

The original documents are located in Box 32, “5/16/76 - Remark at the Saginaw Township Bicentennial Park, Saginaw, Michigan” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

THANK YOU, CONGRESSMAN CEDERBERG

CONG VANDER JAUG

MR. OLSON

(Saginaw Township Supervisor)

MR. FERGUSON

(Saginaw Township Bicentennial Chairman)

MR. KENNEDY

(Saginaw Township Bicentennial Vice Chairman)

REVEREND BECK

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

FELLOW AMERICANS

-1-

IT'S GREAT TO BE HERE IN SAGINAW TOWNSHIP TODAY

WITH SO MANY OF MY FELLOW MICHIGANDERS WHO ARE PROUD

OF THEIR BIRTHRIGHT, AND WHO ARE CELEBRATING WHAT IS GOOD

AND GREAT ABOUT AMERICA.

SAGINAW TOWNSHIP IS A YOUNG AND VIBRANT
COMMUNITY WITH A REAL SENSE OF PURPOSE. IN THE PLANNING
AND ORGANIZATION OF YOUR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, YOU HAVE
BROUGHT PEOPLE TOGETHER IN A COMBINED EFFORT.

YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED NEW LINKS BETWEEN FAMILIES AND
NEIGHBORHOODS. YOU HAVE GIVEN YOUR TOWNSHIP WHAT SO
MANY COMMUNITIES ARE SEARCHING FOR, AND THAT IS A FEELING
OF IDENTITY AND COMMON PURPOSE.

AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I HAVE BEEN DOING

~~AS WELL~~

SINCE I TOOK OFFICE AS PRESIDENT.

WHEN I WAS SWORN IN, I SAID OUR LONG NATIONAL

NIGHTMARE WAS OVER. AND IT IS.

WE DISPELLED THE CLIMATE OF DARKNESS AND DESPAIR THAT HUNG

OVER THIS TROUBLED NATION, ~~AND~~ WE LET THE SUN SHINE IN.

AS I DID NOT SEEK THIS OFFICE, NEITHER DID I

SHIRK IT.

I SAID WE WOULD PROMISE ONLY WHAT WE COULD

DELIVER, AND DELIVER EVERYTHING THAT WE PROMISED, AND WE
HAVE.

I SAID I WOULD BE CANDID AND FORTHRIGHT WITH THE

AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND I HAVE BEEN.

I SAID THAT A POLICY OF FIRMNESS AND COMMON

SENSE WOULD BRING US OUT OF OUR ECONOMIC RECESSION, AND IT

HAS.

WHEN I TOOK OFFICE, INFLATION WAS RUNNING AS HIGH

AS 12 PERCENT.

UNEMPLOYMENT WAS CLIMBING. THE PROPHETS OF DOOM AND

DISASTER SAID WE WERE ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE AND ONLY

MASSIVE FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SPENDING WOULD SAVE US.

I DIDN'T PANIC.

I FOUGHT THE ATTEMPTS OF THE MAJORITY IN THE CONGRESS TO

SPEND MORE AND MORE ~~AND~~ CREATE BIGGER AND BIGGER DEFICITS,

THAT WOULD HAVE LED TO EVEN HIGHER PRICES AND MORE LAY-OFFS.

INSTEAD, I VETOED 49 BILLS THAT THE CONGRESS SENT
ME, AND 42 OF THOSE VETOES WERE SUSTAINED, SAVING AMERICAN
TAXPAYERS SOME 13 BILLION DOLLARS. THAT'S AN AVERAGE OF
ALMOST 200 DOLLARS FOR EVERY AMERICAN HOUSEHOLD.

~~AND IF IT PROVES NECESSARY,~~ I WILL HOLD THIS
NATION ON ITS COURSE TO FULL ECONOMIC RECOVERY BY USING
MY VETO POWER AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN.

I WANT TO MAKE VERY SURE THAT YOUR TAX DOLLARS
WORK AS HARD FOR YOU / AS YOU DID FOR THEM.

~~AS A RESULT OF MY POLICIES,~~ WE HAVE REDUCED THE
 ANNUAL RATE OF INFLATION BY MORE THAN ONE HALF. WE HAVE
INCREASED NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT BY 3.3 MILLION JOBS SINCE THE
 LOW OF LAST YEAR. TODAY ~~THERE ARE~~ MORE AMERICAN MEN AND
WOMEN GAINFULLY EMPLOYED IN THE UNITED STATES THAN EVER BEFORE
 IN HISTORY.

~~WHAT'S MORE,~~ YOU HAVE MY PROMISE THAT I'M
 GOING TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON UNTIL EVERY AMERICAN WHO WANTS
 A JOB HAS A JOB -- A REWARDING, PERMANENT JOB WITH A REAL
 FUTURE INSTEAD OF A DEAD-END, TEMPORARY, MAKE-WORK JOB
CREATED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

Taxes 750 / 1000 / Middle Income

MY ADMINISTRATION IS DETERMINED TO STOP THE
EXTENSION OF GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION, INTERFERENCE AND CONTROL
IN OUR DAILY LIVES. AS A CONGRESSMAN, AS VICE PRESIDENT
AND NOW AS YOUR PRESIDENT, I HAVE NEVER LOST SIGHT OF ONE
BASIC FACT:

A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO GIVE US EVERYTHING WE WANT IS
A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO TAKE FROM US EVERYTHING WE HAVE.

I HAVE FOLLOWED A COURSE THAT HAS LED US TO RISING
PROSPERITY, RENEWED TRUST AND A LASTING PEACE.

THROUGHOUT 27 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE IN THE
CONGRESS AND THE WHITE HOUSE, MY TOTAL COMMITMENT WAS, IS
AND ALWAYS WILL BE TO A POLICY OF PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH.

BECAUSE WE ARE MILITARILY POWERFUL, BECAUSE OUR
NATIONAL DEFENSES ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO MEET ANY CHALLENGE,
AMERICA IS AT PEACE.

I WANT TO MAINTAIN THAT PEACE, ADVANCE THE PROSPECTS FOR
PEACE AMONG ALL NATIONS, AND MAKE CERTAIN THAT LEGACY OF
PEACE CONTINUES FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

AND SO, I SEEK A MANDATE TO FINISH THE VERY
IMPORTANT JOB I HAVE BEGUN AND TO COMPLETE THE
RESTORATION OF FAITH AND TRUST IN THE PRESIDENCY.

MY ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN ~~AS~~ HONEST, ~~AS OPEN~~
~~AND AS CANDID AS I CAN MAKE IT~~, AND SO IS MY CAMPAIGN FOR
THE HIGH OFFICE I HOLD.

I'M PROUD OF MY COUNTRY.

I'M PROUD TO BE

AN AMERICAN.

I WANT TO LEAD OUR COUNTRY AWAY FROM A WASTEFUL
PREOCCUPATION WITH WHAT'S WRONG WITH AMERICA AND GET ON
WITH THE JOB OF MAKING THINGS RIGHT IN AMERICA.

YOU HAVE SHOWN HERE TODAY THAT LOVE OF COUNTRY
AND BELIEF IN OUR IDEALS NOT ONLY EXIST BUT THRIVE IN OUR
UNITED STATES. IN THE FUTURE, I SEE AN AMERICA WHERE THAT
SPIRIT FILLS US WITH RENEWED CONFIDENCE TO FACE THE CHALLENGES
BEFORE US . . .

AN AMERICA DEDICATED TO THE SIMPLE BUT ENDURING VALUES THAT
GIVE A NATION AND ITS PEOPLE INTEGRITY . . .

AN AMERICA WHERE LIFE IS VALUED FOR ITS CONTENT
AS WELL AS ITS COMFORTS . . .

AND WHERE GOVERNMENT SERVES, BUT THE PEOPLE

RULE.

IF YOU SHARE THAT VISION OF AMERICA, I URGE YOU

TO GO TO THE POLLS AND VOTE NEXT TUESDAY.

JOIN WITH ME IN MAKING THIS BICENTENNIAL,

NOT ONLY A YEAR OF CELEBRATION, BUT OF DETERMINATION AS WELL.

WHEN ONCE AGAIN, WE SHOW THE WORLD THAT OUR AMERICAN

DREAM IS BEST ACHIEVED WHEN WE ARE WIDE AWAKE. *and moving forward.*

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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