The original documents are located in Box 39, “10/13/76 - Remarks at White Plains City Hall, White Plains, NY” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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REMARKS AT WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1976

- Thank you, Dick (Rosenbaum)
- Sen. Javits
- Sen. Buckley
- Distinguished Members of Congress
- Mayor Deluca
- Distinguished Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO THIS MONTH YOUNG AMERICANS FOUGHT THE BRITISH RED COATS IN THE BATTLE OF WHITE PLAINS.

IN 1976, A DIFFERENT SORT OF BATTLE IS RAGING.

IN THIS BATTLE, THE CITIZENS OF WHITE PLAINS -- AND ALL AMERICANS -- ARE NOT FIGHTING RED COATS, BUT RED TAPE AND RED INK.
THAT'S THE BASIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PLAINS, GEORGIA, AND WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK. MY OPPONENT FROM PLAINS, GEORGIA, MAKES THE PROMISES -- YOU HERE IN WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK, WOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR THEM.

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES IN THIS CAMPAIGN IS TAXES. YOU HAVE HEARD ALL FOUR SIDES OF THAT QUESTION -- THREE OF THEM FROM MR. CARTER.

SO FAR THE LIVELIEST DEBATE OF THIS CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN THE DEBATE BETWEEN JIMMY CARTER AND JIMMY CARTER.
He says he is for a balanced budget ... but he refuses to support my vetoes.

He says America is weak militarily ... but he wants to cut the defense budget.

He says he's against inflation ... but he supports the Democratic platform with its 100 to 200 billion dollars in new federal spending.

He says he's for tax reform ... but he reneges on his promise to provide specifics before the election.
HE SAYS HE'S FOR HIGHER TAXES FOR PEOPLE EARNING OVER 14 THOUSAND DOLLARS A YEAR. BUT I SAY THE MIDDLE INCOME TAXPAYER IS ALREADY OVERTAXED, OVERBURDENED AND UNDER-REPRESENTED.

FEW THINGS UPSET NEW YORKERS AS MUCH AS YOUR SKYROCKETING TAXES. THE WAY TO REVERSE THAT TREND IS NOT TO EXPAND GOVERNMENT SPENDING, BUT TO CUT IT BACK. THANKS TO MY 60 VETOES YOU KNOW WHICH CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT STANDS FOR CUTTING BACK.
PROPERTY TAXES IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY ARE CLIMBING, TOO.

WITHOUT THE REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM WHICH I SIGNED INTO LAW IN YONKERS THIS MORNING, THEY WOULD CLIMB EVEN FASTER.

REVENUE SHARING IS THE KIND OF SPECIFIC FEDERAL HELP THAT ENCOURAGES LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO LOCAL PROBLEMS.

LAST FEBRUARY, MR. CARTER CAME OUT IN FAVOR OF ELIMINATING THE DEDUCTION FOR MORTGAGE INTEREST ON YOUR FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURN. TODAY HE HAS RETREATED BACK INTO HIS CATALOGUE OF GENERALITIES.
WELL, THERE IS NO SUCH CONFUSION ABOUT MY VIEWS ON
THE DEDUCTION OF MORTGAGE INTEREST.

-- I HAVE SUPPORTED IT FOR 25 YEARS IN THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES AND TWO YEARS AS PRESIDENT.

-- I AM SUPPORTING IT TODAY IN THIS CAMPAIGN.

-- I WILL SUPPORT IT THROUGHOUT THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

I'M NOT GOING TO LET HOME OWNERS BECOME THE NEWEST
ENDANGERED SPECIES.
TO ME, TAX REFORM MEANS TAX REDUCTION. NINE DAYS AGO, I SIGNED A LAW WHICH EXTENDED THE TAX CUTS I INITIATED LAST YEAR, BUT THE TAX REFORM ACT OF 1976 FAILS TO INCLUDE MY PROPOSALS FOR PERMANENT DEEPER CUTS.

THIS YEAR I URGED THE CONGRESS TO INCREASE THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX EXEMPTION FROM 750 DOLLARS TO ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS. CONGRESS REFUSED.
NEXT YEAR, I WILL AGAIN SUBMIT LEGISLATION TO INCREASE THE PERSONAL EXEMPTION FROM 750 DOLLARS TO ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS. IF THE CONGRESS WILL CUT SPENDING ON ITSELF ON THE BUREAUCRACY ON WASTEFUL PROGRAMS THEN WE CAN HAVE THIS VITALLY NEEDED TAX REFORM.

WE'VE HEARD A LOT OF TALK IN THIS CAMPAIGN ABOUT THE SUBJECT OF COMPASSION.
OUR GOVERNMENT MUST ALWAYS SHOW COMPASSION TOWARDS THE TRULY NEEDY. BUT THINK THE TIME HAS COME TO SHOW JUST AS MUCH COMPASSION TOWARD THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE GENEROSITY OF GOVERNMENT POSSIBLE IN THE FIRST PLACE. HOW ABOUT A LITTLE COMPASSION FOR THE TAXPAYERS OF AMERICA?

THE PEOPLE OF WHITE PLAINS WORK HARD FOR EVERY DOLLAR THEY MAKE. YOU ARE THE PEOPLE WHO GET UP EARLY EVERY DAY AND GO TO BED TIRED EVERY NIGHT, QUIETLY BUILDING A BETTER LIFE FOR YOUR FAMILIES AND FELLOW CITIZENS. YOU PAY THE TAXES AND OBEY THE LAWS. YOU ARE THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE POSSIBLE EVERY GOOD THING THAT GOVERNMENT DOES.
SO WHEN A FEDERAL SPENDING BILL REACHES MY DESK,
I KEEP YOU IN MIND. IT MAY BE CONGRESSIONAL COMPASSION.

BUT IT IS YOUR MONEY.

THAT'S WHY I VETOED EXCESSIVE CONGRESSIONAL SPENDING
SCHEMES AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN.

MY VETOES SAVED YOU 9.4 BILLION DOLLARS.

IF CONGRESS HAD BEEN AS INTERESTED IN SAVING YOUR MONEY AS I AM,
MY VETOES WOULD HAVE SAVED YOU 16 BILLION DOLLARS MORE.
AMERICA CANNOT AFFORD TO HAVE LEADERS WHO TRY TO BE
ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE. THE PRESIDENT MUST BE THE SAME
THING TO ALL PEOPLE.

WHEN VOTERS LOOK AT THE RECORD OF THE LAST TWO YEARS,
THEY WILL SEE THAT AMERICA HAS MADE AN INCREDIBLE COMEBACK.
WE ARE TODAY ON THE STEADY ROAD TO PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
TRUST.
BUT ON NOVEMBER 2nd WE WILL REACH A FORK IN THAT ROAD. WE CAN CONTINUE THE POLICIES AND THE LEADERSHIP THAT HAVE BROUGHT US BACK FROM A NATIONAL NIGHTMARE -- BACK FROM RECESSION -- BACK FROM INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT.

OR WE CAN TAKE INSTEAD THE OLD PATH THAT LEADS TO BIGGER GOVERNMENT, HIGHER TAXES, MORE INFLATION AND MORE UNEMPLOYMENT.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS.
THROUGH TWO DIFFICULT YEARS I HAVE STOOD FOR THE LITTLE TAXPAYER AND AGAINST THE BIG TAX SPENDER. IT IS FROM YOUR RANKS THAT I COME AND ON YOUR SIDE THAT I STAND.

ON NOVEMBER 2nd, I ASK EACH OF YOU TO STAND WITH ME.

END OF TEXT