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THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
MYRIAD CENTER GOP PUBLIC RALLY
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

It's a pleasure to be here in Oklahoma again -- the home of Will Rogers, who never met a man he didn't like -- and the home of the Oklahoma University Sooners, who never met a team they couldn't lick!

Yes, it's good to be here in Switzer Land again. I'm also delighted to see Ron Shotts, that great All-American running back, as our Master of Ceremonies today. As a former lineman, I always envied the backfield because they got most of the glory. In fact, I was once introduced at a dinner by an old teammate of mine from the University of Michigan -- and I'll never forget his introduction.

He said: "It might interest you to know that I played football with Jerry Ford for two years -- and it made a lasting impression on me. I was a quarterback. Jerry Ford was the center. And you might say, it gave me a completely different view of the President!"

Let me comment today on views and perceptions of the coming election. I am convinced that a campaign can come from behind to win. I am convinced that this State has energy not only in its oilfields, and its football fields but also in the open-minded spirit of its population -- including Democrats and Independents as well as Republicans. Oklahoma -- a State that has produced a winning football team -- is going to produce a winning Republican ticket next month.

I had the honor to be introduced by one of the most independent-minded men in the United States Senate. I refer to your distinguished Senator, Henry Bellmon, who is so highly regarded in Washington. I have heard that he is the only real farmer in the United States Senate. And I also know that he calls the shots as he sees them. Sometimes this means differing with me on issues. But I respect his independence of thought and action as well as his dedication to honesty in government.

Senator Bellmon has the courage to make unpopular decisions and to be his own man. I respect him for those qualities. He is an expert in two areas directly related to our war against inflation. He is a top authority on agriculture and the expansion of food production. And he is sought after for his knowledge of oil and energy. Indeed, he is energetically seeking a vast new nuclear development park -- through the Atomic Energy Commission -- near Muskogee.

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Senator Bellmon is devoted to service to the State and people of Oklahoma. As a team, he and Senator Bartlett represent Oklahoma's best interest -- especially in the vital areas of food and energy -- the State's leading industries.

Since all but one of the Oklahoma delegation -- Representative John N. (Happy) Camp -- are Democrats, a balance is provided by keeping two Republicans in Oklahoma's Senate delegation. But Happy needs some help in the House of Representatives. We have some good candidates on the Republican ticket this year.

In the First District, George Mizer, Jr., of the Oklahoma Cherokee heritage, is a forthright, courageous man. A former U. S. Navy pilot, he has shown brilliance in management and business. He has acquired a reputation for integrity. And he has accumulated considerable political experience. You need George in Washington.

In the Second District, Ralph Keen is an excellent candidate. Ralph is a distinguished attorney. He served as General Business Manager of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. He is the kind of man who will represent all the people of Oklahoma, regardless of political labels or background. You need Ralph in Washington.

In the Fifth District, Marvin (Mickey) Edwards, an outstanding newspaperman, is your candidate. He served in the national leadership of the Young Republicans, as a member of the State Republican Executive Committee, and as a delegate to the 1972 GOP National Convention. Mickey needs your help.

In the Sixth District, I ask you to return my good friend and former colleague, "Happy" Camp. He has rendered outstanding service to Oklahoma and the Nation. It would certainly make me happy to see "Happy" back in the House of Representatives -- and make you happy, too, I am sure.

I have a special word to say in support of State Senator James Inhofe, your candidate for Governor. I am very impressed by the great integrity and competence demonstrated by Jim. He is a candidate worthy of support. Oklahoma deserves the finest and most devoted and honest State Administrator. Jim Inhofe will be such a Governor.

There are many other outstanding Republican candidates for State and local offices.

This year, 1974 -- not 1976 -- is the year of decision for the survival of the two-party system in the United States. It is a year when we seek to enlist a new Congress in the war against inflation. It is a year in which I appeal to all voters -- Democratic, Republican and independent -- to elect candidates who fight inflation.

I know that Senator Bellmon has a reputation as being "tight-fisted with your dollars." He has been a general in the war against wasteful Federal spending, against a top-heavy bureaucracy in Washington and against legislative dictatorship by those who would wreck the budget and waste our dollars on far-out experimentation. You need Senator Bellmon to continue to man his command post in the coming attack on the national treasury. You need the other Republican candidates here today to help him and Senator Bartlett and "Happy" Camp.

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Why do I call for the election of more fighters in the war against inflation? If the Democrats gain seven Senate seats and 25 or more House seats in November they will make the Congress, in effect, veto-proof. Such a Congress, unrestrained by any veto powers, could resurrect the wild spending programs of the years 1965 and 1966. It could threaten the internal balance of our legislative processes. This would endanger our historic heritage of checks and balances.

I believe in the two-party system. I am concerned because this system faces the greatest threat in our lifetime. And I ask all voters -- Democratic and Independents as well as Republicans -- to think as Inflation Fighters and not along party lines.

The Democrats have controlled the national legislature for 38 of the last 42 years. Fiscal responsibility has been honored in words but not in votes.

The Pandora's box of inflation has been opened. Today's Congress is stacked against fiscal responsibility. For 19 of the 25 years I served in the House, we ended up with budget deficits.

If this heavy spending majority is substantially increased in the 94th Congress, the two-party system will be in jeopardy. We must avert such a legislative dictatorship. We must elect an inflation-proof Congress -- not a veto-proof Congress. We must elect a Congress that respects the tradition and the common sense of checks and balances.

A veto-proof Congress next January could literally run the country through a lopsided power over legislation and spending. It could mean a Congress so deficient in internal balance through a huge influx of freshmen Democrats that a mandate will be seen for a new wave of inflationary spending.

Think back to what happened in 1964. The Democrats gained 40 House seats -- giving them a total of 295 against 140 Republicans. For two years, unsound legislation was pushed through Congress by a vigorous President and a rubber-stamp House and Senate. Interest rates began to climb. The value of the dollar began to decline. We have been trying ever since to repair the damage.

We recovered some ground in 1966. There was a net gain of 47 Republicans in the House. To the extent that this righted the imbalance, we prevented legislation that could have been even less desirable.

The Republican Party is resilient and strong because its sound principles spring from the tradition that built America. We have good people. And the ability to come back fighting.

Let us begin by rallying around the outstanding candidates with us today in Oklahoma and by explaining the true difference between Inflation Fighters and Inflationary Spenders.

A veto-proof Congress could squelch vital legislation -- including measures I have recommended to increase our energy potential and anti-inflationary program.

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Such a Congress would undermine the philosophy of revenue sharing which gives local people more say in the use of their dollars. It would mean a flow of power away from local communities and toward a greater concentration of power on the Potomac.

Let us retain power at the local level. Let us redeem our national economy through fiscal responsibility. Let us stop inflation. Let us restore the value of the American dollar and the quality of American life. And let us start that drive here today in Oklahoma.

I do not agree with those who peddle despair and defeat. I am proud to be a Republican. But that is not to say that Republicans are perfect. We must correct what is wrong, strengthen what is right, and move forward rather than backward. This will facilitate the programs essential to solve Federal, State, and local problems in the American way.

American free enterprise and individual incentive have made the United States the greatest nation on earth. Never forget the Republican component of American greatness.

Republicans have made great progress toward an era of peace abroad. We will now move to reduce Federal control while whipping inflation. We will open a new era of achievement in State and local governments. The body politic and the economic resources of America are healthy. America has the strength to heal itself and to find new vigor and energy.

We are entering the final stretch of the 1974 campaign convinced that we have the best candidates and the best policies.

I am not downhearted over the fate of the Republican Party --- or the fate of America. Are you?

Adversity sharpens our resolve. Let others believe in us because we have found new faith in ourselves.

Let the Republican victory march of 1974 begin in Oklahoma. Let the winds of Oklahoma sweep inflationary spenders out of Congress and good candidates in.

Thank you.

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