

**The original documents are located in Box 25, “3/12/76 - Remarks at a Public Forum at Buffalo Grove High School, Chicago, Illinois” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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## Acknowledgements

- Thank you, Dick (Ogilvie introduces you)
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  - Students and Guests
- MY OLD FRIEND MARGUERITE CHURCH

MRS FORD

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

PUBLIC FORUM AT BUFFALO GROVE HIGH SCHOOL

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1976

IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE

WITH YOU THIS EVENING IN YOUR BEAUTIFUL BUFFALO

GROVE HIGH SCHOOL.

THIS IS THE LAST STOP OF OUR VISIT TO ILLINOIS

THIS WEEK AND I'M ESPECIALLY GLAD TO BE WINDING UP MY

TRIP HERE, BECAUSE I HAVE ALWAYS HAD SO MANY GOOD

FRIENDS IN THIS AREA.

IN FACT, I BROUGHT QUITE A

FEW OF THEM DOWN TO WASHINGTON TO WORK WITH ME.

MY DAUGHTER SUSAN HAS A FRIEND WHO TEACHES  
AT THIS VERY HIGH SCHOOL, AND A WEEK AGO MY SON JACK  
WAS SPEAKING AT SOME COLLEGES NEAR HERE - I HOPE HE  
WAS MAKING FRIENDS, TOO.

*I heard he did*

*very well.*

I LOOK FORWARD TO ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS,

BUT FIRST LET ME MAKE A FEW BRIEF REMARKS.

THINK BACK FOR A MOMENT ABOUT HOW THINGS

WERE A YEAR AND A HALF AGO.

OUR COUNTRY WAS BADLY TROUBLED.      OUR

NATIONAL SPIRIT HAD BEEN WEAKENED BY A LONG AND DIVISIVE

MILITARY CONFLICT, AND BY THE SHOCKS OF POLITICAL

ABUSES.



OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY HAD BEEN WEAKENED

AS WELL, AND IN ITS UNHEALTHY STATE IT WAS THREATENED

BY THE UNPRECEDENTED DOUBLE THREAT OF RECESSION AND

INFLATION.

THAT WAS THE SITUATION CONFRONTING ME WHEN

I MOVED INTO THE WHITE HOUSE. MY TOP PRIORITY

WAS TO GET OUR NATION BACK ON ITS FEET, AND TO

RESTORE ITS CONFIDENCE.

I SET ABOUT CONDUCTING AN OPEN AND RESPONSIBLE

ADMINISTRATION, FOLLOWING THE DICTATES OF LAW AND

OF MY OWN CONSCIENCE.

*Straight talk / Not to promise more than I could produce. Produce all that I promised*

AND I REFUSED TO BE PANICKED INTO DANGEROUS

ECONOMIC POLICIES THAT WOULD HAVE THREATENED OUR

COUNTRY'S LONG-TERM GROWTH.

THE STATISTICS SHOW OUR ECONOMIC POLICIES

HAVE BEEN THE RIGHT ONES. INFLATION IS LESS THAN HALF

WHAT IT WAS. ALL THE JOBS LOST DURING THE RECESSION

HAVE BEEN RECOVERED.

86.3

BUT THOSE STATISTICS DON'T TELL THE WHOLE STORY.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IS UP AGAIN TOO, AND AMERICANS ARE

BUYING CARS AND RETAIL GOODS AT AN INCREASED RATE.

AMERICANS ONCE AGAIN FEEL CONFIDENT TO INVEST IN THEIR FUTURE,

AND THEIR NATION'S FUTURE.

OUR INFLATION RATE IS STILL TOO HIGH,

AND THERE IS STILL TOO MUCH UNEMPLOYMENT. BUT WE ARE

TAKING FIRM STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, AND WE'RE GOING

TO KEEP UP THE PACE.



TAKE REVENUE SHARING. THAT IS A FEDERAL

PROGRAM THAT WORKS. IT IS CHEAP TO ADMINISTER ---

THE RUNNING COSTS ARE LESS THAN ONE-TWELFTH OF ONE CENT

ON EVERY DOLLAR HANDLED.



AND IT COMBINES THE EFFICIENCY OF THE FEDERAL  
REVENUE RAISING SYSTEM WITH THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF YOUR  
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

UNDER THE CURRENT FIVE-YEAR GENERAL REVENUE

SHARING PROGRAM, WHICH ENDS THIS DECEMBER, ILLINOIS

STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES WILL HAVE RECEIVED OVER

ONE AND A HALF BILLION DOLLARS.

IT'S BEEN A GOOD INVESTMENT AT THE STATE

AND LOCAL LEVEL.

IT HAS HELPED TO MAINTAIN COMMUNITY

SERVICES.

IT HAS HELPED EDUCATE YOUR CHILDREN.

IT HAS HELPED KEEP DOWN YOUR TAXES.

REVENUE SHARING HAS PROVEN ITS VALUE IN  
ANY REALISTIC APPRAISAL OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S  
ROLE. THAT'S WHY, WITH THE HELP OF THE CONGRESS,  
I INTEND TO EXTEND AND INCREASE THIS PROGRAM.  
BECAUSE REALISM IS WHAT I BELIEVE IN, NOT RHETORIC.

I HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH THE REALITIES OF  
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT - NOT JUST IN THE LAST  
NINETEEN MONTHS, | BUT DURING A QUARTER OF A CENTURY  
OF SERVICE IN THE CONGRESS.

I BELIEVE MY EXPERIENCE HAS A LOT TO DO

~~have~~ ~~accomplished~~  
WITH WHAT I CAN ACCOMPLISH FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

ONE THING MY EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME IS

AMERICA NEEDS STRONG DEFENSES TO KEEP IT SECURE AND AT PEACE.

I BELIEVE IN PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH. AS A NATION TODAY,

WE ARE SECOND TO NONE IN MILITARY STRENGTH - AND I INTEND

TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

ANOTHER THING MY EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME

IS HOW TO USE THE MACHINERY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.



FOR EXAMPLE, I CAME INTO THE WHITE HOUSE

FACING WHAT SOME CALLED A "VETO-PROOF" CONGRESS.

BUT I USED MY VETO -- I USED IT 46 TIMES

AND I MADE 85 PERCENT OF THOSE VETOES STICK

THOSE 39 SUCCESSFUL VETOES SAVED YOU,

THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER, 13 BILLION DOLLARS.

*with the help of  
economy minded members  
of the Congress!*



A BALANCED BUDGET IS ONLY PART OF THE

BALANCED POLICY I INTEND TO PURSUE THROUGHOUT THE

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

WE NEED A NEW BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN

FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES. A NEW

BALANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUAL

CITIZEN AND THE GOVERNMENT WHICH SERVES HIM.

A NEW BALANCE BETWEEN THOSE WHO PAY TAXES, AND

THOSE WHO BENEFIT FROM THEM.

ALL THESE ELEMENTS OF A NEW BALANCE WILL GIVE

OUR GREAT NATION A NEW STRENGTH AND A NEW STABILITY•

WE WILL HAVE A SOUND AND SOLID BASE ON WHICH TO BUILD

AN EVEN GREATER AMERICA - AN AMERICA THAT WILL CONTINUE

TO BE A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR THE BEST HOPES

OF THE ENTIRE WORLD•

AND NOW I WILL BE GLAD TO ANSWER YOUR  
QUESTIONS●

(END OF TEXT)