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PUBLIC RALLY AT NORTH CAROLINA SHOPPING CENTER

WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1976

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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.

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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
quoted
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.

END OF TEXT