The original documents are located in Box 39, "10/8/76 - Remarks at Lawton Municipal Airport, Lawton, OK" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THANK YOU SENATOR BARTLETT

SENATOR BELLMON THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

SENATOR LAXALT

CONGRESSMAN STEED

**CONGRESSMAN JARMON** 

MAYOR GILLEY

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

-1-

IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK IN OKLAHOMA.

SENATOR BELLMON TELLS ME YOU HAVE A PRETTY GOOD

in Optalione. My alone mater learned that last year.

FOOTBALL TEAM HERE. I TOLD HIM THAT MY ALMA MATER. THE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN IS DOING OKAY THIS YEAR. TOO.

Maybe 241 win buch my 2 busto.

TOMORROW, WE'RE GOING TO THE TEXAS-OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

GAME. ANYONE HERE KNOW WHO'S GOING TO WIN?

I JUST THOUGHT I'D ASK. WE'RE STOPPING AT THE TEXAS

STATE FAIR TOMORROW MORNING, AND I MAY GET A QUESTION

ABOUT IT.

-TD-

AS PRESIDENT I HAVE TO BE IMPARTIAL ABOUT THE GAME.

I EVEN HAVE TO CHANGE SIDES DURING THE HALF. OF COURSE,

IF MY OPPONENT WERE THERE, I'M SURE HE'D FIND SOME WAY TO

SIT ON BOTH SIDES AT ONCE.

TONIGHT LET ME GIVE YOU SOME STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT

TAXES. and national defense.

You love America as I do.

you want america strong + decent at how,

you want America strong and at place

with freedom.

Property Change

about take

I SAY STRAIGHT TALK, BECAUSE IF WE COULD PUT A TAX ON EMPTY

RHETORIC IN THIS POLITICAL YEAR -

WE'D HAVE THE NATIONAL

DEBT PAID OFF IN A WEEK.

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT TAXES, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MORE

THAN JUST MONEY.

EVERY TAX DOLLAR REPRESENTS YOUR TIME, YOUR ENERGY,

YOUR HARD WORK.

WILL BE JUST FINE.

THOSE TAX DOLLARS OUGHT TO WORK JUST AS HARD FOR
YOU AS YOU WORK FOR THEM.

-5-

MR. CARTER'S PLATFORM CALLS FOR NEW GOVERNMENT
PROGRAMS THAT WOULD COST BETWEEN 100 BILLION AND
200 BILLION DOLLARS Such year.

HE NEVER PUTS A PRICE TAG ON THOSE PROGRAMS. HE JUST
SAYS HE'LL SOAK THE RICH, CLOSE THE LOOPHOLES. AND EVERYTHING

OVER 50 THOUSAND DOLLARS IN AMERICA, IT WOULD PRODUCE
LESS THAN 9 BILLION DOLLARS IN REVENUES.

WHERE IS THE OTHER 191 BILLION DOLLARS COMING FROM?

TWO CHOICES: ONE -- MR. CARTER CAN HAVE A 191 BILLION

DOLLAR DEFICIT; TWO, HE CAN DO WHAT HE SAID HE WOULD DO

AND RAISE TAXES ON EVERY AMERICAN FAMILY ABOVE THE MEDIAN

INCOME OF 14,000 DOLLARS A YEAR.

-/-

I SAY THERE'S A BETTER WAY.

CUT SPENDING,

KEEP MORE OF YOUR OWN MONEY. TO ME, TAX REFORM MEANS

TAX REDUCTION.

FOR 10 YEARS NEW, FEDERAL SPENDING HAS GROWN AT AN 녹 THANKS TO AN OVERTAXING), ALARMING RATE OVERBEARING CONGRESS.

-9-

THE BUDGET I SUMITTED TO CONGRESS THIS YEAR CUT THAT

RATE OF GROWTH IN HALF.

I ASKED FOR A 28 BILLION DOLLAR TAX CUT. CONGRESS

GAVE YOU ONLY 10 BILLION.

I ASKED FOR AN INCREASE IN YOUR PERSONAL INCOME TAX

EXEMPTION FROM 750 DOLLARS TO 1,000 DOLLARS. CONGRESS

REFUSED.

I ASKED FOR TAX INCENTIVES TO INCREASE BUSINESS

INVESTMENT IN HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AREAS. CONGRESS REFUSED.

-11-

I SENT 56 BILLS BACK TO CONGRESS WITH A VETO STATE

ON THEM. I SAVED YOU MORE THAN 9 BILLION DOLLARS.

IF MR. CARTER'S FRIENDS IN CONGRESS HAD BEEN MORE INTERESTED

IN SAVING MONEY THAN SPENDING IT, WE COULD HAVE SAVED YOU

16 BILLION DOLLARS MORE.

MR. CARTER CALLS OUR TAX SYSTEM A DISGRACE TO THE HUMAN RACE. IF THAT IS TRUE, THEN IT'S A DISGRACE TO THE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITIES WHO HAVE CONTROLLED BOTH THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE, WRITTEN EVERY TAX LAW AND EVERY TAX LOOPHOLE FOR THE LAST 22 YEARS.

-13-

ONE DAY MR. CARTER PROPOSES DOING AWAY WITH TAX

DEDUCTIONS FOR HOME MORTGAGE INTEREST PAYMENTS OR TAXING

CHURCH PROPERTIES OTHER THAN CHURCH BUILDINGS. THE

NEXT DAY HE SAYS THAT WASN'T WHAT HE MEANT.

## ONE DAY MR. CARTER TALKS ABOUT BALANCING THE BUDGET

AND FIGHTING INFLATION. THE NEXT DAY HE TURNS AROUND AND

TALKS ABOUT NEW PROGRAMS THAT WOULD COST AT LEAST A

HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS MORE EACH YEAR.

-15-

WE HAVE SEEN MR. CARTER GO TO LABOR HALLS AND BLAST

AWAY AT BUSINESSMEN FOR PAYING LESS THAN THEIR SHARE

OF TAXES -- AND SAY THEIR BURDEN SHOULD BE INCREASED.

THEN HE GOES TO WALL STREET IN NEW YORK CITY AND TELLS

BUSINESSMEN NOT TO WORRY.

DOLLARS IN THE DEFENSE BUDGET - NOT ONCE BUT TWICE - IN

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, ON MARCH 15, 1975, AND IN BEVERLY HILLS,

CALIFORNIA, FIVE DAYS LATER.

-17-

THEN WE SAW HIM DENY IT ALL IN SAN FRANCISCO EARLIER

THIS WEEK.

MR. CARTER CAN CHANGE HIS MIND, AS HE OFTEN SEEMS TO DO,

BUT HE CAN'T CHANGE THE FACTS.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ASK MR. CARTER: 'WHAT ARE WE

SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE?"

MR. CARTER REPLIES: "DON'T WORRY.

I'LL TELL YOU

WHAT I REALLY PLAN TO DO, AFTER I'M ELECTED."

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President Tiddy Proserett Speak roftly

-19-

LET ME GIVE YOU A LITTLE ADVICE: IF I WERE CONCERNED

ABOUT KEEPING AMERICA STRONG, AND JIMMY CARTER WERE

PRESIDENT, I'D BE WORRIED.

IF I WERE CONCERNED ABOUT INFLATION AND HIGH TAXES, AND

JIMMY CARTER WERE PRESIDENT, I'D BE WORRIED.

## IF I WERE CONCERNED ABOUT BRINGING UNEMPLOYMENT

DOWN WITHOUT SPENDING BILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON DEAD-END

HUMPHREY-HAWKINS JOBS, AND JIMMY CARTER WERE PRESIDENT,

I'D BE WORRIED.

-21-

MY FRIENDS, THAT IS REALLY WHAT THIS CAMPAIGN IS

ALL ABOUT. MR. CARTER AND HIS PARTY PLATFORM OFFER

MORE PROMISES, MORE PROGRAMS, MORE SPENDING, MORE

TAXES MORE INFLATION.

JERRY FORD SAYS THAT GOVERNMENT IS ALREADY TOO LARGE,

TOO POWERFUL, TOO COSTLY, TOO REMOTE, AND TOO DEEPLY

INVOLVED IN YOUR DAILY LIVES. I WANT TO MAKE GOVERNMENT

YOUR CAPABLE SERVANT - BUT NOT YOUR MASTER. THAT IS WHY

I AM A CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT IN 1976.

-23-

I ASK FOR YOUR HELP, YOUR SUPPORT, YOUR VOTE ON

NOVEMBER SECOND.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

**END OF TEXT** 

I SEE GOVERNMENT GROWING TOO LARGE, TOO POWERFUL,

TOO COSTLY, TOO REMOTE, AND YET TOO DEEPLY INVOLVED IN OUR

DAILY LIVES.

THE MOUNTING TROUBLES IN GREAT BRITAIN, OUR OLD AND HONORED ALLY, OFFER COMPELLING EVIDENCE THAT WE CANNOT KEEP RELYING ON GOVERNMENT ALONE TO SOLVE ALL OUR PROBLEMS.

-31-

FACED WITH THE GRAVEST FINANCIAL CRISIS IN THE

ILLUSTRIOUS HISTORY OF BRITISH DEMOCRACY, PRIME MINISTER

JAMES CALLAGHAN HAD THE COURAGE TO SAY, AND I QUOTE HIM,

THAT "BRITAIN FOR TOO LONG HAS LIVED ON BORROWED TIME,

BORROWED MONEY AND BORROWED IDEAS.

WE WILL FAIL IF WE THINK WE CAN BUY OUR WAY OUT OF OUR
PRESENT DIFFICULTIES BY PRINTING CONFETTI MONEY AND PAYING
OURSELVES MORE THAN WE EARN•"

I DON'T WANT TO BE PRESIDENT WHEN SOMEONE HAS TO STAND

UP AND SAY ABOUT THIS COUNTRY WHAT JAMES CALLAGHAN HAS SAID

ABOUT GREAT BRITAIN'S PRESENT PLIGHT.

-33-

WE MUST NOT LET THAT HAPPEN TO THE UNITED STATES

OF AMERICA.

WE CAN AVOID IT -- AND AS

LONG AS I AM PRESIDENT WE WILL AVOID IT.