The original documents are located in Box 33, “5/23/76 - Remarks at the Flag Dedication Ceremony on the Tenth Anniversary of Mission Viejo, Mission Viejo, CA (Includes drafts)” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

-- THANK YOU, DICK (Dick Locock, Chairman, Community Advisory Council, introduces you)

-- CONGRESSMAN CHUCK WIGGINS

-- PHIL RILEY (President, Mission Viejo Co.)

-- WENDY EDGREN (Committee Chairman)

-- HONORED GUESTS

-- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...
I look forward to being here with you today.

Mission Viejo (Vee-A-HO) is an exceptional community:

What a great high school marching band and drill team!

I hope to hear the Diablos again in Washington next month.
BEING A SWIMMER MYSELF, I'M IMPRESSED BY THE NUMBER OF CHAMPIONSHIP SWIMMERS THAT MISSION VIEJO (VEE-A-HO) PRODUCES. I'LL BET YOU WILL PROVE THAT AGAIN IN THE UPCOMING OLYMPIC TRIALS.
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AS ONE OF THE NEW TOWNS IN THE UNITED STATES, MISSION VIEJO (VEE-A-HO) STANDS OUT BECAUSE YOUR COMMUNITY WAS BUILT ENTIRELY WITH PRIVATE FUNDS. DURING THE TEN YEARS THAT YOU HAVE GROWN, YOU HAVE HANDLED YOUR OWN PROBLEMS WITH YOUR OWN MONEY AND YOU CAN BE PROUD OF IT.
WHAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED HERE IS WHAT
I HAVE BEEN DOING WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT --
KEEPING GOVERNMENT FROM INTERFERING WITH OUR FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM,
AND ALLOWING PEOPLE TO DO WHAT THEY WANT TO DO WITH THEIR OWN LIVES.

A LITTLE MORE THAN A YEAR AGO, OUR ECONOMY WAS
IN THE WORST RECESSION IN 40 YEARS.
UNEMPLOYMENT WAS CLIMBING, INFLATION WAS RUNNING AS HIGH AS 12 PERCENT.

THE PROPHETS OF DOOM AND DISASTER ARGUED THAT ONLY MASSIVE FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SPENDING WOULD SAVE US.
I didn't agree. I opposed spending more and more and creating bigger and bigger deficits, that would have led to even higher prices and more lay-offs.

Because we kept the lid on spending, because we had faith in our free enterprise system, we have reduced the annual rate of inflation by more than half.
WE HAVE INCREASED NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT BY THREE MILLION, 300 THOUSAND JOBS SINCE THE LOW OF LAST YEAR.

WE HAVE BROKEN THE BACK OF THE RECESSION.

WE ARE ON THE ROAD TO RISING PROSPERITY, RENEWED TRUST AND A LASTING PEACE.
WHEREVER POSSIBLE, OUR GOVERNMENT SHOULD SPEND LESS
AND TAX LESS. LAST YEAR, WE REDUCED FEDERAL INCOME TAXES.
I HAVE PROPOSED AN ADDITIONAL TAX CUT OF TEN BILLION DOLLARS
TO GO INTO EFFECT JULY FIRST. THIS PROPOSAL WOULD INCREASE:
EACH OF THE EXEMPTIONS ON YOUR PERSONAL INCOME TAX
FROM 750 DOLLARS TO 1,000 DOLLARS.
A couple with two children would be able to deduct an addition

1,000 dollars from their gross income.

A tight control on government spending.

A balanced budget, less taxes. I want to make very sure

that your tax dollars work as hard for you as you did for them.
THERE IS NO REASON WHY GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONTINUE TO GROW. THE LARGER IT GETS, THE MORE DISTANCE BETWEEN IT AND THE CITIZENS IT IS SUPPOSED TO SERVE. MOST OF US WORK HARD FOR OUR LIVINGS. NOBODY WANTS TO GIVE MONEY AWAY.
THE FINANCIAL DECISIONS AFFECTING YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES SHOULD BE MADE RIGHT HERE — NOT BY SOME DISTANT BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT.

I AM WORKING TO RESTORE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO LOCAL PEOPLE.
IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR; OUR CHALLENGE IS TO FOSTER THE BASIC APPRECIATION WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD FOR THE AMERICAN HOME, THE AMERICAN FAMILY, AND MODERATION IN THE RELATIONSHIP OF GOVERNMENT TO THE GOVERNED AND CONTINUED AMERICAN STRENGTH THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
The first century of our government was devoted to the establishment of a stable government. It was a unique experiment in self-government by the people.

The second century of our country was a century of industrial progress in which America became the most powerful nation in history.
As we became the world's most productive nation, we found that our growth created problems of bigness. In the process, the individual became dominated by huge institutions of all kinds: mass government, mass labor, mass industry and mass education.
I see the third century of our country as one in which we return responsibility to the individual -- to encourage all Americans to help themselves.
AS I TRAVEL AROUND AMERICA, IT'S EASY TO SEE MOST
OF US WANT A RENEWED PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO EACH OTHER AND
TO THE NATION AS A WHOLE. AN ACTIVE CITIZENRY MAKES A VITAL
NATION. IT MAY SOUND TRITE, BUT WE'VE BEEN LETTING UNCLE SAM
DO IT.
I'm for cutting out the Washington red tape, rolling up our sleeves and doing it for ourselves. Some Americans have become dissatisfied and skeptical, but I have found that the great majority of us want to make things right in America.
WE WANT TO DO WHAT IS BEST FOR OUR SOCIETY AND COUNTRY. WE WANT TO LIVE UP TO OUR HERITAGE AS A FREE AND INDEPENDENT PEOPLE.
WE'LL WORK TOGETHER, YOU AND I. WHAT I PROMISE YOU WILL DELIVER TO YOU. IN RETURN, I NEED YOUR HELP. YOUR SIMPLE STRENGTHS — DISCIPLINE, MATURITY, AND TRUTH.
IN RESPONSE TO THAT DESIRE, I WANT TO DEVOTE MY EFFORTS TO CONFIDENCE AND TRUST IN OUR INSTITUTIONS, A TASK THAT MUST SUCCEED IF WE ARE TO REBUILD OUR FAITH IN OUR FUTURE. WE HAVE MADE A GOOD START.
AND I WILL RESIST FEDERAL LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD

UNWITTINGLY HAVE THE EFFECT OF RAISING TAXES AT THE STATE

AND LOCAL LEVEL.
Before departing, a 3-day
toby trip,

Breachly encouraged

1) Real some talking

but also our hatred

of many Californians.

a) Agree with me TAXES

too high - too much

b) Congress must

reform cut spending

and reduce taxes.

$17 billion

personal exception.

b) Revenue sharing

some give states $125

3/4 of each 100 annual

value.
The President used several parts of the combined speeches enclosed for his remarks at Mission Viejo, California.

After the P's remarks he presented a U.S. Flag which had flown over the White House to Mission Viejo Associated Student President Thomas K. "Kelly" Cox.
PUBLIC RALLY
MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 1976
GOOD MORNING.

I WANT TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH I HAVE ENJOYED THE PAST THREE DAYS VISITING IN CALIFORNIA. I'VE DONE AN AWFUL LOT OF TALKING -- AN AWFUL LOT OF LISTENING. THE CITIZENS OF THIS STATE FEEL THAT THEIR TAXES ARE TOO HIGH.
IN ANSWER TO THIS, I WANT TO SAY MY PROGRAMS TO REDUCE YOUR TAXES HAVE MET A GREAT DEAL OF RESISTANCE FROM THE CONGRESS.
FOR EXAMPLE, CONGRESS WANTS TO SPEND 17 BILLION DOLLARS MORE THAN MY PROPOSED BUDGET.

ALSO THEY HAVE NOT ENACTED MY ADDITIONAL, PERMANENT TEN BILLION DOLLAR TAX CUT AND INCREASE IN PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS.
9.
SOME HAVE SUGGESTED THAT A SHORT CUT TO REDUCING THE
FEDERAL TAX BURDEN IS TO CUT FEDERAL SERVICES AND SHIFT
RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANY PROGRAMS BACK TO STATE AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS. THIS IS A SLEIGHT OF HAND MANEUVER THAT I FEEL
IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.
10.
CURRENTLY, THERE IS A GROWING DANGER THAT THIS MAY HAPPEN THROUGH INACTION, OR CONTINUED DELAY BY THE CONGRESS.

I REFER TO THE LONG OVERDUE RE-ENACTMENT OF FEDERAL REVENUE SHARING.
MAYOR PETE WILSON OF SAN DIEGO HAS INFORMED ME THAT UNLESS GENERAL REVENUE SHARING IS RE-ENACTED BEFORE IT EXPIRES AT THE END OF THIS YEAR, COMMUNITIES IN CALIFORNIA MAY BE COMPELLED TO RAISE LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES BY AS MUCH AS 54 CENTS ON EACH HUNDRED DOLLARS OF ASSESSED VALUE.
13.

WHILE RE-ENACTMENT OF FEDERAL REVENUE SHARING WOULD BE

A BENEFIT TO THE LOCAL PROPERTY TAX PAYER, ANOTHER PROPOSED

FEDERAL LAW COULD RESTRICT THE ABILITY OF LOCAL PROPERTY

TAXPAYERS TO CONTROL THEIR LOCAL TAX BURDEN.
SOME MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS HAVE RECENTLY SUGGESTED NATIONAL LEGISLATION TO GOVERN RELATIONS BETWEEN PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND THEIR EMPLOYERS -- STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.
I believe that this is an issue to be settled by those closest to the problem and those who must pay the cost of municipal and state services.
THE PEOPLE OF SAN FRANCISCO CAN ATTEST THAT IT IS BETTER
TO RESOLVE SUCH MATTERS THROUGH LOCAL AND STATE INITIATIVE.
I FULLY AGREE WITH THAT VIEW AND I OPPOSE LEGISLATION SUCH AS
THAT INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS TO IMPOSE STANDARDS ON PUBLIC
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS AT THE STATE AND
LOCAL LEVEL.
TO SUMMARIZE, MY PROGRAM TO LIGHTEN PEOPLE'S TAX BURDENS IS THIS: WHILE INSURING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO PROVIDE FULL AND EFFICIENT PUBLIC SERVICES, I WANT TO REDUCE THE GROWTH OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING.
BY CUTTING THE GROWTH OF SPENDING AND BALANCING THE FEDERAL BUDGET, WE CAN ENACT PERMANENT TAX REDUCTIONS BOTH IN 1976 AND AGAIN IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

I WILL MAKE FULL USE OF MY VETO POWER TO HOLD DOWN THE COST OF GOVERNMENT.
I will continue to press for the re-enactment of revenue sharing so that local and state governments will not suddenly be propelled into fiscal crisis.
I see the third century of our country as one in which we must focus upon the individual -- to protect all Americans to help themselves, the right of the individual to participate effectively.
AS WE BECAME THE WORLD'S MOST PRODUCTIVE NATION --

-- WE FOUND THAT OUR GROWTH

IN BOTH INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE... IN THE PROCESS, THE INDIVIDUAL

BECAUSE

TENDED TO BECOME DOMINATED BY HUGE INSTITUTIONS OF ALL KINDS --

MASS GOVERNMENT, MASS LABOR, MASS INDUSTRY AND MASS EDUCATION.
CERTAIN THINGS ARE TEMPORARY. SOME THINGS ARE PERMANENT. IN TWO HUNDRED YEARS OUR BELIEFS HAVE NOT CHANGED. THIS IS STILL A COUNTRY WHERE THE GOVERNMENT SERVES AND THE PEOPLE RULE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Kelly Cox
FLAG
PUBLIC RALLY
MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 1976

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I LOOKED FORWARD TO BEING HERE WITH YOU TODAY,

BECAUSE MISSION VIEJO (VEE-A-HO) IS AN EXCEPTIONAL COMMUNITY.
WHAT A GREAT BAND YOU HAVE! YOU HAVE ONE OF THE BEST HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BANDS AND DRILL TEAMS.

AND I HOPE TO HEAR THE DIABLOS AGAIN

IN WASHINGTON NEXT MONTH.
BEING A SWIMMER MYSELF, I'M IMPRESSED BY THE NUMBER OF CHAMPIONSHIP SWIMMERS THAT MISSION VIEJO (VIE-A-HO) PRODUCES. I THINK YOU'LL PROVE THAT AGAIN HAS PRODUCED. I WISH YOU LUCK IN THE A.A.U. CHAMPIONSHIPS HERE NEXT YEAR.

AS ONE OF THE DOZEN OR SO "NEW TOWNS"
IN THE UNITED STATES, MISSION VIEJO (VIE-A-HO) STANDS OUT BECAUSE:
YOUR COMMUNITY WAS BUILT ENTIRELY WITH PRIVATE FUNDS.
DURING THE TEN YEARS THAT YOU HAVE GROWN, YOU HAVE HANDLED YOUR OWN PROBLEMS WITH YOUR OWN MONEY.
THAT'S SOMETHING TO BE TRULY PROUD OF.
WHAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED HERE IS WHAT

I HAVE BEEN DOING WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT --

KEEPING GOVERNMENT FROM INTERFERING WITH OUR FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM,

AND ALLOWING PEOPLE TO DO WHAT THEY WANT TO DO WITH THEIR OWN LIVES.

A LITTLE MORE THAN A YEAR AGO, OUR ECONOMY WAS

IN THE WORST RECESSSION IN 40 YEARS.

UNEMPLOYMENT WAS CLIMBING, AND INFLATION WAS RUNNING AS HIGH

AS 12 PERCENT.

THE PROPHETS OF DOOM AND DISASTER ARGUED

THAT ONLY MASSIVE FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SPENDING WOULD SAVE US.
I didn't agree. I opposed spending more and more
and creating bigger and bigger deficits, for that would have led
to even higher prices and more lay-offs.

Because we kept the lid on spending, because we had faith in our free enterprise system, we have reduced the annual rate of inflation by more than half.

We have increased national employment by three million, 300 thousand jobs since the low of last year.

We have broken the back of the recession, and we are on the road to rising prosperity, renewed trust and a lasting peace.
WHEREVER POSSIBLE, OUR GOVERNMENT SHOULD SPEND AND TAX LESS. LAST YEAR, WE REDUCED FEDERAL INCOME TAXES.

I HAVE PROPOSED AN ADDITIONAL TAX CUT OF TEN BILLION DOLLARS TO GO INTO EFFECT JULY FIRST. THIS PROPOSAL WOULD INCREASE EACH OF THE EXEMPTIONS ON YOUR PERSONAL INCOME TAX FROM 750 DOLLARS TO 1,000 DOLLARS.

A COUPLE WITH TWO CHILDREN WOULD BE ABLE TO DEDUCT AN ADDITION 1,000 DOLLARS FROM THEIR GROSS INCOME.

A TIGHT CONTROL ON GOVERNMENT SPENDING, A BALANCED BUDGET, LESS TAXES. I WANT TO MAKE VERY SURE THAT YOUR TAX DOLLARS WORK AS HARD FOR YOU AS YOU DID FOR THEM.
THERE IS NO REASON WHY GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONTINUE TO GROW. THE MORE DISTANCE THE LARGER IT GETS, THE MORE REMOTE IT IS BETWEEN IT AND THE CITIZENS ITS FOR THE CITIZENS THAT GOVERNMENT IS SUPPOSED TO SERVE. I'M SURE TO SAY LIKE MOST OF US I WORKED HARD TO MAKELIving I LEARNED THIS BASIC TRUTH LONG AGO. A GOVERNMENT BIG AND ROUGH WHAT TAKES 80 TO THE ENOUGH TO GIVE US EVERYTHING WE WANT IS A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO TAKE FROM US EVERYTHING WE HAVE.

I AM CONVINCED THAT THE DECISIONS AFFECTING YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES SHOULD BE MADE RIGHT HERE AND NOT BY SOME DISTANT BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT OR ITS BUREAUCRACY. I AM WORKING TO RESTORE THE PRINCIPLE OF LOCAL CONTROL BY LOCAL PEOPLE.
IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR, I BELIEVE OUR CHALLENGE --

...IS TO FOSTER A NEW APPRECIATION

OF THE AMERICAN HOME, NEW COHESION IN THE AMERICAN FAMILY,

NEW MODERATION IN THE RELATIONSHIP OF GOVERNMENT TO THE GOVERNED

AND CONTINUED AMERICAN STRENGTH THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

THE FIRST CENTURY OF OUR GOVERNMENT WAS DEVOTED

TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STRONG, STABLE GOVERNMENT.

IT WAS A UNIQUE EXPERIMENT IN SELF-GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE.

THE SECOND CENTURY OF OUR COUNTRY WAS A CENTURY

OF INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS IN WHICH AMERICA BECAME THE MOST

POWERFUL NATION IN HISTORY.
AS WE BECAME THE WORLD'S MOST PRODUCTIVE NATION --

IN BOTH INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE -- WE FOUND THAT OUR GROWTH

CREATED PROBLEMS OF RICHNESS. IN THE PROCESS, THE INDIVIDUAL

BECAUSE

TENDED TO BECOME DOMINATED BY HUGE INSTITUTIONS OF ALL KINDS --

MASS GOVERNMENT, LABOR, INDUSTRY AND EDUCATION.


I SEE THE THIRD CENTURY OF OUR COUNTRY AS ONE

RETURN RESPONSIBILITY TO

IN WHICH WE MUST FOCUS UPON THE INDIVIDUAL -- TO PROTECT

TO ENCOURAGE THE AVERAGE AMERICAN

THE SPONT OF THE INDIVIDUAL TO PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY.

TO HELP HIMSELF.
AS I TRAVEL AROUND AMERICA, I FIND MOST OF US WANT PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO EACH OTHER HAVE A YEARNING -- A NEED TO KNOW HOW THE INDIVIDUAL AMERICAN AND TO THE NATION AS A WHOLE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE -- HOW THE AVERAGE MAN OR WOMAN CAN AN ACTIVE CITIZEN MAY MAKE A VITAL INFLUENCE THE EVENTS TAKING PLACE AROUND THEM. THAT THE GREATER MAJORITY OF OUR COUNTRY, AND I HAVE FOUND THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF OUR CITIZENS STILL WANT TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT IN AMERICA. WE STILL WANT TO DO WHAT IS BEST FOR OUR SOCIETY AND OUR COUNTRY. WE WANT TO LIVE UP TO OUR HERITAGE AS A FREE AND INDEPENDENT PEOPLE.
IN RESPONSE TO THAT YEARNING, I HAVE DEVOTED
MY BEST EFFORTS TO THE RESTORATION OF CONFIDENCE AND TRUST
IN OUR INSTITUTIONS, A TASK I CONSIDER VITAL IF WE ARE TO REBUILD
OUR FAITH IN OURSELVES AND IN OUR FUTURE.

WE'VE MADE A FRESH START.

WE'LL WORK TOGETHER, YOU AND I. I'll
MAKE GOOD MY PROMISES
AND WE'LL REBUILD OUR SOCIETY

I AM STANDING BY MY PLEDGE TO PROMISE NO MORE
THAN I CAN DELIVER, AND TO DELIVER EVERYTHING I PROMISE.

FOR I AM DETERMINED TO RESTORE UNITY TO OUR NATION...

TO REBUILD OUR SOCIETY UPON A FOUNDATION OF THE SIMPLE
BUT ENDURING VALUES OF TRUTH, DECENCY AND INTEGRITY.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT