The original documents are located in Box 41, “10/29/76 - Statement by the President on Older Americans in St. Louis, Missouri (Includes notes)” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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[No indication whether this was actually the speech given]
STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT CONCERNING

OLDER AMERICANS

WE ALL OWE A DEBT TO OUR OLDER CITIZENS. THEY ARE THE ONES WHO BUILT OUR ECONOMY, DEFENDED OUR FREEDOM AND ESTABLISHED THE MORAL FOUNDATION ON WHICH OUR COUNTRY RESTS.

WE MUST NOT LET THEM DOWN.
ONE OF THE MAJOR CONCERNS OF MY ADMINISTRATION DURING THE NEXT FOUR YEARS WILL BE TO HELP PROVIDE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH OLDER AMERICANS CAN CONTINUE TO LIVE SECURE AND FULFILLING LIVES.

TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL, WE MUST MOVE FORWARD ON SIX DIFFERENT FRONTS:

FIRST, WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT OLDER AMERICANS CAN LOOK FORWARD TO FUTURES THAT ARE ECONOMICALLY SECURE.
I WILL WORK WITH THE NEXT CONGRESS TO ENACT A 
CATASTROPHIC INSURANCE PLAN FOR OLDER AMERICANS, SO THAT 
NEVER AGAIN WILL THE SAVINGS OF A LIFETIME BE WIPED OUT 
THROUGH A SINGLE ILLNESS.

UNDER THIS PLAN, MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL COSTS WILL NEVER RISE 
ABOVE 750 DOLLARS IN A SINGLE YEAR.

TWO, I WILL CALL ON THE NEXT CONGRESS TO ASSURE THE 
INTEGRITY OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM.
BECAUSE OF THE RISE IN THE COST OF LIVING, THE SOCIAL
SECURITY FUND IS NOW PAYING OUT MORE THAN IT TAKES IN.
IT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SECURITY OF RETIRED CITIZENS, BOTH NOW
AND IN THE FUTURE, THAT WE RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE FUND SO
THAT IT WILL MEET PROJECTED COSTS.

THREE, I WILL CONTINUE TO CHECK THE RISE IN FEDERAL
SPENDING, IN ORDER TO KEEP THE INFLATION RATE GOING DOWN.
INFLATION HITS HARDEST AT OUR OLDER CITIZENS. I AM
DETERMINED TO PROTECT THE BUYING POWER OF SAVINGS AND PENSION
BENEFITS EARNED BY A LIFETIME OF HONEST LABOR.
FOUR, I WILL CALL ON THE NEXT CONGRESS TO ENACT MY ANTI-CRIME PACKAGE, WHICH WILL HELP PROTECT THE SECURITY OF OUR STREETS AND HOMES.

FIVE, I WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK THE KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND WISDOM OF REPRESENTATIVE OLDER AMERICANS BY INCLUDING THEM ON ADVISORY COUNCILS RELATED TO FEDERAL CONSUMER PROTECTION PROGRAMS.
SIX, I WILL LAUNCH A PROGRAM FOR NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION, TO PROTECT AND RESTORE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS IN WHICH MANY OF OUR OLDER CITIZENS LIVE.

OF COURSE, IN A LARGER SENSE, THE ENTIRE FORD PROGRAM IS A PROGRAM FOR OLDER AMERICANS -- BECAUSE ITS PURPOSE IS TO BUILD A PEACEFUL, PROSPEROUS, SECURE AMERICA -- AN OBJECTIVE OLDER AMERICANS SHARE WITH ALL OF OUR CITIZENS.

END OF TEXT
I have been proud to serve as your President. I love this country. It would be the highest honor of my life for you and your fellow Americans to say to me on November 2, "Jerry Ford, you've done a good job. Keep right on doing it."
STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ON ARRIVAL AT

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - OCTOBER 29, 1976
ONE OF THE MAJOR CONCERNS OF MY ADMINISTRATION DURING THE NEXT FOUR YEARS WILL BE TO HELP PROVIDE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH OLDER AMERICANS CAN CONTINUE TO LIVE SECURE AND FULFILLING LIVES.

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WE ALL OWE A DEBT TO OUR OLDER CITIZENS. THEY ARE THE ONES WHO BUILT OUR ECONOMY, AND ESTABLISHED THE MORAL BASES ON WHICH OUR COUNTRY HAS GROWN. WE MUST NOT LET THEM DOWN.
FIRST OF ALL, WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT THEY CAN LOOK
FORWARD TO FUTURES THAT ARE ECONOMICALLY SECURE. BUT EVEN
MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT, WE MUST SEE TO IT THAT WE CONTINUE
TO HAVE A SOCIETY AND A COUNTRY OF WHICH OUR OLDER CITIZENS
CAN BE PROUD. THAT, ABOVE ALL, IS THE REWARD THAT THEY ASK

I AM PROPOSING A SPECIFIC PROGRAM TO HELP PROVIDE THE
FOUNDATION ON WHICH OLDER AMERICANS CAN CONTINUE TO BUILD
CONSTRUCTIVE LIVES.
FIRST, I WILL WORK WITH THE NEXT CONGRESS TO ENACT A CATASTROPHIC INSURANCE PLAN FOR OLDER AMERICANS, SO THAT NEVER AGAIN WILL THE SAVINGS OF A LIFETIME BE WIPED OUT THROUGH A SINGLE ILLNESS.

UNDER THIS PLAN, MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL COSTS WILL NEVER RISE ABOVE 750 DOLLARS IN A SINGLE YEAR.

SECOND, I WILL CALL ON THE NEXT CONGRESS TO ASSURE THE INTEGRITY OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM.
SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS ARE RIGHTS THAT HAVE BEEN EARNED BY RETIRED WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS LEGALLY AND MORALLY BOUND TO MAKE SURE THAT THE FUND IS SECURE.

BUT BECAUSE OF THE RISE IN THE COST OF LIVING, THE SOCIAL SECURITY FUND IS NOW PAYING OUT MORE THAN IT TAKES IN. IT IS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL TO THE SECURITY OF RETIRED CITIZENS, BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE, THAT WE RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE FUND TO THE POINT AT WHICH IT WILL MEET PROJECTED COSTS.
THIRD, I WILL CONTINUE TO CHECK THE RISE IN FEDERAL SPENDING, IN ORDER TO KEEP THE INFLATION RATE GOING DOWN.

INFLATION HITS HARDEST AT OUR OLDER CITIZENS, MANY OF WHOM ARE LIVING ON RETIREMENT INCOMES.

IF WE DEVALUE THEIR DOLLARS, WE ARE ROBBING THEM OF SAVINGS AND PENSION BENEFITS THAT THEY BUILT UP THROUGH YEARS OF LABOR.

FOURTH, I WILL CALL ON THE NEXT CONGRESS TO ENACT MY ANTI-CRIME PACKAGE, WHICH WILL HELP PROTECT THE SECURITY OF OUR STREETS AND HOMES.
LEGISLATION THAT I HAVE PLACED BEFORE CONGRESS WILL PROVIDE TOUGHER SENTENCING PROCEDURES FOR DRUG-PUSHERS, HIJACKERS, KIDNAPPERS, AND LAWBREAKERS WHO USE DANGEROUS WEAPONS IN THE COMMISSION OF THEIR CRIMES.

FIFTH, I WILL CONTINUE TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVE OLDER AMERICANS ON ADVISORY COUNCILS RELATED TO FEDERAL CONSUMER PROTECTION PROGRAMS.
SIXTH, I WILL LAUNCH A PROGRAM FOR NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION, TO DIRECT FEDERAL URBAN PROGRAMS TO PROTECT AND RESTORE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS IN WHICH MANY OF OUR OLDER CITIZENS LIVE.

OF COURSE, IN A LARGER SENSE, THE ENTIRE FORD PROGRAM IS A PROGRAM FOR OLDER AMERICANS -- BECAUSE ITS PURPOSE IS TO BUILD A PEACEFUL, PROSPEROUS, SECURE AMERICA -- THE OBJECTIVE WHICH OLDER AMERICANS SHARE WITH ALL OTHER CITIZENS.
- Thanks Jack - we need Jack Eagleton in Washington to help straighten out the Senate - make sure he gets there. Missouri
- We do want to be back in & tours and
- So many old friends - Gene McNary
  Jr. Gov. Phelps / Gene McNary Peter
  Weaver and Al Hunt
- We have some fine Congressional Candidates
  Bob Snyder / Jack Baddarocco and Joe Frazier
  -- Elect them - we need them

Our man L does poorly
Among Democrats his
New Personality image
More than 1/5 of L's
own party members and
1/2 GOPs say they
dislike L's personality

- Reagan - Press Conf.
Comment

Field Poll---
CalenStaff -- 45% -
Dickerson - Ch 1
by word of 8% Av. Time /CBS poll
E Star