The original documents are located in Box 28, “4/3/76 - Remarks at Brown County Municipal Arena, Green Bay, Wisconsin” 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 Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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.
• Thanks, Bart
• Governor Knowles
• Conq. Steiger
• Mel Laird
• Ladies and Gentlemen
REMARKS AT BROWN COUNTY MUNICIPAL ARENA
GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN, APRIL 3, 1976

THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID...
I AM VERY HAPPY TO BE HERE THIS AFTERNOON IN GREEN BAY, HOME OF THE GREEN BAY PACKERS.

BART AND I JUST CAME FROM DEDICATING THE GREEN BAY PACKERS HALL OF FAME.

LET ME SAY AT THE OUTSET THAT I REALLY DON'T MIND IF THE GREEN BAY PACKERS HAVE A LINEBACKER BY THE NAME OF JIMMY CARTER -- IT'S A GREAT TEAM ANYWAY.
YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW THIS, BUT IN MY COLLEGE DAYS -- A FEW YEARS AGO -- THE COACH OF A PRO FOOTBALL TEAM ASKED ME TO PLAY FOR HIM. YOU MAY HAVE HEARD OF THAT COACH -- HIS NAME WAS CURLY LAMBEAU (LAM-BO). I DECIDED NOT TO JOIN THE GREEN BAY PACKERS. BUT I JOINED ANOTHER GREAT TEAM -- THE REPUBLICAN PARTY -- AND I'VE BEEN PLAYING HARD ON THAT TEAM FOR THE LAST 27 YEARS.

Don Hutson
Curley Lambeau
Bart Starr
Tony Difig
I LOOK FORWARD TO ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

THIS AFTERNOON -- BUT FIRST, LET ME MAKE A FEW BRIEF

REMARKS.

LET ME TELL YOU WHAT I SEE AS I LOOK AT THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE SPRING OF ITS BICENTENNIAL

YEAR.
OF COURSE SPRING IS ALWAYS A GOOD TIME OF YEAR.

IT'S A TIME WHEN NATURE SEEMS TO COME ALIVE AGAIN, AND THE

WEATHER TURNS MILD AND PLEASANT.

BUT THIS YEAR THERE IS A LOT MORE TO IT THAN THAT.

PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY ARE FEELING A WHOLE LOT BETTER THIS

SPRING THAN THEY DID LAST SPRING.
A YEAR AGO, AT ABOUT THIS TIME, SOME PEOPLE

THOUGHT WE WERE HEADED STRAIGHT DOWN TO A DEPRESSION.

OTHERS SAID UNEMPLOYMENT WAS GOING TO REACH 10 PERCENT

BY JULY, AND GAS WOULD BE SELLING FOR A DOLLAR A GALLON.

BUT YOU KNOW AND I KNOW THAT ISN'T THE WAY

THINGS TURNED OUT.
INSTEAD OF A COLD, HARD DEPRESSION, WE'VE GOT A BRIGHT SPRINGTIME ECONOMY.

WE'VE CUT INFLATION TO HALF OF WHAT IT WAS IN 1974, AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP IT DOWN TOO.

WE'VE RECOVERED ALL THE JOBS THAT WERE LOST TO THE RECESSION AND THEN SOME.
AND JUST YESTERDAY, WE HAD SOME REAL GOOD
NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR. IT WAS ANNOUNCED
IN WASHINGTON THAT WE GAINED 375 THOUSAND MORE JOBS
IN THE MONTH OF MARCH ALONE.

TODAY 86.7 MILLION AMERICANS ARE GAINFULLY
EMPLOYED -- THE MOST AMERICANS EVER EMPLOYED IN
THE HISTORY OF OUR NATION --- AND I'D SAY THAT'S A
PRETTY GOOD COME-BACK.
THE RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IS GOING DOWN, AND WE'RE GOING
TO MAKE SURE IT KEEPS GOING DOWN. I'M GOING TO KEEP UP
THE MOMENTUM UNTIL EVERY AMERICAN WHO WANTS A JOB,
HAS A JOB.

JUST THIS LAST WEEK WE SAW THE FOURTH STRAIGHT
MONTHLY IMPROVEMENT IN OUR LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATORS.
In February, retail sales grew, and new orders received by manufacturers reached the highest dollar level in our history. That means that consumers have enough confidence to spend their money, and businessmen have enough confidence to invest their money.
IT MEANS THAT THE SIGNS OF FAITH AND OPTIMISM --

THE SIGNS OF HEALTH AND VITALITY -- ARE RETURNING TO A

COUNTRY THAT NOT TOO LONG AGO SEEMED FROZEN INTO A LONG,

COLD WINTER.

WE'VE COME THROUGH SOME HARD TIMES TOGETHER.

AND NOW WE CAN SEE THAT NOT ONLY HAS OUR SYSTEM SURVIVED --

IT'S GOING TO BE STRONGER THAN EVER.
MY ADMINISTRATION PLAYED ITS PART BY FOLLOWING

A POLICY OF FIRMNESS AND COMMON SENSE.

COMMON SENSE TOLD US THAT THE WAY TO BEAT

UNEMPLOYMENT WASN'T BY PADDING THE FEDERAL PAYROLL, BUT BY

STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S FREE ENTERPRISE ECONOMY, WHICH

EMPLOYS FIVE OUT OF SIX PEOPLE WORKING IN THIS COUNTRY TODAY.
COMMON SENSE TOLD US THAT THE WAY TO HOLD DOWN THE COST OF LIVING WAS TO HOLD DOWN THE COST OF GOVERNMENT.

I DID THAT WITH 46 VETOES -- THEY TELL ME THAT'S A RECORD.

MANY OF THOSE WERE RECKLESS SPENDING BILLS, AND THE CONGRESS SUSTAINED 39 OF MY VETOES, AND MY 39 SUCCESSFUL VETOES SAVED YOU 13 BILLION DOLLARS. THAT'S REAL PROGRESS.
WE Fought TO GET YOU OFF THE TREADMILL OF INFLATION,

AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP ON FIGHTING. WE'RE GOING TO KEEP

OUR SOUND AND STABLE POLICIES. AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP

OUR COMMON SENSE.
COMMON SENSE TELLS US WE REALLY DON'T WANT TO
DISMANTLE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND DESTROY GOOD PROGRAMS
ALONG WITH BAD ONES. WE SHOULD IMPROVE THE PROGRAMS
THAT DO WORK -- AND GET RID OF THE ONES THAT DON'T.
COMMON SENSE TELLS US THAT ONE PROGRAM THAT HAS WORKED FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IS OUR SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, WHICH ENSURES A DECENT STANDARD OF LIVING FOR ELDERLY AMERICANS. I AM DETERMINED TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, AND I HAVE MADE CONCRETE PROPOSALS TO DO JUST THAT.
COMMON SENSE TELLS US THAT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE, FREQUENTLY HAVE A FAR BETTER SENSE OF THEIR NEEDS THAN SOME FEDERAL AGENCY HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
SO I'VE PROPOSED POSITIVE, CONCRETE STEPS -- SUCH AS
EXTENDING GENERAL REVENUE SHARING, AND CONSOLIDATING FEDERAL
GRANTS -- TO RETURN MORE MONEY AND MORE POWER TO LOCAL
AUTHORITIES.
AND COMMON SENSE TELLS US THAT YOU DON'T SWITCH
QUARTERBACKS JUST WHEN YOUR TEAM IS HITTING ITS STRIDE —
JUST WHEN YOU'RE GAINING GROUND. OR TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY,
THIS IS NO TIME TO TRADE IN YOUR FORD/ FOR ANOTHER MODEL.
WHAT AMERICA NEEDS NOW IS EXPERIENCE. AMERICA

NEEDS TO CONTINUE THE SOUND AND STABLE POLICIES THAT HAVE PROVEN

THEIR VALUE BY HELPING THIS COUNTRY THROUGH ITS HARD TIMES.

AMERICA NEEDS A GOVERNMENT THAT DOESN'T RAISE

FALSE HOPES, OR CONJURE UP FALSE FEARS.
WHAT WE NEED IS A GOVERNMENT THAT PROMISES ONLY
WHAT IT CAN DELIVER -- AND DELIVERS EVERYTHING IT PROMISES.

THAT'S THE POLICY MY ADMINISTRATION HAS FOLLOWED --

AND THAT'S THE POLICY WE'RE GOING TO KEEP ON FOLLOWING.
AND WITH YOUR HELP NEXT TUESDAY AND NEXT NOVEMBER, WE'LL MAKE SURE THAT AMERICA CONTINUES TO HAVE THE SOLID, RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IT NEEDS -- NOT JUST THIS SPRING, BUT EVERY SEASON -- AND FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS AS WELL.

AND NOW I'LL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER SOME OF YOUR QUESTIONS.

END OF TEXT