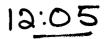
The original documents are located in Box 39, "10/13/76 - Remarks at the Rockland County Courthouse, New City, NY" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

REMARKS AT ROCKLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1976

- THANK YOU, DICK (ROSENBRUM)
- · SENATOR BUCKLEY
- · Cong. Gilman

5

- · DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

-1-

LET ME THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARM WELCOME,

AND FOR COMING OUT HERE THIS AFTERNOON I COULDN'T THINK

OF A BETTER WAY TO SPEND A BRISK FALL AFTERNOON THEN BEING HERE

IN BEAUTIFUL ROCKLAND COUNTY.

I ONLY WISH I COULD TALK WITH EVERY ONE OF YOU INDIVIDUALLY. SINCE I CAN'T, LET ME TELL YOU WHAT I WOULD SAY TO EACH ONE OF YOU IF I COULD SIT DOWN WITH YOU OVER A CUP OF COFFEE AND A SANDWICH. LET ME GIVE YOU SOME STRAIGHT TALK.

-3-

MR. SMITH -- I WOULD SAY TO YOU --

OR MRS. JONES -- YOU'VE BEEN HEARING AN AWFUL LOT OF WORDS AND NUMBERS IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS. YOU'VE HEARD STATISTICS AND PERCENTAGES AND CONFLICTING CLAIMS. I DON'T BELIEVE THOSE ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN THIS CAMPAIGN. LET ME TELL WHAT I BELIEVE IS MOST IMPORTANT -- YOU ARE. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE WHAT MATTERS IN THIS CAMPAIGN.

-5-

YOU HAVE SOME CLEAR CHOICES TO MAKE IN THE NEXT

THREE WEEKS. LET'S LOOK AT SOME OF THE ALTERNATIVES --

MY OPPONENT LEAVES A LOT OF ISSUES UP IN THE AIR --

BUT HE IS CLEARLY IN FAVOR OF MORE GOVERNMENT SPENDING. OVER HE ENDORSES 100 BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF NEW PROGRAMS --

AND THAT AIN'T PEANUTS.

-7-

I BELIEVE IN CUTTING THE GROWTH IN GOVERNMENT

SPENDING -- TO DAMPEN THE THREAT OF INFLATION --

TO LET YOU KEEP MORE OF YOUR OWN MONEY.

SO YOUR CHOICE IS CLEAR AND SIMPLE -- DO YOU WANT YOUR TAXES RAISED TO PAY FOR THAT 100 TO 200 BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF NEW PROGRAMS MY OPPONENT ENDORSES?

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU DO.

-9-

YOU HAVE WORKED HARD FOR YOUR MONEY -- YOU SHOULD HAVE MORE FREEDOM TO SPEND IT THE WAY YOU WANT. UNLIKE MY OPPONENT, I BELIEVE YOU HAVE BETTER USES FOR THAT MONEY THAN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOES IN WASHINGTON. THAT IS WHY I ASKED THE CONGRESS TO GIVE YOU A MAJOR PERMANENT TAX CUT -- BIGGER THAN THE ONE THEY DECIDED TO GIVE YOU. THAT IS WHY I PROPOSED INCREASING YOUR PERSONAL EXEMPTION BY ONE THIRD -- FROM 750 DOLLARS TO I,000 DOLLARS.

-11-

WHAT HAS MR. CARTER PROPOSED? HE HAS PROPOSED DOING AWAY WITH TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR YOUR HOME MORTGAGE INTEREST PAYMENTS -- HE HAS PROPOSED TAXING CHURCH PROPERTIES OTHER THAN CHURCH BUILDINGS. I DON'T LIKE THOSE PROPOSALS

AND I BET YOU DON'T EITHER.

LET'S TAKE ANOTHER CLEAR-CUT CHOICE. EVEN WHILE HE WOULD ADD BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF NEW PROGRAMS, MY OPPONENT HAS SAID THAT HE FAVORS CUTTING 15 BILLION DOLLARS FROM OUR DEFENSE BUDGET.

-13-

THEN HE SAID HE FAVORS CUTTING SEVEN OR EIGHT BILLION DOLLARS.

THEN HE SAID HE FAVORS CUTTING FIVE TO SEVEN BILLION DOLLARS.

RIGHT NOW I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE THINKS -- BUT I'LL TELL YOU

THIS -- HE'S WILLING TO TAKE A CHANCE WITH AMERICA'S

SECURITY -- AND I'M NOT.

I DON'T THINK YOU ARE EITHER. WE HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE FOR A STRONG DEFENSE -- BECAUSE THAT IS THE PRICE OF PEACE. I WANT TO PAY IT IN DOLLARS NOW -- SO THAT WE WON'T HAVE TO PAY IT WITH AMERICAN LIVES LATER ON. IT TAKES MORE THAN A SMILE TO PROTECT OUR FREEDOM.

-15-ON THE ISSUE OF DEFENSE -- AS ON ALL THE OTHER ISSUES --YOU KNOW WHERE I STAND. MY RECORD OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS IS CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL. YOU KNOW WHERE I STAND IN MY COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL AND WHAT I'VE DONE ABOUT IT. YOU KNOW WHERE I STAND IN SEEKING TO PREVENT BLOOD SHED IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND WHAT I'VE DONE ABOUT IT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO GUESS WHAT POSITION I'LL TAKE IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID THAT I'LL PROMISE ONE THING IN THE CAMPAIGN -- AND DO ANOTHER THING IN OFFICE.

-17-

THAT BRINGS US TO ANOTHER CHOICE -- DO YOU

GIVE SOMEONE YOUR TRUST JUST BECAUSE THEY ASK YOU FOR

IT -- OR BECAUSE THEY HAVE EARNED IT?

I HAVE BEEN YOUR PRESIDENT FOR TWO YEARS.

LET'S LOOK AT THE RECORD OF THOSE TWO YEARS.

INFLATION NOW IS HALF OF WHAT IT WAS WHEN I

TOOK OFFICE.

MORE AMERICANS HAVE BEEN WORKING THIS YEAR THAN

EVER BEFORE IN OUR HISTORY.

-19-

TODAY AMERICA IS AT PEACE NOT A SINGLE

YOUNG AMERICAN IS FIGHTING AND DYING ON ANY FOREIGN

BATTLEFIELD TODAY -- AND I INTEND TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

AMERICANS THEN WERE SHOCKED AND SADDENED

BY ABUSES OF POWER AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

TODAY AMERICA'S FAITH IN THE WHITE HOUSE HAS BEEN

RESTORED•

-2I-THIS NATION IS A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN NOW THAN IT WAS TWO YEARS AGO. WITH FIRM, STEADY DETERMINATION AND LEADERSHIP, WE CAN MAKE AMERICA AN EVEN BETTER PLACE FOUR YEARS FROM NOW THAN IT IS TODAY. OLD FORMULA OPERATES. YOU KNOW THAT OLD FORMULA --TAX AND TAX, SPEND AND SPEND, SPIN THE RED TAPE OUT FOR MILES AND COVER IT WITH WORDS AND SMILES.

-23-

THAT OLD FORMULA EQUALS ONE THING -- MORE POWER IN WASHINGTON, LESS FREEDOM FOR YOU IN YOUR OWN HOMES AND NEIGHBORHOODS. THAT'S THE WRONG FORMULA FOR AMERICA AS WE ENTER OUR THIRD CENTURY.

AMERICA WON'T BE A BETTER PLACE IF THE TIRED

WE CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT -- WE WILL DO BETTER THAN THAT, WITH YOUR HELP ON NOVEMBER 2nd. YOU CAN CHOOSE A GOVERNMENT THAT OFFERS SECURITY, STABILITY AND STRENGTH.

-25-

YOU CAN CHOOSE A GOVERNMENT THAT OFFERS MORE FREEDOM --

NOT MORE INTERFERENCE. YOU CAN HELP MAKE AMERICA PROUDER

AND STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE. I ASK FOR YOUR HELP --

I ASK FOR YOUR VOTE -- I WON'T LET YOU DOWN.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT