

**The original documents are located in Box 25, “3/6/76 - Remarks at John A. Logan Community College, Carterville, Illinois” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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~~THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN~~ . . .

REMARKS AT JOHN A. LOGAN

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CARTERVILLE, ILLINOIS

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1976

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS -- LOGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

THANK YOU, PRESIDENT TARVIN (Logan Community College)

PRESIDENT ABLE (Southeastern Illinois College)

PRESIDENT KLAUS (Shawnee College)

SENATOR PERCY

CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY

~~CONGRESSMAN MADIGAN~~

STUDENTS, FACULTY AND GUESTS

I AM VERY HAPPY TO BE HERE IN WILLIAMSON

COUNTY WITH YOU THIS AFTERNOON.

IT'S GOOD TO

BE IN AMERICA'S HEARTLAND AGAIN.

THE PURPOSE

OF MY VISIT CAN BE SUMMED UP IN JUST A FEW WORDS.

AS MUCH AS I BELIEVE IN A STRONG AND PROSPEROUS

AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY - I'M HERE TO SAY

THAT THIS YEAR - THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO REASON TO

TRADE IN YOUR FORD / ON A NEW MODEL, // ESPECIALLY

ONE THAT HASN'T EVEN BEEN ROAD-TESTED.

I LOOK FORWARD TO ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS,

BUT FIRST, LET ME MAKE A FEW BRIEF REMARKS.

I AM DELIGHTED TO SEE THE GROWTH AND PROGRESS

YOU HAVE MADE IN THIS PART OF ILLINOIS. AS YOU

KNOW, NOT SO LONG AGO THE ECONOMIC PICTURE HERE

WASN'T ALL THAT BRIGHT, AND SOME PEOPLE HAD LOST FAITH

IN THIS AREA'S FUTURE.

WELL, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THEY WERE WRONG. YOUR

FUTURE IS AS FULL OF STRENGTH AND HOPE AS YOU ARE.

THE SIGNS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH ARE HERE + IN MARION,

FOR INSTANCE, / WHERE YOU NOW HAVE A GROWING

POPULATION, / A GROWING TOURIST INDUSTRY, / A NEW BANK, /

A NEW SUPERMARKET, / EVEN A NEW MOVIE THEATRE.

I AM CONFIDENT YOUR GROWTH WILL CONTINUE. YOUR

CONFIDENCE AND YOUR DRIVE, YOUR INITIATIVE AND

YOUR FAITH IN PROGRESS WILL MAKE IT HAPPEN.



IN THE NATION AS A WHOLE, WE CAN ALSO

SEE A BRIGHTER FUTURE AHEAD -- BECAUSE WE HAVE STEERED

A STEADY COURSE.      THERE WERE THOSE WHO HAD LOST

FAITH IN OUR GREAT COUNTRY AND ITS ECONOMIC SYSTEM --

BUT THEY WERE WRONG.      THERE WERE THOSE WHO SAID

GAS WOULD BE A DOLLAR A GALLON BY NOW, AND THEY

WERE WRONG.

THERE WERE THOSE WHO SAID THE ONLY WAY TO BEAT

UNEMPLOYMENT WAS TO HAVE THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLY JOBS,

AND THEY WERE WRONG TOO.

IT WAS NOT A TIME FOR PANIC -- BUT IT

WAS A TIME TO TAKE STRONG, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION.

THIS ADMINISTRATION WAS CONFIDENT WE COULD DEFEAT

THE RECESSION WITHOUT SURRENDERING TO INFLATION --

AND WE ARE DOING IT.

ALL THE JOBS LOST TO THE RECESSION HAVE

NOW BEEN RECOVERED. INFLATION HAS BEEN CUT IN HALF.

THE WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX FELL A HALF OF ONE PERCENT

IN FEBRUARY. THAT'S THE BIGGEST MONTHLY DECLINE

IN NEARLY A YEAR.



CONSUMER CONFIDENCE AND A HOST OF OTHER

ECONOMIC INDICATORS ARE UP -- AND WE'RE GOING TO

KEEP THEM UP. WE'RE GOING TO MAKE SURE THERE ARE

ENOUGH REAL JOBS CREATED BY OUR ECONOMY SO THAT ALL

OF YOU CAN USE THE SKILLS YOU HAVE LEARNED AND ARE

LEARNING, FOR A RICH, REWARDING LIFE.

YOU AND I AND EVERY OTHER THINKING

AMERICAN WANT LONG-TERM, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH THAT

WON'T BE UNDERMINED BY INFLATION. TO KEEP THE

COST OF LIVING DOWN, I INTEND TO KEEP THE COST OF

GOVERNMENT DOWN.

WE'VE ALREADY MADE REAL PROGRESS•

MY NEW BUDGET CUTS IN HALF / THE RATE OF GROWTH

IN FEDERAL SPENDING WE'VE SEEN OVER THE LAST DECADE•

AND MY 46 VETOES IN THE LAST 19 MONTHS SINCE I BECAME

PRESIDENT / HAVE SAVED THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER

13 BILLION DOLLARS•



BY CONTINUING THE COMMON-SENSE APPROACH

I'VE BEEN TAKING, WE CAN HAVE A BALANCED BUDGET BY 1979•

THAT MEANS A FURTHER MAJOR TAX CUT WILL BE POSSIBLE --

PUTTING MORE MONEY BACK INTO THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER'S

POCKET / INTO YOUR POCKET• YOU HAVE AS MANY GOOD

USES FOR THAT MONEY AS THE GOVERNMENT DOES•

ANOTHER WAY WE CAN HOLD DOWN THE COST

OF GOVERNMENT IS BY USING FEDERAL DOLLARS IN THE MOST

EFFECTIVE WAY POSSIBLE.

NOT BY JUNKING GOOD

PROGRAMS ALONG WITH BAD ONES

NOT BY DUMPING

THEM INTO THE LAPS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS --

BUT BY SENSIBLY IMPROVING THE ONES THAT DO WORK,

AND GETTING RID OF THE PROGRAMS THAT DON'T WORK.

REVENUE SHARING IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE

OF A FEDERAL PROGRAM THAT HAS WORKED. IT COMBINES

THE EFFICIENCY OF THE FEDERAL REVENUE RAISING SYSTEM

WITH THE EFFECTIVENESS OF LOCAL DECISION - MAKING.

UNDER THE CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM,

WHICH ENDS THIS YEAR, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ILLINOIS

WILL HAVE RECEIVED OVER ONE AND A HALF BILLION DOLLARS

IN GENERAL REVENUE SHARING FUNDS. THAT ISN'T JUST

AN ABSTRACT FIGURE. THOSE DOLLARS HAVE HELPED EDUCATE

YOUR CHILDREN.

IN MARION, THEY HAVE HELPED BUILD SEWERS AND

WATER LINES. IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY THEY HAVE

PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN KEEPING YOU AND YOUR

FAMILIES SAFE FROM CRIME.

THAT'S THE KIND OF RESPONSIVE FEDERAL

PROGRAM WE NEED MORE OF, / NOT LESS. SO I INTEND

WITH THE HELP OF THE CONGRESS TO EXTEND THE GENERAL

REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM, AND TO SUBSTANTIALLY

INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY FLOWING BACK TO YOUR

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

REVENUE SHARING HAS PROVEN ITS VALUE IN ANY

REALISTIC APPRAISAL OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S

ROLE. AND REALISM IS WHAT I BELIEVE IN --

NOT RHETORIC.

PART OF MY REALISTIC VIEW IS TO TAKE A

HARD LOOK AT OUR COUNTRY'S LONG - TERM PROBLEMS.

ENERGY IS HIGH ON THE LIST.      THE LONG LINES AT

GASOLINE STATIONS MAY HAVE FADED FROM THE MEMORIES

OF MANY AMERICANS - BUT I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THEM.



THEY TAUGHT US A LESSON TO REMEMBER - THAT WE

ARE FAR, FAR TOO DEPENDENT ON OTHER COUNTRIES

FOR OUR ENERGY NEEDS•

TO DEAL WITH THIS URGENT PROBLEM, I HAVE  
SUBMITTED A SCORE OF MAJOR LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS  
AIMED AT HELPING THE UNITED STATES TO ACHIEVE ENERGY  
INDEPENDENCE. UNFORTUNATELY, THE CONGRESS HAS  
NOT ACTED QUICKLY ON THESE. BUT THESE PROPOSALS  
ARE ESSENTIAL IF AMERICA IS TO PRODUCE ENERGY MORE  
RAPIDLY, / AND USE IT MORE WISELY.

OUR RICH SUPPLIES OF COAL WHICH MANY  
OF YOU IN THIS AREA HELP BRING TO THE MARKETPLACE  
PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MY NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY.  
THAT MEANS AN IMPORTANT ROLE FOR ILLINOIS, WHICH HAS  
BIGGER BITUMINOUS COAL RESERVES THAT ANY OTHER STATE  
IN THE UNION.

COAL IS OUR NATION'S MOST ABUNDANT ENERGY

RESOURCE. BUT PRODUCTION NOW IS ABOUT THE SAME

AS IT WAS HALF A CENTURY AGO. I HAVE URGED A

COMPREHENSIVE COAL POLICY TO ASSURE THAT OUR COAL

PRODUCTION WILL TOP ONE BILLION TONS IN 1985.

MY POLICY INCLUDES MEASURES AIMED AT

IMPROVING COAL PRODUCTION, TRANSPORTATION AND USE.

MY 1977 BUDGET INCLUDES A 28 PERCENT INCREASE IN

FUNDING FOR COAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, SO WE

CAN MAKE THE BEST POSSIBLE USE OF OUR VAST ENERGY

RESOURCES.

WE ALSO HAVE TO MAKE SURE WE CAN GET OUR

ENERGY TO WHERE IT'S NEEDED.      THIS DEMANDS A

STRONG AND EFFICIENT RAILROAD SYSTEM TO MAKE SURE

ENERGY IS AVAILABLE TO FUEL AMERICAN INDUSTRY.

THE RAILROAD REVITALIZATION ACT OF 1976,

WHICH I SIGNED A MONTH AGO, WILL HELP ENSURE

THE STRONG TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY WE NEED TO ACHIEVE

OUR GOAL OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE. THE ACT AUTHORIZES

OVER SIX BILLION DOLLARS IN APPROPRIATIONS AND

LOAN GUARANTEES.

OVER 2 BILLION DOLLARS OF THAT MONEY WILL  
GO TO SUPPORT A NEW RAIL SYSTEM, CONRAIL, AND  
ENABLE IT TO UPGRADE ITS TRACKS AND THE QUALITY OF  
ITS SERVICE.



THIS INCLUDES LINES STRETCHING ACROSS ILLINOIS EASTWARD

FROM ST. LOUIS, AND ALSO SOUTH INTO THIS REGION,

RIGHT THROUGH WILLIAMSON COUNTY, IMPROVING THE

TRANSPORTATION OF COAL. THAT'S JUST ONE WAY

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN PLAY A POSITIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE

PART IN THIS AREA'S RICH AND PRODUCTIVE FUTURE.

I INTEND TO CONTINUE MAKING GOVERNMENT  
MORE RESPONSIVE TO YOUR NEEDS, AND THE NEEDS OF  
ALL AMERICANS. NOT BY TILTING THE FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT ON ITS EAR, BUT BY GIVING IT A NEW  
BALANCE.

A BALANCED FISCAL POLICY•

A NEW BALANCE OF

POWER BETWEEN FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES•

A NEW BALANCE BETWEEN THOSE WHO PAY TAXES, AND

THOSE WHO BENEFIT FROM THEM•

THE WORD "BALANCE" MAY NOT SOUND VERY

DRAMATIC. BUT I DON'T BELIEVE GOVERNMENT SHOULD

BE THEATRICAL -- JUST EFFECTIVE.

AND NOW I'LL BE GLAD TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

END OF TEXT