

The original documents are located in Box 37, “8/19/76 - Speech Accepting the Republican Presidential Nomination (draft number 7 only, no reading copy) (2)” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THAT IS WHY, TONIGHT, I TURN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
AND ASK NOT ONLY FOR YOUR PRAYERS, BUT ALSO FOR YOUR STRENGTH
AND YOUR SUPPORT ... FOR YOUR VOICE AND FOR YOUR VOTE.

I COME BEFORE YOU WITH A TWO-YEAR RECORD OF PERFORMANCE,
WITHOUT YOUR MANDATE. I OFFER YOU A FOUR-YEAR PLEDGE
OF GREATER PERFORMANCE, WITH YOUR MANDATE.

AS GOVERNOR AL SMITH USED TO SAY -- "LET'S LOOK
AT THE RECORD."

TWO YEARS AGO, INFLATION WAS 12 PERCENT.

SALES FELL OFF, PLANTS SHUT DOWN, THOUSANDS WERE
BEING LAID OFF EVERY WEEK.

FEAR OF THE FUTURE WAS THROTTLING DOWN OUR ECONOMY
AND THREATENING MILLIONS OF FAMILIES.

LET'S LOOK AT THE RECORD SINCE AUGUST, 1974.

-- INFLATION HAS BEEN CUT IN HALF.

-- PAYROLLS ARE UP, PROFITS ARE UP, PRODUCTION IS UP,
PURCHASES ARE UP.

SINCE THE RECESSION WAS TURNED AROUND ALMOST FOUR
MILLION OF OUR FELLOW AMERICANS HAVE FOUND NEW JOBS
OR GOT THEIR OLD JOBS BACK.

-- THIS YEAR MORE MEN AND WOMEN HAVE JOBS
THAN EVER BEFORE IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES!
CONFIDENCE HAS RETURNED. WE ARE IN THE FULL SURGE
OF A SOUND RECOVERY TO STEADY PROSPERITY.

TWO YEARS AGO, AMERICA WAS MIRED IN WITHDRAWAL
FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA. A DECADE OF CONGRESSES HAD
SHORTCHANGED OUR GLOBAL DEFENSES AND THREATENED OUR
STRATEGIC POSTURE. ISRAEL AND THE ARAB NATIONS WERE
PREPARING FOR ANOTHER WAR.

THE WHOLE WORLD WONDERED WHERE AMERICA WAS GOING.
DID WE HAVE THE WILL, THE STAMINA, THE UNITY TO STAND UP
FOR FREEDOM?

LET'S LOOK AT THE RECORD SINCE AUGUST TWO YEARS AGO.

TODAY AMERICA IS AT PEACE AND SEEKS PEACE FOR ALL

NATIONS. NOT A SINGLE AMERICAN IS FIGHTING AND DYING

ANYWHERE ON THE FACE OF THIS EARTH TONIGHT.

OUR TIES WITH WESTERN EUROPE AND JAPAN, ECONOMIC

AS WELL AS MILITARY, WERE NEVER STRONGER.

OUR RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE, THE SOVIET UNION AND

MAINLAND CHINA ARE FIRM, VIGILANT AND FORWARD-LOOKING.

POLICIES I INITIATED OFFER SOUND PROGRESS FOR THE PEOPLES
OF THE PACIFIC, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA.

ISRAEL AND EGYPT, BOTH TRUSTING THE UNITED STATES, HAVE
TAKEN AN HISTORIC FIRST STEP THAT PROMISES AN EVENTUAL JUST
SETTLEMENT FOR THE WHOLE MIDDLE EAST.

THE WORLD NOW RESPECTS AMERICA'S POLICY OF PEACE
THROUGH STRENGTH. THE UNITED STATES IS AGAIN THE
CONFIDENT LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD.

NOBODY QUESTIONS OUR DEDICATION TO PEACE . . . BUT
NOBODY DOUBTS OUR WILLINGNESS TO USE OUR STRENGTH WHEN OUR
VITAL INTERESTS ARE AT STAKE.

I CALLED FOR AN UP-TO-DATE, POWERFUL ARMY, NAVY,
AIR FORCE AND MARINE CORPS THAT WILL KEEP AMERICA SECURE FOR
DECADES TO COME. A STRONG MILITARY POSTURE IS ALWAYS THE
BEST INSURANCE FOR PEACE.

BUT AMERICA'S STRENGTH HAS NEVER RESTED ON ARMS ALONE.

IT IS ROOTED IN MUTUAL COMMITMENT OF CITIZENS AND LEADERS TO

THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF ETHICS AND MORALITY.

TWO YEARS AGO PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE IN THEIR HIGHEST

OFFICIALS, TO WHOM THEY HAD OVERWHELMINGLY ENTRUSTED POWER,

HAD TWICE BEEN SHATTERED. LOSING FAITH IN THE WORD OF THEIR

ELECTED LEADERS, AMERICANS LOST SOME OF THEIR OWN FAITH IN

THEMSELVES.

-53 and 54-

AGAIN -- LET'S LOOK AT THE RECORD SINCE AUGUST, 1974.

FROM THE START, MY ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN OPEN,
CANDID, FORTHRIGHT.

-55 and 56-

WHILE MY ENTIRE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIFE WAS UNDER
SEARCHING EXAMINATION FOR THE VICE PRESIDENCY, I REAFFIRMED
MY LIFELONG CONVICTION THAT TRUTH IS THE GLUE THAT HOLDS
GOVERNMENT TOGETHER -- NOT ONLY GOVERNMENT, BUT
CIVILIZATION ITSELF.

I HAVE DEMANDED HONESTY, DECENCY AND PERSONAL INTEGRITY FROM EVERYBODY IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE HOUSE AND SENATE HAVE THE SAME DUTY. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL NOT ACCEPT A DOUBLE STANDARD IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

THOSE WHO MAKE OUR LAWS TODAY MUST NOT DEBASE THE REPUTATION OF OUR GREAT LEGISLATIVE BODIES WHICH HAVE GIVEN US SUCH GIANTS AS DANIEL WEBSTER, HENRY CLAY, SAM RAYBURN AND ROBERT A. TAFT.

WHETHER IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL OR THE STATE CAPITAL
OR CITY HALL, PRIVATE MORALITY AND PUBLIC TRUST MUST GO
TOGETHER●

FROM AUGUST OF 1974 TO AUGUST OF 1976 THE RECORD SHOWS
STEADY UPWARD PROGRESS TOWARD PROSPERITY, PEACE AND PUBLIC
TRUST●

MY RECORD IS ONE OF SPECIFICS, NOT SMILES●

MY RECORD IS ONE OF PROGRESS, NOT PLATITUDES●

MY RECORD IS ONE OF SOLUTIONS, NOT STAGNATION●

MY RECORD IS ONE OF PERFORMANCE, NOT PROMISES●

IT IS A RECORD I AM PROUD TO RUN ON.

IT IS A RECORD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- DEMOCRATS,
INDEPENDENTS AND REPUBLICANS ALIKE -- WILL SUPPORT ON
NOVEMBER 2ND.

FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS I PLEDGE TO YOU THAT I WILL
HOLD TO THE STEADY COURSE WE HAVE BEGUN.

BUT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF STANDING ON THE RECORD
ALONE.

WE WILL CONTINUE WINNING THE FIGHT AGAINST INFLATION●

WE WILL GO ON REDUCING THE DEADWEIGHT AND THE
IMPUDENCE OF BUREAUCRACY●

WE WILL SUBMIT A BALANCED FEDERAL BUDGET BY 1978●

WE WILL IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE AT WORK, AT PLAY
AND IN OUR HOMES AND NEIGHBORHOODS●

WE WILL NOT ABANDON OUR CITIES● WE WILL ENCOURAGE
URBAN PROGRAMS WHICH ASSURE SAFETY IN THE STREETS, CREATE
HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS, AND RESTORE NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE●

WE WILL RETURN CONTROL OF OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION
TO PARENTS AND LOCAL SCHOOL AUTHORITIES●

WE WILL MAKE SURE THAT THE PARTY OF LINCOLN REMAINS THE
PARTY OF EQUAL RIGHTS●

WE WILL CREATE A TAX STRUCTURE THAT MAKES MORE SENSE . . .
ONE THAT PRESERVES THE CONTINUITY OF THE FAMILY HOME, THE
FAMILY FARM AND FAMILY BUSINESS●

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

WE WILL MAKE SURE THAT THIS RICH NATION DOES NOT NEGLECT
CITIZENS WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE, BUT PROVIDES FOR THEIR NEEDS
WITH COMPASSION AND DIGNITY●

WE WILL REDUCE THE GROWTH AND COST OF GOVERNMENT AND
ALLOW INDIVIDUAL BREADWINNERS AND BUSINESSES TO KEEP MORE OF
THE MONEY THEY EARN●

WE WILL CREATE A CLIMATE IN WHICH OUR ECONOMY
WILL PROVIDE A MEANINGFUL JOB FOR EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO WORK
AND A DECENT STANDARD OF LIFE FOR ALL AMERICANS●

WE WILL ENSURE THAT ALL OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A
BETTER CHANCE IN LIFE THAN WE HAD -- AN EDUCATION THEY CAN
USE AND A CAREER THEY CAN BE PROUD OF.

WE WILL CARRY OUT A FARM POLICY WHICH ASSURES A FAIR
MARKET PRICE FOR THE FARMER, ENCOURAGES FULL PRODUCTION,
LEADS TO RECORD EXPORTS, AND EASES THE HUNGER WITHIN THE
HUMAN FAMILY.

WE WILL NEVER USE THE BOUNTY OF AMERICA'S FARMERS AS
A PAWN IN INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY.

WE WILL BUILD A SAFER AND SANER WORLD, THROUGH PATIENT
NEGOTIATIONS AND DEPENDABLE ARMS AGREEMENTS, WHICH REDUCE THE
DANGER OF CONFLICT AND THE HORROR OF THERMONUCLEAR WAR.

WE WILL NOT RETURN TO A COLLISION COURSE THAT COULD REDUCE
CIVILIZATION TO ASHES.

WE WILL BUILD AN AMERICA WHERE PEOPLE FEEL RICH IN SPIRIT
AS WELL AS IN WORLDLY GOODS. WE WILL BUILD AN AMERICA WHERE
PEOPLE FEEL PROUD -- ABOUT THEMSELVES AND ABOUT THEIR COUNTRY.

WE WILL BUILD ON PERFORMANCE, NOT PROMISES --

EXPERIENCE, NOT EXPEDIENCY -- REAL PROGRESS INSTEAD OF PIOUS

PLANS TO BE REVEALED AFTER THE INAUGURATION●

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE WISE -- WISER THAN OUR OPPONENTS

THINK● THEY KNOW WHO PAYS FOR EVERY CAMPAIGN PROMISE●

THEY ARE NOT AFRAID OF THE TRUTH● WE WILL TELL THEM THE TRUTH●

FROM START TO FINISH, OUR CAMPAIGN WILL BE CREDIBLE.

IT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE. WE WILL COME OUT FIGHTING.

WE WILL WIN!

YES, WE HAVE ALL SEEN THE POLLS AND THE PUNDITS

WHO SAY OUR PARTY IS DEAD. I'VE HEARD THAT BEFORE.

SO DID HARRY TRUMAN.

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I THINK!

THE ONLY POLLS THAT COUNT ARE THE POLLS THE

AMERICAN PEOPLE GO TO ON NOVEMBER 2.

AND I PREDICT RIGHT NOW THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE
GOING TO SAY THAT NIGHT: JERRY, YOU'VE DONE A GOOD JOB --
KEEP RIGHT ON DOING IT.

AS I TRY, IN MY IMAGINATION, TO LOOK INTO ALL THE HOMES
WHERE FAMILIES ARE WATCHING THE END OF THIS CONVENTION,
I CAN'T TELL WHICH FACES ARE REPUBLICANS, WHICH ARE DEMOCRATS
AND WHICH ARE INDEPENDENTS. I CANNOT SEE THEIR COLOR OR
THEIR CREED. I ONLY SEE AMERICANS.

I SEE AMERICANS WHO LOVE THEIR HUSBANDS, THEIR WIVES
AND THEIR CHILDREN.

I SEE AMERICANS WHO LOVE THEIR COUNTRY FOR WHAT
IT HAS BEEN AND WHAT IT MUST BECOME.

I SEE AMERICANS WHO WORK HARD BUT WHO ARE WILLING TO
SACRIFICE ALL THEY HAVE WORKED FOR TO KEEP THEIR CHILDREN AND
THEIR COUNTRY FREE.

I SEE AMERICANS WHO IN THEIR OWN QUIET WAY PRAY FOR
PEACE AMONG NATIONS AND PEACE AMONG THEMSELVES. THEY DO
LOVE THEIR NEIGHBORS AND THEY DO FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS
AGAINST THEM.

I SEE A NEW GENERATION THAT KNOWS WHAT IS RIGHT AND
KNOWS ITSELF -- A GENERATION DETERMINED TO PRESERVE ITS
IDEALS, ITS ENVIRONMENT, OUR NATION AND OUR WORLD.

MY FELLOW AMERICANS, I LIKE WHAT I SEE. I HAVE NO
FEAR FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS GREAT COUNTRY. AND 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 I CAN FOR AMERICA.
- GOD HELPING ME, I WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN.

END OF TEXT