- Thank you Bob
- Cong. Rousselot
- Cong. Morehead
- Ladies and Gentleman

Remarks at B-1 Bomber Visit

Thursday, October 7, 1976
First, let me congratulate you for winning the 'zero defects' award. I'm glad you're not working for the Carter campaign.

There are a lot of defects to choose from in that campaign, but one of the biggest is Mr. Carter's opposition to immediate development of the B-1 bomber.
LAST NIGHT I ENGAGED IN A VERY SERIOUS DISCUSSION
ABOUT THE NEED FOR MAINTAINING A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE.

MY OPPONENT AND I HAVE A FEW DIFFERENCES ON HOW TO
GO ABOUT THAT. ONE OF THOSE DIFFERENCES IS REPRESENTED BY
A MODEL WHICH IS STANDING RIGHT HERE BEHIND ME.

AS YOU AND I MEET THIS MORNING, THOUSANDS OF
AMERICAN SERVICEMEN AROUND THE GLOBE ARE STANDING WATCH.
SOME PATROLLING A BORDER, SAILING A SHIP OR MANNING AN
AIRCRAFT.
AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR EACH ONE OF THEM.

WE OWE THOSE YOUNG AMERICANS MORE THAN JUST OUR SUPPORT AND OUR PRAYERS. WE OWE THEM THE VERY BEST EQUIPMENT THAT MONEY CAN BUY.

OUR CURRENT MANNED BOMBER, THE B-52, IS ALREADY MORE THAN 20 YEARS OLD. BY THE TIME THE B-1 IS READY TO TAKE ITS PLACE, THE B-52 WILL BE INTO ITS FOURTH DECADE.
I DON'T BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT SHOULD ASK ANY
SERVICEMAN TO DEFEND HIS COUNTRY IN COMBAT AIRCRAFT THAT IS
OLDER THAN HE IS.

LAST NIGHT WE BOTH AGREED ON THE NEED FOR TOUGHNESS IN FACING THE SOVIETS. BUT TOUGHNESS REQUIRES MORE THAN TALK. IT ALSO REQUIRES HAVING THE RIGHT WEAPONS.
IF WE WANT PEACE IN THE WORLD, WE HAVE TO LET OUR ENEMIES KNOW WE ARE WILLING TO DEFEND THAT PEACE.

THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND ENGLISH, BUT THIS B-1 IS A MESSAGE THEY CAN UNDERSTAND.

THE B-1 BOMBER IS ONE OF THE CLEAREST EXAMPLES OF WHAT IS AT STAKE IN THIS CAMPAIGN. MY OPPONENT FAVORS DELAYING THE B-1. HIS RUNNING MATE VOTED AGAINST THE B-1 IN THE SENATE NO LESS THAN THREE TIMES.
THEY SAY THE B-1 IS UNNECESSARY. MAYBE AMERICA WILL NEVER HAVE TO SEND THIS PLANE INTO COMBAT. I CERTAINLY HOPE AND PRAY THAT WE NEVER DO. BUT WHAT IF THOSE CRITICS ARE WRONG? WHAT IF THE VERY FACT THAT WE DON'T HAVE THE B-1, INVITES A CHALLENGE FROM ABROAD?

IF WE ARE WRONG ABOUT BUYING THE B-1, THE COST WILL BE MEASURED IN DOLLARS AND CENTS. IF WE ARE WRONG ABOUT NOT BUYING THE B-1, THE COST WILL BE MEASURED IN LIVES AND BLOOD.
As President, I cannot take that chance. Our children and your children -- will live a future where Soviet technology poses an increasing threat to the security of the United States.

This B-1 bomber provides graphic proof to our friends to our enemies that 200 years have not diminished America's commitment to freedom. The B-1 bomber is not the only major difference in this campaign.
ANOTHER FUNDAMENTAL AND CRITICAL ISSUE IS THE PROPER SIZE OF AMERICA'S DEFENSE BUDGET.

THE ISSUE IS VERY SIMPLE. OUR OPPONENTS WANT TO CUT IT. WE WANT TO KEEP IT STRONG.

OUR OPPONENTS HAVE CITED VARIOUS FIGURES FOR HOW MUCH THEY WANT TO CUT DEFENSE SPENDING. LAST TIME I LOOKED, THEIR LATEST FIGURE WAS HOVERING SOMEWHERE BETWEEN A CUT OF FIVE BILLION DOLLARS AND A CUT OF SEVEN BILLION DOLLARS.
Typically, they are vague about where these cuts would be made. But the realities of manpower needs, pension requirements, and many other fixed defense costs ensure that cuts of that magnitude would have to come from weapons systems.

That would be a strategic tragedy for America. But it would also be an economic tragedy for California and other states which research, develop, and build these new weapons systems.
OUR OPPONENTS PLATFORM AMOUNTS TO AN OVERALL POLICY OF "FIRE 'EM AND HIRE 'EM." FIRST, THEIR FIVE TO SEVEN BILLION DOLLARS IN DEFENSE CUTS WOULD PUT YOU OUT OF WORK.

THEN THE HUMPHREY-HAWKINS BILL WOULD TRY TO PUT YOU BACK TO WORK IN DEAD-END PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS. THAT FORMULA WOULD BE A TRIPLE DISASTER. IT WOULD MEAN LESS DEFENSE. IT WOULD MEAN LESS REAL EMPLOYMENT. IT WOULD MEAN MORE TAXES AND MORE INFLATION.
OUR OPPONENTS HAVE MANAGED TO TURN THE WORDS OF President Teddy Roosevelt upsidedown. THEY WANT AMERICA TO SPEAK LOUDLY AND CARRY A FLYSWATTER. THAT’S A DANGER TO DIPLOMATIC STABILITY ABROAD AND TO ECONOMIC STABILITY AT HOME.

WORLD PEACE DEPENDS ON CONTINUED AMERICAN STRENGTH.

OVER THE YEARS, THE WORKERS OF CALIFORNIA HAVE PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN MAINTAINING THAT STRENGTH AND KEEPING THAT PEACE.
YOU'VE DONE A GREAT JOB IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

I'M GOING TO SEE THAT YOU KEEP RIGHT ON DOING IT.

END OF TEXT