

The original documents are located in Box 28, “4/8/76 - Closing Statement at Meeting with Regulatory Commissioners” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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~~THE~~ PRESIDENT HAS SAID

PRESIDENT'S CLOSING STATEMENT AT MEETING
WITH THE REGULATORY COMMISSIONERS

4/8/76

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THANK YOU. THIS HAS BEEN A VERY
USEFUL MEETING FOR ALL OF US.

TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING, LET ME ASK YOU TO SUBMIT TO ME
BY SEPTEMBER 15 ANOTHER PROGRESS REPORT ON YOUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE
IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FOUR AREAS OF CONCERN -- REDUCING DELAYS,
INCREASING CONSUMER REPRESENTATION, IMPROVING THE USE OF ECONOMIC
ANALYSIS AND INCREASING COMPETITION.

THERE IS STILL MUCH WORK TO BE DONE. I'M SURE THAT
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL BE INTERESTED IN OUR CONTINUING
PROGRESS IN EACH OF THESE AREAS.

I HAVE THREE REQUESTS FOR YOU TO KEEP IN MIND AS YOU

PREPARE YOUR NEXT REPORT. FIRST, SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

SHOULD BE GIVEN TO HOW WE CAN MAKE OUR PROGRESS --

AS WELL AS OUR REGULATIONS -- MORE UNDERSTANDABLE.

FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN YOU REPORT ON HOW YOU ARE

ELIMINATING OR IMPROVING YOUR REGULATORY FUNCTIONS,

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A SPECIFIC STATEMENT ON HOW THE

CHANGE WILL AFFECT CONSUMERS, SMALL BUSINESSMEN AND

TAXPAYERS.

THE STATEMENT SHOULD BE A STATEMENT OF QUANTIFIED
BENEFITS, NOT JUST A GENERAL ASSERTION. OUR
REGULATORY SYSTEM HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE NAME OF
THE PUBLIC INTEREST. CERTAINLY THE GENERAL PUBLIC
SHOULD BE GIVEN A CLEAR EXPLANATION AND JUSTIFICATION
OF WHAT WE ARE DOING AND WHY.

SECOND, THE REPORT SHOULD LIST AND
DISCUSS PRIORITIES FOR AGENCY REFORMS. ALONG WITH
THE PRIORITIES SHOULD BE RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHERE
REGULATORY OBJECTIVES CAN BE ACHIEVED IN A LESS COSTLY,
LESS TIME-CONSUMING, MORE EFFICIENT MANNER.

IF WE ARE GOING TO SHOW RESULTS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE,
WE NEED TO HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF OUR PRIORITIES AND HOW
WE WILL ACCOMPLISH THEM. ONE OF YOUR FIRST PRIORITIES
SHOULD BE CONSIDERATION OF WHERE THERE IS WORKABLE
COMPETITION OR WHERE COMPETITION COULD INCREASE IF
OUTDATED REGULATIONS WERE ELIMINATED.

IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE THAT OUR REGULATORY
POLICIES AND PRACTICES DO NOT PERPETUATE UNNECESSARY
RESTRICTIONS ON TODAY'S ECONOMY.

THIRD, I ASK ALL TO CONCENTRATE, ALONG
WITH THE OTHER EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES, ON ACHIEVING
A 10 PERCENT REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF FORMS THAT
FEDERAL AGENCIES REQUIRE. I WAS OVERWHELMED WHEN
I LEARNED THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FEDERAL FORMS WE EXPECT
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO FILL OUT.

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT OUR CONTINUED REQUESTS FOR
INFORMATION COST INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES BILLIONS
OF DOLLARS IN TIME AND EXPENSE EVERY YEAR.
THE COST OF FEDERAL PAPERWORK CAN NO LONGER BE
CONSIDERED AS "INCIDENTAL" COST.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, MANY SMALL BUSINESSMEN HAVE
POINTED OUT THAT IT JUST ISN'T WORTH IT FOR THEM TO HIRE
NEW PEOPLE OR TO EVEN STAY IN BUSINESS WHEN SO MUCH TIME
AND EFFORT MUST BE DIRECTED TO FILLING OUT FORMS INSTEAD
OF SELLING PRODUCTS OR SERVICES.

THE COMMISSION ON FEDERAL PAPERWORK IS
CURRENTLY LOOKING INTO LONG TERM APPROACHES FOR
REDUCING THE PROBLEMS AND COSTS OF PAPERWORK.

I RECENTLY DIRECTED THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES TO
ACHIEVE A 10 PERCENT REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF FORMS BY
JULY.

IN YOUR SEPTEMBER 15th REPORT ON YOUR ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS, I WOULD HOPE THAT YOU COULD ALSO REPORT ON YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO ACHIEVING A REDUCTION IN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AT LEAST EQUAL TO THAT OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES.

LET ME THANK ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS.

I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR NEXT REPORTS. THESE SHOULD BE VERY INTERESTING FOR THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND HELPFUL TO EACH OF YOU WHO ARE DEALING WITH SIMILAR PROBLEMS.

THROUGH THESE REPORTS, I HOPE THAT WE CAN CONTINUE
TO EXCHANGE IDEAS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH OUR COMMON
REGULATORY REFORM CHALLENGES.

YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE PLANS THAT
WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS AFTERNOON CONVINCED ME THAT
WE ARE ALL WORKING TOWARD THE GOAL OF MAKING THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS RESPONSIVE AND EFFICIENT AS
HUMANLY POSSIBLE.

[END OF REMARKS]