

**The original documents are located in Box 26, “3/20/76 - Remarks at Lenoir Rhyne College, Hickory, NC (Includes handwritten notes)” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID . . . .

JIM BROYHILL WAS AMONG  
THE FIRST MEMBERS OF CONGRESS  
TO RECOMMEND ME FOR THE  
VICE-PRESIDENCY BACK IN  
1973.

I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN  
THAT DEMONSTRATION OF TRUST  
AND CONFIDENCE -- AND I NEVER  
WILL.

JIM BROYHILL HAS REPRESENTED  
THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA'S  
TENTH DISTRICT FAITHFULLY AND  
WELL FOR 14 YEARS.

HE IS A MAN OF INTEGRITY,  
A MAN OF RESPONSIBILITY, A

MAN HELD IN HIGH ESTEEM  
BY HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE  
CONGRESS AND BY HIS WONDERFUL  
NEIGHBORS HERE IN HICKORY.

HIS RECORD OF LEGISLATIVE  
ACCOMPLISHMENT REFLECTS HIS  
DEEP CONCERN FOR YOUR BEST  
INTERESTS.

I'M DARN PROUD TO BE HERE  
IN JIM BROYHILL'S HOMETOWN -

THE PRESIDENT HAS LIVED

REMARKS AT LENOIR RHYNE COLLEGE,

HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1976



THANK YOU FOR THIS VERY WARM AND WONDERFUL

WELCOME. IT'S REALLY A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE IN

CATAWBA COUNTY, AT THE GATEWAY TO THE BEAUTIFUL BLUE

RIDGE MOUNTAINS.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW I'M NO STRANGER TO  
THIS GREAT TAR HEEL STATE.      IN THE LAST TEN YEARS  
ALONE, I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE OF COMING DOWN TO SPEAK  
AND VISIT IN NORTH CAROLINA AT LEAST A DOZEN TIMES --  
AND TONIGHT I FEEL I HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS RIGHT HERE  
IN LENOIR RHYNE COLLEGE.

AND BEFORE WE GO ANY FURTHER, AS A  
FORMER WOLVERINE FROM MICHIGAN, LET ME CONGRATULATE  
YOUR OWN GREAT FOOTBALL TEAM, THE BEARS. IN  
FOOTBALL, AS IN POLITICS, WINNING ALWAYS FEELS REAL  
GOOD.

THIS AREA HAS SO MANY OF THE FINE QUALITIES

I'VE ALWAYS LIKED BEST ABOUT NORTH CAROLINA.

NOT ONLY CATAWBA COUNTY BUT BURKE, CALDWELL, IRE-DELL,

LINCOLN AND ALEXANDER COUNTIES ARE FULL OF GOOD PEOPLE --

PEOPLE AS STRONG AND STURDY AS HICKORY.

AND THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTH CAROLINA ARE ONE

OF MY FAVORITE PARTS OF THE STATE. THEY ARE NOT ONLY

GREAT TO LIVE IN, THEY PRODUCE GREAT MEN LIKE YOUR

GOVERNOR JIM HOLSHOUSER.



RIGHT HERE AT LENOIR RHYNE COLLEGE, I CAN SEE  
THE SAME SIGNS OF DRIVE AND INITIATIVE THAT ARE TYPICAL  
OF YOUR STATE. YOUR PRESIDENT EMERITUS, DR. CROMER,  
LAUNCHED A CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM THAT GAVE YOU THIRTEEN  
MAJOR CAMPUS BUILDINGS.

AND UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF YOUR CURRENT  
DISTINGUISHED PRESIDENT, DR. BOST, YOU HAVE ALMOST DOUBLED  
YOUR COLLEGE'S ENDOWMENT AS WELL AS STRENGTHENING AND  
EXPANDING ITS ACADEMIC PROGRAM.

HAVING HAD SOME EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE MYSELF,

LET ME SAY THAT ANY PRESIDENT WOULD BE PROUD OF DYNAMIC

PROGRESS LIKE THAT.

AND WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE'RE GOING TO VITALIZE

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA JUST AS DRAMATICALLY AS

DR. CROMER AND DR. BOST HAVE ENERGIZED LENOIR RHYNE COLLEGE.

THAT'S TYPICAL OF THE SPIRIT OF THIS REGION

AND OF THIS STATE AND OF THIS NATION.

I KNOW THAT IN 1968 HICKORY WON THE TITLE

OF "ALL-AMERICAN CITY."

I CAN SEE THAT WASN'T JUST A TITLE

FOR ONE YEAR.

BECAUSE THE PEOPLE OF HICKORY TODAY

SHOW THE SAME SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE THAT HAS ALWAYS HELPED

MAKE AMERICA GREAT.

*Ball's Creek  
Fish Fry*

THAT'S WHAT HELPED YOU TO MAKE YOUR REMARKABLE  
RECOVERY FROM THE RECENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. AND THAT'S  
WHAT HAS BEEN HELPING ALL AMERICA TO MAKE ITS RECOVERY TOO.

WE CAN SEE THE SIGNS OF YOUR HEALTHY ECONOMY NOT  
JUST IN HICKORY / BUT IN NEWTON-CONOVER AS WELL. AND WE CAN  
SEE THE SIGNS OF AMERICA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY AS EACH NEW SET  
OF STATISTICS IS RELEASED.



ONE PIECE OF GOOD NEWS IN THOSE STATISTICS IS THAT

HOUSING STARTS IN FEBRUARY SHOWED A RECORD INCREASE OF

27 PERCENT OVER THE PREVIOUS MONTH. THAT IS A MOVEMENT

IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, THAT IS GOING TO MEAN A LOT MORE

BUSINESS FOR THE FURNITURE INDUSTRY.

AND THAT'S ONLY PART OF THE STORY. UNEMPLOYMENT

IS DOWN, AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP IT GOING DOWN.

*The rate of*  
↑

INFLATION IS DOWN TOO -- WAY DOWN. IN FEBRUARY

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SHOWED ITS SMALLEST INCREASE IN MORE

THAN FOUR YEARS. THE RATE OF INFLATION IS HALF OF WHAT

IT WAS, AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP IT DOWN TOO!

AND THE GOOD NEWS FOR THE FUTURE IS: \ THE CONFIDENCE  
OF AMERICAN CONSUMERS IS UP, AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP  
AMERICA'S CONFIDENCE UP.

I THINK IT'S HIGH TIME PEOPLE STARTED TALKING  
ABOUT WHAT'S GOOD IN AMERICA.

I STAND HERE TONIGHT AND SAY:

I'M PROUD OF

OUR GREAT COUNTRY.

OUR AGRICULTURAL,

INDUSTRIAL AND

ECONOMIC MIGHT IS SECOND TO NONE -- AND SO IS OUR ABILITY

TO DEFEND IT.

I DON'T BELIEVE THOSE WHO DOWNGRADE AMERICA.

I NEVER HAVE AND I NEVER WILL.

I DIDN'T BELIEVE THEM WHEN THEY SAID WE NEEDED A LOT  
OF GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE TO GET OUT OF THE RECESSION.

I CHARTED A STEADY COURSE, AND I PURSUED A BALANCED POLICY --  
WITH TAX CUTS TO HELP PEOPLE SPEND, AND INCENTIVES TO HELP  
THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO GROW, ~~EXPAND~~ AND CREATE EVEN  
MORE JOBS.



TO FIGHT INFLATION, I FOUGHT TO KEEP A TIGHT CONTROL  
OVER FEDERAL SPENDING. TO CONTROL THOSE WHO WOULD BUST  
THE BUDGET, I USED MY PRESIDENTIAL VETO. I USED IT 46 TIMES,  
AND IT WAS SUSTAINED 39 TIMES -- AND THOSE 39 SUCCESSFUL  
VEToes WILL SAVE YOU, / THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER, / 13 BILLION  
DOLLARS.

I THINK THAT'S REAL PROGRESS, AND IF THE CONGRESS  
KEEPS SENDING ME THOSE RECKLESS SPENDING BILLS, I'LL VETO  
THEM AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN / UNTIL THE BIG SPENDERS ON  
CAPITOL HILL FINALLY GET THE IDEA.

~~THE IDEA IS THAT~~ WE'RE GOING TO HOLD DOWN THE

COST OF LIVING, BY HOLDING DOWN THE COST OF GOVERNMENT.

WE'RE GOING TO MAKE SURE YOUR TAX DOLLARS WORK AS HARD

FOR YOU, / AS YOU DID FOR THEM.

WE'RE GOING TO KEEP A BALANCED APPROACH•

HERE IN HICKORY I KNOW YOU APPRECIATE WHAT THAT MEANS,

BECAUSE YOUR MOTTO IS "BEST-BALANCED CITY•"

I THINK THAT MOTTO APPLIES NOT ONLY TO YOUR CITY

BUT TO YOUR WHOLE STATE• NORTH CAROLINA IS ONE OF THE

BEST-BALANCED STATES IN THE UNION•

IT'S A STATE WITH MOUNTAIN RANGES AND OCEAN BEACHES,

WITH INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE.

IT'S A GREAT STATE TO

WORK IN, | A GREAT STATE TO RELAX IN, | AND A GREAT STATE TO LIVE IN.

WELL, I LIKE THINGS TO BE WELL-BALANCED TOO | LIKE

THE FEDERAL BUDGET.

AND WE CAN BALANCE THE FEDERAL BUDGET

BY 1979 -- AND WE WILL BALANCE IT BY 1979, WITH YOUR HELP.



THAT WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE FURTHER MAJOR TAX CUTS.

WE WANT TO PUT MORE OF YOUR MONEY BACK INTO YOUR HANDS.

I BELIEVE IN A BALANCE BETWEEN FEDERAL AND LOCAL

GOVERNMENT THAT WILL GIVE MORE FREEDOM TO YOUR STATE AND

LOCAL AUTHORITIES CLOSE TO HOME, NOT HUNDREDS OF MILES

AWAY IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

I BELIEVE WE SHOULD STRIKE A NEW BALANCE BETWEEN  
GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY AND PRIVATE INITIATIVE.

A NEW BALANCE BETWEEN THOSE WHO PAY TAXES, AND THOSE WHO  
BENEFIT FROM TAXES.

TO ME, BALANCE MEANS STABILITY, AND STABILITY  
MEANS A FIRM FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA.

IN FACT / THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE I DON'T LIKE AN EVEN

BALANCE -- AND THAT'S IN ELECTION RESULTS. I LIKE TO SEE

SOLID VICTORIES. THE SAME KIND OF VICTORIES THAT PUT MEN

LIKE JIM BROYHILL AND JIM MARTIN TO WORK FOR YOU IN THE

CONGRESS.

THE SAME KIND OF SOLID VICTORIES THAT WE'VE WON  
IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, IN VERMONT,  
IN MASSACHUSETTS, IN FLORIDA AND IN ILLINOIS, FIVE TIMES  
IN A ROW.

AND THE SAME KIND OF SOLID VICTORIES WE'RE GOING  
TO KEEP ON WINNING -- AND WINNING FROM MARCH 23rd RIGHT  
ON DOWN THROUGH NOVEMBER 2nd.

I'M ASKING FOR YOUR HELP TO MAKE SURE THAT WE KEEP  
UP OUR MOMENTUM. TO MAKE SURE THAT WE KEEP A REALISTIC,  
RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT. A GOVERNMENT THAT PROMISES  
ONLY WHAT IT CAN DELIVER -- AND DELIVERS EVERYTHING  
IT PROMISES.

I'M ASKING FOR YOUR HELP SO WE CAN WORK TOGETHER  
TO BUILD AN EVEN GREATER AMERICA.

AND I'M ASKING YOU HERE IN NORTH CAROLINA

TO GIVE ME YOUR SUPPORT, BECAUSE WHEN A TAR HEEL DECIDES

TO DO SOMETHING -- IT GETS DONE.

AND NOW I WILL BE GLAD TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

.....  
END OF TEXT

FILL IN PROGRAM:

1. MR. GENE SIGMON, CATAWBA COUNTY PFC CHAIRMAN; FORMER DISTRICT COURT JUDGE; FORMER CAPTAIN OF UNC FOOTBALL TEAM, 1963;
2. BRUCE LENTZ--FORMERLY OF HICKORY AND NOW GOVERNOR HOLSHOUSER'S SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION IN RALEIGH;
3. STATE REP. CASS BALLENGER OF HICKORY, WHO SERVES AS 10TH DISTRICT PFC CHAIRMAN;
4. CONG. JIM BROYHILL WHO ISSUED STRONG ENDORSEMENT TO THE CROWD AND WILL INTRODUCE THE PRESIDENT VERY BRIEFLY.

LENOIR RHYNE COLLEGE  
HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA 28601