ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- THANK YOU, FRED (Biebel introduces you)
- SENATOR LOWELL WEICKER
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- CONGRESSMAN STU MCKINNEY
- GOVERNOR JOHN LODGE
- DISTINGUISHED PARTY LEADERS
- DELEGATES, ALTERNATES AND GUESTS

PEARL, I UNDERSTAND YOU GAVE QUITE A SPEECH LAST NIGHT ... AS AMERICA'S AMBASSADOR OF LOVE, YOURS WILL BE A TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW ... BUT I'LL DO MY BEST.
IT IS AN HONOR FOR ME TO ADDRESS THIS GREAT CONVENTION OF THE CONNECTICUT REPUBLICAN PARTY.

THE LONG SERIES OF PRIMARIES AND STATE DELEGATE CONVENTIONS COMES TO ITS CONCLUSION TODAY, HERE IN CONNECTICUT AND ACROSS THE CONTINENT IN UTAH.

It's wonderful to see so many old friends. I did live, work and learn in Connecticut for almost 6 years. Because of those wonderful years in Connecticut, I have a very special warmth & friendship toward Connecticut. I thank you for the opportunity to be back.

HERE IN CONNECTICUT AS IN ALL 50 STATES, THERE IS A GROWING FEELING OF CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FEEL GOOD ABOUT THEMSELVES AND ABOUT THEIR COUNTRY.
THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION REACHED ITS CLIMAX TWO WEEKS AGO AND REVEALED A SPIRIT OF HARMONY, GOODWILL, AND OPTIMISM IN AMERICA WHICH HAD BEEN ECLIPSED DURING THE TURMOIL OF THE LAST DECADE AND A HALF.

IT COMES AS NO SURPRISE TO ME THAT, FOR ALL OUR PAST TROUBLES, WE HAVE EMERGED AS A STRONGER AND A WISER PEOPLE.
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, DESCENDANTS OF THE HARDEST STOCK OF MANY NATIONS, HAVE A DEEP RESERVOIR OF STRENGTH WHICH HAS SERVED THE NATION WELL FOR THE PAST 200 YEARS AND WILL SERVE US WELL IN THE FUTURE.

THAT POWERFUL AMERICAN SPIRIT BROUGHT US THROUGH THE WORST ECONOMIC CRISIS AMERICA HAS FACED IN FOUR DECADES.
TWO YEARS AGO, INFLATION WAS RUNNING AT A RATE OF MORE THAN TWELVE PERCENT. THOUSANDS OF MEN AND WOMEN WERE BEING LAID OFF. A CLIMATE OF FEAR THREATENED TO ENGULF OUR PEOPLE.

WHAT'S HAPPENED SINCE AUGUST OF 1974?

INFLATION HAS BEEN CUT IN HALF.
SINCE THE BOTTOM OF THE RECESSION LAST YEAR, THREE MILLION,
400 THOUSAND OF OUR FELLOW AMERICANS HAVE FOUND NEW JOBS
OR GOTTEN THEIR OLD ONES BACK, AND MORE PEOPLE ARE BEING
ADDED TO PAYROLLS EVERY DAY.
MORE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ON THE JOB IN AMERICA IN
1976 THAN EVER BEFORE. WE HAVE BROKEN THE BACK OF THE
RECESSION.

Everything that is suppose to going up,
is going up. Everything that is suppose to
going to going down.
WE ARE IN THE FULL SURGE OF A STRONG RECOVERY, AND WE LOOK WITH CONFIDENCE TO AN ERA OF ENDURING PROSPERITY WITHOUT THE CRUEL TAX OF RUNAWAY INFLATION.

THAT'S A GOOD RECORD, AND I'M PROUD OF IT.

BUT THERE'S MORE, GOOD NEWS.
TWO YEARS AGO, AMERICA WAS MIRED IN WHAT SEEMED AN ENDLESS WAR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. AFTER A DECADE IN WHICH THE CONGRESS HAD CONSISTENTLY SHORT-CHANGED AMERICA'S DEFENSES, THE FUTURE OF OUR MILITARY STRENGTH WAS ENDANGERED.

IN AUGUST OF 1974, AMERICA'S WILL TO RESPOND TO INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGES WAS BEING CALLED INTO QUESTION BY ALLIES AND ADVERSARIES ALIKE.
WHAT'S HAPPENED SINCE AUGUST OF 1974?

AMERICA TODAY IS AT PEACE. THERE ARE NO AMERICAN BOYS FIGHTING ANYWHERE ON THE FACE OF THIS EARTH.

AND I INTEND TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.
I HAVE PROPOSED THE TWO LARGEST DEFENSE BUDGETS
IN HISTORY, REVERSING THE TREND OF THE LAST DECADE, AND
ENSURING THAT OUR MILITARY CAPABILITY COMMANDS THE
RESPECT OF EVERY NATION.

THIS IS TWO YEARS OF PROGRESS, DESPITE A DEMOCRATIC
CONGRESS THAT FOUGHT US EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.
TWO YEARS AGO, THE PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE IN THEIR GOVERNMENT AND ESPECIALLY IN THE WHITE HOUSE HAD BEEN SHATTERED.

WHAT'S HAPPENED SINCE AUGUST OF 1974?

FORD

THIS NEW ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN OPEN, CANDID, AND FORTHRIGHT. IN MY ADMINISTRATION, ABILITY IS NOT ENOUGH. EXPERIENCE IS NOT ENOUGH. DEDICATION IS NOT ENOUGH.
IN ALL THAT WE DO, IN EVERYTHING WE UNDERTAKE, I REQUIRE
INTEGRITY, DECENCY, AND HONESTY. PRIVATE MORALITY AND
PUBLIC SERVICE CAN -- AND MUST -- GO HAND IN HAND.

IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, THEN, WE HAVE PASSED
FROM WAR TO PEACE, FROM RECESSION TO RECOVERY, FROM TRAGEDY
TO TRUST, FROM FEAR TO FAITH IN AMERICA.
THIS IS PERFORMANCE, NOT PROMISE.

THIS IS A RECORD THAT WILL BE SUPPORTED BY THE

AMERICAN PEOPLE — DEMOCRATS, INDEPENDENTS, AND

REPUBLICANS — AND IT WILL LEAD US TO VICTORY IN NOVEMBER.

WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE? WHAT CHALLENGES WILL

WE DEMAND OF OURSELVES AS WE ENTER THE THIRD CENTURY OF THE

AMERICAN ADVENTURE?
FIRST OF ALL, WE MUST CREATE A BETTER BALANCE IN OUR SOCIETY.

WE MUST INTRODUCE A NEW BALANCE IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE GOVERNMENT, A BALANCE THAT FAVORS A GREATER INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AND SELF-RELIANCE.

We will achieve this better balance to the Congress by my tax reduction proposals, that:

1) will increase the personal exemption from \$350 per person to \$1,000 per person.

2) by increasing the estate tax exemption from 60,000 to at least \$150,000.

Our middle income tax payers need tax relief—a better break. Congress must act favorably on my proposals.
WE MUST STRIKE A NEW BALANCE IN OUR SYSTEM OF FEDERALISM, A BALANCE THAT FAVORS GREATER RESPONSIBILITY AND FREEDOM FOR THE LEADERS OF OUR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

WE MUST INTRODUCE A NEW BALANCE BETWEEN SPENDING ON DOMESTIC PROGRAMS AND SPENDING ON DEFENSE, A BALANCE THAT INSURES WE WILL FULLY MEET OUR OBLIGATIONS TO THE NEEDY WHILE ALSO PROTECTING OUR SECURITY IN A WORLD STILL HOSTILE TO FREEDOM.
IN ALL THAT WE DO, WE MUST BE HONEST WITH THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE, PROMISING THEM NO MORE THAN WE CAN DELIVER
AND DELIVERING ALL THAT WE PROMISE.

ABOVE ALL, WE MUST FACE THE FUTURE TOGETHER, AS
A PARTY AND AS A PEOPLE. IT IS AS TRUE TODAY AS IT WAS
IN LINCOLN'S DAY THAT "A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF CANNOT
STAND."
FOR OUR PARTY, THAT MEANS JOINING RANKS IN A COMMON STRUGGLE. THE REPUBLICAN PARTY THIS YEAR HAS DEMONSTRATED THROUGHOUT AMERICA THE VIGOR, VITALITY AND COMPETITIVE SPIRIT ON WHICH A DYNAMIC POLITICAL ORGANIZATION THRIVES.

NOW WE MUST RESOLVE TO STOP FIGHTING EACH OTHER AND START HELPING EACH OTHER.
WE MUST RESOLVE TO STRENGTHEN OUR PARTY WITH NOVEMBER VICTORIES AT EVERY LEVEL, FROM THE COURTHOUSE TO THE STATE HOUSE TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

WE MUST CENTER OUR ATTACK NOT ON FELLOW REPUBLICANS, BUT ON THE DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS, THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM AND A DEMOCRATIC TICKET WHICH TRIES TO BE ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE.
FOR OUR COUNTRY, THE NEW UNITY WE HAVE FOUND MUST BE CHANNELED INTO COMMON SENSE ACTION FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

BUT THE COMMON GOOD IN THIS COUNTRY MUST ALWAYS BE REFLECTED IN THE WELL-BEING OF THE INDIVIDUAL.
EVERY AMERICAN MUST HAVE THE CHANCE TO REACH HIS OR HER FULLEST POTENTIAL, UNFETTERED BY EXCESSIVE BUREAUCRATIC INJUSTICE, BY THE BONDS OF DISCRIMINATION, OR BY CONFORMING PRESSURES FROM THE GIANT INSTITUTIONS OF OUR SOCIETY.
Americans are ready once more for an era of good feeling—not in the blind belief that all our problems are solved, but in the certain conviction that we can solve these problems together.
WE CAN ENSURE THAT OLDER AMERICANS WILL HAVE
NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE RAVAGES OF RUNAWAY INFLATION,
FROM FLAWS IN THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, FROM THE THREAT
OF CRIME, OR FROM THE COSTLY BURDENS OF CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS.
WE CAN ENSURE THAT THE AMERICAN FARMER WILL
CONTINUE TO PRODUCE RECORD CROPS OF FOOD AND FIBER, AND
GET A FAIR PRICE IN A FREE WORLDWIDE MARKET — AND ENSURE
AT THE SAME TIME THAT THE AMERICAN CONSUMER WILL HAVE AMPLE
SUPPLIES AND STABLE PRICES.
WE CAN ENSURE THAT EVERY WORKING MAN AND WOMAN IN AMERICA WHO WANTS A JOB CAN FIND A JOB -- NOT A HUMPHREY-HAWKINS DEAD-END JOB, BUT A WELL-PAYING JOB WITH A FUTURE, GENERATED BY AN EXPANDING ECONOMY.
WE CAN ENSURE THAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE AN EDUCATION OF HIGH QUALITY AND A JOB WORTHY OF THEIR TALENTS.

WE CAN ENSURE THAT GOVERNMENT WILL AGAIN BE THE CAPABLE SERVANT, NOT THE MEDDLING MASTER, OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.
WE CAN ENSURE THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE IN PEACE AND IN FREEDOM BY KEEPING AMERICA STRONG AND BY STANDING FOR WHAT IS RIGHT IN THE WORLD.

WE CAN ACHIEVE THESE GOALS WITHOUT LOOKING TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR ALL THE ANSWERS, AND WITHOUT STICKING THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER WITH ALL THE BILLS.
WE CAN DO IT AND STILL BALANCE THE FEDERAL BUDGET.

WITH THE RIGHT KIND OF CONGRESS -- WITH A FEW MORE

LOWELL WEICKERS AND RON SARASINS AND STU MCKINNEYS --

I PROMISE YOU THAT BY FISCAL YEAR 1979 I WILL DO JUST THAT.
THESE ARE NOT DIM VISIONS OF THE FUTURE.

THEY ARE THE PROUD RECORD OF MY ADMINISTRATION OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. THEY WILL BE THE AGENDA FOR MY ADMINISTRATION IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.
These are my goals, and this is my pledge: To lead this nation forward on the path of peace, prosperity, and trust.

Join me on the road to a great victory for the Republican Party and for the United States of America in 1976.

End of text