The original documents are located in Box 39, “10/9/76 - Remarks at Opening Ceremonies of Texas State Fair, Dallas, Texas” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice
The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.
REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT AT THE STATE FAIR

DALLAS, TEXAS - OCTOBER 9, 1976

THANK YOU, GOV. BRISCOE / MRS. BRISCOE
GOV. CONNALLY / MRS. CONNALLY
MAYOR FOLSOM
MR. GALLAGHER
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

IT'S ALWAYS GREAT TO BE BACK IN TEXAS AND IN DALLAS. I thank Gov. Briscoe for his friendship & warm welcome. I'm deeply honored to have the privilege of opening your World-Famous State Fair. John Connally has just given me a preview of the livestock barns. He's an expert on cattle, swine & sheep, just as he is on national security & government from Austin to Washington, D.C.
THERE'S A LOT MORE LEFT TO SEE, BUT I'VE LEARNED ONE

THING: WHEN TEXANS TALK ABOUT THE FINE THINGS YOU

PRODUCE IN TEXAS — WHETHER IT'S CATTLE OR COTTON,

SPACESHIPS OR SHEEP, PECANS OR PETROLEUM — YOU'RE REALLY

NOT BRAGGING; YOU'RE REALLY BEING MODEST.

EVEN YOUR PEANUTS TASTE BETTER TO ME.

AND WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT YOUR PRETTY GIRLS — WELL,

I JUST HAVE TO SAY "WORDS FAIL ME."

I'M TOLD YOU PRODUCE SOME PRETTY FAIR FOOTBALL TEAMS,

GOOD LUCK THIS AFTERNOON.

TOO. WE'LL CHECK THAT OUT LATER.
NOBODY WANTS TO STAND IN THE SUN ON A BEAUTIFUL FOOTBALL SATURDAY IN OCTOBER AND LISTEN TO A LONG PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS. I'LL TELL YOU WHAT WHEN WE HAVE THE FORD-DOLE INAUGURAL DOWN IN WASHINGTON NEXT JANUARY YOU ALL COME.

I DO WANT TO TAKE A MINUTE OR TWO TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR TEXAS HOSPITALITY AND HEARTWARMING WELCOME. I WASN'T SURPRISED I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE. BUT IT'S WONDERFUL TO BE AMONG AMERICANS WHO ARE JUST BORN FRIENDLY AND POLITE.
TEXANS MUST BE BORN PATRIOTIC, TOO. I FIRST GOT TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT TEXAS WHEN I WAS, OF ALL PLACES, OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PACIFIC. IN THAT WAR AMERICA'S SURVIVAL AND THE FATE OF FREEDOM IN THE WORLD WERE IN THE STEADY HANDS OF TEXANS LIKE CHESTER W. NIMITZ AND DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER.

THE TEXANS I KNEW PERSONALLY WERE OF SOMEWHAT LOWER RANK. ON OUR CARRIER WE NOT ONLY HAD PLENTY OF NATIVE TEXANS, BUT A LOT OF MEN WHO HAD TRAINED HERE AND ARE PROBABLY TEXANS NOW. WE DID EVERYTHING BUT FLY A LONE STAR BATTLE FLAG.
WHEN I FIRST WENT TO CONGRESS I LEARNED THE ROPES FROM LEGISLATIVE GIANTS LIKE MR. SAM RAYBURN AND LYNDON JOHNSON. I MADE GOOD FRIENDS LIKE GEORGE MAHON AND GEORGE BUSH AND JOHN TOWER AND TIGER TEAGUE AND....

WHAT ALWAYS IMPRESSED ME WAS THE WAY TEXANS PUT THEIR COUNTRY ABOVE THEIR POLITICAL PARTY WHEN AMERICA'S FUNDAMENTAL INTERESTS WERE AT STAKE. I SAW THEM TIME AND AGAIN RALLY AROUND THE PRESIDENT, WHOEVER HE MIGHT BE, WHEN HE WAS DEALING IN THE HIGH STAKES OF PEACE AND WAR.
THE COOPERATION AND SUPPORT SPEAKER RAYBURN AND SENATOR JOHNSON GAVE TO PRESIDENT EISENHOWER WHEN HE WAS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF BECAME MY EXAMPLE WHEN PRESIDENT JOHNSON FACED THOSE SAME TOUGH CALLS IN FOREIGN POLICY AND DEFENSE.

After we had our differences, and he never distorted the truth when discussing the tough issues affecting American security.

IN THE COMING WEEKS AND IN FUTURE YEARS, I REALLY HOPE THIS BIPARTISAN TRADITION OF RESPONSIBILITY AND UNITY BEYOND THE WATERS EDGE CAN SURVIVE IN AMERICAN POLITICS.

IT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR NATIONAL STRENGTH, AS TEXANS TAUGHT ME.
YOU NEVER HEARD A TEXAN TELL THE WORLD OUR COUNTRY IS NOT STRONG ANY MORE.

YOU NEVER HEARD A TEXAN PROCLAIM THAT AMERICA IS NOT RESPECTED ANY MORE.

YOU NEVER HEARD A TEXAN ALLEGED THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE LOST THEIR PRIDE IN AMERICA'S STRENGTH AND MORAL INTEGRITY.

IT ISN'T ONLY THE EYES OF TEXANS THAT ARE UPON US.
THE EYES OF THE WHOLE WORLD ARE ON THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THIS YEAR, NOT JUST FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY, BUT ALSO ON NOVEMBER 2. WE ARE ON DISPLAY AS MUCH AS ALL THE ENTRIES IN THIS GREAT FAIR.

WE HAVE BEEN THE WORLD CHAMPIONS OF LIBERTY AND SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR THE LAST 200 YEARS.

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR TROPHIES, PROUD OF OUR MATERIAL STRENGTH AND EVEN MORE OF OUR MORAL STRENGTH.
WE ARE RESPECTED FOR BOTH... LET'S GET OUR THIRD CENTURY OFF TO A GOOD START, SCRAPING OVER THE LITTLE THINGS BUT STANDING TOGETHER, TALL AND STRONG, ON THE BIG THINGS. BIG THINGS LIKE PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH, PEACE WITH FREEDOM.

THAT'S THE SPIRIT THAT MADE TEXAS GREAT AND THAT MADE AMERICA GREAT, THAT'S THE SPIRIT WE CAN SHOW THE WORLD IN 1976. THANK YOU.

END OF TEXT