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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

PUBLIC RALLY AT SPRING BRANCH COLISEUM

HOUSTON, TEXAS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1976

I'M GLAD TO BE IN HOUSTON TODAY.

I CAN SEE WHY YOU CONSIDER HOUSTON TO BE OUR

FINEST MAJOR CITY -- A CITY THAT REPRESENTS THE FUTURE OF

AMERICA.

IT IS A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE, A REWARDING PLACE

TO WORK, AND A CITY CELEBRATED FOR GOOD TIMES

AND GOOD PEOPLE.

I'M IMPRESSED BY THE WAY YOU HAVE GROWN --

AT THE ASTOUNDING RATE OF ONE THOUSAND NEW RESIDENTS

A WEEK. SOME EXPERTS PREDICT THAT BEFORE LONG,

HOUSTON WILL BE THE SECOND LARGEST CITY IN THE ENTIRE

UNITED STATES.

I'M ALSO IMPRESSED WITH THE WAY YOU HAVE

HANDLED THAT GROWTH. HOUSTON HAS KEPT ITS BUDGET UNDER

much better than most

CONTROL AND TAXES ARE RELATIVELY LOW. AS A RESULT,

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY HAVE PROSPERED.

by wise leadership & good management

AS A FURTHER RESULT, THE COST OF LIVING HERE

IS ONE OF THE LOWEST OF ANY MAJOR CITY, AND I AM TOLD THERE

ARE JOBS AVAILABLE FOR ALMOST EVERYONE WHO WANTS ONE.

I CONGRATULATE YOU ON THIS RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT.

NOT MANY CITIES HAVE THE ENVIABLE RECORD OF HOUSTON.

BUT IN THE PAST YEAR, WE'VE MADE REAL PROGRESS IN RETURNING

ALL AMERICA TO PROSPERITY.

WHEN I FIRST TOOK OFFICE, AMERICA WAS ENTERING

ITS WORST RECESSION IN FORTY YEARS. INFLATION WAS RUNNING

AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF TWELVE PERCENT. LAST YEAR, THE

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS ALMOST NINE PERCENT.

BUT NOW THE SITUATION HAS BEEN DRAMATICALLY

CHANGED FOR THE BETTER.

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX / OUR LEADING

INFLATION INDICATOR / REPORTED A CUT IN THE ANNUAL

INFLATION RATE FROM TWELVE PERCENT A YEAR AGO TO LESS THAN

THREE PERCENT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1976.

THAT'S A REDUCTION OF 75 PERCENT, AND THAT'S REALLY PUTTING

THE BRAKES ON INFLATION.

DESPITE GLOOMY FORECASTS THAT UNEMPLOYMENT

WOULD TOP TEN PERCENT, WE'VE REDUCED UNEMPLOYMENT STEADILY
AND SURELY - AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP REDUCING IT.

IN THE PAST YEAR ALONE, WE'VE ADDED MORE THAN TWO AND
ONE-HALF MILLION JOBS TO THE ECONOMY. AND THE GROSS

NATIONAL PRODUCT FIGURES ARE RUNNING AHEAD OF EVEN
OUR OWN PROJECTIONS.

WE STILL HAVE A LOT OF WORK AHEAD OF US TO

PROVIDE MORE JOBS AND TO REDUCE THE COST OF LIVING.

BUT WE'RE ON OUR WAY. I'M PROUD OF THE PROGRESS WE HAVE

MADE UNDER MY ADMINISTRATION, AND I WANT TO CONTINUE THAT

RECORD OF ACTIVE EFFECTIVE ACTION FOR THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER.

TO HOLD DOWN UNNECESSARY GOVERNMENT SPENDING --

WHICH HAS TO BE FINANCED FROM YOUR TAX DOLLARS --

I HAVE NOT HESITATED TO USE THE PRESIDENTIAL VETO POWER.

SO FAR, I HAVE VETOED 48 BILLS. THIRTY-NINE OF THOSE

VETOES WERE SUSTAINED. THE RESULT WAS A SAVING TO THE

TAXPAYERS OF THIRTEEN BILLION DOLLARS.

AND IF THE CONGRESS KEEPS SENDING ME BUDGET-BUSTING

SPENDING BILLS, I WILL VETO THEM AGAIN AND AGAIN AND

AGAIN.

I DID NOT VETO ALL OF THESE BILLS SIMPLY

TO SAVE MONEY.

I VETOED SOME OF THEM BECAUSE

THEY WOULD HAVE ENTANGLED AMERICA IN A FEW MORE MILES

OF GOVERNMENTAL RED TAPE - AND I THINK WE HAVE

FAR TOO MUCH ALREADY.

I HAVE FAITH IN THE IMAGINATION AND ENERGIES

OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. I THINK GOVERNMENT SHOULD HELP

OUT INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES WHERE NECESSARY.

BUT OTHERWISE IT SHOULD STAND BACK AND LET THE AMERICAN

PEOPLE GET ON WITH THE JOB.

FRANKLY I DON'T BELIEVE THE PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT

SHOULD BE TO GIVE US WHAT IT THINKS WE SHOULD HAVE.

AND I DON'T BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD GIVE US EVERYTHING

WE WANT, ~~EITHER~~. THE MORE COMMON-SENSE FUNCTION

OF GOVERNMENT IS TO ENABLE US TO EARN WHAT WE WANT

FOR OURSELVES.

I HAVE SAID IT MANY TIMES BEFORE, AND I KNOW

I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO GIVE US

EVERYTHING WE WANT IS A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO TAKE

FROM US EVERYTHING WE HAVE.

IT IS EASY TO PROMISE THINGS TO PEOPLE WHEN

YOU ARE JUST A CANDIDATE.

BUT WHEN YOU ARE PRESIDENT,

YOU HAVE A MUCH MORE SERIOUS JOB AT HAND - YOU HAVE TO

MAKE DECISIONS.

THOSE DECISIONS ARE RARELY EASY, BECAUSE

AS MUCH AS YOU'D LIKE TO, YOU CAN'T MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY.

BUT ONCE YOU HAVE THOSE DECISIONS MADE, YOU HAVE TO

STICK BY THEM AND TAKE THE CONSEQUENCES.

I'LL TELL YOU OF ONE DECISION I'VE MADE•

I MADE IT A LONG TIME AGO AND THEN I REAFFIRMED IT IN

HUNDREDS OF VOTES OVER MY 25 YEARS IN CONGRESS•

I DECIDED THAT THIS NATION MUST ALWAYS BE

STRONG MILITARILY -- SECOND TO NONE. AND TODAY WE ARE

STRONG, WE ARE UNSURPASSED IN MILITARY MIGHT, AND I AM

GOING TO MAKE SURE WE STAY THAT WAY.

I HAVE MADE THE NECESSARY DECISIONS, AUTHORIZED

THE ESSENTIAL INITIATIVES, AND I WILL PUSH THE CONGRESS FOR

NOTHING LESS THAN THE BEST. I WILL VETO ANY DEFENSE

BILL SENT TO MY DESK THAT MIGHT COMPROMISE OUR

NATIONAL SECURITY.

THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE WHEN IT COMES
TO THE LIFE AND DEATH DECISIONS CONCERNING OUR NATIONAL
SECURITY. THE DECISIONS MADE IN THIS VITAL AREA
MUST BE THE RIGHT ONES. THERE ARE NO RETAKES IN
THE OVAL OFFICE.

MY RECORD IS CLEAR. SINCE I HAVE BECOME
PRESIDENT, I HAVE RECOMMENDED TO THE CONGRESS THE TWO
LARGEST MILITARY BUDGETS IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY.

THEY WERE NEEDED TO MAKE CERTAIN 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. I AM DETERMINED, AS I ALWAYS HAVE BEEN,
TO KEEP AMERICA'S MILITARY MIGHT UNSURPASSED BY ANY
NATION ON THIS GLOBE.

You know, SOMETIMES WHEN I HEAR THE CRITICS COMPLAINING
ABOUT AMERICAN DEFENSE POLICY AND AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY --
ALWAYS COMPLAINING BUT NEVER OFFERING ANY PROGRAMS OF
THEIR OWN -- I AM REMINDED OF ONE OF THE FINEST TEXANS I
EVER HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO KNOW IN THE CONGRESS.

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

A BETTER LIFE FOR AMERICA, WHEN HE HEARD FROM THE CHRONIC

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."

NOW AS FAR AS THE NATIONAL SECURITY POLICIES OF THE
UNITED STATES ARE CONCERNED, I AM CONVINCED THAT THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD RATHER HAVE A PRESIDENT WHO IS
CONSTRUCTIVELY SEEKING TO BUILD THE FOUNDATIONS OF LASTING
SECURITY THAN SOMEONE WHO SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME TRYING
TO KICK THEM DOWN.

I AM PROUD TO BE THE PRESIDENT OF A NATION

STRONG ENOUGH, DETERMINED ENOUGH, AND COURAGEOUS

ENOUGH TO DETER AGGRESSION. AND AS LONG AS I ^{am} ~~REMAIN~~

PRESIDENT, WE ARE GOING TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

2 will

I ~~HAVE MADE MY DECISION TO~~ SPARE NO EFFORT IN KEEPING

US STRONG AND FREE.

MY ADMINISTRATION FOR THE PAST TWENTY MONTHS
HAS PURSUED POLICIES THAT REFLECT THE COMMON SENSE
AND THE PRAGMATIC REALISM WHICH TODAY'S COMPLEX PROBLEMS
DEMAND -- NOT THE SIMPLISTIC PROPOSALS THAT SOUND SO
GOOD ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL. MY EXPERIENCE TELLS ME
THAT I MUST DEAL WITH THE WORLD AS IT IS IF WE ARE TO MAKE
IT THE WORLD WE WANT IT TO BE.

NOW YOU, AND ALL THE VOTERS IN TEXAS,

HAVE TO MAKE YOUR DECISION. WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY

TOGETHER. WE HAVE MADE IT OUT OF THE WORST ECONOMIC

CRISIS IN A GENERATION. AMERICA CONTINUES TO BE A

NATION WHOSE TOTAL RESOURCES -- IN NATIONAL DEFENSE, IN

AGRICULTURE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY -- MAKE IT THE

STRONGEST NATION ON EARTH.

AND WE WILL KEEP AMERICA STRONG IF WE CONTINUE

OUR SOUND AND STEADY POLICY OF REALISM AND COMMON SENSE.

IF WE KEEP A GOVERNMENT THAT PROTECTS ITS PEOPLE'S FREEDOM,

RESPECTS THEIR INDEPENDENCE, AND RESPONDS TO THEIR NEEDS.

A GOVERNMENT THAT PROMISES ONLY WHAT

IT CAN DELIVER - AND DELIVERS EVERYTHING IT PROMISES.

IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION NEXT SATURDAY, AND

IN THE ELECTION NEXT NOVEMBER, I HOPE I CAN COUNT ON YOU

FOR YOUR VOTES. I HOPE WE CAN KEEP ON WORKING TOGETHER

TO BUILD AN EVEN BETTER AMERICA.

BECAUSE WHEN TEXAS AND TEXANS DECIDE TO

DO SOMETHING -- IT GETS DONE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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