### The original documents are located in Box 30, "4/28/76 - Remarks at Open Forum, Wagstaff Gymnasium, Tyler Junior College, Tyler, Texas" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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#### THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

Speech Incomplete

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### REMARKS AT OPEN FORUM AT TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE

### TYLER, TEXAS, APRIL 28, 1976

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS -- TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE

• THANK YOU, DR. JENKINS

- SENATOR TOWER
- MR. FLOCK • JONELL HENSLEE
- STUDENTS, FACULTY AND GUESTS OF TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE
- I WOULD LIKE TO ESPECIALLY THANK THE APACHE BELLES

FOR SEVERAL REASONS: It's the for lepited the World. And if you inite me, Betty + 2 would like to be here for FIRST, IT WAS JUST GREAT TO SEE YOUR FAMOUS Just

APACHE BELLES AND MARCHING BAND IN ACTION.

Kitgore Kangerettes

SECOND, IT'S AN HONOR TO BE A GUEST AT THIS

OUTSTANDING JUNIOR COLLEGE, ONE OF THE BIGGEST AND BEST

IN THE COUNTRY.

(END ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS WITH:)

### AND LET ME ADD A SPECIAL HELLO TO YOUR VERY

POPULAR STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT -- JO NELL HENSLEE.

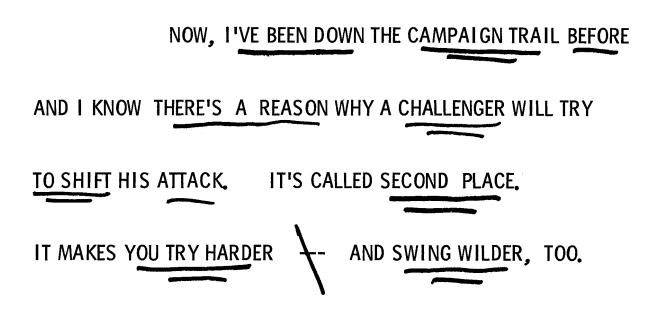
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO JIMMY CARTER, SHE IS MY KIND

OF PEANUT !

FINALLY, ONE OF THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

OF THIS INSTITUTION OF LEARNING AND ALL OTHERS IS TO PROVIDE ITS STUDENTS WITH FACTS. FACTS AND EXPERTISE THAT WILL PREPARE YOU FOR THE DECISION-MAKING THAT EVERY JOB, CAREER OR PROFESSION CALLS FOR. THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES MUST ALSO DEAL IN FACTS -- AND TODAY, I WANT TO SHARE SOME OF THOSE FACTS WITH YOU, SO THAT YOU CAN INTELLIGENTLY REACH YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS ON A MATTER OF SUPREME IMPORTANCE TO OUR UNITED STATES. SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE SNOWS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AND THE SUNNY CLIMES DOWN IN FLORIDA, THE FOCUS OF THIS YEAR'S REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRESIDENCY BEGAN TO SHIFT AWAY FROM THE GROWING STRENGTH AND PROSPERITY OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMY TO A NEW AND MORE COMPLEX ISSUE:

THE STRENGTH OF AMERICA'S MILITARY FORCES.

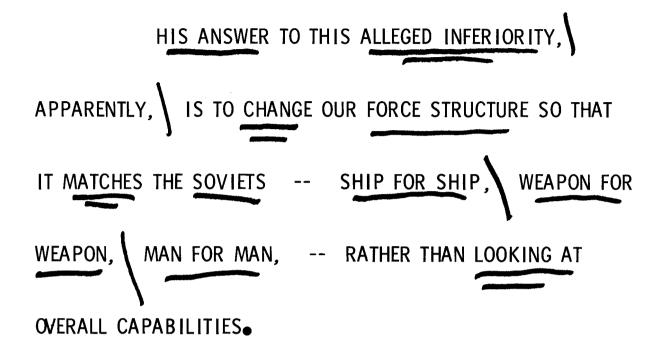


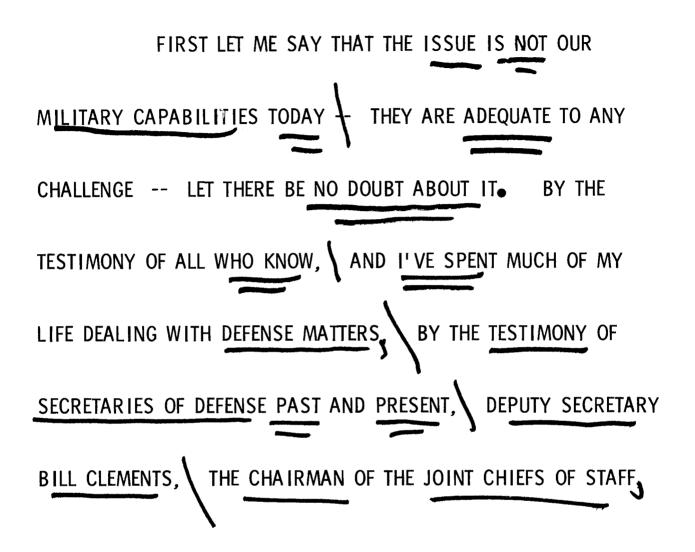
HAVING FAILED ON THE ECONOMIC ISSUE,

THE CENTRAL THRUST OF MY OPPONENT'S NEW STRATEGY IS TO

CLAIM THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS BECOME INFERIOR TO THE SOVIET UNION, EXPECIALLY IN MILITARY STRENGTH. HE GLIBLY QUOTES STATISTICS WITHOUT ANY IN-DEPTH UNDERSTANDING

OF THEM.





OUR MILITARY FORCES ARE CAPABLE OF FULFILLING THEIR

ASSIGNED MISSIONS.

THE IMPORTANT ISSUE IS NOT TODAY, BUT

TOMORROW THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH THE

CONGRESS AND THE COUNTRY TO ADOPT A DEFENSE BUDGET FOR

THE UNITED STATES WHICH WILL PROVIDE FOR OUR NATIONAL

SECURITY IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

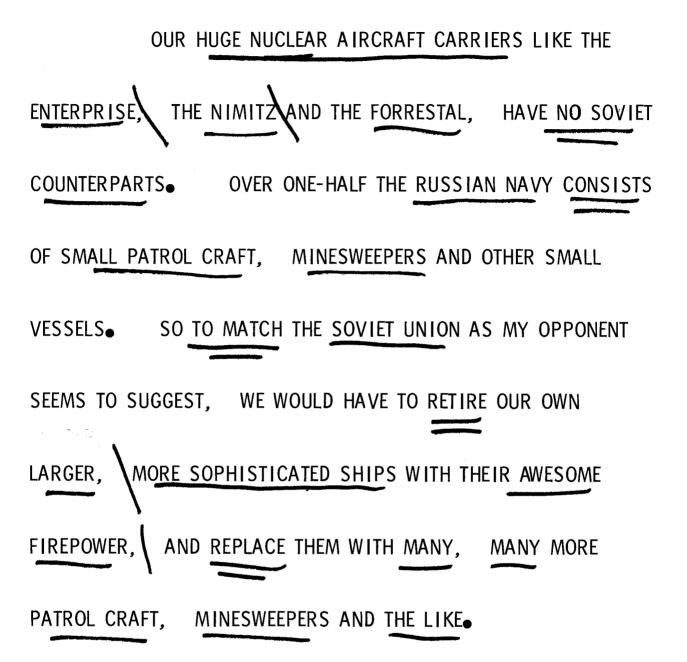
BUT LET US LOOK A MOMENT AT THIS QUESTION OF WHETHER, AS MY OPPONENT IMPLIES, WE SHOULD TRY TO RESHAPE OUR ARMED FORCES SO THAT THEY MIRROR THOSE OF THE SOVIET UNION. WHAT STEPS WOULD WE HAVE TO TAKE IN ORDER TO BE EXACTLY LIKE THEM? THE ANSWERS, I **ELEME**, SHOW A GREAT DEAL

ABOUT HOW SUPERFICIAL HIS CHARGES ARE.

IN ORDER TO PARALLEL SOVIET FORCES, WE WOULD

HAVE TO BEGIN BY MOTHBALLING THE 13 AIRCRAFT CARRIERS THAT

NOW SAIL THE SEAS FLYING THE AMERICAN FLAG.



### NO ONE WOULD TRULY BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD

e<sup>y</sup>

BE A SANE DEFENSE POLICY TO PROTECT AMERICA AND DEFEND

OUR FREEDOMS IN THE WORLD.

# LOOK AT OUR AIR FORCE AND ASK WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO MAKE IT EXACTLY LIKE THE SOVIET AIR FORCE. WE WOULD HAVE TO BEGIN BY GROUNDING MOST OF OUR B-52 BOMBERS AND CALLING OFF THE PROGRESS WE ARE MAKING IN DEVELOPING A NEW. MORE CAPABLE B-I BOMBER.

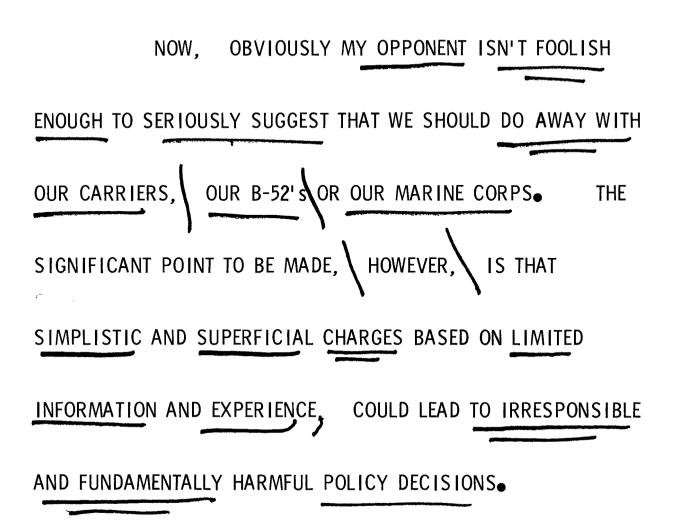
OR THINK OF OUR MARINES, THOSE VALIANT MEN

WHO HAVE WON SO MANY FAMOUS BATTLES FOR US IN THE PAST.

TO PARALLEL THE SOVIETS WE WOULD HAVE TO JETTISON THE

MARINE CORPS BECAUSE THE RUSSIANS HAVE NOTHING COMPARABLE

IN EITHER QUALITY OR DEDICATION.



### LET'S TAKE ONE OF HIS FAVORITE CHARGES --

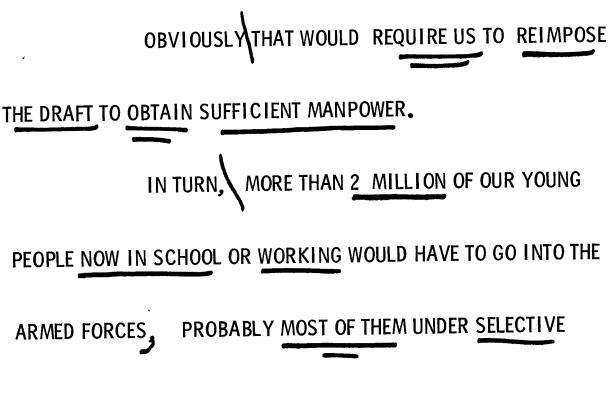
THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE TWICE AS MANY MEN IN UNIFORM AS

WE DO.

PRESUMABLY THAT MEANS HE WANTS TO DOUBLE THE

NUMBER OF MEN AND WOMEN WE HAVE IN UNIFORM FROM 2.1

MILLION TO MORE THAN 4 MILLION.



SERVICE.

### WE WOULD HAVE TO DIVERT BILLIONS OF DOLLARS

NOW BEING SPENT FOR SOPHISTICATED NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS

ADDED MANPOWER COSTS.

MONEY THAT SHOULD BE SPENT ON THE NEW B-I BOMBER, OR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW BALLISTIC MISSILE, OR EXPANDING OUR FLEET WOULD BE WASTED ON MAINTAINING PERSONNEL LEVELS THAT WOULD ADD LITTLE TO OUR OVERALL MILITARY CAPABILITIES. NO REPUTABLE MILITARY EXPERT I KNOW HAS

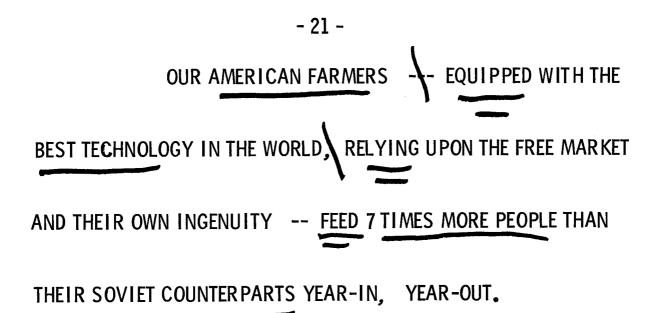
SUGGESTED SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION. SUCH A POLICY,

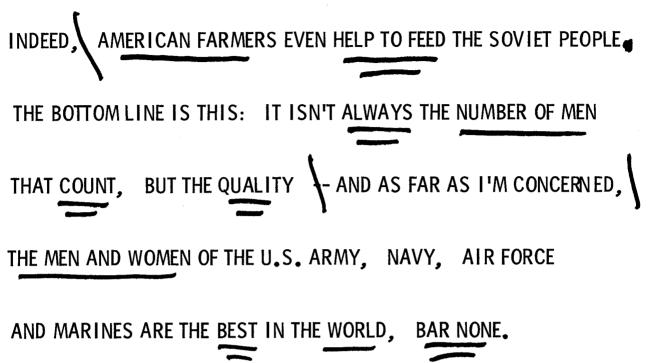
STRENGTHEN OUR DEFENSES.

LET'S LOOK AT THE MANPOWER QUESTION ANOTHER

WAY. THE UNITED STATES TODAY HAS SOME <u>3</u> MILLION FARM WORKERS. THE SOVIET UNION HAS <u>39</u> MILLION FARM WORKERS. DOES THAT MEAN THAT WE HAVE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF OUR FARMERS BY <u>36</u> MILLION IN ORDER TO BE EQUAL TO THE SOVIET UNION? OF COURSE NOT.

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# OBVIOUSLY WE SHOULD EXERCISE GREAT CAUTION BEFORE HEEDING THE WORDS OF A MAN WHO OBVIOUSLY HAS NO EXPERIENCE AND LITTLE UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMPLEXITY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE MATTERS, SUPERFICIAL ARGUMENTS BASED ON INCOMPLETE KNOWLEDGE ARE FUNDAMENTALLY HARMFUL RATHER

THAN HELPFUL.

## I BELIEVE THAT A MAN WHO IS CAMPAIGNING FOR

THE HIGHEST OFFICE IN THE LAND MUST BE WILLING TO TALK

SERIOUSLY ABOUT HIS POLICIES AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS

POLICIES.

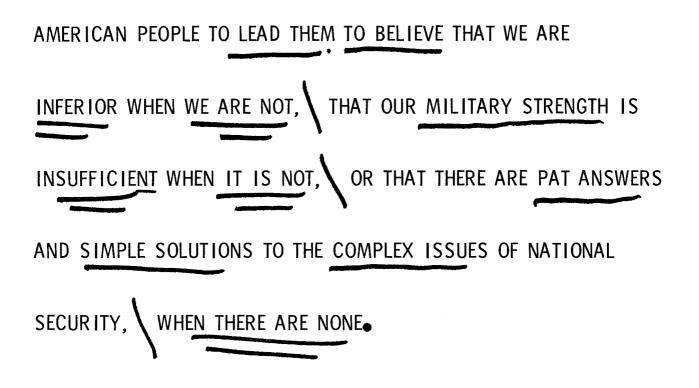
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WHEN IT COMES TO THE LIFE AND DEATH DECISIONS OF OUR

NATIONAL SECURITY, THE DECISIONS MADE MUST BE THE RIGHT ONES. THERE ARE NO RETAKES IN THE OVAL OFFICE. GLIBNESS IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH: SUPERFICIALITY IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH. EVERY SERIOUS CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY MUST BE EQUAL TO THE BURDENS AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRESIDENCY.

## SAM RAYBURN SERVED 50 YEARS IN WASHINGTON WITH OVER 3,000 CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS AND 8 DIFFERENT PRESIDENTS AT THE END OF A LONG DAY, AFTER HE HAD WORKED HARD TO MAKE WHEN HE HEARD FROM THE CHRONIC A BETTER LIFE FOR AMERICA, COMPLAINERS, HE LOVED TO RECALL WHAT HIS FATHER ONCE TOLD HIM: "ANY DONKEY CAN KICK A BARN DOWN, BUT IT TAKES AN AWFUL GOOD CARPENTER TO BUILD ONE UP."

### IT IS IRRESPONSIBLE AND A DISSERVICE TO THE



### THIS COUNTRY MUST HAVE A PRESIDENT WHO CAN

DO MORE THAN SCRATCH THE SURFACE OF COMPLICATED PROBLEMS .

IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO ASK QUESTIONS.

IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO OFFER CRITICISM.

IT IS THE OBLIGATION OF EVERY CANDIDATE FOR THE

PRESIDENCY OF THE UNITED STATES TO OFFER ALTERNATIVES,

TO DEAL IN SPECIFICS, TO PROVIDE SOME ANSWERS TO THE

QUESTIONS HE RAISES.

# IF A CANDIDATE FAILS IN THAT RESPONSIBILITY, HE HAS FAILED TO SATISFY A MOST FUNDAMENTAL REQUIREMENT OF A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN AND OF POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN THIS COUNTRY: HE HAS FAILED TO LEVEL WITH THE AMERICAN

PEOPLE.

- 33 -

### YOU MUST DEMAND MORE THAN THAT OF PRESIDENTIAL

CANDIDATES. THE ELECTIONS OF 1976 ARE MUCH TOO IMPORTANT

FOR YOU TO MAKE YOUR DECISIONS ON THE BASIS OF LESS-THAN-

COMPLETE KNOWLEDGE.

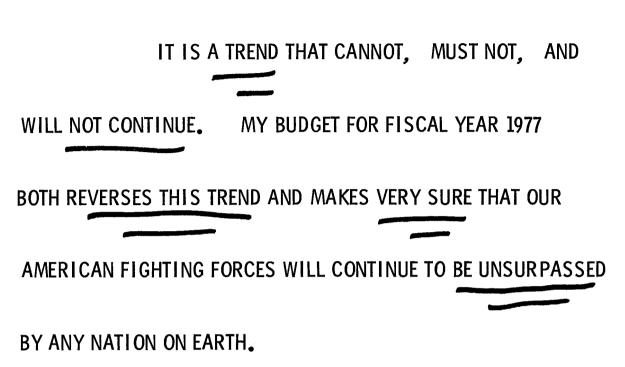
| MY RECORD IS CLEAR. I HAVE SERVED AS YOUR                   |
|---|
| PRESIDENT FOR MORE THAN 21 MONTHS, AND DURING THAT PERIOD   |
| I HAVE RECOMMENDED THE TWO LARGEST MILITARY BUDGETS IN      |
| OUR NATIONS'S HISTORY. THEY WERE NEEDED TO SEE THAT         |
| OUR MILITARY CAPABILITIES CONTINUE TO BE STRONG IN THE      |
| YEARS AHEAD AS THEY MUST BE IF WE ARE TO FIND THE PEACE AND |
| SECURITY WE ALL SEEK.                                       |

### A BUDGET MUST ALSO BE BASED ON FACTS AND

HARD REALITIES. ONE FACT IS THAT IN RECENT YEARS,

THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN SPENDING MORE AND MORE FOR

ARMAMENTS -- WHILE SUCCESSIVE AMERICAN MILITARY BUDGETS HAVE BEEN CUT BACK BY THE CONGRESS.



IT IS A FACT --- AND IN THIS REAL WORLD,

A VERY COMFORTING FACT.

### TODAY AMERICA IS A NATION AT PEACE,

### A NATION WITH NEW CONFIDENCE IN ITSELF AND ITS FUTURE,

### A NATION THAT STANDS TALL AND PROUD AND FREE AS IT ENTERS

ITS THIRD CENTURY.

## IF THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF WHAT AMERICA SHOULD BE,

I ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT THIS SATURDAY, NEXT NOVEMBER,

AND IN THE CHALLENGING YEARS AHEAD.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

NOW LET'S GET TO THE QUESTIONS.