The original documents are located in Box 25, “3/13/76 - Public Rally at North Carolina Shopping Center, Winston-Salem, North Carolina” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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PUBLIC RALLY AT NORTH CAROLINA SHOPPING CENTER

WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1976

I WELCOME THIS CHANCE TO TALK TO YOU THIS AFTERNOON, AND I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING VERY DEAR TO ME -- THIS GREAT NATION OF OURS.
I BELIEVE IN AMERICA. I HAVE FAITH IN THE UNITED STATES, AS I'M SURE YOU DO, AND I THINK THE EXPERIENCE OF THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF SHOWS JUST HOW WELL-FOUNDED THAT FAITH IS.

LAST MARCH THERE WERE PLENTY OF VOICES CRYING THAT OUR ECONOMY WAS HEADING TOWARD ANOTHER GREAT DEPRESSION. THERE WAS DOUBLE-DIGIT INFLATION, CLIMBING UNEMPLOYMENT, AND CONSUMER CONFIDENCE WAS SERIOUSLY SHAKEN.
BUT WE SORTED THE SITUATION OUT, TOOK DECISIVE ACTION, AND WE'RE ON THE ROAD AGAIN TO AN EVEN GREATER AMERICA.

WE DID IT WITH HARD WORK AND DETERMINATION, JUST AS AMERICA HAS ALWAYS DONE IT.
WE'RE SOLVING OUR PROBLEMS, AND WHILE SOME MAY CALL IT LUCK, I HAVE FOUND THAT THE HARDER I WORK, THE LUCKIER I GET. AND MOST AMERICANS ARE FAMILIAR WITH THIS KIND OF LUCK.

IT IS THE KIND OF LUCK WHICH OUR FOREFATHERS FOUND 200 YEARS AGO WHEN THEY HAMMERED OUT THE PRECEPTS OF THIS GREAT DEMOCRACY.
By setting a common sense course during the worst recession of this nation in the past 30 years, let me tell you how lucky we all got.

Inflation has been cut in half. Employment has risen by 2.2 million since last March, giving us back all the jobs we lost to the recession. The index of leading economic indicators just released registered the sharpest rise in six months.
INVESTMENTS FROM ABROAD IN AMERICAN STOCKS AND BONDS HAVE GROWN DRAMATICALLY. WE WOUND UP 1975 WITH THE STRONGEST BALANCE OF TRADE IN HISTORY AND AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AND FARMERS EXPORTED MORE THAN WE IMPORTED FROM ABROAD.

THERE ARE NO GIMMICKS FOR A STABLE ECONOMY, JUST AS THERE ARE NO GIMMICKS FOR A LASTING PEACE. THEY ARE BOTH BUILT WITH SOUND AND HONEST WORK.
I BELIEVE IN THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM.

I REJECTED BIGGER SPENDING, BIGGER DEFICITS, BIGGER GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION.

INSTEAD I INITIATED TAX CUTS FOR INDIVIDUALS, TAX INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESS EXPANSION AND JOB PRODUCTION, AND EXTENDED INCOME CUSHIONS FOR THOSE AMERICANS OUT OF WORK. AND AMERICA WORKED ITS WAY OUT OF THE RECESSION.
I intend to keep on working in Washington, to keep on making sure that your federal tax dollars are used wisely and well.

I'm going to keep up my pressure on the budget-busters. If we continue our sound and sensible approach to government spending, we can have a balanced budget by 1979.
That would mean further major tax reductions, putting more money back into your hands -- because that's where it belongs. You have as many, if not more, good uses for that money than the Federal Government does.

Balancing our budget is going to be a big job, and no one can honestly say it's a job that can be done overnight. But we are going to continue working carefully and steadfastly toward that goal -- and we are going to achieve it.
WE ARE CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO ACHIEVE A BALANCED BUDGET AT THE EXPENSE OF OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE.

IF THERE'S ONE THING HISTORY HAS TAUGHT US IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IT'S THAT WE CAN REMAIN AT PEACE ONLY IF WE REMAIN STRONG.

THROUGHOUT MY 27 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE IN THE CONGRESS AND IN THE WHITE HOUSE, I HAVE ALWAYS SPoken OUT FOR A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE.
I believe our military might, which is second to none in the world, represents a very wise investment.

It ensures that no enemy will be tempted, and no ally of ours will be insecure. It represents our commitment to peace through strength.
A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE SHOWS THE WORLD THAT AMERICA STANDS READY TO DEFEND THE FREEDOM WHICH AMERICA STANDS FOR.

AMERICA STILL CHERISHES THE OLD VALUES WHICH HAVE MADE IT GREAT. AND WE ARE MOVING AGAIN, MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
WITH YOUR HELP AND GUIDANCE, WE WILL BUILD

AN EVEN GREATER AMERICA, AN AMERICA IN WHICH OUR

BRIGHTEST DREAMS STILL COME TRUE.

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