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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

PUBLIC RALLY

MEDFORD, OREGON

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1976

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LIBERTY PARK

THANK YOU, JOHN:

(John Dellenback introduces you.)

SENATOR MARK HATFIELD

MAYOR BEN FAGONE

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

FELLOW AMERICANS

*Wendell Wyatt*

I FLEW OUT HERE THIS MORNING TO SPEND FOUR DAYS

ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT ON THE WEST COAST. MY VERY FIRST STOP

ON THIS TRIP IS RIGHT HERE IN MEDFORD.

I'M GLAD TO BE HERE. I KNOW YOU'RE ALWAYS

GLAD TO BE HERE. THIS IS GOD'S COUNTRY.

SOME STATES HAVE MOUNTAIN RANGES•

SOME BORDER ON THE OCEAN•

SOME HAVE FERTILE VALLEYS,

BROAD FORESTS AND SPARKLING RIVERS•

IN SOME YOU CAN SKI,

IN OTHERS YOU CAN SWIM•

BUT HERE IN OREGON, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL•

YOU WERE THE FIRST STATE IN AMERICAN HISTORY

TO HOLD PRIMARY ELECTIONS, WHICH I MENTION NOT ONLY BECAUSE

IT IS OF HISTORIC INTEREST, BUT BECAUSE IT IS A WAY

OF GETTING INTO THE SUBJECT OF MY TALK TODAY.

I AM ASKING MY FELLOW AMERICANS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

BECAUSE I HAVE DONE A GOOD JOB UNDER TOUGH CIRCUMSTANCES.

BECAUSE I'VE MAINTAINED THE PEACE, MOVED AMERICA ON THE ROAD

TO PROSPERITY AND RESTORED CONFIDENCE AND TRUST IN THE PRESIDENCY.

I WANT A MANDATE FROM OREGON AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO FINISH

THAT JOB.

CONSIDER FOR A MOMENT WHERE WE WERE  
IN THE VERY FIRST MONTHS OF MY PRESIDENCY.

YOU WILL RECALL SOME WELL-KNOWN ECONOMISTS, LABOR  
AND POLITICAL LEADERS WERE PREDICTING THAT WE WERE HEADING  
INTO A DEEP DEPRESSION, THAT UNEMPLOYMENT WOULD SOON EXCEED  
TEN PERCENT, THAT ONLY MASSIVE ACTION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
COULD AVERT CATASTROPHE.

INFLATION HAD SOARED TO AN ANNUAL RATE  
OF OVER TWELVE PERCENT. INTEREST RATES WERE GOING  
THROUGH THE ROOF. 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 WERE URGING  
THAT WE PUSH THE PANIC BUTTON. IN THE CONGRESS, THE ECONOMIC  
DOWNTURN SET OFF A CLAMOR FOR HUGE EMERGENCY FEDERAL SUBSIDIES,  
FOR MORE AND BIGGER GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND HIGHER DEFICIT  
GOVERNMENT SPENDING.

THE PROPHETS OF DOOM WERE WRONG -- AND I KNEW

THEY WERE WRONG.      WE DID NOT PANIC.      I NEVER LOST SIGHT

OF A BELIEF I HAVE HELD FOR ALL OF MY POLITICAL LIFE:

THAT A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO GIVE YOU EVERYTHING YOU

WANT -- IS A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO TAKE FROM YOU

EVERYTHING YOU HAVE.

WE RESISTED BIG SPENDING SCHEMES THAT WOULD HAVE

CAUSED LARGER FEDERAL DEFICITS AND EVEN MORE DESTRUCTIVE

INFLATION. WE REJECTED THE OLD POLITICAL TECHNIQUES OF TAX AND

TAX, SPEND AND SPEND, ELECT AND ELECT.

I VETOED 49 BILLS, 42 WERE SUSTAINED AND THE  
TAXPAYERS WERE SAVED 13 BILLION DOLLARS. IF CONGRESS SENDS  
ME MORE BUDGET BUSTING BILLS -- I'LL VETO THEM AGAIN AND AGAIN  
AND AGAIN.

~~INSTEAD~~, WE PURSUED A CALM, STEADY POLICY  
TO INSURE AMERICA'S ECONOMIC HEALTH - NOT JUST FOR A MONTH,  
OR JUST FOR AN ELECTION YEAR, BUT OVER THE LONG HAUL.



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WE HAD FAITH THAT THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF PRIVATE  
ENTERPRISE WOULD REGAIN ITS STRENGTH. AS A RESULT, WE MEET  
TODAY NOT IN THE GLOOM OF A RECESSION -- BUT IN THE FULL SURGE  
OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

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EIGHTY-SEVEN MILLION, 400 THOUSAND AMERICANS  
ARE ON THE JOB TODAY --- THAT IS AN ALL-TIME RECORD.

WE HAVE ADDED ALMOST THREE AND A HALF MILLION JOBS  
TO THE AMERICAN ECONOMY SINCE THE BOTTOM OF THE RECESSION  
A YEAR AGO, AND 700 THOUSAND JOBS IN THE LAST MONTH ALONE.  
THIS IS REAL EVIDENCE OF NEW PROSPERITY.

THE SPECIAL NATURE OF OREGON'S ECONOMY - ITS HEAVY  
RELIANCE ON THE PRODUCTS OF ITS FORESTS - HAS CAUSED IT TO SUFFER  
HEAVILY ECONOMICALLY. I'M PLEASED THAT OREGON'S ECONOMY  
HAS BEEN STEADILY IMPROVING.

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BUT I WILL NOT BE SATISFIED UNTIL EVERY OREGONIAN AND EVERY OTHER AMERICAN WHO WANTS A JOB CAN FIND A JOB.

INFLATION HAS BEEN CUT IN HALF DURING THE PAST 21 MONTHS. I INTEND TO CUT IT EVEN MORE.

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IN ADDITION TO AMERICA'S NEW ECONOMIC SECURITY,  
WE ARE INCREASING AMERICA'S NATIONAL SECURITY, AS WELL.

WE HAVE THE BEST EQUIPPED, BEST-TRAINED,  
BEST-LED FIGHTING FORCE IN THE WORLD - AND THEY ARE  
ALL VOLUNTEERS.

TO MAKE POSITIVE OUR MILITARY STRENGTH REMAINS  
UNSURPASSED IN THE FUTURE, I PROPOSED THE TWO LARGEST DEFENSE  
BUDGETS IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

WITH FOUR YEARS AND WITH A SOLID MANDATE  
FROM YOU, WE CAN FINISH THE JOB AND MAKE AMERICA  
TRULY SECURE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS•

I APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COME BEFORE  
YOU TODAY AND TALK ABOUT MY POLICIES THAT HAVE RETURNED PEACE,  
INCREASING PROSPERITY AND TRUST TO AMERICA.

TODAY AMERICA IS AT PEACE. YOUR SONS ARE NOT  
BEING DRAFTED, THEY ARE NOT DYING ON ANY BATTLEFIELD.

I WILL MAINTAIN THE PEACE, SECURE THAT PEACE  
THROUGH STRENGTH AND PERSEVERANCE AND LEAVE THAT LEGACY OF PEACE  
FOR OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN.

I WILL CONTINUE MY POLICIES OF CUTTING YOUR  
TAXES, EXPANDING THE PRIVATE ECONOMY, REDUCING BUREAUCRACY  
AND USELESS REGULATION, AND RESTRAINING FEDERAL SPENDING.

FEDERAL TAXES ARE TOO HIGH. WE CUT FEDERAL TAXES  
LAST YEAR AND I RECOMMENDED ANOTHER 10 BILLION DOLLAR CUT  
TO BEGIN JULY 1ST - INCLUDING AN INCREASE IN YOUR PERSONAL  
EXEMPTION FROM 750 DOLLARS TO ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS.

MY POLICIES HAVE BROUGHT US FROM THE DEPTHS OF RECESSION

TO A SUSTAINED RECOVERY, AND WILL ENSURE THAT RUNAWAY

INFLATION NEVER AGAIN ROBS US OR OUR LOVED ONES OF THE

REWARDS OF HONEST WORK AND LIFETIME SAVINGS.

I WILL PURSUE THE STEADY COURSE THAT HAS LED FROM  
WAR TO PEACE, FROM RECESSION TO RECOVERY, FROM CYNICISM TO  
CONFIDENCE, FROM FEAR TO FAITH.

FINALLY, I WILL FINISH MY MOST IMPORTANT JOB,  
RESTORATION OF TRUST IN THE PRESIDENCY ITSELF.

I DID NOT SEEK THIS OFFICE --- BUT NEITHER WILL I SHIRK IT.

I NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO ENSURE PEACE, PROSPERITY  
AND TRUST FOR THE FUTURE.

THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THOSE WHO COME AFTER US.

AMERICANS HAVE ALWAYS WANTED LIFE TO BE BETTER FOR  
OUR CHILDREN THAN IT WAS FOR US, BECAUSE LIFE FOR US HAS BEEN  
BETTER THAN IT WAS FOR OUR PARENTS.

WHAT DO I SEE AHEAD FOR THIS WONDERFUL COUNTRY  
OF OURS?



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  
INVIOLEATE IN HIS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, WHERE THE  
GOVERNMENT SERVES AND THE PEOPLE RULE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT