The original documents are located in Box 19, “10/29/75 - Remarks at GOP Fundraiser in Los Angeles, CA” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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LOS ANGELES GOP FUNDRAISER

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1975

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Thank you, Chuck Reed
- Congressmen Andy Hinshaw and Don Clausen
- Ev Younger
- Paul Haerle
- California's Fine National Committee Man and Woman Bill Banowsky and Margaret Brock
- Ladies and Gentlemen
I always enjoy coming back to California,
particularly when it's so close to October 31st -- a very special time when we observe the mysterious and the supernatural -- when people tell strange tales about big empty houses where the rooms lay ghostly silent, where lights are never seen, and where mortals never tread.

In most places, it's called Halloween. In California, it's called the governor's mansion.
I appreciate your kindness in tendering this "Salute to the President Dinner." It does me great honor.

But I would prefer to designate this evening as a Salute to all the men and women of the Republican Party in California--and throughout the nation--who are working to prove that the Elephant has not forgotten how to win elections or to provide good government.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, OUR REPUBLICAN

ELEPHANT WILL BE NEITHER STAMPEDED NOR EXTERMINATED.

WE ARE FULL OF ENERGY AND FIGHT. WE WILL PROVE THAT

RUMORS OF OUR POLITICAL EXTINCTION HAVE BEEN GREATLY EXAGGERATED AND CERTAINLY HAVE NO FOUNDATION IN THE

GREAT STATE OF CALIFORNIA.
CALIFORNIA AND THE REPUBLICAN PARTY STARTED GOING TOGETHER WITH FREE SOIL, FREE SPEECH AND JOHN C. FREMONT OF CALIFORNIA. UNFORTUNATELY, IN EIGHTEEN-FIFTY-SIX, CALIFORNIA HAD ONLY FOUR ELECTORAL VOTES AND FREMONT DIDN'T GET THEM.
I can assure you we Republicans are going to do a lot better in California and the rest of the nation in 1976 than we did in Eighteen-Fifty-Six. More importantly, we will do much better than we did in Nineteen-Seventy-Four!

The reason I am confident is the hard spadework you are doing now.
YOU ARE RESCUING VOTES WE WOULD OTHERWISE LOSE -- THE VOTES OF OVER ONE MILLION REGISTERED REPUBLICANS WHO DID NOT GO TO THE POLLS LAST NOVEMBER. YOU CAN BE PROUD OF THE DYNAMIC JOB BEING DONE BY WALT SMITH AND ALICE OGELO (O-GULL). THEY AND OTHER CALIFORNIA STALwarts HAVE RE-REGISTERED NEARLY FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND VOTERS.
YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE IS GIVING NEW LIFE TO THE PRECINCTS. YOUR 1975 FUNDRAISING -- INCLUDING THE GREAT WORK OF THE GOLDEN CIRCLE CLUB -- IS YOUR BEST YEAR YET. YOU ARE BUILDING THE REPUBLICAN PARTY ON THE LOCAL LEVEL - WHERE IT COUNTS.
WE APPROACH A YEAR OF DECISION FOR ALL AMERICANS.

IT IS A YEAR TO SAVE THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM OR ABANDON AMERICA TO ONE-PARTY RULE.

IT IS A YEAR TO STOP THE ANNUAL GROWTH OF A FEDERAL BUDGET THAT ALREADY AMOUNTS TO MORE THAN WE SPENT TO WIN WORLD WAR TWO.
IT IS A YEAR Republicans must stress our differences with Democrats rather than with other Republicans. It is a year to win elections instead of arguments.

It is, above all, the year to build a platform big enough to hold all who care about America and believe in the principles of the Republican Party.
TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, OUR FOREBEARS SET OUT TO
BUILD A NEW KIND OF NATION WHICH COULD GOVERN ITSELF THROUGH
THE POLITICAL MECHANISM OF A SELF-CORRECTING BALANCE. THE
GOVERNMENTAL BALANCE OF POWERS WHICH THEY ENVISIONED AND
WHICH WE HAVE PERFECTED OVER THE YEARS IS NOT LIMITED TO THE
CONSTITUTIONAL SEPARATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE AND
JUDICIAL BRANCHES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.
NOR ARE THE BALANCE SCALES OF JUSTICE THE PROPERTY OF THE
JUDICIARY ALONE -- JUSTICE, AS HAMILTON AND JEFFERSON
FOR ONCE AGREED -- IS THE GOAL OF ALL GOVERNMENT.

SO IS BALANCE AMONG ALL THE CONFLICTING CLAIMS OF PRESSURE GROUPS AND SPECIAL INTERESTS WITHIN OUR COMPLEX SOCIETY. AND IF FREEDOM IS TO ENDURE, SO IS BALANCE BETWEEN OUR TWO GREAT POLITICAL PARTIES.
AND SO IS BALANCE IN OUR BOOKKEEPING.

IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT, JUST LOOK AT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN NEW YORK CITY.

THE ONLY THING WRONG WITH NEW YORK CITY IS THAT TOO MANY THINGS THERE HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF BALANCE -- INCLUDING TOO MANY BUDGETS.
THE ONLY THING WRONG WITH THIS COUNTRY IS THAT TOO MANY THINGS HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF BALANCE INCLUDING TOO MANY BUDGETS.

THE BALANCE HAS SHIFTED AGAINST BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY TO THE DEGREE THAT BOTH THE FREEDOM AND THE ENTERPRISE ARE BEING TAXED AND REGULATED RIGHT OUT OF THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM.
THE BALANCE ON TAXES HAS SHIFTED TO PENALIZE HARD-WORKING, LAW-ABIDING AMERICANS -- ESPECIALLY TAXPAYERS WITH MIDDLE INCOMES -- AND TO REWARD ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WHO WANT BENEFITS WITHOUT WORK.
THE BALANCE HAS SHIFTED AGAINST THE DISADVANTAGED.

THE POOR AND THE PENSIONERS ON FIXED INCOMES, AS THE CONGRESS FIRES UP INFLATION BY VOTING BENEFITS FOR MANY WHO DON'T NEED THEM, AT THE EXPENSE OF THOSE WHO DO.
THE BALANCE HAS SHIFTED AGAINST THE STATES, COUNTIES

AND CITIES THAT PRACTICE SOUND FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND IN FAVOR

OF COMMUNITIES WHICH SPEND BEYOND THEIR MEANS AND LOOK TO

WASHINGTON TO BAIL THEM OUT.
THE BALANCE ON CRIME HAS SHIFTED SO HEAVILY TO CONCERN FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CRIMINALS THAT THE RIGHTS OF THEIR VICTIMS ARE ALMOST FORGOTTEN. THIS MUST STOP.
THE BALANCE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE HAS SHIFTED AGAINST OUR ARMED SERVICES TO THE POINT WHERE MANY MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS WOULD RATHER SPEND YOUR MONEY FOR CONTROVERSIAL SOCIAL EXPERIMENTS THAN FOR THE ESSENTIAL INSURANCE OF A DEFENSE SECOND TO NONE.
YOU AND I KNOW THAT AMERICA'S STRENGTH IS THE ONLY SOLID BASIS FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD AND THAT WEAKNESS IS THE SUREST WAY TO WAR. THE BALANCE OF WORLD POWER MUST NOT BE SHIFTED AGAINST US AND THE FREE WORLD, BECAUSE WITHOUT FREEDOM, NOTHING ELSE IS OF VALUE. FREEDOM ALWAYS COMES FIRST.
Fortunately, there is a way to correct all these imbalances. We have weights with which to right every balance; we do not call them weights, we call them ballots.
FOR TOO LONG MANY AMERICANS HAVE BEEN

PUTTING THEIR WEIGHTS -- THEIR VOTES -- ONTO THE

WRONG SIDE OF THE SCALES.
BALANCE CAN BE RESTORED TO THIS COUNTRY'S AFFAIRS. I AM HERE TO ASK YOUR HELP. WITH ALL OF OUR WEIGHTS PUT TOGETHER, WE WILL DO THE JOB.
THE JOB STARTS WITH THIS CONGRESS.

A CONGRESS THAT REFUSES TO CUT TAXES AND SPENDING IS DRASTICALLY OUT OF BALANCE AND DRASTICALLY OUT OF TUNE WITH YOU AND OTHERS WHO WILL GO TO THE POLLS NEXT YEAR.
AMERICA'S VITALITY AND PROSPERITY IS BEING SAPPED
BY THE IRRESPONSIBLE SPENDING OF THE CONGRESS – A CONGRESS
DOMINATED TWO-TO-ONE BY DEMOCRATS – A CONGRESS CONTROLLED
AND I MIGHT ADD, BY DEMOCRATS FOR 38 OUT OF THE LAST 42 YEARS, FOR 33 OF
THOSE 38 YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN FEDERAL DEFICITS.
AND WHAT HAVE THOSE DEFICITS BOUGHT?

YOU ARE PAINFULLY AWARE OF HOW A MASSIVE BUREAUCRACY IS

RUNNING MORE AND MORE OF YOUR DAILY LIFE.
YOU KNOW HOW DEMOCRATIC-CONTROLLED CONGRESSSES

HAVE DISCOURAGED YOUR ENTERPRISE AND YOUR INITIATIVE,

ENCOURAGED AND ENFORCED THE UNFAIR REDISTRIBUTION OF YOUR

INCOME TO OTHERS.
FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS, CONGRESS AFTER CONGRESS --

ALL CONTROLLED BY DEMOCRATS -- HAS SPENT AND SPENT TO ELECT AND ELECT. IN 1962, THE FEDERAL BUDGET FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AMERICAN HISTORY EXCEEDED 100 BILLION DOLLARS.
DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSES THEN DOUBLED THE BUDGET TO 200 BILLION DOLLARS IN ONLY EIGHT YEARS. UNLESS WE BRING SANITY TO THE SPENDING MADNESS OF THE PRESENT CONGRESS, THE FEDERAL BUDGET IN THE COMING FISCAL YEAR WILL MORE THAN DOUBLE AGAIN--TO AN ESTIMATED 423 BILLION DOLLARS!
WHERE DID THESE MASSIVE INCREASES COME FROM?

BECAUSE OF MOUNTAINS OF FEDERAL DEBT INCURRED THROUGH SOARING CONGRESSIONAL SPENDING, INTEREST ON THE PUBLIC DEBT ALMOST TRIpled IN THE LAST 10 YEARS -- FROM 11 BILLION DOLLARS TO 32 BILLION DOLLARS.
ANOTHER EXAMPLE -- BETWEEN 1965 AND 1975,

DEMOCRATIC-CONTROLLED CONGRESSES INCREASED SPENDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE BY NEARLY 400 PERCENT.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, HOW CAN THIS DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS NOW TELL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT IT CANNOT HOLD DOWN ANTICIPATED SPENDING FOR FISCAL 1977 BY A MERE SEVEN PERCENT?
JUST OVER THREE WEEKS AGO, I MADE THE CONGRESS

A PERFECTLY REASONABLE PROPOSITION. THE CONGRESS WANTED

TO CUT INCOME TAXES AGAIN NEXT YEAR, BUT GO RIGHT ON

SPENDING TO THE TUNE OF ANOTHER 60 BILLION DOLLAR DEFICIT.
I said okay, let's have a tax cut—

a more equitable

bigger tax cut than you are considering—a tax cut of

$28$ billion dollars. Americans need more of their own

paychecks to spend. But along with the tax cut, let's

have a comparable $28$ billion dollar cut in the growth

of federal spending.
LET'S SET A SPENDING CEILING OF 395 BILLION DOLLARS INSTEAD OF THE PROJECTED 423 BILLION DOLLARS AND START RIGHT NOW TO CUT BACK OUR ANNUAL DEFICITS SO THAT WE CAN HAVE A BALANCED FEDERAL BUDGET WITHIN THREE YEARS.
DID MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SAY: OKAY, WE'LL TRY?

THEY DID NOT. THEY HOWLED AND THEY CRIED. THEY SAID:

I WAS BEING "POLITICAL." WHY IS IT POLITICAL TO WANT TO

CUT SPENDING ALONG WITH TAXES BUT IT IS NOT POLITICAL TO CUT

TAXES AND GO RIGHT ON SPENDING FOR POPULAR PROGRAMS?
DO YOU KNOW THAT, UNDER THE LAWS DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSES HAVE ALREADY WRITTEN -- WITHOUT A SINGLE NEW APPROPRIATION OR PROGRAM AND DESPITE EVERYTHING I CAN DO AS PRESIDENT BY VETOING FURTHER INCREASES -- OUR FEDERAL EXPENDITURES WILL AUTOMATICALLY INCREASE NEXT YEAR BY 50 BILLION DOLLARS?
FIFTY BILLION DOLLARS IN SPENDING GROWTH

THINK OF IT! THAT IS NEARLY FIVE TIMES THE TOTAL

ANNUAL SPENDING OF THE GREAT STATE OF CALIFORNIA.
THE MAJORITY IN CONGRESS DIDN'T LIKE MY VETOES.

BUT THOSE VETOES HAVE ALREADY SAVED THE TAXPAYERS SOME SIX AND ONE-HALF BILLION DOLLARS. AND I WILL GO ON VETOING UNWISE AND UNNECESSARY SPENDING BILLS AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN AS LONG AS IT SAVES YOUR MONEY AND OUR COUNTRY.
THE CONGRESS DOESN'T LIKE MY COMBINATION TAX CUT-SPENDING CUT PROPOSAL. I KNOW WHY.

SOME CALL THIS A SPEND-THRIFT CONGRESS. BUT IT IS SURE A LOT MORE "SPEND" THAN "THRIFT."

I CALL IT A "CAN'T-DO" CONGRESS.
"WE CAN'T CUT THE BUDGET!" CONGRESS COMPLAINS.

"TELL US WHERE WE CAN CUT IT. TELL US WHERE TO START."

VERY WELL, I'LL TELL THEM.
FOR A STARTER, CONGRESS CAN BEGIN BY SLASHING THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM. EVERY CONGRESSMAN -

DEMOCRAT AS WELL AS REPUBLICAN KNOWS THE ABUSES

OF FOOD STAMPS ARE NOTORIOUS! CONGRESS HAS NO

EXCUSE WHATSOEVER NOT TO BEGIN THE 28 BILLION DOLLAR REDUCTION RIGHT HERE. CONGRESS CAN SAVE TAXPAYERS MORE THAN ONE BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR BY PASSING MY PROPOSED FOOD STAMP REFORM.
THIS DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS KNOWS AS WELL AS I DO THAT APPROXIMATELY ONE OUT OF EVERY FIVE AMERICANS HAS NOW BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD STAMPS.
CONGRESS KNOWS THAT FIFTY-SEVEN PERCENT
OF THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD STAMPS ARE ABOVE THE NATIONALLY-DEFINED POVERTY LINE. THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT HAS CALCULATED THAT 43 THOUSAND AMERICAN FAMILIES WITH ANNUAL INCOMES ABOVE 18 THOUSAND DOLLARS RECEIVED FOOD STAMPS LAST YEAR. WHY? YOU TELL ME.

WHY DOES A FAMILY EARNING 18 THOUSAND DOLLARS NEED FOOD STAMPS?
BETTER STILL, TELL YOUR CONGRESSMAN.

SINCE 1965, THE COST OF THIS EXPERIMENT HAS INCREASED FROM 34 MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY TO NEARLY SIX BILLION DOLLARS EVERY 12 MONTHS.

TWENTY MILLION PEOPLE, FORTY-ONE TIMES MORE RECIPIENTS THAN IN 1965, ARE NOW GETTING FOOD STAMPS.
MY POLICY ON FOOD STAMPS IS SIMPLE AND FAIR.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD, WITHIN LIMITS OF ITS FISCAL RESOURCES, HELP AMERICANS IN NEED WHO CANNOT HELP THEMSELVES. WE SHOULD NOT GIVE FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO ABLE-BODIED ADULTS, WITHOUT DEPENDENTS, WHO DO NOT CHOOSE TO WORK.
I simply don't understand the logic of this Democratic-controlled Congress. If every housewife can revise her budget and every businessman can cut office frills to put limits on spending, why can't the free-spending congressional democrats?
I will work with the Congress to ensure that those who deserve the help of our nation continue to receive it. The elderly, the poor, the men and women who have borne our nation's arms. The federal government must meet its just obligations. But we must not pay one more cent of tribute to special interest groups for frills we cannot afford or do not need.
I also will keep faith with those who innovate and invest; those who work; those who pay their taxes; those who obey the law; and those who save for their children's future.
I speak to you in these frank terms tonight to underscore my deepest conviction and greatest concern—that a government big enough to give you everything you want is a government big enough to take from you everything you have.
WHILE SERVING IN THE CONGRESS, I WON FIVE "WATCHDOG OF THE TREASURY" AWARDS. I AM VERY PROUD OF THAT. I AM STILL A "WATCHDOG OF THE TREASURY" IN THE WHITE HOUSE.
YOU KNOW, SOME OF MY FRIENDS TOLD ME I SHOULD
NOT COME TO CALIFORNIA AGAIN. THEY SAY THERE IS NOTHING
A PRESIDENT CAN LEARN BY LEAVING WASHINGTON AND MEETING
AMERICANS FACE TO FACE. APPARENTLY, ONLY CONGRESSMEN,
COLUMNISTS AND POLLSTERS SHOULD TALK TO THE PEOPLE.
WELL, I PREFER TO GET MY INFORMATION FIRST-HAND. AS PRESIDENT I CAN ADVANCE PROGRAMS. I CAN PROD THE CONGRESS. BUT I NEED YOUR VOICES. LOUD AND CLEAR, TELLING ME WHERE YOU STAND, WHERE YOU WANT TO GO.
TONIGHT, I WILL TELL YOU WHERE I STAND:

YOUR PRESIDENT WILL NOT CAVE IN TO THE BIG SPENDERS AND THE BUDGET-BUSTERS IN CONGRESS!
YOUR PRESIDENT WILL NOT FLING OPEN THE U.S. TREASURY TO EVERY CITY WITH A HOLE IN ITS POCKET!

YOUR PRESIDENT WILL NOT LET A MASSIVE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY DOMINATE YOUR STATE, YOUR CITIES, YOUR BUSINESS AND YOUR LIVES!
YOUR PRESIDENT WILL NOT PLAY DEAD WHILE THE FOREIGN OIL CARTEL DRAINS OFF $25 BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR FROM OUR ECONOMY.

AND YOUR PRESIDENT WILL NEVER STAND IDLY BY WHILE THE CONGRESS DOWNGRADES AMERICA'S DEFENSES AND DISMANTLES AMERICA'S INTELLIGENCE!
I BELIEVE AMERICA WANTS A PRESIDENT WHO'S A FIGHTER, NOT A PATSY!
AS PRESIDENT, I WILL JOIN WITH YOU TO FIGHT FOR

THE ENDURING PRINCIPLES THE REPUBLICAN PARTY HAS ALWAYS

STOOD FOR -- FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY IN GOVERNMENT, LOCAL

CONTROL OVER LOCAL AFFAIRS, THE FREEING OF THE FREE ENTERPRISE

SYSTEM, A NATIONAL DEFENSE SECOND TO NONE, AND THE

REALIZATION OF INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE

OF US.
WITH YOUR TALENT, WITH YOUR ENTHUSIASM, AND

WITH YOUR HELP -- WE CAN MAKE 1976 A YEAR ALL REPUBLICANS

AND INDEPENDENTS WILL REMEMBER AND DEMOCRATS MAY

NEVER FORGET.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT