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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: ROBERT T. HARTMANN

SUBJECT: Remarks before Q&A at National Assoc.
of Broadcasters Regional Conference
Portland, Oregon, October 25, 1976

I would like your priority attention and personal response on the attached draft (even if you approve it as is) by 5:00 P.M. TODAY!

Please return your comments to Bob Orben in the Editorial Office in Room 115, OEOB (Ext. 6573).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Please check one box and sign below:

() I approve the draft without changes.

(X) Suggested revisions are noted on the draft or attached separately. *See p. 14*

Initials: P.W.B.



INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BEFORE QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS REGIONAL CONFERENCE
PORTLAND, OREGON
MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1976

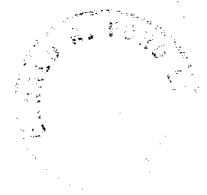
-1-

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVITATION TO APPEAR BEFORE THIS
REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS.
RATHER THAN MAKE A SPEECH, I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO ANSWER SOME OF YOUR QUESTIONS. BUT FIRST, LET ME MAKE
A BRIEF STATEMENT.



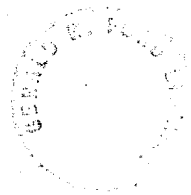
JUST ONE WEEK FROM TOMORROW, AMERICANS WILL BE GOING
TO THE POLLS. ~~AS I SAID IN MY ACCEPTANCE SPEECH AT
KANSAS CITY, THESE ARE THE POLLS THAT MATTER.~~
THIS WILL BE THE FINAL CHOICE.

AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE, THE VOTERS' DECISION WILL BE
AFFECTED BY THE EVIDENCE THAT YOU IN THE BROADCAST MEDIA
HAVE PUT BEFORE THEM. IN MY OPINION YOUR COVERAGE OVERALL
HAS BEEN FAIR AND EVEN-HANDED.



THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT MANY VOTERS HAVE NOT YET
MADE UP THEIR MINDS. ONE NON-PARTISAN PUBLIC OPINION
EXPERT HAS EXPLAINED THAT WHEN PEOPLE ARE UNCERTAIN,
THEY TEND TO POSTPONE THEIR FINAL DECISION AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

HE WENT ON TO SAY, "IT IS THE CONFUSION ABOUT CARTER
THAT LIES AT THE HEART OF THE VOTERS' INDECISION."



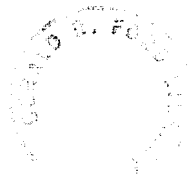
I FIND IT AMAZING THAT AFTER ALL THIS TIME -- AFTER
A CAMPAIGN NEARLY THREE YEARS IN THE PLANNING AND NEARLY
ONE YEAR AT FULL STEAM -- AFTER INTENSIVE COVERAGE BY BROADCAST
AND PRINT MEDIA THROUGHOUT THE PRIMARIES, THE CONVENTIONS AND
THE CAMPAIGN -- GOVERNOR CARTER STILL HAS NOT SUCCEEDED
IN CLARIFYING EXACTLY WHAT HE REPRESENTS.

IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE STILL DO NOT
KNOW WHERE HE STANDS, OR WHAT A CARTER PRESIDENCY WOULD
BE LIKE.



IT IS FAIR TO SAY THIS EVEN BOTHERS MANY OF HIS
SUPPORTERS. ONE PROMINENT LIBERAL MAGAZINE WHICH
ENDORSED GOVERNOR CARTER, CRITICIZED THE "FUZZY AND
CONTRADICTORY SENSE OF HIS INTENTIONS."

THIS MAGAZINE FURTHER COMPLAINED THAT CARTER,
"STANDING ON PRIVILEGE AND PRECEDENT . . . REFUSES TO TELL US
WHOM HE TRUSTS, WHILE ASKING US TO TRUST HIM."



THERE IS MUCH THAT GOVERNOR CARTER HAS REFUSED TO TELL
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- FOR EXAMPLE, THE LONG-PROMISED
SPECIFICS OF HIS TAX REFORM PLAN.

WHERE HE HAS BEEN SPECIFIC, HE HAS PLANTED DOUBTS
IN THE MINDS OF MANY.

HE HAS ENDORSED A PARTY PLATFORM THAT WOULD INCREASE
FEDERAL SPENDING BY 100 BILLION DOLLARS TO 200 BILLION DOLLAR
PER YEAR. HE HAS ENDORSED CUTS IN OUR DEFENSE BUDGET --
EVEN WHILE CLAIMING THAT WE ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH.

OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO BROADCASTERS IS

GOVERNOR CARTER'S STATED INTENTION TO TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST

IN TELEVISION PROGRAMMING IF ELECTED PRESIDENT. I HOPE

YOU'VE READ OUR TWO INTERVIEWS IN TV GUIDE WHICH SET OUT

OUR TWO RESPECTIVE VIEWPOINTS.

AT THIS LATE DATE, IT IS UNLIKELY MY OPPONENT WILL BE

ABLE TO CLARIFY HIS POSITIONS ENOUGH TO SATISFY THE MAJORITY

OF AMERICAN VOTERS.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THOSE SAME VOTERS KNOW WHERE I STAND,
AND THAT A MAJORITY OF THEM WILL ENDORSE THE POLICIES I HAVE
ALWAYS STOOD FOR -- A REDUCTION IN TAXES ^{IN} AND THE GROWTH
OF FEDERAL SPENDING, A STRONG DEFENSE, AND LESS GOVERNMENT
INTERFERENCE IN AMERICAN LIFE.

NOW I WILL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER AS MANY QUESTIONS
AS WE HAVE TIME FOR.

END OF TEXT



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: ROBERT T. HARTMANN

SUBJECT: Remarks at North Carolina State Fair,
October 23, 1976

I would like your priority attention and personal response on the attached draft (even if you approve it as is) by 5:00 P.M. TODAY!

Please return your comments to Bob Orben in the Editorial Office in Room 115, OEOB (Ext. 6573).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Please check one box and sign below:

() I approve the draft without changes.

(X) Suggested revisions are noted on the draft or attached separately. *Sec p. 2 & p. 37*

Initials: P.W.B.



WELL, HERE I AM, AND I LOVE IT.

WHILE I'M HERE, LET ME EXTEND A VERY SPECIAL

INVITATION TO COME TO WASHINGTON NEXT JANUARY FOR THE

INAUGURATION OF JERRY FORD AND BOB DOLE. [OR TO PUT IT

ANOTHER WAY, Y'ALL COME.]

I think this expression would be presented by some.

I AM EXTENDING THAT SPECIAL INVITATION TO YOU

BECAUSE YOU ARE SO SPECIAL TO ME.

I HAVE DEVELOPED QUITE A FRIENDSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE

OF THIS STATE, DATING BACK TO MY EARLY DAYS AS A NAVAL

INSTRUCTOR AT CHAPEL HILL.

BUT RURAL VITALITY IS NOT ALL THAT NORTH CAROLINA HAS
GOING FOR IT.

THE NORTH CAROLINA RESEARCH TRIANGLE AND THE OTHER FINE
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THIS STATE HAVE HELPED MAKE
AMERICA THE MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL ~~AND EDUCATIONAL~~
SOCIETY IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND, *WITH THE GREATEST*
RANGE OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 22, 1976

MEMO FOR: PHIL BUCHEN *Bowie*
FROM: BOBBIE KILBERG
SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks in
Richmond, Virginia

The attached speech is fine as written, with one possible concern. On page 6 the President clearly supports the right-to-work laws of Virginia and 18 other states. It is my understanding that to date the President has taken a pro right-to-work position only in response to specific questions and that he has not raised the issue himself. As you know, this statement will anger labor unions. However, labor unions are very weak in Virginia, and this statement will not come as a surprise to the national unions since the President is on record as supporting right-to-work. And most unions do not support us.

It comes down to a political judgment as to whether or not the President should mention right-to-work in this speech. I would suggest that you call Hartmann or Marsh to be sure that the inclusion of a right-to-work paragraph was politically reviewed.

*I called
Bob Hartmann
on this point
10/22*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

OCTOBER 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PHILLIP BUCHEN

FROM:

ROBERT T. HARTMANN

SUBJECT:

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS IN RICHMOND,
VIRGINIA, OCTOBER 23, 1976

I would like your priority attention and personal response on the attached draft (even if you approve it as is) by AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Please return your comments to Bob Orben in the Editorial Office in Room 115, OEOB (Ext. 6573).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Please check one box and sign below:

- I approve the draft without changes.
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Initials: _____



(Butler)

October 21, 1976

SECOND DRAFT

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 23, 1976

It's great to be in Richmond -- and in the historic Commonwealth of Virginia.

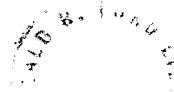
I am proud to call Virginia my second home. My family and I lived in Alexandria for 25 years before we moved to the White House.

In fact, for the first few days after taking office as President, I commuted from Crown View Drive to Pennsylvania Avenue every morning.

My children went to public schools in Virginia. I still pay property taxes in Virginia. I even belong to the Friendship Fire Company in Virginia, just like George Washington.

This Commonwealth is widely known as the "mother of Presidents," and I am proud to be an adopted son.

As our Bicentennial celebration vividly reminded us, your native sons have written many important chapters in the history of this country. Their names are American



legends: Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Henry, Marshall, Lee, Woodrow Wilson, Harry Byrd, and so many more.

With this tradition of excellence in public service, you place special demands on candidates for public office.

You require more than a smile and a handshake, more than doubletalk on the issues, more than a plea for "trust".

The debate last night and the campaign of the last several months have shown that only one candidate trusts you enough to tell you what he really thinks, where he really stands, plainly and specifically, on the great issues facing this country today.

That candidate is your neighbor from Alexandria, Jerry Ford. It is from your ranks that I come, and on your side I stand:

For limited government, for fiscal responsibility, for rising prosperity, for lower taxes, for military strength, for peace in the world.

I am counting on the people of Virginia to stand up for me on November second.

After so many years of war, America is enjoying the blessings of peace. Not a single young American is fighting and dying on any foreign battlefield -- and I intend to keep it that way.

After so many years in which America's defensive needs were shortchanged, I proposed the two largest defense budgets in America's history -- and convinced the Congress to stop slashing away at military spending.

After so many years of runaway growth in the Federal budget, I submitted a budget for this fiscal year which cut that rate of growth in half.

I have held the line on government spending with 64 vetoes and saved you more than nine billion dollars.

Because I have not been afraid to say "no" to excessive spending, we will be able to submit a balanced Federal budget by 1978.

After so many years of uncontrolled inflation, we have cut inflation in half in the past two years, and we will do even better in the future.

After the worst economic recession in forty years, we have added four million jobs to the American economy in the past two years -- not by creating dead-end jobs at the taxpayer's expense but by stimulating jobs with a future in the private economy, where five out of six jobs are found.

Too many people are still out of work. We are not satisfied with the progress we've made. But more Americans are on the job in 1976 than ever before in the history of this country -- and that's quite a comeback from where we were just a year and a half ago.

After suffering a tragic betrayal of public trust two years ago, America has had its faith restored in the White House. My Administration has been open, candid, forthright.

As I told the Southern Baptist Convention in Roanoke earlier this year, I firmly believe that private morality

and public service can -- and must -- go hand in hand.

This is only part of the Ford Administration's record in the past two years. Farm exports and farm income are at an all-time high. A major effort is already underway to cut red tape in the Federal bureaucracy. We are working for peace and justice in the Middle East and Southern Africa.

In every field, America is on the move, on the march. We have made an incredible comeback in the past two years, and we're not through yet.

Do not be deceived by those who paint a portrait of a bleak and frightened America, a Nation that has lost its way and its will, a Nation adrift.

This Nation is sound. This Nation is secure. This Nation is on the way to a better quality of life for all Americans.

Do not be deceived by those who argue for a balanced budget on one hand and 60 new spending programs on the other.

Do not be deceived by those who say America isn't strong anymore, and then call for a multi-billion dollar

reduction in defense spending.

Do not be deceived by those who preach compassion, but who demonstrate no compassion for the hard-pressed middle-income taxpayer in America.

Do not be deceived by those who say they want to put people back to work, but who at the same time would strike down the right-to-work laws of Virginia and 18 other states.

Do not be deceived by those who say "trust me" but who will not trust you with the specifics of their campaign promises.

My record is one of progress, not platitude; performance, not promises; specifics, not smiles.

It is a record I am proud to run on, a record the people of Virginia and your neighbors throughout America will support on November second.

But it is not a record I intend to rest on.

Give me your mandate, and we will reduce the growth of government still more.

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

Give me your mandate, and we will make sure that this rich nation does not neglect its citizens who are less fortunate, but provides for their needs with compassion and dignity.

Give me your mandate, and we will create a tax structure that is fair to all, that will preserve the family home, the family business, the family farm, that will let you keep more of the money you work so hard to earn.

Give me your mandate, and we will expand the recreational opportunities and preserve the historic landmarks of America, as our heritage to future generations of Americans.

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

I have no fear for the future of this country. For America, the future is a friend.

As we go forward together, I promise you once more what I promised before: to uphold the Constitution, to do what is right as God gives me to see the right, and to do the very best that I can for America.

God helping me, I will not let you down.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

OCTOBER 25, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PHIL BUCHEN

FROM:

ROBERT T. HARTMANN

SUBJECT:

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT BUSINESSMEN
FOR FORD RALLY, OCTOBER 28, INDIANAPOLIS

I would like your priority attention and personal response on the attached draft (even if you approve it as is) by 10 AM TUESDAY, OCT. 26

Please return your comments to Bob Orben in the Editorial Office in Room 115, OEOB (Ext. 6573).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Please check one box and sign below:

() I approve the draft without changes.

(X) Suggested revisions are noted on the draft or attached separately. *See p. 10*

Initials: _____

R.W.B.

Will it be a future of stable growth ... or a
future of roller coaster economics? Will it be a politics of
reality ... or a politics of rhetoric? Will it be an America
of ~~endless~~ ^{real and constant} promise -- or just an America of ^{dubious and} endless promises?

The decision is yours.

I am confident that on November second, Indiana
and the rest of America will join voices and say: Jerry Ford,
you've done a good job -- keep right on doing it.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

OCTOBER 29, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: ROBERT T. HARTMANN .

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT ONONDAGA
COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL, SYRACUSE, 10/30/76

I would like your priority attention and personal response on the
attached draft (even if you approve it as is) by AS SOON AS POSSIBLE !

Please return your comments to Bob Orben in the Editorial Office
in Room 115, OEOB (Ext. 6573).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Please check one box and sign below:

- I approve the draft without changes.
- Suggested revisions are noted on the
draft or attached separately.

Initials: P.W.B.

FRIEDMAN

0.C.
SECOND DRAFT
OCTOBER 28, 1976

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT ONONDAGA COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL,
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK, October 30, 1976

I am honored to greet the people of Syracuse,
the people of this great county, and all those who are
here tonight from Watertown, from Utica, from Rome,
from Rochester, from Auburn, from Oswego, from Oneida,
from Norwich, from Binghamton, from Ithaca, from Courtland,
and from all over central New York.

I ask you to re-elect a Senator of great integrity,
a champion of American individualism, Senator Buckley.

I ask you to re-elect Bill Walsh to Congress.
Bill, who was one of the best mayors in the State's history,
is now helping me to bring economic sense to Capitol Hill.

I ask you to elect George Wortley to Congress.

George is running against a free-spending incumbent. I need
George in Washington next January.

In less than sixty hours, you will start going to the polls. You will choose between two very different philosophies of government.

You can turn our destiny -- and our material well-being-- over to a liberal spending philosophy which promises all things to all people.

Or you can continue the proven performance of the Ford Administration.

We have heard in recent days that apathy has overtaken the American people and that there is no point in choosing between the two candidates. I even saw a bumper sticker that said, "Honk when the election is over." But you had better honk before the election is over. I say to you and every American tonight, if you are undecided, now is the time to make some elementary decisions.

-- You must decide if you want your taxes increased -- or if you want your taxes reduced.

-- You must decide if you want more inflationary spending of your money by a Congress lacking any restraint by veto.

--You must decide if you want to jeopardize the tax deductions on your home mortgage payments.

--You must decide if you want to preserve our national defense and peace through strength.

--You must decide between my record and the puzzling proposals of my opponent, cloaked in confusion and contradiction, although their outline is very plain. It is a blueprint for more spending, more inflation, more taxes, more social upheaval -- all at the expense of taxpayers who are already overburdened.

What is at stake is the whole character of our society.

We live in a great republic where those who have willpower and ability and even the good luck to succeed should be able to enjoy a fair measure of their success. If a President penalizes the industry of millions of hard-working middle-income Americans, it will undermine initiative, negate our value system, and distort the whole philosophy of the American way of life.

My opponent would cut taxes by closing so-called loopholes, not just on the millionaires, but also on average folks like yourselves. My response is that the only common sense way to cut taxes is to cut spending.

My opponent actually suggested he would raise income taxes for everyone over the median income level, about 14 thousand dollars per year. Now he says that isn't what he meant. He says he has not studied the subject at all, but he will let us know what he decides after he has been in office for a few months.

I say that is reasonable to let him have more time to prepare himself -- but not at the taxpayers expense.

I say the people of New York and all Americans should know before election what Mr. Carter plans to do about your taxes after the election.

My opponent's platform calls for between 100 billion and 200 billion dollars in new federal spending. That may be news to you because he never puts a price-tag on his programs. Yet he talks about balancing the budget without raising income taxes.

He can't have it both ways. He can't talk about compassion and not have any compassion for the hard working middle income taxpayers.

The American people have a big heart, but too many politicians mistake that big heart for a blank check.

It is not an act of compassion to rob older citizens of their fixed income by feeding inflation with more federal spending.

It is not an act of compassion to prevent a young couple from buying a home because federal borrowing for deficit spending drives up mortgage interest rates.

It is not an act of compassion to put coming generations of Americans deeply in debt and mortgage their futures before they are born.

You work hard for every dollar that you earn. Your tax dollars should work just as hard for you as you work for them.



You learn who pays for campaign promises when the bill arrives at your mailbox.

In the last two years I vetoed 64 bills sent to me by an irresponsible Congress.

My vetoes saved you more than nine billion dollars.

If my opponent's friends in Congress had been as interested in saving money as I am, my vetoes could have saved 16 billion dollars more.

My idea of tax reform is tax reduction -- cut spending, cut taxes, keep more of your own money. For ten years now federal spending has grown at an alarming rate, thanks to an overtaxing, overspending, overbearing Congress.

The budget I submitted to the Congress last January cut that rate of growth by one-half. I asked for a 28 billion dollar tax reduction coupled with a 28 billion dollar cut in federal spending. Congress gave you only a ten billion dollar tax cut and 18 billion dollars more in federal spending.

I asked for an increase in your personal income tax exemption from 750 dollars to 1,000 dollars. Congress refused. I asked for tax incentives to increase business investment in high unemployment areas. Congress refused.

Mr. Carter calls our tax system a disgrace to the human race. If that is true, then it is a disgrace to the Democratic majorities who have controlled both the House and the Senate, written every tax law, and every tax loophole for the past 22 years. You know where to put the blame.

Mr. Carter offers more promises, more programs, more spending, more taxes, more inflation, more government, but a weaker national defense.

After so many years of war, America is enjoying the blessings of peace. Not a single young American is fighting and dying on any foreign battlefield -- and I intend to keep it that way.



I am really proud of my Administration.

After so many years of uncontrolled inflation, we
have cut inflation / ^{by more than} half in the past two years, and we will
do even better in the future.

After the worse economic recession in forty years,
we have added four million jobs to the American economy in
the past two years -- not by creating dead-end jobs at the
taxpayer's expense but by stimulating jobs with a future
in the private economy, where five out of six jobs are found.

Too many people are still out of work. We are
not satisfied with the progress we've made. But more Americans
are on the job in 1976 than ever before in the history of this
country.

After suffering a tragic betrayal of public trust
two years ago, America has had its faith restored in the
White House. My Administration has been open, candid,
straight forward.



I have demanded the highest standards of honesty, decency and personal integrity from everybody in the Executive branch.

I firmly believe that private morality and public service can -- and must -- go hand in hand.

America is on the move, on the march. We have made an incredible comeback in the past two years, and we're not through yet.

This Nation is sound. This Nation is secure. This Nation is on the way to a better quality of life for all Americans.

Do not be deceived by those who say "trust me" but who will not trust you with the specifics of their campaign promises.

My record is one of progress, not platitudes; performance, not promises; specifics, not smiles.

It is a record I am proud to run on, a record the people of New York State will support on Tuesday.



But it is not a record I intend to rest on.

Give me your mandate, and we will reduce the growth of government still more.

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

Give me your mandate, and we will create a tax structure that is fair to all, that will preserve the family home, the family business, the family farm, that will let you keep more of the money you work so hard to earn.

Give me your mandate, and we will expand the recreational opportunities and preserve the historic landmarks of America, as our heritage to future generations of Americans.

Give me your mandate, and I ^{will} lead this nation on the path of peace through strength with freedom.

I have no fear for the future of this country.

For America, the future is a friend.

As we go forward together, I promise you once more
what I promised before: to uphold the Constitution,
to do what is right as God gives me to see the right,
and to do the very best I can for America.

God helping me, I will not let you down.

#



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

OCTOBER 29, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: ROBERT T. HARTMANN

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT HOUSTON
RALLY, 10/30/76

I would like your priority attention and personal response on the attached draft (even if you approve it as is) by AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

Please return your comments to Bob Orben in the Editorial Office in Room 115, OEOB (Ext. 6573).

Thank you for your cooperation.

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Initials: _____

P.W.B.



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT HOUSTON RALLY, OCTOBER 30, 1976

Can anyone here tell me how far it is from Kansas City, Missouri, to Houston, Texas? I'll tell you exactly how far.

It's 33 percentage points straight up. We have drawn even with our opponents, we are moving ahead in key states like Texas, and when the last undecided voter becomes decided on Tuesday, we are going to win, and win a great victory for the American people!

Together we have made the greatest political comeback in this century.

But the comeback we have made in the last two months is nothing compared to the comeback our country has made in the past two years.

When I assumed the Presidency in August of 1974, it was a dark hour for America. It was a time in our history that troubled our minds and tore at our hearts. Anger and hatred had risen to dangerous levels, dividing friends and families. Our governmental system was closer to stalemate than at any time since the Civil War.



Inflation had reached the double digit state -- over 12 percent -- taking us headlong into the worst recession in over 40 years.

Even our national security was endangered by a growing sense of isolationism in some faint hearted quarters of this country and especially in the majority of this Congress.

There was only one thing for America to do. Say a fervent prayer, roll up its sleeves and go to work. That's just what we did.

Throughout those two years, I faced many difficult problems. I'm sure I made some mistakes. But on balance, America has made an incredible comeback in that time, and nobody can honestly say otherwise.

Economically, militarily, spiritually, America is far stronger today than it was two years ago. That is the plain truth and it is also the truth in Plains.

From the very beginning, I forced the Congress to abandon or to severely cut back reckless Federal spending programs.

One of my most important weapons is the veto. I vetoed 66 bills sent to me by the Congress and I made 54 of those vetoes stick, saving the American taxpayer over nine billion dollars.

I promise you that whenever Congress overspends in the next four years, I'll use that veto power again and again and again.

Your tax dollars should work as hard for you as you do for them.

Today, we can see the clear results of this Administration's economic policies:

Four million more Americans have found jobs -- a peacetime record.

Confidence has returned. We are on a steady march to a sound recovery and a better quality of life for all Americans.

Inflation has been cut by more than one-half. Instead of being over 12 percent, as it was in August of 1974, inflation last month was down to 4.8 percent.

And we're going to do even better in the next four years.

One thing we will do is reduce the tax burden on the hard working middle-income taxpayers of America.

The very best tax reform that I know is tax reduction.

I recommend in January of this year that the personal exemption be increased from 750 dollars to 1,000 dollars to help the shortchanged low and middle income taxpayers.

The Ford Administration believes in less Federal spending and less Federal taxes -- and that is what we are going to have in the next four years. I am for the little taxpayer and against the big tax spender.

With firm leadership in the White House we can continue the progress we have made.

That is why I am in this race. That is why I want a mandate to finish the job that I have started.

I do not view the Presidency as a prize to be won -- but a duty to be done. I am determined to carry on the realistic, responsible policies that are right for America and what's more, are being proven right with every passing day.

But progress for America cannot be measured in dollars and cents alone. A better quality of life is not worth very much, if we do not have the peace to enjoy it. Today America is strong -- no young American is fighting and dying on any foreign battlefield -- and I'm going to keep it that way.

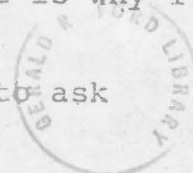
And let me add one point.

I'm not much of a poker player myself, but I know one thing:

When you play poker with the Russians -- and world peace is at stake -- you don't start by laying all your cards face up on the table.

Finally, I will use the next four years to finish the most important job that I have begun -- the restoration of faith and trust in the Presidency itself. Trust is not just my campaign promise -- it is the proven bottom line of my Administration.

Continued peace, continued prosperity, and continued trust. These are great goals for America. That is why I come here to Houston today -- to ask for your support -- to ask for your vote.



I seek not a Republican victory, but a victory for the American people. You are the people who pay the taxes and obey the laws. You are the people who make our system work. You are the people who make America what it is.

It is from your ranks that I come and on your side I stand.

That is why my campaign has made fewer promises to special interest groups in America. That is why my campaign holds more promise for all Americans.

When you go into that voting booth on Tuesday, you won't just be voting for a candidate --you'll be making a statement about the kind of future you want for America.

Will it be a future of stable growth and steady gains ... or a future of roller coaster economics? Will it be a politics of reality ... or a politics of rhetoric? Will it be an America of endless promise -- or just an America of endless promises?

The decision is yours.

I am confident that on November second, the Lone Star State of Texas and the rest of America will say with one voice: Jerry Ford, you've done a good job -- keep right on doing it.

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