

**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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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

VAN NUYS AIRPORT

REMARKS AT ~~SAN FERNANDO VALLEY~~ PUBLIC RALLY

MONDAY, MAY 24, 1976

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AIR NATIONAL GUARD FACILITY

VAN NUYS

*Dick Goldwater*

-- THANK YOU, BARRY (Barry Goldwater, Jr. introduces you)

-- EV YOUNGER

-- PAUL PRIOLO (GOP Leader, California Assembly)

-- JOHNNY GRANT

-- FELLOW AMERICANS

*Bob Wilkinson*  

---

*Lee*

*Rosemary*  
*Alice*  
*Ted Sue*

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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 *Tough odds* ~~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 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 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, ~~UNDENIABLE~~ 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 200 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•

BETWEEN 1964 AND 1974, THE CONGRESS CUT

FIFTY BILLION DOLLARS FROM DEFENSE SPENDING, AND REDUCED

THE NATIONAL DEFENSE SHARE OF THE FEDERAL BUDGET TO ITS LOWEST

POINT SINCE PEARL HARBOR.

DURING MY ADMINISTRATION, WE ARE REVERSING

THAT DANGEROUS TREND.

~~IN THE LAST 21 MONTHS WE HAVE~~

~~JUST ABOUT CONVINCED THE CONGRESS TO STOP SHORTCHANGING~~

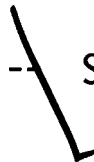
~~AMERICA'S DEFENSE.~~

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.

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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.

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ILL TELL YOU, WHAT I SEE  
WHAT I SEE AHEAD FOR THIS GREAT COUNTRY OF

~~OURS?~~ AHEAD FOR THIS GREAT  
COUNTRY OF OURS!

I SEE A STRONG AND CONFIDENT AMERICA, SECURE IN A

*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 INVIOATE

IN HIS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

-- WHERE THE GOVERNMENT SERVES

AND THE PEOPLE RULE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT