

The original documents are located in Box 22, “1/29/76 - Remarks at a Young Republican Leadership Conference” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS ~~SEEN~~

YOUNG REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

JANUARY 29, 1976

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IT IS A PLEASURE TO WELCOME THIS ENTHUSIASTIC
DELEGATION OF YOUNG REPUBLICANS TO THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY.

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THIS YEAR, AS YOU KNOW, WE'RE CELEBRATING
AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL -- AND I'M REMINDED OF JUST HOW GREAT
THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF YOUNGER PATRIOTS WERE TO THE FOUNDING
OF OUR REPUBLIC.

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THOMAS JEFFERSON, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS ONLY 33
WHEN HE WROTE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, WHICH
WOULD STILL MAKE HIM ELIGIBLE FOR THE YOUNG REPUBLICANS.

TWO CENTURIES LATER, YOUNG AMERICANS STILL HAVE
AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY. I HAVE PROBABLY THE YOUNGEST
CHIEF OF STAFF IN THE HISTORY OF THE MODERN WHITE HOUSE.
DICK CHENEY IS ONLY 34.

PAT BUTLER, ONE OF MY SPEECHWRITERS AND BARRY ROTH,
MY ASSISTANT LEGAL COUNSEL, ARE BOTH ONLY 26.
AND THERE ARE MANY, MANY OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE ON THIS
STAFF IN VERY RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS.

AS I TOLD SOME OF YOU WHO WERE HERE LAST YEAR,
I STARTED OUT IN THE YR'S MYSELF. I WAS PROUD OF MY
AFFILIATION THEN. I AM PROUD OF MY DEDICATION TO THE
REPUBLICAN PARTY TODAY.

I THINK OUR PARTY CAN BE THE VEHICLE FOR
RESPONSIBLE PROGRESS IN AMERICA. THAT IS THE NECESSARY
ROLE WE HAVE PLAYED OVER THE YEARS. WE ARE COMMITTED
TO STRENGTH AT HOME AND STRENGTH ABROAD.

THE NEW BUDGET WE'VE PROPOSED FOR FISCAL 1977

REFLECTS THAT COMMITMENT.

IT REFLECTS OUR DEDICATION TO A COMMON SENSE

APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT.

IT REFLECTS OUR COMMITMENT

TO A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE, WITHOUT WHICH ALL OTHER

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS WOULD BE MEANINGLESS.

THE BUDGET REFLECTS OUR EFFORTS TO REACH A BETTER
BALANCE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND PRIVATE INITIATIVE.
IT REFLECTS A NEW REALISM ABOUT GOVERNMENT'S CAPACITY
TO BE ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE.

THE FISCAL YEAR 1977 BUDGET IS CAREFULLY DESIGNED
TO KEEP AMERICA'S ECONOMY ON A COURSE OF SOLID RECOVERY
AND SUSTAINED, REAL GROWTH FOR YEARS TO COME.

THIS BUDGET IS NOT LIKE THE USUAL ELECTION YEAR

BUDGET. WE ARE PROMISING ONLY WHAT WE KNOW WE CAN

DELIVER. I BELIEVE THIS TO BE THE ONLY REASONABLE,

AFFORDABLE AND HONEST APPROACH WE CAN TAKE.

I THINK THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL WELCOME A LITTLE

STRAIGHT TALK FOR A CHANGE. THEY WILL WELCOME ANY

RESPONSIBLE EFFORT TO RELIEVE THE HEAVY BURDENS WHICH

MASSIVE GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND A QUAGMIRE OF

GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS IMPOSE ON THEM.

1976 CAN BE A GREAT YEAR FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY●

WITH GOOD ISSUES, GOOD CANDIDATES, GOOD ORGANIZATIONS,

GOOD FINANCING, A GOOD POSITIVE ATTITUDE, AND A LOT OF

GOOD HARD WORK AND SUPPORT FROM PEOPLE LIKE YOU,

WE CAN'T FAIL●

I LOOK FORWARD TO THE CHALLENGE OF THIS VERY

IMPORTANT ELECTION YEAR● THE OUTCOME OF THIS YEAR'S

ELECTIONS MAY WELL HAVE A CRITICAL BEARING ON THE COURSE

THIS NATION TAKES, NOT JUST FOR THE NEXT 4 YEARS, BUT FOR

THE REST OF THIS CENTURY -- INDEED, FOR MUCH OF THE THIRD

CENTURY OF AMERICA'S INDEPENDENCE●

I'M COUNTING ON EVERY ONE OF YOU TO MAKE A MAJOR
INVESTMENT OF YOUR TIME AND EFFORT / IN YOUR OWN FUTURE.

WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN SHARE AN HISTORIC VICTORY FOR
OUR PARTY AND OUR NATION IN 1976.

END OF TEXT