

The original documents are located in Box 45, folder “Speech (made on behalf of First Lady)” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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DIGEST OF REMARKS MADE TO THE CITIZENS ACTION
COMMITTEE TO FIGHT INFLATION AT FORD'S THEATRE,
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1975, ON BEHALF OF MRS.
FORD. - JOHN E. NIDECKER

MRS. LIPOW, MRS. WRIGHT, AND MEMBERS OF THE CITIZENS
ACTION COMMITTEE TO FIGHT INFLATION, I AM HAPPY THAT
MRS. FORD ASKED ME TO REPRESENT HER HERE TODAY TO
CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN ANSWERING
THE LETTERS WRITTEN CONCERNING THE WIN PROGRAM. I
WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND THE THANKS AND DEEP APPRECIATION
OF THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY TO YOU ON YOUR WORK.

THE TASK THAT YOU HAD BEFORE YOU SEEMED TO BE INSUR-
MOUNTABLE BUT THE LETTER WRITERS NEVER RECKONED WITH
THE DEDICATION OF THIS FINE GROUP. AS A MATTER OF
FACT, THERE WERE SOME DOUBTERS ON OUR STAFF WHO
WONDERED IF YOU COULD ACCOMPLISH WHAT YOU SET OUT TO DO.
THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD HOWEVER, HAD THE RIGHT KIND
OF FAITH IN YOU ALL AND THEY KNEW THAT YOU WOULD FULFILL
THE OBLIGATION WHICH YOU HAD ACCEPTED AS YOUR OWN.



HAVING BEEN IN THE POLITICAL ARENA FOR WHAT NOW SEEMS MORE THAN AN AGE, I AM WELL AWARE OF THE FEELING THAT BUILDS UP WHEN THE POSTMAN ARRIVES ON THE SCENE WITH AN UNENDING STREAM OF MAIL BAGS FULL OF MESSAGES THAT PROCLAIM LOUDLY THE THOUGHTS OF THOSE WHO HAVE TAKEN THE TIME FOR RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGES THEY SEE IN ANY PROGRAM. WHO ARE THE LONGEST LETTER WRITERS, THE PROS OR THE CONS? IT IS HARD TO SAY AND I'M SURE THAT MANY GREAT IDEAS HAVE BEEN PROPOUNDED FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE.

ALL IN ALL THE JOB THAT YOU HAVE DONE IS OUTSTANDING AND IS DEEPLY APPRECIATED BY ALL OF US AT THE WHITE HOUSE, ESPECIALLY THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE JOB THAT YOU HAVE BEEN DOING IS ALMOST TO COMPLETION AND FOR THAT REASON THE FIRST FAMILY WANTED YOU TO HEAR THEIR THOUGHTS NOW THAT YOU ARE ALL GATHERED TOGETHER FOR THIS DRESS REHEARSAL OF NASH AT 9.

AS A WRITER OF VERSE, I AM AN AVID FAN OF THE BARD OF BALTIMORE AND WISH THAT I HAD HIS FACILITY FOR PLACING WORDS IN UNUSUAL JUXTAPOSITION TO MAKE THEM RHYME IN GREAT HUMOR.



I CANNOT ABIDE PLAIGARISM OR EVEN THOSE WHO
PARAPHRASE THE WORDS OF THE GREAT, BUT FEEL
DEEPLY THAT OGDEN NASH MIGHT HAVE WRITTEN
THIS LITTLE RHYME TO YOU.

SOME FOLKS ENGAGED IN LETTER WRITING
MAY THINK THE JOB IS NOT EXCITING,
BUT HAVE THIS AS YOUR JUST REWARD
GREAT ACCOLADES FROM BETTY FORD.

