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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

SEPTEMBER 4, 1975

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU, BILL

GOVERNOR EVANS

~~CONGRESSMAN JOEL PRITCHARD~~ SENATOR STEVENS

RALPH DAVIS (PRESIDENT, SEATTLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMAN

(ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS)

I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST --
PARTICULARLY IN THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY OF SEATTLE AND STATE OF
WASHINGTON. I KNOW YOU HAVE HAD A FULL DAY AT THIS
WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE SO I WILL KEEP MY REMARKS BRIEF.

AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, I HAVE BEEN A PART OF THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR SOME 26 YEARS -- AND I AM CONCERNED
OVER THE EVER-WIDENING COMMUNICATION GAP BETWEEN THE
WASHINGTON ON OUR EAST COAST AND OUR FELLOW AMERICANS IN
OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

TOO MANY AMERICANS HAVE DIFFICULTY MAKING THEIR
VIEWS AND WISHES KNOWN TO THE PEOPLE WITH WHOM THEY
COMMUNICATE IN WASHINGTON. THIS DIFFICULTY WAS BEST
SUMMED UP ON THE ENVELOPE OF A LETTER I RECENTLY RECEIVED.
IT WAS PLAINTIVELY ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT GERALD FORD OR
VICE PRESIDENT NELSON ROCKEFELLER OR SECRETARY OF STATE
HENRY KISSINGER -- OR JUST PLAIN ANYBODY WHO WILL LISTEN.

AS YOU HAVE SEEN HERE TODAY, I, ALONG WITH
OTHER KEY MEMBERS OF THE CABINET AND THE STAFF, HAVE COME
TO LISTEN AND TO LEARN. WE HAVE KEPT THE SPEECHES TO
A MINIMUM AND, HOPEFULLY, OUR RESPONSIVENESS TO A
MAXIMUM.

I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR QUESTIONS, YOUR CONCERNS,
YOUR IDEAS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY... ABOUT THE
DIRECTIONS YOU BELIEVE WE SHOULD TAKE. BUT, FIRST, LET
ME BRIEFLY TOUCH ON SOME OF THE BASIC DIRECTIONS I THINK OUR
NATION CAN AND SHOULD TAKE IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD.

OBVIOUSLY, THE ECONOMY IS ONE OF OUR PRINCIPAL CONCERNS. ENERGY IS ANOTHER. OVER THE YEARS, THE AMERICAN FREE ENTERPRISE ECONOMY HAS CREATED A BETTER LIFE FOR MORE PEOPLE THAN ANY OTHER SYSTEM IN THE WORLD. YET, IN THE PAST YEAR, WE HAVE SEEN IT PASS THROUGH SOME DIFFICULT TIMES. RECESSION, ON THE ONE HAND, INFLATION ON THE OTHER HAVE STRAINED THE ECONOMIC SECURITY OF MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF AMERICANS.

SOME OF THE CAUSES OF OUR ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES

WERE BEYOND OUR CONTROL.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

PROMPTED THE SKYROCKETING OIL PRICES.

OTHERS WERE THE

RESULT OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY, SUCH AS INFLATIONARY

SPENDING AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL.

BUT, ON THE BASIS OF THE LATEST FIGURES, THE
DARKEST DAYS OF THE RECESSION ARE BEHIND US. THE
AMERICAN ECONOMY IS STARTING A SUSTAINED RECOVERY THAT
WE ALL DESIRE. BUT WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO.

UNEMPLOYMENT IS FAR TOO HIGH -- AND MUST BE

BROUGHT DOWN. OUR FACTORIES MUST START PRODUCING

AT MAXIMUM CAPACITY AGAIN. AND WHILE WE MUST START

TO FIGHT THE RECESSION, WE MUST ALSO FIGHT JUST AS HARD

AGAINST RISING INFLATION -- A PROBLEM WHICH IS STILL

WITH US.

ANOTHER PROBLEM IS ENERGY DEPENDENCE. NO ONE

KNOWS BETTER THAN THE PEOPLE OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST THE

IMPORTANCE OF ENERGY IN THE ECONOMY. AT THE SAME TIME,

NO PART OF THE NATION IS MORE INTERESTED IN ENVIRONMENTAL

QUALITY. YOU ARE MOVING TO COMBINE THE TWO --

TO BALANCE THEM -- IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH THE ECONOMY

AND ECOLOGY.

THE ALASKA PIPELINE WILL ULTIMATELY MAKE SEATTLE

this part

A LIFELINE OF ENERGY FOR ~~THE~~ REST OF THE COUNTRY, AT THE

SAME TIME -- RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR ALTERNATE SOURCES

OF ENERGY -- YOU ARE BUILDING NUCLEAR ENERGY PLANTS.

IN SHORT, YOU HERE IN SEATTLE AND THE STATE

OF WASHINGTON ARE MAKING YOUR DECISIONS. YOU ARE

TAKING ACTION TO ASSURE YOUR FUTURE. WE MUST DO THE

SAME ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

TODAY, YOU HAVE ALREADY HEARD FROM SOME
OF THE KEY PEOPLE, SOME OF THE REAL EXPERTS IN MY
ADMINISTRATION ON ENERGY, INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT AND
NEW INCENTIVES FOR THE WORKING PEOPLE AND EMPLOYERS.

I HOPE WE CAN GO FURTHER INTO THESE ISSUES
AND INTO OTHER AREAS IN THE QUESTIONS THAT I THINK YOU HAVE.

END OF TEXT