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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - KEENE HIGH SCHOOL

THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 19, 1976

## 7:30 P.M.

THANK YOU, JIM. (Former Mayor Masiello introduces you.)

(Invocator)

JOHN CROTEAU (PH: CROW-TOE)

Keene Jaycees Executive Board Chairman - Event Sponsor)

**REVEREND McCARTHY** 

BOB CLARK

(Master of Ceremonies)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Chartie Burns.

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR QUESTIONS BUT FIRST,

LET ME MAKE JUST A FEW BRIEF REMARKS.

I'VE BEEN PRESIDENT FOR ALMOST 19 MONTHS NOW.

WHEN I TOOK OFFICE IN AUGUST OF 1974, AMERICA WAS FACED

WITH SOME OF THE MOST PRESSING AND SERIOUS PROBLEMS

IN ITS HISTORY.

OUR ECONOMY HAD GONE HAYWIRE, WITH PRICES GOING UP AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF MORE THAN 12 PERCENT, AND EVERYTHING ELSE SLOWING DOWN.

OUR NATIONAL RESOLVE TO MEET OUR INTERNATIONAL

COMMITMENTS WAS BEING CALLED INTO QUESTION BY BOTH OUR ALLIES

AND OUR ADVERSARIES. THERE WAS GREAT DANGER TO PEACE

IN MANY AREAS OF THE WORLD.

# UNDERLYING THESE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WAS A CRISIS

OF CONFIDENCE IN OUR GOVERNMENT, A CRISIS OF THE SPIRIT

AMONG OUR OWN PEOPLE.

WITH THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, WITH YOUR PRAYERS AND YOUR SUPPORT AND YOUR HELP, I SET ABOUT TO DO WHAT I COULD TO MEET THOSE CHALLENGES, TO PUT AMERICA AT PEACE WITH ITSELF AND WITH ALL THE WORLD. THE PAST 19 MONTHS HAVE SEEN MANY OF THESE EFFORTS SUCCEED. I BELIEVE MY POLICY OF USING COMMON SENSE AND A REALISTIC APPROACH TO AMERICA'S PROBLEMS HAS HELPED RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT. AS I SAID ON MY FIRST DAY AS PRESIDENT, "TRUTH IS THE GLUE

THAT HOLDS GOVERNMENT TOGETHER," AND AS LONG AS I'M PRESIDENT, I INTEND TO BE HONEST AND FRANK AND CANDID WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND MAKE THIS SYSTEM WORK THE WAY IT SHOULD WORK. AMERICA'S ECONOMIC PICTURE IS CONSIDERABLY BRIGHTER

TODAY THAN IT WAS 18 MONTHS AGO. THE INFLATION RATE THAT WAS OVER 12 PERCENT HAS BEEN CUT ALMOST IN HALF. THAT'S STILL NOT GOOD ENOUGH, BUT THAT'S PROGRESS, AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP MAKING THAT KIND OF PROGRESS

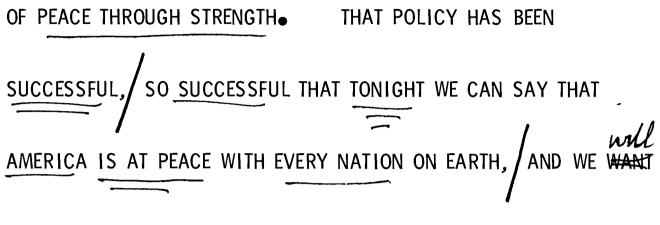
IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

WE'VE RECOVERED TWO MILLION, ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND

JOBS SINCE LAST MARCH. THAT'S 96 PERCENT OF ALL THE JOBS

WE LOST DURING THE RECESSION.

UNEMPLOYMENT IS STILL TOO HIGH, BUT WE'RE HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION• THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED JUST YESTERDAY THAT PERSONAL INCOME HAS RISEN BY 9.2 PERCENT IN THE PAST YEAR - WELL ABOVE THE CURRENT RATE OF INFLATION• THAT MEANS REAL EARNINGS, REAL PURCHASING POWER IS CLIMBING, AND THAT'S GOOD NEWS FOR EVERY AMERICAN• WE'RE ON THE ATTACK. AND WE'LL STAY ON THE ATTACK AND WIN THIS VERY IMPORTANT VICTORY OVER INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT AND EVERY OTHER ECONOMIC ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE. IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WE HAVE PURSUED A POLICY



ECKEEP IT THAT WAY.

WE WILL KEEP IT THAT WAY BY KEEPING OUR DEFENSES STRONG. AS LONG AS I AM PRESIDENT, AMERICA'S DEFENSES WILL BE STRONG AND READY AND WITHOUT EQUAL IN THE WORLD. OUR STRENGTH MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO NEGOTIATE WITH OTHER GREAT POWERS OF THE WORLD FROM A POSITION THAT COMMANDS THEIR RESPECT AND INVITES THEIR COOPERATION. WE ARE NEGOTIATING NOW WITH THE SOVIET UNION

FOR A FURTHER REDUCTION IN THE LEVEL OF STRATEGIC NUCLEAR

ARMS, A REDUCTION IN THE POTENTIAL TERROR AND DESTRUCTION

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EACH NATION CAN INFLICT ON THE OTHER.

our grad our proder boy . Thenber Traders have always known WE HAVE ENTERED THESE NEGOTIATIONS WITH OUR EYES NEVER BEEN KNOWN TO TRADE AN ORCHARD FOR AN APPLE With our military stringth we can stringthen place AND WE WHIL NOT TRADE PROGRESS IOWARD PEACE not FOR A RETURN TO THE COLD WAR, ENTER NOTA EONG

AS LAM PRESIDENT.

ONE WAY TO REDUCE THE DANGERS TO PEACE IN THE WORLD IS TO HAVE A RELIABLE, RESPONSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE INTELLIGENCE GATHERING CAPABILITY. I HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO REORGANIZE AND REFORM AMERICA'S INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, TO MAKE IT AN INSTRUMENT OF PEACE AND AN OBJECT OF PRIDE FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. ONE THING IS CERTAIN: WE CANNOT IMPROVE OUR INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY BY DESTROYING IT. I HAVE NO INTENTION OF SEEING THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY DISMANTLED, ITS OPERATIONS PARALYZED OR ITS EFFECTIVENESS UNDERMINED. THE IRRESPONSIBLE RELEASE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION BY PEOPLE WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER MUST CEASE.

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THE ABUSES OF THE PAST MUST BE CORRECTED AND NEVER REPEATED. I HAVE MADE CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENSURE THAT THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY KEEPS OUT OF POLITICS AND OUT OF PEOPLE'S PRIVATE LIVES. AS PRESIDENT, I INTEND TO SEE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS UNDER THE PEOPLE'S CONTROL, AND NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND. WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO GIVE US EVERYTHING WE WANT IS A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO TAKE FROM US EVERYTHING WE HAVE.

BUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE KNOW THAT IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO TALK ABOUT THE EVILS OF BIG GOVERNMENT. THEY KNOW THAT IT JUST ISN'T REALISTIC, NOR IS IT WISE, TO TURN BACK THE CLOCK AND UNDO ALL THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE WITH those responsible or constructive THE HELP OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS.

IT'S EASY TO SAY WE OUGHT TO CUT 90 BILLION DOLLARS OR SO FROM THE FEDERAL BUDGET. IT'S EASY TO SAY WE OUGHT TO TOSS A LOT OF VERY WORTHWHILE PROGRAMS INTO THE LAPS OF INDIVIDUAL STATES AND LET THEM ADMINISTER THOSE PROGRAMS Local assume the 44the burden IF THEIR TAXPAYERS WILL PERMIT. IT. IT'S EASY TO SAY THAT PEOPLE WHO DON'T LIKE THE WAY

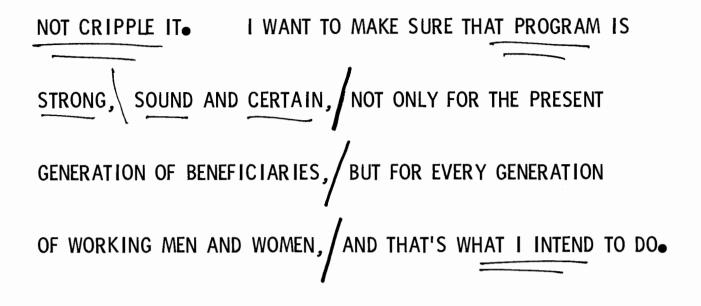
THE PROGRAMS ARE ADMINISTERED IN ONE STATE CAN JUST VOTE

WITH THEIR FEET AND MOVE TO ANOTHER STATE.

I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT AMERICANS -- DEMOCRAT OR REPUBLICAN --

IT'S EASY TO SAY THAT THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND, UPON WHICH SOME 32 MILLION OLDER AND DISABLED AMERICANS DEPEND, SHOULD BE INVESTED IN THE STOCK MARKET, MAKING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT A MAJOR STOCKHOLDER IN MOST AMERICAN BUSINESSES. BUT THAT IS THE BEST BLUEPRINT FOR BACKDOOR SOCIALISM I EVER HEARD.

## I WANT TO IMPROVE THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM,



I WANT TO IMPROVE THE MEDICARE SYSTEM.

I WANT BETTER AND MORE COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL COVERAGE FOR OUR OLDER CITIZENS. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO REASON WHY OLDER AMERICANS - OR THEIR LOVED ONES -SHOULD HAVE TO GO BROKE JUST TO GET WELL OR STAY WELL

IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

## AND THE LIST COULD GO ON AND ON.

WE HAVE TO BE REALISTIC ABOUT WHAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN DO AND WHAT IT CAN'T DO. BUT WE MUST ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS THE GOVERNMENT MUST DO. AND DO BETTER, / IF WE ARE TO CONTINUE THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE IN THE PAST. WE HAVE A GREAT COUNTRY. I'M PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN, AND I'M PROUD OF AMERICA. WE HAVE OUR PROBLEMS, AND WE AREN'T AFRAID TO ADMIT THEM. BUT I THINK IT'S HIGH TIME PEOPLE STOPPED RUNNING AMERICA DOWN. I THINK IT'S TIME WE REMEMBERED THAT WE ARE THE MOST RICHLY BLESSED NATION IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD. WE HAVE SPECIAL GIFTS AND SPECIAL RESOURCES AND SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES GREATER THAN ANY OTHER NATION ON EARTH.

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# FROM THE VANTAGE POINT OF THE PRESIDENCY, I CAN SEE THE GREATNESS OF AMERICA AS I NEVER REALLY SAW IT BEFORE. I CAN SEE ITS MANY PROBLEMS, ITS FRUSTRATIONS, ITS STRENGTHS, ITS WEAKNESSES, ITS AMBITIONS. I CAN SEE ITS PEOPLE -- WORKING, PLAYING, HOPING, PLANNING, PRAYING, LIVING THEIR LIVES THE BEST THEY CAN. AND THEY ARE GOOD LIVES, WHICH MOST OF MANKIND ENVY.

OBVIOUSLY, ALL OF OUR PROBLEMS HAVE NOT BEEN SOLVED,

AND ALL OF OUR CHALLENGES HAVE NOT BEEN MET.

AS LINCOLN SAID, THE QUESTION IS NOT "CAN ANY OF US IMAGINE BETTER?" BUT "CAN WE ALL DO BETTER?"

OF COURSE, WE CAN, AND THAT IS WHY I'M ASKING

NOW, I'D BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS

YOU MAY HAVE.

END OF TEXT