

**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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~~THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID.~~

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.



THE NATION'S GRAIN RESERVES ARE NOW IN THE HANDS

OF FARMERS AND THE PRIVATE TRADE. THIS SYSTEM IS WORKING

*Congratulations*

VERY WELL, ~~AND I COMMEND YOU FOR IT.~~

DURING THE PAST YEAR, <sup>*your*</sup> ~~YOUR VERY FINE~~ INDUSTRY

*adversely*

HAS BEEN AFFECTED BECAUSE A FEW GRAIN INSPECTION AGENCIES

HAVE NOT PROPERLY CARRIED OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT WE MAINTAIN

THE CONFIDENCE OF OUR EXPORT GRAIN CUSTOMERS, WHO BUY

SUCH A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF AMERICA'S FARM PRODUCTION.

BUT WE MUST NOT / WE CANNOT / -- DO IT BY

TURNING OVER MORE OF YOUR BUSINESS TO A GOVERNMENT

BUREAUCRACY IN WASHINGTON.

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.

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.

I AM IN FAVOR OF POLICIES WHICH WILL ENABLE YOU

TO EXPORT BETWEEN 1.5 AND 1.6 BILLION BUSHELS OF CORN

DURING THIS MARKETING YEAR.

I AM IN FAVOR OF POLICIES WHICH WILL ENABLE YOU  
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.

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.

WITH RESPECT TO OUR OVERALL AGRICULTURE POLICIES,

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

EARL BUTZ, AS CHAIRMAN OF MY NEW CABINET-LEVEL AGRICULTURAL

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.



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.



OUR MILITARY CAPABILITY IS FULLY SUFFICIENT

TO DETER AGGRESSION, TO KEEP THE PEACE, AND TO PROTECT

OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

BUT STRENGTH INVOLVES MORE THAN MILITARY MIGHT.

A NATION'S REAL POWER IS MEASURED MORE COMPLETELY BY

CONSIDERING A COMBINATION OF ITS MILITARY, AGRICULTURAL,

INDUSTRIAL, TECHNOLOGICAL, AND MORAL STRENGTH.

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.

I AM READY TO MEET THE GREAT CHALLENGE OF THE

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  
TO COME.

NOW I WILL BE GLAD TO RESPOND TO YOUR QUESTIONS.

END OF TEXT