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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
PFC VOLUNTEER RECEPTION BREAKFAST

THE HOLIDAY INN

8:35 A.M. CDT

Thank you very much, Carl. I want to thank both Senator Carl Curtis and Senator Roman Hruska for their great support, wonderful assistance. They, of course, are two of the outstanding legislators in the Congress of the United States. They are long-time personal friends and I can't thank Roman and Carl sufficiently for the help and assistance they have given me. I am proud to be associated with both of them and you should be proud of them as your United States Senators, and I am also very proud and very grateful for the fact that all of you are here supporting me, and let me assure you I will not let you down in the next four years.

I want to say with emphasis that Nebraska has always been and is right now a very crucial State because it is a contest within the Republican Party as to which of the two nominees should represent our party in the next four years, in the next campaign.

So what we do between now and next Tuesday is critical, is crucial. It requires a maximum effort by all of you, by me and by our friends throughout the great State of Nebraska.

If I might, I would like to take just a minute to reemphasize in your minds what at least I believe are the things we can say affirmatively, the things that are critical as we talk to our Nation, to our friends and to anybody else who will listen.

You can put it in three words, really, the achievements of the last 21 months since I have had the privilege of being President of the United States. You can say it is prosperity, it is peace and it is trust. Those are three pretty good words.

Let's take each of them for just a moment. We can say with emphasis that when I became President the economic situation in this country was deteriorating. Inflation was over 12 percent. We have cut it down for the first three months of this year -- it is under 3 percent. That is a 75 percent reduction in the rate of inflation. That is progress by any standards.

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When I became President, we were on the brink of the worst economic conditions this country had suffered for almost forty years. Employment was going down. Unemployment was going up. We got some news yesterday that showed that we have completely reversed that situation.

Yesterday the Department of Labor announced, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, that employment in the month of April, just one month, had gone up 700,000 and that if you go back to the last 12 months, and go from May or April to April, we had gained 3 million 300 thousand jobs in the United States, and that is not a bad batting average either.

And the net result is that as of last month 84 million 700 thousand people were gainfully employed. That is an all-time record in the history of the United States. I am sorry--86 million 700 thousand. But it shows the progress. It shows that we have been doing the right thing, and the net result is our economy is on a very good track, and if I have the opportunity to be the President for the next four years, we will continue those policies and that progress will likewise continue in the future.

Now, let's talk about peace. I am going to say at the University of Nebraska, when I have the privilege of speaking there this morning, that this is the first graduating class in a long, long time-- back since 1941 -- that hasn't had to expect the draft or Selective Service. that we have been able to man our Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines by voluntary action on the part of those who want to enlist.

So this is progress. We are able to do the job, to maintain the peace without depending upon Selective Service or the draft. In other words, we have a capability through strength to convince our allies that we are strong and to convince our adversaries that they shouldn't tinker with us.

So under any standard that you say, we have sufficient military capability to carry out our missions, our allies know it and our adversaries know it.

Then I think you can say that since the tragedy of the period just before I became President, there had been a great loss of confidence by many of our fellow Americans. We have had an open Administration, a candid Administration, a frank Administration, and the net result is there has been a restoration of confidence and trust in the White House and I can assure you that in the next four years this policy of openness, frankness, integrity, will absolutely continue, as it must under our kind of Government, and as it will under the Ford Administration.

And one further comment. Ever since becoming President, we have never promised more than we could perform and we will perform on everything we promise, and that is the kind of relationship that I think a President must have with the people of this country, and that is the way it will be because that is the way it has been.

We are not going out to tell people that we will promise them the moon when we know in our hearts we can't perform. And everything we tell them, everything we promise them, we will achieve. That is the way we have been and the net results are good--prosperity, peace and trust between the people and the President of the United States.

And, therefore, it is my view that we can go to our fellow citizens with an assurance, with a feeling that they can trust us and we can work for them.

Thank you very, very much.

END (AT 8:42 A.M. CDT)