

The original documents are located in Box 26, “3/20/76 - Remarks at a Rally in Asheville Mall, Asheville, NC” 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 ASHEVILLE MALL,

ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1976

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN ~~THE~~

ASHEVILLE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU, GOVERNOR JIM HOLSHOUSER

~~"CHIC" GAGLE~~

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

-1-

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR WARM WELCOME.

IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE THIS AFTERNOON

IN ASHEVILLE.

BUT LET ME TELL YOU I'M NO STRANGER TO THIS

GREAT TAR HEEL STATE. A LONG TIME AGO, I WENT TO THE

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA LAW SCHOOL. AND THEN IN

THE EARLY DAYS OF WORLD WAR II, WHILE I WAS IN THE NAVY,

I SPENT ALMOST A YEAR AT PRE-FLIGHT SCHOOL AT CHAPEL HILL.

MY SON MIKE AND HIS WIFE, GAYLE,

GRADUATED FROM ONE OF YOUR GREAT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS,

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY.

AND OVER THE LAST 25 YEARS I'VE BEEN HERE CAMPAIGNING FOR
CANDIDATES FOR THE CONGRESS, FOR THE SENATE, AND FOR THE
GOVERNORSHIP. I'VE VISITED NORTH CAROLINA MANY, MANY
TIMES -- AND EACH TIME FELT JUST AS GOOD / AS IT DOES RIGHT
HERE IN ASHEVILLE.

I'VE BEEN THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF YOUR

BEAUTIFUL STATE, AND I THINK I'VE MADE A FRIEND OR TWO HERE.

SO LET ME THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING HERE TODAY.

WITH THIS KIND OF SUPPORT AND THIS KIND OF

ENTHUSIASM WE'RE BOUND TO WIN ON TUESDAY.

NOW, LET ME GIVE YOU A LITTLE STRAIGHT TALK•

THAT'S WHAT I KNOW YOU'RE INTERESTED IN HEARING, AND THAT'S

WHAT WE HAVE GIVEN YOU SINCE I TOOK OFFICE 19 MONTHS AGO•

I HAVE COMMITTED MY ADMINISTRATION TO

PROMISING ONLY WHAT WE CAN DELIVER -- AND TO DELIVERING

EVERYTHING THAT WE PROMISE. AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP

THAT COMMITMENT IN THE FUTURE AS LONG AS I AM YOUR PRESIDENT.

WE ALL KNOW THAT IN THE LAST 19 MONTHS

OUR COUNTRY HAS GONE THROUGH A VERY DIFFICULT TIME DOMESTICALLY.

WHEN I TOOK OFFICE, INFLATION WAS AS HIGH AS

12 PERCENT. UNEMPLOYMENT WAS CLIMBING.

THE EXPERTS FEARED FOR OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE.

BUT TODAY THE ECONOMY IS GOOD AND GETTING BETTER

ALL THE TIME.

INFLATION IS WAY, WAY DOWN --

TO HALF OF WHAT IT WAS -- AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP IT GOING DOWN.

UNEMPLOYMENT IS GOING DOWN TOO. WE'VE

RECOVERED ALL THE JOBS THAT HAD BEEN LOST TO THE RECESSION --

AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP AMERICA WORKING. I'M GOING TO

KEEP UP THE PRESSURE UNTIL EVERY AMERICAN WHO WANTS A JOB,

HAS A JOB.

JUST LAST WEEK WE HAD SOME MORE GOOD NEWS --

THAT THE PERSONAL INCOME OF AMERICANS IS RISING RAPIDLY AND

STEADILY. IT'S RISING FASTER THAN INFLATION AND THAT MEANS

A BETTER STANDARD OF LIVING FOR AMERICA AND AMERICANS.

ALL THIS NEWS ADDS UP TO ONE MESSAGE:

AMERICA IS BEATING THE RECESSION, AND OUR ECONOMY IS GOING
TO BE AS STRONG AND AS HEALTHY IN THE FUTURE AS IT HAS BEEN
IN THE PAST.

THAT MAY COME AS A SURPRISE TO SOME PEOPLE

I KNOW. SOME PEOPLE WERE TELLING ME LAST YEAR THAT WE
NEEDED A QUICK FIX, THAT WE NEEDED MORE GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE
TO HELP OUT THE ECONOMY, THAT WE SHOULD FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT
WITH THE FEDERAL PAYROLL.

I KNEW IT WAS NO TIME TO PANIC.

I SAID THERE'S A BETTER WAY.

AND SO I HELD THE LINE ON GOVERNMENT

EXPENDITURES.

I DIDN'T GIVE WAY TO THE BUDGET-BUSTERS.

I USED MY PRESIDENTIAL VETO 46 TIMES IN 19 MONTHS.

AND THE CONGRESS SUSTAINED 39 OF THOSE VETOES AND AS A RESULT

WE SAVED YOU, THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER, THIRTEEN BILLION DOLLARS.

YOU'VE GOT JUST AS MANY GOOD USES FOR THAT MONEY HERE IN

ASHEVILLE AS THE BUREAUCRATS DO IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

THERE ARE SOME -- AND I DON'T CHALLENGE THEIR
MOTIVES, I JUST THINK THEY ARE DEAD WRONG -- WHO WANT TO
EXPAND AND BROADEN THE POWERS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT,
AND WHO WANT TO TAKE MORE AND MORE POWER AWAY FROM YOUR
STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

I HAPPEN TO HAVE GREAT FAITH IN YOUR STATE

AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WHO ARE RIGHT HERE, CLOSE TO HOME,

NOT HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

I HAPPEN TO HAVE GREAT FAITH IN GOVERNORS

LIKE JIM HOLSHOUSER, AND I BELIEVE THEY DESERVE MORE

RESPONSIBILITY, NOT LESS.

YOUR STATE IS FULL OF GOOD PEOPLE WHO CAN MAKE

GOOD DECISIONS IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL JUST LET THEM.

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD

JUST GROW, AND GROW, AND GROW. WE MUST NEVER LOSE SIGHT

OF ONE BASIC TRUTH: THAT A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO GIVE US

EVERYTHING WE WANT IS A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO TAKE AWAY

FROM US EVERYTHING WE HAVE.

BUT I BELIEVE THERE ARE SOME THINGS THE

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN DO, AND MUST DO, AND WITH YOUR

SUPPORT, WE'LL KEEP ON DOING THEM.

FOR ONE THING, WE HAVE TO MAINTAIN A STRONG
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF ELDERLY AMERICANS
WHO HAVE WORKED HARD AND EARNED IT.

AND ANOTHER THING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OUGHT
TO DO -- AND WE ARE DOING IT -- IS TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL
AMERICA STAYS STRONG AND SECURE.

THERE ARE SOME WHO WANT TO DOWNGRADE AMERICA•

THEY SAY THAT WE ARE WEAK -- BUT THEY'RE WRONG•

AMERICA IS STRONG TODAY, AND IT'S GOING TO STAY STRONG

FOR OUR NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE PEACE OF THE WORLD•

WE CAN DETER AGGRESSION, WE CAN KEEP THE

PEACE, AND WE CAN SLEEP SOUNDLY AT NIGHT KNOWING THAT AMERICA

IS STRONG AND WE ARE SECURE.

AND LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT UNDER MY ADMINISTRATION THIS YEAR

AND FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS WE ARE GOING TO STAY EVERY BIT

AS STRONG AS WE ARE TODAY. WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE SECOND

TO ANY NATION IN MILITARY PREPAREDNESS.

WE'VE GOT OUR MOMENTUM GOING•

WE'VE WON

IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, IN VERMONT, IN MASSACHUSETTS, IN FLORIDA,

AND JUST LAST WEEK WE WON A BIG ONE IN ILLINOIS•

THAT'S FIVE

TIMES IN A ROW, AND ON TUESDAY WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT SIX

IN A ROW BECAUSE WE'RE GOING TO WIN AGAIN RIGHT HERE IN

NORTH CAROLINA•

AND WHEN WE GET TO KANSAS CITY IN AUGUST

WE ARE GOING TO WIN THERE AND WITH YOUR HELP WE ARE GOING TO WIN

NOVEMBER SECOND.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT