

**The original documents are located in Box 17, “10/2/75 - Arrival Statement: The Emperor and Empress of Japan” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

*Omaha -  
W.H. Conference  
Remarks 10/2/75*

~~THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN~~

THANK YOU, BILL (Bill Baroody introduces you)

GOVERNOR EXON

SENATOR CURTIS

SENATOR HRUSKA

MR. KENEFICK (President of Omaha Chamber of Commerce)

PRESIDENT VARNER (President of University of Nebraska)

and the HEADS OF THE CO-SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

(ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS)

IT IS ALWAYS A THRILL TO COME BACK TO THE TOWN  
WHERE YOU WERE BORN AND MEET WITH SO MUCH WARMTH AND  
ENTHUSIASM.      ALTHOUGH, I DO HAVE TO ADMIT THAT I COULDN'T  
HELP BUT NOTICE THAT AD IN THIS MORNING'S WORLD HERALD.  
THE ONE THAT OFFERED TO TRADE EIGHT TICKETS TO THIS WHITE HOUSE  
CONFERENCE -- FOR STANDING ROOM AT THE NEBRASKA - MIAMI GAME.  
NEVERTHELESS -- LET ME JUST THANK THE REST OF YOU  
FOR HANGING IN THERE.

I AM HERE TODAY TO LISTEN AND TO LEARN FROM YOU.

AS A NATIVE OF OMAHA, IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK.      ALTHOUGH

I LEFT HERE WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG -- AND DON'T REALLY

REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT IT -- I LIKE WHAT I SEE OF OMAHA ~~NOW~~.

*in 1975*

I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO BE IN THIS GREAT  
HEARTLAND OF AMERICA. THE AMERICAN FARMER HAS PRODUCED  
A MIRACLE OF ABUNDANCE WHICH IS THE ENVY OF THE REST OF THE  
WORLD.

THINK OF IT ~~+~~ LESS THAN FIVE PERCENT OF THIS COUNTRY'S

POPULATION FEEDS THE REMAINING 95 PERCENT -- WITH ENOUGH

LEFT OVER TO SIGNIFICANTLY SUPPLEMENT THE FOOD NEEDS OF MUCH

OF THE REST OF THE WORLD!

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

WITHOUT THESE EXPORTS, OUR COUNTRY WOULD HAVE HAD A HUGE  
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT. OUR DOLLAR WOULD HAVE BEEN  
WEAKENED ABROAD AND WE WOULD BE PAYING HIGHER PRICES FOR ALL  
THE ITEMS WE IMPORT FROM FOREIGN LANDS.

THE AMERICAN FARMER NOT ONLY RAISES CROPS --

HE RAISES THE OVERALL STANDARD OF LIVING OF ALL AMERICANS.

YET, THE AMERICAN FARMER HAS TOO OFTEN BEEN MADE  
THE SCAPEGOAT OF MANY OF OUR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. THE PRICE  
OF MEAT GOES UP -- BLAME THE FARMER. THE PRICE OF MILK GOES  
UP -- BLAME THE FARMER. WELL, YOU KNOW AND I KNOW THE  
FARMER IS NOT TO BLAME FOR THE HIGH PRICES WE HAVE TODAY.



FORTUNATELY, WE ARE MAKING SOME PROGRESS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INFLATION. THE LATEST FIGURES SHOW THAT THE COST OF LIVING ROSE ONLY TWO-TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT IN AUGUST -- THE SMALLEST MONTHLY INCREASE IN MORE THAN THREE YEARS. CONTRARY TO THE FINGER-POINTING AT THE FARMER, FOOD PRICES HELD STEADY. THE SMALL RISE WAS ACCOUNTED FOR BY OTHER COMMODITIES AND SERVICES.

BUT LET ME EMPHASIZE THIS: THE GOOD NEWS OF ONE  
MONTH DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE BATTLE AGAINST INFLATION HAS BEEN  
WON. IT DOES MEAN WE CAN -- AND WE WILL -- WIN THIS FIGHT  
AGAINST INFLATION IF WE KEEP THE PRESSURE ON. LET ME ASSURE  
YOU OF THIS: THE VICTORY WILL NOT BE ACHIEVED AT THE EXPENSE  
OF THE NATION'S FARMERS.

NOR WILL FARMERS SUFFER ON THE INTERNATIONAL GRAIN

MARKET FROM ACTIONS OF MY ADMINISTRATION. I KNOW

THERE HAS BEEN CRITICISM BY SOME FOR THE TEMPORARY HALT

IN GRAIN SALES TO THE SOVIET UNION. LET ME BRING YOU

UP TO DATE.







THAT'S WHY WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATING A LONG-TERM

AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION -- AN AGREEMENT

ALONG THE LINES OF THE ONE WE ARE NOW CONCLUDING WITH POLAND.

WE MUST AND WILL BRING STABILITY -- PREDICTABILITY -- TO THE

PLANNING PROCESS OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

LET ME ILLUSTRATE: SOVIET GRAIN PURCHASES FROM  
THE UNITED STATES HAVE FLUCTUATED CONSIDERABLY IN THE LAST  
FIVE YEARS FROM AS LOW AS ABOUT 74 MILLION BUSHEL IN ONE  
CROP SEASON TO AS HIGH AS 524 MILLION BUSHEL IN ANOTHER.  
SO FAR THIS SEASON, 399 MILLION BUSHEL HAVE BEEN SOLD  
TO RUSSIANS AND MORE SALES ARE EXPECTED.



UNDER THE AGREEMENT WE SEEK, FIXED MINIMUM  
GRAIN PURCHASES EACH SEASON BY THE SOVIETS WILL BE  
ESTABLISHED FOR A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD AND THE GOING MARKET PRICE  
WILL PREVAIL. MOST IMPORTANTLY, THESE AGREEMENTS  
WILL BE IN THE LONG-TERM BEST INTERESTS OF THE FARMER  
AND THE CONSUMER.

I AM ALSO DETERMINED THAT OUR ENERGY CRISIS  
WILL BE SOLVED IN THE LONG-TERM BEST INTERESTS OF THE  
FARMER AND OF ALL AMERICANS.

THE DAMAGING EFFECTS OF CONTINUED DELAY IN  
ACHIEVING ENERGY INDEPENDENCE WERE DRAMATICALLY HEADLINED  
JUST THE OTHER DAY WHEN THE OPEC OIL PRODUCING CARTEL  
RAISED OIL PRICES BY TEN PERCENT.

THE ARBITRARY AND EXCESSIVE OPEC PRICE INCREASES  
OF 1973 AND 1974 SERIOUSLY DEPRESSED ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY  
AND ACCELERATED INFLATION, NOT ONLY HERE IN THE UNITED STATES  
BUT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.      THE LATEST PRICE INCREASE  
WILL WORSEN INFLATION AND HINDER ECONOMIC RECOVERY EVERYWHERE.

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION

FOR THIS LATEST PRICE INCREASE. IT PROVES BEYOND ANY

FURTHER ARGUMENT THAT THIS NATION MUST MOVE QUICKLY

TO CHART ITS OWN ENERGY DESTINY.

TIME AFTER TIME -- STARTING LAST JANUARY --

I WARNED MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS THAT THE UNITED STATES

WAS BECOMING MORE AND MORE VULNERABLE TO THE PRICE INCREASES

IMPOSED BY OTHER COUNTRIES. I HAVE APPEALED TO THE

CONGRESS TO APPROVE MY PROGRAM -- OR COME UP WITH ITS

OWN PROPOSALS -- TO FREE AMERICA FROM ITS DEPENDENCE

ON FOREIGN OIL SUPPLIERS.

I OFFERED TO COMPROMISE AGAIN AND AGAIN.

TWO DAYS AGO, I AGREED ONCE MORE TO SUCH A COMPROMISE  
SOLUTION TO THE DECONTROL OF DOMESTIC OIL PRICES.

BY SIGNING A BILL EXTENDING TO NOVEMBER 15 THE EXPIRED

CONTROLS ON DOMESTIC PETROLEUM, I GAVE THE CONGRESS 47

MORE DAYS TO ACT RESPONSIBLY.

THE CONGRESS CAN EITHER ARRIVE AT A SOUND AND MUTUALLY  
ACCEPTABLE PLAN FOR PHASED DECONTROL OR, AS AN ALTERNATIVE,  
PASS EMERGENCY LEGISLATION I HAVE RECOMMENDED TO CUSHION  
THE EFFECT OF IMMEDIATE DECONTROL ON CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF  
OUR DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

I PROPOSE TO ASSURE ADEQUATE PROPANE GAS  
FOR THE MILLIONS OF FARMERS AND OTHERS LIVING IN RURAL AREAS  
AND IN MOBILE HOMES;



I PROPOSE TO PROTECT HEATING OIL AND INDEPENDENT  
RETAIL GASOLINE DEALERS FROM ARBITRARY CURTAILMENT AND  
CUTOFFS FROM SUPPLIERS;

I PROPOSE TO ASSURE INDEPENDENT REFINERS OF  
ADEQUATE CRUDE OIL SUPPLIES AT REASONABLE PRICES;

AND I PROPOSE TO PROTECT THE PURCHASING POWER  
OF CONSUMERS THROUGH A CONSUMER REFUND PROVISION IN A  
WINDFALL PROFITS TAX ON OIL COMPANIES.

THE CLAIM BY SOME PROCRASTINATING MEMBERS OF  
THE CONGRESS THAT THEY ARE TRYING TO HOLD CONSUMER PRICES  
DOWN IS NONSENSE.

OBVIOUSLY THE CONGRESS CANNOT HOLD OPEC OIL PRICES DOWN.

THEY ARE GOING UP.            THERE IS NO END IN SIGHT.

AND WE ARE ALREADY DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN OIL FOR ABOUT

40 PERCENT OF OUR TOTAL NEEDS.

THE CONGRESS IS MERELY POSTPONING HARD CHOICES THAT MUST  
BE MADE AND IS ATTEMPTING TO BLAME HIGH FUEL PRICES ON  
EVERYONE BUT THEMSELVES.

SINCE CONTROLS ON DOMESTIC OIL WENT INTO EFFECT IN 1971,  
OUR BILL FOR IMPORTED OIL HAS INCREASED MORE THAN 700 PERCENT.  
YET A MAJORITY IN THE CONGRESS DOES NOTHING TO REVERSE  
OUR GROWING OIL DEPENDENCE AND INCREASING VULNERABILITY  
TO THE WHIMS OF FOREIGN OIL PRODUCERS.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SHOULD RECOGNIZE -- IF  
THE CONGRESS WILL NOT -- THAT THE REAL ISSUE OVER PRICE  
CONTROLS ON OIL IS NOT BETWEEN CHEAP ENERGY AND EXPENSIVE  
ENERGY.        THERE IS NO CHEAP ENERGY ANYMORE.

THE REAL ISSUE IS TWO-FOLD: FIRST, WHETHER WE WILL ACHIEVE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE TO PROVIDE US IN THE LONG RUN WITH THE LOWEST POSSIBLE COMPETITIVELY PRICED ENERGY; AND SECOND, WHETHER WE WILL KEEP AMERICA'S WEALTH IN AMERICA OR SEND IT OVERSEAS IN EVER-INCREASING AMOUNTS.

IN 1971, THE UNITED STATES PAID OUT THREE BILLION  
DOLLARS TO FOREIGN PRODUCERS FOR OIL. IN 1974,  
THIS FIGURE JUMPED TO 25 BILLION DOLLARS -- ABOUT  
360 DOLLARS FOR EVERY AMERICAN FAMILY. THIS COULD TOP  
32 BILLION DOLLARS WITHIN THE NEXT TWO YEARS IF THE CONGRESS  
DOES NOT ACT.



IF SPENT AT HOME, THIS 25 BILLION DOLLARS

WOULD EMPLOY ONE MILLION WORKERS.

IT WOULD SPEED OUR

ECONOMIC GROWTH.

THESE ARE AMERICAN JOBS AND AMERICAN SALARIES

I AM TALKING ABOUT -- FOR THAT'S WHAT AMERICA'S ENERGY

INDEPENDENCE WILL ACHIEVE FOR THIS COUNTRY. LETTING

THE OPEC OIL CARTEL DICTATE AMERICA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH IS

ABSURD.

WHEN THE PRICE OF GASOLINE GOES UP AT THE PUMP,  
I WANT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THE BLAME  
LIES. UNTIL THE CONGRESS ACTS, THERE IS NOTHING THIS  
COUNTRY CAN DO ABOUT ARBITRARY OPEC OIL PRICE HIKES --  
AND THERE MAY BE STILL ANOTHER FUEL PRICE INCREASE NEXT JUNE.

SO FAR, I HAVE MET WITH THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS  
AT THESE PRESIDENTIAL TOWN MEETINGS -- MEETINGS WHICH I HAVE  
CHARACTERIZED AS "LISTEN AND LEARN" SESSIONS. THEY HAVE  
BEEN INVALUABLE TO ME AND TO MY ASSOCIATES.

DURING TODAY'S MEETINGS, YOU HAVE COVERED A  
LOT OF ISSUES AND HEARD FROM A NUMBER OF KEY MEMBERS OF  
THE ADMINISTRATION. NOW, LET US HEAR FROM YOU.  
I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR QUESTIONS.

END OF TEXT

- 
- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  | JOHN C. KENEFICK, PRESIDENT<br>OMAHA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE                 |
| 2  | D. B. VARNER, PRESIDENT<br>UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA                        |
| 3  | WILLIAM BRENNAN, PRESIDENT<br>NEBRASKA STATE AFL-CIO                     |
| 4  | RAMONA O. SALISBURY<br>NEBRASKA WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS                 |
| 5  | FRED ROSE, PRESIDENT<br>NEBRASKA PRESS ASSOCIATION                       |
| 6  | JOHN P. NELSON, PRESIDENT<br>COUNCIL BLUFFS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE          |
| 7  | JAMES EVANS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR<br>URBAN LEAGUE OF NEBRASKA              |
| 8  | THOMAS MCFARLAND, SECRETARY-TREASURER<br>TEAMSTERS UNION LOCAL #544      |
| 9  | STEVE KAMPFE, PRESIDENT<br>STATE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA               |
| 10 | DR. JOSEPH HOLTHAUS, M.D. DEAN OF<br>CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL |
| 11 | MORRIS MILLER, VICE PRESIDENT<br>OF AK-SAR-BEN                           |
| 12 | CARL C. SPELTS, PRESIDENT<br>NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY |
| 13 | JAMES J. WENGERT, SECRETARY-TREASURER<br>IOWA FEDERATION OF LABOR        |
| 14 | WENDELL J. GANGWISH, VICE-PRESIDENT<br>NEBR. FARM BUREAU FEDERATION      |
| 15 | PAUL AMEN, PRESIDENT<br>LINCOLN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE                      |
| 16 | BEVERLY G. EVERTT, REPRESENTATIVE<br>FROM NAT'L ASSOCIATION OF AAUW      |
| 17 | CHARLES WILSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD<br>IOWA MANUFACTURER'S ASSOCIATION |
-