The original documents are located in Box 26, "3/20/76 - Remarks at Lenoir Rhyne College, Hickory, NC (Includes handwritten notes)" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Digitized from Box 26 of President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library FAR PRESIDENT HAS SEE JIM BROYHILL WAS AMONG THE FIRST MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO RECOMMEND ME FOR THE VICE - PRESIDENCY BACK IN 1973. I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN THAT DEMONSTRATION OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE -- AND I NEVER WILL. JIM BRONHILL HAS REPRESENTED THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA'S TENTH DISTRICT FAITHFULLY AND WELL FOR 14 YEARS. HE IS A MIAN OF INTEGRITY A MAN OF RESPONSIBILITY, A

MAN HELD IN HIGH ESTERM BY HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE CONGRESS AND BY HIS WONDERFUL NEIGHBORS HERE IN HICKORY. HIS RECORD OF LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT REFLECTS HIS DEEP CONCERN FOR YOUR BEST INTERESTS. I'M DARN PROUD TO BE HERE IN JIM BROYHILL'S HOME TOWN -

WIN PRESIDENT PAS DETE TO

REMARKS AT LENOIR RHYNE COLLEGE,

J

HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1976

THANK YOU FOR THIS VERY WARM AND WONDERFUL

WELCOME. IT'S REALLY A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE IN

CATAWBA COUNTY, AT THE GATEWAY TO THE BEAUTIFUL BLUE

RIDGE MOUNTAINS.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW I'M NO STRANGER TO THIS GREAT TAR HEEL STATE. IN THE LAST TEN YEARS ALONE, I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE OF COMING DOWN TO SPEAK AND VISIT IN NORTH CAROLINA AT LEAST A DOZEN TIMES --AND TONIGHT I FEEL I HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS RIGHT HERE

IN LENOIR RHYNE COLLEGE.

AND BEFORE WE GO ANY FURTHER, AS A

FORMER WOLVERINE FROM MICHIGAN, LET ME CONGRATULATE YOUR OWN GREAT FOOTBALL TEAM, THE BEARS. IN FOOTBALL, AS IN POLITICS, WINNING ALWAYS FEELS REAL GOOD.

THIS AREA HAS SO MANY OF THE FINE QUALITIES I'VE ALWAYS LIKED BEST ABOUT NORTH CAROLINA. NOT ONLY CATAWBA COUNTY BUT BURKE, CALDWELL, IRE-DELL, LINCOLN AND ALEXANDER COUNTIES ARE FULL OF GOOD PEOPLE --PEOPLE AS STRONG AND STURDY AS HICKORY. AND THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTH CAROLINA ARE ONE

OF MY FAVORITE PARTS OF THE STATE. THEY ARE NOT ONLY

GREAT TO LIVE IN, THEY PRODUCE GREAT MEN LIKE YOUR

-

GOVERNOR JIM HOLSHOUSER.

RIGHT HERE AT LENOIR RHYNE COLLEGE, I CAN SEE THE SAME SIGNS OF DRIVE AND INITIATIVE THAT ARE TYPICAL OF YOUR STATE. YOUR PRESIDENT EMERITUS, DR. CROMER, LAUNCHED A CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM THAT GAVE YOU THIRTEEN MAJOR CAMPUS BUILDINGS.

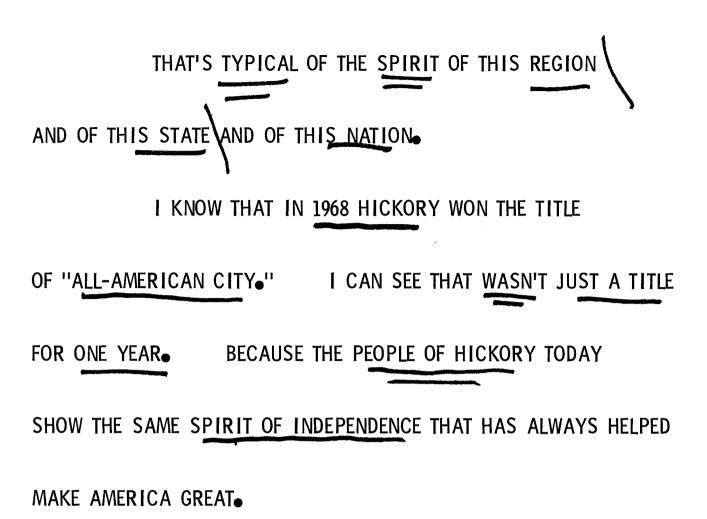
AND UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF YOUR CURRENT

YOUR COLLEGE'S ENDOWMENT AS WELL AS STRENGTHENING AND

EXPANDING ITS ACADEMIC PROGRAM.

HAVING HAD SOME EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE MYSELF, LET ME SAY THAT ANY PRESIDENT WOULD BE PROUD OF DYNAMIC PROGRESS LIKE THAT. AND WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE'RE GOING TO VITALIZE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA JUST AS DRAMATICALLY AS

DR. CROMER AND DR. BOST HAVE ENERGIZED LENOIR RHYNE COLLEGE.



Ball' Couch y Jish Fry

THAT'S WHAT HELPED YOU TO MAKE YOUR REMARKABLE RECOVERY FROM THE RECENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. AND THAT'S WHAT HAS BEEN HELPING ALL AMERICA TO MAKE ITS RECOVERY TOO. WE CAN SEE THE SIGNS OF YOUR HEALTHY ECONOMY NOT JUST IN HICKORY BUT IN NEWTON-CONOVER AS WELL. AND WE CAN SEE THE SIGNS OF AMERICA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY AS EACH NEW SET

OF STATISTICS IS RELEASED.

ONE PIECE OF GOOD NEWS IN THOSE STATISTICS IS THAT HOUSING STARTS IN FEBRUARY SHOWED A RECORD INCREASE OF 27 PERCENT OVER THE PREVIOUS MONTH. THAT IS A MOVEMENT IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, THAT IS GOING TO MEAN A LOT MORE BUSINESS FOR THE FURNITURE INDUSTRY. AND THAT'S ONLY PART OF THE STORY. UNEMPLOYMENT

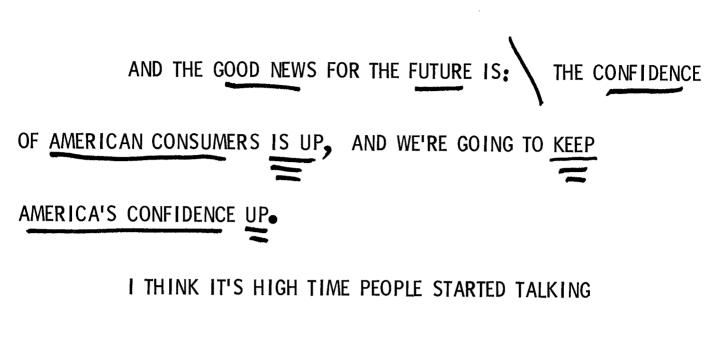
IS DOWN, AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP IT GOING DOWN.

The note 7 INFLATION IS DOWN TOO -- WAY DOWN. IN FEBRUARY

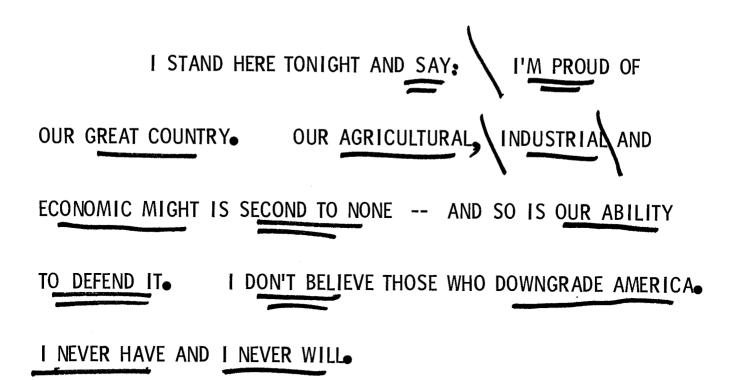
THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SHOWED ITS SMALLEST INCREASE IN MORE

THAN FOUR YEARS. THE RATE OF INFLATION IS HALF OF WHAT

IT WAS, AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP IT DOWN TOO!



ABOUT WHAT'S GOOD IN AMERICA.



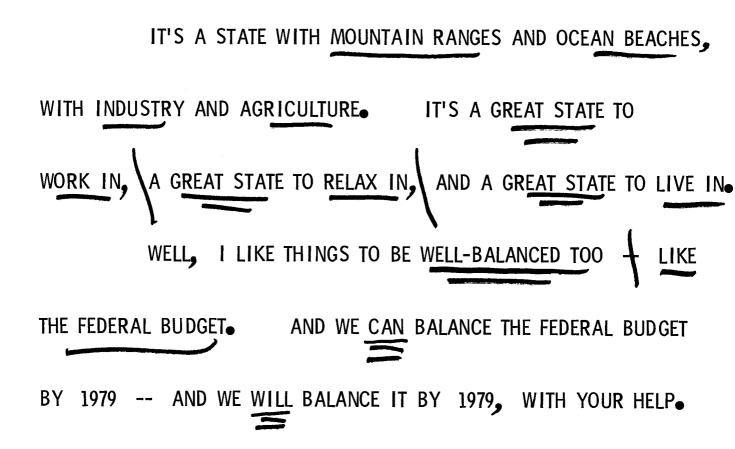
I DIDN'T BELIEVE THEM WHEN THEY SAID WE NEEDED A LOT OF GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE TO GET OUT OF THE RECESSION. I CHARTED A STEADY COURSE, AND I PURSUED A BALANCED POLICY ---WITH TAX CUTS TO HELP PEOPLE SPEND, AND INCENTIVES TO HELP THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO GROW, EXPAND AND CREATE EVEN

MORE JOBS.

TO FIGHT INFLATION, I FOUGHT TO KEEP A TIGHT CONTROL OVER FEDERAL SPENDING. TO CONTROL THOSE WHO WOULD BUST THE BUDGET, I USED MY PRESIDENTIAL VETO. I USED IT 46 TIMES, AND IT WAS SUSTAINED 39 TIMES -- AND THOSE 39 SUCCESSFUL VETOES WILL SAVE YOU, THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER, 13 BILLION

DOLLARS

I THINK THAT'S REAL PROGRESS, AND IF THE CONGRESS KEEPS SENDING ME THOSE RECKLESS SPENDING BILLS, I'LL VETO THEM AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN UNTIL THE BIG SPENDERS ON CAPITOL HILL FINALLY GET THE IDEA. THE TREATES THAT WE'RE GOING TO HOLD DOWN THE COST OF LIVING, BY HOLDING DOWN THE COST OF GOVERNMENT. WE'RE GOING TO MAKE SURE YOUR TAX DOLLARS WORK AS HARD FOR YOU, AS YOU DID FOR THEM. WE'RE GOING TO KEEP A BALANCED APPROACH. HERE IN HICKORY I KNOW YOU APPRECIATE WHAT THAT MEANS, BECAUSE YOUR MOTTO IS "BE<u>ST-BALANCED CITY</u>." I THINK THAT MOTTO APPLIES NOT ONLY TO YOUR CITY BUT TO YOUR WHOLE STATE. NORTH CAROLINA IS ONE OF THE BEST-BALANCED STATES IN THE UNION.



THAT WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE FURTHER MAJOR TAX CUTS. WE WANT TO PUT MORE OF YOUR MONEY BACK INTO YOUR HANDS. I BELIEVE IN A BALANCE BETWEEN FEDERAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT THAT WILL GIVE MORE FREEDOM TO YOUR STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES CLOSE TO HOME, NOT HUNDREDS OF MILES

AWAY IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

I BELIEVE WE SHOULD STRIKE A NEW BALANCE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY AND PRIVATE INITIATIVE. A NEW BALANCE BETWEEN THOSE WHO PAY TAXES, AND THOSE WHO BENEFIT FROM TAXES. TO ME, BALANCE MEANS STABILITY, AND STABILITY

MEANS A FIRM FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED STATES

OF AMERICA.

IN FACT THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE I DON'T LIKE AN EVEN BALANCE -- AND THAT'S IN ELECTION RESULTS. I LIKE TO SEE SOLID VICTORIES. THE SAME KIND OF VICTORIES THAT PUT MEN LIKE JIM BROYHILL AND JIM MARTIN TO WORK FOR YOU IN THE CONGRESS. THE SAME KIND OF SOLID VICTORIES THAT WE'VE WON

IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, IN VERMONT, IN MASSACHUSETTS, IN FLORIDA AND IN ILLINOIS, FIVE TIMES

AND THE SAME KIND OF SOLID VICTORIES WE'RE GOING TO KEEP ON WINNING -- AND WINNING FROM MARCH 23rd RIGHT ON DOWN THROUGH NOVEMBER 2nd. I'M ASKING FOR YOUR HELP TO MAKE SURE THAT WE KEEP UP OUR MOMENTUM. TO MAKE SURE THAT WE KEEP A REALISTIC, RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT. A GOVERNMENT THAT PROMISES ONLY WHAT IT CAN DELIVER -- AND DELIVERS EVERYTHING IT PROMISES.

I'M ASKING FOR YOUR HELP SO WE CAN WORK TOGETHER

4

TO BUILD AN EVEN GREATER AMERICA.

AND I'M ASKING YOU HERE IN NORTH CAROLINA

TO GIVE ME YOUR SUPPORT, BECAUSE WHEN A TAR HEEL DECIDES

AND NOW I WILL BE GLAD TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

1

END OF TEXT

FILL IN PROGRAM:

1. MR. GENE SIGMON, CATAWBA COUNTY PFC CHAIRMAN; FORMER DISTRICT COURT JUDGE; FORMER CAPTAIN OF UNC FOOTBALL TEAM, 1963;

2. BRUCE LENTZ--FORMERLY OF HICKORY AND NOW GOVERNOR HOLSHOUSER'S SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION IN RALEIGH;

- STATE REP. CASS BALLENGER OF HICKORY, WHO SERVES AS 10TH DISTRICT PFC CHAIRMAN;
- 4. CONG. JIM BROYHILL WHO ISSUED STRONG ENDORSEMENT TO THE CROWD AND WILL INTRODUCE THE PRESIDENT VERY BRIEFLY.

LENOIR RHYNE COLLEGE HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA 28601

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