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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

BRIEFING TO PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESPERSONS

ECONOMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- CUT INFLATION IN HALF
- GAINED THREE MILLION, 400 THOUSAND JOBS
- RETAIL SALES UP ELEVEN PERCENT OVER LAST YEAR

Agriculture - producing more / selling more,

ACCOMPLISHMENTS ABROAD:

- POLICY OF MEDIATION AND FIRMNESS
- NO AMERICAN SOLDIERS FIGHTING ANYWHERE
- SIGNIFICANT ARMS LIMITATION
- MAINTAINED MILITARY STRENGTH

FUTURE PROPOSALS:

- ENERGY RECOVERY TO REDUCE SHORTAGES
- FARM AID TO ENCOURAGE INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY
- ESTATE TAX REFORM TO MAINTAIN FAMILY FARMS
AND BUSINESSES
- REVENUE SHARING TO SOLVE LOCAL PROBLEMS

NEW SPIRIT IN THE LAND:

- UNITY AND TOGETHERNESS IN BICENTENNIAL
- REAFFIRMATION OF THE AMERICAN SPIRIT

This Admin is there with this new Spirit

END OF TEXT

(Denison and Smith)

Third Draft
July 12, 1976

BRIEFING TO PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESPERSONS - JULY 14, 1976

I am delighted to again welcome members of the "Sub-Cabinet" to the White House. All of you here today have played a crucial role in conquering the difficult problems we faced at the outset of this Administration and I congratulate you for it.

In 23 months we have come a long way.

We have reduced inflation significantly. Since the recession low of a year ago, we have gained 3 million, 400 thousand jobs. The index of consumer confidence has improved substantially over the last 12 months. Total retail sales are 11% higher than a year ago. In short, a sure and steady economic recovery is under way.

Abroad, as you know, America has succeeded in ushering in an era of negotiated calm. We have not threatened or blustered, but instead have followed a strong, deliberate policy of firmness, patient mediation and growing trust. As a result, no American soldier is fighting

anywhere on this globe; we have helped maintain peace in the Middle East and elsewhere; and we have achieved significant arms limitation agreements with the Soviet Union.

What's more, we have maintained sufficient military strength to ensure the safety of mankind as well as our own precious freedom.

After a decade during which Congress systematically hacked away each year at the defense budget, I am happy to report that we've turned them around this year and that America can continue to be assured of the modernized and reinforced weapons systems so vital to our freedoms.

At home, we have restored confidence not only in the White House but in the political process as a whole.

For these and other achievements, you deserve a good deal of credit. We have a fine record to defend in the months ahead.

But the best defense is a good offense. We should not forget that many of our proposals have been held up or rejected by the Democrat. . . controlled Congress.

Our job is to make sure that the American public understands the importance of these proposals. When they do, they will elect a Congress responsive to our programs and their needs.

Our proposals in the area of energy recovery would reduce natural gas shortages, allow production from Federal petroleum reserves, stimulate effective conservation, and develop clean fuel from coal. At the same time, other legislation we have proposed would make alternate energy more readily available and more price competitive. These proposals are musts if we are to become energy independent in the next decade.

Our program for farm aid would encourage increased productivity levels. Our estate tax reform would preserve family farms.

We have worked with the states and localities to coordinate urban growth in such a way that pollution and transportation problems are solved at the same time. Our initiatives in housing are some of the most inventive in history.

But whether the problem be health care or crime, inflation or land planning, the important thing to remember is that this administration takes a comprehensive approach to problems. Given the interrelated nature of our needs, we have abandoned the crisis mentality which characterizes the opposition's legislation. Instead, we have developed policies which will better solve the network of problems we face. In this way, present solutions prevent future crises.

For generations, the Republican Party has stood for sound fiscal policy, less government interference, and encouragement of individual liberty. In the past 23 months, this administration has implemented policies which fulfill those goals. Our job now is to convince Americans everywhere that we ought to be allowed to finish the job we started. We can never out promise the other party, but we have consistently out performed them. That performance is your performance. Be proud of it and let America know about it.

There is a new spirit abroad in our land. There is a new sense of pride and confidence among our people.

Over the Bicentennial weekend in particular I sensed that a spirit of unity and togetherness deep within the American soul has come to the surface in a way that we had almost forgotten.

To me this reaffirmation of the American spirit is the best possible proof that we are on the right track. Our long-term planning -- our teamwork has paid off.

Now, during the months ahead, I am counting on each one of you to join with me in an effort to make our achievements and our policies for the future clear to the American people. If we continue to do our job, the people have shown that they will respond in a positive way.

Let us go forward to write an important new chapter in the history of this country and point the way toward a secure and prosperous future for the generations of Americans yet to come.

Our cause is individual liberty; our battle cry is freedom.

With your help, America will show the way to a tomorrow worthy of all our yesteryears.

Thank you very much.

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