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Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Sioux City, Iowa)

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BE DELIVERED AT THE
SIOUX CITY MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
SIOUX CITY, IOWA

I think it's very appropriate that we're holding this rally in an airport. Because I've flown in today on a wing and a prayer -- to ask you to give me good men in Congress who will praise the Lord and pass the legislation!

It is wonderful to be here in Sioux City -- the largest city in the 6th Congressional District -- to appear on behalf of my good friend, Wiley Mayne.

I have always been taught -- when you have a good thing going for you -- to keep it. And that is what you have in Wiley Mayne as your Congressman. I've seen him in action for nearly 8 years, and I can assure you that if the United States Congress had more men and women of his skill and stature, our problems would be fewer today.

It is also good to see Dave Stanley here, your outstanding candidate for Senator. A veteran of the Iowa legislature, Dave is running one of the hardest and most active Senate campaigns of the year. I am convinced that the citizens of Iowa are going to send Dave to the Senate to put a hold on inflationary spending. He deserves your support.

Since we are in the heartland of American agriculture, there is no better place to commend the production genius of the American farmer -- to say thanks to so many for jobs well done.

At times, farmers have been unfairly criticized as the cause of high food prices. As you well know, farmers are more likely the victims of inflation than its cause. By their efficiency and ever-increasing productivity, they are the frontline shock troops who are staving off what might be an even more serious round of inflation were it not for their efforts.

I am aware that agriculture is beset by very difficult and challenging problems. Some of these have been aggravated by unwise government actions. Others are the result of an unusual and extraordinary combination of weather excesses -- too wet for planting, drought, unseasonably early frosts. All this at a time of increased domestic and world food needs.

Because of price incentive and encouragement by government to expand planted acreage, farmers have responded magnificently to boost the supply of grains and soybeans. Thanks to the flexibility written into the 1973 Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act, they were able to move smoothly from a limited to a full production program.

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Incidentally, great credit for the major provisions of the 1973 Act must be given to Wiley Mayne, the top ranking Republican member of the important House Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock and Grains. While I was House Republican leader, I conferred frequently with Wiley on this legislation. I know how hard he worked to help affect its enactment and to liberate farmers from the discredited, income-restrictive programs of the past 40 years.

There is another area of concern -- corn and soybean production is falling short of needs. Even so, the corn crop is still the fifth largest ever produced, soybeans the third largest, and wheat and rice the largest ever.

We cannot, in fairness, ask our farmers to produce more unless all of us are willing to share at least part of the production risks.

Fuel and fertilizer, especially fertilizer, adequate to supply farm needs continue to be a problem. As I have stated before, I will request the authority necessary to assure farmers all of the fertilizer they need and I will make sure they have all the fuel they need as well.

And I repeat to you today: I will not ask Congress to increase taxes on gasoline. That's one tax that is high enough.

I could not come to Sioux City, the heart of the slaughter livestock industry, and not say a word about the production of meat. Livestock producers, and especially cattle feeders, have called to the attention of Government officials many times in the past year the financial wringer they are being put through. Adjusting to higher feed costs and an increased supply of beef animals is a painful process.

I have today made three policy decisions which I believe will relieve some of the anxiety in the industry and restore confidence among producers so that the industry can again become profitable.

First, this Administration intends to carry out the intent of the Meat Import Law. If imports of meat subject to the Meat Import Law threaten to pick up markedly during the next year and the Agriculture Department's estimate of 1975 imports exceeds the trigger level under the Meat Import Law, I will either impose quotas or negotiate voluntary export restraint agreements with foreign suppliers.

Second, no action will be taken to change the present system of dairy import quotas without a thorough review of market conditions and full opportunity for our dairy producers to be heard at that time.

Third, this Administration is not going to permit foreign dairy producers to compete against American dairymen in the U.S. market with subsidized products. If the Europeans reinstitute their export subsidies on dairy products directed at this market, I will impose countervailing duties on these products.

In addition, I have asked Secretary Butz to investigate increasing USDA purchases of ground beef for use in the National School Lunch Program. These purchases would provide more highly nutritious food to schools for use in this program. This purchase will not be an additional cost for the Government, as the USDA is obligated by law to finance each school lunch served by 10 cents, either in cash or in commodities.

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As I have in the past -- as Republican leader in the House, as Vice President and now as President -- I will continue to look to Wiley Mayne for guidance and help in solving the problems of agriculture which face us.

I hope that I don't duplicate some of what Wiley might be telling all of you in this crucial election year, but I want to remind you of the kind of service he has given to this district.

In a period when big corporate farms are taking over some agricultural production, Wiley has been in there fighting for the family farmer. He has helped lead the fight to limit government payments to \$20,000 per farm. He did so because he was in contact with farmers in his district who advised him that massive payments to big farms were discrediting the whole program. That is the kind of Congressman this District deserves -- one who can listen to the people and respond.

When you get down to the very heart of the matter, Wiley Mayne stands up for you. Believe me, when you have someone like him to stand up for you in the highest councils of government, then it is time to stand up for him in return.

That is why I am here today. We need -- you need -- I need -- Congressman Mayne in Washington. I respect his judgment and know his integrity is beyond reproach. If he is not returned to the Congress, the 6th District will not only lose one of the finest men ever to serve in the Congress, but it will also lose the seniority he has established in the House. If Wiley is not in the next Congress, the potency of your representation on the Agriculture Committee will be drastically diminished.

The thing I like about Wiley Mayne is that we can disagree without being disagreeable -- and that has happened on occasion.

Just recently, Wiley let me know quite candidly that he protested the action I took to suspend certain sales of corn and wheat to the Soviet Union. It didn't take him long to get down to the White House to find out whether our policy was a permanent one. I assured him that my intention was not to limit exports but to make sure that the market was not cornered by any single nation. Forty million bushels of corn and another forty million bushels of wheat have already been released to the Soviet Union.

However, there is one area on which the Nation and I can count on Wiley without question. That is his determination, and mine, to stop rising prices and inflation.

The principal cause of rising prices is the fact that our government has been spending more than it takes in. Wiley Mayne has voted to cut spending and more than it takes in. Wiley Mayne has voted to cut spending and balance the budget in the past and can be counted on to do so in the future. That is why I am here personally asking you, the people of the 6th District, to send Wiley Mayne back to Congress next Tuesday. It really matters. America needs his strong and reliable vote in Congress to help us beat back rising prices and inflation.

I want to use this opportunity today to put some myths to rest here in Sioux City. I have seen some interesting reports in this campaign year -- and I consider it superb coincidence that we can bury these political hobgoblins on Halloween.

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I have seen reports that some candidates of the other party are laying claim to being fiscal watchdogs. I have seen reports that they are even accusing the Republican Party of being for high spending.

You and I know what causes inflation, and it isn't the Republican Party. It is due largely to the Government's spending more money than it should. I will tell you flatly: the votes to break the budget did not come from Wiley Mayne or from his side of the aisle.

Let's look at the record. And this is something I want to call to the particular attention of people in the audience today. There are a number of you out there between the ages of 20 and 42. Let me remind you of something interesting. If you are in this age group, the Congress of the United States has been in control of one party for about 85 percent of your lifetime. That means that 85 percent of your life has been lived under the legislative control of a single political party.

And this is the party which has to be held accountable for so many of the problems we now face in this country -- including inflation which is the biggest legacy of this period of monolithic Federal control.

Next Tuesday, let us make sure we do not go down that road again. We know who has controlled the machinery of Government spending all these years -- the Democratic Party.

That is why I need the help of Wiley Mayne and Dave Stanley and of the other outstanding Republicans on the ticket here in Iowa this Fall. That is why you need their representation in Washington and in your State capitol.

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