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REMARKS AT WOODROW WILSON PARK

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, MAY 3, 1976

-1-

I AM PROUD TO BE HERE IN BIRMINGHAM,  
THE MAGIC 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 \_\_\_\_\_ . BUT WE'VE GOT ANOTHER RACE OF

OUR OWN TOMORROW -- AND THAT'S A RACE WE'D SURE LIKE TO WIN.

WHEN YOU'VE GOT A RECORD LIKE YOUR GREAT

ALABAMA FOOTBALL TEAMS DO, THAT RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

I ALSO HAVE A RECORD THAT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

IT'S A RECORD THAT GOES BACK 27 YEARS, WORKING IN THE CONGRESS

FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- WORKING ALONGSIDE FINE AMERICANS

LIKE YOUR OWN CONGRESSMEN JACK EDWARDS, BILL DICKINSON

AND JOHN BUCHANAN. TOGETHER, OVER MANY YEARS, WE HAVE

WORKED FOR ONE GOAL -- TO KEEP AMERICA STRONG.

IN THE 21 MONTHS SINCE I BECAME PRESIDENT,

I HAVE KEPT ON DOING MY PART TO KEEP AMERICA STRONG.

WHEN I BECAME PRESIDENT, WE FACED ECONOMIC CRISIS.

THERE WERE THOSE WHO SAID WE WOULD NEVER MAKE IT OUT OF THE  
RECESSION UNLESS WE SPENT OUR WAY OUT WITH LOTS OF YOUR MONEY,  
OR BY LETTING THE GOVERNMENT TAKE CARE OF YOUR BUSINESS.

I KNEW THAT THEY WERE WRONG -- AND I MADE MY  
DECISIONS CAREFULLY, ON THE BASIS OF STEADINESS AND COMMON  
SENSE. I CHOSE A FIRM AND STEADY ECONOMIC POLICY --  
I STUCK BY IT AGAINST ALL OPPOSITION -- AND NOW WE CAN SEE  
THAT MY POLICIES WERE THE RIGHT ONES.

THE ANNUAL RATE OF INFLATION DROPPED TO THREE PERCENT  
IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR -- THAT'S A 75 PERCENT  
REDUCTION.

WE SAW THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT RISE DURING  
THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF  
7.5 PERCENT.

WE HAVE SEEN THE PERSONAL SPENDABLE INCOME  
OF AMERICAN FAMILIES INCREASED BY ONE HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS  
OVER A YEAR AGO. FARM INCOME IS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH,  
AND SO IS PRODUCTION.

WE HAVE GAINED TWO AND A HALF MILLION JOBS  
SINCE THE BOTTOM OF THE RECESSION. TODAY THERE ARE OVER  
EIGHTY-SIX MILLION AMERICANS GAINFULLY EMPLOYED -- AND THAT  
IS MORE THAN EVER BEFORE IN OUR HISTORY.

WE ARE GOING TO KEEP ON THE ROAD TO A NEW PROSPERITY,  
AND I WON'T BE SATISFIED UNTIL EVERY AMERICAN WHO WANTS A JOB,  
HAS A JOB.

WE DIDN'T CREATE THOSE JOBS AT THE TAXPAYERS EXPENSE,  
AND WE'RE NOT ABOUT TO START NOW.



WE HELPED AMERICAN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE TO CREATE  
THOSE JOBS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, BY CREATING A HEALTHY  
ECONOMIC CLIMATE -- AND THAT'S JUST WHAT WE ARE GOING TO KEEP  
ON DOING.

WE STIMULATED THE ECONOMY WITH A TAX CUT LAST YEAR,  
AND I HAVE RECOMMENDED ANOTHER TAX CUT FOR THIS YEAR,  
TEN BILLION DOLLARS WORTH, STARTING JULY FIRST.  
I WANT THE CONGRESS TO INCREASE THE PERSONAL TAX EXEMPTION  
FROM 750 DOLLARS TO ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS.

THAT'S GOING TO GIVE MIDDLE-INCOME TAXPAYERS  
THE KIND OF TAX RELIEF THAT THEY BADLY NEED AND RICHLY DESERVE.  
AND MY ECONOMIC PLANS ARE TO BALANCE THE BUDGET  
BY 1979, WHICH WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO GIVE  
AMERICANS ANOTHER TAX CUT.

WE NEED TO GIVE MORE MONEY BACK TO THE AMERICAN  
PEOPLE, SO THEY CAN SPEND IT THE WAY THEY SEE FIT, AND NOT  
AS THE GOVERNMENT DICTATES. AND WE NEED TO CREATE MORE  
INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESS, SO WE WILL HAVE MORE JOBS AND  
AN EVEN MORE PRODUCTIVE ECONOMY.

AMERICA IS A GREAT NATION BECAUSE ITS STRENGTH  
AND POWER FLOW UP FROM THE PEOPLE -- NOT DOWN FROM  
THE GOVERNMENT.

YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES, YOUR NEIGHBORHOODS,  
YOUR CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS AND LOCAL GROUPS -- YOU SUPPLY  
THE MUSCLE AND THE MORAL VALUES THAT KEEP AMERICA STRONG,  
AND THAT MAKE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US PROUD TO BE AMERICANS.

I KNOW YOU WANT LESS FEDERAL INTERFERENCE IN YOUR  
LIVES AND BUSINESSES, LESS GOVERNMENT PAPERWORK AND LESS  
RED TAPE. AND YOU WANT MORE OF THE DECISIONS THAT AFFECT YOU  
MADE RIGHT HERE, CLOSE TO HOME, NOT HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY  
IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

I WANT TO MAKE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MORE  
RESPONSIVE TO YOUR NEEDS, WITHOUT TYING YOU DOWN.  
AND IN THE LAST 21 MONTHS, WE HAVE MADE A LOT OF PROGRESS  
IN DOING JUST THAT.

I SENT A LETTER TO THE HEAD OF EVERY FEDERAL AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT, SAYING THAT BY JULY ONE WE HAD TO CUT BY TEN PERCENT THE RED TAPE, THE FORMS THAT PEOPLE HAVE TO FILL OUT WHEN THEY DEAL WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED A CUTBACK OF ABOUT FIVE PERCENT.

I KNOW YOU WANT TO BE SECURE IN YOUR HOMES AND ON YOUR STREETS. SO I HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT THE CONGRESS PASS LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCES FOR TRAFFICKERS IN HARD DRUGS, FOR REPEAT OFFENDERS WHO COMMIT VIOLENT CRIMES, AND FOR THOSE WHO COMMIT FEDERAL CRIMES WITH GUNS.

WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT THOSE WHO USE GUNS TO COMMIT CRIMES  
GO TO JAIL -- BUT THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOESN'T INTERFERE  
WITH THE RIGHT OF LAW-ABIDING AMERICANS TO OWN FIREARMS.

I KNOW THAT AMERICANS WANT TO ENJOY THE SECURITY AND  
COMFORT THEY HAVE EARNED IN THEIR OLD AGE. SO I HAVE PROPOSED  
PUTTING THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND ON A SOUND  
FINANCIAL FOOTING, AND I HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT SOCIAL  
SECURITY BENEFICIARIES RECEIVE A FULL COST OF LIVING  
INCREASE THIS YEAR.

FINALLY, I KNOW YOU WANT AMERICA TO KEEP ITS  
PLACE IN THE WORLD COMMUNITY. I HAVE ALWAYS MAINTAINED  
THAT THE BEST WAY TO KEEP THE PEACE IS THROUGH A STRONG  
NATIONAL DEFENSE.

AS A CONGRESSMAN, I VOTED FOR A STRONG DEFENSE  
HUNDREDS OF TIMES, AND AS YOUR PRESIDENT, I HAVE PROPOSED  
THE TWO BIGGEST DEFENSE BUDGETS IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

I PROMISE YOU THIS -- WE'RE GOING TO MAKE SURE  
THAT AMERICA STAYS STRONG AND FREE. WE ARE NOT GOING  
TO DROP OUR GUARD FOR ONE SECOND.

AND ANYONE WHO THREATENS THE SECURITY  
OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- WHETHER IT IS THE CRIMINAL ON THE  
STREET, OR THOSE WHO CHALLENGE US OVERSEAS -- HAD BETTER KNOW  
THAT WE ARE READY AND ABLE TO DEFEND OURSELVES AGAINST  
ANY THREAT.



WE ARE GOING TO USE EXPERIENCE AND COMMON SENSE  
TO KEEP AMERICA STRONG IN EVERY WAY -- ECONOMICALLY,  
SPIRITUALLY, AND MILITARILY.

WE AREN'T GOING TO FALL FOR GLIB SLOGANS OR  
EASY ANSWERS -- WHOEVER THEY COME FROM.

WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY SINCE I HAVE BEEN IN OFFICE,  
AND I AM ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT SO WE CAN CONTINUE THE JOB  
WE HAVE BEGUN TOGETHER. WITH YOUR HELP, I WILL MAKE SURE  
WE MAINTAIN OUR FIRM AND STEADY PACE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT