The original documents are located in Box 32, "5/12/76 - Remarks at Meeting of Economic Club of Detroit, Bloomfield, Michigan" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

ECONOMIC CLUB OF DETROIT

BLOOMFIELD, MICHIGAN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1976

THANK YOU, GOV. MILLIKEN

RAY MACDONALD (DEC Chrmn)

RUSS SWANEY (DEC Pres.)

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE MICHIGAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

SENATOR GRIFFIN

----- CONG. CEDERBERG

----- CONG. BROOMFIELD - HIS DISTRICT

-CONG. VANDER JAGT

- CONG. HUTCHINSON

CONG. ESCH

-CONG. RUPPE-

-CONG BROWN-

BISHOP McGHEE (Invocator - was once with your Alexandria church)

7 (BILL SEIDMAN

IF MY MEMORY IS CORRECT, THIS IS MY TENTH TRIP HOME TO MICHIGAN SINCE I BECAME PRESIDENT AND MY FOURTH TO DETROIT. I'M GRATEFUL FOR YOUR WARM WELCOME.

IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO COME HOME.

IT'S ESPECIALLY GRATIFYING TO HAVE THE CHANCE

TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS DISTINGUISHED FORUM

WITH SO MANY OLD FRIENDS. I KNOW FROM OUR PREVIOUS

MEETING OF THE BREADTH OF INTEREST AND WEALTH OF ABILITY

REPRESENTED HERE

I KNOW YOU WANT IN-DEPTH UNDERSTANDING OF

VARIOUS VIEWPOINTS ON THE COMPLEX ISSUES AFFECTING THIS GREAT METROPOLITAN AREA, OUR STATE AND OUR COUNTRY. I KNOW YOU SHARE MY CONCERN FOR AMERICA'S SECURITY OUR COMMERCE, OUR RESPONSIBLE ROLE IN LEADERSHIP OF THE FREE WORLD.

I KNOW, TOO, THAT YOU ARE DOERS -- THE KIND OF PEOPLE WHO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO HOW SOMEBODY DOES HIS JOB THAN HOW DEFTLY HE CRITICIZES HIS COMPETITORS, WHO VALUE PERFORMANCE OVER GLOWING PROSPECTUS. SO AT THE RISK OF SOME IMMODESTY, I'M GOING TO TALK A LITTLE ABOUT THE JOB I HAVE BEEN DOING FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS. I WANT TO ANSWER AS MANY OF YOUR QUESTIONS AS I CAN, BUT FIRST LET ME ANSWER A VERY POINTED BUT PROPER QUESTION I HAVE OFTEN ASKED MYSELF: "JERRY FORD, WHY ARE YOU ASKING YOUR FELLOW AMERICANS AND YOUR FELLOW MICHIGANDERS TO LET YOU GO ON BEING PRESIDENT FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS?"

AND MY ANSWER IS: "BECAUSE I'VE DONE A GOOD JOB. BECAUSE I'VE TURNED A LOT OF THINGS AROUND AND WE'RE GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. BECAUSE I WANT A MANDATE FROM MICHIGAN AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO FINISH THE JOB."

MUCH AS I LIKE TO SEE NEW CAR SALES GOING UP, I JUST DON'T THINK THIS IS THE TIME TO TRADE IN YOUR RELIABLE FORD FOR A FLASHIER MODEL. THAT'S WHY I'M HEADING INTO THE SECOND QUARTER OF A CAMPAIGN WHICH WILL DETERMINE THE DIRECTION OUR COUNTRY WILL TAKE IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS AND FOR THE FUTURE.



AMERICA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE IN PARTICULAR.

BUT, BEFORE LOOKING AHEAD, CONSIDER FOR A MOMENT, in the first maths Joy Puesdoney: WHERE WE WERE ONE YEAR AGO: THEN, SOME WELL KNOWN ECONOMISTS, LABOR AND POLITICAL LEADERS WERE PREDICTING THAT WE WERE HEADED INTO A DEEP DEPRESSION, THAT UNEMPLOYMENT WOULD SOON EXCEED TEN PERCENT, AND THAT ONLY MASSIVE ACTION BY THE FEDERAL

GOVERNMENT COULD AVERT CALAMITY.

-10-

INFLATION WAS APPROACHING AN ANNUAL RATE

OF 12 PERCENT.

INTEREST RATES HAD CLIMBED STEADILY UPWARD.

AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, FAR TOO MANY AMERICANS

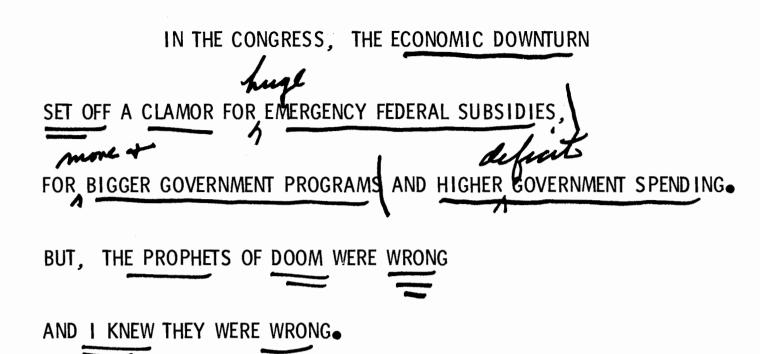
WERE LAID OFF, AND COULD NOT FIND NEW JOBS.

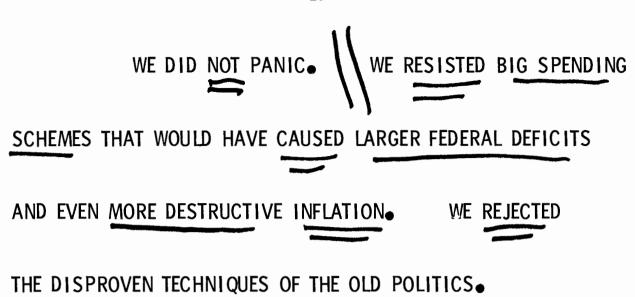
JUST ABOUT A YEAR AGO, WE HIT THE

BOTTOM OF OUR WORST RECESSION IN 40 YEARS.

MANY IN CONGRESS AND ELSEWHERE WERE URGING THAT

WE PUSH THE PANIC BUTTON.





INSTEAD, WE PURSUED A CALM, STEADY POLICY TO ENSURE AMERICA'S ECONOMIC HEALTH NOT FOR A MONTH OR SIX MONTHS, BUT FOR THE LONG TERM. WE HAD FAITH THAT THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE WOULD REGAIN ITS STRENGTH, AND AS A RESULT, WE MEET TODAY --NOT IN THE GLOOM OF A RECESSION -- BUT IN THE FULL SURGE OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY. EVERYTHING THAT IS SUPPOSED TO BE GOING UP

IS GOING UP, AND EVERYTHING THAT SHOULD BE COMING DOWN

IS COMING DOWN.

our system is working.

LOOK AT THE INDICATORS.

THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT ROSE

DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR AT AN ANNUAL RATE

OF SEVEN AND A HALF PERCENT.

TOTAL INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FOR MARCH OF THIS YEAR

WAS UP 9.9 PERCENT IN REAL TERMS OVER THE SAME MONTH

THE INDEX OF CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IS DOUBLE WHAT IT

WAS A YEAR AGO.

CONSUMER PRICES DURING THE FIRST QUARTER INCREASED

AT THE SLOWEST RATE IN THREE AND A HALF YEARS.

DURING 1974 THE ANNUAL RATE OF INFLATION STOOD AT 12.70 TWELVE PERCENT. WE'VE CUT THAT BY WELL OVER 50 PERCENT. During The 1973 mutths [1974] The annual inflation onto has been of the 12.70, mit 6.71 for 9.75 TOTAL EMPLOYMENT HAS INCREASED BY 3.3 MILLION SINCE THE RECESSION LOW OF LAST YEAR, AND NOW STANDS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH OF 87.4 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF SOME 710 THOUSAND JOBS IN THE PAST MONTH ALONE.

-18-

UNEMPLOYMENT IS STILL FAR TOO HIGH, PARTICULARLY

HERE IN MICHIGAN. BUT, THE MOST RECENT STATE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FIGURES SHOW THAT UNEMPLOYMENT IN MICHIGAN IS DROPPING FASTER THAN IT IS IN THE REST OF THE NATION -- A 57 PERCENT DROP SINCE FEBRUARY 1975. NATIONALLY, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE NOW

IS_DOWN TO SEVEN AND ONE-HALF PERCENT -- AND UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS (MALE AND FEMALE) IS DOWN TO 5 PERCENT. THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH - BUT WE'RE MOVING DRAMATICALLY IN THE **RIGHT DIRECTION.** AND FINALLY, AS YOU KNOW, DOMESTIC AUTOMOBILE PRODUCTION IS UP BY 51 PERCENT OVER THE ONE MILLION MORE COMPARABLE PERIOD LAST YEAR

NEW CARS.

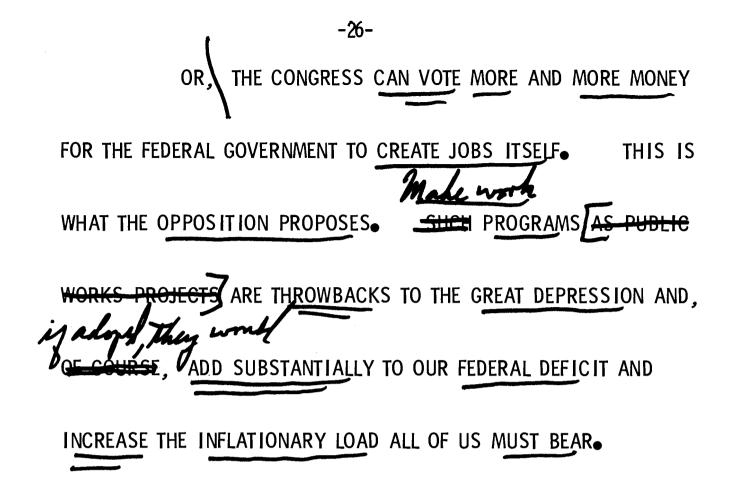
SALES ARE UP, AND	AMERICANS ARE BUYING more
AMERICAN MADE CARS AGAIN.	THAT MEANS MORE AMERICAN JOBS
AND THAT'S GOOD NEWS FOR MICHIGAN AND THE WHOLE ECONOMY.	
OUR ECONOMIC RECOVERY WAS NO ACCIDENT.	
IT DIDN'T JUST HAPPEN. YOU	MADE IT HAPPEN
AND THE POLICIES OF MY ADMINISTRATION MADE IT HAPPEN.	

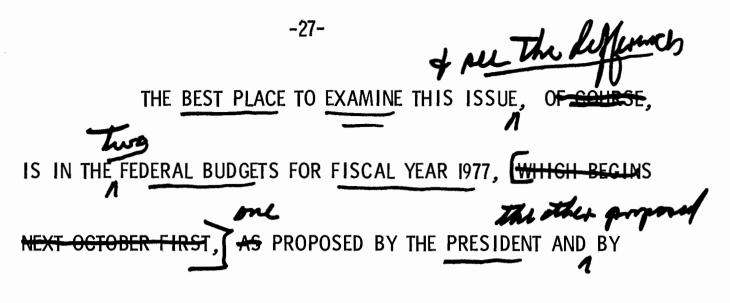
FROM THE START, I FORCED THE CONGRESS TO ABANDON OR SEVERELY CUT BACK RECKLESS FEDERAL SPENDING PROGRAMS. ONE OF MY MOST IMPORTANT WEAPONS IS THE VETO. I HAVE VETOED 49 BILLS SENT TO ME BY THIS CONGRESS AND 42 OF MY VETOES HAVE BEEN SUSTAINED, SAVING THE AMERICAN TAXPAYERS SOME 13 BILLION DOLLARS. This was done with the quart help of Senter Bob Ariffin and his Republican colleagues in the letoren.

THAT AVERAGES OUT TO ALMOST 200 DOLLARS FOR EVERY HOUSEHOLD WHICH MY VETOES HAVE SAVED. AND THERE ARE PLENTY MORE abytent question: abytent question: Where would The Country be today if we had a Point who had signed if we had a Point who had signed

WE ARE <u>NOW ENGAGED</u> IN A GREAT NATIONAL DEBATE, BETWEEN OUR <u>TWO GREAT POLITICAL PARTIES</u>, AND WITHIN THEM, OVER THE <u>ROLE OF GOVERNMENT</u> IN THE <u>LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS</u>, HOW MUCH GOVERNMENT CAN OR SHOULD DO FOR THE PEOPLE AND HOW BEST TO GO ABOUT IT. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN CREATE THE ECONOMIC CLIMATE AND THE INCENTIVES TO ENSURE CONTINUED RECOVERY, THROUGH CHANGES IN TAX POLICIES AND OTHER PROGRAMS WHICH ENCOURAGE THE CREATION OF PRODUCTIVE PERMANENT JOBS IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY. THIS IS WHAT I HAVE DONE.

-25-





THE CONGRESS.

THIS YEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME THERE IS NOT ONE FEDERAL BUDGET RECOMMENDATION BUT TWO - MINE AS PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET TO BE ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE AND SENATE. THE DIFFERENCES IN THE TWO BUDGETS TELL THE STORY: THEY WANT TO SPEND 413 BILLION DOLLARS NEXT YEAR. I PROPOSE 396 BILLION DOLLARS, SAVING M BILLION DOLLARS IN UNNEEDED FEDERAL EXPENDITURES. THEIR BUDGET, BEING VOTED ON TODAY IN THE HOUSE,

AUTHORIZES 454 BILLION, TWO HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS IN NEW,

LONG TERM SPENDING. MINE WOULD HOLD THIS COMMITMENT TO

43 BILLION DOLLARS, SAVING 2 BILLION DOLLARS.

SIMPLY STATED, <u>MY GOAL IS THE FULL RESTORATION</u> OF THE UNITED STATES' ECONOMY AS THE WORLD'S MOST RELIABLE ENGINE FOR PRODUCING AN <u>EVER-INCREASING STANDARD OF LIVING</u> AND AN <u>ECONOMIC CLIMATE IN WHICH EVERY AMERICAN WHO WANTS</u> TO WORK CAN FIND A GOOD JOB. BUT PUTTING AMERICA TO WORK IS NOT A JOB FOR THE

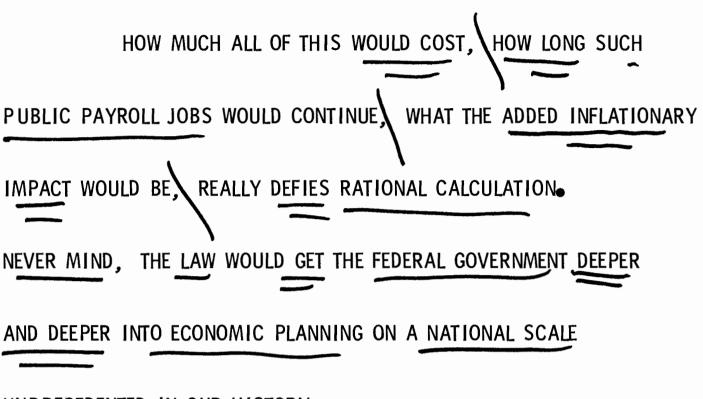
PRESIDENT ALONE.

OR FOR THE CONGRESS ALONE, THOUGH SOMETIMES SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN SEEM TO THINK THEY CAN ABOLISH UNEMPLOYMENT BY PASSING NEW LAWS, SUCH AS THE DECEPTIVE AND DANGEROUS

HUMPHREY-HAWKINS BILL NOW PENDING.

THIS BILL IS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF THE WAY THE

MISGUIDED MAJORITY IN RECENT CONGRESSES HAS TRIED TO APPLY DISCREDITED REMEDIES TO THE ECONOMY. THE HUMPHREY-HAWKINS BOONDOGGLE WOULD DECREE THAT UNEMPLOYMENT MUST BE NO HIGHER THAN THREE PERCENT BY THE END OF FOUR YEARS. IF NOT ENOUGH PRIVATE JOBS ARE AVAILABLE, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE WORK.



UNPRECEDENTED IN OUR HISTORY.

I AM AGAINST HUMPHREY-HAWKINS AND ALL OF THE OTHER SCHEMES TO GIVE WASHINGTON MORE AND MORE CONTROL OVER OUR LIVES. INSTEAD, I HAVE PROPOSED TAX REDUCTIONS AND OTHER TAX REFORMS TO CREATE MORE AND BETTER JOBS IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY.

SOME WERE ENACTED LAST YEAR AND ARE OBVIOUSLY WORKING.

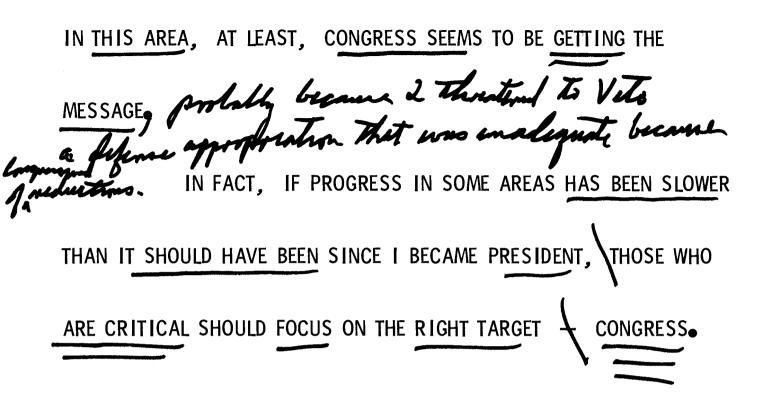
-

BUT OTHERS, SUCH AS TAX INCENTIVES TO STIMULATE INVESTMENT IN NEW PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, ARE STALLED IN THE CONGRESS AND SHOULD BE ACTED UPON QUICKLY TO HELP THE JOB SITUATION IN HARD-HIT AREAS SUCH AS MICHIGAN. I HAVE ALSO RECOMMENDED TO THE CONGRESS THAT

STARTING JULY ONE OF THIS YEAR WE GET AN ADDITIONAL IO BILLION DOLLAR TAX CUT, 75 PERCENT OF IT GOING TO INDIVIDUALS AND 25 PERCENT GOING TO BUSINESS TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT. AS PART OF THIS TAX REFORM PACKAGE, I WANT THE PERSONAL EXEMPTION RAISED FROM 750 DOLLARS TO 1,000 DOLLARS. 2 want the estate Tap exemption visit from \$60 000 To \$150,000 A0 much luminos + farmeno can have the opportunity again to pass their businesses along to the neft generation.

THIS WILL GIVE THE MIDDLE INCOME TAXPAYERS, WHO HAVE BEEN SHORTCHANGED IN RECENT YEARS, THE KIND OF TAX RELIEF THEY BOTH NEED AND DESERVE.

AS WE WORK TO ENSURE PROSPERITY, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO REMEMBER THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT AND DEMAND THE FINEST ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE AND MARINE CORPS MONEY CAN BUY AND THEY DON'T WANT OUR UNSURPASSED POWER FOR PEACE TO BECOME A POLITICAL FOOTBALL THIS YEAR. IN PROVIDING FUNDS FOR NEW MILITARY WEAPONS AND NATIONAL SECURITY NEEDS, AN AREA OF THE FEDERAL BUDGET THAT CONGRESSES HAVE SYSTEMATICALLY GUTTED BY SOME 50 BILLION DOLLARS OVER THE PAST DECADE, I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT THE PRELIMINARY CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES ARE ROUGHLY THE SAME AS THE RECORD II4 BILLION DOLLAR DEFENSE BUDGET I SUBMITTED IN JANUARY.



-41-WHEN I <u>SAY CONGRESS</u>, I MEAN OF COURSE, THE <u>CONTROLLING MAJORITY</u> OF THIS CONGRESS - NOT THE <u>RESPONSIBLE</u> MINORITY, WHICH INCLUDES MEMBERS OF BOTH PARTIES - WHO HAVE <u>STOOD WITH ME</u> FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND <u>DEFICIT RESTRAINT</u>. IT IS NOT WASHINGTON THAT IS THE PROBLEM BUT THE <u>WRONG PEOPLE</u> IN WASHINGTON WHO <u>ARE THE PROBLEM</u>. THE MAJORITY IN THE PRESENT CONGRESS ARE THE PROBLEM IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD. BY THEIR OWN BUDGET DECISIONS, THEY HAVE SAID THAT THEY WANT TO SPEND IS BILLION DOLLARS MORE NEXT YEAR THAN I DO. THEY HAVE SAID THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CANNOT HAVE INSTEAD THE ADDITIONAL IO BILLION DOLLAR TAX CUT I WANT TO GIVE THEM ON JULY FIRST. THIS CONGRESSIONAL MAJORITY HAS DECIDED THAT THEY

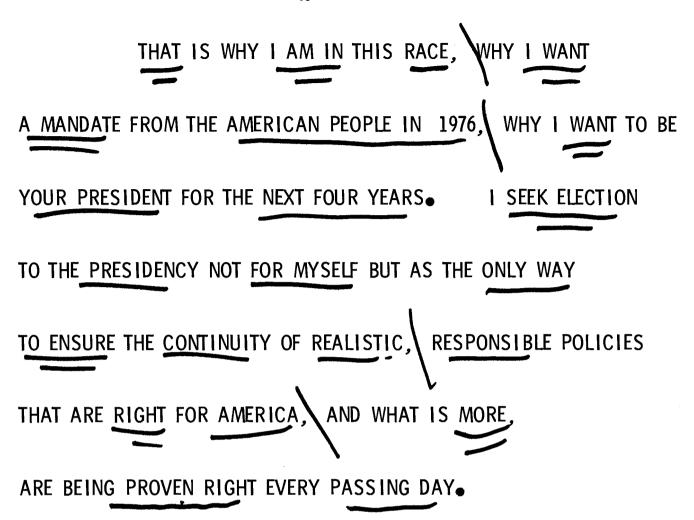
KNOW MUCH BETTER HOW TAXPAYERS MONEY SHOULD BE SPENT TO HELP this majority in the THE ECONOMY THAN THE PEOPLE WHO EARNED IT. THEY ARE THE PROBLEM; I HAVE BEEN HOLDING THEM BACK, BUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN THIS ELECTION WILL HAVE TO HELP. THE SAME CONGRESSIONAL MAJORITY, FOR ALMOST A DECADE BEFORE I BECAME PRESIDENT, HAD BEEN HACKING AWAY EACH YEAR AT THE DEFENSE BUDGET TO PAY FOR THEIR FAVORITE SOCIAL PROGRAMS. THEY WENT ON CUTTING ANOTHER 7 BILLION DOLLARS THEY WENT ON CUTTING ANOTHER 7 BILLION DOLLARS THEY THE FIRST DEFENSE BUDGET I SUBMITTED. MAYBE I HAVE THEM TURNED AROUND THIS YEAR, BUT I'M NOT TOO SURE.

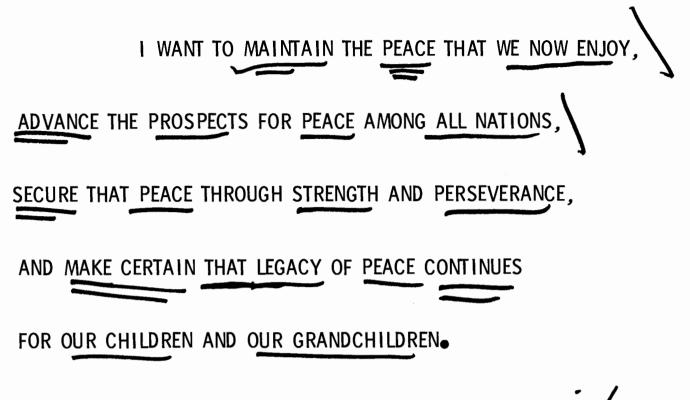
,

-44-

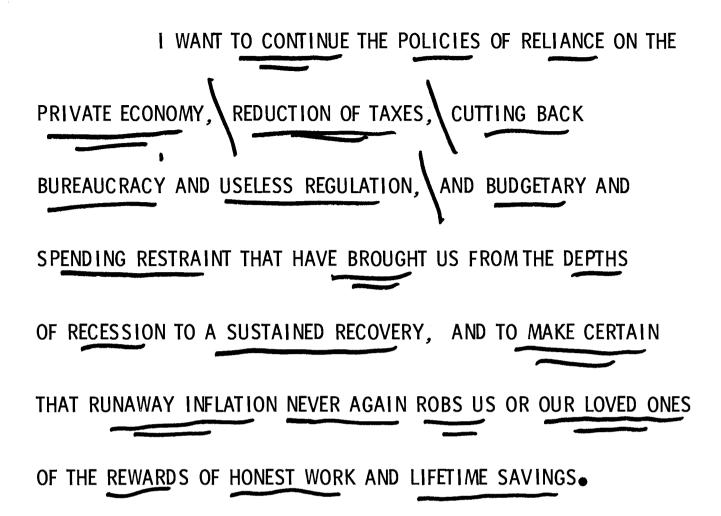
THEY ARE THE PROBLEM, I AM CONVERTING THEM, BUT THE

AMERICAN PEOPLE IN THIS ELECTION WILL HAVE TO HELP.

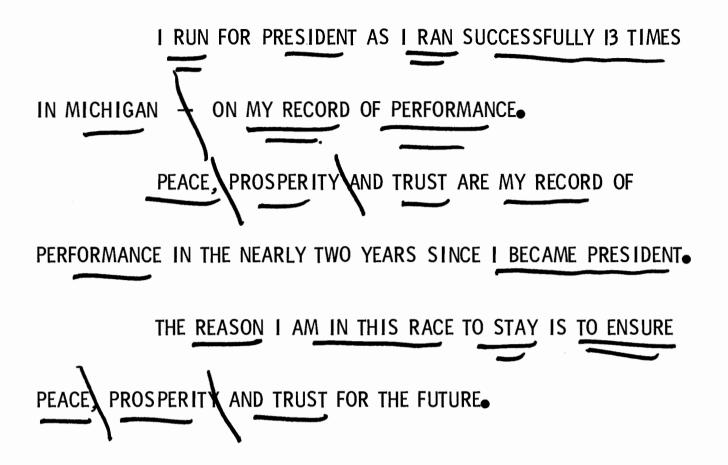




but gon have under ga sanfined

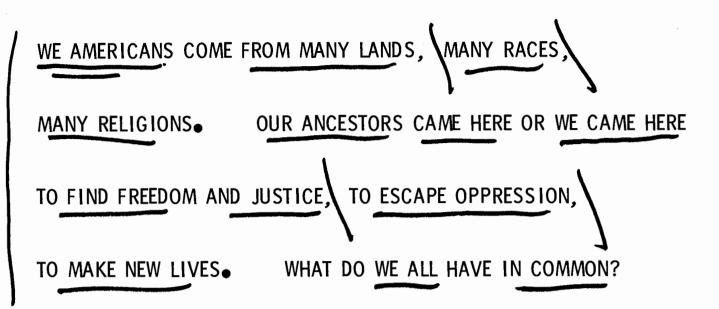


FINALLY, I WANT TO FINISH THE <u>MOST IMPORTANT JOB</u> I <u>HAVE BEGUN</u>, THE <u>RESTORATION</u> OF <u>FAITH</u> AND <u>TRUST</u> IN THE <u>PRESIDENCY</u> ITSELF. AS I <u>DID</u> NOT SEEK THIS OFFICE, NEITHER SHALL I SHIRK IT. I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT TRUTH IS THE GLUE THAT HOLDS GOVERNMENT TOGETHER. I WILL THE TRUTH TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS I SEE IT, PROMISING NO MORE THAN I CAN DELIVER AND DELIVERING EVERYTHING THAT I PROMISE. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE AS HONEST, AS OPEN AND AS CANDID AS I CAN MAKE IT, AND SO WILL MY CAMPAIGN FOR THE HIGH OFFICE I HOLD.



THE FUTURE REALLY DOESN'T BELONG TO US.

IT BELONGS TO THOSE WHO COME AFTER US. AS WE LOOK BACK ON OUR 200 YEARS AS A NATION, THERE IS ONE THREAD THAT RUNS ALL THE WAY THROUGH OUR HISTORY.



WE KNOW THIS: LIFE WILL BE BETTER FOR OUR CHILDREN THAN IT WAS FOR US. WHY DO WE KNOW THIS? BECAUSE LIFE FOR US HAS BEEN BETTER THAN IT WAS FOR OUR PARENTS. THAT HAS BEEN TRUE FOR EVERY GENERATION OF AMERICANS AND IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE TRUE AS LONG AS WE MAKE IT TRUE. <u>I SEE AN AMERICA</u>, ONCE AGAIN TESTED IN ADVERSITY, <u>MORE SURE OF WHAT WE WANT TO BE AND WHAT WE WANT OUR NATION</u> TO BECOME. I SEE AN AMERICA CERTAIN ONCE AGAIN THAT LIFE WILL BE BETTER FOR OUR CHILDREN THAN IT IS FOR US --<u>AND OUR CHILDREN</u> ALSO CERTAIN THAT THEIR HEADS AND <u>HANDS</u> AND HEARTS CAN HELP MAKE IT SO.

I SEE A STRONG AND CONFIDENT AMERICA,

SECURE IN A STRENGTH THAT CANNOT ALONE BE COUNTED IN MEGATONS AND REJOICING IN RICHES THAT CANNOT BE ERODED BY INFLATION OR TAXATION. I SEE AN AMERICA WHERE LIFE IS VALUED FOR ITS QUALITY AS WELL AS ITS COMFORT, WHERE THE INDIVIDUAL IS INVIOLATE IN HIS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, AND WHERE THE GOVERNMENT SERVES AND THE PEOPLE RULE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT