WILL SOON BE FILLED WITH THE SPEECHES OF CANDIDATES,
THE RUMBLE OF BANDWAGONS AND THE QUESTIONS OF THE POLLSTERS.
BUT THE POLLSTERS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES WHO WILL BE ASKING
QUESTIONS.

AS WE PREPARE FOR THIS CAMPAIGN, I HAVE SOME
QUESTIONS OF MY OWN TO ASK:

DO YOU WANT YOUR PRESIDENT TO ACCEPT WITHOUT
A FIGHT BUDGET BUSTING BILLS FROM THE CONGRESS WHICH
COULD TOUCH OFF NEW ROUNDS OF INFLATION?

DO YOU WANT YOUR PRESIDENT TO OPEN THE
UNITED STATES TREASURY TO EVERY CITY THAT HASN'T OR WON'T
RESPONSIBLY MANAGE ITS FISCAL AFFAIRS?

DO YOU WANT YOUR PRESIDENT TO ROLL OVER AND
PLAY DEAD WHILE THE CONGRESS PASSES MORE AND MORE
LEGISLATION TO STRANGLE FREE ENTERPRISE AND THE FEDERAL
BUREAUCRACY PASSES OUT MORE AND MORE FORMS TO FILL OUT?

DO YOU WANT YOUR PRESIDENT TO GO ALONG WITH THOSE
WHO WOULD TRANSFER STATE AND LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY TO THE
MASSIVE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY?

DO YOU WANT YOUR PRESIDENT TO ACCEPT LEGISLATION
THAT WILL CONTINUE AMERICA'S DEPENDENCE ON UNRELIABLE FOREIGN
OIL?

DO YOU WANT YOUR PRESIDENT TO ACCEPT ~~WITHOUT~~

DEEP

~~ATTORNEY~~ SLASHES IN OUR DEFENSE PROGRAM THAT WOULD MAKE

AMERICA NO. 2 IN A WORLD WHERE ONLY No. 1 COUNTS?

DO YOU WANT YOUR PRESIDENT TO PERMIT AMERICA'S
INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM TO BE CRIPPLED AND LEAVE THIS NATION
NAKED TO THE MERCY OF POTENTIAL ENEMIES?

I AM CONVINCED THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF
AMERICANS REGARDLESS OF PARTY AGREE WITH YOU.

BUT YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO GET ACROSS TO THEM

THIS BASIC POINT:

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IS IN TUNE WITH YOUR NEEDS

AND YOUR HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS.

WE BELIEVE AS YOU DO IN THE PRINCIPLES WHICH MADE THIS
NATION GREAT -- AND WE WILL FIGHT FOR THOSE PRINCIPLES.

WITH YOUR TALENT AND YOUR ENTHUSIASM -- AND

WITH YOUR HELP -- WE CAN CARRY THIS MESSAGE TO THE

AMERICAN PEOPLE.

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO JOIN YOU IN THIS

MARCH TO VICTORY IN 1976.

END OF TEXT