

The original documents are located in Box 23, “2/14/76 - Remarks at Thomas A. Edison Pageant of Light Ceremony, Ft. Myers, Florida” 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 Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - EXHIBITION HALL

THANK YOU, SKIP (ba-FOUL-US introduces you)

CONGRESSMAN LOU FREY

~~CONGRESSMAN BILL YOUNG~~ COL. LOU ANTOL

CAS PEACOCK

REV. BROWNING

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

EDISON WAS TRULY A REMARKABLE MAN.

BESIDES HIS INVENTIVE GENIUS, HE WAS ALSO A MAN OF

INSIGHT AND COMMON SENSE.

HIS VIEWS ON HARD WORK ARE LEGENDARY.

"THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR HARD WORK," HE ONCE SAID.

AND HE DEFINED GENIUS AS "ONE PERCENT INSPIRATION AND

NINETY-NINE PERCENT PERSPIRATION."

HIS VIEWS ON GOVERNMENT WERE EQUALLY FORTHRIGHT.

HE KNEW THE IMPORTANCE OF FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY IN GOVERNMENT,

OF HOLDING TAXES DOWN, AND OF KEEPING PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

STRONG.

HE ONCE SAID: "THERE IS FAR MORE DANGER IN PUBLIC

THAN IN PRIVATE MONOPOLY, FOR WHEN GOVERNMENT GOES INTO

BUSINESS / IT CAN ALWAYS SHIFT ITS LOSSES TO THE TAXPAYERS.

GOVERNMENT NEVER MAKES ENDS MEET -- AND THAT IS THE FIRST

REQUISITE OF BUSINESS."

IN THOSE FEW WORDS, EDISON SUMMED UP MUCH OF
WHAT HAS GONE WRONG IN THIS COUNTRY -- GOVERNMENT NEVER
MAKING ENDS MEET• WE'VE HAD A BALANCED BUDGET ONLY
7 TIMES IN THE LAST 44 YEARS• NO BUSINESS COULD MATCH
THAT RECORD AND HOPE TO SURVIVE, / MUCH LESS PROSPER•

I THINK WE CAN TURN THAT DANGEROUS TREND AROUND•
I THINK WE MUST TURN IT AROUND• BECAUSE IF WE DON'T
DRAW THE LINE NOW AND MAKE ENDS MEET SOON, / WE'RE GOING
TO BE IN DEEP TROUBLE•

YOU AND I KNOW THAT VERY WELL, BUT IT LOOKS
LIKE IT MAY TAKE ANOTHER THOMAS EDISON TO MAKE THE
UNITED STATES CONGRESS SEE THE LIGHT.

IT WON'T BE EASY. A BUDGET ALREADY BLOATED
BY YEARS OF EXCESSES CAN'T BE SLIMMED DOWN OVERNIGHT.
BUT IT CAN BE PUT ON A DIET.

WHEN GOVERNMENT DOESN'T MAKE ENDS MEET,

YEAR AFTER YEAR AFTER YEAR -- IT BREEDS INFLATION•

AND THAT'S REAL TROUBLE• YOU KNOW IT IN YOUR POCKETBOOKS•

YOU KNOW IT EVERY TIME YOU BUY A JAR OF PEANUT BUTTER AND

COMPARE THE PRICE STAMPED ON IT / WITH THE ONE ON THE JAR IN YOUR

CUPBOARDS• AND THOSE OF YOU ON FIXED INCOMES REALLY KNOW

IT / WHEN WHAT YOU ARE GIVING UP ARE NO LONGER LUXURIES --

BUT NECESSITIES•

I BELIEVE WE CAN BRING INFLATION UNDER CONTROL.

WE'VE CUT IT IN HALF ALREADY / FROM WHAT IT WAS A YEAR AGO.

AND, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE HARD-WORKING TAXPAYERS

IN THIS COUNTRY, WE'LL CUT IT EVEN MORE IN THE FUTURE.

YESTERDAY [REDACTED], THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

ANNOUNCED THAT WHOLESAL PRICES WERE UNCHANGED IN JANUARY.

IN FACT, WHOLESAL PRICES HAVE SHOWN NO APPRECIABLE CHANGE

SINCE OCTOBER. THIS IS MORE GOOD NEWS IN OUR FIGHT

AGAINST INFLATION -- AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON.

IN MY STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS, I SPOKE
OF THE NEED FOR MORE COMMON SENSE AND A BETTER BALANCE
BETWEEN GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY AND PRIVATE EFFORTS•

THESE ARE NOT JUST SLOGANS FOR AN ELECTION YEAR --
THEY ARE THE UNDERLYING THEMES AND COMMITMENTS
OF MY ADMINISTRATION, / AND THEY ARE NECESSARY INGREDIENTS
FOR THIS NATION'S SUCCESS IN ITS THIRD CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE•

GOVERNMENT WILL DO ITS PART, BUT IT'S TIME

WE FACED THE FACT THAT GOVERNMENT CAN'T DO EVERYTHING.

I'VE SAID IT BEFORE, AND I'LL SAY IT AGAIN:

A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO GIVE US EVERYTHING WE WANT

IS A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO TAKE FROM US EVERYTHING WE HAVE.

THE FEDERAL BUDGET I PROPOSED FOR FISCAL 1977

REFLECTS THAT BASIC TRUTH.

IT ARRESTS THE RAPID GROWTH

IN FEDERAL SPENDING, CUTTING IN HALF THE AVERAGE GROWTH RATE

OF THE LAST TEN YEARS.

IT STRIKES A BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN THOSE
WHO PAY TAXES / AND THOSE WHO BENEFIT FROM FEDERAL SPENDING•

IT PROPOSES TAX CUTS FOR INDIVIDUALS,
AND TAX INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESS INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH•

IT STRIKES A BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN
OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS AND OUR DOMESTIC NEEDS,
AND MAKES CERTAIN THAT OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE WILL CONTINUE
TO BE SECOND TO NONE•

AND IT STRIKES A BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN FEDERAL
CONTROL AND STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITY, / THROUGH SUCH PROGRAMS
AS REVENUE SHARING.

REVENUE SHARING HAS ALREADY BROUGHT A TOTAL
OF TWO MILLION DOLLARS TO FORT MYERS SINCE 1972.
I HAVE PROPOSED THAT THIS AMOUNT BE INCREASED
TO 3.4 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN 1977 AND 1982.

LEE COUNTY HAS RECEIVED 4.3 MILLION DOLLARS SINCE 1972,

AND I'M ASKING THE CONGRESS TO RAISE THAT TO TEN MILLION DOLLARS

IN THE NEW EXTENSION LEGISLATION.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

WITH THIS PROGRAM AND OTHERS, I HOPE TO RESTORE

THE TRULY FEDERAL SYSTEM WHICH OUR FOREFATHERS ENVISIONED

AND ESTABLISHED IN THE CONSTITUTION.

I DO NOT WANT TO DISMANTLE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

I WANT TO MAKE IT WORK BETTER, MORE EFFICIENTLY AND

MORE EFFECTIVELY.