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.

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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.
Again -- let's look at the record since August, 1974.

From the start, my administration has been open, candid, forthright.

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 WORLDSLY 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