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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
AT THE  
PRESIDENT FORD COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS

THE PARK SELYN BUILDING

12:57 P.M. EST

Let me just take a minute, if I could. First, let me thank every one of you. I have tried to do it personally, but let me reiterate it and re-emphasize it to all of you as a group.

We won in New Hampshire because of the tremendous effort of the people like yourselves. You did the phoning and did all of the other difficult chores. We won, coming from behind. It was a total effort, the basis coming from people like yourselves who were volunteers. We had a great many other people, Members of the Congress, that went up there, on their own.

We had others who volunteered, through various walks, to go up and give us a hand. Then, of course, was Massachusetts, where we did extremely well; Vermont, where we were entered and the opposition was not. It all helped accumulate the position where we are in.

Then we went to Florida and again, according to the campaign manager for our opponent, we were behind two to one -- 33 percent to 66 percent. But, because so many people in Florida -- and I literally mean this -- gave their time and made the effort as volunteers, they turned it all around. We again had a broad spectrum of help and assistance.

I went down twice, the momentum got going, and we had a very significant win. Then we went to Illinois last week, and the momentum that had begun in New Hampshire, that had carried through, really gave us 59 to 40 percent. That is not bad.

We have got a real test here in North Carolina. Again, the initial forecast was that we were going to lose. I don't think we are going to lose. I think we are going to win. Five is great, but six would look even better. (Laughter)

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The momentum is definitely in our direction. I can foresee nothing but a real victory in Kansas City as the stepping stone, as the clincher for the victory in November. In the meantime, we have to maximize our individual efforts. We are trying to do that. But as we proceed along, let's make sure, let's make positive, we keep the party structure so that we can all work together after Kansas City.

That is of maximum importance. We are the minority party, and we have to solidify ourselves. I think we can, and I think we will, and the net result will be a real triumph on November 2, and that will all come about because you, and many like you all over this country, have been so generous with your time and so self-sacrificing with every other aspect of your life.

We thank you.

I am sorry Betty is not here. She is up in New York City trying to -- well, she called Mayor Beame on his birthday. (Laughter) She is trying to get my votes up to her poll. (Laughter) But she asked me to say hello to all of you and thank you, as I have, for for everything you have done.

Thank you very, very much.

END (AT 1:05 P.M. EST)