

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
UNTIL 6:00 A.M. (EST), 3:00 A.M. (PST)
MARCH 27, 1976

MARCH 26, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Los Angeles, California)

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BE DELIVERED AT THE
GOP STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE LUNCHEON

GRAND HALL
FRESNO CONVENTION CENTER
EXHIBIT HALL

We meet in a year of important decision for the American people-- a year in which they will choose their political leadership for the remainder of the 1970's, a year which begins the third century of America's independence.

I am waging my campaign this year on the powerful issues of freedom, peace and rising prosperity for the American people.

This is the record which I am presenting to the American people, the record I have built in 19 months as your President.

In those 19 months, we have cut the inflation rate in half. In this year's Federal budget proposal, I have cut the rate of growth in Federal spending in half.

We have recovered 100 percent of the jobs America lost during its worst recession in 40 years.

Consumer confidence is more than double what it was a year ago.

Industrial production is up.

Housing starts are up.

Personal income is up.

Prices are stabilizing.

There can now be no doubt whatsoever that America is on the road to a new prosperity, and we are not about to take any detours now.

We will pursue a steady course--the same steady course I charted for America at the outset of this recession when I proposed tax cuts for individuals, tax incentives for business expansion and job production, and extended assistance for those Americans who lost their jobs to the recession.

(MORE)

We will also pursue a steady course internationally. We cherish the peace that America enjoys today -- the peace that finds no Americans in combat anywhere in the world.

And yet we know that the freedoms we have defended so often are still being challenged today.

We know that our strength, our power, our constant vigilance, and our resolve are the foundation of mankind's hope for peace and stability in the world.

In the last 19 months, I have taken affirmative action to insure that America's alliances are strong, our commitments are worthwhile, and our defenses are without equal in the world. And let me assure you -- they are.

We're strong enough to deter aggression. We're strong enough to maintain the peace. We're strong enough to protect our national security and keep America free.

In my Presidency, I have proposed the two largest peacetime defense budgets in American history, reversing a trend that was reducing our defense expenditures year by year to levels that were dangerously low.

Our aim is to make peace secure throughout the world. We are conducting our foreign policy with our eyes open, our guard up, and our powder dry. We know that peace and national security cannot be pursued on a one-way street. But we also know that returning to a collision course in a thermo-nuclear age can leave the human race in ashes.

I will not lead the American people down the road to needless danger and senseless destruction.

I will lead them on the path of peace through strength, and we will live in peace and freedom in the United States of America.

The peace that we enjoy, and the prosperity within our sights -- these are the clearest guideposts to victory in November. And in 1976, they're both on the Republican side of the road.

Our victory this year will be important to America for years to come. It will be a signal to our own citizens, to our allies and our adversaries, that we still stand tall and strong and free among the nations of the world.

It will be a mandate to continue the policies of economic stability and growth, of limited government, of fiscal restraint and tax relief, which so many millions of Americans are demanding, and to which our party has always been committed.

Our victory this year will be a covenant with the American people to promise only what we can deliver and deliver everything we promise.

It will be a recognition by the American people that the government cannot do everything and should not be expected to.

But it will also be an agreement with the people that whatever government does, it must do better and more efficiently than in the past.

(MORE)

History may well record the election of 1976 as a landmark in American politics. All of us are fortunate to have a part in this effort, and each of us has a special role to play.

The "grass-roots" politics you practiced this morning is every bit as important as the "grand strategies" of national campaigns.

In fact, none of those strategies can succeed unless we succeed at the grass-roots level.

I commend you and thank you all for your commitment to the Republican cause.

It is a cause to which I have been firmly committed for more than 27 years of public life -- as a member of the Congress, as Republican leader of the House of Representatives, as Vice President, and for the past 19 months as your President.

In those 19 months alone, there has been great progress in combatting the serious problems that beset our nation, in putting America at peace with itself and with the world around us.

There is more to be done, and we will do more in the four challenging years ahead.

As you walk the precincts of this great state of California this year, I invite you -- and all Americans -- to walk with me on the path of peace, on the road to prosperity, on the way to victory in 1976.

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