

For immediate release  
Tuesday, April 20, 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of Mrs. Ford's Press Secretary

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TEXT OF MRS FORD'S REMARKS AT THE PADRE STAPLES MALL SHOPPING CENTER  
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 1976

All my life I've heard about the warm and friendly people of Texas, and I want you to know that two days in the state have made a believer out of me. I've been lucky to have close friends from Texas, and now I can appreciate their enthusiasm for their home state.

I'm absolutely delighted to be in Corpus and to have a chance to visit with you. I've found in the past few months of traveling that malls are like courthouse squares were in the past---good places to meet people and talk a little politics.

Texas has just a fabulous political history, and I'm down here hoping to encourage you to add a new page to that history. I hope you'll vote in the Republican primary. I'll bet you can guess my favorite candidate--my husband. Primaries are an important part of our election process, and Texas is a very important primary for President Ford. You have a chance in Texas to speak out about the job my husband is doing for our country. I really hope you'll do that---by voting in the Republican primary.

Texas is a big state physically and important politically---and I hope it's going to be a big state for Gerald Ford.

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