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TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
TO BE DELIVERED AT A REPUBLICAN LUNCHEON  
IN DES MOINES, IOWA

You know, when I saw this grand old ballroom, it brought back so many happy memories of Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey and Woody Herman. When Betty and I were courting, we used to go out dancing to the music of these big bands. We had a problem though. Betty had studied modern dance and I was a former football player. She never really came right out and said I was a poor dancer. She's much too kind for that. But she did have a rather interesting theory as to why I played center rather than quarterback. She said it's one of the few positions on a football team where you don't have to move your feet!

Somehow it seems very appropriate to be holding this political luncheon in a ballroom. You might call this event the Congressional Square Dance. Every two years we change partners. And if you stop to think about it, good dancers do have one thing in common with good Congressmen and good Senators. They have to know how to take the right steps. And when it comes to facing the hard issues and problems of today, there is only one step our good Republican candidates at this table don't know -- and that's the side-step! They face the problems and they solve them!

You know, while I have a new office, I have found it difficult to shed old habits. One of those habits over the last 26 years has been campaigning for my fellow Republicans. While my job is different, the call is the same.

There is one major difference from the past 10 years. This year no one can accuse me of campaigning to become Speaker of the House of Representatives.

I am here today because I believe in this country and in the people of America. In the last year, I have traveled all over our land, through 42 states and over 128,000 miles. Here is what I found: There is work to be done in America. That is why I am here -- to seek your support for programs I have proposed to the Congress to meet our pressing problems -- the problems of inflation and energy overuse at home and abroad.

I am here today because the elections coming in 12 days are what American democracy is all about. It is a time to decide who shall speak for you in Washington and in Des Moines.

There is no force so powerful as the quiet decisions millions of Americans make in the privacy of voting booths. I know that Iowans understand that power and have used it wisely -- and will use it wisely on November 5th.

Your Governor, Bob Ray, is proof of your wise use of the vote. His accomplishments are well-known around the country. His reputation is that of a chief executive who is a problem-solver, a man of action. He is the kind of Republican leader I like and you need as governor.

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As you know, Dave Stanley is campaigning vigorously for the United States Senate. He is tireless, imaginative and experienced, a man committed to squeezing the last bit of waste out of spending the taxpayer's dollar.

You have sent the Congress such men as H.R. Gross -- and I will make this prediction to you now: the House of Representatives will never be the same without him. He has been the conscience of the House for more than a quarter century and the saver of millions of taxpayer dollars. We need more representatives like him in Washington.

Bill Scherle and Wiley Mayne are two highly regarded Members of Congress. They are strong voices for fiscal responsibility and for the restoration of that elusive goal -- a balanced Federal budget. I strongly urge the people of the Fifth and Sixth Districts of Iowa to send Bill Scherle and Wiley Mayne back to Congress.

You have a great slate of Congressional candidates -- like Jim Leach, Charles Grassley, Tom Riley and Charles Dick, who are out campaigning hard. They need your help. You need the kind of representation they can provide in Washington.

Let me explain why we need tight-fisted members in the U.S. Congress to help us in this fight against inflation.

Inflation means money stolen out of your pocketbook by a thief as real as a pickpocket. The rising cost of living is a problem which is not matched in magnitude nor equalled in its impact on our future.

I did not come all this way to tell the people of Iowa about a problem they know more about than most politicians. I came because we are going to find some answers.

As we search for the right answers, we had better understand that it is not time to point the finger of blame at just a few people or at a few institutions. Most institutions and most people are involved in the inflationary process. And much responsibility lies in Washington, D.C. That is one thing we learned in the recent economic summit meetings. We are all in this together.

I came to several other conclusions after those important meetings:

(1) There is no quick fix or easy cure to our inflationary illness. It will take time and patience.

(2) Victory over inflation is going to require some short-term sacrifice, to serve our long-term well-being. As I have tried to state in my 31-point recommendation to Congress and my daily dozen suggestions to individual citizens, the burden will be distributed evenly. It will not be borne by those who can least afford it.

(3) There must be a cut in the amount of Federal spending. I have asked for a \$300 billion budgetary ceiling, a reduction of \$5 billion from the estimate last January.

(4) Finally, we are now in a battle where national unity is every bit as important as it has been in the past national crises. If we do not march together, we will fall by the wayside one by one.

I am determined to win this fight. I know I have made some people unhappy. I have made some powerful interests unhappy. But I have to make these tough decisions, or nobody will.

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This problem has already waited too long. It will not go away.

The first shot fired in the war against inflation is going to come out of the ballot box on November 5th. Let that be a shot heard 'round the world -- at least, around the country.

What can your vote accomplish? It can send to the Congress men and women who are not big spenders. We need men and women in the Congress who can say "no" to programs and projects which are unnecessary at this time, which we can get along without.

We do not need men and women in the Congress who talk about halting inflation or cutting spending in their home States and districts and vote the opposite way in Congress.

The next Congress needs Members who will rise above short-term thinking -- representatives who recognize that the red-ink route we have traveled 19 out of the last 25 years is a losing game. Nobody benefits from inflation -- not business, not labor, not rich nor poor. Not anybody. It is a losing proposition clear across the board. Everyone gets hurt.

It is easy to yield to the temptation to give people what they want. But a government big enough to give us everything we want is a government big enough to take from us everything we have.

The foundation of our economy is strong. It has been the most productive economy in the history of civilization. We have abundance beyond the wildest imagination of our parents and grandparents. We are able to share our great wealth with the poor of our own Nation as well as the poor of the world. But we must defend the economy from the attacks which erode it.

Some of my friends in the opposition seem to think that what is needed is a veto-proof Congress. The fact of the matter is that it was heavy Democratic majorities over the years which helped create most of the problems we are faced with today.

We do not need to make Congress immune from vetoes. We do need to make our Nation safe from inflation. What we need is not a veto-proof Congress -- but an inflation-proof Congress.

That is why you need -- why I need -- in Washington members of Congress who will join me in making decisions -- decisions to cut spending, to cut the budget, to cut red tape -- and, as I have said before, to cut the mustard. With that kind of teamwork, we will do what we have promised. We will whip inflation. We will effect savings in energy and our resources. And we will be on the way to our 200th birthday celebration in 1976 strong and stable and prosperous in a world at peace.

My friends on the other side of the aisle make promises at election time to be fiscal watchdogs and keepers of the Treasury. But we can see by the way they spend your money that they have failed. The problems we are faced with today were spawned over the past 42 years by programs and policies of the opposition party which has controlled the Congress for all but four of those years -- and for the past 20 straight years.

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The question I want you to ponder today is this: Are you -- are we -- going to continue down the same road which produced these problems in the first place -- problems of ever-rising prices, of piling more centralization of power onto Washington -- of undermining of our foreign relations with handcuff-like restrictions on the policies of the President and the Secretary of State.

We must do better than that. What happened in the past was largely the failure of legislative dictatorship by a party so smug in its seniority that it no longer responded to the true needs of the people.

I urge you today -- I urge all Americans -- to vote with your heads as well as with your hearts. But most important -- vote! Don't let the most precious liberty ever devised by man disappear by lack of use.

Pull the lever and cast your vote a week from Tuesday for candidates of the party that brought peace to this country and stability to the world -- for the party that will, with a cooperative Congress, restore stability to America's economy and inject common-sense into its government. And with God's help and your hand, we will go down that path together with confidence and understanding of the greatness that still lies before us.

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