The original documents are located in Box 40, “10/15/76 - Remarks outside Fisher Theatre, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1976

- Thank You, Gou Ray
- Dr. Parks
- Mrs. Peterson
- Jill Wagner
- Chuck Grassley

-Mayor Fellinger
-Ken Fulk
-Students, Faculty and Guests
IT'S GREAT TO BE AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY, AND IN THE HEART OF AMERICA'S FARM BELT.

THIS FINE UNIVERSITY HAS A LONG TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH.

And, a pretty good football team this year. You had a great day against the Air Force. Congratulations.
IF THE STATE OF IOWA WERE AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY, IT WOULD RANK SECOND ONLY TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE PRODUCTION OF CORN.

I COULDN'T HAVE PICKED A BETTER WEEK OR DAY TO COME TO IOWA.
JUST THREE DAYS AGO, ON TUESDAY, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RELEASED ITS OCTOBER FORECAST PREDICTING THE SECOND LARGEST
WHEAT CROP AND THE LARGEST CORN CROP -- 5.9 BILLION
BUCKETS -- IN AMERICAN HISTORY.
What's more, this new record will be achieved in spite of serious drought conditions in many areas. I'm delighted to be in the heart of America today to see some of that bumper crop being harvested.
THIS RECORD CORN CROP IS A GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION OF AN
OVERRIDING, NON-POLITICAL FACT THAT TRANSCENDS ALL OF THE
NOISE -- AND THE RHETORIC -- OF THIS ELECTION YEAR:

AMERICA IS BLESSED WITH FARM LANDS AND FARM KNOW-HOW
UNEQUALED ANY PLACE ON EARTH.
THE CORN BELT AND THE OTHER GREAT GROWING AREAS OF OUR BOUNTIFUL COUNTRY ARE RENEWABLE, NON-DEPLETING ASSETS WORTH FAR MORE THAN ALL THE DIAMONDS IN AFRICA, ALL THE OIL OF THE MIDDLE EAST, AND ALL THE GOLD IN FORT KNOX.
TODAY A SINGLE AMERICAN FARMER CAN FEED 56 PEOPLE.

NO OTHER NATION ON EARTH EVEN COMES CLOSE TO THAT RECORD.

THE SOVIET UNION HAS ONE-THIRD OF ITS PEOPLE ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE, AND THEY FREQUENTLY FALL SHORT OF THEIR NEEDS.
AMERICAN AGRICULTURE HAS MAINTAINED AN AVERAGE
SIX PERCENT INCREASE IN PRODUCTIVITY YEAR AFTER YEAR.

[THAT IS SOMETHING] NO OTHER SEGMENT OF AMERICAN SOCIETY, 

that we'll

OR ANY OTHER SOCIETY, HAS BEEN ABLE TO DO, AND I CONGRATULATE

YOU, FOR IT.
Why have you been so successful? The answer is simple. Because you have been permitted to use your own ingenuity, your own inventiveness, your own initiative, your own freedom to produce the finest and most abundant food and fiber in the world.
IF YOU ARE TO CONTINUE MEETING THE NEEDS OF THIS COUNTRY AND OUR TRADING PARTNERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD,
YOU MUST CONTINUE TO HAVE THIS KIND OF FREEDOM — FREEDOM FROM THE MEDDLING HAND AND THE LONG ARM OF GOVERNMENT.
WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF THIS POLICY SO FAR?

FARM INCOME OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS HAS BEEN HIGHER THAN EVER BEFORE IN HISTORY.

FOR THE FARMER IN IOWA, TOTAL NET INCOME ON THE AVERAGE HAS RISEN FROM ABOUT 6,957 DOLLARS IN 1965 TO 14,733 DOLLARS IN 1975.
YOU NO LONGER HAVE HEAVY GOVERNMENT HELD FARM SURPLUSES HANGING OVER THE MARKET, DEPRESSING YOUR PRICES, COSTING THE TAXPAYERS ONE BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR OR THREE MILLION DOLLARS A DAY IN STORAGE AND HANDLING FEES.
INSTEAD OF STORING GRAIN IN GOVERNMENT BINS, WE ARE SELLING IT IN A FREE MARKET IN RECORD VOLUME. FARM EXPORTS HIT A RECORD HIGH OF OVER 22 BILLION DOLLARS IN THE LAST FISCAL YEAR - OUR SIXTH STRAIGHT YEAR OF RECORD FARM EXPORTS.

EXPORTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ABOUT 22 BILLION DOLLARS AGAIN THIS FISCAL YEAR.
WE WILL EXPORT NEARLY THREE BILLION BUSHELS OF WHEAT AND FEED GRAINS IN THIS MARKETING YEAR, AN ALL-TIME RECORD.

AND WE DID IT WITHOUT ANY GOVERNMENT BOARD SELLING YOUR EXPORTS. WE DID IT WITHOUT ANY INTERNATIONAL RESERVE WHERE THIS COUNTRY COULD BE OUTVOTED BY A HUNDRED TO ONE.
We have worked out a long-term agreement with the Soviet Union which commits them to buy at least six million metric tons of grain every year for the next five years. In dollars and cents, that is at least a billion dollars worth of grain sales every year.
THIS AGREEMENT GIVES US A STABLE, LONG-TERM FOREIGN MARKET. IT ASSURES A MORE CONSISTENT FLOW OF PAYMENTS FROM ABROAD.
IT ASSURES THE AMERICAN FARMER THAT THE SOVIET UNION WILL BE A STEADY CUSTOMER WHETHER THEY HAVE GOOD CROPS OR BAD. IN THE PAST, SOVIET GRAIN PURCHASES HAVE BEEN ERRATIC, SECRETIVE AND UNPREDICTABLE, CAUSING PRICES TO FLUCTUATE WILDLY AND LEAVING THE AMERICAN FARMER ON THE SHORT END.
The Soviets have already bought over six and a half million metric tons of wheat and corn for the first year of the agreement. To date, we have sold the Soviet Union more than eight million metric tons of grain and soybeans from this year's crop.
BY THIS ARRANGEMENT, THE PRIVATE MARKETING SYSTEM HAS NOT ONLY BEEN PRESERVED, BUT STRENGTHENED. WE ARE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, TOWARD GREATER PROSPERITY FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER AND WE'LL KEEP MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.
THESE GOOD SALES AND GLOWING PROSPECTS ARE THE FRUITS OF FREE TRADE. THEY ARE ALSO THE BENEFITS OF PEACE, AND OF AGGRESSIVE, SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS. THEY ARE THE JUST REWARD OF THE IOWA FARMER'S HARD WORK.
IN KANSAS CITY, LAST AUGUST, I SAID THAT WE WOULD

NEVER USE THE BOUNTY OF AMERICA'S FARMERS AS A PAWN

IN INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY.
TODAY, I REPEAT THAT STATEMENT.

I ALSO SAID IN KANSAS CITY, THERE WILL BE NO EMBARGOES. I REPEAT THAT STATEMENT TODAY.
THERE IS A FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MR. CARTER AND ME ON THAT QUESTION. IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED JUST TWO MONTHS AGO, ON AUGUST 8, 1976, MR. CARTER WAS ASKED: "WOULD YOU FAVOR USING OUR ECONOMIC LEVERAGE TO ... GET THE RUSSIANS TO CEASE AND DESIST" FROM AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS?
MR. CARTER REPLIED, "YES, I WOULD."

IN OUR SECOND DEBATE, HE TOLD 90 MILLION AMERICANS THAT A NEW ARAB OIL EMBARGO WOULD AMOUNT TO "AN ECONOMIC DECLARATION OF WAR," AND THAT HE WOULD INSTANTLY RESPOND WITH A TOTAL EMBARGO AGAINST THE OFFENDING COUNTRY, SHIPPING THEM NOTHING, INCLUDING FOOD.
THOSE ARE THINGS HE SAID ABOUT HIS PLANS FOR YOUR PRODUCTS IN THE FUTURE. BUT JUST AS IMPORTANT IS WHAT MR. CARTER DIDN'T SAY.
WHEN HE MADE HIS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH AT THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION IN NEW YORK CITY, THERE WAS NO MENTION OF FARM POLICY. NOT ONCE IN FORTY MINUTES.
AT THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION [IN KANSAS CITY],

HERE'S WHAT I SAID: "WE WILL CARRY OUT A FARM POLICY

THAT ASSURES A FAIR MARKET PRICE FOR THE FARMER,

ENCOURAGES FULL PRODUCTION, LEADS TO RECORD EXPORTS,

AND EASES THE HUNGER WITHIN THE HUMAN FAMILY."
THAT IS A PLEDGE I WAS PROUD TO MAKE IN MY ACCEPTANCE SPEECH, A PLEDGE I WILL PROUDLY CARRY OUT FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

[I KNOW THAT] DESPITE THE GOOD OVERALL RECORD I MENTIONED EARLIER, SOME FARMERS ARE HAVING A HARD TIME OF IT RIGHT NOW.
CATTLE PRICES ARE WAY TOO LOW. WHEAT PRICES ARE TOO LOW. THE WEATHER HAS NOT BEEN A VERY GOOD FRIEND TO A LOT OF FARMERS IN IOWA, NEBRASKA, SOUTH DAKOTA, MINNESOTA AND OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTRY.
I have already done something about the cattle situation. As you may recall, I tried earlier this year to halt the importation of foreign beef through a free-trade zone in Puerto Rico. Diplomatic and administrative initiatives could not bring this about.
I then went to the Congress which failed to act on my request to curb these imports. Therefore, last week in Dallas, I signed a presidential proclamation to limit beef imports, and thereby help the American beef industry.
I have repeatedly said that I would not permit the United States to become a dumping ground for foreign beef. I have already done something about government loan rates for grains.
ON WEDNESDAY I ORDERED AN INCREASE IN THE GOVERNMENT LOAN RATES FOR WHEAT FROM $1.50 TO $2.25 A BUSHEL, AND FOR CORN FROM $1.25 TO $1.50 A BUSHEL. THESE ADJUSTMENTS WILL PERMIT A MORE ORDERLY MARKETING OF THIS YEAR'S BUMPER CROPS AND HELP FARMERS TO PROPERLY FINANCE NEXT YEAR'S PLANTING.
I have already done something about the family farm. Early this year I called upon the Congress to increase the federal estate tax exemption. I fought hard for it -- and was proud to sign it into law just last week.
This increases the estate tax exemption from 60 thousand dollars to the equivalent of 175 thousand dollars. The new law also permits estate tax payments on family farms to be stretched out over an extended period. These tax reforms will go a long way to help save the family farm from the tax collector.
CONGRESS FAILED TO GO ALONG WITH MY PROPOSAL TO PERMIT
TAX EXEMPT TRANSFERS FROM SPOUSE TO SPOUSE.But next
YEAR I'M GOING RIGHT BACK AT THEM AGAIN.
I'm also trying to do something about the drought.

I have just signed legislation authorizing the establishment for the first time in American history of a national policy to develop new methods of combating the crippling drought conditions that have cut farm production.
UNDER THIS NEW PROGRAM THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT WILL CONDUCT RESEARCH AND DEVELOP MEANS OF MODIFYING THE EFFECTS OF SEVERE WEATHER CHANGES TO PROTECT THE FARMER.
THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE INCREASES I APPROVED FOR OTHER

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET

AT A TIME WHEN WE HAD TO KEEP THE LID ON OR CUT BACK ON MOST

OTHER PROGRAMS.
THOSE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT OUR GOVERNMENT CAN

AND SHOULD DO TO HELP YOU.

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NEVER TRY TO DICTATE TO

FARMERS HOW TO FARM.
I have faith in the ability of America's farmers to make their own decisions -- to determine what and how much they will plant. As your President, as long as I remain in the Nation's highest office, agriculture will have an understanding friend at the White House.
OF COURSE, MR. CARTER SAYS HE'S THE FARMER'S FRIEND TOO. WHAT KIND OF A FRIEND IS HE?

MR. CARTER WANTS TO GO BACK TO THE OLD DISCREDITED SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT MEDDLING IN THE FARMER'S AFFAIRS.
HE WANTS TO BUILD UP A STOCKPILE OF FARM SURPLUSES ONCE

AGAIN. HE HAS PROPOSED A STOCKPILE OF 25 MILLION METRIC

TONS OF GRAIN, WITH HALF OF IT TO BE HELD IN GOVERNMENT BINS.
He may, and odds are he will, back away from this proposal. His underlying philosophy -- of government interference won't change. His philosophy is best exemplified by the Humphrey-Hawkins bill embraced by Mr. Carter which envisions export controls and licensing unprecedented in a peacetime economy.
MR. CARTER DOES HAVE A STRANGE WAY OF CHANGING HIS ACCENT AS HE MOVES ABOUT THE COUNTRY.

IN CALIFORNIA, HE TRIES TO SOUND LIKE CAESAR CHAVEZ.

IN CHICAGO, HE SOUNDS LIKE MAYOR DALEY.

IN NEW YORK, HE SOUNDS LIKE RALPH NADER.
IN WASHINGTON, HE SOUNDS LIKE GEORGE MEANY.

THEN, MR. CARTER COMES TO THE FARM BELT AND TRIES TO TALK LIKE A LITTLE OLE PEANUT FARMER.

I SAY A PRESIDENT HAS TO TAKE THE SAME POSITION WHEREVER HE GOES. THAT'S THE KIND OF PRESIDENT I HAVE BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.
WHEN THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT WAS CREATED BY

ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN 1862, ITS MOTTO WAS: "AGRICULTURE IS

THE FOUNDATION OF MANUFACTURING AND COMMERCE." IT WAS TRUE THEN. IT'S JUST AS TRUE TODAY.
THE FARMER IS THE MAINSPRING OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMY.

U.S. FARM EXPORTS HAVE PROVIDED THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR ECONOMIC RECOVERY NOW UNDERWAY.
IT HAS TAKEN MANKIND COUNTLESS CENTURIES TO REACH

A WORLDWIDE POPULATION OF FOUR BILLION. BUT JUST 35 YEARS

FROM NOW, THERE WILL PROBABLY BE FOUR BILLION MORE PEOPLE

LIVING ON THIS EARTH.
We initiated a World Food Conference in Rome in 1974 and one of our delegates was Senator Bob Dole, our next Vice President.
AT THAT CONFERENCE EXPERTS CONCLUDED THAT THE UNITED STATES, CANADA AND AUSTRALIA COMBINED THE THREE BIGGEST FOOD EXPORTING COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD COULD NOT HOPE TO MEET THE FOOD DEMANDS OF THE WORLD IF THE POPULATION DOUBLED IN THAT SHORT A TIME.
AND YET WE MUST.

I BELIEVE THE AMERICAN FARMER CAN DO ANYTHING HE SETS OUT TO DO IF THE GOVERNMENT WILL LET HIM.
THE FORD ADMINISTRATION AND THE AMERICAN FARMER SHARE

THE SAME IDEALS, THE SAME CONFIDENT APPROACH TO THE FUTURE,

THE SAME BELIEF IN OUR LAND AND THE SAME CONCERN FOR THE

UNDERNOURISHED AND STARVING MILLIONS OF OUR WORLD.
YOU AND I TOGETHER STAND FOR HARD, PRODUCTIVE WORK.

YOU AND I TOGETHER STAND FOR HONESTY, STRAIGHT TALK AND FOR BASIC MORALITY.

YOU AND I TOGETHER STAND FOR LEAN, RESPONSIVE, FISCALLY-SOUND GOVERNMENT.
WE BELIEVE IN A MINIMUM OF BUREAUCRATIC CONTROL OVER FARMING. WE BELIEVE IN AGRICULTURAL POLICIES GEARED TO THE FREE MARKET PHILOSOPHY. WE BELIEVE THAT THE FARMER HIMSELF SHOULD DECIDE HOW TO USE HIS LAND, CAPITAL AND LABOR TO MAKE A PROFIT. WE DON'T BELIEVE THAT PROFIT SHOULD BE CAPRICIOUSLY BE TAXED AWAY FROM HIM OR HIS FAMILY.
THE CHOICE IS CLEAR. GOVERNMENT IS ALREADY TOO LARGE, TOO POWERFUL, TOO COSTLY AND TOO DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE LIVES OF EVERY AMERICAN. MR. CARTER CANNOT CARRY OUT HIS PROMISES WITHOUT BIGGER BUREAUCRACIES AND HIGHER TAXES.
I want a new generation of freedom in America --

Freedom for all of us to do what we want to do and what we ought to do.
The kind of America you want and I want is an abundant America - one of record farm income, record crops, record exports and record acreage back in production - and freedom for the farmer to make his own decisions and to reap the rewards of his labors.
I HAVE COME HERE [TODAY] TO ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT --

AND FOR YOUR VOTE ON NOVEMBER 2nd.

YOU KNOW WHERE I STAND. I WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT