

**The original documents are located in Box 39, “10/7/76 - Remarks at Employees of the B-1 Bomber Division, Rockwell International, Hawthorne, CA” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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- THANK YOU BOB

- CONG. ROUSSELOT

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

- CONG. MOOREHEAD

- LADIES AND GENTLEMAN  
REMARKS AT B-1 BOMBER VISIT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1976



ABOARD THE SPIRIT OF '76

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 <sup>defer</sup> ~~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~~

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WILL NEVER HAVE TO SEND THIS PLANE INTO COMBAT.

~~I CERTAINLY~~

*is true.*

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?

*could well*  
1

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 <sup>*will*</sup> ~~WILL~~ BE MEASURED IN LIVES AND

BLOOD.



*will not*

AS PRESIDENT, I ~~CANNOT~~ TAKE THAT CHANCE.

*Our children*

~~MY 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

7/5  
5/9  
5/5

THEY WANT TO CUT DEFENSE SPENDING. ~~LAST TIME I LOOKED,~~

*Their latest figure*

~~THEY WERE 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~~  
*do the research & development & build*  
AND OTHER STATES WHICH RESEARCH, DEVELOP AND BUILD THESE  
*these new weapons systems.*  
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 said speak softly & carry a big*

TEDDY ROOSEVELT UPSIDE DOWN.

THEY WANT AMERICA TO

SPEAK LOUDLY AND CARRY A FLYSWATTER.

THAT'S A DANGER

*our military +*  
TO DIPLOMATIC STABILITY ABROAD AND TO ECONOMIC STABILITY  
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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