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~~THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.~~

TALKING POINTS:

RECEPTION FOR STATE CHAIRMEN AND ADVISORY

COMMITTEE OF THE PFC

JANUARY 9, 1976

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IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE FOR BETTY AND ME TO WELCOME  
YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR THIS GET-TOGETHER OF THE STATE  
CHAIRMEN AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE  
PRESIDENT FORD COMMITTEE.

I APPRECIATE VERY MUCH YOUR ACCEPTING THE VERY  
DIFFICULT AND DEMANDING ASSIGNMENTS WHICH YOU HAVE UNDERTAKEN.  
HAVING GONE THROUGH 13 ELECTIONS IN THE PAST 27 YEARS, I  
KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF A GOOD CAMPAIGN TEAM -- AND I AM VERY  
PLEASED THAT WE HAVE A GREAT TEAM ASSEMBLED FOR THE 1976  
CAMPAIGN.

THIS YEAR WILL BE A TREMENDOUSLY CHALLENGING ONE --  
FOR ALL OF US. THE NEXT 10 MONTHS ARE CRITICAL, NOT  
ONLY FOR THE POLITICAL FORTUNES OF ONE MAN OR PARTY, BUT  
FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY.

AS WE ENTER OUR THIRD CENTURY OF AMERICAN  
INDEPENDENCE, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE MUST MAKE A FUNDAMENTAL  
CHOICE: A CHOICE BETWEEN REDUCING THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT  
IN THEIR LIVES OR EXPANDING THAT ROLE.

YOU AND I HAVE MADE OUR CHOICE. IT IS TO REDUCE  
THE HEAVY BURDEN THAT GOVERNMENT IMPOSES THROUGH TAXATION,  
INFLATIONARY SPENDING AND BUREAUCRATIC INTERFERENCE.  
WE SEEK TO AVOID FURTHER STIFLING OF INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE AND  
THE SPIRIT OF FREE ENTERPRISE.

IN MAKING THAT PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE,  
WE WILL ALSO PRESENT THEM WITH A RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT  
BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD -- IN SHORT, A RECORD OF  
PEACE AND PROGRESS.

I'M CONFIDENT THAT THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PAST  
17 MONTHS AND THE NEXT 10 MONTHS WILL ESTABLISH A RECORD  
THAT APPEALS TO THE WORKING MAN AND WOMAN, TO THE FARMER,  
THE HOMEMAKER, THE PROFESSIONAL, THE BUSINESSMAN --  
TO MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF AMERICANS ACROSS THIS NATION.

THE JOB AHEAD -- IS TO TRANSFORM THAT APPEAL

INTO A SOLID MANDATE ON ELECTION DAY. WE CAN --

WE MUST -- WIN THE SUPPORT OF OUR FELLOW REPUBLICANS FIRST.

BUT WE MUST SELL THAT RECORD TO ALL AMERICA. WE MUST

MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND ENLIST NEW SUPPORTERS WHO SHARE OUR

VISION OF AMERICA'S FUTURE. AND WE MUST START NOW.

THAT'S WHERE EACH OF YOU COME IN.

THERE'S NOTHING I LIKE BETTER THAN A GOOD, TOUGH,  
COMPETITIVE CAMPAIGN. I INTEND TO CAMPAIGN AS MUCH  
AS I CAN, BUT THE DEMANDS OF MY JOB MAY NOT PERMIT AS MUCH  
PERSONAL PARTICIPATION AS I WOULD LIKE.

THAT MAKES YOUR JOB ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT --  
THE ORGANIZING, THE FUND-RAISING, THE CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES  
THAT ARE SO ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS.

I HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE IN EACH ONE OF YOU●

IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS EFFORT, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT

THE VOTERS WILL RESPOND WITH OVERWHELMING APPROVAL

OF OUR POLICIES NEXT NOVEMBER●

I APPRECIATE YOUR COMMITMENT● I LOOK FORWARD

TO SHARING GREAT VICTORIES WITH YOU IN THE COMING MONTHS●

END OF TEXT