

The original documents are located in Box 41, “10/29/76 - Remarks at William P. Hobby Airport, Houston, TX (Includes pages from a Syracuse, NY speech)” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Congress of the United States

Office of the Minority Leader

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Herald R. Ford
M.C.

[Text of Remarks on 10-29-76
in Houston]

AS I HAVE TRAVELLED ACROSS AMERICA, I HAVE FOUND THAT THIS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN NOW BOILS DOWN TO THREE CENTRAL ISSUES.

FIRST, PEOPLE WANT FULL PROSPERITY WITH STABLE PRICES AND GREATER RELIEF FROM THE BURDENS OF TAXATION.

SECOND, THEY WANT PEACE -- AND TO KNOW THAT WE ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO KEEP THE PEACE.

FINALLY, THEY WANT LEADERSHIP THAT IS TRUSTWORTHY, HONEST AND RELIABLE.

WE CAN HAVE ALL OF THESE THINGS. NOT LONG AGO,
THE NATION WAS IN THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR, BUT TODAY WE'RE
ON THE MARCH AGAIN. PEOPLE ARE FEELING GOOD ABOUT
AMERICA.

I WANT A CHANCE TO CONTINUE THIS PROGRESS; TO FINISH
THE JOB THAT I SET OUT TO DO. AS I ^{ARRIVE IN TEXAS} ~~LEAVE TEXAS~~, I ASK
THE GREAT LONE STAR STATE
THE PEOPLE OF ~~THE GREAT LONE STAR STATE~~ AND OUT ACROSS THIS GREAT
COUNTRY TO JOIN ME THIS TUESDAY IN A NEW PARTNERSHIP --
A PARTNERSHIP OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

I PROMISE THAT I WON'T LET YOU DOWN.

THANK YOU.

END OF TEXT

AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF RUNAWAY GROWTH IN THE FEDERAL BUDGET, I SUBMITTED A BUDGET FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR WHICH CUT THAT RATE OF GROWTH IN HALF.

I HAVE HELD THE LINE ON GOVERNMENT SPENDING WITH
66 VETOES AND SAVED YOU, THE HARD PRESSED TAXPAYERS,
MORE THAN NINE BILLION DOLLARS. THOSE VETOES SAVED EACH
AMERICAN FAMILY ABOUT 200 DOLLARS IN FEDERAL SPENDING.

BECAUSE I HAVE NOT BEEN AFRAID TO SAY "NO"
TO EXCESSIVE SPENDING, WE WILL SUBMIT A BALANCED FEDERAL
BUDGET BY 1978. AND WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER TAX DEDUCTION
FOR THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER IN THE MEANTIME.

MY IDEA OF TAX REFORM IS TAX REDUCTION.

I PROPOSED RAISING YOUR INCOME TAX EXEMPTION FROM
750 DOLLARS TO 1,000 DOLLARS. CONGRESS DIDN'T ACT
THIS YEAR, BUT I'LL KEEP THE PRESSURE ON. THE MIDDLE
INCOME TAXPAYER HAS BEEN SHORT CHANGED LONG ENOUGH.

AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF UNCONTROLLED INFLATION,
WE HAVE CUT INFLATION IN HALF IN THE PAST TWO YEARS,
AND WE WILL DO EVEN BETTER IN THE FUTURE.

AFTER THE WORST ECONOMIC RECESSION IN FORTY YEARS,
WE HAVE ADDED FOUR MILLION JOBS TO THE AMERICAN ECONOMY IN
THE PAST TWO YEARS -- NOT BY CREATING DEAD-END JOBS AT THE
TAXPAYER'S EXPENSE BUT BY STIMULATING JOBS WITH A FUTURE
IN THE PRIVATE ECONOMY, WHERE FIVE OUT OF SIX JOBS ARE FOUND.

TOO MANY PEOPLE ARE STILL OUT OF WORK. WE ARE NOT
SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRESS WE'VE MADE. BUT MORE AMERICANS
WERE ON THE JOB IN 1976 THAN EVER BEFORE IN THE HISTORY OF THIS
COUNTRY -- NEARLY 88 MILLION -- AND THAT'S A TREMENDOUS
COMEBACK FROM WHERE WE WERE JUST A YEAR AND A HALF AGO.

AFTER SUFFERING A TRAGIC BETRAYAL OF PUBLIC TRUST
TWO YEARS AGO, AMERICA HAS HAD ITS FAITH RESTORED IN
THE WHITE HOUSE. MY ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN OPEN,
CANDID, FORTHRIGHT. AND WE'LL KEEP IT THAT WAY.

IN EVERY FIELD, AMERICA IS ON THE MOVE, ON THE MARCH.
THIS NATION IS SOUND. THIS NATION IS SECURE. THIS
NATION IS ON THE WAY TO A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL
AMERICANS. AND THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS EARNED THE TRUST
OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

MY RECORD IS ONE OF PROGRESS, NOT PLATITUDES;
PERFORMANCE, NOT PROMISES.

WE HAVE OUR PROBLEMS, BUT IN THE PAST TWO YEARS WE
HAVE COME A LONG, LONG WAY.

AT HOME AND ABROAD, WE ARE PUTTING OUR OLD DIFFERENCES
ASIDE. WE ARE PUTTING OLD PROBLEMS BEHIND US, AND HEALING
OUR WOUNDS.

I AM PROUD TO BE A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA -- AND I THINK YOU ARE TOO.

WE HAVE A RECORD I AM PROUD TO RUN ON, A RECORD
THAT DEMOCRATS, INDEPENDENTS AND REPUBLICANS WILL SUPPORT
ON NOVEMBER SECOND.

GIVE ME YOUR MANDATE, AND WE WILL REDUCE THE GROWTH
OF GOVERNMENT STILL MORE.

GIVE ME YOUR MANDATE, AND WE WILL ENSURE THE INTEGRITY
OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM. WE WILL IMPROVE MEDICARE
SO THAT OUR OLDER CITIZENS CAN ENJOY THE HEALTH AND HAPPINESS
THAT THEY HAVE EARNED. THERE IS NO REASON THEY SHOULD
HAVE TO GO BROKE JUST TO GET WELL.

GIVE ME YOUR MANDATE, AND WE WILL CREATE A TAX
STRUCTURE THAT IS FAIR TO ALL, THAT WILL PRESERVE THE FAMILY
HOME, THE FAMILY BUSINESS, THE FAMILY FARM, THAT WILL GIVE
BUSINESS THE TAX INCENTIVES TO BUILD NEW PLANTS, MODERNIZE
OLD ONES AND CREATE MORE JOBS.

GIVE ME YOUR MANDATE, AND I WILL LEAD THIS NATION
ON THE PATH OF PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH, AND WE WILL LIVE
IN PEACE AND IN FREEDOM IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

I HAVE NO FEAR FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY.
FOR AMERICA, THE FUTURE IS A FRIEND.

AS WE GO FORWARD TOGETHER, I PROMISE YOU ONCE MORE
WHAT I PROMISED BEFORE: TO UPHOLD THE CONSTITUTION, TO DO
WHAT IS RIGHT AS GOD GIVES ME TO SEE THE RIGHT, AND TO DO THE
VERY BEST THAT I CAN FOR AMERICA.
GOD HELPING ME, I WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN.

END OF TEXT

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[Remarks intended for Syracuse, N.Y.
misplaced with remarks for Houston]

- THANK YOU, CONG BILL WALSH

- ITS WONDERFUL TO BE IN SYRACUSE
~~██████████~~ AND ~~██~~ SEE SOME
OLD FRIENDS:

- SENATOR JAYITS

- CONG. BOB McEWAN

- DICK ROSENBAUM

- EVERYTHING'S GOING OUR WAY!

-1-

GREAT

IT'S GREAT TO BE IN SYRACUSE AND THE EMPIRE STATE OF
^

NEW YORK.

I SAID IN KANSAS CITY I WON'T CONCEDE A SINGLE STATE

OR A SINGLE VOTE.

SURPRISE A FEW PEOPLE IN

I SAY TONIGHT WE WILL ~~ANNOUNCE~~ NEW YORK

ON NOVEMBER SECOND.

WHILE I'M HERE, LET ME EXTEND A SPECIAL INVITATION
TO COME TO WASHINGTON, D.C. NEXT JANUARY FOR THE
INAUGURATION OF JERRY FORD AND BOB DOLE.

AS WE COME TO THE FINAL COUNT-DOWN, YOU KNOW WHERE
I STAND. I STAND ON YOUR SIDE: FOR LIMITED GOVERNMENT,
FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY, FOR RISING PROSPERITY, FOR LOWER
TAXES, FOR MILITARY STRENGTH, FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD.

NOT A SINGLE YOUNG AMERICAN IS FIGHTING AND DYING TODAY
ON ANY FOREIGN BATTLEFIELD -- AND I INTEND TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

AFTER SO MANY YEARS IN WHICH AMERICA'S DEFENSIVE
NEEDS WERE SHORTCHANGED, I PROPOSED THE TWO LARGEST
DEFENSE OUTLAYS IN AMERICA'S HISTORY -- AND CONVINCED
THE CONGRESS TO STOP SLASHING AWAY AT MILITARY SPENDING.



Where were we 26 months
ago / look where we are today.

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[Not known if these remarks
were actually made on 10-29-76
in Houston]

THE PEOPLE OF THE LONE STAR STATE KNOW MY PERSONAL
COMMITMENT TO KEEPING AMERICA STRONG. YOU KNOW THAT I HAVE
WORKED FOR TWO YEARS AS YOUR PRESIDENT AND FOR OVER TWENTY
YEARS IN THE CONGRESS TO INSURE THAT OUR MILITARY FORCES
REMAIN STRONG, READY, AND ABLE TO MEET ANY CHALLENGE.

AS PRESIDENT, I HAVE TAKEN THAT COMMITMENT TO THE CONGRESS
IN TWO DEFENSE BUDGETS, AND HAVE TURNED AROUND A TREND OF
DECLINING EMPHASIS ON OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW MUCH THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO A STRONG AMERICA, AND I AM GRATEFUL TO ALL OF YOU. TEXAS MEN AND WOMEN HAVE SERVED WITH HONOR THROUGHOUT OUR NATION'S HISTORY.

TEXAS INDUSTRY TODAY PROVIDE THE AIRCRAFT, MISSILES, ELECTRONICS, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS WHICH MAKE OUR ARMED FORCES THE FINEST IN THE WORLD.

AND TEXAS COMMUNITIES SUPPORT A VITAL SYSTEM OF MILITARY BASES
FROM HOUSTON TO EL PASO WHERE OUR SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AIRMEN
AND MARINES TRAIN AND PREPARE.

IF ANY POTENTIAL ENEMY WONDERS HOW COMMITTED WE ARE
IN AMERICA TO THE FUTURE OF OUR FREEDOM AND SECURITY, HE
ONLY NEEDS TO LOOK ACROSS THE LONE STAR STATE. I THANK
YOU FOR THAT COMMITMENT -- AMERICA IS PROUD OF IT.

END OF TEXT