

The original documents are located in Box 24, “2/29/76 - Remarks at a Barbeque in Sarasota, Florida, in Preparation for the Florida Primary on 3/9/76” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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David Lindsay
Rus Pitusou-cab
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Wm - D.R
after meeting

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - BARBEQUE

- THANK YOU , BILL (BILL KORP - CTV PFC CHAIRMAN)
- CONG. BAFALIS
- CONG. FREY
- MR. SANDEGREN
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN



RIVERVIEW H.S. BAND AND ALL THE OTHER FINE GROUPS

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

SARASOTA, FLORIDA BARBEQUE

FEBRUARY 29, 1976

IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE FOR BETTY AND ME

TO JOIN YOU THIS AFTERNOON IN SARASOTA, / TO MEET MANY

OF YOU PERSONALLY, / AND TO SAMPLE SOME VERY

GOOD BARBEQUE.

I'M ALWAYS FASCINATED BY BARBEQUE,

BECAUSE EVERY TIME IT'S OFFERED , THE INGREDIENTS

ARE A LITTLE DIFFERENT.



I KNOW SOME POLITICAL

CAMPAIGNS THAT HAVE THAT SAME APPROACH.

BUT AS PRESIDENT, I HAVE TO USE A POLITICAL
RECIPE THAT'S CONSISTENT. I DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY
OF DEALING WITH EACH OF THE 50 STATES ONE AT A TIME,
TELLING EACH OF THEM WHAT THEY MAY WANT TO HEAR.

MY JOB IS TO DETERMINE THE BEST RECIPE FOR
THE WHOLE COUNTRY -- TO DECIDE WHAT'S IN THE BEST INTEREST
OF THE UNITED STATES -- AND THAT IS THE COURSE I HAVE
FOLLOWED FOR THE PAST 19 MONTHS●

TO DO THAT JOB MOST EFFECTIVELY, AND TO THE
EXTENT MY OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES WILL PERMIT, IT'S
IMPORTANT FOR ME TO GET TO KNOW THE PEOPLE OF EVERY STATE,
TO LEARN OF THEIR CONCERNS AND ASPIRATIONS FIRST-HAND,
AND TO LET THEM KNOW WHERE I STAND●

AS YOU KNOW, I'M ENTERING EVERY ONE OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES THIS YEAR. I WANT THE PEOPLE
OF EVERY STATE TO TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT MY RECORD,
AND AT MY GOALS FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE. I WANT THEM TO KNOW
THAT I SHARE WITH THEM A DEEP AND ACTIVE FAITH IN THE ABILITY
OF THIS COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE TO DO GREAT THINGS
IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

I WANT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT I BELIEVE IN THEM,
THAT I TRUST THEIR JUDGMENT, AND THAT AS LONG AS
I'M PRESIDENT, I INTEND TO BE CANDID AND FRANK AND
FORTHRIGHT WITH THEM AND MAKE THIS SYSTEM WORK THE WAY
IT SHOULD●

I HAPPEN TO THINK IT'S AN ADVANTAGE,
RATHER THAN A HANDICAP, FOR A PERSON TO HAVE SOME
EXPERIENCE IN HIS CHOSEN FIELD, / AND I THINK ON-THE-JOB
EXPERIENCE IS THE VERY BEST KIND.

I'VE BEEN IN PUBLIC SERVICE FOR 27 YEARS --

AS A MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS, / FOR ALMOST NINE YEARS

AS REPUBLICAN LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, /

AS VICE PRESIDENT, / AND FOR THE LAST 19 MONTHS AS YOUR

PRESIDENT.

THOSE 19 MONTHS BEGAN WITH OUR COUNTRY FACING
SOME OF THE MOST PRESSING AND SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN ITS
HISTORY●

RUNAWAY INFLATION AND THE OMINOUS BEGINNINGS
OF A RECESSION THREATENED OUR ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND STABILITY●

INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS THREATENED THE PEACE

IN MANY AREAS OF THE WORLD●

A CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE IN OUR OWN GOVERNMENT

AND IN THE BASIC INSTITUTIONS OF OUR SOCIETY THREATENED TO

DEVELOP INTO A CRISIS OF THE SPIRIT FOR THE AMERICAN 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, AND WITH YOUR HELP, WE'LL DO EVEN
BETTER IN THE FUTURE. I AM CERTAIN THERE ARE BRIGHTER
DAYS AHEAD FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY IS GROWING STRONGER

AND MORE PROSPEROUS EVERY DAY. UNEMPLOYMENT

IS GOING DOWN. CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IS GOING UP.

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCED

JUST TWO DAYS AGO THAT THE INDEX OF LEADING ECONOMIC

INDICATORS ROSE BY 2.2 PERCENT IN JANUARY --

THE LARGEST GAIN IN SIX MONTHS●

THAT INDEX SHOWED IMPROVEMENTS IN THE LENGTH
OF THE AVERAGE WORK WEEK, THE JOB LAYOFF RATE,
WHOLESALE PRICES, VENDOR PERFORMANCE, STOCK MARKET PRICES,
CONTRACTS AND ORDERS, NET BUSINESS FORMATIONS,
NEW ORDERS AND BUILDING PERMITS●

THIS SHOWS THAT ALMOST EVERY SEGMENT OF
OUR ECONOMY IS REBOUNDING IN A STRONG, DYNAMIC,
ENCOURAGING WAY. WE'RE ON THE ROAD TO A NEW
PROSPERITY IN AMERICA, AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE
SIDETRACKED NOW.

THE RATE OF INFLATION HAS BEEN CUT ALMOST
IN HALF FROM WHAT IT WAS A YEAR AGO. REAL EARNINGS
FOR THE AVERAGE AMERICAN HAVE INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY.
WE HAVE RECOVERED 96 PERCENT OF THE JOBS LOST TO THE
RECESSION -- NEARLY TWO MILLION, ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND
SINCE LAST MARCH AND 800,000 IN JANUARY ALONE.

WE HAVE CUT IN HALF THE ANNUAL GROWTH OF THE FEDERAL BUDGET
THIS YEAR. IF WE CAN KEEP THE PRESSURE ON AND HOLD THE
SPENDING DOWN, WE CAN BALANCE THE BUDGET IN THREE YEARS,
CUT YOUR TAXES, AND GIVE YOU A LOT MORE ECONOMIC RECOVERY
OF YOUR OWN.

THE FACT THAT WE'VE TURNED THE ECONOMY AROUND
IS A CREDIT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHO DID NOT PANIC,
AND TO THE AMERICAN FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM WHICH
RESPONDED TO ONE OF ITS GREATEST CHALLENGES●

THE FORECASTS OF DOOM AND GLOOM WERE WRONG ONCE AGAIN

BECAUSE THE FALSE PROPHETS AMONG US ONCE AGAIN

UNDERESTIMATED THE COURAGE AND THE DETERMINATION AND THE

INGENUITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. I HAVE NEVER

UNDERESTIMATED THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND I NEVER WILL.

WE HAVE RECOVERED OUR ECONOMIC STRENGTH

WITHOUT STARTING A NEW ROUND OF DOUBLE-DIGIT INFLATION,

AND WITHOUT RESORTING TO UNSOUND, INFLATIONARY REMEDIES

FOR OUR PRESENT-DAY PROBLEMS●

THROUGH THE COMMON-SENSE STEPS I INITIATED --
TAX CUTS FOR INDIVIDUALS, TAX INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESS
EXPANSION AND JOB PRODUCTION, AND EXTENDED INCOME
CUSHIONS FOR THOSE AMERICANS OUT OF WORK -- WE WORKED
OUR WAY OUT OF THE WORST RECESSION IN 30 YEARS●

I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT THE HARDER YOU WORK,
THE LUCKIER YOU GET. HARD WORK AND HARD DECISIONS
HAVE MADE THE DIFFERENCE IN THIS RECOVERY, AND WE'RE LUCKY
WE DIDN'T LISTEN TO THOSE WHO WOULD TRY TO SPEND THEIR WAY
OUT OF RECESSION INSTEAD OF WORKING THEIR WAY OUT.

IN FACT, I'VE VETOED 46 BILLS SINCE BECOMING
PRESIDENT, AND WITHOUT ENDANGERING OR WEAKENING OUR
ECONOMIC RECOVERY, THOSE VETOES HAVE SAVED THE AMERICAN
TAXPAYER 13 BILLION DOLLARS.

ONE OF THOSE VETOED BILLS, WHICH SOME OF YOU
WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN, WAS THE SO-CALLED
"COMMON SITU" PICKETING BILL.

A HEALTHY AND THRIVING CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO ANY REAL, LONG-TERM ECONOMIC
STABILITY -- WHETHER HERE IN SARASOTA OR IN THE NATION
AS A WHOLE.

THE COMMON SITUATION BILL AS PRESENTED TO ME MIGHT
WELL HAVE THREATENED THAT STABILITY. EVEN IN LATIN,
COMMON SITUATION SPELLED TROUBLE, / AND TROUBLE WE DON'T NEED.

SOMETHING ELSE THAT MAY SPELL TROUBLE -- UNLESS
THE CONGRESS ACTS PROMPTLY -- IS THE PROBLEM OF DEFICIT
SPENDING IN THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM.

THIS YEAR, SOCIAL SECURITY WILL PAY OUT
THREE BILLION DOLLARS MORE THAN IT TAKES IN. NEXT YEAR,
UNLESS CORRECTIVE ACTION IS TAKEN, THE DEFICIT WILL BE
THREE AND A HALF BILLION DOLLARS -- AND IT WILL GET WORSE
INSTEAD OF BETTER IN THE FUTURE.

IN MY STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE IN JANUARY,
AND IN ST. PETERSBURG TWO WEEKS AGO, I PLEDGED TO ENSURE
THE INTEGRITY AND THE SOLVENCY OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM.
IN MY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1977, I AM RECOMMENDING
THAT THE FULL COST OF LIVING INCREASE IN SOCIAL SECURITY
BENEFITS BE PAID DURING THE COMING YEAR.

THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM MUST BE KEPT SECURE
FOR THIS GENERATION AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS.

WHEN WE THINK OF THOSE FUTURE GENERATIONS,
WE MUST THINK OF WHAT KIND OF COUNTRY WE WILL LEAVE TO THEM.
IN OUR OWN TIME, AMERICA HAS HAD ITS SHARE OF PROBLEMS,
AND WE AREN'T AFRAID TO ADMIT THEM. BUT I THINK IT'S
HIGH TIME PEOPLE STOPPED RUNNING DOWN AMERICA.

I'M PROUD OF AMERICA. I'M PROUD TO BE AN

AMERICAN. 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.

WE ARE A GREAT NATION, AND WE WILL CONTINUE
TO BE A GREAT NATION IN THE FUTURE. IT IS THAT FUTURE
WHOSE COURSE WILL BE CHARTED, AT LEAST IN PART,
BY THE ELECTIONS OF 1976.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL MAKE CRUCIAL AND
FAR-REACHING DECISIONS THIS YEAR. YOU MUST DECIDE
WHAT ROLE YOU WANT GOVERNMENT TO PLAY IN YOUR OWN LIFE
AND IN THE LIFE OF THE NATION.

YOU MUST DECIDE WHAT QUALITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS
OF LEADERSHIP YOU WILL EXPECT IN YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

YOU MUST DECIDE WHAT COURSE YOU WANT OUR
NATIONAL ECONOMY TO FOLLOW IN THE YEARS AHEAD -- A FIRM,
STEADY COURSE OF GROWTH AND STABILITY, / OR A COURSE OF
DRASTIC TURNS, COSTLY EXPERIMENTS, AND INCREASING
GOVERNMENTAL CONTROL.

IT IS THE STRENGTH AND THE GENIUS OF THE
AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM / THAT YOU CAN MAKE THOSE DECISIONS
FOR YOURSELVES.

ELECTION DAY IS A CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM●

I HOPE YOU WILL JOIN IN THAT CELEBRATION, AND GIVE ME
YOUR SUPPORT ON MARCH 9TH, NOVEMBER 2ND, AND THE
FOUR CHALLENGING YEARS AHEAD●

END OF TEXT