

The original documents are located in Box 20, “11/29/75 - Remarks Upon Arrival at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska” 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 Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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.

THANK YOU, SENATOR STEVENS

GOVERNOR HAMMOND

SENATOR GRAVEL

CONGRESSMAN YOUNG

MAYOR GILLIAM

MAYOR CARLSON

GENERAL HILL

HONORED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

See. Kissinger

Keith Specking

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT IN ALASKA

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1975

ON BEHALF OF BETTY AND MYSELF, LET ME THANK YOU ALL

FOR YOUR VERY GENEROUS AND ENTHUSIASTIC GREETING TODAY.

IT IS A MOMENT WE WILL LONG REMEMBER. I DON'T CARE WHAT

THE TEMPERATURE IS OUTSIDE - YOUR WELCOME HAS BROUGHT US

ALL THE WARMTH WE NEED!

AND LET ME ALSO THANK THE MEN AND WOMEN OF

EIELSON (ISLE-SON) AIR FORCE BASE FOR THEIR VERY GRACIOUS

HOSPITALITY ~~TODAY.~~ FRANKLY, WE'RE ALL JUST A LITTLE

IN AWE OF THE SHEER SIZE OF THIS BUILDING. I ALWAYS KNEW

ALASKA WAS BIG, BUT UP TILL NOW I NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH

OF IT WAS INDOORS!

BUT I'VE FOUND THAT EVERYTHING ABOUT ALASKA IS
IMPRESSIVE. AMERICA WILL SOON GET A LOT OF ITS OIL FROM
ALASKA'S NORTH SLOPE. AND AS EVERYONE IN THIS AUDIENCE
ALREADY KNOWS, WHEN IT COMES TO BASEBALL -- AMERICA GETS
A LOT OF OF ITS GREAT PLAYERS RIGHT HERE IN FAIRBANKS --
FROM THE ALASKA 'GOLD PANNERS."

I VISITED ALASKA A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO ON A PREVIOUS
TRIP TO THE PACIFIC REGION. THIS OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT MAKE
ME A "SOURDOUGH." BUT I AM NO NEWCOMER TO THE KNOWLEDGE
THAT THIS "GREAT LAND," A PART OF ANOTHER GREAT LAND, THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IS AN INSPIRING AND SHINING
NORTHERN STAR IN OUR CONSTELLATION OF STATES.

THIS VISIT GIVES US ALL A GREAT FAREWELL BOOST ON

OUR WAY TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, INDONESIA,

AND THE PHILIPPINES.

IT WAS LAST NOVEMBER WHEN ALASKA GAVE US A GRAND
SEND-OFF FOR A SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO JAPAN, THE REPUBLIC OF
KOREA, AND THE SOVIET UNION.

THAT VISIT DID MUCH TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF PEACE. IN

THE YEAR THAT FOLLOWED, WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY AS A NATION.

THE UNITED STATES HAS MOVED FORWARD TO STABILIZE OUR DOMESTIC

ECONOMY AND OUR NATIONAL SELF-CONFIDENCE AS WELL AS OUR

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

YOUR STATE, DETERMINED TO HELP AMERICA BECOME
SELF-SUFFICIENT IN ENERGY, IS IN THE FOREFRONT OF OUR NATIONAL
REVIVAL. I COMMEND ALASKA FOR ITS DETERMINATION TO HELP
ACHIEVE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE FOR THE UNITED STATES.

THE HEARTY PEOPLE OF ALASKA, AND THE ALERT ARMED

FORCES STATIONED IN THIS STRATEGIC AREA, ARE A SOURCE OF

REASSURANCE TO ALL AMERICANS.

LET ME REASSURE YOU TODAY

THAT MY ADMINISTRATION, WHILE STRIVING TO PRESERVE WORLD

PEACE, REMAINS AWARE THAT THE BEST INSURANCE FOR PEACE IS

UNITED STATES MILITARY POWER SECOND TO NONE.

THERE WILL BE NO SLACKENING IN MY ADMINISTRATION OF
SUPPORT FOR A FIRST-RATE ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, MARINE
CORPS, AND COAST GUARD. WE ARE VITALLY INTERESTED IN THE

DEFENSE OF ALASKA. YOUR DEFENSE IS OUR DEFENSE.

WORLDWIDE DIPLOMACY WOULD NOT BE CREDIBLE WITHOUT A

CREDIBLE MILITARY FORCE, BOTH IN SUBSTANCE AND PERCEPTION.

IT IS APPROPRIATE TO STOP HERE EN ROUTE TO CHINA.

ALASKANS ARE DEVOTED TO PEACE. JUST AS ALASKA ADJOINS

ASIA, AMERICA'S INTERESTS ARE LINKED TO ASIA. YOU KNOW

AND I KNOW THAT WE MUST KEEP THE PACIFIC PEACEFUL.

THERE ARE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE
AMERICAN AND CHINESE SOCIETIES. WE MAY NOT AGREE ON
SOME ISSUES. BUT WE HAVE FOUND AN IMPORTANT AREA OF
COMMON GROUND. OUR MUTUAL OPPOSITION TO MILITARY
EXPANSION IN ASIA IS BASIC.

SO IS OUR PLEDGE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS

OF OTHERS. I WILL SEEK TO STRENGTHEN THESE UNDERSTANDINGS

AND TO FURTHER ADVANCE A RELATIONSHIP BASED UPON MUTUAL

RESPECT AND MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION.

ALASKANS EXPERIENCED FOREIGN INVASION IN WORLD

WAR II. YOU KNOW BETTER THAN MOST AMERICANS HOW

CRITICAL A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE IS TO AMERICAN SECURITY.

WE WILL BE RESOLUTE IN THE PURSUIT OF PEACE -- BUT WE WILL

NEVER FORGET THAT FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE COME FIRST.

FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE ARE PRECIOUS TO ALL

AMERICANS. BUT THESE WORDS HAVE A SPECIAL MEANING FOR

ALASKANS. UP HERE, YOU CAN VIVIDLY FEEL AMERICA'S

GREATNESS -- THE SENSE OF A FANTASTIC POTENTIAL NOT

YET REALIZED -- A FRONTIER YOU FOUGHT TO PROTECT.

THE PIONEER SPIRIT IS TODAY NOT ONLY ALIVE BUT
GROWING IN ALASKA. THE OIL WHICH WILL FLOW GIVES YOUR
STATE AN ENTIRELY NEW DIMENSION.

WE HAVE BECOME UNACCEPTABLY DEPENDENT ON OTHER
NATIONS FOR OIL THAT IS OUR ECONOMIC LIFEblood.

AMERICANS BECAME PAINFULLY AWARE OF OUR DEPENDENCE

ON FOREIGN OIL WHEN AN EMBARGO FOLLOWED THE 1973 WAR IN THE

MIDDLE EAST. LONG LINES AT SERVICE STATIONS AND SOARING

UTILITY BILLS BROUGHT HOME THE PERSONAL HARDSHIPS WHICH

OIL DEPENDENCE IMPOSES.

EVEN MORE CHILLING WAS THE IMPACT ON OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY:

THE LOSS OF 20 BILLION DOLLARS IN THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT --

UNEMPLOYMENT FOR A HALF-MILLION MORE AMERICANS -- AND

PRESSURE TOWARD A NATIONAL RECESSION.

WE ARE DETERMINED TO LIBERATE OURSELVES FROM THIS

THREAT.

IN OUR VAST ALASKAN RESERVES, WE HAVE THE MEANS TO

HELP ACCOMPLISH THE GOAL OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE. WE HAVE

THE PHYSICAL RESOURCES, THE ECONOMIC RESOURCES, THE

INGENUITY AND THE NATIONAL WILL.

ALL OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES -- OIL AND OIL SHALE,
NATURAL GAS, COAL, URANIUM -- AND ALL OF OUR TECHNOLOGICAL
CAPABILITY MUST BE FULLY UTILIZED IF WE ARE TO STOP DEPENDING
ON UNRELIABLE FOREIGN SUPPLIERS.

THE LIQUID GOLD WHICH WILL FLOW FROM ALASKA'S NORTH
SLOPE TO THE REST OF THE COUNTRY WILL HAVE A TREMENDOUS
IMPACT ON THE ALASKAN ECONOMY AND THAT OF OUR ENTIRE NATION.

ALASKAN OIL IS CLOSER TO MAKING A SIGNIFICANT
CONTRIBUTION TO OUR NATIONAL ENERGY SUPPLIES THAN ANY OTHER
SINGLE NEW ENERGY SOURCE.

I WAS DELIGHTED WHEN THE PIPELINE PORTION OF THE
PROJECT FOR TAPPING ALASKA'S OIL REACHED ITS HALF-WAY MARK
LATE IN OCTOBER -- AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

over

I WISH I COULD REPORT THAT ALL ASPECTS OF ~~THE~~ ENERGY

PROGRAM WERE MOVING AS QUICKLY.

BUT WE ARE MAKING

PROGRESS.



TODAY, I WILL TOUR A SECTION OF THE PIPELINE TO GET
A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. I LOOK
FORWARD TO SEEING THE LARGEST PRIVATELY-FINANCED
CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN WORLD HISTORY.

WE EXPECT OIL TO FLOW THROUGH THE PIPELINE BY THE

MIDDLE OF 1977 -- ABOUT 19 MONTHS FROM NOW. BY THE END

OF 1977, THE DAILY FLOW WILL REACH 1.2 MILLION BARRELS.

THIS IS MORE THAN ONE-EIGHTH OF ALL DOMESTIC CRUDE OIL

PRODUCTION EXPECTED ^{*at that date,*} THEN.

BY 1980, THE ALASKAN NORTH SLOPE COULD DELIVER 2
MILLION BARRELS OF OIL EVERY DAY. THAT WOULD BE
20 PERCENT OF AMERICA'S TOTAL NATIONAL CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION.

WHEN YOUR OIL PRODUCTION REACHES THAT LEVEL,

AMERICA WILL SAVE --{ AT TODAY'S PRICES }-- AT LEAST

25 MILLION DOLLARS EACH DAY IN PAYMENTS FOR FOREIGN OIL.

ALASKAN OIL WILL REDUCE THE LOSS OF DOLLARS TO

FOREIGN OIL PRODUCERS BY NEARLY 10 BILLION DOLLARS EACH

YEAR BY 1980.

THERE WILL BE A HUGE ECONOMIC BENEFIT FOR THE
ENTIRE UNITED STATES -- AND, ESPECIALLY, FOR ALASKA.

CRUDE OIL PRODUCED IN ALASKA LAST YEAR WAS VALUED
AT NEARLY 350 MILLION DOLLARS.

LAST YEAR'S 70 MILLION BARRELS OF OIL FROM ALASKAN WELLS
WAS ONLY ABOUT ONE-TENTH OF THE PRODUCTION EXPECTED FROM
THE NORTH SLOPE IN 1980. IMAGINE THE REVENUE FOR ALASKA
WHEN OIL BEGINS TO FLOW THROUGH THE PIPELINE!

THE INFLUX OF WORKERS TO YOUR STATE HAS BEEN

DRAMATIC. LAST SEPTEMBER, THE TOP LABOR FORCE TOTALED

MORE THAN 21,000. THE PAYROLL INVIGORATED ALASKA'S

ECONOMY.

OBVIOUSLY, THERE HAVE BEEN PROBLEMS IN ABSORBING

SO MANY NEWCOMERS. BUT YOU HAVE DONE A SPLENDID JOB.

THE BENEFITS FAR OUTWEIGH THE DISADVANTAGES.

WHEN THE PIPELINE IS COMPLETED, OIL TAX REVENUES
WILL GREATLY BENEFIT ALL THE CITIZENS OF ALASKA AND STIMULATE
YOUR ENTIRE ECONOMY.

YOUR STATE IS BLESSED WITH MANY PRICELESS NATURAL

RESOURCES. SOME FEARED THAT THE PIPELINE WOULD

DESTROY THE ENVIRONMENT.

Actually

~~I AM VERY PLEASED THAT THE PIPELINE HAS PROVEN TO BE AN~~

OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF HOW OUR ECOLOGY CAN BE PRESERVED

WHILE ENERGY NEEDS ARE MET.

WE CAN /- AND WE MUST /- HAVE BOTH DECENT ENVIRONMENT

AND DECENT ENERGY. WE WILL HAVE BOTH IF WE CONTINUE

THE BALANCED POLICIES DEMONSTRATED IN ALASKA.

ALASKA'S ENERGY WEALTH DOESN'T STOP WITH OIL,

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ALASKA HAS ALMOST 32 TRILLION CUBIC

FEET OF RECOVERABLE NATURAL GAS -- ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS THAN

THE RESERVE OF THE GULF OF MEXICO. IT IS URGENTLY NEEDED

IN OUR OTHER STATES.

*I learned also you have tremendous
coal reserves in the Pet 4 area.*

OUR DRIVE FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE RELIES HEAVILY UPON ALASKAN
OIL AND GAS RESOURCES. ALL AMERICANS ARE PROUD THAT
ALASKA HAS CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH BY ACCELERATED CONSTRUCTION
OF THE OIL PIPELINE. YOUR FUTURE CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE
EVEN GREATER.

IN ADDITION TO OIL AND GAS, ALASKA WILL HELP MEET
AMERICA'S CRITICAL NEEDS FOR OTHER ESSENTIAL MINERALS.

I SALUTE ALASKA.

I COUNT ON YOU.

THE STATE OF ALASKA IS SEPARATED GEOGRAPHICALLY FROM
OUR OTHER STATES. IT TOOK US OVER SEVEN HOURS TO FLY
FROM WASHINGTON, D. C. YET ALASKA IS VERY CLOSE TO OUR
HEARTS.

I AM MINDFUL OF THE PRIDE I FELT WHEN I VOTED IN THE
CONGRESS FOR ALASKA STATEHOOD. TODAY, I AM PROUD TO
BE IN THE STATE OF ALASKA.

YOU ARE AMERICA'S LAST FRONTIER. YOUR PIONEER

SPIRIT IS DEVELOPING NOT ONLY VITAL NATURAL RESOURCES BUT

VITAL HUMAN RESOURCES. ALL AMERICA BENEFITS FROM

YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS. *and we are proud & grateful.*

I THANK YOU.

END OF TEXT

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE IN ALASKA

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1975

- 1 -

ON BEHALF OF BETTY AND MYSELF, LET ME THANK YOU ALL

FOR YOUR VERY GENEROUS AND ENTHUSIASTIC GREETING TODAY.

IT IS A MOMENT WE WILL LONG REMEMBER. I DON'T CARE WHAT

THE TEMPERATURE IS OUTSIDE -- YOUR WELCOME HAS BROUGHT US ALL

THE WARMTH WE NEED!

AND LET ME ALSO THANK THE MEN AND WOMEN OF EIELSON
(ISLE-SON) AIR FORCE BASE FOR THEIR VERY GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY TODAY.

FRANKLY, WE'RE ALL JUST A LITTLE IN AWE OF THE SHEER SIZE

OF THIS BUILDING. I ALWAYS KNEW ALASKA WAS BIG,

BUT UP TILL NOW I NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH OF IT WAS INDOORS!

BUT I'VE FOUND THAT EVERYTHING ABOUT ALASKA

IS IMPRESSIVE. AMERICA WILL SOON GET A LOT OF ITS OIL

FROM ALASKA'S NORTH SLOPE. AND AS EVERYONE IN THIS AUDIENCE

ALREADY KNOWS, WHEN IT COMES TO BASEBALL -- AMERICA GETS

A LOT OF ITS GREAT PLAYERS RIGHT HERE IN FAIRBANKS --

FROM THE ALASKA "GOLD PANNERS."

I VISITED ALASKA A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO ON A PREVIOUS
TRIP TO THE PACIFIC REGION. THIS OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT MAKE ME
A "SOURDOUGH." BUT I AM NO NEWCOMER TO THE KNOWLEDGE THAT
THIS "GREAT LAND," A PART OF ANOTHER GREAT LAND, THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA, IS AN INSPIRING AND SHINING NORTHERN STAR
IN OUR CONSTELLATION OF STATES.

THIS VISIT GIVES US ALL A GREAT FAREWELL BOOST

ON OUR WAY TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, INDONESIA,

AND THE PHILIPPINES.

IT WAS LAST NOVEMBER WHEN ALASKA GAVE US A GRAND
SEND-OFF FOR A SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO JAPAN, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA,
AND THE SOVIET UNION. THAT VISIT DID MUCH TO ADVANCE THE
CAUSE OF PEACE. IN THE YEAR THAT FOLLOWED, WE HAVE COME
A LONG WAY AS A NATION.

THE UNITED STATES HAS MOVED FORWARD TO STABILIZE OUR DOMESTIC
ECONOMY AND OUR NATIONAL SELF-CONFIDENCE AS WELL AS OUR
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

YOUR STATE, DETERMINED TO HELP AMERICA BECOME
SELF-SUFFICIENT IN ENERGY, IS IN THE FOREFRONT OF OUR NATIONAL
REVIVAL. I COMMEND ALASKA FOR ITS DETERMINATION TO HELP
ACHIEVE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE FOR THE UNITED STATES.

THE HEARTY PEOPLE OF ALASKA, AND THE ALERT ARMED FORCES
STATIONED IN THIS STRETEGIC AREA, ARE A SOURCE OF REASSURANCE
TO ALL AMERICANS. LET ME REASSURE YOU TODAY THAT MY
ADMINISTRATION, WHILE STRIVING TO PRESERVE WORLD PEACE,
REMAINS AWARE THAT THE BEST INSURANCE FOR PEACE IS UNITED STATES
MILITARY POWER SECOND TO NONE.

THERE WILL BE NO SLACKENING IN MY ADMINISTRATION

OF SUPPORT FOR A FIRST-RATE ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, MARINE CORPS,

AND COAST GUARD. WE ARE VITALLY INTERESTED IN THE DEFENSE OF

ALASKA. YOUR DEFENSE IS OUR DEFENSE. WORLDWIDE DIPLOMACY

WOULD NOT BE CREDIBLE WITHOUT A CREDIBLE MILITARY FORCE,

BOTH IN SUBSTANCE AND PERCEPTION.

IT IS APPROPRIATE TO STOP HERE EN ROUTE TO CHINA.

ALASKANS ARE DEVOTED TO PEACE. JUST AS ALASKA ADJOINS ASIA,

AMERICA'S INTERESTS ARE LINKED TO ASIA. YOU KNOW AND I KNOW

THAT WE MUST KEEP THE PACIFIC PEACEFUL.

THERE ARE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE AMERICAN
AND CHINESE SOCIETIES. WE MAY NOT AGREE ON SOME ISSUES.
BUT WE HAVE FOUND AN IMPORTANT AREA OF COMMON GROUND.
OUR MUTUAL PLEDGE TO PEACE IN ASIA IS BASIC. SO IS OUR PLEDGE
OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHERS.

I WILL SEEK TO STRENGTHEN THESE UNDERSTANDINGS AND TO FURTHER
ADVANCE A RELATIONSHIP BASED UPON MUTUAL RESPECT AND
MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION.

ALASKANS EXPERIENCED FOREIGN INVASION IN WORLD WAR TWO.

YOU KNOW BETTER THAN MOST AMERICANS HOW CRITICAL A STRONG

NATIONAL DEFENSE IS TO AMERICAN SECURITY. WE WILL BE RESOLUTE

IN THE PURSUIT OF PEACE -- BUT WE WILL NEVER FORGET THAT FREEDOM

AND INDEPENDENCE COME FIRST.

FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE ARE PRECIOUS TO ALL

AMERICANS. BUT THESE WORDS HAVE A SPECIAL MEANING

FOR ALASKANS. UP HERE, YOU CAN VIVIDLY FEEL AMERICA'S

GREATNESS -- THE SENSE OF A FANTASTIC POTENTIAL NOT YET

REALIZED -- A FRONTIER YOU FOUGHT TO PROTECT.

THE PIONEER SPIRIT IS TODAY NOT ONLY ALIVE BUT
GROWING IN ALASKA. THE OIL WHICH WILL FLOW GIVES YOUR
STATE AN ENTIRELY NEW DIMENSION.

WE HAVE BECOME UNACCEPTABLY DEPENDENT ON OTHER
NATIONS FOR OIL THAT IS OUR ECONOMIC LIFEBLOOD.

AMERICANS BECAME PAINFULLY AWARE OF OUR DEPENDENCE
ON FOREIGN OIL WHEN AN EMBARGO FOLLOWED THE 1973 WAR IN THE
MIDDLE EAST. LONG LINES AT SERVICE STATIONS AND SOARING
UTILITY BILLS BROUGHT HOME THE PERSONAL HARDSHIPS WHICH OIL
DEPENDENCE IMPOSES.

EVEN MORE CHILLING WAS THE IMPACT ON OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY:

THE LOSS OF 20 BILLION DOLLARS IN THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT --

UNEMPLOYMENT FOR A HALF-MILLION MORE AMERICANS -- AND

PRESSURE TOWARD A NATIONAL RECESSION.

WE ARE DETERMINED TO LIBERATE OURSELVES FROM THIS
THREAT.

IN OUR VAST ALASKAN RESERVES, WE HAVE THE MEANS TO
HELP ACCOMPLISH THE GOAL OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE. WE HAVE
THE PHYSICAL RESOURCES, THE ECONOMIC RESOURCES, THE INGENUITY
AND THE NATIONAL WILL.

ALL OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES -- OIL AND OIL SHALE,
NATURAL GAS, COAL, URANIUM -- AND ALL OF OUR TECHNOLOGICAL
CAPABILITY MUST BE FULLY UTILIZED IF WE ARE TO STOP DEPENDING ON
UNRELIABLE FOREIGN SUPPLIERS.

THE LIQUID GOLD WHICH WILL FLOW FROM ALASKA'S NORTH
SLOPE TO THE REST OF THE COUNTRY WILL HAVE A TREMENDOUS IMPACT
ON THE ALASKAN ECONOMY AND THAT OF OUR ENTIRE NATION.

ALASKAN OIL IS CLOSER TO MAKING A SIGNIFICANT
CONTRIBUTION TO OUR NATIONAL ENERGY SUPPLIES THAN ANY OTHER
SINGLE NEW ENERGY SOURCE.

I WAS DELIGHTED WHEN THE PIPELINE PORTION OF THE
PROJECT FOR TAPPING ALASKA'S OIL REACHED ITS HALF-WAY MARK
LATE IN OCTOBER -- AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

I WISH I COULD REPORT THAT ALL ASPECTS OF THE
ENERGY PROGRAM WERE MOVING AS QUICKLY. BUT WE ARE
MAKING PROGRESS.

TODAY, I WILL TOUR A SECTION OF THE PIPELINE TO GET A
FIRST-HAND LOOK AT YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. I LOOK FORWARD
TO SEEING THE LARGEST PRIVATELY-FINANCED CONSTRUCTION PROJECT
IN WORLD HISTORY.

WE EXPECT OIL TO FLOW THROUGH THE PIPELINE BY THE MIDDLE
OF 1977 -- ABOUT 19 MONTHS FROM NOW. BY THE END OF 1977,
THE DAILY FLOW WILL REACH 1.2 MILLION BARRELS. THIS IS MORE
THAN ONE-EIGHTH OF ALL DOMESTIC CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION EXPECTED
THEN.

BY 1980, THE ALASKAN NORTH SLOPE COULD DELIVER
2 MILLION BARRELS OF OIL EVERY DAY. THAT WOULD BE
20 PERCENT OF AMERICA'S TOTAL NATIONAL CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION.

WHEN YOUR OIL PRODUCTION REACHES THAT LEVEL, AMERICA
WILL SAVE -- AT TODAY'S PRICES -- AT LEAST 25 MILLION DOLLARS
EACH DAY IN PAYMENTS FOR FOREIGN OIL.

ALASKAN OIL WILL REDUCE THE LOSS OF DOLLARS TO FOREIGN
OIL PRODUCERS BY NEARLY 10 BILLION DOLLARS EACH YEAR BY 1980.

THERE WILL BE A HUGE ECONOMIC BENEFIT FOR THE ENTIRE
UNITED STATES -- AND, ESPECIALLY, FOR ALASKA.

CRUDE OIL PRODUCED IN ALASKA LAST YEAR WAS VALUED
AT NEARLY 350 MILLION DOLLARS.

LAST YEAR'S 70 MILLION BARRELS OF OIL FROM ALASKAN WELLS
WAS ONLY ABOUT ONE-TENTH OF THE PRODUCTION EXPECTED FROM THE
NORTH SLOPE IN 1980. IMAGINE THE REVENUE FOR ALASKA WHEN
OIL BEGINS TO FLOW THROUGH THE PIPELINE!

THE INFLUX OF WORKERS TO YOUR STATE HAS BEEN DRAMATIC.

LAST SEPTEMBER, THE TOP LABOR FORCE TOTALED MORE THAN 21,000.

THE PAYROLL INVIGORATED ALASKA'S ECONOMY.

OBVIOUSLY, THERE HAVE BEEN PROBLEMS IN ABSORBING SO
MANY NEWCOMERS. BUT YOU HAVE DONE A SPLENDID JOB.
THE BENEFITS FAR OUTWEIGH THE DISADVANTAGES.

WHEN THE PIPELINE IS COMPLETED, OIL TAX REVENUES WILL GREATLY BENEFIT ALL THE CITIZENS OF ALASKA AND STIMULATE YOUR ENTIRE ECONOMY.

YOUR STATE IS BLESSED WITH MANY PRICELESS NATURAL RESOURCES. SOME FEARED THAT THE PIPELINE WOULD DESTROY THE ENVIRONMENT.

I AM VERY PLEASED THAT THE PIPELINE HAS PROVEN TO BE AN
OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF HOW OUR ECOLOGY CAN BE PRESERVED
WHILE ENERGY NEEDS ARE MET.

WE CAN -- AND WE MUST -- HAVE BOTH DECENT ENVIRONMENT
AND DECENT ENERGY. WE WILL HAVE BOTH IF WE CONTINUE THE
BALANCED POLICIES DEMONSTRATED IN ALASKA.

ALASKA'S ENERGY WEALTH DOESN'T STOP WITH OIL. IT IS

ESTIMATED THAT ALASKA HAS ALMOST 32 TRILLION CUBIC FEET OF

RECOVERABLE NATURAL GAS -- ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS THAN THE

RESERVE OF THE GULF OF MEXICO. IT IS URGENTLY NEEDED IN OUR

OTHER STATES.

OUR DRIVE FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE RELIES HEAVILY UPON

ALASKAN OIL AND GAS RESOURCES. ALL AMERICANS ARE PROUD

THAT ALASKA HAS CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH BY ACCELERATED

CONSTRUCTION OF THE OIL PIPELINE. YOUR FUTURE CONTRIBUTIONS

WILL BE EVEN GREATER.

IN ADDITION TO OIL AND GAS, ALASKA WILL HELP MEET
AMERICA'S CRITICAL NEEDS FOR OTHER ESSENTIAL MINERALS.

I SALUTE ALASKA. I COUNT ON YOU.

THE STATE OF ALASKA IS SEPARATED GEOGRAPHICALLY FROM
OUR OTHER STATES. IT TOOK US OVER 7 HOURS TO FLY FROM
WASHINGTON, D. C. YET ALASKA IS VERY CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS.

I AM MINDFUL OF THE PRIDE I FELT WHEN I VOTED IN THE
CONGRESS FOR ALASKA STATEHOOD. TODAY, I AM PROUD TO BE
IN THE STATE OF ALASKA.

YOU ARE AMERICA'S LAST FRONTIER. YOUR PIONEER

SPIRIT IS DEVELOPING NOT ONLY VITAL NATURAL RESOURCES BUT

VITAL HUMAN RESOURCES. ALL AMERICA BENEFITS FROM YOUR

ACHIEVEMENTS.

I THANK YOU.

END OF TEXT