

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE CROWD IN
BAY RIDGE

3:00 P.M. EDT

Let me say just a few words.

I think we can say with pride, we can say with the fullest, complete conviction, that we are doing the right thing for this country. I am the first President in 20 years who can go before the American people and say that our Nation is at peace. There is not a single young American fighting or dying on any foreign soil today, and we should be proud of it. And we have the military capability and the diplomatic skill to keep the peace, and we will under a Ford Administration.

But we have to have a healthy economy at home, and that means a job for everybody who wants a job, a home for everybody who will work for it, and that means we have to get rid of the crime on the streets so that you and your children will be free of any terrorism, either at home or abroad. It means that you have to have the best education, the kind of health care that you need, and that you can afford.

So, we want only good health, better education, a better tax system, responsible action in meeting the problems of crime, equality of life in America.

Let me conclude by one final comment: I think the middle income taxpayer of this country is getting shortchanged, and the best way to give him the right kind of tax relief is to increase the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. That is what we need and that is what we will get.

Thank you all very much.

END (AT 3:03 P.M. EDT)