The original documents are located in Box 34, “5/26/76 - 33rd Presidential News Conference, Columbus, Ohio” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

COLUMBUS, OHIO
PRESS CONFERENCE
STATEMENT

WEDNESDAY - MAY 26, 1976
BEFORE TURNING TO YOUR QUESTIONS THIS EVENING,

I HAVE A BRIEF STATEMENT.
2.

EARLY NEXT WEEK THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES WILL RETURN FROM MEMORIAL DAY RECESS.

FOR MANY AMERICANS, SUMMER WILL HAVE OFFICIALLY BEGUN AND THE TIME FOR A VACATION WILL BE AT HAND.
3.

HOWEVER, IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT THIS

NOT BECOME A VACATION TIME FOR THE CONGRESS.

THERE IS AN IMMENSE AMOUNT OF WORK PILING UP ON THE

CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR, AND THE COUNTRY NEEDS

AND DESERVES PROMPT LEGISLATIVE ACTION IN A

NUMBER OF IMPORTANT AREAS.
4.

First of all, the temporary tax cut enacted last year will expire at the end of June. That tax cut must be extended.
5.

I HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT THE CONGRESS NOT ONLY EXTEND THE TAX CUT PERMANENTLY, BUT INCREASE IT BY 10 BILLION DOLLARS. AMONG THE BENEFITS EVERY TAXPAYER WOULD RECEIVE UNDER MY PROPOSAL, IS AN INCREASE IN THE PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS FROM 750 DOLLARS TO 1,000 DOLLARS ENOUGH FOR MANY PEOPLE TO CATCH UP ON THEIR BILLS AND BEGIN SAVING MORE FOR THE FUTURE.
6.

WHEN WE CUT TAXES, WE MUST ALSO CUT FEDERAL SPENDING. THE CONGRESS HAS NOT YET SHOWN THE DISCIPLINE NECESSARY TO HOLD THE LINE ON FEDERAL SPENDING. THAT IS WHY I HAVE VETOED SO MANY SPENDING BILLS AND MY VETOES SO FAR HAVE SAVED THE TAXPAYERS 13 BILLION DOLLARS. I WILL CONTINUE TO USE MY VETO UNTIL CONGRESS GETS THE MESSAGE AND FEDERAL SPENDING IS BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL.
7.

ANOTHER MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ITEM URGENTLY

AWAITING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION IS THE RE-ENACTMENT

OF FEDERAL REVENUE SHARING. THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN

AN INEXCUSABLY LONG DELAY IN PASSING THIS MEASURE.

UNLESS REVENUE SHARING IS RE-ENACTED BEFORE IT

EXPIRES AT THE END OF THIS YEAR, COMMUNITIES IN

OHIO AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY WILL BE SEVERELY

PENALIZED.
COMMUNITIES AND STATES WOULD BE FORCED TO RAISE
LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES AND STATE TAXES IN ORDER TO
CONTINUE VITAL PUBLIC SERVICES WHICH REVENUE SHARING
WOULD PROVIDE. THE CONGRESS MUST RE-ENACT MY
REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM WITHOUT DELAY.
9.

TWO OTHER ITEMS MUST ALSO BE GIVEN CONGRESSIONAL ATTENTION IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.
ONE IS THE B-1 BOMBER PROGRAM. IN CONSIDERING THE MILITARY PROCUREMENT BILL FOR THE COMING YEAR, THE SENATE RECENTLY VOTED TO DELAY THE B-1 PRODUCTION UNTIL FEBRUARY OF NEXT YEAR.
THAT VOTE WAS BOTH UNNECESSARY AND UNWISE.

OUR ARMED FORCES ARE THE BEST TRAINED MEN AND WOMEN IN THE WORLD, BUT THEY MUST HAVE THE TOOLS TO DO THE JOB. WE NEED TO GET ON WITH THE B-1 BOMBER THIS YEAR -- NOT NEXT YEAR.
12.

FINALLY, I URGE THE CONGRESS TO VOTE IN THE

NEXT FEW WEEKS FOR A FULL P.L. 480 PROGRAM,

OVER THE YEARS THE FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM, IN ADDITION

TO PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF

OUR FOREIGN POLICY, HAS PROVIDED EXPANDED MARKETS

FOR AMERICAN FARM PRODUCTS.
A provision of the security assistance authorization bill presently pending in the Congress would impose a 175 million dollar ceiling on P.L. 480 assistance to Korea.
THIS ACTION WOULD HURT THE AMERICAN FARMER, WHO DEPENDS ON STABLE MARKETS FOR HIS CROPS, AND WOULD SERIOUSLY RESTRICT THE ECONOMIC GROWTH POTENTIAL OF ONE OF OUR KEY ALLIES. WE NEED STRONG AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS, AND WE NEED A FULL FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM.

I STRONGLY URGE THE CONGRESS TO REMOVE THIS LIMITATION.

NOW I WILL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
GOVERNOR’S CONFERENCE ON AGING
PRESS CONFERENCE

THANK YOU, JIM.
(Governor Rhodes introduces you.)

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE OHIO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION:
SAM DEVINE
BILL HARSHA
CHUCK MSHER
CLARENCE BROWN

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
MEETING WITH STATE GAP
HOME & SATE LEADERSHIP
STATE HOUSE - CABINET ROOM
COLUMBUS, OHIO
MAY 21, 1976