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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT
PIER 57

12:46 P.M. PDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very, very much, Dan, Joel Pritchard, and may I at the very outset introduce a very good friend of mine. He is a good friend of all of yours. You have seen a lot of him lately, but you would like to see him in person -- Joe Garagiola. He can run as well as talk. (Laughter)

MR. GARAGIOLA: I am not very good at making political speeches. I just believe in people, I believe in President Ford and for the first time in my life I believe I have booked a winner.

THE PRESIDENT: I would also like to express my deep personal appreciation to the master of ceremonies, Peter Graves, who went with us in Illinois, who was with us in California. Thank you very, very much Peter.

In this process you get some experience on bands. Well, let me say that the Bellevue band, the Greenan band and the Everett band -- they are all first-class.

I can't express deeply enough my appreciation to Dan Evans, and when people say he is a Governor's Governor, believe me, that means something to me. I respect his tremendous job for you, and I am deeply appreciative of his personal friendship. Thank you very, very much, Dan.

I said in Kansas City in August a few months ago that we wouldn't concede a single State and we won't concede a single vote. We haven't, and we won't, and that is why we are going to win on November 2.

When I see such a tremendous crowd here on the waterfront of Seattle, I am absolutely confident with the enthusiasm that you have that we are going to carry the State of Washington on November 2, and we will win in this election across the country.

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While I am here in Seattle, let me extend a very special invitation for all of you to come to Washington, D.C. on January 20, 1977 to be a part of the inauguration of Jerry Ford and Bob Dole. You know where I stand. I stand on your side for limited Government, for fiscal responsibility, for rising prosperity, for lower taxes, for military strength, for peace in the world, and I am proud to stand here in Seattle and say not a single young American is fighting and dying on any foreign soil today, and we will keep it that way.

After so many years in which America's defensive needs were shortchanged, I proposed the two largest defense outlays in America's history, and that was tough to convince the Congress to stop slashing away -- in effect, cutting away -- our military capability.

The people of Seattle not only understand the importance of a strong national defense, but you have been doing something about it. The nation is proud of the vital role which Seattle and the Boeing Company have played in making America the leader in aviation, both civilian as well as military. Congratulations.

At this moment the Boeing B-52 is the backbone of our strategic bomber force, an absolutely indispensable element in preserving peace through strength. Let me add that my opponent in this campaign, I think mistakenly so, has promised a defense cut of at least \$5 to \$6 billion. That kind of defense cut would require troop withdrawals from strategic bases overseas; delay or cancel advanced weapons systems like the B-1 bomber; a slowdown in our ship construction program, which helps to keep the peace throughout the world. It would mean closing defense plants at military bases right here, possibly -- not only in the United States as a whole but the State of Washington as well.

You don't want that either. I don't want it, and we will keep our defenses strong in the next four years of a Ford Administration, so we can maintain the peace, deter aggression and stand tall and strong with our allies as well as facing up to any challenges of our adversaries. That is my pledge to you for the next four years.

After so many years of runaway growth in the Federal budget, I submitted a budget for this fiscal year which cut the rate of growth of Federal spending by one-half. I have held the line on Government spending with 66 vetoes and saved you, the hard-pressed taxpayers, more than \$9 billion.

Let me tell you what that means to an individual tax-paying family. Nine billion dollars saved in the Federal Treasury -- those vetoes saved each American family about \$200 in Federal spending in the last 12 to 18 months.

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Because I have not been afraid to say no to excessive spending, we will submit a balanced budget for the Federal Government in 1978, and we will have another tax reduction for the American taxpayer in the meantime. Listen carefully. My idea of tax reform is tax reduction. I propose raising your personal income tax exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. Congress didn't act on that proposal. I can't understand why.

What would it mean to an individual tax-paying family? I was in a plant the other day. One of the workers asked me, "What are you doing about tax reduction?" I told him how we wanted to raise the personal income tax reduction by \$250 per dependent or taxpayer. I said, "How many children do you have," and he said, "Three -- a wife, two children and himself." Under my proposal this would mean that that taxpayer, when he fills out that tax return in 1977 or 1978, that he would get \$1,250 more in a personal exemption. I think that is good tax reform.

We all know that the middle income taxpayer has been shortchanged in America, and so the Ford proposal for tax reform, which is tax reduction, will give the kind of tax relief that the middle income taxpayer needs and wants, and if the next Congress won't do it in 1977 or 1978, we will go to the American people and we will beat those that keep on shortchanging the middle income taxpayer.

Now, after so many years of uncontrolled inflation, as Dan Evans said, we have cut inflation in half in the past two years, and I pledge to you we will do even better in the next four.

Now, after the worst recession in 40 years--I didn't like it; you didn't like it--we have added four million jobs in the American economy in the past two years, not by creating deadend, underproductive jobs at the taxpayers' expense, but by stimulating jobs with a future in the private economy where five out of the six jobs in America exist today.

Too many people are out of work. We are not satisfied with the progress we have made, but I say with some pride that more Americans were on the job in 1976 than ever before in the history of the United States, nearly 88 million, and that is a tremendous comeback from where we were just 18 months ago.

After suffering a tragic betrayal of public trust two years ago, America has had its faith restored in the White House itself. My Administration has been open, candid, straightforward. We call 'em as we see 'em. We talk straight from the shoulder and we will keep it that way for the next four years.

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In every field America is on the move, on the march. We have made an incredible comeback in the past two years and we are not through yet. You can believe me when I say this Nation is sound, this Nation is secure, this Nation is on the way to a better quality of life. And this Administration has earned the trust of the American people for the next four years.

My record is one of progress, not platitudes; performance, not promises. We don't need a Government in Washington to do everything for us or to tell us everything we can or cannot do.

As I travel the length and the breadth of America, I find that we have a great reservoir of talent and industry in America, and it is not all concentrated on the banks of the Potomac. You have it here in Washington, and, believe me, we have it in 49 other States.

Jimmy Carter said we are not respected any more. This week, America made a clean sweep of the Nobel Prizes for economics, chemistry, physics, medicine and literature. This is the first time in the history of the awarding of those prestigious awards that a single country has been the home of all these winners. That doesn't sound like a second rate operation to me.

I am proud to be a citizen of this great country, just like you are. We have had our problems, but in the past two years we have come a long, long way. At home and abroad we are putting our old differences aside, we are putting old problems behind us, healing the wounds, the anger that existed some two years ago. It is a record that I am proud to run on, a record the people of Washington and concerned citizens throughout the whole United States -- Democrats, Independents and Republicans -- who can and will support this ticket of Jerry Ford and Bob Dole on November 2.

Give me your mandate and we will reduce the growth of Government even more.

Give me your mandate and we will insure the integrity of the Social Security system. We will improve Medicare so that our older citizens can enjoy the health and happiness that they have so richly earned. There is no reason that our older citizens should have to go broke just to get well.

Give me your mandate and we will create a tax system that is fair to all, that will preserve the family, the family home, the family business, the family farm, that will give to business the tax incentives to build new plants, modernize old ones, and create more and more jobs throughout America.

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Give me your mandate and I will lead this Nation on the paths of peace through strength, and we will live in peace and freedom in the United States of America.

I have no fear for the future of this great country. The future for America is a friend, and as we go forward I promise you once more, as I promised you before, to uphold the Constitution, to do what is right as God gives me the right to see the right, and to do the very best that I can for America. God helping me, I will not let you down.

Thank you very, very much.

END (AT 1:02 P.M. PDT)