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THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID . . .

PRESIDENT'S OPENING STATEMENT AT MEETING
WITH THE REGULATORY COMMISSIONERS

4/8/76

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GOOD AFTERNOON. IT IS A PLEASURE TO
HAVE YOU HERE TO FOLLOW UP ON OUR MEETING LAST JULY.
THIS CONTINUING DIALOGUE ON REGULATORY REFORM IS
IMPORTANT TO ALL OF US IN GOVERNMENT -- AND TO
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

LET ME THANK YOU ALL FOR THE PROGRESS
REPORTS THAT I RECEIVED. THEY WERE USEFUL TO ME
AND MY STAFF IN REVIEWING THE SUCCESSES YOU ARE
HAVING IN IMPROVING YOUR REGULATORY ACTIVITIES.

TODAY, I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO DISCUSSING
OUR COMMON PROBLEMS AND OUR JOINT DUTY TO SEE THAT
WE HAVE A RESPONSIVE AND EFFICIENT REGULATORY SYSTEM.
SPECIFICALLY, LET'S TAKE A HARD LOOK AT HOW REGULATIONS
AFFECT THE CONSUMER, SMALL BUSINESSMEN, AND THE
TAXPAYER.

CONSUMERS ARE CONCERNED WITH THE COSTS OF
REGULATION. THEY FEEL A FRUSTRATION BOTH WITH THE
PROCESS AND THE RESULTS. MANY ARE CONVINCED
THAT THE COSTS ARE NOT JUSTIFIED AND THAT THE PUBLIC
INTEREST IS NOT BEING PROTECTED.

SMALL BUSINESSMEN ARE TIRED OF THE
OVERWHELMING NUMBER OF REGULATIONS THAT ARE INSENSITIVE
TO SMALL BUSINESS NEEDS AND THAT MAKE IT INCREASINGLY
DIFFICULT FOR SMALL BUSINESSMEN TO SURVIVE.

THE REGULATORY PROBLEMS OF SMALL

BUSINESSMEN COME UP OFTEN IN MY DISCUSSIONS WITH
OUR CITIZENS. I HEAR ABOUT THE LARGE NUMBER OF
GOVERNMENT FORMS THEY HAVE TO FILL OUT EVERY YEAR.

I HEAR ABOUT NEW PRODUCTS AND SERVICES THAT SMALL
BUSINESSMEN WANT TO OFFER BUT CAN'T BECAUSE OF
UNNECESSARILY RESTRICTIVE REGULATIONS.

I HEAR OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES THAT DEFY COMMON
SENSE.

FINALLY, TAXPAYERS ARE QUESTIONING THE
PRACTICE OF ADDING MORE MONEY AND MORE PEOPLE TO
GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACIES TO SOLVE PROBLEMS. THE
TAXPAYERS OF THIS NATION ARE CONCERNED ABOUT BIG
GOVERNMENT.

THEY QUESTION HAVING TO PAY FOR A GOVERNMENT THAT DOESN'T
RECOGNIZE CHANGE, THAT DOESN'T THINK OF NEW, LESS COSTLY
WAYS TO ACHIEVE PUBLIC GOALS. THEY EXPECT THEIR
GOVERNMENT LEADERS TO BE DILIGENT IN LOOKING FOR BETTER,
MORE EFFICIENT WAYS TO CONDUCT THE AFFAIRS OF GOVERNMENT.

ALL OF US AT THIS MEETING HAVE A SPECIAL
RESPONSIBILITY FOR GUARDING THE PUBLIC INTEREST. IT IS
OUR OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC A REASONABLE, FAIR,
SPEEDY AND UNDERSTANDABLE REGULATORY SYSTEM. YOU HAVE
MADE PROGRESS TOWARD THIS GOAL IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS AND
YOUR EFFORTS ARE ENCOURAGING.

BUT WE NEED TO CONTINUE OUR WORK.

WHEN I MET WITH A BIPARTISAN GROUP OF
CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES LAST JUNE, THERE WAS BROAD
AGREEMENT ON FOUR AREAS OF COMMON CONCERN:

- WE MUST EXAMINE OUR REGULATORY PRACTICES

IN LIGHT OF TODAY'S ECONOMIC NEEDS;

- COMPETITION SHOULD BE RELIED UPON WHENEVER POSSIBLE;

- MANY REGULATIONS COST THE COUNTRY MORE THAN THEY RETURN IN BENEFITS; AND

- THE REGULATORY PROCESS SHOULD SERVE THE GENERAL PUBLIC -- NOT SIMPLY BENEFIT SPECIAL INTERESTS.

CLEARLY, OUR JOB IS TO SHOW MEASURABLE RESULTS IN ADDRESSING THESE CONCERNS. CONGRESS HAS INDICATED THAT IT IS LOOKING FOR RESULTS.

MORE AND MORE, CONGRESS IS CONSIDERING LEGISLATION TO
ADDRESS REGULATORY PROBLEMS.

THE REFORM OF GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS IS A
RESPONSIBILITY SHARED BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, THE
CONGRESS, AND THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONS.

OUR JOINT EFFORT TO ELIMINATE OUTDATED, INEFFICIENT
REGULATIONS AND TO IMPROVE ESSENTIAL REGULATORY FUNCTIONS
IS THE BEST WAY WE CAN FULFILL OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE
PUBLIC.

AS WE DISCUSS REGULATORY LAG, WE NEED TO
MAKE SURE WE ADDRESS THE REORDERING OF PRIORITIES AND
THE NEW APPROACHES THAT ARE BEING TAKEN TO COPE WITH
BACKLOGS AND DELAYS.

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT CONSUMER REPRESENTATION, WE MUST
GO BEYOND JUST GIVING THE CONSUMER A CHANGE TO
PARTICIPATE IN PROCEEDINGS.

WE MUST CONSIDER HOW WELL AGENCY RULES AND REGULATIONS
ARE COMMUNICATED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND HOW WELL
CONSUMERS' INTERESTS ARE BALANCED AGAINST OTHER
POINTS OF VIEW●

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS,
LET'S IDENTIFY HOW WELL IT IS BEING APPLIED TO AGENCY
DECISIONS AS WELL AS TO INTERNAL AGENCY MANAGEMENT
CONCERNS●

AND WHEN WE TURN TO THE IMPORTANCE OF INCREASING
COMPETITION, LET'S ASK WHETHER WE ARE CONCENTRATING ON
MARGINAL CHANGES OR WHETHER WE ARE ADDRESSING THE
FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE REGULATION
IS STILL NECESSARY.

NOW I WOULD LIKE TO TURN THE DISCUSSION
OVER TO ED AND PAUL. ED, WOULD YOU LIKE TO BEGIN?

END OF TEXT