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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
FROM THE  
PRESIDENTIAL EXPRESS

DOWNTOWN LANSING STATION

11:28 A.M. EDT

Good morning, everybody.

Betty and I are delighted to be here in Lansing. We are delighted to be home in Michigan. We thank you for coming out in this beautiful Michigan weather. (Laughter) We thank all the bands. We thank all of you.

You know, this train ride, which started in Flint and is going to end up in Niles, goes through the heartland of Michigan. It is a train ride that is the beginning of victory in Kansas City, and in November of 1976.

Just a few years ago President Harry Truman won with a whistle stop, President Eisenhower with a whistle stop, and President Ford is going to win with a whistle stop.

Let me just express Betty's appreciation as well as mine for all of you coming here, and I want to ask you very seriously for your help and assistance on next Tuesday. It is very critical that we maximize our vote in that election, and the help that all of you can give will be very significant, the help that you yourself give, the help that your neighbors give, your friends and all of the people that you know.

As you talk to your friends, let me give you a few ideas why they ought to vote for me. I think I have earned the right to be President for the next four years.

If you will go back to August of 1974, this country was in a tough situation. The American people had lost the confidence of the White House. The American people were concerned about economic conditions. We had inflation at 12 percent. We were on the brink of an economic recession, the worst in 40 years.

People were concerned about where we were going in foreign policy. Our allies were not certain as to the will and as to the direction of the United States. Adversaries were concerned as well.

MORE

(OVER)

In the last 21 months we have turned things around. We have taken the situation from a lack of trust and a lack of confidence so the American people today know they have a President who is frank, who is honest, who has integrity, is forthright, and the net result is the people can say they have trust in the White House and they trust Jerry Ford.

We have made a lot of progress in trying to solve our economic problems. We are not home yet, but let me just give you some categories of the progress we have made. Twelve percent or more inflation in 1974 -- the first three months of 1976, 3 percent. We have cut the rate of inflation by 75 percent, and that is a darn good record.

Secondly, a year ago unemployment was almost 9 percent. We have turned it around. In the last 12 months, we have added 3,300,000 more people with jobs in America, and we are going to do better and better in the months ahead.

Just the month of April this year 710,000 more jobs in America, and you can see, I can see, all Americans can see that everything that is supposed to be going down is going down and everything that is supposed to be going up is going up and the Ford Administration, Jerry Ford, can take credit for this progress.

One final comment. We have got trust, we are making things better here at home, we are achieving the kind of economic progress that is necessary, and we have got peace in America today. We have turned it around from a war that we were in a year ago to peace today, and with the programs that we have of military capability and diplomatic skill, we are going to keep the peace for the next four years.

I had the privilege of representing some wonderful people just west of here for almost 26 years. I always believe that you should promise everything you can deliver and deliver everything that you promise, and I have done it as your President for 21 months and will do that for four more years as well.

As I said at the beginning, Betty and I are just pleased to be back here in Michigan with our home town or home State folks, and we are counting on you. It is a critical election on Tuesday, and let me say this: You won't let me down and Jerry Ford won't let you down for the next four years.

Thank you very, very much.

END

(AT 11:35 A.M. EDT)