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OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Durand, Michigan)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
FROM THE
PRESIDENTIAL EXPRESS

DURAND AMTRAK PASSENGER STATION

10:17 A.M. EDT

Betty and I are deeply grateful for this wonderful welcome back home, and we thank you very, very much.

This is a wonderful train trip through the heart of Michigan. It is just for one day but it is the beginning of a great trip from now to November 2 when we are going to win the election.

I want to thank particularly the people who have helped here in Durand and all of the surrounding area.

But, let me say very emphatically, I need your help on Tuesday, and if you give us the help that I know you will, it will be a tremendous impact throughout the country. I won't let Michigan down. Don't you let me down on November 2 or next Tuesday.

Now, let me take just a minute to tell you why I want you to support me. First, when I became President in August of 1974, this country was in deep trouble. There was a lack of confidence in the White House. There had been scandals. There had been a tremendous disaffection by the American people.

Secondly, we were suffering inflation of 12 percent and we were on the brink of the worst economic conditions for the last 40 years. Unemployment was about to go up; employment was about to go down. And our allies abroad were uncertain and our adversaries were concerned as to what we might do under the circumstances.

What are the results of 21 months of Jerry Ford as President of the United States? We have restored trust in the White House. We have been open. We have been candid. We have been forthright. We have talked straight to the American people, and the net result is there is a restoration of trust by the American people in their Presidency. I think that deserves the support of the American people.

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But let's take a look at the economic circumstances that have taken place in the last 21 months. We have reduced the rate of inflation from 12 percent to under 3 percent. That is a 75 percent cutback. That is a good record, and it ought to be supported by the American people.

Twelve months ago we were in the worst economic conditions this country had had for 40 years, but what has happened in the last 12 months? We have added 3,300,000 jobs. We have now in America 87,400,000 people working, an all-time high. It is not good enough but it is a record and we are going to do better in the next four years with your help.

Let me say this country is at peace. We achieved it, we have got it and we are going to keep it with a Ford Administration for the next four years.

Let me just make this final comment. Those who have known me in Michigan in the 27 years that I have been honored to serve the people of this State, this country, I have always had the philosophy that you should not promise more than you can produce and that you ought to produce everything that you promise. That has been the key word of my public life straight talk, a feeling that I represented you and that I did the very best job that I possibly could.

We have had tough times the last 21 months. I have talked straight to the American people, they believe me, and I think they want the kind of trust and peace and prosperity that the Ford Administration can give in the next four years.

I ask for your help. I think I have earned it. And I will continue to be the kind of good President that you want for the next 48 months.

Thank you very, very much.

END (AT 10:22 A.M. EDT)