

The original documents are located in Box 27, “3/27/76 - Remarks at a Luncheon Sponsored by the Republican State Central Committee of California, Fresno, CA” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS -- FRESNO

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

-- THANK YOU PAUL

(Paul Haerle introduces you)

-- CONGRESSMAN JOHN ROUSSELOT -- on platform

-- CONGRESSMAN ALFONSO BELL -- in audience

-- CONGRESSMAN CLAIR BURGNER -- in audience

-- EV YOUNGER

-- MAYOR PETE WILSON

-- DELEGATES AND GUESTS

IT IS A VERY GREAT HONOR FOR ME TO
ADDRESS THIS CONVENTION OF THE REPUBLICAN STATE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF CALIFORNIA.

LET ME PAY MY RESPECTS, FIRST OF ALL,
TO THE WONDERFUL PEOPLE OF FRESNO, THE HOSTS OF THIS
CONVENTION. I APPRECIATE YOUR VERY WARM WELCOME.

AND LET ME ADD A SPECIAL WORD OF

ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT FOR THE REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S

TASK FORCE AND ESPECIALLY FOR THE 27 VERY OUTSTANDING

WOMEN WHO ARE CANDIDATES FOR THE STATE LEGISLATURE

AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS THIS YEAR.

I UNDERSTAND THIS IS MORE THAN TWICE
THE NUMBER OF WOMEN WHO RAN FOR OFFICE TWO YEARS
AGO. I WISH EACH OF YOU GREAT SUCCESS IN THIS
YEAR'S CAMPAIGN.

I ALSO WISH I COULD STAY FOR YOUR

RECEPTION AND DINNER TONIGHT WITH MARY LOUISE SMITH.

BUT BETTY WANTS ME HOME TONIGHT, AND AS YOU ALL KNOW,

BETTY AND I NEVER DISAGREE ABOUT ANYTHING.

LET ME ALSO THANK THOSE OF YOU WHO

PARTICIPATED IN THIS MORNING'S PRECINCT WALK.

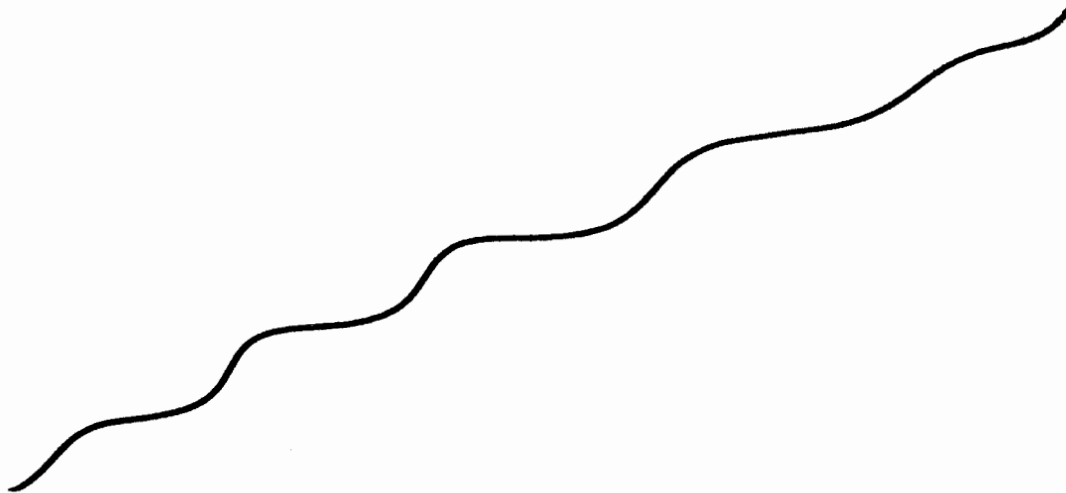
"GRASS-ROOTS" POLITICS IS A LOT OF HARD WORK, BUT IT

CAN ALSO BE A LOT OF FUN, AND I HOPE YOU ENJOYED

YOURSELVES.

YOU COULDN'T HAVE PICKED A BETTER DAY ~~FOR~~

~~A WALK THAN TODAY.~~



WE MEET IN A YEAR OF IMPORTANT DECISION

FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- A YEAR IN WHICH THEY WILL

CHOOSE THEIR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP FOR THE REMAINDER OF

THE 1970'S, A YEAR WHICH BEGINS THE THIRD CENTURY OF

AMERICA'S INDEPENDENCE●

I AM WAGING MY CAMPAIGN THIS YEAR ON THE
POWERFUL ISSUES OF FREEDOM, PEACE AND RISING PROSPERITY
FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

THIS IS THE RECORD OF SOLID ACCOMPLISHMENTS
WHICH I AM PRESENTING TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, THE RECORD
I HAVE BUILT IN 19 MONTHS AS YOUR PRESIDENT.

IN THOSE 19 MONTHS, WE HAVE CUT THE
INFLATION RATE IN HALF. IN THIS YEAR'S FEDERAL BUDGET
PROPOSAL, I HAVE CUT THE RATE OF GROWTH IN FEDERAL
SPENDING IN HALF.

WE HAVE RECOVERED 100 PERCENT OF THE JOBS
AMERICA LOST DURING ITS WORST RECESSION IN 40 YEARS.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IS MORE THAN DOUBLE

WHAT IT WAS A YEAR AGO.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IS UP.

HOUSING STARTS ARE UP.

PERSONAL INCOME IS UP.

PRICES ARE STABILIZING.

THERE CAN NOW BE NO DOUBT WHATSOEVER

THAT AMERICA IS ON THE ROAD TO A NEW PROSPERITY, AND

WE'RE NOT ABOUT TO TAKE ANY DETOURS NOW.

WE WILL PURSUE A STEADY COURSE -- THE
SAME STEADY COURSE I CHARTED FOR AMERICA AT THE OUTSET
OF THIS RECESSION WHEN I PROPOSED TAX CUTS FOR
INDIVIDUALS, TAX INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESS EXPANSION AND
JOB PRODUCTION, AND EXTENDED ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE
AMERICANS WHO LOST THEIR JOBS TO THE RECESSION.

I REJECTED THE ATTEMPTS OF THE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY

IN THE CONGRESS TO TRY TO SPEND OUR WAY OUT OF RECESSION,

RATHER THAN WORKING OUR WAY OUT.

IN FACT, I HAVE VETOED 46 BILLS IN THE LAST
19 MONTHS, AND THEY TELL ME THAT'S SOMETHING OF A RECORD
IN ITSELF. BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT RECORD IS THAT WE GOT
THE CONGRESS TO SUSTAIN 39 OF THOSE VETOES -- AND I'M
HAPPY TO REPORT THAT WE SAVED THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER

13 BILLION DOLLARS IN THE PROCESS. *With more
Republicans on the Congress We could have done ^{even} BETTER
Congress - need more members.
Quality / Quantity*

*Senate
House*

Vitalis

WE DID ALL OF ~~THIS~~ WITHOUT WEAKENING OUR

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND WITHOUT STRAYING FROM THE STEADY

COURSE OF ECONOMIC STABILITY AND GROWTH WHICH I HAVE PURSUED

AND WILL PURSUE IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

WE WILL ALSO PURSUE A ^{firm} STEADY COURSE

INTERNATIONALLY. WE CHERISH THE PEACE THAT AMERICA

ENJOYS TODAY -- THE PEACE THAT FINDS NO AMERICANS

IN COMBAT ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

AND YET WE KNOW THAT THE FREEDOMS WE HAVE

DEFENDED SO OFTEN ARE STILL BEING CHALLENGED TODAY.

WE KNOW THAT OUR STRENGTH, OUR POWER,
OUR CONSTANT VIGILANCE, AND OUR RESOLVE ARE THE
FOUNDATION OF MANKIND'S HOPE FOR PEACE AND STABILITY
IN THE WORLD.

IN THE LAST 19 MONTHS, I HAVE TAKEN

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TO INSURE THAT AMERICA'S ALLIANCES

ARE STRONG, OUR COMMITMENTS ARE WORTHWHILE, AND

OUR DEFENSES ARE WITHOUT EQUAL IN THE WORLD. AND LET

ME ASSURE YOU -- THEY ARE.

WE'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO DETER AGGRESSION•

WE'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO MAINTAIN THE

PEACE•

WE'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO PROTECT OUR

NATIONAL SECURITY AND KEEP AMERICA FREE•

to the Congress

IN MY PRESIDENCY, I HAVE PROPOSED THE

TWO LARGEST PEACETIME DEFENSE BUDGETS IN AMERICAN

HISTORY, REVERSING A TREND THAT WAS REDUCING OUR

DEFENSE EXPENDITURES YEAR BY YEAR TO LEVELS THAT WERE

DANGEROUSLY LOW•

OUR AIM IS TO MAKE PEACE SECURE THROUGHOUT

THE WORLD. WE ARE CONDUCTING OUR FOREIGN POLICY

WITH OUR EYES OPEN, OUR GUARD UP, AND OUR POWDER

DRY.

WE KNOW THAT PEACE AND NATIONAL SECURITY

CANNOT BE PURSUED ON A ONE-WAY STREET. BUT WE

ALSO KNOW THAT RETURNING TO A COLLISION COURSE IN A

THERMO-NUCLEAR AGE CAN LEAVE THE HUMAN RACE IN ASHES.

I WILL NOT LEAD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DOWN

THE ROAD TO NEEDLESS DANGER AND SENSELESS DESTRUCTION.

I WILL LEAD THEM ON THE PATH OF PEACE
THROUGH STRENGTH, AND WE WILL LIVE IN PEACE AND
FREEDOM IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

When We look at our

Industrial strength

Agricultural productivity

Technological and scientific
capabilities

Military strength.

Moral and spiritual commitment
The United States is Number 1

And We will stay #1

Proud to be an American
" of America.

THE PEACE THAT WE ENJOY, AND THE
PROSPERITY WITHIN OUR SIGHTS -- THESE ARE THE
CLEAREST GUIDEPOSTS TO VICTORY IN NOVEMBER. AND IN
1976, THEY'RE BOTH ON THE REPUBLICAN SIDE OF THE ROAD.
OUR VICTORY THIS YEAR WILL BE IMPORTANT
TO AMERICA FOR YEARS TO COME.

clear

IT WILL BE A SIGNAL TO OUR OWN CITIZENS,

TO OUR ALLIES AND OUR ADVERSARIES, THAT WE STILL STAND

TALL AND STRONG AND FREE AMONG THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD.

IT WILL BE A MANDATE TO CONTINUE THE

POLICIES OF ECONOMIC STABILITY AND GROWTH, OF LIMITED

of decision making at the State + Fed level
GOVERNMENT, OF FISCAL RESTRAINT AND TAX RELIEF, WHICH

SO MANY MILLIONS OF AMERICANS ARE DEMANDING, AND TO

WHICH OUR PARTY HAS ALWAYS BEEN COMMITTED.

OUR VICTORY THIS YEAR WILL BE A COVENANT
WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO PROMISE ONLY WHAT WE CAN
DELIVER AND DELIVER EVERYTHING WE PROMISE.

IT WILL BE A RECOGNITION BY THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE THAT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT DO EVERYTHING AND
SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO.

*We should never forget one basic
truth - a govt big enough to give
us everything we want is a govt big
enough to take from us everything
we have.*

BUT IT WILL ALSO BE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE
PEOPLE THAT WHATEVER GOVERNMENT DOES, IT MUST DO BETTER
AND MORE EFFICIENTLY THAN IN THE PAST.

HISTORY MAY WELL RECORD THE ELECTION OF
1976 AS A LANDMARK IN AMERICAN POLITICS.

ALL OF US ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE A PART IN
THIS EFFORT, AND EACH OF US HAS A SPECIAL ROLE TO PLAY.

THE "GRASS-ROOTS" POLITICS YOU PRACTICED

THIS MORNING IS EVERY BIT AS IMPORTANT AS THE

"GRAND STRATEGIES" OF NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS•

IN FACT, NONE OF THOSE STRATEGIES CAN

SUCCEED UNLESS WE SUCCEED AT THE GRASS-ROOTS LEVEL•

I COMMEND YOU AND THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR

COMMITMENT TO THE REPUBLICAN CAUSE•

IT IS A CAUSE TO WHICH I HAVE BEEN FIRMLY
COMMITTED FOR MORE THAN 27 YEARS OF PUBLIC LIFE - AS A
MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS, AS REPUBLICAN LEADER OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS VICE PRESIDENT, AND FOR
THE PAST 19 MONTHS AS YOUR PRESIDENT.

IN THOSE 19 MONTHS ALONE, THERE HAS BEEN
GREAT PROGRESS IN COMBATTING THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS THAT
BESET OUR NATION, IN PUTTING AMERICA AT PEACE WITH
ITSELF AND WITH THE WORLD AROUND US•

THERE IS MORE TO BE DONE, AND WE WILL
DO MORE IN THE FOUR CHALLENGING YEARS AHEAD•

AS YOU WALK THE PRECINCTS OF THIS GREAT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA THIS YEAR, I INVITE YOU AND ALL
AMERICANS -- TO WALK WITH ME ON THE PATH OF PEACE,
ON THE ROAD TO PROSPERITY, ON THE WAY TO VICTORY IN *Nov.*
1976.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT