The original documents are located in Box 31, “5/3/76 - Remarks at Wilson Park, Birmingham, Alabama” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

WILSON PARK ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

-- THANK YOU, CONGRESSMAN JOHN BUCHANAN
-- CONGRESSMAN BILL DICKINSON
-- CONGRESSMAN JACK EDWARDS
-- MAYOR VANN
-- DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
-- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

AT THE OUTSET LET ME THANK AND COMPLIMENT

THE FINE SAMFORD UNIVERSITY CHOIR. THE WOODFORD BAND.
IT'S GREAT TO BE IN BIRMINGHAM --

THE ALL AMERICAN CITY.
I hear you had quite a race yesterday in Talledega (Talla-digga) -- the Winston 500.

Well, the car I came in this afternoon might not have been fast enough to beat Buddy Baker,

but we've got another race of our own tomorrow --

and that's a race we'd sure like to win.
WINNING SEEMS TO BE A HABIT IN ALABAMA

I see so many young people here today.

Young Americans, already stepping in to take over the reins of government, industry, and the professions.
MY OWN WHITE HOUSE STAFF HERE TODAY

AVERAGE UNDER 35 YEARS OF AGE.
I HAVE MORE PRIDE IN EACH AND EVERY ONE

THAN I CAN EXPRESS.
I BELIEVE IN AMERICA'S YOUNG PEOPLE

ABOVE ALL ELSE. IN 200 YEARS WE HAVE FORGED

FROM A STRUGGLING GROUP OF COLONIES THE GREATEST

NATION IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.
OUR PROGRESS IN EVERY FIELD HAS BEEN UNPRECEDENTED, AND MUCH OF THAT PROGRESS HAS ALWAYS BEEN DUE TO THE STRENGTH AND CHARACTER OF THE YOUNG AMERICAN.
A lot of detractors are saying we're becoming a second rate nation. But when I look out over this crowd, I can say — I am proud to be an American and proud of America.
OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, AMERICA HAS BEEN CHALLENGED AS RARELY BEFORE.

WE FACED THE WORST ECONOMIC RECESSION IN FORTY YEARS. WE BEAT IT.
WE FACED MANY CHALLENGES TO PEACE IN
THE WORLD AND WE ARE STILL AT PEACE.
WE FACED A CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE IN
GOVERNMENT AND THAT CONFIDENCE AND THE
INTEGRITY OF THE WHITE HOUSE HAVE BEEN RESTORED.
THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE WILL BE EVEN GREATER. TODAY'S GENERATION OF AMERICANS MUST MEET THOSE CHALLENGES AS OUR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS MET THEIRS WITH COURAGE, WITH SACRIFICE, WITH DETERMINATION, BUT ALWAYS WITH LOVE FOR OUR COUNTRY AND OUR GOD.
GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY AND
ALL THE OTHER AMERICANS THROUGHOUT ALABAMA AND
ALL OVER AMERICA. IT IS MY GREAT HONOR
TO BE YOUR PRESIDENT.
WITH YOUR FAITH IN ME AND YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, WE WILL FILL THE FUTURE WITH HOPE, WITH GREAT ACHIEVEMENT AND WITH THE PROGRESS THAT WILL KEEP AMERICA NUMBER ONE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.