

**The original documents are located in Box 41, “10/28/76 - Remarks at Ethnic Fundraising Reception for Senator Robert Taft, Jr., Cleveland, OH” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT NATIONALITIES FOR FORD-TAFT

RECEPTION, CLEVELAND, OHIO -- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1976

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - KARLIN HALL

- THANK YOU, SENATOR TAFT ; MY GOOD FRIENDS:
- GOV. RHODES
- MAYOR PERK
- DISTINGUISHED LEADERS AND GUESTS
- INTRODUCE MIKE FORD - MENTION SCHOOL

-1-

THANK YOU FOR WELCOMING ME TO YOUR HOME. I AM  
PROUD TO HAVE SHARED YOUR BREAD AND SALT -- I AM PROUD TO BE  
YOUR PRESIDENT AND YOUR FRIEND.

-2-

IT'S ALSO GREAT TO BE ON THE SAME PLATFORM WITH YOUR  
DISTINGUISHED SENATOR FROM OHIO, ROBERT TAFT, JR. HE HAS  
MY SUPPORT AND HE DESERVES YOUR SUPPORT TOO.

IT'S JUST GREAT TO BE HERE TODAY. YOU HAVE SO MANY  
WONDERFUL TRADITIONS -- SUCH DISTINCTIVE AND DELICIOUS  
FOOD -- A UNIQUELY SPIRITED WAY OF LIFE -- A VERY SPECIAL  
PLACE IN THIS GREAT BIG AMERICAN FAMILY.

THROUGH YOUR SUPPORT FOR SENATOR TAFT AND MYSELF, YOU  
CAN HELP ENSURE THAT THAT SPECIAL PLACE WILL BE PRESERVED --  
THAT YOUR MANY DIFFERENT HERITAGES WILL BE KEPT ALIVE.

MY ADMINISTRATION HAS DONE ITS PART BY LISTENING AND RESPONDING  
TO YOUR CONCERNS -- AND WITH YOUR HELP, WE WILL KEEP  
LISTENING AND RESPONDING FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

EACH OF YOUR GROUPS IS UNIQUE -- YET YOU SHARE CERTAIN  
VALUES AS WELL. YOU SHARE A DEEP DEVOTION TO YOUR FAMILY  
LIFE, TO YOUR CHURCHES, TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOODS.

THOSE ARE THE BEST AMERICAN VALUES -- THEY ARE THE VALUES  
THAT KEEP OUR NATION UNITED.

YOUR VALUES ARE MY VALUES -- YOUR CONCERNS ARE MY  
CONCERNS.

MY ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN WORKING TO ENSURE THAT WHAT YOU  
HAVE EARNED -- WHAT YOU HAVE BUILT FOR YOURSELVES IN THIS  
COUNTRY -- YOUR HOMES AND CHURCHES AND LOCAL GROUPS -- WILL  
BE HERE FOR YOUR CHILDREN TO ENJOY.

WE MUST ENSURE THAT YOUR FAMILIES WILL HAVE HEALTHY  
NEIGHBORHOODS LIKE THIS ONE -- THE NEIGHBORHOODS THEY NEED  
TO BUILD A DECENT LIFE OF THEIR OWN.

A FAMILY NEEDS A NEIGHBORHOOD THAT IS SAFE. A FAMILY  
NEEDS A NEIGHBORHOOD THAT IS STABLE. A FAMILY NEEDS  
A NEIGHBORHOOD WITH LOCAL CHURCHES -- LOCAL SHOPS -- AND  
LOCAL SCHOOLS.



ON THE FIRST DAY OF THIS YEAR I SIGNED INTO LAW THE MORTGAGE DISCLOSURE ACT TO PREVENT REDLINING AND NEIGHBORHOOD DECLINE. TWO MONTHS AGO I MET WITH ETHNIC LEADERS TO SEE WHAT MORE WE COULD DO.

AS A RESULT OF THAT MEETING, I CREATED A SPECIAL PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION. I CHARGED THAT COMMITTEE WITH DEVELOPING A SOUND FEDERAL POLICY TO HELP PRESERVE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS.

THAT POLICY WILL BE BASED ON LOCAL INITIATIVE AND LOCAL CONTROL -- AND I WILL SEE THAT POLICY CARRIED OUT OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

I AM KEENLY AWARE OF ANOTHER ISSUE THAT TROUBLES MANY OF YOU -- ESPECIALLY THOSE OF YOU FROM EASTERN EUROPE. IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR, AS YOU CELEBRATE AMERICAN LIBERTY, YOU ARE CONCERNED TO SEE FRIENDS AND RELATIVES ABROAD WHO DO NOT SHARE ALL YOUR FREEDOMS.

YOUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES ARE NOT FORGOTTEN. AMERICA  
CARES TODAY, AS IT HAS ALWAYS CARED. WE STAND FOR FREEDOM  
AND INDEPENDENCE IN 1976 AS WE STOOD FOR FREEDOM AND  
INDEPENDENCE IN 1776.

MY POSITION HAS BEEN CLEAR FOR 27 YEARS -- AS A  
CONGRESSMAN, AS VICE PRESIDENT, AND AS PRESIDENT.  
LET ME SAY IT ONCE AGAIN:

THE SPIRIT OF THE PEOPLES OF EASTERN EUROPE HAS NEVER  
BEEN BROKEN AND IT NEVER WILL BE.

THE UNITED STATES AS A MATTER OF FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE  
SUPPORTS THE ASPIRATIONS FOR FREEDOM AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE  
OF THE PEOPLES OF EASTERN EUROPE -- AND AS LONG AS I AM  
PRESIDENT, THE UNITED STATES WILL NEVER RECOGNIZE OR ACQUIESCE  
IN THE SOVIET DOMINATION OF EASTERN EUROPE.

AS WE CELEBRATE OUR BICENTENNIAL, WE MUST MAKE CERTAIN  
THAT ALL THE WORLD KNOWS THE TORCH OF FREEDOM IN THE STATUE  
OF LIBERTY STILL BURNS BRIGHTLY.

WHAT A GREAT DAY THIS HAS BEEN -- BUT LET'S MAKE  
NOVEMBER 2ND AN EVEN GREATER DAY WITH A VICTORY FOR ALL  
215 MILLION AMERICANS.

I ASK FOR YOUR HELP -- I ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT --  
I ASK FOR YOUR VOTE -- SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO KEEP AMERICA  
STRONG AND PROUD AND FREE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT