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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PRESIDENT'S CLOSING STATEMENT AT MEETING WITH THE REGULATORY COMMISSIONERS

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OUTDATED REGULATIONS WERE ELIMINATED.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 CONVINCE ME THAT WE ARE ALL WORKING TOWARD THE GOAL OF MAKING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS RESPONSIVE AND EFFICIENT AS HUMANLY POSSIBLE.

[END OF REMARKS]