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OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR - REMARKS

FRIDAY - SEPTEMBER 19, 1975

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU, HENRY. (Senator Bellmon introduces you.)

GOVERNOR BOREN

SENATOR BARTLETT

CONGRESSMEN

JOHN JARMAN

TOM STEED

TED RISENHOOVER

ED GAYLORD (Incoming State Fair President-owns 2 papers - 2 TV
stations in Oklahoma)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

AS A FORMER COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYER, I CAN'T TELL YOU
HOW PLEASED I AM TO BE HERE IN OKLAHOMA AGAIN -- THE HOME
OF THE NUMBER ONE TEAM IN THE COUNTRY TODAY, THE OKLAHOMA
UNIVERSITY SOONERS!

I LIKE COMING TO OKLAHOMA BECAUSE ADVENTURE STILL
LIVES HERE. THE PIONEERING SPIRIT OF THE FOUNDERS OF
OKLAHOMA -- INDEPENDENT AND SELF-RELIANT -- EXISTS AS SURELY
AS YOUR MIGHTY PLAINS AND CITIES AND PEOPLE.

IT REPRESENTS, AS WILL ROGERS USED TO SAY ABOUT
OKLAHOMANS, THE WORK OF THE "BIG, HONEST MAJORITY."

I SALUTE YOU FOR YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND COMMEND YOU FOR
YOUR VISION OF AN EVEN BRIGHTER FUTURE.

TODAY, THE FARMERS AND RANCHERS OF OKLAHOMA
AND OF OTHER PARTS OF OUR COUNTRY HAVE BECOME THE MOST
PRODUCTIVE IN THE WORLD.

LAST YEAR ALONE, THE UNITED STATES EXPORTED NEARLY
\$22 BILLION IN VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

WITHOUT THESE EXPORTS, OUR COUNTRY WOULD HAVE HAD A

HUGE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT. OUR DOLLAR WOULD

HAVE BEEN WEAKENED IN FOREIGN MARKETS AND WE WOULD PAY

HIGHER PRICES FOR THE ITEMS WE IMPORT FROM ABROAD.

IN SHORT, ~~THE AMERICAN FARMER~~ NOT ONLY RAISES CROPS --

BUT RAISES THE OVERALL STANDARD OF LIVING OF ALL

AMERICANS.

AS YOU KNOW, I ADVOCATED A POLICY OF FULL
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION LAST YEAR. IT IS NOT IN THE
LONG-TERM INTEREST OF THE AMERICAN FARMER OR CONSUMER
TO LIMIT THE PRODUCTION OF WHEAT, FEED GRAINS OR ANY OTHER
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT.

OUR COUNTRY HAS NOW ACHIEVED A RECORD WHEAT
CROP AND A RECORD CORN CROP IS EXPECTED BY THE END OF THE
YEAR. IT IS A RECORD THAT EVERY AMERICAN FARMER CAN
BE PROUD OF.

FAR TOO OFTEN THE AMERICAN FARMER HAS BEEN MADE THE

SCAPEGOAT OF MANY OF OUR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. THE PRICE OF

BEEF GOES UP -- BLAME THE FARMER! THE PRICE OF MILK GOES

UP -- BLAME THE FARMER! THE PRICE OF BREAD GOES UP --

BLAME THE FARMER. WELL, I KNOW AND YOU KNOW, THE FARMER

IS NOT TO BLAME.

I READ IN A NEWS MAGAZINE THAT WHEN IT COMES TO

BREAD, THE FOOD PRODUCT THAT SEEMS TO GET THE MOST ATTENTION,

THE FARMER ONLY RECEIVES 17 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL RETAIL PRICE

OF THAT LOAF OF BREAD. MIDDLEMEN GET THE REST. THE

AMERICAN FARMER IS NOT THE BENEFICIARY OF INFLATION.

ALONG WITH EVERY OTHER AMERICAN, HE IS THE VICTIM,

FORTUNATELY, WE HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS TODAY

REGARDING INFLATION AND I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE IT WITH YOU.

THE LATEST FIGURES RELEASED THIS MORNING INDICATE THAT IN

AUGUST, THE COST OF LIVING ROSE ONLY TWO TENTHS OF ONE

PERCENT.

THIS IS THE SMALLEST MONTHLY INCREASE IN MORE THAN TWO YEARS.

AND CONTRARY TO ALL THE FINGER-POINTING AT FARMERS --

FOOD PRICES HELD STEADY / AND THE SMALL RISE WAS ACCOUNTED

FOR BY OTHER COMMODITIES AND SERVICES.

NOW I'VE BEEN AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT
THE GOOD NEWS OF ONE MONTH DOES NOT MEAN THE BATTLE IS WON--
BUT I DO BELIEVE IT MEANS WE ARE WINNING THE BATTLE AGAINST
INFLATION IF WE JUST KEEP THE PRESSURE ON.

BUT LET ME ASSURE YOU, THIS VICTORY WILL NOT BE
ACHIEVED AT THE EXPENSE OF OUR NATION'S FARMERS.

THE AMERICAN FARMER WANTS -- AND WITH GOOD REASON --

TO SELL ALL OF HIS PRODUCTION EITHER AT HOME OR ABROAD.

I AM HERE TODAY TO TELL HIM AND TO TELL YOU THAT WE ARE

WORKING NIGHT AND DAY TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT FARMERS WILL BE

ABLE TO SELL WHAT THEY PRODUCE IN A FREE MARKET AND AT FAIR PRICES.

WE HAVE BUILT REGULAR PROFITABLE GRAIN TRADING RELATIONS

WITH TRADITIONAL BUYERS IN EUROPE, JAPAN AND ELSEWHERE.

THEREFORE, WE CAN GENERALLY COUNT IN ADVANCE ON A CERTAIN

LEVEL OF SALES TO THESE FOREIGN CUSTOMERS.

FARMERS CAN PLAN FOR THEM AND OUR MARKET CAN ACCOMMODATE

THEM WITHOUT DISRUPTION. THE SOVIET UNION REPRESENTS A

RELATIVELY NEW FACTOR IN UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL TRADING.

FARMERS HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO PREDICT SOVIET GOVERNMENT

PURCHASES AND OUR MARKET HAS BEEN DISRUPTED WHEN SOVIET

PURCHASES ARE UNUSUALLY LARGE OR SMALL.

I AM NOW GIVING PRIORITY ATTENTION TO REACHING AN

AGREEMENT THAT WILL ENABLE US TO TRADE WITH THE SOVIETS ON

A MORE PREDICTABLE BASIS. IT WOULD PERMIT US TO MAKE

ADDITIONAL SALES THIS YEAR AND GUARANTEE SALES IN YEARS

TO COME.

SO THERE WILL BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THESE GRAIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE

SOVIET UNION, LET US LOOK AT OUR LAST FIVE CROP SEASONS:

SOVIET GRAIN PURCHASES FROM THE UNITED STATES

HAVE FLUCTUATED WILDLY IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS. IN 1971-72,

THE UNITED STATES SOLD 2.8 MILLION METRIC TONS OF GRAIN TO

THE SOVIET UNION.

IN 1972-73, THAT FIGURE SOARED TO 13.8 MILLION METRIC TONS; IN 1973-74
IT DROPPED TO 6.8 MILLION METRIC TONS AND THEN PLUMMETED TO 2.2 MILLION
METRIC TONS IN 1974-75. IN THIS CROP YEAR WE HAVE ALREADY SOLD
10.2 MILLION METRIC TONS AND THE SOVIETS WANT STILL MORE.

THESE WIDE FLUCTUATIONS HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT SERIOUS
REPERCUSSIONS IN PRICE AND MARKETING BOTH HERE AT HOME
AND AROUND THE WORLD. THEY HAVE CAUSED SERIOUS
INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING COMPLICATIONS.

THE UNITED STATES WANTS A SOLID AGREEMENT
FROM THE SOVIET UNION ON FUTURE GRAIN PURCHASES. THE
AMERICAN FARMER WOULD BENEFIT TREMENDOUSLY FROM SUCH
AN AGREEMENT.

IT WOULD ENABLE HIM TO PLAN AHEAD AND PRODUCE FOR A MORE
RELIABLE MARKET. IT WOULD STRENGTHEN THIS NATION'S
REPUTATION AS A DEPENDABLE SUPPLIER AND INCREASE OUR
LONG-TERM SALES.

AT THE SAME TIME, FULL PRODUCTION WOULD ASSURE
AMERICAN CONSUMERS OF PLENTIFUL SUPPLIES AT REASONABLE
PRICES.

ALSO, ~~WE~~ MUST BE IN A POSITION TO DELIVER THE GRAIN
WE SELL. THAT, TOO, DETERMINES WHETHER WE ARE
DEPENDABLE SUPPLIERS.

ONCE GRAIN STARTS MOVING FROM THE WHEAT FIELDS OF

OKLAHOMA TO THE RUSSIAN DOCKS, OR TO OTHER NATIONS, IT

MUST CONTINUE TO MOVE OR THE TOTAL SALE IS JEOPARDIZED.

THIS WOULD CAUSE UNFAVORABLE REPERCUSSIONS ON MARKETS AND

ON JOBS HERE AT HOME.

THE PURPOSE AND RESULT OF MY DISCUSSIONS WITH LABOR

REPRESENTATIVES WAS TO KEEP THE GRAIN MOVING THAT HAD

ALREADY BEEN SOLD WHILE WE NEGOTIATED FOR A LONG-TERM

CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

ENCOURAGING PROGRESS IS BEING MADE ON AN
AGREEMENT WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO MAKE ADDITIONAL SALES
THIS YEAR AND SUBSTANTIAL SALES ON A REGULAR BASIS OVER
THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

NEITHER OUR GOVERNMENT NOR THE SOVIET

GOVERNMENT WOULD SET THE PRICE. THE SOVIETS WOULD

PAY THE FULL MARKET PRICE THROUGHOUT THE LENGTH OF THE

AGREEMENT.

I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET

UNION WILL REACH AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL BENEFIT

AMERICAN FARMERS AND AMERICAN CONSUMERS -- AN AGREEMENT

THAT WILL BENEFIT BOTH OUR COUNTRIES SO THAT THE TEMPORARY

HALT IN GRAIN SALES CAN BE LIFTED.

THERE IS STILL ANOTHER URGENT CHALLENGE FACING

THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE -- TO MAKE

CERTAIN WE PRODUCE ENOUGH ENERGY FOR OUR GROWING NEEDS

AND PRODUCE IT HERE AT HOME.

MANY PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES APPARENTLY DO NOT
BELIEVE THERE IS AN ENERGY PROBLEM -- INCLUDING TOO MANY
MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS. BUT I SAY TO YOU TODAY IN ALL
SERIOUSNESS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS HEADED FOR DEEP TROUBLE.
UNLESS WE ACT WHILE WE HAVE TIME, WE WILL SOON HAVE TIME
ONLY TO REACT -- AND THAT WILL BE TOO LATE.

WE ARE ENGULFED IN APATHY ON THE PART OF
SOME. . . DISTRUST ON THE PART OF OTHERS. . . AND
INDECISION AMONG STILL OTHERS.

LET ME REPEAT: THE ENERGY THREAT IS REAL. IT WILL

NOT GO AWAY. IT WILL GROW STEADILY WORSE UNTIL THE

UNITED STATES MAKES SOME HARD, TOUGH CHOICES ABOUT ITS

ENERGY FUTURE.

SINCE 1971, THE AMOUNT OF MONEY WE HAVE BEEN
SENDING OVERSEAS FOR FOREIGN OIL HAS SKYROCKETED BY
700 PERCENT. OUR ANNUAL BILL FOR FOREIGN OIL WAS JUST
OVER \$3 BILLION FOUR YEARS AGO AND TODAY HAS BALLOONED
TO \$25 BILLION.

THAT \$25 BILLION COULD HAVE PROVIDED MORE THAN ONE MILLION

JOBS FOR UNEMPLOYED AMERICANS HERE AT HOME. AS

AMERICAN DOLLARS POUR OUT OF OUR COUNTRY, SO DOES OUR

ECONOMIC STABILITY AND NATIONAL SECURITY.

EIGHT MONTHS AGO, I PROPOSED TO THE CONGRESS
THIS NATION'S FIRST COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM.

WELL, LET ME JUST TELL YOU HOW MANY TIMES SINCE
THEN I HAVE TRIED TO WORK OUT AN ENERGY SOLUTION WITH THE
CONGRESS.

BETWEEN JANUARY FIRST OF THIS YEAR -- AND AS OF A WEEK AGO --

I HELD 48 ENERGY OR ENERGY-RELATED MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS OF

THE CONGRESS. I HAVE MET AT LEAST ONCE WITH 51 OF THE 100

SENATORS -- AND AT LEAST ONCE WITH 304 OF THE 435 MEMBERS

OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

I LISTENED TO PLEAS AND PROMISES FROM MEMBERS OF THE

CONGRESS, ASKING FOR MORE TIME TO ACT. I OFFERED

COMPROMISE AND SOUGHT COOPERATION - ALL WITHOUT AVAIL.

BUT WE ARE NO CLOSER NOW TO A POSITIVE ENERGY-PRODUCING

PROGRAM FROM THE CONGRESS THAN WE WERE EIGHT MONTHS AGO.

I HAVE MET THE CONGRESS MORE THAN HALFWAY.

IT IS TIME FOR THE CONGRESS TO COOPERATE AND ACT TO
PROTECT THE FUTURE SECURITY AND PROSPERITY OF THE UNITED
STATES.

THE PROBLEM IS OBVIOUS: IF WE DON'T GET A PROGRAM
ON THE BOOKS THIS YEAR, YOU CAN BET IT WON'T HAPPEN IN A
NATIONAL ELECTION YEAR. ALL EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE ENERGY
INDEPENDENCE WILL BE SET BACK EVEN FURTHER.

DON'T BELIEVE THOSE WHO TELL YOU THEY ARE
FIGHTING TO HOLD DOWN YOUR ENERGY COSTS. WE HAVE A
GROWING DOMESTIC SCARCITY OF ENERGY.

GOVERNMENT CONTROLS TO ALLOCATE THIS SCARCITY CANNOT WORK

BECAUSE OUR ENERGY SHORTFALL IS CONSTANTLY INCREASING.

THOSE WHO PROCRASTINATE ARE NOT FIGHTING TO HOLD DOWN YOUR

ENERGY COSTS. THEY ARE FIGHTING TO PUT OFF THE CRITICAL

DECISIONS WE MUST MAKE AS A NATION.

THE TRUTH IS THAT THE AMERICAN CONSUMER CAN NO
LONGER ENJOY CHEAP ENERGY -- AT LEAST, NOT IN THE LIFETIME
OF MOST OF US. PRICES HAVE INCREASED AND THEY WILL GO ON
INCREASING' BECAUSE FOREIGN OIL PRODUCERS -- WHO SELL US
40 PERCENT OF OUR NEEDS -- HAVE COMBINED TO RAISE THEIR
PRICES.

THEY WILL INCREASE EVEN MORE AS WE BECOME INCREASINGLY

DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN OIL. THAT DEPENDENCE CONTINUES TO

GROW EVERY DAY AS OUR DOMESTIC PRODUCTION CONTINUES TO

DECLINE. THAT IS WHY I INSIST ON A NEW DECLARATION OF

INDEPENDENCE -- ENERGY INDEPENDENCE.

UNDER THE PLAN I HAVE SET FORTH, WE WILL PAY

AMERICAN DOLLARS TO AMERICAN COMPANIES TO PRODUCE AMERICAN

ENERGY FOR AMERICAN JOBS AND AMERICAN PROFIT AND

AMERICAN TAXES.

THE REAL DANGER TO OUR ECONOMY IS NOT THE
ACTIONS I PROPOSE BUT THE INACTION THAT STIFLES MORE
PRODUCTION HERE AT HOME AND INCREASES OUR DEPENDENCE
ON OIL FROM ABROAD.

THAT IS THE GREAT DANGER: THE LOSS OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM
BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA -- THE RECKLESS RISK OF
PLACING OUR NATIONAL LIVELIHOOD AND SECURITY IN THE HANDS
OF OTHERS.

THAT DOESN'T REPRESENT AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE, SELF-RELIANCE

OR THE PIONEERING SPIRIT -- IT IS JUST PLAIN CHICKEN AND

I DON'T THINK AMERICANS ADMIRE IT/ WANT IT/ OR WILL STAND

FOR IT !

I AM COUNTING ON YOU -- THE "BIG, HONEST
MAJORITY," AS WILL ROGERS CALLED YOU -- AND MILLIONS OF
OTHERS LIKE YOU ACROSS AMERICA WHO WILL DECIDE OUR NATION'S
FATE ... AND WHO, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, WILL BE THE
PRODUCERS AND PROTECTORS OF AMERICA'S GREATNESS.

THANK YOU. GOD BLESS YOU.
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