

The original documents are located in Box 38, “9/14/76 - Remarks to Guests Attending the Reception for American Business Volunteers for Ford (Includes draft)” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

AMERICAN BUSINESS VOLUNTEERS FOR FORD

SEPTEMBER 14, 1976

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LET ME WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO WASHINGTON AND TO THE
WHITE HOUSE THIS AFTERNOON. I AM DELIGHTED TO SEE SO MANY
GOOD FRIENDS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND HAVE THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU ONCE AGAIN.

AS I LOOK AROUND ME, I CAN SEE THAT OUR PARTY
AND OUR CAMPAIGN, IS IN GOOD HANDS.

YOU, THE AMERICAN BUSINESS VOLUNTEERS FOR FORD --

REPRESENT THE VIBRANT, ENERGETIC LEADERSHIP OF YOUR

COMMUNITIES AND OF THE BUSINESS WORLD. I AM PROUD

TO HAVE YOU IN MY CORNER AS WE HEAD INTO THE FINAL WEEKS

OF THIS CAMPAIGN.

THIS YEAR WE ARE LOOKING TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY
TO TAKE A PARTICULARLY ACTIVE ROLE IN THE CAMPAIGN. AS YOU
ARE ALL AWARE, 1976 OFFERS BUSINESSMEN NEW OPPORTUNITIES
FOR CONSTRUCTIVE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION. BUSINESSMEN,
GIVING OF THEIR OWN TIME AND EFFORT, CAN PLAY A SIGNIFICANT
ROLE IN DETERMINING THE DIRECTION OUR COUNTRY WILL TAKE
IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT ALL OF YOU WILL DO JUST THAT●

YOUR ENERGY AND INITIATIVE KEEPS OUR SYSTEM OF

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE HUMMING● I APPRECIATE YOUR

COMMITMENT TO USE THAT ENERGY AND INITIATIVE TO SEE THAT

THOUSANDS OF FELLOW BUSINESSMEN TELL OUR STORY TO THE

AMERICAN PEOPLE●

THE STORY WE HAVE TO TELL IS PARTICULARLY PERTINENT
TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. IT IS A RECORD OF
PERFORMANCE -- NOT PROMISES.

TWO YEARS AGO, WHEN MY ADMINISTRATION BEGAN,
INFLATION WAS 12 PERCENT. SALES WERE OFF, PLANTS WERE
SHUT DOWN, MEN WERE BEING LAID OFF EACH WEEK.

FEAR OF THE FUTURE WAS STRANGLING OUR ECONOMY AND
THREATENING OUR ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

BUT, THE RECORD SINCE AUGUST 1974 -- THE RECORD
WE ALL HAVE TO SELL -- IS A MIGHTY IMPRESSIVE ONE.
INFLATION HAS BEEN CUT IN-HALF. PAYROLLS ARE UP.
PRODUCTION IS UP. CONFIDENCE IS UP.

TODAY, THERE ARE MORE AMERICANS AT WORK --
88 MILLION OF THEM -- THAN EVER BEFORE IN OUR HISTORY●

I REPEAT TODAY WHAT I SAID IN KANSAS CITY:

AMERICA IS IN THE FULL SURGE OF SOUND RECOVERY
TO STEADY PROSPERITY●

WITH UNITY, CONFIDENCE AND ENTHUSIASM, WE CAN'T
HELP BUT WIN IN NOVEMBER●

AND WHAT'S MORE, WE'RE GOING TO WIN ALL THE WAY FROM THE
COURTHOUSE TO THE STATE HOUSE TO THE CONGRESS TO THE
WHITE HOUSE.

WITH ALL OF YOU SHOWING THE WAY, I AM CONFIDENT
THAT OUR STORY WILL BE TOLD -- AND TOLD EFFECTIVELY
ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

THE WARMTH, THE CHEERFULNESS, AND THE SPIRIT

I SEE THIS AFTERNOON TELLS ME THAT OUR CAUSE IS ALIVE

AND WELL AND FLOURISHING THROUGHOUT AMERICA. NOW LET'S

CARRY THAT MESSAGE TO 215 MILLION OTHER AMERICANS IN THE

CRITICAL WEEKS AHEAD.

LET'S WIN AND WIN BIG IN NOVEMBER!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT

(Denison)

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

September 14, 1976
FOURTH DRAFT

AMERICAN BUSINESS VOLUNTEERS FORD FORD, SEPTEMBER 14, 1976

Let me welcome all of you to Washington and to the White House this afternoon. I am delighted to see so many good friends from across the country and have this opportunity to meet with you once again.

As I look around me, I can see that our party and our campaign, is in good hands.

You, the American Business Volunteers for Ford -- represent the vibrant, energetic leadership of your communities and of the business world. I am proud to have you in my corner as we head into the final weeks of this campaign.

This year we are looking to the business community to take a particularly active role in the campaign. As you are all aware, 1976 offers businessmen new opportunities for constructive political participation. Businessmen, giving of their own time and effort, can play a significant role in determining the direction our country will take in the next four years.

I am confident that all of you will do just that.

Your energy and initiative keeps our system of private enterprise humming. I appreciate your commitment to use that energy and initiative to see that thousands of fellow businessmen tell our story to the American people.

The story we have to tell is particularly pertinent to the business community. It is a record of performance -- not promises.

Two years ago, when my Administration began, inflation was 12 percent. Sales were off, plants were shut down, men were being laid off each week. Fear of the future was strangling our economy and threatening our economic system.

But, the record since August 1974 -- the record we all have to sell -- is a mighty impressive one. Inflation has been cut in-half. Payrolls are up. Production is up. Confidence is up.

Today, there are more Americans at work -- 88 million of them -- than ever before in our history.

I repeat today what I said in Kansas City:

America is in the full surge of sound recovery to steady prosperity.

With unity, confidence and enthusiasm, we can't help but win in November. And what's more, we're going to win all the way from the courthouse to the state house to the Congress to the White House.

With all of you showing the way, I am confident that our story will be told -- and told effectively across the country.

The warmth, the cheerfulness, and the spirit I see this afternoon tells me that our cause is alive and well and flourishing throughout America. Now let's carry that message to 215 million other Americans in the critical weeks ahead.

Let's win and win big in November!

Thank you very much.

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