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12:05

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

REMARKS AT ROCKLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1976

- THANK YOU, DICK (ROSENBAUM)
- SENATOR BUCKLEY
- CONG. GILMAN
  
- DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

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LET ME THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARM WELCOME,

AND FOR COMING OUT HERE THIS AFTERNOON. I COULDN'T THINK  
OF A BETTER WAY TO SPEND A BRISK FALL AFTERNOON THEN BEING HERE  
IN BEAUTIFUL ROCKLAND COUNTY.

I ONLY WISH I COULD TALK WITH EVERY ONE OF YOU

INDIVIDUALLY. SINCE I CAN'T, LET ME TELL YOU WHAT I WOULD

SAY TO EACH ONE OF YOU IF I COULD SIT DOWN WITH YOU OVER

A CUP OF COFFEE AND A SANDWICH. LET ME GIVE YOU SOME

STRAIGHT TALK.

MR. SMITH -- I WOULD SAY TO YOU --

OR MRS. JONES -- YOU'VE BEEN HEARING AN AWFUL LOT OF WORDS

AND NUMBERS IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS. YOU'VE HEARD

STATISTICS AND PERCENTAGES AND CONFLICTING CLAIMS.

I DON'T BELIEVE THOSE ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS  
IN THIS CAMPAIGN. LET ME TELL WHAT I BELIEVE IS MOST  
IMPORTANT -- YOU ARE. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE WHAT  
MATTERS IN THIS CAMPAIGN.

YOU HAVE SOME CLEAR CHOICES TO MAKE IN THE NEXT  
THREE WEEKS. LET'S LOOK AT SOME OF THE ALTERNATIVES --

MY OPPONENT LEAVES A LOT OF ISSUES UP IN THE AIR --

BUT HE IS CLEARLY IN FAVOR OF MORE GOVERNMENT SPENDING.

HE ENDORSES <sup>OVER</sup> 100 BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF NEW PROGRAMS --

AND THAT AIN'T PEANUTS.

I BELIEVE IN CUTTING THE GROWTH IN GOVERNMENT

SPENDING -- TO DAMPEN THE THREAT OF INFLATION --

TO LET YOU KEEP MORE OF YOUR OWN MONEY.

SO YOUR CHOICE IS CLEAR AND SIMPLE -- DO YOU WANT  
YOUR TAXES RAISED TO PAY FOR THAT 100 TO 200 BILLION DOLLARS  
WORTH OF NEW PROGRAMS MY OPPONENT ENDORSES?

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU DO.

YOU HAVE WORKED HARD FOR YOUR MONEY -- YOU SHOULD  
HAVE MORE FREEDOM TO SPEND IT THE WAY YOU WANT. UNLIKE MY  
OPPONENT, I BELIEVE YOU HAVE BETTER USES FOR THAT MONEY THAN  
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOES IN WASHINGTON.

THAT IS WHY I ASKED THE CONGRESS TO GIVE YOU A MAJOR  
PERMANENT TAX CUT -- BIGGER THAN THE ONE THEY DECIDED TO  
GIVE YOU. THAT IS WHY I PROPOSED INCREASING YOUR PERSONAL  
EXEMPTION BY ONE THIRD -- FROM 750 DOLLARS TO 1,000 DOLLARS.

WHAT HAS MR. CARTER PROPOSED? HE HAS PROPOSED  
DOING AWAY WITH TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR YOUR HOME MORTGAGE  
INTEREST PAYMENTS -- HE HAS PROPOSED TAXING CHURCH PROPERTIES  
OTHER THAN CHURCH BUILDINGS. I DON'T LIKE THOSE PROPOSALS  
AND I BET YOU DON'T EITHER.

LET'S TAKE ANOTHER CLEAR-CUT CHOICE. EVEN WHILE

HE WOULD ADD BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF NEW PROGRAMS, MY OPPONENT  
HAS SAID THAT HE FAVORS CUTTING 15 BILLION DOLLARS FROM  
OUR DEFENSE BUDGET.

THEN HE SAID HE FAVORS CUTTING SEVEN OR EIGHT BILLION DOLLARS.

THEN HE SAID HE FAVORS CUTTING FIVE TO SEVEN BILLION DOLLARS.

RIGHT NOW I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE THINKS -- BUT I'LL TELL YOU

THIS -- HE'S WILLING TO TAKE A CHANCE WITH AMERICA'S

SECURITY -- AND I'M NOT.



I DON'T THINK YOU ARE EITHER. WE HAVE TO PAY THE  
PRICE FOR A STRONG DEFENSE -- BECAUSE THAT IS THE PRICE OF  
PEACE. I WANT TO PAY IT IN DOLLARS NOW -- SO THAT WE WON'T  
HAVE TO PAY IT WITH AMERICAN LIVES LATER ON. IT TAKES MORE  
THAN A SMILE TO PROTECT OUR FREEDOM.

ON THE ISSUE OF DEFENSE -- AS ON ALL THE OTHER ISSUES --  
YOU KNOW WHERE I STAND. MY RECORD OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS  
IS CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL. YOU KNOW WHERE I STAND IN MY  
COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL AND WHAT I'VE DONE ABOUT IT.

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YOU KNOW WHERE I STAND IN SEEKING TO PREVENT BLOODSHED IN  
SOUTHERN AFRICA AND WHAT I'VE DONE ABOUT IT. YOU DON'T HAVE  
TO GUESS WHAT POSITION I'LL TAKE IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.  
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID THAT I'LL PROMISE ONE THING IN THE  
CAMPAIGN -- AND DO ANOTHER THING IN OFFICE.

THAT BRINGS US TO ANOTHER CHOICE -- DO YOU  
GIVE SOMEONE YOUR TRUST JUST BECAUSE THEY ASK YOU FOR  
IT -- OR BECAUSE THEY HAVE EARNED IT?

I HAVE BEEN YOUR PRESIDENT FOR TWO YEARS●

LET'S LOOK AT THE RECORD OF THOSE TWO YEARS●

INFLATION NOW IS HALF OF WHAT IT WAS WHEN I  
TOOK OFFICE●

MORE AMERICANS HAVE BEEN WORKING THIS YEAR THAN  
EVER BEFORE IN OUR HISTORY●

TODAY AMERICA IS AT PEACE● NOT A SINGLE  
YOUNG AMERICAN IS FIGHTING AND DYING ON ANY FOREIGN  
BATTLEFIELD TODAY -- AND I INTEND TO KEEP IT THAT WAY●

AMERICANS THEN WERE SHOCKED AND SADDENED  
BY ABUSES OF POWER AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

TODAY AMERICA'S FAITH IN THE WHITE HOUSE HAS BEEN  
RESTORED.

THIS NATION IS A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN NOW THAN  
IT WAS TWO YEARS AGO. WITH FIRM, STEADY DETERMINATION  
AND LEADERSHIP, WE CAN MAKE AMERICA AN EVEN BETTER  
PLACE FOUR YEARS FROM NOW THAN IT IS TODAY.

AMERICA WON'T BE A BETTER PLACE IF THE TIRED  
OLD FORMULA OPERATES. YOU KNOW THAT OLD FORMULA --  
TAX AND TAX, SPEND AND SPEND, SPIN THE RED TAPE OUT FOR  
MILES AND COVER IT WITH WORDS AND SMILES.

THAT OLD FORMULA EQUALS ONE THING -- MORE POWER IN  
WASHINGTON, LESS FREEDOM FOR YOU IN YOUR OWN HOMES AND  
NEIGHBORHOODS. THAT'S THE WRONG FORMULA FOR AMERICA  
AS WE ENTER OUR THIRD CENTURY.

WE CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT -- WE WILL DO BETTER THAN  
THAT, WITH YOUR HELP ON NOVEMBER 2nd. YOU CAN CHOOSE  
A GOVERNMENT THAT OFFERS SECURITY, STABILITY AND STRENGTH.

YOU CAN CHOOSE A GOVERNMENT THAT OFFERS MORE FREEDOM --  
NOT MORE INTERFERENCE. YOU CAN HELP MAKE AMERICA PROUDER  
AND STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE. I ASK FOR YOUR HELP --  
I ASK FOR YOUR VOTE -- I WON'T LET YOU DOWN.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT