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DRAFT 7

PRESIDENT'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

*Not Used*

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DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO THIS REPUBLICAN CONVENTION:

I AM HONORED BY YOUR NOMINATION -- AND I ACCEPT IT.

I ACCEPT WITH PRIDE, WITH GRATITUDE, AND WITH A TOTAL  
WILL TO WIN A GREAT VICTORY FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

WE WILL WAGE A WINNING CAMPAIGN IN EVERY REGION  
OF THIS COUNTRY -- FROM THE SNOWY BANKS OF MINNESOTA  
TO THE SANDY PLAINS OF GEORGIA●

WE CONCEDE NOT A SINGLE STATE● WE CONCEDE  
NOT A SINGLE VOTE●

THIS EVENING I AM PROUD TO STAND BEFORE YOU AS THE FIRST  
INCUMBENT PRESIDENT SINCE DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER WHO CAN TELL  
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AT HIS PARTY'S CONVENTION:  
AMERICA IS AT PEACE●

TONIGHT I CAN TELL YOU STRAIGHT AWAY --

THIS NATION IS SOUND

THIS NATION IS SECURE

THIS NATION IS ON THE MARCH TO FULL ECONOMIC RECOVERY

AND A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL AMERICANS.

I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO THOSE WHO STOOD WITH ME

IN WINNING THE NOMINATION OF THE PARTY WHOSE CAUSE

I HAVE SERVED ALL MY ADULT LIFE.

I RESPECT THE CONVICTIONS OF THOSE WHO WANT A CHANGE  
IN WASHINGTON. I WANT A CHANGE, TOO. LET'S ALL WORK  
TOGETHER, AND CHANGE THIS CONGRESS -- THIS CONGRESS  
WHERE ONE PARTY HAS RULED AND MISRULED FOR 22 LONG YEARS.

MY GRATITUDE TONIGHT REACHES FAR BEYOND THIS ARENA,  
TO COUNTLESS FRIENDS WHOSE CONFIDENCE, HARD WORK,  
AND UNSELFISH SUPPORT HAVE BROUGHT ME TO THIS MOMENT.

IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO SINGLE OUT ANYONE. BUT MAY  
I MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR MY WONDERFUL FAMILY, MIKE, JACK,  
STEVE AND SUSAN -- AND ESPECIALLY MY DEAR WIFE, BETTY.

WE REPUBLICANS HAVE HAD SOME TOUGH COMPETITION.  
WE NOT ONLY PREACH THE VIRTUES OF COMPETITION, WE PRACTICE THEM.  
BUT TONIGHT WE COME TOGETHER, NOT ON A BATTLEFIELD  
TO CONCLUDE A CEASE-FIRE, BUT TO JOIN FORCES ON A TRAINING FIELD  
THAT HAS CONDITIONED US ALL FOR THE RUGGED CONTEST AHEAD.

LET ME SAY THIS, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART:

AFTER THE SCRIMMAGES OF THE PAST FEW MONTHS, IT REALLY FEELS

GOOD TO HAVE RON REAGAN ON THE SAME SIDE OF THE LINE.

TO STRENGTHEN OUR CHAMPIONSHIP LINEUP,

THE CONVENTION HAS WISELY CHOSEN ONE OF THE ABLEST OF AMERICANS

AS OUR NEXT VICE PRESIDENT,

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WITH HIS HELP, WITH YOUR HELP, WITH THE HELP OF  
MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WHO CHERISH PEACE, WHO WANT FREEDOM  
PRESERVED, PROSPERITY SHARED, AND PRIDE IN AMERICA,  
WE WILL WIN THIS ELECTION.

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I SPEAK NOT OF A REPUBLICAN VICTORY, BUT A VICTORY  
FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.



YOU AT HOME, LISTENING TONIGHT -- YOU ARE THE PEOPLE  
WHO PAY THE TAXES AND OBEY THE LAWS. YOU ARE THE PEOPLE  
WHO MAKE OUR SYSTEM WORK. YOU ARE THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE  
AMERICA WHAT IT IS. IT IS FROM YOUR RANKS THAT I COME,  
AND ON YOUR SIDE I STAND.

SOMETHING WONDERFUL HAPPENED TO THIS COUNTRY OF OURS  
THESE PAST TWO YEARS. WE ALL CAME TO REALIZE IT ON  
THE FOURTH OF JULY.

TOGETHER, OUT OF YEARS OF TURMOIL AND TRAGEDY, OF WARS  
AND RIOTS, ASSASSINATIONS AND WRONGDOING IN HIGH PLACES,  
AMERICANS RECAPTURED THE SPIRIT OF 1776. WE SAW AGAIN THE  
PIONEER VISION OF OUR REVOLUTIONARY FOUNDERS AND OF OUR  
IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS.

THEIR VISION WAS OF FREE MEN AND FREE WOMEN  
ENJOYING LIMITED GOVERNMENT AND UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITY.  
THE MANDATE I WANT IN 1976 IS TO MAKE THAT VISION  
A REALITY.

BUT IT WILL TAKE THE VOICES AND THE VOTES OF MANY MORE  
AMERICANS, WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN REPUBLICANS, TO MAKE THAT  
MANDATE BINDING AND MY MISSION POSSIBLE.

I HAVE BEEN CALLED AN UNELECTED PRESIDENT.  
AN ACCIDENTAL PRESIDENT. WE MAY EVEN HEAR THAT AGAIN  
FROM THE OTHER PARTY DESPITE THE FACT THAT 85 PERCENT  
OF THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS CERTIFIED MY  
FITNESS FOR OUR HIGHEST OFFICE.

HAVING BECOME VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT,  
WITHOUT EXPECTING OR SEEKING EITHER, I HAVE A SPECIAL FEELING  
TOWARD THESE HIGH OFFICES●

TO ME, THE PRESIDENCY AND THE VICE PRESIDENCY  
WERE NOT PRIZES TO BE WON, BUT A DUTY TO BE DONE●

SO TONIGHT, IT IS NOT THE POWER AND GLAMOR  
OF THE PRESIDENCY THAT LEADS ME TO ASK ANOTHER FOUR YEARS●  
IT IS SOMETHING EVERY HARD-WORKING AMERICAN WILL UNDERSTAND --  
THE CHALLENGE OF A JOB WELL BEGUN, BUT FAR FROM FINISHED●

TWO YEARS AGO, ON AUGUST 9, 1974, I PLACED MY HAND  
ON THE BIBLE WHICH BETTY HELD AND TOOK THE SAME CONSTITUTIONAL  
OATH THAT WAS ADMINISTERED TO GEORGE WASHINGTON●

I HAD FAITH IN OUR PEOPLE, IN OUR INSTITUTIONS AND IN MYSELF●

"MY FELLOW AMERICANS," I SAID, "OUR LONG  
NATIONAL NIGHTMARE IS OVER●"

IT WAS AN HOUR OF OUR HISTORY THAT TROUBLED OUR MINDS  
AND TORE AT OUR HEARTS. ANGER AND HATRED HAD RISEN  
TO DANGEROUS LEVELS, DIVIDING FRIENDS AND FAMILIES.  
THE POLARIZATION OF OUR POLITICAL ORDER HAD AROUSED  
UNWORTHY PASSIONS OF REPRISAL AND REVENGE.

OUR GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM WAS CLOSER TO STALEMATE THAN AT  
ANY TIME SINCE ABRAHAM LINCOLN TOOK THAT SAME OATH OF OFFICE.

OUR ECONOMY WAS IN THE THROES OF RUNAWAY INFLATION,  
TAKING US HEADLONG INTO THE WORST RECESSION SINCE  
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT TOOK THE SAME OATH.

ON THAT DARK DAY I TOLD MY FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN:

"I AM ACUTELY AWARE THAT YOU HAVE NOT ELECTED ME  
AS YOUR PRESIDENT BY YOUR BALLOTS, SO I ASK YOU TO CONFIRM ME  
AS YOUR PRESIDENT WITH YOUR PRAYERS."

ON A MARBLE FIREPLACE IN THE WHITE HOUSE IS CARVED  
A PRAYER WHICH JOHN ADAMS WROTE. IT CONCLUDES:  
"MAY NONE BUT HONEST AND WISE MEN EVER RULE UNDER THIS ROOF."  
SINCE I HAVE RESIDED IN THAT HISTORIC HOUSE,  
I HAVE TRIED TO LIVE BY THAT PRAYER.

I FACED MANY TOUGH PROBLEMS. I PROBABLY MADE  
SOME MISTAKES, BUT ON BALANCE, AMERICA AND AMERICANS  
HAVE MADE AN INCREDIBLE COMEBACK SINCE AUGUST, 1974.  
NOBODY CAN HONESTLY SAY OTHERWISE.

AND THE PLAIN TRUTH IS THAT THE GREAT PROGRESS  
WE HAVE MADE, AT HOME AND ABROAD, WAS IN SPITE OF THE  
MAJORITY WHO RUN THE CONGRESS.



FOR TWO YEARS, I HAVE STOOD FOR ALL THE PEOPLE  
AGAINST THE VOTE HUNGRY, FREE-SPENDING CONGRESSIONAL  
MAJORITY.

FIFTY-FIVE TIMES I VETOED EXTRAVAGANT AND UNWISE  
LEGISLATION. FORTY-FOUR TIMES I MADE THOSE VETOES STICK.  
MY VETOES HAVE SAVED AMERICAN TAXPAYERS BILLIONS AND BILLIONS  
OF DOLLARS.

I CALLED FOR A PERMANENT TAX CUT COUPLED WITH SPENDING  
REDUCTIONS TO STIMULATE THE ECONOMY AND RELIEVE HARD-PRESSED  
MIDDLE INCOME TAXPAYERS. YOUR PERSONAL EXEMPTION MUST  
BE RAISED FROM 750 DOLLARS TO 1,000 DOLLARS.

THE OTHER PARTY'S PLATFORM TALKS ABOUT TAX REFORM;  
BUT THERE'S ONE BIG PROBLEM -- THEIR OWN CONGRESS WON'T ACT.

I CALLED FOR REASONABLE, CONSTITUTIONAL RESTRICTIONS  
ON COURT ORDERED BUSING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN●

THE OTHER PARTY'S PLATFORM CONCEDES THAT BUSING  
SHOULD BE A "LAST RESORT"; BUT THERE'S ONE BIG PROBLEM --  
THEIR OWN CONGRESS WON'T ACT●

I CALLED FOR A MAJOR OVERHAUL OF CRIMINAL LAWS  
TO CRACK DOWN ON CRIME AND ILLEGAL DRUGS●

THE OTHER PARTY'S PLATFORM DEPLORES AMERICA'S  
90 BILLION DOLLAR COST OF CRIME; BUT THERE'S ONE BIG PROBLEM --  
THEIR OWN CONGRESS WON'T ACT●

YOU KNOW THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS NOT  
A MAGICIAN WHO CAN WAVE A WAND, OR SIGN A PAPER THAT WILL  
INSTANTLY END A WAR, CURE A RECESSION OR MAKE A BUREAUCRACY  
DISAPPEAR. A PRESIDENT HAS IMMENSE POWERS UNDER THE  
CONSTITUTION, BUT ALL OF THEM ULTIMATELY COME FROM THE  
AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND THEIR MANDATE TO HIM.