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President Ford Committee

1828 L STREET, N.W., SUITE 250, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 (202) 457-6400

September 27, 1976

Dear Advocate:

Over the past several weeks, the Research Division of the President Ford Committee has been preparing a series of summary issue papers which include brief background information and talking points on the positions of both President Ford and Jimmy Carter.

These papers have been assembled in this book for your use as you address various audiences during the remainder of the campaign. I hope that you will use this book regularly in combination with the more detailed President Ford '76 Factbook as a source of speech material on Administration policy.

The issues covered are listed in the following table of contents. There are presently 37 Ford issue papers and 15 Carter papers. You will be receiving some additions from the Research Division in the coming weeks. For purposes of clarification, the papers are color coded: the Ford papers are red, the Carter papers green, and the State profiles containing names of party officials, major officeholders, and important local issues are yellow.

Nancy Maloley will be coordinating advocate material and supplying you with any additional information that you need from the Answer Desk and from Opposition Research. Should you wish further information about President Ford's positions, call 457-1952. For further Carter information, the number is 457-1942.

I hope that you will find this resource and the papers we have provided to be a help to you during the next few weeks. Thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of President Ford's campaign.

Sincerely yours,


ROBERT TEETER



ADVOCATES' BOOK

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ABORTION

Calling it "one of the most controversial issues of our time" the President outlined his position on abortion as follows in a letter written September 10, 1976.

"Since 1973 I have viewed as the most practical means of rectifying the situation created by the Court's action a Constitutional amendment that would restore to each State the authority to enact abortion statutes which fit the concerns and views of its own citizens. This approach is entirely in keeping with the system of Federalism devised by the founders of our Nation. As Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, I co-sponsored an amendment which would restore this authority to the States, and I have consistently supported that position since that time.

"My position has been based on three fundamental convictions:

- I am against abortion on demand.
- The people of every State should have the Constitutional right to control abortion.
- There is a need to recognize and provide for exceptional cases.

"I should also point out that the Republican Platform which I support is fully consistent with these views.

"I recognize that this abortion question is a matter of deep personal and moral conviction. Honorable people may disagree, but all of us must be concerned about an increased irreverence for life within advanced societies."

TALKING POINTS:

The President's position on abortion has been, and remains, consistent:

1. The President is concerned about an apparent increased irreverence for life.
2. President Ford thinks the Supreme Court went too far in its 1973 decision invalidating States' laws on abortion.
3. He disagrees with the recent Supreme Court decision undermining parental authority and family values concerning abortion for minors.
4. The President believes abortion on demand is wrong.
5. President Ford believes the law should recognize that there may be exceptional cases.
6. As a Member of Congress, he co-sponsored a Constitutional Amendment restoring the right of the individual States to decide the issue.



7. The President has ordered an Administration study of Federal policy toward financing abortion in an effort to determine how this practice may be restricted consistent with present Constitutional interpretation.

BACKGROUND

The plank of the Republican Platform dealing with abortion is consistent with the President's position. The Platform states:

"The question of abortion is one of the most difficult and controversial of our time. It is undoubtedly a moral and personal issue, but it also involves complex questions relating to medical science and criminal justice. There are those in our party who favor complete support of the Supreme Court decision, which supports abortion on demand. There are others who share sincere convictions that the Supreme Court decision must be changed by a Constitutional amendment prohibiting all abortions. Others have yet to take a position; or they have assumed a stance somewhere in between the polar positions. We protest the Supreme Court's intrusion into the family structure through its denial of the parents' obligation and right to guide their minor children. The Republican Party favors the continuance of the public dialogue on abortion and supports the efforts of those who seek enactment of a Constitutional amendment to restore protection of the right to life of the unborn child."

Note that the platform first takes recognition of the complexity of the problem and the diversity of sincerely held points of view.

The key sentence is the last which emphasizes the following points:

1. The Party favors the continuance of the public dialogue on abortion.
2. The Party supports the efforts of those who seek a Constitutional amendment to restore protection of the right to life of the unborn child.

The Platform purposefully leaves open the question of precisely defining and spelling out the terms and language of a Constitutional Amendment. It is hoped that, as the public dialogue on abortion continues, the Congress will take note of it in acting on its own responsibility to draft language that is constitutionally sound and meets the objective of restoring the right to life to the unborn.



AMNESTY

The Clemency Board report in June, 1975 said:

"We are proud of what the President has accomplished in his clemency program. He implemented his program courageously, in the face of criticism both from those who thought he did too much and those who thought he did too little . . . We consider ourselves to have been partners in a mission of national reconciliation, wisely conceived by the President. A less generous program would have left old wounds festering. Blanket, unconditional amnesty would have opened new wounds. We are confident that the President's clemency program provides the cornerstone for national reconciliation at the end of a turbulent and divisive era. We are proud to have played a role in that undertaking."

TALKING POINTS

1. President Ford created the Presidential Clemency Board to consider applications from the 8,700 convicted and punished draft offenders and the estimated 90,000 servicemen given discharges for absence offenses. In the tradition of American jurisprudence, the President stipulated that, where appropriate, applicants would be asked to earn clemency by performing up to 24 months of alternate service in the national interest.
2. President Ford created a program of conditional clemency for roughly 13,000 civilians and 100,000 servicemen who had committed draft or military absence offenses between the adoption of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and the day the last American combatant left Vietnam.
3. President Ford authorized the Departments of Justice and Defense, respectively, to review applications for the 4,522 draft offenders and the 10,115 undischarged servicemen still at large.



Clemency Board Recommendation - Civilian Cases

Outright Pardon	82%
Alternative Service	17%
No Clemency	1%

Clemency Board Recommendation - Military Cases

Outright Pardon	36%
Alternative Service	57%
No Clemency	7%



9/15/75

ASIA

America has known both great accomplishment and bitter disappointment in Asia. On balance our foreign policy in the post-war era has had considerable success. The President stated in Honolulu last December that the key to Asian stability is a strong and balanced U.S. military posture in the Pacific. Only if it is clear that we are capable and willing to support our allies can we discourage aggression against them. Only by showing that we understand the necessities of the regional balance of power can we encourage free countries to assure their self defense. To the extent that the nations of Asia achieve a margin of security, the political forces that stand for democracy and human liberty are encouraged. The Ford Administration has made a major contribution toward preserving that security.

TALKING POINTS

1. The President has maintained and strengthened America's close alliance with democratic Japan.
2. President Ford has strengthened our ties with Australia and New Zealand.
3. The Ford Administration has welcomed Asian initiatives in new multi-lateral efforts to improve the global economic system.
4. The Administration has spurred the development of the Pacific Basin into a zone of remarkable economic vitality and growth.
5. The Ford Administration has supported the dramatic economic progress of an independent South Korea.
6. Despite obvious differences in many areas, the Ford Administration has worked toward the improvement of our new relationship with the People's Republic of China.



BLACK AMERICANS

In his State of the Union address this year, the President said:

"The United States Government, under the Constitution and the law, is committed to the guarantee of the fundamental rights of every American. My Administration will preserve these rights and work toward the elimination of all forms of discrimination against individuals on the basis of their race, color, religion, national origin, or sex."

President Ford's deep commitment to ending racial discrimination has been clear throughout his career in public life. As a Congressman, he helped to formulate and voted for every major piece of legislation aimed at ending discrimination based on race, from the Civil Rights Bills of the 1950's; to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In addition, he supported the extension and strengthening of these and other Acts through the 1970's.

TALKING POINTS:

1. President Ford signed legislation amending the Voting Rights Act of 1965, extending the temporary provisions of the Act for seven years and expanding coverage of the Act to language-minority citizens.
2. The President appointed a large number of Black Americans to senior positions throughout his Administration, including Cabinet Member and Secretary of Transportation, William T. Coleman, and Special Assistant to the President, John C. Calhoun.
3. The President supported legislation which prohibits any creditor from discriminating in either credit applications, or credit transactions on the basis of race, color, religion or national origin.
4. The far-reaching effects of President Ford's commitment can also be seen in the civil rights area. Total outlays for civil rights activities will increase from \$2.9 billion in 1975 to \$3.9 billion in 1977. Outlays for civil rights enforcement will grow to \$430 million in 1977, an increase of 24% over 1975.
5. The President's Equal Employment Opportunity Program has been strikingly successful. Outlays for Federal civil service equal employment opportunity programs (including upward mobility) will increase by 29% in the years 1975 to 1977 to \$188 million.



Presidential Executive Order 11246, as amended, prohibits the practice of discrimination in Federal contracts, sub-contracts, and on federally assisted construction projects. In 1977, Federal agencies responsible for implementing this order will spend \$40 million compared to \$18.1 million in 1972. Approximately 570,000 new hires and promotions will be effected by such affirmative action goals.

6. Under the President's emergency school aid program, Federal aid will be continued to help overcome the effects of minority group isolation in school systems. In 1977, this program is proposed for operation at a requested level of nearly \$250 million, including some \$35 million for civil rights advisory services.
7. In 1977, the Ford Administration will obligate \$110 million in order to support the improvement of developing institutions, including Black colleges. In 1977, the Ford Administration will provide \$1.9 billion for disadvantaged students at the elementary and secondary levels.

Further, the Ford Administration's Office of Child Development activities--primarily in the Head Start Program--will receive \$434 million in 1977 and serve more than 430,000 children.

8. In the housing area the Ford Administration will spend more than \$18 million in 1977 to enforce laws against discrimination. Moreover, the President's lower income housing assistance program will continue to provide a more flexible form of housing assistance. In 1977, support will be provided for 400,000 units.

The President's record is one of progress, not platitude. His record is one of specifics, not smiles. His record is one of performance, not promises. It is a record we are proud to run on. It is a record the American people--Democrat, Independent and Republicans alike--will support on November 2.



BUSING

President Ford has long been concerned about the fact that the controversy over court-ordered busing has detracted from the search for ways of achieving the critical national goal of providing quality and equality in education for America's school children.

Therefore, the President ordered the Department of Justice in November of 1975 to begin a search for legal means of controlling the use of court-ordered busing as a remedy in school desegregation suits.

TALKING POINTS:

1. On June 24, 1976, the President sent to Congress the School Desegregation Standards and Assistance Act of 1976. He called upon Congress to write into law a new perspective which sees court-ordered busing as a tool to be used with the highest selectivity and the utmost precision.
2. The President called on the leaders of all the Nation's school districts which may yet face court orders to move voluntarily, promptly, objectively, and compassionately to desegregate their schools.
3. The President has directed the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare and the Attorney General to work with his White House staff to develop better methods of achieving quality education within an integrated environment for all children.
4. President Ford rejects the idea that his legislative proposals undermine the quality of education in this country and calls on Congress to take action on the legislation he sent to the Congress in June.



DRUG ABUSE

"For nearly a year," President Ford said this April, "I have been devoting increasing attention to a problem which strikes at the very heart of our national well-being, drug abuse. I have initiated and then endorsed a major study of this issue. I have met with foreign heads of state, Members of Congress and members of my Cabinet to express my deep concern and the need for action, and I have publicly spoken about this as one of the most serious and tragic problems our country faces."

Through his comprehensive drug program sent to the Congress, the President moved closer to his objectives of curbing drug abuse and improving drug abuse law enforcement.

TALKING POINTS:

1. The President's program would require maximum mandatory prison sentences for persons convicted of high-level trafficking in heroin and similar narcotic drugs.
2. President Ford's program would permit judges to deny bail in the absence of compelling circumstances, if a defendant arrested for trafficking heroin or dangerous drugs was found:
(1) to have previously been convicted of a drug felony;
(2) to be presently free on parole; (3) to be a non-resident alien; (4) to have been arrested in possession of a false passport; or (5) to be a fugitive or previously convicted of being a fugitive.
3. The President, during his first two years in office, acted vigorously to improve the management of drug programs and to enhance international cooperation. He has established two new Cabinet committees to provide direction for, and coordination of, Federal drug programs and activities.
4. President Ford directed the Secretary of HEW and the Attorney General to develop plans to improve coordination between the treatment and criminal justice system, so that drug users in the criminal justice system are identified and provided with treatment and rehabilitation services.
5. The President directed one of the new Cabinet Committees to give high priority to identifying specific ways to improve job opportunities for former addicts.



6. President Ford directed the Secretary of the Treasury and the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, to develop a tax enforcement program aimed at major drug traffickers.
7. The Ford Administration proposed the expansion of Federal treatment capacity to ensure that those who are addicted have an alternative to crime.
8. Drug abuse remains a problem, but progress under President Ford is substantial and undenied.

Under the Administration, there have been 36 percent more arrests of heroin users in 1976 than 1975.

- There has been a 65 percent increase over the past year in the number of DEA arrests of high level traffickers.
- The seizure of heroin by all Federal agencies has increased 54 percent since the third quarter of 1975.
- The seizure of marijuana by all Federal agencies is up 63 percent from the third quarter of 1975.
- There has been a 137 percent increase in the number of seizures of heroin and morphine by the combined forces of foreign and U.S. agencies since the third quarter of 1975.
- The number of marijuana users in federally-sponsored treatment has decreased significantly over the past year.

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THE ECONOMY

When the President assumed office in August of 1974, the country faced its most serious economic crisis since World War II--prices were skyrocketing at a double-digit pace and forces were in motion to produce the worst recession in a generation. In those uncertain days news commentators and analysts predicted that the American economy was heading out of control.

In Gerald Ford's two years, the change has been remarkable. The President was able to tell the American people in accepting his Party's nomination:

"Inflation has been cut in half. Payrolls are up. Profits are up. Production is up. Confidence has returned and we are in the full surge of sound recovery."

TALKING POINTS:

Economic progress has not come easily. It resulted from accurate long-term planning and creative solutions to difficult problems.

1. President Ford convened a summit Conference on Inflation to develop, with the help of the nation's foremost economic thinkers, a detailed plan for economic recovery.
2. President Ford created the Economic Policy Board to assist him in formulating, coordinating and implementing economic policy.
3. The President created the Council on Wage and Price Stability to monitor price movements in both the public and private sectors.
4. Two months after assuming office, President Ford delivered a firm economic address to the U.S. Congress. Calling inflation the cruelest tax of all, he outlined a program to:
 - require inflation impact statements for all major legislative proposals, regulations and rules coming from the Executive Branch.
 - ease the plight of the unemployed through the expansion of proven public service employment programs and the extension of special unemployment insurance benefits for those who had exhausted their regular and extended benefits.



- increase the funds available for Federal home mortgage subsidies.
 - increase productivity and contain prices by ending certain restrictive practices and move effectively enforcing the laws against price fixing.
 - achieve full agricultural production.
 - organize a national energy effort.
 - promote capital formation through tax reductions.
5. President Ford believes that continued funding of unnecessary programs, and the creation of new unneeded programs are a violation of the people's trust. He has vetoed 56 pieces of legislation, saving the American taxpayer over 9.2 billion -- more than \$150 for the average American household. President Ford has curbed inflation -- the economy has turned around. The facts speak for themselves.
- When Gerald Ford assumed office in August 1974, the inflation rate was 12.2%. The inflation rate for the first half of 1976 was 4.6%. Inflation has been cut by more than half.
 - In the past year the Gross National Product has risen by nearly 10%.
 - Real per capita income -- the money you have to spend -- has risen by nearly 5%.
 - There are more people employed in America today than ever before -- nearly 4 million persons have obtained jobs in the last 18 months.

The President's record is one of progress, not platitudes. His record is one of specifics, not smiles. His record is one of performance, not promises. It is a record we are proud to run on. It is a record the American people -- Democrat, Independent and Republicans alike -- will support on November 2.



EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT

When Gerald Ford assumed the Presidency, amidst doubt and uncertainty, in August 1974, the Nation had been suffering from the unprecedented problem of simultaneous inflation and high unemployment. Through creative long-term planning, the Ford Administration has reversed both of these trends. The President stated on August 19, 1976, in Kansas City:

"Since recession was turned around, almost 4 million of our fellow Americans have found new jobs or got their old jobs back. This year, more men and women have jobs than ever before in the history of the United States."

TALKING POINTS:

The remarkable changes which have occurred during the Ford Presidency are spelled out by the numbers:

1. Employment reached an all time high of nearly 88 million persons in August, 1976.
2. Unemployment, which peaked at 8.9 percent in May, 1975, has been reduced to 7.9 percent; and,
3. There are nearly 4 million more Americans at work today than there had been at the bottom of the recession.
4. The President is sensitive to the needs of the people who are out of work. In order to alleviate part of the burden of unemployment, President Ford proposed and signed the "Comprehensive Employment Training Act" to draw more people into the job market and improve training opportunities. He has also extended special unemployment insurance benefits to those who have exhausted their regular and extended benefits.



ENERGY

In his state of Union Address on January 21, 1975, President Ford said:

"I will not sit by and watch the Nation continue to talk about an energy crisis and do nothing about it. Nor will I take half-way measures which fail to change the direction that has put our Nation in this position. We have the resources in this country, the technological capability, and the spirit to regain our energy independence. I will...use all my powers as President to make certain that we succeed."

TALKING POINTS:

1. President Ford has held to and worked persistently toward the achievement of three primary goals in the energy field:
 - To halt our growing dependence on imported oil during the next few critical years.
 - End our energy dependence and vulnerability by 1985.
 - Mobilize our technology and resources to supply a significant share of the free world's energy needs beyond 1985.
2. The President's plans and actions for achieving these goals have been based on three fundamental principles:
 - Energy should be provided at the lowest cost consistent with our need for adequate and secure supplies;
 - We should rely on the private sector and market forces as the most efficient means to achieve the goals; and,
 - We must achieve a balance between our efforts to preserve the environment and our need for energy.
3. The President developed the Nation's first comprehensive blueprint for achieving energy independence for the United States. The President's program envisions:
 - Reducing the rate of growth in energy consumption by cutting waste and improving energy efficiency.



- Increasing coal production from 640 million tons to 1 billion tons per year by 1985.
- Increasing domestic oil and natural gas production.
- Increasing the share of electricity generated by nuclear power from the current 9 percent to 26 percent by 1985.
- Completion of a strategic petroleum storage program
- The development of advanced technology needed to maintain energy self-sufficiency in future years.

4. President Ford has submitted legislation to Congress to create a self-liquidation Energy Independence Authority, a government corporation designed to assist the private sector's energy projects through providing loans, loan guarantees, price guarantees, or other financial assistance to be used only for projects that contribute directly to energy independence.

The President's record is one of progress, not platitude. His record is one of specifics, not smiles. It is one of performance, not promises. It is a record he is proud to run on. It is a record the American people -- Democrat, Independent and Republicans alike -- will support on November 2nd.



THE ENVIRONMENT

President Ford is firmly committed to the achievement of a balance between the needs of the environment and the needs of a dynamic and growing economy.

TALKING POINTS:

In pursuing a balance between these goals:

1. President Ford supported the enactment of the toxic substances legislation that would control the introduction of toxic substances into the environment;
2. The President proposed a 60 percent increase in outlays for wastewater treatment plant grants during fiscal year 1977;
3. President Ford signed the "Safe Drinking Water Act" which enhances the safety of public drinking water supplies through the establishment and enforcement of national drinking water standards;
4. The President proposed a 38 percent increase in funding for implementation of the "Safe Drinking Water Act" for fiscal year 1977;
5. The President signed a wetlands loan advance to facilitate public ownership of rapidly disappearing wetlands;
6. Mr. Ford proposed the "Alaska Conservation Act" which would dedicate 80 million acres to conservation purposes;
7. President Ford provided for full funding of the "Land and Water Conservation Fund" for fiscal year 1977; and,
8. President Ford increased appropriations for the National Park Service's maintenance and operations. This added an additional 400 park rangers and other National Park Service employees.
9. The Ford Administration recommended an extension of the current auto emission standards until 1981 in order to achieve the best balance without at the same time compromising public health needs.
10. The President vetoed the "Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1975" on the basis that production losses of over 80 million tons of coal are intolerable at a time when we cannot afford to place unreasonable restraints on our ability to achieve energy independence. The President's record is one of progress, not platitudes. His record is one of specifics, not smiles. It is one of performance, not promises. It is a record on which we are proud to run. It is a record that the American people--Democrat, Independent, and Republican alike--will support on November 2nd.



ETHNIC AMERICANS

In May of this year at the White House, President Ford underscored his conviction that cultural diversity is one of America's greatest strengths:

"A sense of neighborhood, a sense of belonging, of cultural identification, have been threatened. I can appreciate your deep concern for the future of institutions which you worked so very hard to establish-- the ethnic church, the school, the credit union, the fraternal lodge.

"As we enter our third century, I believe that we can have a rebirth of individual freedom and that we can protect the divine heritage which gives so much strength and so much richness to our society. Working together, we can achieve these goals."

TALKING POINTS:

1. President Ford appointed the first Ethnic Special Assistant in the White House to ensure the existence of open communications with America's ethnic communities.
2. President Ford met with over 500 Italian, Greek, German, Polish and other East European leaders for discussions and review of Federal policy affecting ethnic communities.
3. President Ford provided funds for the Ethnic Heritage Studies Program.
4. He established a Presidential Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization to develop better Federal programs for our nation's neighborhoods.
5. The President issued the strongest Captive Nations Proclamation since 1969 stating that "the fundamental basis of American policy towards other nations has remained unchanged: the United States supports the aspirations for freedom, independence, and national self determination for all peoples. We do not accept foreign domination over any nation."
6. Furthermore, President Ford appointed the first Hispanic Special Assistant in the White House.
7. Through the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Mr. Ford created an Advisory Committee for the Spanish-speaking people.



8. The President added to the Bureau of the Census an Ad Hoc Committee for Spanish-speaking people.
9. President Ford created a statistical census base for Hispanics by signing into law H.R. 92.
10. The President advocated and signed legislation extending the Protection of the Voting Rights Act to the Spanish-speaking and other Americans who do not speak English.
11. The President increased from \$42 million to \$70 million Federal assistance for bilingual/bicultural education programs.

President Ford has met with leaders of virtually every ethnic community in this nation and has, with pride, asked members of all of America's ethnic communities to serve in his Administration.

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

The Ford Administration has made its position absolutely clear on the Federal Reserve System.

The independence of the Federal Reserve System from political influence is one of the last remaining checks against the relentless inflationary instincts of many politicians in Congress. The moment the politicians get their hands on the levers of the money supply is the moment that we put the United States on the road to economic disaster.

TALKING POINTS:

1. The Federal Reserve System has been an important instrument in the control of inflation and the development of a balanced economy.
2. Since the "accord" of 1951--for 25 years--the Federal Reserve, by a Congressional decision, has been free from political influence.
3. Mr. Carter in remarks before the AFL-CIO threatened to make the Federal Reserve System a political football by having the Chairman serve terms concurrent with the President.
4. If the politicians gain control of the money supply mechanism the temptation to solve economic problems by printing more money will be overwhelming. The result would be highly inflationary.



9/15/76

FOREIGN POLICY

The President assumed office amidst doubt and bitterness at home and with great uncertainty abroad. The character and future of American international leadership had been drawn into question by the turmoil of the preceding decade. In two years, the international atmosphere changed dramatically. The changes have not been breathtaking; but through quiet, creative diplomacy, there has been a steady accumulation of achievements.

TALKING POINTS:

1. The Nation is at peace. For the first time in over a decade no American is engaged in battle anywhere in the world. American military forces, where they have been used, have been used to save lives -- to save Americans and Vietnamese fleeing from tyranny in Indochina, to rescue the ship and crew of the Maraguez, to save the lives of Americans and others in Lebanon.
2. The United States alliances with the great industrial democracies of the Atlantic Community and Japan have never been stronger or closer. They are the basis for close cooperation on a variety of diplomatic, economic and arms control questions and have demonstrated their ability to bring solutions to many of the complex issues before us.
3. The President has met with his allied counterparts over sixty times -- including two summits with NATO leaders in 1975 and the milestone Economic Summits at Rambouillet (November, 1975) and Puerto Rico (June, 1976). Our allies look upon the United States as a dependable and creative leader of the free world.

The President's record is one of progress, not platitude. His record is one of specifics, not smiles. His record is one of performance, not promises. It is a record we are proud to present to the American people -- Democrat, Independent and Republican alike -- and it is a record they will support on November 2.



GUN CONTROL

The President recognizes that the most effective way to combat the illicit use of handguns by criminals is to provide mandatory prison sentences for anyone who uses a firearm in the commission of a crime. The President has vigorously opposed federal registration of guns. And he has recommended legislation to the Congress banning the manufacture and sale of the cheap highly concealable handguns known as "Saturday Night Specials." In order not to deprive a sportsman and collector their legitimate right to own and use firearms, the President has asked Congress to work closely with him and with other interested parties to find an equitable solution.

TALKING POINTS

The President has vigorously opposed the federal registration of guns. In his special Message to the Congress on Crime on June 19, 1975, President Ford called for a four part program consisting of:

1. Legislation requiring the imposition of a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment for any person convicted of using or carrying a handgun in the commission of Federal offenses;
2. Legislation banning the importation, domestic manufacture and sale of cheap, highly concealable handguns -- known as "Saturday Night Specials" -- which have no apparent use other than against human beings;
3. Legislation strengthening current law to strike at the illegal commerce in handguns and to emphasize the responsibility of gun deals to adhere to the law; and
4. Expansion, by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, of its firearms investigative efforts in the Nation's ten largest metropolitan areas through the immediate employment and training of an additional 500 firearms investigators.



HEALTH CARE

Better delivery of services, a greater concentration of resources for those who truly need help, fewer resources for those who are able to care for themselves, greater dignity for those who receive help, and less red tape--these are the hallmarks of the president's balanced health care program. The President said:

"The Federal Government should help, within the limits of national resources, those who are in need; but we should not give a dollar of Federal assistance to those not in need."

TALKING POINTS:

1. President Ford is committed to the goal of the insurance of every American to the access of quality health care;
2. President Ford proposed a catastrophic health insurance program that would protect the elderly against the devastating impact of a serious illness. Under the President's proposal, anyone eligible for Medicare would, after having reached the age of 65, not be required to pay more than \$500 a year for covered hospital or nursing home care nor more than \$250 a year for doctors' bills.
3. President Ford is determined to hold down the inflationary surge in health care costs. The President proposes to limit increases in Federal reimbursements for medicare to 7 percent a year for hospital costs and to 4 percent a year for physicians' services. By holding down the increases in reimbursements, the government is able in effect to hold down the increases in charges to the patient.
4. The President strengthened the nursing home improvement program so that the quality of life and health care in skilled nursing facilities has been improved through higher standards and better services for the patients.
5. The President has urged expansion of the National Health Services Corps which places health professionals in critical health manpower shortage areas.
6. The President initiated the coordination of rural health activities to serve individuals in rural areas.
7. The President initiated a program of unprecedented scope to immunize all Americans against a possible outbreak of swine flu. Without the president's leadership, it is doubtful that the program would have been initiated.



8. President Ford has urged his Domestic Council staff and others in the government to study means of providing health insurance to those Americans--currently less than 20 percent of the population--who are not adequately insured.
9. President Ford in 1976 signed an appropriation for cancer research which exceeded \$760 million.
10. The Ford Administration, in keeping with its position on support for higher education through tax credits and block grants, supports the development of additional capacity for training doctors, nurses, and paramedical personnel.
11. The President endorsed the White Paper on Drug Abuse, which called for: (1) more selectivity and targeting of resources; (2) better intra- and inter-agency management; (3) recognition of the vital but limited role the Federal government can play; and (4) more visible Presidential leadership.

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HISPANIC AMERICANS

President Ford has repeatedly demonstrated his commitment to Hispanic Americans.

TALKING POINTS:

1. The President provided active support for the 1975 Amendments to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, including support for specific voting guarantees for Hispanic and other language minority Americans;
2. President Ford has sponsored White House meetings on Bilingual Education, Equal Employment Opportunity Programs, Minority Business Enterprise, consumer matters and ethnic concerns;
3. President Ford supported an increase in appropriations for bilingual education programs (from approximately 45 million to 90 million for FY 75 and 115 million for FY 76)
4. President Ford provided ombudsman-type services to Hispanic Americans seeking to participate in Federal programs and benefits;
5. President Ford has instructed senior White House staff to represent his Administration at major Hispanic community events;
6. President Ford has provided support for minority business development efforts through the issuance of a December, 1974 memorandum on Minority Business Enterprise;
7. President Ford appointed three ambassadors--Mexico, Colombia, and El Salvador. The President also appointed his own Special Assistant for Hispanic Affairs and an Hispanic American to serve as Assistant Secretary of the Interior;
8. The President appointed qualified Hispanic American citizens to major boards and advisory councils including the Presidential Clemency Board, the National Council on Educational Research, the Commission on International Women's Year, the Legal Services Corporation Board of Directors, the President's Manpower Planning Commission, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting Board of Directors, the National Advisory Council on Extension and Continuing Education; the National Advisory Council on Vocational Education and many others;



9. The President provided strong support for the Civil Service Commission's Spanish Speaking Program through the issuance of a Presidential Memorandum in March, 1973. There are now more than 1,000 full time Spanish speaking coordinators.



HUMPHREY-HAWKINS BILL

President Ford has stated that the Humphrey-Hawkins Bill would create an untenable burden for the American taxpayer and would not provide the relief that its supporters claim.

TALKING POINTS:

1. The President has pointed out that the Humphrey-Hawkins Bill, as amended, would cost the American people more than \$10 billion in its first year of operations; and this is a conservative estimate.
2. Under the Ford Administration nearly 4 million Americans have returned to work since the bottom of the recession last year. The way to full employment is to create more jobs in the private sector where four out of five job opportunities exist.
3. Responsible observers have pointed out that requiring the government to serve as the "employer of last resort" forces wage scales in private industry to a higher level. Otherwise, there would be a steady drain of labor away from jobs in private industry into "last resort" jobs.
4. Furthermore, the provisions bill cannot work unless permanent wage and price controls are implemented, because the bill assures runaway inflation.
5. The key to a sound economy and higher employment in President Ford's view, lies in the creation of incentives for further economic growth that will result in meaningful, permanent full-time jobs for all Americans who seek work and temporary "make work" government jobs paid for by the taxpayer.



INTEGRITY IN GOVERNMENT

In accepting his Party's nomination for the Presidency, Gerald Ford said:

"On a marble fireplace in the White House is carved a prayer which John Adams wrote. It concludes, 'May none but honest and wise men ever rule this roof.' Since I have resided in that historic house, I have tried to live by that prayer."

President Ford took office when the Watergate scandal was at its height -- and public esteem for the Presidency as an institution was at its low point. In his two years in office, the President has restored public trust and confidence in the Presidency and the Executive Branch of government.

TALKING POINTS

Public trust in the Presidency has been restored.

1. President Ford appointed men and women of high moral character and recognized excellence to fill the major posts in his Administration. He has continued this pattern in his appointments to the major regulatory commissions and to the Supreme Court.
2. The President has conducted a remarkable open Presidency. President Ford has held 35 national press conferences to date. He has met in White House Conferences on the issues of the day with more than 10,000 Americans.
3. When the President decided that the best interests of the United States required that former President Nixon be pardoned in order to get the country on the move, he became the first President in United States history to offer to appear and testify and submit to questioning by Members of the United States Congress. He did in fact testify in a public hearing held by a Congressional Committee and a transcript was made for the public. His Presidency has become the most open in modern times.
4. The President has initiated significant reforms in government handling of a wide variety of ethnical problems. He set forth a strict code of conduct for his White House staff.
5. The President issued strict instructions to all Cabinet Members with regard to the conduct of their agencies.
6. The President supported the Attorney General in his actions in creating new limitations on investigative action by the FBI.



7. The President appointed the Richardson Commission to investigate and recommend action on the problem of international corporate bribery.
8. The President has made a series of proposals, including the one to set up a Special Prosecutor's office in the Department of Justice, which has made our government more open and accountable to the people.
9. Furthermore, the President has given his full support to the following proposals in his Party's platform.
 - Repeal of legislation permitting automatic increases in salaries of Members of Congress, Congressional staffs, and official expense allowances.
 - Elimination of proxy voting which allows Members to record votes in Committee without being present for the actual deliberations or vote on a measure.
 - Elimination of Democrat Caucus rules which allow a Party to bind its Members' votes on legislation. Each Member of Congress represents his constituents and must be free to vote in accordance with the dictates and needs of that constituency. Individual conscience is essential to effective representation.
 - Appropriate disciplinary measures for those who have violated the public trust through abuse of Congressional allowances.



INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ACTIONS

The American economic recovery has led the world economy out of a sharp recession. This was made possible not only by our own vigorous recovery, but by the improved coordination of economic strategies among the major industrial nations as a result of the Economic Summits at Rambouillet and Puerto Rico and the meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Jamaica.

TALKING POINTS:

1. At the Rambouillet Economic Summit in November 1975, the United States and other industrial democracies agreed to coordinate their national economic policies to promote recovery.
2. At the Puerto Rico Economic Summit, convened at President Ford's initiative, the major industrial democracies reached agreement that their countries would:
 - follow non-inflationary policies at home in order to avoid setting off another worldwide round of inflation.
 - cooperate in the international monetary area by following policies that would avoid any long-term balance of payments problems for any country; and,
 - work closely together in future economic decisions, giving special consideration to means of assisting developed nations with balance of payments problems, trying that assistance to be a commitment by the nations to follow sound economic policies.
3. At the International Monetary Fund meeting held in Jamaica in January 1976, a series of broad reforms were agreed upon. These reforms, including agreement on floating exchange rates and greater assistance to member nations, represent the first major revision of the world monetary system since the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference.
4. In the United Nations, the American delegation--at the direction of President Ford--presented to the Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly a far-reaching initiative to promote mutually constructive relations between the industrial nations and the developing nations and thereby facilitating global economic progress.



5. At the World Food Conference in November 1974--which was convened at U.S. initiative--the United States took the lead in promoting international efforts to expand the world's food production and increase food assistance.

The President stated in his acceptance speech that "we will carry out a farm policy that assures a fair market price for the farmer, encourages full production, leads to record exports . . . we will never use the bounty of America's farmers as a pawn in international diplomacy. There will be no embargoes."

6. In the Conference on International Economic Cooperation in Paris, a long-awaited, improved dialogue on specific problems is taking place between the energy-producing and energy-consuming nations, and between the industrial and developing nations. These relations will be vital to the health of the world economy--and indeed international political stability--for the remainder of this century.



9/15/76

JAPAN

No relationship is more important to the United States than our alliance with Japan. President Ford has stated that Japan is a pillar of American strategy in Asia. Mutual security remains fundamental to our collaboration, but in a new era we have extended our partnership to a broad range of common interests.

TALKING POINTS

1. The Ford Administration has maintained and strengthened relations with democratic Japan. Japan has become our largest overseas trading partner.
2. The Ford Administration and the Japanese government both seek to improve relations with Moscow and Peking; to ease tensions in Korea; and to encourage a stable political evaluation in Southeast Asia.
3. The Administration and the Japanese government have cooperated in the development of effective international efforts to promote stable economic growth, strengthen bonds among the industrial democracies, and shape more positive ties between the industrial and developing nations.
4. Both the Japanese government and the Ford Administration share a common dedication to the principals of democracy. Continuing consultations on key regional and global issues is at the heart of our respective policies.
5. President Ford is responsible for two historic events in U.S.-Japanese relations: he was the first U.S. President to visit Japan and he was the host for the symbolically significant visit of the Japanese Emperor and Empress to the United States.



JUSTICE

The Ford Administration has focused on the protection of the innocent victim rather than harsh punishment for the criminal. That is why President Ford does not emphasize laws and order, and why he has returned to the constitutional phrase--insuring domestic tranquility. President Ford's program has markedly improved the administration of justice in the United States:

Since Gerald Ford assumed office in 1974, the rate of increase of crime has been slashed by 75%.

TALKING POINTS:

1. The President has developed a three part plan.
 - The Ford Administration has provided leadership through improvements in Federal laws and the Federal justice system;
 - The Ford Administration has enacted and vigorously enforced laws covering criminal conduct that cannot be adequately regulated at the State and local level; and,
 - The Ford Administration has provided financial and technical assistance to State and local law enforcement authorities.
2. The President called for enactment of a comprehensive criminal code to replace the highly complex and confusing set of laws now on the books;
3. The President has called for enactment of a mandatory minimum sentence law that would make imprisonments a certainty for persons convicted of a Federal offense involving the use of a dangerous weapon and those convicted of extraordinarily serious offenses such as hijacking, kidnapping and trafficking in hard drugs.
4. President Ford has proposed the establishment of "career criminal" programs designed to assure quick identification and prosecution of persons who repeatedly commit serious offenses.



JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

In his special Message to the Congress on Crime on June 19, 1975, the President said:

"Crime by young people represents a large part of crime in general. The 1973 statistics indicate that 45 percent of persons arrested for all crimes are under 18 years of age. Whatever the difficulty, we must continue our efforts to rehabilitate offenders, especially youthful offenders. To do less would be to write off great numbers of young people as unsalvageable before they have come of age."

TALKING POINTS:

1. Under President Ford's direction, approximately \$140 million annually has been devoted to projects focusing on delinquency prevention, court services, and residential facilities.
2. The President signed the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 requiring additional Federal involvement in the area of juvenile delinquency. An Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention was established to coordinate all juvenile delinquency programs and to initiate new projects through a categorical grant program.
3. New Ford Administration projects which are in operation, or planned in the near future, include removing "status offenders" from institutions, increased delinquency prevention and delinquency diversion. Twenty-five million dollars has been appropriated to the OJJDP to enable it to initiate these activities.
4. The President has urged that HEW become and remain involved in juvenile delinquency through its Runaway Youth Program in the Office of Human Development. This program currently utilizes about \$15 million in Federal funds annually.

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5. President Ford has proposed the expansion of programs designed to divert certain first offenders into rehabilitation prior to trial.
6. The President in 1976 proposed that the Congress continue the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration through 1981 at a higher authorized funding level. The bill will authorize \$6.8 billion for the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration through the next five years, and will place additional emphasis on improving State and local court systems and on funding "high impact" crime-prevention projects in crime-ridden urban areas.



9/15/76

KOREA

Americans fought and died to preserve South Korea's independence. Our experience and our sacrifice define our stake in the preservation of this hard-won stability. The United States remains committed to peace and security on the Korean peninsula.

TALKING POINTS

1. President Ford has stated that American support and assistance will be available to the Republic of Korea as promised.
2. In fulfilling American commitments, the Ford Administration looks to South Korea to assume the primary responsibility for its own defense, especially in manpower.
3. The Administration will continue to remind the Republic of Korea government that responsiveness to the popular will and social justice are essential if subversion and external challenge are to be resisted.
4. The President has reconfirmed that our alliance with South Korea is designed to meet an external threat which affects our own security, and that of Japan as well.



9/24/76

MIDDLE EAST

Due to the progress the Administration has made over the past two years, a just and lasting peace may soon be possible in the Middle East. America will continue her efforts to help resolve local conflicts, whether in Lebanon or Cyprus or elsewhere.

TALKING POINTS:

1. Both Israel and Egypt hailed the Sinai Agreement of September 1975, as a turning point in Middle East history. It was the first Arab-Israeli agreement that was not the immediate result of hostilities. It was an unprecedented political step toward a secure peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors.
2. The President has conferred regularly with Israeli and Arab leaders to maintain the momentum toward a permanent settlement to the Arab-Israeli dispute.
3. As Prime Minister Rabin of Israel has said, "The relations between the United States and Israel are firm." President Ford has stood by Israel with over \$4.2 billion in economic and military assistance in his two years in office -- an event that is the equivalent of over two thirds of all the aid Israel has received from the United States in its previous 28 years of existence. The survival and security of Israel remain a non-negotiable American commitment.
4. The United States has also developed good political and economic ties with many of the Arab states that had severed relations with us since 1967. The confidence and trust of the Arab nations is NOT only in the direct interest of the U. S., but is also an essential element of our ability to assist on overall settlement.
5. The President stands ready to assist on the Arab-Israeli conflict as best as the United States can. President Ford holds no pre-conceived ideas as to which course any new efforts should follow. In the future, as in the past, the Ford Administration shall follow that course which seems most likely to be acceptable to the parties directly involved in order to produce concrete results which all parties accept and support.

The President's record is one of progress, not platitude. His record is one of specifics, not smiles. It is a record we are proud to present to the American people -- Democrat, Republican and Independent alike.



MINORITY ENTERPRISE

TALKING POINTS:

1. President Ford's Small Business Administration (SBA) has increased direct and guaranteed loans to minority enterprises from \$41.3 million in 1968 to \$226 million in 1975. As a part of the Administration's continuing strong support of efforts to expand minority participation in private enterprise, SBA expects to provide over \$465 million in loan and loan guarantees to about 8,600 minority enterprises in 1977.
2. The President's Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE) will continue to provide financial assistance at a level of \$50 million to support efforts to create and expand business ownership opportunities for minorities and stimulate private, State and local initiatives in this area.
3. Through SBA the Ford Administration will expand its management assistance program for minority firms by \$3 million in 1977. The Ford Administration will also increase procurement subsidies by \$3 million for minority contractors to facilitate participation in the 8(a) program.
4. Under the Ford Administration's 8(a) procurement program, sole source contracts with minority firms are expected to increase from \$322 million in 1975 to \$350 million in 1977.
5. 74 Minority Enterprise Small Business Investment Companies (MESBICs) are currently in operation with Ford Administration matching funds of \$43 million and private capital investment of \$40 million.
6. Under President Ford a combined private sector/Government program has resulted in a substantial increase in the deposits of the Nation's 71 minority-owned banks. These deposits totaled \$1.3 billion as of June 30, 1975, compared with \$396 million in 31 minority-owned banks at the start of the program, September 30, 1970.

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9/24/76

NATIONAL DEFENSE

The United States is, and shall remain the confident leader of the free world. In his acceptance speech at the Republican Convention this August, the President said "Nobody questions our dedication to peace and nobody doubts our willingness to use our strength when our vital interests are at stake, and we will."

TALKING POINTS:

The primary US objective is deterrence and stability. American defense policy is based on five considerations:

1. Our military power is respected world-wide, remains a key factor in our ability to assist in settling international disputes, and is a major element of our capability to achieve our foreign policy objectives.
2. The United States has political, economic, and strategic interests in the world that are sustained by a foreign policy supported by our military strength.
3. US interests remain under challenge, primarily by the USSR, which continues to add to its military capabilities qualitatively and quantitatively.
4. The United States has the principal role in defending interdependent free world interests and maintaining world stability. If we falter or fail, there is no other power to take our place.
5. The United States must maintain a military establishment which permits us -- in conjunction with our allies -- to safeguard US interests in the face of continued growing adversary capabilities.
6. Under the President's leadership, the Nation has reversed the ten-year trend of Congressional cutbacks in the Nation's defense strength.
7. We are expanding our Army from 13 to 16 divisions and providing new and improved equipment to forces in the field including a new battle tank.
8. We are strengthening our Navy and Air Force with new ships and new aircraft, fully capable of matching those of our adversaries.



9. We are improving the quality and capability of our strategic forces to meet the ever-growing capabilities of our adversaries.
10. We have provided for a substantial increase in research and development--the key to America's technological pre-eminence and to our continued security in a world filled with uncertainties.



OLDER AMERICANS

In his acceptance speech, the President reconfirmed his concern for the Nation's elderly. "We will ensure the integrity of the social security system and improve Medicare so that our older citizens can enjoy the health and the happiness they have earned. There is no reason they should have to go broke just to get well," he said.

Among the top priorities of the Ford Administration are income and health security for older Americans.

TALKING POINTS

1. The President proposed that Social Security benefits be expanded by the full cost-of-living increase. This benefit became effective on July 1 of this year.
2. To protect the integrity of the Social Security Trust Fund -- a fund that is being rapidly depleted -- the President proposed a small increase in both employer and employee social security taxes. This increase would become effective January 1, 1977, and would cost workers a maximum of \$1 a week.
3. The President proposed a catastrophic health insurance program to limit the out-of-pocket amount the older Americans must pay for medical and physicians' fees each year.
4. The President signed the Amendments to the Older Americans Act that delivers coordinated, comprehensive services and meals to the elderly at the community level and enables older persons to live independent lives in their own homes.
5. The President knows the severe impact of inflation on older Americans living on fixed incomes. He has made cutting the rate of inflation his top economic goal. As a result, inflation has been cut in half to 4.6% for the first half of 1976, down from its 12.2% high in 1974.

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9/24/76

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA -- TAIWAN

The newly established relationship between the United States and the People's Republic of China is now an enduring and important feature of the international scene. President Ford is determined to work to improve it further. While difficult issues remain, we intend to continue to move forward the normalization of our relationship in keeping with the principles of the Shanghai Communique.

TALKING POINTS

1. The President and his representatives have held frequent and wide ranging talks with Chinese leaders. These discussions and the President's personal visit to the People's Republic of China have helped to deepen our mutual understanding.
2. President Ford has been instrumental in the process of normalizing relations with the People's Republic of China. Our two countries have differences which neither side attempts to hide, but we also share important interests which provide the foundation for a durable and growing relationship.
3. Through the constructive dialogue between President Ford and leaders of the People's Republic we are now able to strengthen opportunities for cooperation and parallel action on many global issues of common concern.
4. As the United States moves towards normalization of relations with the PRC, the Ford Administration will continue to act responsibly on matters affecting the basic interests of the people of the Republic of China (Taiwan).



REVENUE SHARING

"The General Revenue Sharing program must pass this year. You know that failure to renew this program would weaken the fiscal stability of your cities. You know that expiration of this program, or a reduction of the payments you now receive, would mean cutbacks in essential services, increased public and related private sector unemployment, or the imposition of more taxes. Maybe this is what some partisans want. But I don't."

President Ford

March 14, 1976

Before 2,000 Mayors and Local Government
Officials Attending the Congressional-
City Conference, Washington, D.C.

"President Ford appears more responsive to the needs of the States than the Democratically-controlled Congress."

Governor Cecil D. Andrus of Idaho

February 23, 1976

At the Winter Meeting of the National
Governors' Conference, Washington, D.C.

TALKING POINTS:

1. President Ford's General Revenue Sharing program has revitalized our Federal system and strengthened State and local governments by providing direct, flexible aid and returning responsibility and decision-making authority to local communities. To date more than \$26 billion has been made available under this program which contains few restrictions in contrast to the myriad of categorical grants with their burdensome bureaucratic requirements.
2. The President's program expires on December 30, 1976, and renewal of General Revenue Sharing is one of the Ford Administration's domestic policy priorities.
3. The President has proposed legislation to improve the program and extend it until September, 1982. His proposal would provide \$39.85 billion to the 50 States and 39,000 units of local government to help them continue to meet their diverse public services needs.
4. Over the past year the President has met and worked closely with Members of Congress, representatives of State and local government and citizen groups to ensure prompt and favorable Congressional action on this important legislation.
5. Despite delaying tactics and opposition to this program, under the President's leadership and prodding, the Congress is nearing final action on a renewal bill which endorses many of his recommendations.



SMALL BUSINESS

President Ford believes that the small business sector of our economy is vital to job creation, competition and technological innovation.

The small business sector of the United States includes nearly 10 million enterprises, employs 58% of the private labor force, produces approximately 48% of the gross business product, and provides a livelihood for 100 million Americans.

To ensure that small business not only survives, but thrives, the President has attacked three primary problem areas for small business: inflation, overregulation, and overtaxation. His economic policies have cut the rate of inflation by more than half. In the other two areas, President Ford has:

- * Cut by 12% the Federal paperwork burden on America's businessmen and businesswomen, removing from their ledgers the \$18 billion annual expense for completing the forms -- and elimination of untold millions of dollars spent by the Federal agencies just for reading, handling, and filing them.
- * Proposed a change in the Federal estate tax laws to make it easier to continue the family ownership of a small farm or business. This reform would help insure the survival of smaller farms and businesses for future generations and allow them to expand their current operations.
- * Proposed reducing the maximum corporate tax rate and making permanent the currently temporary exemption on the first \$50,000 of income. If approved, these tax cuts will affect thousands of small firms and help generate thousands of more jobs.
- * Proposed a one-third increase in the Small Business Administration's lending guarantee authority -- from \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion -- despite the austerity budget he submitted to the Congress. This will help stimulate the private business sector and create more jobs.
- * Named the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration to serve on the President's economic Policy Board which oversees the formulation, coordination and implementation of the Administration's economic policy. It is the first time small business has been represented at such a high level of government.



- * Asked for reduction in capital gains taxation at an acceleration rate over a period of years. This would remove the tax incentive for small business mergers and make it possible for local interests to acquire and expand successful small businesses.
- * Proposed tax incentives to encourage broadened stock ownership, of low and middle income working Americans by allowing deferral of taxes on certain funds invested in common stocks.

In addition, the President has proposed eliminating the 50% marital deduction on estate taxes, so that 100% of an estate could be transferred tax free to a surviving spouse. He has also proposed an increase in the estate tax exemption from \$60,000 to \$150,000.



9/24/76

SOVIET UNION

Speaking at the Conference of Christians and Jews in Cleveland this year, the President said:

"Our foreign policy today is based on man's respect for man; on our understanding that we are indeed . . . riders on the earth together . . .; and a constant effort to make reason the strongest force in the conduct of nations."

In this spirit, the President has pursued with realism and dedication a more stable and constructive relationship with the Soviet Union.

TALKING POINTS:

1. The Vladivostok understanding in November 1974, broke a two- and a half year deadlock and laid the groundwork for a new long-term SALT agreement. This understanding, negotiated by the President, provided for the first time a ceiling to strategic arsenals of the two superpowers.
2. The five-year grain sale agreement concluded by the Ford Administration assures income to American farmers and foreign exchange for our commercial traders, while protecting our market against disruption and protecting consumers against inflation. The President's policy assures a fair market price for the farmer, encourages full production and leads to record exports.
3. At the Helsinki Conference, President Ford declared publicly to the Communist leadership and to the world that America insists on human rights, self-determination, and freer movement of peoples and ideas as the basis for security in Europe. The President also visited Poland, Yugoslavia, and Romania to demonstrate continued U. S. support for the independent course of these nations.
4. The President has negotiated fair and mutually beneficial agreements with the Soviet Union. He has also fought hard, sometimes in the face of strong opposition, for the basic principle that Soviet military adventurism must be resisted, if there is to be a stable peace in the world.
5. The President believes that America should welcome peaceful competition with the Soviet Union. We are prepared for it and we welcome it. The mutual relationship of respect and understanding nurtured by President Ford will help to insure that this competition does not lead to uncontrollable confrontation and conflict.



TAX REFORM

In the area of tax reform, President Ford has sponsored and actively supported a broad range of legislative initiatives, the most significant of which would: (a) lower the current tax burden on individuals and businesses; (b) substantially reduce the number of individuals with high economic incomes who pay little or no tax, (c) encourage continued economic growth through capital formation; (d) encourage job creation; (e) make estate and gift taxation more equitable particularly with respect to farms and small businesses; and (f) help state and local governments borrow needed funds.

These legislative initiatives are as follows:

TALKING POINTS:

1. President Ford in his January 1975 State of the Union Message proposed tax reductions to counteract the recession. This resulted in the passage of the Tax Reduction Act of 1975 which provided the needed economic stimulus.
2. On October 6, 1975, President Ford proposed tax reductions of \$28 billion on the basis of a dollar-for-dollar linkage between expenditure reductions and tax cuts. This is a major component of the Administration's current efforts to regain control over the size of the government and government spending.
3. President Ford urged the passage of a package of major tax proposals presented to Congress on April 30, 1973. Included are proposals that would put a limit on artificial accounting losses and provide for a minimum taxable income. These would substantially reduce the number of individuals with high incomes who pay little or no tax.
4. President Ford in his 1976 State of the Union Message presented a broadened stock ownership plan under which low and middle income taxpayers could deduct contributions of up to \$1,500 to a plan for investment in common stocks.



5. On July 31, 1975, the Ford Administration presented to Congress a proposal for integration of the corporate and individual income taxes in order to reduce the bias of the current tax system against savings and investment and against debt as compared to equity financing. The capital formation proposals outlined above would result in the short run in the creation of additional jobs through expansion of the economy and in the long run in a larger capital stock which would increase productivity and real wages.
6. President Ford in his 1976 State of the Union Message announced a proposal which would give businesses temporary tax incentives to build new plants in areas of high unemployment, thereby encouraging the acceleration of investment spending in those areas which would increase employment during a period of economic slack.
7. President Ford in his 1976 State of the Union Message announced a proposal which would reduce the estate tax burdens in the case of small businesses and family farms. The Administration in 1976 presented other gift and estate tax proposals which would make these provisions of the tax law more equitable by increasing the estate tax exemption and exempting all transfers between spouses.



USE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL VETO

By careful use of the Presidential veto, President Ford has saved the American taxpayers billions of dollars during his Presidency. He has used this Constitutional check to ensure that special interests are not advanced to the detriment of the national interest. On August 19, at Kemper Arena in Kansas City, President Ford said:

For two years, I have stood for all the people against a vote-hungry, free-spending Congressional majority on Capitol Hill. Fifty-five times I vetoed extravagant and unwise legislation; forty-five times I made those vetoes stick. Those vetoes have saved the American taxpayers billions and billions of dollars. I am against the big for the little taxpayer.

TALKING POINTS

1. The President reduced the rate of growth in government spending by half, in effect returning to the average American household more than \$150 a year.
2. To place the President's actions in perspective, he has averaged 28 vetoes per year. In comparison, Franklin D. Roosevelt averaged 52 vetoes a year, and Harry S. Truman averaged 35 vetoes per year.
3. As of September 23, 1976, President Ford had vetoed 56 bills (with 45 sustained), saving the American taxpayer some \$9.2 billion.



VETERANS

The President has acted decisively and responsibly to ensure quality health care services for the Nation's veterans.

TALKING POINTS:

1. President Ford ordered the construction of eight new VA hospitals and sought \$249 million in FY 1977 for design of all eight and the construction of the two assigned the highest priority by the VA.
2. In the last two budgets the President requested approximately 9,000 new staff positions for the VA medical care program and \$600 million for repair and construction of VA facilities. In his FY 1977 budget alone, the President allocated \$4 billion for VA medical care activities--a record high.

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9/15/76

VIETNAM

Following the American withdrawal from South Vietnam and its absorption by North Vietnam the Ford Administration has closely reviewed its relations in Southeast Asia

TALKING POINTS

1. Among the President's principal concerns regarding Vietnam is to obtain an accounting for Americans still missing in Indochina.
2. President Ford does not see any possibility of improved relations with Vietnam without a prior accounting for these men.
3. While the Ford Administration has exchanged views with the North Vietnamese indicating an American willingness to discuss outstanding issues, it would be premature to speculate what the outcome might be.
4. The President's policy remains that the United States will deal with Vietnam largely on the basis of Vietnam's actions toward us and toward its neighbors. For the United States, a preeminent concern is an accounting of American men missing-in-action.



WELFARE REFORM

In the State of the Union Message on January 19, 1976, the President commented on welfare reform:

Too many of our welfare programs are inequitable and invite abuse. Worse, we are wasting badly needed resources without reaching many of the truly needy. Complex welfare programs cannot be reformed overnight. Surely we cannot simply dump welfare into the laps of the 50 States, their local taxpayers or private charities, and just walk away from it. Nor is it the right time for massive and sweeping changes while we are still recovering from a recession. Nevertheless, there are still plenty of improvements we can make.

TALKING POINTS:

1. The President proposed a variety of legislative amendments to improve the administration and effectiveness of welfare programs.
2. President Ford proposed reforms in the Food Stamp Program to target limited resources toward families truly in need, and exclude those with incomes well above the poverty level.
3. The Ford Administration sought authority from Congress to tighten up both the rules for eligibility and the benefits of the existing welfare program.
4. President Ford repeatedly tried to incorporate a work incentive plan into the program.
5. The President sought to consolidate the many overlapping programs that often frustrate the beneficiary with unending red tape.
6. President Ford submitted to the Congress the "Income Assistance Simplification Act," which:
 - Would give the President authority to modify administrative procedures, eligibility requirements, benefit levels, and program administration authority.
 - Would preserve Congressional authority over all proposed modifications since the Congress would have an opportunity for review and disapproval.



-- Directed that a careful study be made of more comprehensive long-range welfare reform alternatives.

The President believes that in this era, we have come face to face with the hard fact that the government's resources are limited. He believes that to continue to propose spending legislation is irresponsible. Instead, the President has sought more responsive and accountable means for helping those in need. His are means which do not entail promises that cannot be kept, which do not carry with them a promise of continued deficit spending, but which will propel the United States toward its goal of sustained prosperity.

The President's record is one of progress, not platitude. His record is one of specifics, not smiles. His record is one of performance, not promises. It is a record we are proud to run on. It is a record the American people -- Democrat, Independent and Republicans alike -- will support on November 2.



WOMEN

President Ford has long been a strong supporter of greater opportunity for American women. The President's belief is expressed in his July 4 address:

"If America has a fundamental strength, if America is built upon a fundamental principle, it is that all men, and women, are created equal."

The President's active support began when he was House Minority Leader. At that time he was instrumental in lining up some of the last signatures to obtain a "discharge petition" to free the Equal Rights Amendment from committee, where it had languished for 47 years, and bring it to the floor of the House of Representatives.

The Ford Administration has expanded opportunities for women and eliminated many of the barriers to their full participation in our Nation's life.

TALKING POINTS:

1. The President has directed the heads of Federal Departments and agencies to guarantee that all persons have an opportunity to compete on a fair and equal basis for employment and advancement in the Federal government.
2. President Ford has strongly supported the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and urged the states who have not ratified to do so.
3. The President signed the Housing and Community Development Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in housing and mortgage credit lending.
4. President Ford has directed the Attorney General to review the entire United States Code to determine the need for revising sex-based provisions.
5. President Ford emphasized, by example, the need to increase the number of women in high-level positions in the Federal government, by making 14 percent of all his appointments women, a higher percentage than any previous Administration.
6. President Ford has also directed his Special Assistant for Women to maintain open liaison with over 300 national women's organizations with a combined membership of over 100 million.
7. President Ford signed the Equal Credit Opportunity Act of 1974, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and marital status in the granting of consumer credit. The President also proposed the elimination of the estate and gift tax on all transfers between spouses in the Administration's tax proposal.



YOUTH

In recent meetings with America's young people, President Ford stated:

"...Dwight D. Eisenhower once said that his faith in our young people was as unbounded as his faith in America. I share that faith. I believe that youth and America go hand in hand."

"I have great faith in your generation. I have faith that you will take the problems that we don't solve and actually come up with better solutions so that the America of tomorrow will be a better place for all of you and all of your children..."

Since taking office in August of 1974, President Ford has continually underscored his concern for the young people of this nation.

President Ford is the first President to establish an Office for Youth Affairs charged with the responsibility of ensuring a continuing dialogue between the White House and young people. He is also the first President to bring together the leadership of the nation's major youth organizations and coalitions for the purpose of seeking their input and involvement in the decision making process:

TALKING POINTS:

1. The President has invited to the White House more than 15,000 young people between the ages of 14 and 30 for dialogues and discussions on topics of particular concern to the next generation of leadership.
2. President Ford has appointed more people under the age of thirty to National Advisory Councils, Boards and Commissions than all previous Administrations combined.
3. The Ford Administration has requested of the Congress full funding of the Basic Education Opportunity Grants program both for 1976 and 1977.
4. President Ford has initiated a policy review committee on drug abuse to develop a better program for dealing with the national abuse problem and the costs, both criminal and social.



5. The President has recognized the special problems of teenagers and minority young people in the job market and recommended to the Congress a one year extension of the Special Unemployment Assistance Act.
6. President Ford has established a National Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention which requires that seven of the twenty-one members be under twenty-six years of age.
7. Under the Ford Administration, an interagency task force has been established to study and make recommendations on successfully bridging the transition from the world of school to the world of work.
8. The Ford Administration has maintained peace and stability abroad so that for the first time in more than a decade no young American is fighting anywhere in the world.

President Ford's record speaks loudly in support of our nation's young people. His record is one of progress, not platitude. It is one of specifics, not smiles. President Ford's record is one of performance, not promises. It is a record we are proud to present to the young people of America. It is one that all Americans--Democrats, Independents and Republicans alike will support on November 2.

