The original documents are located in Box 30, “4/29/76 - Open Forum, Baylor University, Waco, Texas” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS AT BAYLOR UNIVERSITY
OPEN FORUM, WACO, TEXAS, THURSDAY, 4/29/76
THANK YOU, VERY MUCH, DR. McCALL

SENATOR TOWER

JAY WOLFE (President, Student Body)

STUDENTS, FACULTY AND GUESTS OF BAYLOR UNIVERSITY
I am delighted to be here at Baylor University, the home of the Baylor Bears -- and its great coach Grant Teaff (Taff) -- to whom I had the honor of presenting the 1974 Coach of the Year Award from the American Football Coaches Association last year.

Baylor has a right to be very proud of Coach Teaff.
AND BEFORE I GO ANY FURTHER, TO ALL OF YOU C.B.ers IN THE AUDIENCE, I BRING A SPECIAL HELLO FROM FIRST MAMA -- AND FROM FIRST PAPA TOO.
I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY
TO MEET WITH YOU TODAY. THEY SAY THAT ANYTHING IS
POSSIBLE IN TEXAS, AND I ALWAYS LEAVE THIS STATE
WITH GREAT OPTIMISM AND A POSITIVE ATTITUDE.
BEFORE I GET TO YOUR QUESTIONS, LET ME FIRST SAY

A FEW WORDS CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY.
WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY SINCE THE BIRTH OF THE UNITED STATES TWO CENTURIES AGO. AND WE HAVE A LONG WAY YET TO TRAVEL.
WE BEGAN OUR FIRST CENTURY WITH A POLITICAL EXPERIMENT — A DARING AND UNIQUE EXPERIMENT IN THE CONCEPT OF SELF-RULE. OUR FIRST CENTURY SAW THE FIRM ESTABLISHMENT OF A FREE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT BASED ON THE RIGHT OF THE INDIVIDUAL TO DETERMINE HIS OWN DESTINY.
THAT CONCEPT WAS CARRIED INTO THE SECOND CENTURY AND, ALONG WITH IT, WE TRANSFORMED AN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRY INTO THE MIGHTIEST AND MOST PRODUCTIVE NATION IN HUMAN HISTORY.
As we begin our third century we should appreciate the wisdom and foresight of our founding fathers and we should reaffirm their contributions as we confirm our efforts to secure lasting freedom, lasting peace and lasting prosperity.

It is important that we preserve the individual freedom of all Americans. But, beyond that, we should strive to improve the quality of life for the individual.
WE MUST DEVISE SAFEGUARDS FOR THE INDIVIDUALISM OF EVERY AMERICAN TO PROTECT PERSONAL FREEDOMS AND OUR INDIVIDUALITY FROM THE PRESSURES OF MASSIVE GOVERNMENT, BIG BUSINESS OR ORGANIZED LABOR, FROM MASSIVE EDUCATION OR MASSIVE COMMUNICATION. WE MUST NOT SMOTHER INDIVIDUAL EXPRESSION AND CREATIVITY, AND WE MUST NOT STIFLE INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITY.
THE OPPORTUNITY YOU HAVE TO PURSUE A HIGHER EDUCATION IS A VERY IMPORTANT ONE.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR A FULFILLING CAREER IN A STABLE WORLD

ONCE YOU LEAVE THIS CAMPUS?
MY NEW BUDGET FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS DESIGNED TO BOLSTER OUR ECONOMY BY GENERATING NEW JOBS -- NOT MAKE-WORK, DEAD-END GOVERNMENT SPONSORED JOBS, BUT JOBS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WHERE FIVE OUT OF SIX EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE TO BE FOUND IN AMERICA.

THESE JOBS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAVE CAREERS ATTACHED TO THEM.
THEY OFFER YOU MORE THAN A TEMPORARY GOVERNMENT PAYCHECK. THEY OFFER YOU A FUTURE AND A CHALLENGE.

TODAY, BECAUSE WE MADE SOME TOUGH DECISIONS AND STUCK WITH THEM, WE ARE RECOVERING IN A STRONG AND VIGOROUS WAY FROM THE WORST RECESSION AMERICA HAS SUFFERED IN 40 YEARS.
WE ARE RECOVERING NOT BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT UNDERTOOK TO PUT EVERY UNEMPLOYED AMERICAN ON THE FEDERAL PAYROLL, BUT BECAUSE WE HAVE STIMULATED THE GREAT AMERICAN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM TO PRODUCE MORE GOODS, MORE SERVICES, MORE INVESTMENTS AND AS A RESULT, MORE JOBS.
THESE ARE GENUINE, LONG-TERM JOBS GENERATED BY THE DEMANDS OF AN IMPROVING ECONOMY, NOT BY ANY QUICK FIX GIMMICKS BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

WE PROVIDED THAT STIMULATION THROUGH MY PROGRAM OF TAX CUTS FOR INDIVIDUALS TO INCREASE THEIR PURCHASING POWER, AND TAX INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESS EXPANSION AND JOB PRODUCTION — NOT THROUGH MASSIVE NEW GOVERNMENT SPENDING.
IN FACT, OVER THE LAST 20 MONTHS, I HAVE VETOED 48 BILLS. THIRTY-NINE OF THOSE VETOES HAVE BEEN SUSTAINED, AND WITHOUT WEAKENING OR THREATENING OUR ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN ANY WAY, THOSE 39 VETOES WILL SAVE YOU 13 BILLION DOLLARS.

WE NOW HAVE MORE AMERICANS ON THE JOB THAN WE HAVE HAD AT ANY OTHER TIME IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY.
AND ALL THIS HAS HAPPENED BECAUSE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DID NOT

PANIC, BECAUSE THE GREAT AMERICAN SYSTEM OF FREE ENTERPRISE

IS WORKING.

FINALLY, WE MUST ASK THE QUESTION: HOW CAN WE

ENSURE THAT YOUR JOBS AND YOUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE WILL NOT

BE THREATENED BY INTERNATIONAL EVENTS?
YOUR LIVES ARE INSEPARABLY LINKED WITH THE STABILITY
OF THE WORLD. IN A THERMO-NUCLEAR AGE, THERE CAN BE NO
LASTING ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITHOUT A LASTING PEACE.

HERE, TOO, WE CAN BE PROUD OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS.

AMERICA TODAY IS AT PEACE. NO AMERICANS ARE
IN COMBAT ANYWHERE ON THE FACE OF THE GLOBE -- AND I INTEND
TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.


WE ARE MEETING THE ACTIVE DUTY MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS
OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF BY AN ALL VOLUNTARY RECRUITING
PROGRAM, WITHOUT THE DRAFT.

WE ARE AT PEACE, AND WE WILL STAY AT PEACE,
BECauses WE ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO KEEP THE PEACE, TO DETER
AGGRESSION, AND TO PROTECT OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.
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 invite you all, then, to join me on a journey into a challenging future, to walk with me on the path of peace and on the road to lasting prosperity. For there lies the way of honor and achievement and happiness for the United States of America, and for the 215 million Americans I am honored to serve and proud to lead.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH. NOW LET'S TAKE SOME QUESTIONS.

END OF TEXT