The original documents are located in Box 33, “5/24/76 - Remarks at Public Rally on Arrival at Van Nuys Airport, Van Nuys, CA” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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VAN NUYS AIRPORT

REMARKS AT SAN FERNANDO VALLEY PUBLIC RALLY

MONDAY, MAY 24, 1976
-- THANK YOU, BARRY (Barry Goldwater, Jr. introduces you)
-- EV YOUNGER
-- PAUL PRIOLO (GOP Leader, California Assembly)
-- JOHNNY GRANT
-- FELLOW AMERICANS
MY MESSAGE TODAY TO THE PEOPLE OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CAN BE SUMMED UP IN JUST A FEW WORDS:
AS MUCH AS I BELIEVE IN A STRONG AND PROSPEROUS AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY, I HAVE COME HERE TO SAY THAT THIS YEAR -- THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO REASON TO TRADE IN YOUR RELIABLE FORD -- FOR A FLASHIER MODEL.
LET ME TELL YOU WHY I AM ASKING YOU—MY FELLOW AMERICANS—for your support: BECAUSE I HAVE DONE A GOOD JOB UNDER TOUGH CIRCUMSTANCES—BECAUSE WE HAVE MAINTAINED THE PEACE—MOVED AMERICA ON THE ROAD TO PROSPERITY—AND RESTORED CONFIDENCE AND TRUST IN THE PRESIDENCY. I WANT A MANDATE FROM CALIFORNIA AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO FINISH THAT JOB.
PEACE, PROSPERITY AND TRUST ARE MY RECORD OF PERFORMANCE SINCE I BECAME PRESIDENT. IT IS A RECORD ACHIEVED AGAINST WHAT SEEMED LIKE INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLES.
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 LAYED OFF AND COULD NOT FIND NEW JOBS.
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 MORE 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 DISCREDITED TECHNIQUES OF THE OLD POLITICS -- "TAX AND TAX, SPEND AND SPEND, ELECT AND ELECT."
INSTEAD, WE PURSUED A CALM, STEADY POLICY TO INSURE AMERICA'S ECONOMIC HEALTH — NOT FOR JUST AN ELECTION YEAR — BUT FOR THE LONG, LONG PULL.
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.
EIGHTY-SEVEN MILLION, 400 THOUSAND AMERICANS ARE ON THE JOB TODAY -- AND 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 700,000 JOBS IN THE LAST MONTH ALONE. THIS IS REAL, UNDISPUTABLE EVIDENCE OF NEW PROSPERITY, BUT I WILL NOT BE SATISFIED UNTIL EVERY AMERICAN WHO WANTS A JOB CAN FIND A JOB.
INFLATION HAS BEEN CUT IN HALF DURING THE PAST 21 MONTHS, AND WE WILL KEEP THE PRESSURE ON SO THAT IT WON'T EVER THREATEN OUR ECONOMIC STABILITY AGAIN.
I vetoed 49 bills that the Congress sent me, and 42 of those vetoes were sustained, saving the American taxpayer 13 billion dollars.
THAT'S ABOUT $300 DOLLARS FOR EVERY FAMILY

IN AMERICA -- AND IF THE CONGRESS KEEPS SENDING ME THESE BIG-SPENDING BUDGET-BUSTING BILLS, I WILL USE MY VETO AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN.
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU GOT TO SPEND YOUR MONEY

THE WAY YOU WANT TO SPEND IT, INSTEAD OF LETTING THE CONGRESS

SPEND IT FOR YOU.

I AM DETERMINED THAT YOUR TAX DOLLARS WORK

AS HARD FOR YOU AS YOU WORKED FOR THEM.
WHEREVER POSSIBLE, I WANT THE GOVERNMENT TO SPEND LESS AND TAX LESS. LAST YEAR WE REDUCED FEDERAL INCOME TAXES.

THIS YEAR I PROPOSED ANOTHER TEN BILLION DOLLAR TAX CUT TO BEGIN ON JULY FIRST WHICH WOULD RAISE THE PERSONAL EXEMPTION ON YOUR INCOME TAXES FROM 750 TO 1,000 DOLLARS.
LET ME ASSURE YOU I WILL FIGHT THE CONGRESS EVERY STEP OF THE WAY TO GET YOU THE TAX RELIEF YOU DESERVE.
IN ADDITION TO AMERICA'S NEW ECONOMIC SECURITY,
WE ARE INCREASING AMERICA'S NATIONAL SECURITY AS WELL.

TODAY AMERICA IS AT PEACE. THERE ARE NO AMERICAN
BOYS FIGHTING ANYWHERE ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH — AND I INTEND
TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.
TO MAKE SURE OUR MILITARY STRENGTH REMAINS UNSURPASSED IN THE FUTURE, I PROPOSED THE TWO LARGEST DEFENSE BUDGETS IN AMERICAN HISTORY.
DURING MY ADMINISTRATION, WE ARE REVERSING

THAT DANGEROUS TREND. IN THE LAST 21 MONTHS WE HAVE

JUST ABOUT CONVINCED THE CONGRESS TO STOP SHORTCHANGING

AMERICA'S DEFENSE.
WITH FOUR YEARS AND WITH A SOLID MANDATE FROM YOU,

WE CAN FINISH THE JOB AND MAKE AMERICA TRULY SECURE

FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.
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.
THOSE 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.
FINALLY, I WILL FINISH MY MOST IMPORTANT JOB --

RESTORATION OF TRUST IN THE PRESIDENCY ITSELF.
AS YOUR PRESIDENT, I WILL PROMISE NO MORE THAN I CAN DELIVER AND I WILL DELIVER EVERYTHING THAT I PROMISE.

I NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO ENSURE PEACE, PROSPERITY, AND TRUST FOR THE FUTURE. THE FUTURE THAT WE OWE TO OUR CHILDREN.
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.
I'll tell you, what I see ahead for this great country of ours!
I see a strong and confident America, secure in a nation strength that cannot alone be counted in megatons -- and blessings 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 -- where the government serves and the people rule.

Thank you very much.

End of text