

The original documents are located in Box 41, “10/29/76 - Statement by the President on Older Americans in St. Louis, Missouri (Includes notes)” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Congress of the United States

Office of the Minority Leader

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Gerald R. Ford
M.C.

[No indication whether this
was actually the speech given]

OLDER AMERICANS

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT CONCERNING

OLDER AMERICANS

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WE ALL OWE A DEBT TO OUR OLDER CITIZENS. THEY ARE
THE ONES WHO BUILT OUR ECONOMY, DEFENDED OUR FREEDOM AND
ESTABLISHED THE MORAL FOUNDATION ON WHICH OUR COUNTRY RESTS.
WE MUST NOT LET THEM DOWN.

ONE OF THE MAJOR CONCERNS OF MY ADMINISTRATION DURING THE NEXT FOUR YEARS WILL BE TO HELP PROVIDE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH OLDER AMERICANS CAN CONTINUE TO LIVE SECURE AND FULFILLING LIVES.

TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL, WE MUST MOVE FORWARD ON SIX DIFFERENT FRONTS:

FIRST, WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT OLDER AMERICANS CAN LOOK FORWARD TO FUTURES THAT ARE ECONOMICALLY SECURE.

I WILL WORK WITH THE NEXT CONGRESS TO ENACT A
CATASTROPHIC INSURANCE PLAN FOR OLDER AMERICANS, SO THAT
NEVER AGAIN WILL THE SAVINGS OF A LIFETIME BE WIPED OUT
THROUGH A SINGLE ILLNESS.

UNDER THIS PLAN, MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL COSTS WILL NEVER RISE
ABOVE 750 DOLLARS IN A SINGLE YEAR.

TWO, I WILL CALL ON THE NEXT CONGRESS TO ASSURE THE
INTEGRITY OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM.

BECAUSE OF THE RISE IN THE COST OF LIVING, THE SOCIAL SECURITY FUND IS NOW PAYING OUT MORE THAN IT TAKES IN.

IT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SECURITY OF RETIRED CITIZENS, BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE, THAT WE RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE FUND SO THAT IT WILL MEET PROJECTED COSTS.

THREE, I WILL CONTINUE TO CHECK THE RISE IN FEDERAL SPENDING, IN ORDER TO KEEP THE INFLATION RATE GOING DOWN. INFLATION HITS HARDEST AT OUR OLDER CITIZENS. I AM DETERMINED TO PROTECT THE BUYING POWER OF SAVINGS AND PENSION BENEFITS EARNED BY A LIFETIME OF HONEST LABOR.

FOUR, I WILL CALL ON THE NEXT CONGRESS TO ENACT MY ANTI-CRIME PACKAGE, WHICH WILL HELP PROTECT THE SECURITY OF OUR STREETS AND HOMES.

FIVE, I WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK THE KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND WISDOM OF REPRESENTATIVE OLDER AMERICANS BY INCLUDING THEM ON ADVISORY COUNCILS RELATED TO FEDERAL CONSUMER PROTECTION PROGRAMS.

SIX, I WILL LAUNCH A PROGRAM FOR NEIGHBORHOOD
REVITALIZATION, TO PROTECT AND RESTORE THE QUALITY OF LIFE
IN THE URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS IN WHICH MANY OF OUR OLDER
CITIZENS LIVE.

OF COURSE, IN A LARGER SENSE, THE ENTIRE FORD PROGRAM
IS A PROGRAM FOR OLDER AMERICANS -- BECAUSE ITS PURPOSE
IS TO BUILD A PEACEFUL, PROSPEROUS, SECURE AMERICA --
AN OBJECTIVE OLDER AMERICANS SHARE WITH ALL OF OUR CITIZENS.

END OF TEXT

THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID ...

I HAVE BEEN PROUD TO SERVE AS YOUR PRESIDENT. I LOVE

THIS COUNTRY. IT WOULD BE THE HIGHEST HONOR OF MY LIFE

FOR YOU AND YOUR FELLOW AMERICANS TO SAY TO ME ON

NOVEMBER 2, "JERRY FORD, YOU'VE DONE A GOOD JOB. KEEP

RIGHT ON DOING IT."

TERRY

SY

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ON ARRIVAL AT

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - OCTOBER 29, 1976

ONE OF THE MAJOR CONCERNS OF MY ADMINISTRATION DURING
THE NEXT FOUR YEARS WILL BE TO HELP PROVIDE CONDITIONS UNDER
WHICH OLDER AMERICANS CAN CONTINUE TO LIVE SECURE AND FULFILLING
LIVES.

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WE ALL OWE A DEBT TO OUR OLDER CITIZENS. THEY ARE THE
ONES WHO BUILT OUR ECONOMY, AND ESTABLISHED THE MORAL BASES
ON WHICH OUR COUNTRY HAS GROWN. WE MUST NOT LET THEM
DOWN.

FIRST OF ALL, WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT THEY CAN LOOK FORWARD TO FUTURES THAT ARE ECONOMICALLY SECURE. BUT EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT, WE MUST SEE TO IT THAT WE CONTINUE TO HAVE A SOCIETY AND A COUNTRY OF WHICH OUR OLDER CITIZENS CAN BE PROUD. THAT, ABOVE ALL, IS THE REWARD THAT THEY ASK

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I AM PROPOSING A SPECIFIC PROGRAM TO HELP PROVIDE THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH OLDER AMERICANS CAN CONTINUE TO BUILD CONSTRUCTIVE LIVES.

FIRST, I WILL WORK WITH THE NEXT CONGRESS TO ENACT A CATASTROPHIC INSURANCE PLAN FOR OLDER AMERICANS, SO THAT NEVER AGAIN WILL THE SAVINGS OF A LIFETIME BE WIPED OUT THROUGH A SINGLE ILLNESS.

UNDER THIS PLAN, MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL COSTS WILL NEVER RISE ABOVE 750 DOLLARS IN A SINGLE YEAR.

SECOND, I WILL CALL ON THE NEXT CONGRESS TO ASSURE THE INTEGRITY OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS ARE RIGHTS THAT HAVE BEEN EARNED BY
RETIRED WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
IS LEGALLY AND MORALLY BOUND TO MAKE SURE THAT THE FUND IS
SECURE.

BUT BECAUSE OF THE RISE IN THE COST OF LIVING, THE SOCIAL
SECURITY FUND IS NOW PAYING OUT MORE THAN IT TAKES IN.
IT IS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL TO THE SECURITY OF RETIRED CITIZENS,
BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE, THAT WE RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE FUND
TO THE POINT AT WHICH IT WILL MEET PROJECTED COSTS.

THIRD, I WILL CONTINUE TO CHECK THE RISE IN FEDERAL SPENDING, IN ORDER TO KEEP THE INFLATION RATE GOING DOWN. INFLATION HITS HARDEST AT OUR OLDER CITIZENS, MANY OF WHOM ARE LIVING ON RETIREMENT INCOMES.

IF WE DEVALUE THEIR DOLLARS, WE ARE ROBBING THEM OF SAVINGS AND PENSION BENEFITS THAT THEY BUILT UP THROUGH YEARS OF LABOR.

FOURTH, I WILL CALL ON THE NEXT CONGRESS TO ENACT MY ANTI-CRIME PACKAGE, WHICH WILL HELP PROTECT THE SECURITY OF OUR STREETS AND HOMES.

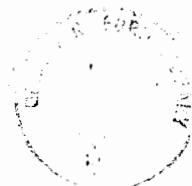
LEGISLATION THAT I HAVE PLACED BEFORE CONGRESS WILL PROVIDE
TOUGHER SENTENCING PROCEDURES FOR DRUG-PUSHERS, HIJACKERS,
KIDNAPPERS, AND LAWBREAKERS WHO USE DANGEROUS WEAPONS
IN THE COMMISSION OF THEIR CRIMES.

FIFTH, I WILL CONTINUE TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVE OLDER
AMERICANS ON ADVISORY COUNCILS RELATED TO FEDERAL
CONSUMER PROTECTION PROGRAMS.

SIXTH, I WILL LAUNCH A PROGRAM FOR NEIGHBORHOOD
REVITALIZATION, TO DIRECT FEDERAL URBAN PROGRAMS TO PROTECT
AND RESTORE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS
IN WHICH MANY OF OUR OLDER CITIZENS LIVE.

OF COURSE, IN A LARGER SENSE, THE ENTIRE FORD PROGRAM
IS A PROGRAM FOR OLDER AMERICANS -- BECAUSE ITS PURPOSE
IS TO BUILD A PEACEFUL, PROSPEROUS, SECURE AMERICA -- THE
OBJECTIVE WHICH OLDER AMERICANS SHARE WITH ALL OTHER CITIZENS.

END OF TEXT



- Thanks Jack - we need Jack Danforth in Washington to help straighten out the ~~Congress~~ Senate - make sure he gets there!
- ~~It~~ it's great to be back in ^{Missouri} St. Louis and see so many old friends - Gene McNary Lt. Gov Phelps Gene McNary Peter Ennis and Al Hint
- We have some fine Congressional Candidates Bob Snyder, Joe Badarocco and Joe ~~Fr~~ Frasier --- Elect them - we need them

⑥ CBS poll

maximum quote from

'our view I do poorly among Democrats' neg. personality image - more than 1/5 of E's own party members and 1/2 GOPs say they dislike E's personality"

- ① Field Poll ---
 - ② Balt Sun - 9% = 25%
 - ③ Carter Staff -
 - ④ Dickerson - Churned by word of 8% N.Y. Times / CBS Poll
- Ev Star

- Reagan - Press Conf. comment