#### The original documents are located in Box 26, "3/20/76 - Remarks at Airport Rally, Avery County, N.C." of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

#### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Digitized from Box 26 of President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN .....

#### REMARKS AT AIRPORT RALLY

AVERY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

MARCH 20, 1976

#### FIRST LET ME SAY THAT IT'S A PLEASURE

TO BE BACK IN NORTH CAROLINA AGAIN, AND IT'S A PARTICULAR

PLEASURE TO BE HERE IN THE TRI-COUNTY AREA WITH SO MANY FRIENDS.

THE FORD FAMILY HAS HAD A TWO GENERATION

LOVE AFFAIR WITH NORTH CAROLINA

#### A LONG TIME AGO I WENT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF

#### NORTH CAROLINA LAW SCHOOL AND IN THE EARLY DAYS OF

#### WORLD WAR II, I WAS STATIONED AT THE PRE-FLIGHT SCHOOL AT

#### CHAPEL HILL. MORE RECENTLY, MY OLDEST SON MIKE, AND

#### HIS WIFE GAYLE, GRADUATED FROM WAKE FOREST.

# SO IF YOU DON'T HAVE A NATIVE SON IN THE WHITE HOUSE, YOU HAVE THE NEXT BEST THING, A MAN WHO LOVES THIS STATE, ITS PEOPLE AND ITS BEAUTY.

# I DON'T HAVE TO DREAM UP NICE THINGS

-4-

TO SAY ABOUT NORTH CAROLINA -- I'VE LIVED THEM.

AND CAMPAIGNING HERE IS LIKE CAMPAIGNING IN MY OWN



#### AND I INTEND TO DO A GOOD DEAL MORE OF IT

IN THE FUTURE, TO DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP OTHER REPUBLICAN

CANDIDATES CAMPAIGNING FOR THE STATE LEGISLATURE,

THE CONGRESS AND THE STATE HOUSE

#### WE NEED MORE MEN OF THE CALIBRE AND QUALITY OF GOVERNOR

#### JIM HOLSHOUSER TO SERVE THIS STATE AND OUR NATION.

### NOW LET ME GIVE YOU A LITTLE STRAIGHT TALK

ABOUT AMERICA'S ECONOMIC PICTURE, BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I KNOW

YOU'RE INTERESTED IN.

SINCE I TOOK OFFICE SOME 19 MONTHS AGO,

I HAVE NOT PROMISED MORE THAN WE COULD DELIVER, AND I HAVE

-<u>\$</u>-

DELIVERED EVERYTHING WE PROMISED -- AND THAT IS WHAT YOU

CAN EXPECT FROM ME IN THE FUTURE.

FIRST I WANT YOU TO KNOW I AM FOR

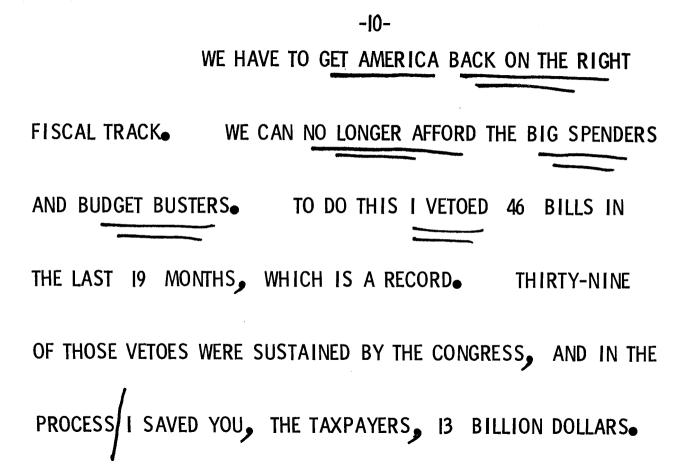
BUDGETARY SANITY -- A BALANCED BUDGET.

#### I HAVE BEEN WORKING TOWARD THIS GOAL

EVER SINCE I TOOK OFFICE, AND WITH YOUR HELP, WE WILL SEE

THIS ACCOMPLISHED IN 1979. AND WHEN WE DO BALANCE

THE BUDGET, AN ADDITIONAL MAJOR TAX CUT WILL BE POSSIBLE.



AND IF THE CONGRESS KEEPS SENDING ME BILLS

WHICH I KNOW ARE ILL-CONSIDERED OR INFLATIONARY, I WILL

CONTINUE TO VETO THEM -- AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN

# I KNOW ALL OF YOU RECOGNIZE THAT FOR THE

LAST 19 MONTHS THIS COUNTRY HAS GONE THROUGH A VERY DIFFICULT

TIME. WHEN I TOOK OFFICE, INFLATION WAS RUNNING AT A RATE

OF 12 PERCENT OR MORE PER YEAR. WE TOOK INFLATION OUT OF

THE DOUBLE DIGIT COLUMN -- ACTUALLY CUT IT IN HALF. AND WE

ARE CONTINUING TO REVERSE THE TREND OF THE PAST DECADE.

### IN FACT, IN FEBRUARY, CONSUMER PRICES

INCREASED ONLY ONE-TENTH OF ONE PERCENT, THE SMALLEST MONTHLY

HIKE IN MORE THAN FOUR YEARS.

#### I TOOK OFFICE ON THE BRINK OF THE WORST ECONOMIC

#### RECESSION THIS COUNTRY HAS HAD IN FORTY YEARS.

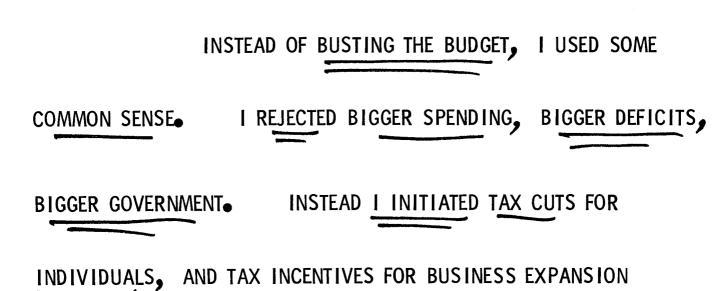
#### UNEMPLOYMENT WAS CLIMBING UP AND UP AND UP.

#### AS ALWAYS, SOME PEOPLE CAME UP WITH

QUICK-FIX SCHEMES, SCHEMES WHICH WOULD ADD MASSIVE NUMBERS

OF PEOPLE TO THE FEDERAL PAYROLL, SCHEMES WHICH WOULD

HAVE SENT THE BUDGET THROUGH THE CAPITOL DOME.



AND JOB CREATION.

WE HELD THE LINE ON FEDERAL SPENDING

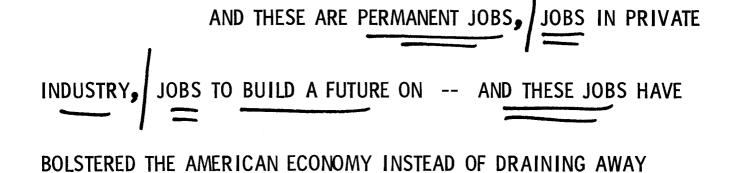
BECAUSE I WANT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO MAKE YOUR TAX DOLLARS WORK AS HARD FOR YOU AS YOU DID FOR THEM. AND BECAUSE WE DIDN'T PANIC, BECAUSE WE DIDN'T

LOSE OUR COOL, WE HAVE COME OUT OF THAT RECESSION.

WE HAVE ALREADY GAINED BACK ALL THE JOBS WE LOST TO THE

RECESSION, WITH OVER NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND AMERICANS

ADDED TO PAYROLLS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY ALONE.



YOUR TAX DOLLARS IN FEDERALLY SUBSIDIZED PROGRAMS.

AUTHORITY FROM STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

WHO WOULD EXPAND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WHILE TAKING

BUT WE STILL HAVE TO GUARD AGAINST THOSE

CONTINUES TO BRIGHTEN.

IS GOING TO GET EVEN BETTER BECAUSE AMERICA'S ECONOMY

IN THE MONTHS AHEAD THE EMPLOYMENT PICTURE

THE PEOPLE IN THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

I HAVE GREAT FAITH IN GREAT GOVERNORS LIKE

JIM HOLSHOUSER. I DON'T AGREE WITH THOSE WHO THINK THAT

TO COME FROM WASHINGTON.

# I DON'T WANT THIS TO HAPPEN AND I KNOW YOU

DON'T WANT THIS TO HAPPEN. IF THERE IS ONE THING WE MUST

NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF, IT'S THIS:

A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO GIVE US EVERYTHING

WE WANT, IS A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO TAKE FROM US

EVERYTHING WE HAVE.

#### NOW, LET ME SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR

STRENGTH AS A NATION. THERE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE ALLEGED

THAT WE ARE WEAK, THAT WE ARE SECOND CLASS CITIZENS

OF THE WORLD, THAT THE SUN HAS SET ON THIS REPUBLIC.

#### LET ME SAY THIS AS FIRMLY AS I KNOW HOW:

THEY'RE DEAD WRONG.

AMERICA REMAINS SECOND TO NONE.

BE AN AMERICAN, AND I KNOW ALL OF YOU ARE TOO.

FRANKLY I AM PROUD OF AMERICA AND PROUD TO

MEET ANY CHALLENGE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.



NO ONE HAS GREATER ARMS OR GREATER CAPABILITY.

# WE REMAIN THE STRONGEST GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM

٠

# IN THE WORLD AND I SHALL CONTINUE TO PURSUE A POLICY OF PEACE

THROUGH STRENGTH.

.

#### BUT AMERICA'S STRENGTH IS MEASURED BY MORE

THAN ARMAMENTS ALONE. AMERICA TODAY IS THE GREATEST

AGRICULTURAL POWER, THE MOST PROLIFIC PRODUCER OF FOOD

AND FIBER IN THE WORLD.

THAT IS A CREDIT NOT ONLY TO THE MASS PRODUCTION

FARMERS IN THE MIDWEST BUT ALSO TO THE SMALL FAMILY FARMERS

RIGHT HERE IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA, AND I COMPLIMENT YOU

FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, AND WHAT YOU ARE DOING.

# I WANT TO SEE THE FAMILY FARMS SURVIVE AND

THRIVE IN AMERICA. I WANT TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR PEOPLE

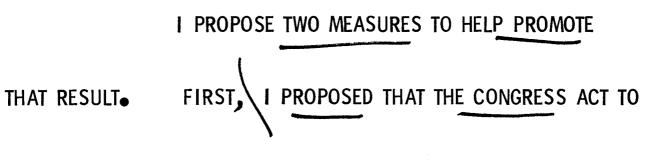
TO PASS ON THEIR FARMS, THE PRODUCT OF MANY YEARS OF HARD

WORK AND LOVE AND FAITH, TO THEIR SONS AND TO THEIR DAUGHTERS.

- 20-

I WANT TO MAKE IT EASIER TO KEEP THOSE FARMS IN THE FAMILY

RATHER THAN SACRIFICING THEM TO THE TAX COLLECTOR.



STRETCH OUT THE ESTATE TAX PAYMENT AT GREATLY REDUCED INTEREST

RATES OVER A 25-YEAR PERIOD, AND SECONDLY, I HAVE PROPOSED

AN INCREASE IN THE ESTATE EXEMPTION FROM 60 THOUSAND DOLLARS

TO 150 THOUSAND DOLLARS.

WE'VE GOT THE MOMENTUM NOW.

TUESDAY, BECAUSE WITH YOUR SUPPORT I KNOW WE ARE GOING TO WIN-

ANOTHER THING I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IS NEXT

AND I AM SURE YOU DO TOO.

I LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR ADOPTION BY THE CONGRESS

#### WE WON IN NEW HAMPSHIRE -- WE WON IN

#### VERMONT -- WE WON IN MASSACHUSETTS -- WE WON IN FLORIDA --

# WE WON IN ILLINOIS -- AND ON TUESDAY, MARCH 23rd,

WE ARE GOING TO WIN IN NORTH CAROLINA AS WELL.

AND WHEN WE HAVE WON IN THE PRIMARIES --

# WHEN THE NOMINATION IS OURS IN KANSAS CITY -- THEN WITH

# YOUR HELP WE'RE GOING ON TO WIN THE BIG ONE IN NOVEMBER.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT