

The original documents are located in Box 33, “5/25/76 - Remarks at Public Forum, Walnut Creek, CA (Includes drafts) (1)” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. ~~THE~~

WALNUT CREEK

TUESDAY - MAY 25, 1976

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARM AND WONDERFUL WELCOME.

IT'S JUST GREAT TO BE HERE IN WALNUT CREEK SURROUNDED BY SOME

OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL LAND IN AMERICA - AND SOME OF THE MOST

BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE AS WELL.

2.

YOUR OPEN SPACE PURCHASE PROGRAM WAS A GREAT

COOPERATIVE EFFORT BY THE PEOPLE OF WALNUT CREEK. IT SHOWED

THE SAME VITALITY AND INITIATIVE THAT WE SEE RIGHT HERE IN YOUR

BUSINESS DISTRICT. YOU HAVE SHOWN YOUR DEDICATION TO CIVIC

ACHIEVEMENT, PROBLEM-SOLVING AND THE CAN-DO SPIRIT -- AND I

SALUTE YOU FOR IT.

3.

MY MESSAGE TODAY ~~TO THE PEOPLE OF WALNUT CREEK~~

CAN BE SUMMED UP IN JUST A FEW WORDS:

4.

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.

5.

LET ME TELL YOU WHY I AM ASKING YOU -- MY FELLOW

AMERICANS -- FOR YOUR SUPPORT: BECAUSE I HAVE DONE A GOOD JOB

UNDER DIFFICULT 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.~~

8.

INFLATION HAD SOARED TO AN ANNUAL RATE OF OVER

TWELVE PERCENT.

~~INTEREST RATES WERE GOING THROUGH THE~~

~~ROOF.~~

FAR TOO MANY AMERICANS WERE BEING 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, MANY WERE CALLING FOR HUGE

EMERGENCY FEDERAL SUBSIDIES -- FOR MORE AND BIGGER GOVERNMENT

PROGRAMS -- AND HIGHER DEFICIT GOVERNMENT SPENDING.

~~BUT THOSE WHO WOULD TRY TO SOLVE EVERY PROBLEM BY~~

~~THROWING YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT IT 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 IN YOU; THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- AND

WE HAD FAITH THAT THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

WOULD ONCE AGAIN REGAIN THE STRENGTH THAT HAS MADE IT THE

ENVY OF THE WORLD.

14.

~~YOU KNOW FROM YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT IS~~
~~HAPPENING~~ TODAY WE MEET NOT IN THE GLOOM OF A RECESSION --
BUT IN THE FULL SURGE OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

15.

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.~~

in the future,

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 ~~GET 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.

20 a.

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.

Middle income taxpayers deserve a fair break!

LET ME ASSURE YOU I WILL FIGHT THE CONGRESS

EVERY STEP OF THE WAY TO GET YOU THE TAX RELIEF YOU DESERVE.

²³
As we strengthen
~~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.

WE HAVE THE BEST EQUIPPED, BEST-TRAINED,

BEST-LED FIGHTING FORCE IN THE WORLD AND THEY ARE ALL

VOLUNTEERS. ~~IT WAS~~ THE FORD ADMINISTRATION ~~THAT~~ ENDED

THE DRAFT.

25.

TO MAKE SURE OUR MILITARY STRENGTH REMAINS

UNSURPASSED IN THE FUTURE, I PROPOSED THE TWO LARGEST

DEFENSE BUDGETS IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

26.

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.~~

*We will keep America's
military strength unsurpassed.*

29.

With a mandate from you

~~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 GOOD, / SECURE / AND FULFILLING FUTURE
THAT WE OWE TO OUR CHILDREN.

31.

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 GREAT COUNTRY ~~OF~~

~~OURS~~ AS WE ENTER THE THIRD CENTURY OF OUR INDEPENDENCE?

I SEE A STRONG AND CONFIDENT AMERICA, SECURE IN

A STRENGTH THAT CANNOT ~~ALONE~~ BE COUNTED IN MEGATONS -- ~~AND~~

A NATION REJOICING IN ^{Blessings} 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.

37.

WE HAVE ALL SHARED THE BLESSINGS OF FREEDOM.

LET US NOW ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES AND JOIN IN THE WORK OF

PRESERVING IT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT