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THE PRESIDENT HAS ~~SAID~~

TALKING POINTS FOR

MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST FESTIVAL

ELKINS, WEST VIRGINIA

OCTOBER 4, 1975

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1. I AM DELIGHTED TO BE BACK IN THIS BEAUTIFUL STATE AT THIS MOST BEAUTIFUL TIME OF THE YEAR -- AND TO BE A PART OF YOUR 39TH ANNUAL MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST FESTIVAL.

I WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO FLY HERE WITH YOUR
ABLE SENATORS, JENNINGS RANDOLPH AND BOB BYRD, WITH WHOM
I HAVE WORKED CLOSELY OVER THE YEARS, AND YOUR CAPABLE
CONGRESSMEN, KEN HECHLER AND JOHN SLACK. I VALUE
THEIR FRIENDSHIP.

2. WHEN I FIRST VISITED WEST VIRGINIA, IT WAS YEARS
AGO AS A YOUNG CONGRESSMAN, AT THE INVITATION OF MY GOOD
FRIEND HARLEY STAGGERS, WHO WAS FIRST ELECTED TO THE CONGRESS
IN 1948 -- THE SAME YEAR I WAS. I WAS PLEASED TO ACCEPT
HARLEY'S INVITATION TO COME BACK.

EVEN THOUGH HARLEY AND I ARE ON DIFFERENT SIDES OF THE POLITICAL FENCE, WE HAVE REMAINED GOOD FRIENDS OVER THE YEARS -- WHICH DRAMATIZES ONE OF THE STRENGTHS OF OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM -- THE ABILITY OF FRIENDSHIP TO TRANSCEND POLITICS.

3. WITH ALMOST THREE-FOURTHS OF WEST VIRGINIA COVERED BY FORESTS, THIS FESTIVAL HONORS ONE OF YOUR STATE'S GREATEST TREASURES. YOUR FORESTS PROVIDE LIVELIHOODS FOR MANY AND BEAUTY FOR ALL. THE FESTIVAL ALSO REMINDS US THAT ALL OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES MUST BE USED WISELY AND WELL.

4. WHEN THE LATE FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT VISITED THIS
FESTIVAL IN 1936, HE UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NATION'S
GROWING INTEREST IN CONSERVATION. CONSERVATION REMAINS
JUST AS IMPORTANT TODAY. BUT NOW WE ALSO FACE THE BURDEN
OF A GROWING NATIONAL ENERGY CRISIS.

THIS MEANS WE MUST STRIKE A RESPONSIBLE BALANCE BETWEEN OUR
ENERGY REQUIREMENTS AND OUR ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS -- A
BALANCE WHICH WILL PROTECT THE NEEDS OF THE FUTURE AND MEET THE
DEMANDS OF THE PRESENT.

THAT'S A PROBLEM OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO WEST VIRGINIA WHICH PROVIDES US WITH COAL AND NATURAL GAS AS WELL AS WITH A SUPERB ENVIRONMENT. WE WILL MEET THIS DIFFICULT CHALLENGE -- AS WE WILL THE ENERGY SHORTAGE -- AND WE WILL OVERCOME THEM BOTH.

5. LET ME CONGRATULATE ALL OF YOU WHO WORKED SO HARD TO MAKE THIS WEEK-LONG AUTUMN FESTIVAL THE SUCCESS IT IS. I AM PLEASED AND HONORED TO BE HERE -- TO SHARE THE HOSPITALITY OF WEST VIRGINIA AND THE BEAUTY OF YOUR MOUNTAINS.

SINCE THE MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST FESTIVAL BEGAN 39 YEARS AGO,
WEST VIRGINIA HAS SEEN MANY SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHANGES --
BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE BEAUTY OF THE LAND AND THE
GOODNESS OF THE PEOPLE. I CAN EASILY UNDERSTAND WHY THIS
STATE IS CALLED "ALMOST HEAVEN." I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
YOU ALONG THE PARADE ROUTE. THANK YOU. END OF TEXT