The original documents are located in Box 29, "4/10/76 - Remarks at the Annual Convention of the Texas Grain and Feed Association, Civic Center, El Paso, Texas" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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REMARKS AT TEXAS GRAIN AND FEED CONVENTION,

EL PASO, TEXAS, SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 1976

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS -- TEXAS GRAIN AND FEED ASSOCIATION

- -- THANK YOU, MR. JONES (George Jones, President introduces you)
- -- SENATOR TOWER
- -- MAYOR HENDERSON
- -- MEMBERS AND GUESTS OF THE TEXAS GRAIN AND

FEED ASSOCIATION

IT IS AN HONOR FOR ME TO ADDRESS THIS GREAT

CONVENTION OF THE TEXAS GRAIN AND FEED ASSOCIATION.

COMING TO TEXAS IS ALWAYS A SPECIAL TREAT FOR ME,

AND IT'S ESPECIALLY SATISFYING IN THE SPRINGTIME.

YOUR COUNTRYSIDE IS ALIVE AND HUMMING WITH FARM MACHINERY OF EVERY DESCRIPTION. SPRING IS A TIME OF NEW BIRTH, A TIME OF OPTIMISM, AND THIS YEAR THERE'S A LOT TO BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT.

AS THE STATE WHICH PRODUCES MORE CATTLE AND GRAIN SORGHUM THAN ANY OTHER, TEXAS HAS PLAYED A MAJOR PART IN ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL FARMING YEARS IN AMERICA'S HISTORY. IN FACT, THE LAST THREE YEARS HAVE BEEN THE

HIGHEST NET FARM INCOME YEARS IN HISTORY, AND THAT'S NOT

A BAD RECORD.

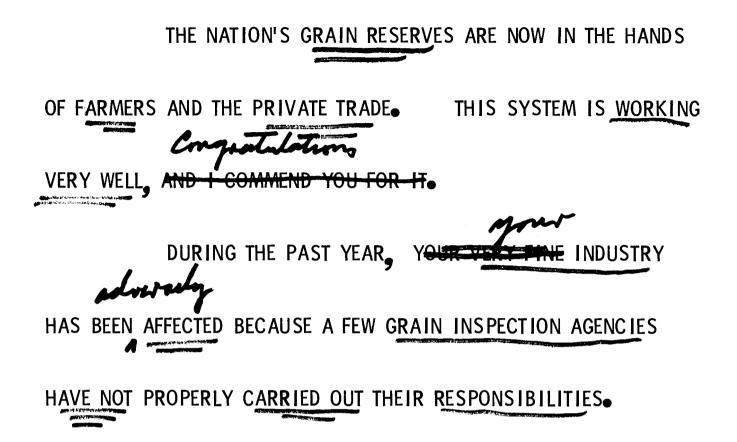
I DON'T THINK IT IS MERE COINCIDENCE THAT THESE

THREE VERY SUCCESSFUL YEARS HAVE BEEN YEARS WHEN THE GOVERNMENT LEFT YOU ALONE AND LET YOU PRODUCE WITHOUT A LOT

OF BUREAUCRATIC INTERFERENCE.

I CAN PROMISE YOU THAT IS THE KIND OF SUCCESSFUL FARM POLICY I INTEND TO PURSUE IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS. TODAY WE NO LONGER HAVE HEAVY FARM SURPLUSES HANGING OVER THE MARKET, COSTING THE GOVERNMENT A MILLION DOLLARS A DAY JUST FOR STORAGE. INSTEAD OF PILING IT UP, WE'RE SELLING GRAIN

IN RECORD VOLUME.



IT IS <u>ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL</u> THAT WE MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENCE OF OUR <u>EXPORT GRAIN CUSTOMERS</u>, WHO <u>BUY</u> SUCH A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF <u>AMERICA'S FARM PRODUCTION</u> BUT WE MUST NOT \oint WE <u>CANNOT</u> \oint DO IT BY TURNING OVER MORE OF YOUR BUSINESS TO A <u>GOVERNMENT</u> BUREAUCRACY IN WASHINGTON.

and the second of the second o

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE SO-CALLED "HUMPHREY-CLARK" BILL WHICH WOULD FEDERALIZE THE U.S. GRAIN INSPECTION SYSTEM I FAVOR INSTEAD AN APPROACH WHICH PROVIDES FOR MORE CAREFUL FEDERAL SUPERVISION OF GRADING AND WEIGHING OUR GRAIN FOR EXPORT. HOWEVER, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT IS APPROPRIATE OR NECESSARY TO EXTEND THIS LIMITED FEDERAL PARTICIPATION TO INTERIOR POINTS.

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PRIVATE CONCERNS HAVE FOR YEARS OPERATED COUNTRY ELEVATORS AND WEIGHING AND INSPECTION SERVICES ALL ACROSS OUR GREAT NATION. THE ABUSES WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPOSED DO NOT IMPLICATE THESE INTERNAL OPERATIONS AT ALL, AND I SEE NO REASON TO REPLACE PRIVATE INTERESTS WITH GOVERNMENT

CONTROLS

FURTHERMORE, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HAS RECENTLY PROPOSED BROAD SWEEPING REGULATIONS AIMED AT ELIMINATING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND INSURING A MORE EFFICIENT PORTSIDE GRAIN INSPECTION SYSTEM.

I HAVE URGED SECRETARY BUTZ TO DEVOTE THE BEST AND MOST COMPREHENSIVE EFFORTS OF HIS DEPARTMENT TO INSURE THAT THE GRAIN OF AMERICAN FARMERS SOLD ABROAD IS PROPERLY CERTIFICATED AND THAT THE INTEGRITY OF OUR EXPORT EFFORTS IS RESTORED TO ITS PROPER POSITION.

ABUSES OF THE PAST HAVE IMPAIRED OUR TRADE

CREDIBILITY AND SHORT-CHANGED THE AMERICAN FARMER. WE ARE WORKING HARD AND FAST TO CORRECT THESE DEFICIENCIES, AND I HOPE THAT THE CONGRESS DOES NOT OVER-REACT BY FEDERALIZING THE ENTIRE SYSTEM. IN ANY EVENT, I PROPOSE TO PUT AN END TO CORRUPTION

IN THE GRAIN INSPECTION BUSINESS, AND THE SOONER THE BETTER.

FURTHERMORE, I AM - AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE FIRMLY OPPOSED TO PUTTING YOUR GRAIN IN THE CONTROL OF SOME GOVERNMENT BOARD OR INTERNATIONAL RESERVE. I AM FIRMLY OPPOSED TO SUBSIDIZED IMPORTS. I DON'T WANT AMERICAN FARMERS HAVING TO COMPETE WITH THE

NATIONAL TREASURIES OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

I AM JUST AS FIRMLY IN FAVOR OF THE FARM POLICIES

WHICH YIELDED A 21_6 BILLION DOLLAR AGRICULTURAL EXPORT

MARKET LAST YEAR -- AND WILL BE MORE THAN 22 BILLION

DOLLARS THIS YEAR.

I AM IN FAVOR OF POLICIES WHICH WILL ENABLE YOU TO EXPORT AN ESTIMATED 48 MILLION METRIC TONS OF FEED GRAIN --AN ALL-TIME RECORD -- IN THE CURRENT MARKETING YEAR. THAT'S TWELVE MILLION MORE THAN WE EXPORTED LAST YEAR, AND ABOUT SEVEN MILLION MORE THAN WE EXPORTED IN THE PREVIOUS RECORD YEAR OF 1973-74.

TO EXPORT BETWEEN 1.5 AND 1.6 BILLION BUSHELS OF CORN

TO EXPORT BETWEEN 250 AND 300 MILLION BUSHELS OF GRAIN SORGHUM THIS YEAR -- A RECORD AMOUNT. THESE POLICIES ARE THE ONES THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS FOLLOWED FOR THE PAST TWENTY MONTHS. AND THEY ARE THE POLICIES WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, TO KEEP AGRICULTURE STRONG AND KEEP IT GROWING IN AMERICA.

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AS YOU KNOW, OUR DOMESTIC FEED GRAIN USAGE HAS NOT BEEN EXPANDING AS RAPIDLY AS OUR EXPORT DEMANDS IN RECENT YEARS. BUT, EVEN DOMESTICALLY, WHERE A SHORT CORN CROP DURING THE 1974-75 SEASON RESULTED IN A VERY SUBSTANTIAL

DECLINE IN FEED GRAIN USE, WE ARE STEADILY RECOVERING.

THE NUMBER OF CATTLE ON FEED IS SHARPLY HIGHER

THAN A YEAR AGO, ALTHOUGH IT WILL BE LATER THIS YEAR BEFORE WE CAN EXPECT FEEDING RATES TO APPROACH THOSE

OF THE EARLY 1970s.

I SUSPECT WE WILL GET INTO THESE PARTICULAR MATTERS

IN A LITTLE MORE DETAIL DURING THE QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION, BUT LET ME MAKE ONE OR TWO BRIEF GENERAL OBSERVATIONS FIRST.

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WITH RESPECT TO OUR OVERALL AGRICULTURE POLICIES,

AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE APPOINTED THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE,

POLICY COMMITTEE.

THIS COMMITTEE WILL HAVE THE CENTRAL ROLE IN DEVELOPING AND DIRECTING OUR NATION'S FOOD POLICIES, AND WITH EARL BUTZ AS CHAIRMAN, YOU CAN BE SURE THAT HIS STRONG, PLAINSPOKEN VOICE OF COMMON SENSE AND HIS ADVOCACY OF YOUR INTERESTS WILL BE WELL HEARD IN THE HIGHEST COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT.

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YOU WILL ALSO BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT

SECRETARY BUTZ LEAVES TOMORROW ON A TEN-NATION MISSION TO PROMOTE THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF OUR AGRICULTURAL EXPORT MARKETS. OR AS EARL SAYS, HE'S GOING OVERSEAS TO DRUM UP SOME BUSINESS FOR THE MOST PROLIFIC PRODUCERS OF FOOD AND FIBER IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND.

ALL OF YOU KNOW THAT, TO A LARGE DEGREE,

YOUR SUCCESS DEPENDS ON YOUR COUNTRY'S SUCCESS.

WHEN YOUR COUNTRY HAS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS,

SO DO YOU. WHEN YOUR COUNTRY HAS GOOD RELATIONS

WITH FOREIGN NATIONS, SO DO YOU.

THE REAL DECISION THAT YOU AND YOUR FELLOW

AMERICANS WILL BE MAKING THIS YEAR IS WHETHER OR NOT AMERICA IS ON THE RIGHT COURSE FOR THE FUTURE. THE EVIDENCE STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT WE ARE ON THE RIGHT COURSE. AFTER SUFFERING THE WORST ECONOMIC PROBLEMS THIS NATION HAS FACED IN FORTY YEARS, AMERICA IS ON THE ROAD TO A NEW PROSPERITY. EMPLOYMENT IS GOING UP, AND UNEMPLOYMENT IS GOING DOWN. SALES AND INVESTMENTS AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION ARE GOING UP, WHILE INFLATION AND THE RATE OF GROWTH IN FEDERAL SPENDING ARE GOING DOWN. IN FACT, THEY HAVE BEEN CUT IN HALF IN THE PAST YEAR. IN ADDITION, OUR BALANCE OF TRADE IS THE BEST ON RECORD. EVERY SINGLE LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATOR TODAY IS A SIGN OF PROGRESS AND A SIGN OF HOPE FOR AMERICA. WE HAVE PURSUED SOME COMMON-SENSE POLICIES IN THE PAST TWENTY MONTHS THAT STRESSED THE REVITALIZATION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, RATHER THAN RELYING ON BIG GOVERNMENT TO CURE OUR ECONOMIC ILLS AND INCREASE ITS CONTROL OVER OUR LIVES. WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO GIVE US EVERYTHING WE WANT IS A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO TAKE FROM US EVERYTHING WE HAVE. MY POLICIES HAVE REFLECTED THAT BASIC TRUTH, AND THEY HAVE WORKED. THEY'RE STILL WORKING, AND WE HAVE A LOT MORE PROGRESS

IN STORE IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD.

THAT IS A PROMISE I CAN MAKE WITH CONFIDENCE,

AND THE WATCHWORD OF THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN

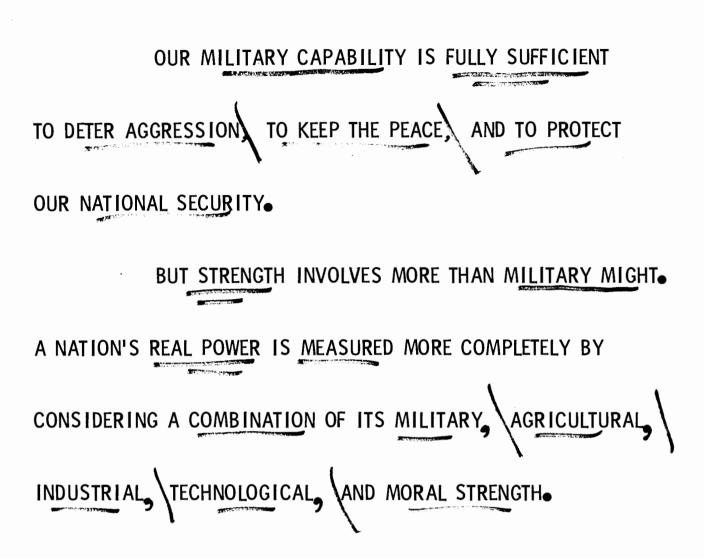
TO PROMISE NO MORE THAN WE CAN DELIVER, AND DELIVER

EVERYTHING WE PROMISE.

| FINALLY, WE ARE PURSUING THE SAME KIND OF COMMON |
|---|
| SENSE POLICIES INTERNATIONALLY AS WE ARE DOMESTICALLY. |
| AMERICA IS AT PEACE. WE ARE PURSUING A POLICY |
| OF PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH. |
| OUR STRENGTH IS UNSURPASSED BY ANY OTHER NATION |
| ON EARTH, AND LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT I INTEND TO KEEP IT THAT WAY |

.

IN THE FUTURE.



IN EVERY ONE OF THESE AREAS, THE NUMBER ONE NATION

IN THE WORLD IS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

WE HAVE EVERY RIGHT AND EVERY REASON TO BE

CONFIDENT AND OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OUR FUTURE. EVEN AS WE ENTER OUR THIRD CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE, I BELIEVE AMERICA IS STILL IN THE SPRINGTIME OF ITS LIFE. FUTURE WITH YOU, TO FILL THAT FUTURE WITH NEW ACHIEVEMENT

AND A NEW LIFE FOR THE NATION WE LOVE SO MUCH.

.

THAT IS MY GOAL, AND THAT IS WHY I AM ASKING

FOR YOUR SUPPORT ON MAY 1, NOVEMBER 2, AND IN THE YEARS

NOW I WILL BE GLAD TO RESPOND TO YOUR QUESTIONS.

END OF TEXT