

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

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DO PRESS AT AIRPORT

Thanks you, Lou (Frey
introduces
you)

~~Dr~~
Mr

Conq Bafalis

Jim Gray (Chairman
Ford Com)

Dist Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you Lou,
Cong. Ship Bafalis
Mr. Gray
Mrs Chavez
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen



THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

REMARKS FOR TAMPA, FLORIDA RALLY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1976

IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE FOR BETTY AND ME TO BE
IN FLORIDA AGAIN, AND ESPECIALLY IN THIS BEAUTIFUL,
THRIVING CITY OF TAMPA.

WE HAD SOME GOOD NEWS EARLIER THIS WEEK.

THANKS TO A LOT OF HARD WORK BY SOME WONDERFUL PEOPLE

IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, WE WON THAT FIRST PRIMARY OF THE 1976

CAMPAIGN -- AND THANKS TO THE GREAT WORK SOME WONDERFUL

PEOPLE ARE DOING FOR US HERE, WE'RE GOING TO WIN IN FLORIDA

ON MARCH 9th.

AND WE'RE GOING ON FROM THERE. WE INTEND TO

WIN THE NOMINATION IN AUGUST IN KANSAS CITY. AND THEN

WE'RE GOING TO WIN ON NOVEMBER THE SECOND, AS WELL.

WE'LL WIN BECAUSE WE HAVE THE POLICIES,

THE PROGRAMS, THE PERFORMANCE AND ABOVE ALL, THE PEOPLE

ON OUR SIDE.

WE'LL WIN BECAUSE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE KNOW THAT

IT TOOK ACTION, NOT WORDS, TO PUT AMERICA BACK ON COURSE.

WE'VE MADE REAL, SOLID, MEASURABLE PROGRESS IN SOLVING

THE PROBLEMS THAT AFFECT YOU MOST, AND YOU'RE GOING TO SEE

A LOT MORE PROGRESS IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD.

WHEN I BECAME PRESIDENT NEARLY 19 MONTHS AGO,

AMERICA WAS FACED WITH SOME VERY SERIOUS CONCERNS:

-- RUNAWAY INFLATION AND RECESSION / BOTH

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 INSTITUTION OF OUR SOCIETY /
THREATENED THE PROMISE OF THE 200-YEAR-OLD
AMERICAN EXPERIENCE.

IT WAS A BLEAK, (DEPRESSING), EVEN FRIGHTENING

PICTURE•

IT WAS A TIME THAT CALLED FOR STRONG,

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION•

NINETEEN MONTHS LATER THE RESULTS ARE THERE FOR ALL

AMERICANS TO TAKE PRIDE IN / AND ALL THE WORLD TO NOTE.

OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY IS GROWING STRONGER AND MORE

PROSPEROUS EVERY DAY.

THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IS PLANNING

AHEAD WITH A NEW-FOUND SENSE OF CERTAINTY AND SECURITY.

THE ECONOMIC INDICATORS POINT TO GOOD NEWS AHEAD.

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.

EMPLOYMENT HAS GONE UP. IN JANUARY ALONE,
WE GAINED 800,000 JOBS -- THE BIGGEST MONTHLY INCREASE
IN NEARLY 16 YEARS -- AND THAT'S PROGRESS. IN JANUARY
ALONE, UNEMPLOYMENT FELL BY FIVE-TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT --
THE BIGGEST MONTHLY DROP IN MORE THAN 16 YEARS.

WE'RE STILL NOT MOVING AS FAST AS I WOULD LIKE, PARTICULARLY
IN FLORIDA, / BUT WE'RE MOVING, / AND MOVING IN THE RIGHT
DIRECTION, / AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET UP UNTIL EVERY AMERICAN
WHO WANTS A JOB CAN FIND A JOB.

DURING 1974, INFLATION WAS RAGING AT AN ANNUAL
RATE OF MORE THAN 12 PERCENT. THE LATEST INDICATORS
SHOW WE'VE CUT IT ALMOST IN HALF. AGAIN, I'M NOT
SATISFIED, BUT THAT'S REAL PROGRESS, AND THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE KNOW IT, AND THEY LIKE IT.

THE LATEST INDEX OF CONSUMER CONFIDENCE --

HOW YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR NEIGHBORS LOOK AT

THE FUTURE -- IS DOUBLE THAT OF A YEAR AGO●

REAL EARNINGS FOR THE AVERAGE AMERICAN WORKER

ROSE SIGNIFICANTLY IN JANUARY -- WELL ABOVE THE RATE

OF INFLATION. THAT MEANS YOUR PURCHASING POWER IS ON

THE INCREASE. NOW WHEN YOU GET A BIGGER PAYCHECK

IT DOESN'T BUY A SMALLER BAG OF GROCERIES.

NEARLY TWO MILLION, ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND JOBS
HAVE BEEN RECOVERED SINCE LAST MARCH. THAT'S 96 PERCENT
OF ALL THE JOBS LOST DURING THE WORST RECESSION IN MORE THAN
30 YEARS. AND WE DID IT WITHOUT SCRAPPING FISCAL
RESPONSIBILITY, WITHOUT MASSIVELY TAPPING THE FEDERAL
TREASURY, AND WITHOUT ZAPPING THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER.

WE DID NOT RESORT TO EXPENSIVE TEMPORARY

"QUICK FIX" GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS. 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 HAVE WEATHERED THE WORST OF THE STORM.

AS A RESULT OF THIS ADMINISTRATION'S ACTION,
WE HAVE BEGUN A VIGOROUS ECONOMIC RECOVERY. BUT THE
PRICE OF AMERICA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY WAS NOT A NEW ROUND
OF DOUBLE-DIGIT INFLATION, NOR WAS IT BILLIONS AND BILLIONS
OF EXTRA DOLLARS FROM THE FEDERAL TAXPAYER.

YOU KNOW WHERE I STAND ON UNNECESSARY

FEDERAL SPENDING. I'VE VETOED 46 BILLS SINCE BECOMING

PRESIDENT, AND WITHOUT ENDANGERING OR WEAKENING OUR

ECONOMIC RECOVERY, THOSE VETOES WILL SAVE THE AMERICAN

TAXPAYER 13 BILLION DOLLARS.

AND I'LL CONTINUE TO VETO THESE EXTRAVAGANT
SPENDING BILLS AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN UNTIL WE RESTORE
FISCAL SELF-CONTROL TO WASHINGTON. YOU HAVE TO KEEP
YOUR FINANCIAL HOUSE IN ORDER. YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT
TO EXPECT YOUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO DO THE SAME.

AND IF WE CAN HOLD THE LINE ON FEDERAL SPENDING,
IF WE CAN KEEP THE BUDGET BUSTERS IN THE CONGRESS UNDER
CONTROL, THEN ANOTHER MAJOR TAX CUT WILL BE ENTIRELY
POSSIBLE BY 1979●

WE HAVE A STRONG ECONOMY AND I INTEND TO MAKE IT
EVEN STRONGER. I WANT MORE JOBS FOR MORE AMERICANS,
AND I WANT THOSE JOBS TO PROVIDE AMERICANS WITH A FUTURE --
TO GIVE YOU PRIDE AS WELL AS A PAYCHECK.

I WANT TO MAKE SUSTAINED PROSPERITY NOT ONLY
A GOAL BUT A FACT OF LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

BUT ECONOMIC PROGRESS IS NOT THE ONLY PROGRESS
WE HAVE MADE.

TODAY AMERICA IS AT PEACE. TODAY THERE ARE
NO AMERICANS FIGHTING ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, AND I WANT
TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

I BELIEVE IN PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH. WE WILL
STAND TALL AND STRONG AND KEEP OUR POWDER DRY, SO THE
UNITED STATES CAN NEGOTIATE FROM A POSITION THAT COMMANDS
RESPECT AND INVITES COOPERATION.

I HAVE TAKEN FIRM STEPS TO ENSURE THAT OUR MAJOR ALLIANCES ARE STRONG, OUR COMMITMENTS ARE VALID, AND OUR DEFENSES ARE WITHOUT EQUAL IN THE WORLD.

I HAVE PROPOSED THE TWO LARGEST PEACETIME DEFENSE BUDGETS IN AMERICA'S HISTORY, REVERSING A TREND THAT WAS REDUCING OUR DEFENSE EXPENDITURES / YEAR BY YEAR / TO LEVELS THAT WERE DANGEROUSLY LOW.

THE PRICE OF OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE MAY BE HIGH,
BUT THE PRICE OF FREEDOM IS ONE AMERICANS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN
WILLING TO PAY ... IN BLOOD, IN SACRIFICE, IN TREASURE●
WE ARE NO LESS WILLING TO PAY THAT PRICE IN AMERICA TODAY
TO KEEP OUR NATION SECURE●

BUT AMERICA'S SECURITY RESTS ON MORE
THAN ARMAMENTS ALONE.

IT RESTS IN PART ON OUR DETERMINATION TO MAKE
THE LIVES OF OUR OWN CITIZENS SECURE HERE AT HOME.

THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR AMERICA'S OLDER CITIZENS,
TO WHOM THIS NATION IS SO DEEPLY INDEBTED.

IN MY STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS TO THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE, I PLEDGED TO ENSURE THE INTEGRITY
AND THE SOLVENCY OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM. I AM
FIGHTING TO MAINTAIN IT.

AMERICAN WORKING MEN AND WOMEN HAVE LABORED

TOO LONG AND CONTRIBUTED TOO MUCH TO THE GREATNESS OF

AMERICA -- TO BE DENIED THE INCOME THEY HAVE EARNED FOR

RETIREMENT IN THEIR LATER YEARS●

I WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH, PROD AND PRESS THE
CONGRESS TO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS,
NOW AND IN THE FUTURE, WILL BE RESPONSIBLY FUNDED
AND FULLY PROTECTED●

TO BE STRONG AND SECURE FROM WITHIN IS A GREAT
BULWARK OF OUR LIBERTY, AND THAT IS SOMETHING WE MUST
NEVER FORGET●

BUT OUR ULTIMATE STRENGTH IS ONE OF THE SPIRIT --
THE LOVE OF FREEDOM, THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE, THE COMMITMENT
TO PROGRESS WHICH AMERICANS HAVE SHARED FOR 200 YEARS●

WE LIVE IN A NATION THAT IS THE ENVY OF THE WORLD,
AND FRANKLY/I'M TIRED OF HEARING AMERICA DOWNGRADED!

I BELIEVE IN AMERICA● I BELIEVE IN ITS STRENGTH●

I BELIEVE IN ITS PURPOSE● I BELIEVE IN ITS GOODNESS●

AND I BELIEVE IN YOU -- ITS PEOPLE●

WORKING TOGETHER, YOU AND I, WE CAN LOOK
TO AN EVEN BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR
CHILDREN.

WE CAN SEE AN AMERICA IN WHICH ALL MEN AND WOMEN
LIVE IN DIGNITY AND SECURITY AND HARMONY AND IN PEACE.

WE CAN SEE A PEOPLE TAKING PRIDE IN THEIR WORK
AND FINDING PLEASURE AND PURPOSE IN THEIR LIVES●

WE CAN SEE AN AMERICA IN WHICH GOVERNMENT
IS THE CAPABLE SERVANT AND NOT THE MASTER OF ITS PEOPLE●

WE CAN SEE AN AMERICA WHICH CHERISHES THE OLD
VALUES OF HONESTY AND COMPASSION AND DETERMINATION
AND COURAGE.

WE CAN SEE AN AMERICA IN WHICH DREAMS
STILL COME TRUE.

THAT IS MY GOAL, AND THAT IS WHY I ASK

FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN THE CHALLENGING YEARS AHEAD.

END OF TEXT