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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

TALKING POINTS: OPENING

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION MEETING

OCTOBER 7, 1975

- 1 -

I. I AM DELIGHTED TO MEET WITH YOU TODAY TO DISCUSS THE APPLACHIAN PROGRAM. AS YOU MAY KNOW, I PROPOSED A FOUR-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE APPALACHIAN COMMISSION EARLIER THIS YEAR -- AND A HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE WILL SHORTLY TRY TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES IN LEGISLATION APPROVED BY BOTH HOUSES OF THE CONGRESS.

2. ONE OF THE BASIC STRENGTHS OF THE APPALACHIAN PROGRAM IS ITS SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP AMONG FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS AND THE INTERESTS THEY REPRESENT. THE PROGRAM ALSO ATTRACTS A GOOD DEAL OF PRIVATE INVESTMENT, WHICH ALL OF US SHOULD CERTAINLY ENCOURAGE. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND LOCAL INITIATIVE ARE EMPHASIZED.

3. GOVERNORS OF THE APPALACHIAN STATES DESERVE A GREAT DEAL OF CREDIT FOR THE SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAM. THE PENDING LEGISLATION WILL HOPEFULLY GIVE YOU AN EVEN STRONGER, MORE DIRECT VOICE IN THE PROGRAM AS I PROPOSED.

AS I STATED AT THE CONFERENCE A FEW MINUTES AGO, THE  
APPALACHIAN REGION -- AND ITS MEMBER STATES -- WILL HAVE AN  
INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE AS WE PURSUE OUR GOAL OF  
ENERGY INDEPENDENCE.

4. THE COAL RESERVES IN THIS REGION ARE VERY  
IMPORTANT TO OUR ENERGY FUTURE, AS THEY HAVE BEEN TO THIS  
NATION IN THE PAST. BUT WE MUST TAKE CARE NOT TO REPEAT THE  
SAME MISTAKES WE MADE IN EARLIER YEARS, WHEN WE TOOK  
APPALACHIA'S COAL AND LEFT IN ITS PLACE LITTLE MORE THAN SCARRED  
LAND AND POOR PEOPLE -- WITH LIMITED HOPE.

5. THE APPALACHIAN COMMISSION HAS DONE A GOOD JOB OF CORRECTING THOSE EARLIER ERRORS. THERE IS MORE TO BE DONE. WE MAY WANT TO SET OUR PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE APPALACHIAN INVESTMENTS IN CLOSER RELATION WITH OUR ENERGY NEEDS. BUT WE CANNOT FORGET OR NEGLECT THE REGION'S ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND OTHER ECONOMIC NEEDS.

6. THE FUTURE OF APPALACHIA CAN BE PROMISING AND HOPEFUL. EACH OF YOUR STATES CAN SHARE IN THE REGION'S PROGRESS. EACH OF YOU HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN GUIDING THAT PROGRESS. I'M PLEASED WE HAVE A CHANCE TODAY TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS IN SOME LENGTH -- AND NOW I'D LIKE TO HEAR SOME OF YOUR IDEAS. END OF TEXT

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...~

1. I THINK IT'S VERY IMPORTANT WE MAINTAIN  
OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION -- WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH  
THE PEOPLE WE SERVE. THAT'S WHY I AM PLEASED TO MEET  
WITH YOU HERE TODAY.

2. AS I TRAVEL ACROSS THE COUNTRY, I FIND  
SOME DISILLUSIONMENT WITH THE ABILITY OF GOVERNMENT --  
AT ANY LEVEL -- TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO THE NEEDS OF  
PEOPLE AND THEIR ASPIRATIONS.

IF WE DO TOO MUCH, WE RUN THE RISK OF INTRUDING IN  
PEOPLE'S LIVES IN UNNECESSARY AND IMPROPER WAYS -- AT A  
COST THAT GROWS EVER HIGHER. IF WE DO TOO LITTLE, WE  
FAIL THE FIRST TEST OF POLITICAL LEADERSHIP: TO DO FOR THE  
PEOPLE WHAT THEY CANNOT DO AS WELL FOR THEMSELVES.

3. ALL OF US MUST CONTINUE THE SEARCH FOR THE  
MIDDLE GROUND, FOR WAYS TO ACHIEVE THE GREATEST GOOD FOR  
THE GREATEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH THE GREATEST EFFICIENCY.  
IT'S A VERY DIFFICULT TASK, AS YOU ALL KNOW SO WELL.

THE APPALACHIAN PROGRAM, IN MY VIEW, HAS HELPED TO  
LIGHT OUR PATH WITHIN ITS OWN SPHERE OF INFLUENCE AND  
CONCERN.

4. I AM PREPARED TO WORK WITH YOU -- IN THIS  
PROGRAM AND IN ANY OTHER WORTHWHILE ENDEAVOR -- TO BRING  
PROGRESS FOR THE PEOPLE WE ALL SERVE.



I APPRECIATE YOUR TAKING THE TIME FROM YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE

TO MEET WITH ME.      THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE TODAY.

END OF TEXT