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THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BE GIVEN AT THE
NEW JERSEY GOP FUNDRAISER

Abraham Lincoln once said that the legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all, or cannot so well do for themselves, in their separate and individual capacities.

Speaking personally, this is a basic element of my political faith.

Take the problem of energy -- which demands federal action to solve. If we are to deal effectively with this problem we must act with boldness and with a truly national commitment.

More than nine months ago I sent the Congress legislation to start this Nation on the road to energy independence. So far, there has been no action. Just last week, I proposed the establishment of the energy independence authority to help finance the development of this Nation's resources and to meet our goal of energy independence -- in ten years or less. If Congress acts on both of these programs, we will be on our way to a new era of independence -- this time not from foreign rule but from foreign oil.

The energy independence authority I have requested can provide the necessary direction and coordination to a multitude of efforts -- public and private -- to achieve energy independence for America. Our goal is not that government replace private enterprise in the energy field, but that it be an active partner in a great national endeavor.

This endeavor is as great -- and as urgent -- as those which saw America mass produce synthetic rubber in the heat of World War II, harness the atom with the Manhattan project and put the first man on the moon.

America must have an adequate, dependable supply of energy. No national goal is more important.

Energy does much more than operate the machines of industry or heat our homes or power our automobiles. It fuels our entire national economy. Energy means jobs.

If we increase our energy capacity, there will be more jobs for New Jersey and for all other states. But if our domestic supply continues to diminish and our dependence on high-priced foreign oil continues to grow, there will be fewer and fewer jobs and higher and higher unemployment.

We must stop exporting American dollars and American jobs. We must keep those jobs here in America -- in New Jersey -- and we must create more jobs. We must get unemployed Americans in jobs and on payrolls.

Let's talk about specifics. This state, as all of you know, is one that faces a potentially serious problem in getting enough natural gas supplies for this winter, particularly if the weather really turns cold.

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New Jersey gets ninety percent of its natural gas deliveries from two major pipelines. One of these pipeline firms will curtail supplies to southern New Jersey by 52 percent. The other will curtail supplies to northern New Jersey by more than 20 percent.

Now what do these curtailments mean? For some industries, they could mean cutbacks in production or worse -- and that could mean people out of work.

Because of advance planning, New Jersey does have some alternative sources of energy to fall back on -- like "synthetic gas." With a mild winter, this could pull you through.

But a dependable supply of natural gas is vital -- for this is the energy source you rely on most here in New Jersey. Synthetic gas is nothing more than a high-priced substitute for the real thing.

Why is there a shortage? Because the Federal Power Commission has set artificially low prices at the wellhead for natural gas sold in interstate markets.

The result has been that gas producers sell as much of their product as they can locally or inside their own state borders at free market prices. States like New Jersey that do not have an adequate local supply of natural gas must suffer the consequences.

What's the answer? The deregulation of natural gas by the Congress to expand the supply nationwide.

Starting with my State of the Union Address, I have repeatedly urged the Congress to deregulate natural gas. But the Congress has done nothing.

There's another problem of concern to this state -- and to this Nation -- and that's the maintenance of a defense second to none.

Republicans have long supported this concept as the best way of assuring peace.

But there's an effort underway to cut back our defenses.

Although I am all in favor of cutting unnecessary federal spending, I respectfully disagree with those in the Congress who say we can provide the security we need for far less money.

We can't. Slashing the defense budget is no way to maintain an adequate national defense. It's no way to keep military installations operating in New Jersey or anywhere else for that matter. But it's a surefire way to make us number two in a world where only number one counts.

Whether it's energy action or a strong defense, fiscal responsibility in government or more freedom in the private sector, local control over local problems or more freedom and dignity for the individual, I'm convinced that most Americans want the same things we Republicans want.

We are prepared to lead and to serve American people -- responsibly, responsibly, effectively. That will be our message to the Nation in 1976.

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