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THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BE DELIVERED AT THE
HIGH POINT-WINSTON SALEM REGIONAL AIRPORT
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

If I might change the lyrics somewhat: nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina in the afternoon!

Thank you for this wonderful welcome and turnout. Governor Holshouser, I am not exactly a stranger to North Carolina, but I assure you that I am constantly amazed by the high degree of spirit I witness on every visit I make to the Tarheel State.

As you know, I was here just a few weeks ago out at Pinehurst to play in a golf tournament. You'll be relieved to know that I did not bring my clubs with me today.

There are two reasons why I am partial to North Carolina. The first is that just south of here and throughout this particular area, a great deal of furniture is manufactured. As you know, where I come from in Grand Rapids, Michigan, we are also known for the furniture we manufacture. Believe me, there is nothing wrong with having in common the trait of building strong and sturdy structures for the future of America.

The second reason I am partial to North Carolina is that I spent some time here during the war -- just down the road at Chapel Hill. I'll never forget what fine people lived here and how closely I identified with this state. I was an officer then in the Navy's V-5 Physical Fitness Program for Aviators.

I also met at the time and became good friends with a man who serves North Carolina's 8th District so well in the Congress: Earl Ruth. Earl, I am happy you were able to make it here today, and I know you are going to return to Washington next year to carry on your great record of service to your district.

North Carolina is to be congratulated for having a degree of leadership that is envied by others. One of the main reasons is your fine governor, Jim Holshouser.

Besides Earl, there are also some of my other former Congressional colleagues here: Jim Broyhill, Vinegar Bend Mizell and Jim Martin. There is no question but that you will all be back working with me in the 94th Congress.

I can assure you that the North Carolina delegation is heard in Washington D. C. And there is one chief beneficiary: the people of North Carolina.

Now, let us get to the business at hand. The business at hand is the decision that the voters all over America are going to make in two and one-half short weeks. That decision will tell us something about the direction of America in a time of great testing.

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That is why I am here today on behalf of Bill Stevens for Senator and Ward Purrington and Steve Ritchie for the Congress. That is why I am proud to recommend that you elect Jim Carson to the remainder of his term as Attorney General of this great state.

These votes cast on November 5th are going to represent the most important decision a citizen can make in a democracy. I am going to be as frank with you as I have tried to be before all of my fellow Americans. In the bluntest terms: I need these men in the Congress. I need the help of Bill Stevens to guard the public treasury from the raids of the budget busters.

I need young men like Steve Ritchie and Ward Purrington to carry the ball for responsible government -- the type of government which will bring the same kind of common sense to the national economy as each of you have to your individual family economies.

I have been across this entire country over the last year -- most recently the Midwest, the East, and now the South. Next will be the West. The message is the same everywhere: let's do something. Let's stop wringing our hands in frustration. Let's stop casting accusations and seeking political brownie points with our problems. Let's deal with our concerns. That is the message I have heard.

It is a message that says, it is too late for politics as usual. It is too late to play games with the economic future of every working man and woman across the United States.

That is why I am here today. I want to let the people of North Carolina hear from me in North Carolina. There might be some people who would rather criticize than find solutions. But I am not one of those people. Neither are the men I have introduced to you today. They are achievers -- not complainers. They are do-ers -- not poo-pooers.

The economic program I submitted to the Congress and the nation on October 8th was the result of weeks of intensive study and the fruition of a massive summit conference which solicited widespread views from all sectors of America.

I submitted that economic program in good faith. I believe it will work if we will only give it a chance. Yet, what has been the reaction? The response from the great majority of Americans has been heart-warming. They are pitching in to win. But still others in Congress and elsewhere, I am sorry to report, would rather have a political issue than an economic solution.

This is no time to seek political advantage for any person or any party. Of course, I want my party to win. But I assure you that I do not want it to win at the expense of the national well-being.

On November 5th, the decision is up to you and millions of other voters across the land. You can choose to send to the Congress representatives of the party which has controlled us for 38 out of the last 42 years and helped create the problems we are now trying to solve.

Or you can vote to change things. You can vote to put an end to the one-party rule in Congress. You can vote to enhance cooperation between the Legislative and Executive Branches.

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You can vote for men and women who are committed to placing curbs on Federal spending and to fighting inflation.

The team of Bill Stevens in the Senate and Ward Purrington and Steve Ritchie in the House will work well for you in North Carolina. I recall that Steve was the only Air Force fighter ace in the Vietnam conflict. That means that Steve is a straight shooter. So is Ward and all of the others who need your help to bring some perspective and balance to the Congress of the United States.

In short, what I need is a Congress, that in the words of a television commentator, will praise the Lord and pass the legislation.

Thank you.

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