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OCTOBER 30, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Langhorne, Pennsylvania)

THE WHITE HOUSE
REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
OXFORD VALLEY MALL



6:38 P.M. EDT

Thank you very, very much, my very good friend and former colleague, Ed Biester. Ed, everybody here knows that you have done a superb job as a Member of the House representing this area in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and I will miss you in the next four years, and I thank you for your support and your friendship over the years. Ed, we will miss you very, very much.

But let me add very quickly, I have had the privilege and the honor to get to know Jack Renninger, who is running to succeed Pete, and it is my observation, having seen a good many Members of Congress and candidates for Congress, that this district should send Jack down to Washington to represent you and help me in the next four years.

But I also want to thank Harry and Ruth for the fine job they have done in this area.

But I would also speak out very strongly for another friend who you need and who I need and the country needs in the United States Senate, and I speak now strongly, affirmatively for John Heinz, your next United States Senator.

I brought along here, I am sure, somebody all of you know. He is a very good friend of mine. He has been campaigning with me for the last 10 days and, believe me, he has been extremely helpful and beneficial. Let me introduce to you a great guy, my friend, I am sure your friend, Joe Garagiola. Thank you very, very much, Joe.

Now for a few minutes in this wonderful Oxford Valley Mall in Bucks County in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania -- when I left Kansas City, I made a commitment that I wouldn't concede a single vote and that I wouldn't concede a single State, and the net result is our campaign has gathered momentum every day.

And so today I can stand in front of you, this tremendous crowd, and say with conviction that I am inviting you, on behalf of Betty and myself, to come on down to the inauguration for Jerry Ford and Bob Dole on January 20, 1977. We will have a real swinger, all for America.

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In August of 1974, this country was in deep, deep trouble. That day that I became President obviously I will never forget, but that day we were on the brink of the worst recession. Inflation was over 12 percent; Americans had lost faith in their country, had lost faith in the White House; we were still deeply involved in Vietnam; there was anger, there was a division among the American people.

And as I took that oath of office, standing in the East Room with Betty at my side, I said I had not been elected by your ballots; I asked to be confirmed by your prayers. Because of your prayers and because we put the good old ship of State, the United States of America, on an even keel, because we had a firm, strong, common sense hand on the tiller, we began to make the kind of progress that today we can say in real conviction America is making progress, America is on its way, America is safe, America is secure. We made an incredible comeback and we aren't stopping here.

We have cut the rate of inflation by better than 50 percent, which means particularly to our older people who live on fixed incomes, that they are going to have more and a better opportunity to live their lives in retirement. It means that people are going to invest; that it will be easier to buy a home, particularly for the young person.

Yes, we have cut the rate of inflation by better than 50 percent. But let me make a commitment to each and every one of you. I won't be satisfied until we win the battle against inflation 100 percent, period.

Yes, we have gone through a serious recession, the worst in 40 years. But, in the last 18 months we have added 4 million jobs primarily in the private sector. We have 88 million people working today--in all-time history, the tops.

I am not satisfied. I won't be satisfied until every person who wants to work has a job, and I pledge to you that will be our goal and we will make it in the next four years.

I think the record is clear that we have restored the trust of the American people in the White House itself. I have been open, I have been candid, I have been frank, I have been forthright, and I again make a solemn pledge to each and every one of you that in the next four years you can trust the President who has been open, frank, honest with you in the last two years. We will do it in the next four years, as well.

Doesn't it make you feel good that I can say and you know it is true, that not a single young American is fighting and dying on any foreign soil tonight, and no young American is facing the prospect of the draft or Selective Service? We have an Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines that are number one, and we are going to keep them number one under Jerry Ford.

I know from my experience in the White House that to keep the peace we have we must remain strong. That will encourage our allies. It will warn our adversaries. And that peace that came so hard is a peace we can keep because we are united in America.

The Congress is now supporting the kind of defense budget that will buy us the best weapons, give us the best military personnel. Because of our military strength and our diplomatic skill, America has the peace, and we are going to keep it so that we can live a better quality of life here at home, a quality of life with peace and freedom.

But what does that mean? It means that we have to stimulate the economy, and the best way to do that is by a tax reduction. The best tax reform I know is tax reduction.

Last January, when the Congress reconvened, I submitted to them a tax reduction program that would have done two things: One, it would have increased your personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000.

The other day I was in a factory talking to a group of working people, and one of the men said, "Well, how are you going to reduce my taxes?" I looked him right in the eye and I said, "How many children do you have?" He said, "Three." So, he had himself, his wife and three children. I said, "If the Congress had acted responsibly, next April when you were going to make out your income tax return, you would have had \$1,250 more in personal exemption," which, in a family like that gentleman had, would have permitted him to do the things to upgrade his living, improve his quality of life.

The Congress didn't do it. But let me put them on warning. I am going to have a tax reduction proposal on their desk when they reconvene in January, and if they don't pass it next year, it will be on their desk the next year, and if they don't pass it in 1978, you and I will go out and lick 'em in 1978 in the next election.

But we also have an obligation to stimulate the economy so that business can expand, so that business can build new factories, buy more equipment. So, between giving a tax reduction to the middle income people who have been short-changed by the Democratic Congresses for the last 10 years and a tax reduction to stimulate business, we are bound to have a healthy economy under the Ford Administration for the next four years. I pledge that to you right here in Orchard Valley, Bucks County -- Oxford. Let me apologize to Oxford Valley. (Laughter) We were in the right county anyhow. (Laughter)

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But one final observation: We have an obligation to our older people. We have an obligation to do better in the reduction of the rate of crime. We have an obligation to make sure that our water is clear and our air is free. We have an obligation to make certain that the quality of life, so that an individual, a family can buy that home in a decent neighborhood, so that health care is available at affordable prices, so that recreational opportunities are available for all of you.

Yes, now that we are over the hump of the recession and on the way to the right kind of prosperity with peace throughout the world, we can look forward to a new era, the first four years in America's third century, a century that can be the brightest and the best in the history of this great country.

I have been proud to be your President during the troubled times of the last two years. I would be honored to be your President for the next four years.

And so I say to you tonight that two years ago you confirmed me with your prayers. Tonight, I ask you to not only confirm me with your prayers but also to elect me with your ballots on November 2. And I pledge to you that Jerry Ford won't let you down in the next four years.

Thank you and good night.

END

(AT 6:56 P.M. EDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 30, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Syracuse, New York)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
ONONDAGA COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

9:25 P.M. EDT

Thank you, Bill Walsh and Senator Jack Javits. I can't express adequately my appreciation to Jack. Whether I am in California or St. Louis, Missouri or Syracuse, New York or New York City, Jack Javits is out there fighting for the principles we believe in. I thank you from the bottom of my heart, Jack.

It is great to see Bob McEwan. You know, long before some of you were born, I used to go up skiing in Lake Placid, and I look forward to going to the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid as your President in 1980. I know Bob McEwan will be your Congressman at that time, too. But Bill Walsh, former great Mayor of this City of Syracuse, when I was in the House as the Minority Leader, Bill did a super job. For your benefit, for the country's benefit, let me say you darn well better send Bill Walsh back to Congress.

Then I owe a special debt of gratitude to Dick Rosenbaum. He did a tremendous job and significantly helped me have the opportunity of representing our party in this great campaign. I thank you very much, Dick.

I know Joe Garagiola was introduced, but Joe has been campaigning with me for the last ten days. I will tell you, his enthusiasm, his integrity, his support, his friendship I will never forget. Joe, in front of these great people from Syracuse and upper New York, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

You know we are in the last quarter or we are in the ninth inning. That is when you win. That is when Dolph Schayes used to win for you here in Syracuse, that is when Joe Garagiola pulled it through, and that is when Jerry Ford is going to win this election on November 2.

I said in Kansas City that I wouldn't concede a single State, I wouldn't concede a single vote, and we haven't. Let me invite all of you wonderful people here in the War Memorial Stadium -- I want to invite you to a great party on January 20, 1977. Betty and Jerry Ford invite you to the inauguration on January 20, 1977.

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You know, as we come to the final countdown -- that is where we really are, and I think you know but I want to re-emphasize it -- I stand on your side for limited Government, for fiscal responsibility, for rising prosperity, for lower taxes, for military strength and for peace in the world.

I am the first President to seek election since Dwight D. Eisenhower who can go to the American people and say America is at peace. I remind you that not a single young American is fighting or dying on foreign soil tonight, and they won't under the Ford Administration.

But as we talk about things that are good, things that we have done, I can't help but let my mind drift back to 26 months ago when I became your President and stood in the East Room of the White House-- never having sought election as President--becoming President under the most unusual circumstances, but I found that this country was in tough shape at that time.

Unemployment was beginning to rise. We were on the brink of a serious recession. Inflation was over 12 percent. The American people had lost faith and confidence and trust in the White House itself. We were still engaged in Vietnam. It was a tough and troubled country.

But as I stood there and took the oath of office and then had a few words to say, I said, "Although you have not selected me by your ballots, I hope you will confirm me with your prayers."

Over the long sweep of 26 months, those prayers have helped. We put the ship of State on a steady keel, We had a firm and common sense hand at the tiller, and the net result is we made substantial progress. We have cut the rate of inflation by more than half. We have gained four million jobs in the last 18 months. We have 88 million people gainfully employed in this country, an all-time high. I think we have restored honor and trust and confidence in the White House by being frank, forthright and talking straight from the shoulder. I don't believe in promising more than I can produce, and I believe in producing everything that I promise.

But, we have a long way to go. I am not satisfied. I won't be satisfied until every American who wants a job will have a job. We can do it in the next four years. I won't be satisfied until every young American, with his wonderful wife, can afford to buy a house in a decent neighborhood because that is the bulwark of our society -- a home where you raise fine children, where you live in security and safety -- and we are going to make it possible by lowering down-payments, by adjusting mortgage payments and by lowering the problems of inflation. We are going to give this new spirit to the younger generation on the one hand and the building industry on the other. That is a goal of our next four years.

As I look around this wonderful hall tonight, I see some of what are called our senior citizens. We owe them a special obligation. They have built the America that we live in today. Your parents and my parents and all of our grandparents, what a great country they have given us.

So, as they live in their retirement, they should have our full and total support. They shouldn't have to worry about the problems of inflation, even though they live mainly on fixed incomes. That is the principal reason we have an obligation to put a restraint on the increase in Federal expenditures, because the best way to beat inflation is to cut Federal expenditures.

But we also owe them the opportunity of the best medical care that is obtainable in America, and we have the best. Everybody in this room knows a family, maybe your own, where somebody has had an extended illness with terrible medical and hospital costs. It is a catastrophe for the individual and for the family. We owe an obligation that no person among our senior citizens should go broke just to get well.

Among the other things that involve quality of life in America is the finest education. We have the teachers and the administrators and the facilities and, believe me, under this Administration we will make a maximum effort to make sure that quality education with control at the local level exists under the Ford Administration.

Nobody in this country can feel safe unless we do something effectively about crime in America. We have made significant progress in the last two years in reducing the rate of crime, but I am not satisfied, nor are you.

There are two programs that must be implemented: The hardened career criminal who is a repetitive individual in robbing or stealing must go to jail, and that person must stay in jail.

Then, let me talk for just a minute about taxes. In January of last year, I submitted to the Congress a sound tax reduction program. The best tax reform that I know is tax reduction for the middle income taxpayers. The middle income taxpayers have been short-changed, and so I recommended to the Congress last January that we increase the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000.

The other day I was out talking to some workers in a plant and one of the men said, "What have you done to give me some tax relief?" I said, "How many children do you have?" He said, "I have three." It ended up he had a wife, three children, and himself. I said, "If the Congress had been responsible, if the Congress had done the right thing and followed the recommendations that I made to give a fair break to the middle income taxpayers, they would have accepted, approved, my increase of \$750 to \$1,000 for the middle income taxpayers with a personal tax exemption.

Now, what did that mean to that family of five? It meant \$1,250 more in personal exemption. That is a lot of dough to a family that is trying to make it with a new house, send kids to school and improve their own status in society.

That gentleman said to me, "Well, supposing Congress doesn't pass it next time?" I said, "When they get back in January, they are going to have it on their desks. If they don't pass it in 1977, then we will submit it in 1978, and if they don't pass it in 1978 to give you the kind of tax relief that you deserve, we will go out and beat them in the 1978 election."

So, when you come right down to it, we have peace, we are on the move to prosperity, and we restored trust. So, in every field, America is on the move. The Nation is sound. The Nation is secure. This Nation is on the way to a better quality of life.

I say to you, my record is one of progress, not platitudes; performance, not promises. We have our problems, but I think we are making the kind of headway that gives us pride in America.

So, I say to you, on November 2 -- it has been tough the last two years, but I have been proud to be your President in a period when adversity almost overcame us, when difficulties were awesome, but because you supported me, because our form of Government worked, because America is great, it was a privilege to be your President.

Now, as skies get brighter, I ask you to give me an opportunity. I would be highly honored to serve as your President for the next four years.

We had a magnificent Bicentennial. There was a rejuvenation of the American spirit. There was a rebirth of our faith.

So, I would look forward to representing you, to doing the best I could, and I pledge that to you. Therefore, on this occasion I ask you not only to confirm me with your prayers but to support me with your ballots. I won't let you down.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 9:45 P.M. EDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 31, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Buffalo, New York)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE
GOP RECEPTION GUESTS

THE STATLER HILTON HOTEL

10:32 A.M. EST

It is wonderful being in Erie County, Buffalo, the great State of New York. I am extremely proud, Mr. Chairman, to have with me on the platform this morning two very good friends of mine, one a person who is not running for re-election in 1976, but he has been a loyal, dedicated, hard-working Republican for the ticket, and I am delighted that he should be here with me this morning, and that is my good friend Senator Jack Javits.

But, on my right and your left is an equally good friend of mine. He served with me in the House of Representatives for six years or thereabouts, and I learned that he is a team player, he is a hard, tough kind of a guy that goes after a problem and gets it solved, and I am honored and privileged that Jack Kemp is here, and you need him.

Unfortunately, your Senator, Jim Buckley, is not here for good reasons. I just hope that all of you work very, very hard to make sure that Jim Buckley comes back to the United States Senate.

I don't know how many times I have been to Buffalo in Erie County, but it is really countless. The welcome this morning was really fantastic. As I said in the other room -- and I will repeat it here -- we have the momentum going. They are putting their fingers in every hole in the dike trying to stop the problems that they themselves created, and the net result is with our momentum I think I can, with good reason, on behalf of Betty and myself, invite all of you to come to Washington on January 20.

This will be a great inauguration, and Senator Javits and Senator Buckley and Congressman Kemp at the White House -- we will try to find you someplace to sleep, don't worry about it. (Laughter)

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Now, I know from practical experience that those of us who represent you in Washington don't really always do the jobs that are important to you or to your respective neighbors, and so I am delighted, I am pleased, that your County Executive, Ed Reagan, is here with us on the platform today.

The countdown is just about 50-some hours away, and what you decide and what you are able to get your neighbors and friends to decide could very well make the difference of the direction of this great country for the next four, but possibly for the next century.

We just celebrated a magnificent 200th birthday on July 4. We started in Valley Forge, where George Washington and that straggling army went through the most difficult winter you could imagine. We then went to Philadelphia, and saw where it all began. Senator Javits was with me when we saw those tall ships from all over the country (world) coming to the United States to pay their respects to the greatest country in the history of mankind.

That is our history. We can read it. But, our job is to make it in the next four and the next 100 years. We have an obligation to do as well for those future generations as our predecessors did for us. But, what does that mean? It means that we have to preserve our form of Government, our free enterprise system. We have to preserve the liberty and freedom that is so priceless. We can't do it by building the Government bigger and bigger. We can do it by stimulating the efforts of individuals and the efforts of business.

So, I say to you, as we face our economic problems--and we have had them, believe me--when I took that oath of office August 1974, America was in real trouble. We had unemployment. We had inflation of over 12 percent. We were still involved in Vietnam and many, many, many thousands of Americans had lost faith and trust in the White House.

Some of you may recall that I, after taking the oath of office, said, "I have not been confirmed by your ballots, but I ask that you confirm me by your prayers." You did, and things have been turning for the better in America. We have gone through a tough economic problem, but inflation is cut less than half. We have four million more jobs today than we had 18 months ago. We, I think, have restored trust and faith in the White House, and I am proud to say that there is not a single young American fighting or dying on any foreign soil today.

But everything we have done is only the foundation from where we can go. We can go by a tax reduction that gives to each and every one of you and all of your fellow American taxpayers a kind of meaningful tax cut by increasing the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000.

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Mr. Carter says that is going to help the rich. Well, he has been wrong so many times that is just another error on his part. Wouldn't that kind of a tax reduction help every one of you?

That is your tax reduction that you will get under a Ford Administration, and Mr. Carter was one way yesterday and another way the day before. I cannot forecast. (Laughter) I honestly can't tell what his position will be in the next two days.

But I want you to know that on this crucial countdown day I stand for tax reduction, I stand for fiscal responsibility, I stand for a smaller Government, I stand for a strong nation to keep the peace. You know where I stand. I am not all things to all people. I am the same thing to all people.

But, we are not satisfied with the progress we have made. I have been a strong supporter of Senator Javits, and Congressman John Kemp of our mass transit program, which was signed into law after I worked on it with the Members of Congress in 1974, and I am real pleased of the announcement that you are going to have a meaningful program right here in Erie County and in Buffalo.

That not only will mean something in the movement of people, but it will mean something in the way of jobs. Can you get jobs? Yes, with this kind of a program. But, you also get jobs with incentives given to business to modernize and build new plants and, therefore, on January -- whatever the day is that Congress convenes -- we are going to have a tax reduction package that will help the middle income taxpayer and help business to expand and modernize so we will have jobs.

Now, as I leave this great organization which you have here in Erie County and the surrounding areas, I want to leave one thought. I have been very, very proud to be your President during two tough years. I would be very honored to be your President during four years where we can make things better because America is on the move.

In August of 1974, you couldn't confirm me by your ballots, but you did by your prayers, and I ask you between now and November 2 to not only confirm me by your prayers but to elect me by your ballots.

Thank you very much.

END

(AT 10:45 A.M. EST)

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Hauppauge, New York)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT
COLONIE HILL

2:08 P.M. EST

Thank you very, very much, Dick Rosenbaum.

May I ask a favor of you for just a minute, because this is a very crucial election, not only at the local but at the State and at the national level. I would like to reintroduce maybe a person or two. I would like to introduce some people who have really been very helpful and then I would like to talk to you straight from the shoulder about the differences between electing my opponent on the one hand and the Ford-Dole ticket on the other.



First, I want to thank Dick Rosenbaum. I want to thank "Buzz" Schwenck, who has done a super job. I wish to express my appreciation to Barry Duryea.

And on a very personal note, back in 1970, I had a tough Congressional race, after having 11 relatively easy ones, and I asked a dear friend of mine, a man who would have an impact in my Congressional race, to come out and give a Lincoln Day speech in my behalf, and I have never forgotten his loyalty, his help, and I want to recognize it here among all of you in Suffolk County because he is a great statesman and I say Senator Jack Javits.

But, there are some other people that have been introduced, but I would like to give them some special and very personal recognition from me -- to have one of the great musicians of all time, Lionel Hampton; and a person who represents the best in professional athletics, Joe Frazier.

And then there are two candidates, among others, but two that can make a great contribution to not only the best interests of Suffolk County but the best interests of the State of New York, and even more importantly, the best interests of the country, I hope that you will send Jim Buckley back to the United States Senate.

And we need a good man -- Joe, get up here. Send Peter down to help us. But there is another person who has made a tremendous sacrifice. He has helped me. But he is doing it because he feels so strongly about what ought to be done in the next four years to make this country a better place for all of us to live. I can't express my appreciation and gratitude deeply enough, but one of my good friends and one of yours, Joe Garagiola.

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In the last 10 days, I have been in many, many areas in this great State. Let me just run down the list: Flatbush, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Syracuse, Buffalo, Rochester, Suffolk, Nassau tonight, and Westchester County. We are on the momentum to win this great State, and we are going to.

Now I am going to issue you an invitation. I talked to Betty today and Betty said, "Tell all those wonderful people from Suffolk County to come to the White House, come to the inauguration on January 20, when Jerry Ford and Bob Dole are sworn in."

As I stand here tonight, inevitably my mind goes back to August of 1972 (1974) and reflect for just a minute. Those were tough times. We had inflation of over 12 percent; we were on the brink of the worst recession in 40 years; we were still involved in Vietnam; and the American people had lost faith and trust in the White House. And I can recall that sad day because I had never sought to be your President, but I took the oath of office to be the President until January 20, 1977. And with some emotion in the short remarks that I made after taking the oath, I said to 215 million Americans, "You haven't confirmed me by your ballots. I ask that you confirm me by your prayers."

And in the next two years, which were tough, I had the distinct feeling that 215 million Americans -- Independents, Democrats and Republicans -- were standing with us as we tried to meet the terrible problems that faced this country.

But because we put the ship of State on an even keel, and we had a firm, consistent, common sense hand on the tiller, we started to make that progress that has culminated in today the rate of inflation being less than 6 percent. We have cut it by more than 50 percent. And I pledge to you we will do better in the next four years.

In the last 18 months, we have added four million jobs in America. We have 88 million people gainfully employed, the highest number in the history of the United States. But I won't be satisfied in the next four years until we find a job for everybody who wants to work, and we are going to do it.

I think in the last two years the White House has been open. I have been candid, frank, forthright. And the net result is that even people who disagree with me have faith and trust that the White House is their White House, it is an honest, frank, open White House, and it will be that way for the next four years.

One of the things that pleases me the most is that I can stand before you tonight and say I am the first President seeking election since Dwight D. Eisenhower who can say America is at peace.

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I thought I asked you to be as quiet so you would hear a pin drop. But I like it. (Laughter)

But let me add on the point I just made, not a single young American is fighting and dying on any foreign soil tonight, and they won't during the next four years. And they won't, because we have the finest Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines. They are number one, and we are going to keep them number one.

I am proud of the fact that we have given additional support to our national defense program to make sure that in the future when a President sits down to negotiate with his allies, his allies will understand that the United States is strong in weapons systems and strong in will. I am glad that the defense program we have today is a strong one so that when I sit down to negotiate with any adversary they know we have the strength and the will to stand up for freedom and liberty in the United States.

But in order to do that, yes, we have to spend a good bit of money, but we have to spend that money for the finest weapons systems, not to fight a war but to preserve the peace, and I am proud of the contribution that you in Suffolk County make with the Grumman plant and the F-14.

But, let's talk now about how we can keep America strong at home. There are some in this political campaign who say the way to increase employment is to put people on the Federal payroll, deadend jobs, vast expenditures out of the Federal budget. I don't think that will work in the United States. It certainly hasn't worked in Great Britain.

The better way, and the Ford way, is to give tax reductions to the middle income people and to give tax reductions to industry so they can expand, build new plants in Suffolk County, expand the ones that are here, and make this a healthy economy through the free enterprise system.

My opponent, when he talks about taxes, he sort of escalates one day, then he goes down the next, and really even the finest newspaper people in this country -- and they are all over there -- can't figure out where he stands on taxes. But they know where I stand. I have told them and the American people that I stand for a tax reduction. That is the best tax reform I know.

Last January I sent a tax reduction package up to Capitol Hill and I said, you ought to cut taxes \$28 billion and hold the line on Federal spending by \$28 billion. Well, Congress gave us half a loaf but they didn't hit the tax reduction where it should have been applied.

Fifty percent of the American people -- fifty percent -- are middle income taxpayers. They have been short-changed over the last 10 years, and President Ford's tax reduction proposal to increase the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000 helps those people who obey the laws, raise their families and make a better life for America.

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The other day I was out in a plant talking to a number of people working on a production line, and they stopped and I chatted. One of them said, "Well, what are you going to do about my taxes?" I said, "How many children do you have?" He said, "I have three." It turns out he had a wife, three kids and himself. I said, "If Congress had acted responsibly and done what I suggested they do, next April when they go to make out that income tax return," I said, "Mister, you could have taken \$1,250 more in personal exemption. He said, "Why didn't Congress do it?" Well, you will have to ask the majority party. They didn't want to give it to you.

But the point is they didn't do it. I am going to have a tax reduction package right on their doorstep and on their desk when Congress comes back in January.

The American people want tax relief, and President Ford has recommended it, he is going to fight for it, and we are going to get it for you.

But now that we have gotten over the hump where we have had an opportunity to pull together like we did -- and wasn't that a magnificent day when we celebrated our 200th birthday? I will never forget -- never will I forget taking a flight over Manhattan and seeing those beautiful Tall Ships from many, many, many nations throughout the world who came to the United States to pay their respect to the great and wonderful country in which we live.

But we still have some things to do despite our incredible comeback, and let me just tick off a few. I am not going to be satisfied until every American who wants a job has a job. I am not going to be satisfied until everybody who works and saves and wants to buy a decent home in a fine neighborhood -- I am not going to be satisfied until we give a quality education to every American. I am not going to be satisfied until we give health care at a cost that people can afford. I am not going to be satisfied until we lock up the criminals and make it safe to be on your streets.

You have wonderful enthusiasm, but as old Joe Garagiola said -- and he ain't as old as I am (Laughter) -- all right, you know, this is towards the last quarter -- I will put it in football terms -- we were way, way behind in the first quarter and, boy, they were overconfident. But we got together. The Republican Party has never been better unified. We are out there with the right programs, the right enthusiasm, and the net result is we have the momentum.

So, I happen to believe that this State will be on the side of the right direction for the next four years and the first four years of our third century. I know you can do it right here in Suffolk County. I know that Dick Rosenbaum and all of the wonderful workers in New York State can have the Empire State lead the pack for the right kind of a program, for the right kind of an America we believe in.

MORE

But let me ask one final, final favor. I have been very proud to be your President during a period of two years of adversity and difficulty. You didn't lose faith in your country, in your Government or yourselves, or your neighbors. You were proud, as I was, to be an American.

I would be honored to serve as your President for the next four years.

And so I ask you, on behalf of Betty and myself, will you not only confirm me on August -- October -- November 2 (Laughter) -- will you confirm me on November 2 by not only your prayers but by your ballots?

And I won't let you down.

Thank you very, very much.

END (AT 2:35 P.M. EST)

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL
6:00 P.M. EST, NOVEMBER 1, 1976

OCTOBER 31, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Hempstead, New York)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TAPED FOR BROADCAST ON
NOVEMBER 1, 1976



ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE

Tomorrow is a very crucial election. But, tonight America is strong, America is free, America is on the move. But, two years ago, America was in deep trouble. When I became President, inflation was over 12 percent. We were on the brink of a serious recession, the worst in 40 years. There had been a loss of trust in the White House itself. We were still involved in Vietnam.

When I took the oath of office in August of 1974, I said I had not been elected by your ballots, but I asked that you confirm me by your prayers. Those prayers really helped.

In the meantime, America has turned around. I put the ship of State on an even keel. I held a firm hand on the tiller for a steady course. Today, we are doing much, much better. The rate of inflation has been cut by more than 50 percent. The job picture is getting better. We have added four million more jobs in the last 18 months. Eighty-eight million people are working today. We have restored confidence and trust in the White House itself, and America is at peace. Not a single young American is fighting or dying on any foreign soil tonight, and I will keep it that way for the next four years.

We have two major problems: One, to keep America strong, to meet the challenge of any adversary, to strengthen our alliances, and I pledge to you that the United States will remain number one. Our Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines will be the best, as they are today. Some people have wanted to cut the defense budget. That would be a big gamble. I believe that the way to keep the peace is to keep strong, but in order to keep our domestic economy strong, we need additional tax reduction.

Last January I told the Congress they should cut your personal taxes. I think the best tax reform is tax reduction. I recommended that your personal exemption be increased from \$750 to \$1,000. Congress didn't do its job, but on January 3, when Congress comes back, I will have the tax reduction proposal on their desks so that they can give the middle income taxpayer who has been short-changed the kind of a tax reduction that that group in our society so badly needs.

MORE

But, in addition, we have some other problems. We will do a better job in the next four years in making certain that the victims of crime are protected and that the criminal goes to jail. We will do a better job to help our older people, who have earned our respect and our support. We will do a better job in meeting some of the problems of our major metropolitan areas.

We have a lot of things to do, but we are in shape to do it now that we are over the hump of the tough last two years.

So, we come to the final round in this election. I want your prayers, as you gave them to me two years ago. But, I would hope that you would confirm me this time by your ballots. I promise you, I pledge you, that I will not let you down.

Thank you, and good night.

END

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Hempstead, New York)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
COLISEUM RESTAURANT

NASSAU COUNTY VETERANS
MEMORIAL COLISEUM

9:30 P.M. EST

Thank you very much, Joe.

I can just look around this room and see nothing but quality in Nassau County. (Laughter)

But let me say that I know from a few years in politics that a county organization with great leadership such as you have in Joe and with the kind of people that are here as office holders and those that support the party, you give the people good Government. And if we can win this election, and I am just as confident tonight as I have ever been in the old enthusiasm and momentum, then we hope to make the effort to try and build the Republican Party in all 50 States so that we can have a party in every State just like the fine party organization leadership and results that you have in Nassau County.

We have the right principles. There is no reason why we shouldn't win the control of the Congress, win the control of the House and Senate, because our principles are those that the American people believe in. So, what we have to do is win this election and then start building like you built here in Nassau County.

And as I leave for Canton and Akron, where we are going to stay overnight, put on a big rally early in the morning and then go to Columbus where they are going to have a big, big noon time rally in front of the State Capitol -- and even my good friend Woody Hayes I think will be there to give us a little boost -- and then we go on to Detroit for a big rally because we have to win Michigan.

And then Betty and I are going to land in Grand Rapids and they tell me they have a two-hour parade all squared away there. At 7:30 Tuesday morning, we are going to cast our ballots and those are going to be two ballots that I will be glad to cast, because I think it will reflect what we want for America -- peace, trust and prosperity.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 9:34 P.M. EST)

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Grand Rapids, Michigan)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE DEDICATION CEREMONIES
OF THE
GERALD R. FORD HEALTH AND PHYSICAL
EDUCATION BUILDING

10:10 P.M. EST

Phil, Congressman Guy Vander Jagt, Mr. Godfrey,
Reverend Clergy, students, faculty and guests:

You don't know how much it means to Betty and to myself to come home and see this wonderful turnout. Of course, the welcome we received from the airport to the Pantlind Hotel will be indelibly impressed on our minds. I saw, as Betty did, literally thousands of people that we grew up with. She went to Central and I went to South, but we get along pretty well, (Laughter) and have for 28 years.

But mainly to see the great changes that have taken place in Grand Rapids since we were young -- this is a great and growing community. It has the same strong character that it has always had, but it has changed with the times. I can vividly recall when I got through South High in 1931. Those were tough times. A few of you can remember them.

I literally almost had an opportunity to come to Grand Rapids Junior College, and I knew what a great President the junior college had in Arthur Andrews. An old and dear friend of mine, a principal at South High, he somehow found in the bookstore student loan fund one hundred bucks so I could pay my tuition to go to the University of Michigan.

But, I always had a fond, fond memory of the junior college, and Betty just lived around the corner from here. But, this is one of the great junior colleges of this country. I can recall on the floor of the House of Representatives about ten years ago when there was a movement in the Congress of the United States to expand what they called then community colleges.

They talked about what they would do and how they had a great role to play in the educational system of this country. I said, "Heck, we got the best doggone junior college in the country. We proved it in Grand Rapids."

MORE

So, I had a little connection with athletics. I played football at South back when the ball was round. (Laughter) Paul Goebel used to give me a hard time when he was officiating and tell me to kind of obey the rules a little bit. But, we used to like to win, and that is what this country is all about.

Competition -- it is good for America, it is good for schools, it is good for students, it is good for us, and that is what makes America great today.

Although Arthur Andrews was a super, super president, Frank McCarthy did a tremendous job. Now you have a fine president in President Calkins, and I congratulate all of you. I know the Board of Education kind of stretched the rules a bit, but I am deeply grateful that there will always be my imprimatur on this wonderful facility of health and recreation and physical education.

I happen to believe that your gymnasium, your natatorium, your handball courts, your other facilities here will contribute significantly to the kind of development physically as well as mentally, and I happen to believe that in the world we live today you have to be strong physically as well as mentally.

This facility represents the best, and it came from the people of Grand Rapids, the people who have been for so long so generous in making this a great community, and that is why Betty and I love the community and love you all.

But, I would be remiss if I didn't mention one other name. He was close to me, although he never coached me. But, there is one person I think whose name is likewise indelibly impressed upon the history of this great institution, and that is John Boss, one of the great, great members of the teaching profession. He may not be remembered by the younger, but by some of us he was a super guy.

So, either educationally or athletically, you are number one, we are proud of you and I am indebted to all of you for making it possible for my name to be identified with this great institution and this wonderful facility.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 10:18 P.M. EST)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 1, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Akron, Ohio)

THE WHITE HOUSE
REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
AKRON-CANTON AIRPORT
FIRESTONE HANGAR



10:25 A.M. EST

Let me ask you to be very quiet for just a few minutes because the issues and decisions you make between now and tomorrow when the polls close are very, very crucial for America.

First, I want to thank your great Governor Jim Rhodes, who has been with President Ford from the very beginning. Jim, I can't express deeply enough my gratitude and appreciation for your loyalty. But let me add this one feature. We have on the stage with me today the two greatest Governors in the history of Ohio.

But it is great to be in Akron, Canton, Massillon and Alliance. What an area in the great State of Ohio.

I am honored to be on the team in Ohio with Bob Taft. Send him back to Washington for your good and for the country's good. Bob, you have got to win.

And then you have your own Congressman in this area. He has done a super job, a fantastic job on your behalf, but a job for America. Send Ralph Regula back to help us.

And now let me speak straight from the shoulder. You have a chance to improve the quality of Congress by sending one of your own, Jim Houston, down to the House of Representatives.

But it is great to be here with Mayor Ballard, with Mayor Cmich. And then I want to thank somebody else who has taken time along with others of equal prominence. Wayne, thank you very, very much. All over the country we have had outstanding people like Wayne participate voluntarily. We have had Peter Graves, Hugh O'Brien, Rod McKuen. We have had quality people who on their own have come out and said it is important for America that President Ford win. Wayne, thank you very, very much.

Now there is one fellow that came down here along with his beautiful wife, and I want to thank Bill Stanton. Send Bill back to Congress.

MORE

But I mentioned a moment ago when I was speaking about your great Governor -- and I said there were two great Governors on the platform this morning. But now it is my privilege to introduce to you a man who was a judge in Cleveland, a mayor of Cleveland, a Governor of Ohio, and an outstanding United States Senator, Frank Lausche.

You know I come from that State up north, but since 1963 I have been in the State of Ohio 56 times. That is not a bad record. I have been down to Canton on three occasions to the Football Hall of Fame, the football center of the United States. I never made it as a participant, but I respect and admire those outstanding men who have given us a great American sport. Congratulations.

With the help of Bob Taft, Ralph Regula, Bill Stanton, they got through the Cuyahoga National Park, the first national park in the history of the State of Ohio, and I was honored and pleased to sign that legislation.

As I said a moment ago, this is a crucial election. It will determine the course of events of this country not only for the next four years but maybe, undoubtedly as I see it, the next century, our third century of American history. You know where I stand. I stand for lower taxes, a balanced budget, lower Federal spending, beating inflation, and peace and liberty for the United States of America. And in the last two years America has made incredible progress, and we are on our way and we are going to make more in the next four years under Jerry Ford.

In Kansas City I said we would not concede a single vote, we would not concede a single State. We want Ohio and we are going to win Ohio.

And now let me extend a personal invitation from Betty and from me. We would love to have every one of you down to Inauguration Day on January 20 when Jerry Ford and Bob Dole are sworn in as President and Vice President.

There are many issues at stake in this election, but let me take two -- one that means whether we have peace or a lack of security in this country; the other involves the health of our economy.

In the first debate, Mr. Carter said he would anticipate a \$60 billion surplus in the Federal Treasury. He said that he would spend that \$60 billion for a whole raft of new Federal programs. In that same debate, I said if there is a \$60 billion surplus, I want a tax reduction for the American people.

President Ford is for the little taxpayer and President Ford is against the big tax spender. I have been firm, I have been consistent. The best tax reform is tax reduction. The middle income taxpayer in this country -- over 50 percent of us -- have been short-changed in the last 10 years by the actions of the Congress, and we are going to change it in the next session.

MORE

Mr. Carter, in the last two or three days, in discussing tax reduction, has said, "Perhaps we will have a tax reduction--if we have a tax reduction." It is a clear distinction between him and President Ford. I have consistently, firmly, said the American people should and will have a tax reduction so we can stimulate the economy, so we can give you a better chance to spend that hard-earned cash that you deserve in your pocket and not in the Federal Treasury.

In January of this year, 1976, I submitted to the Congress a \$28 billion tax reduction package. I said in order to do it honestly and conscientiously, the Congress had to go along with a \$28 billion restraint in Federal spending.

Included in my tax reduction proposal is the kind of tax reduction that is meaningful to the middle income taxpayer. I recommended that we increase the personal exemption from \$750, which it is today, to \$1,000.

Let me tell you what that means. The other day I went through a plant and I was talking to some working men on a production line. One of them said, "President Ford, what does your tax reduction proposal mean to me and my family?" I said, "How many children do you have?" He said, "I have three kids." It turned out that he had himself, a wife and three children. I said, "Get out your pencil." It means that if Congress had acted responsibly, we would have had for that man and millions and millions and millions of other taxpayers the opportunity next April to sit down and figure out in his case that he would have gotten \$1,250 more in personal exemption, money that he could have spent for himself and his lovely family.

On January 3, when Congress reconvenes, they are going to have that tax reduction proposal on their desks and if they don't pass it in 1977, we will send it right back up in 1978, and if that Congress doesn't pass it in 1978, you and I will go out and beat them in the next election in 1978.

But, there is another big difference. I am proud to stand before you and say that I am the first President since Dwight D. Eisenhower who can go to the American people to seek their support and say America is at peace. Under our Administration -- yours and mine -- we have the finest Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, and we are going to keep them number one.

Mr. Carter wants to cut the defense budget by \$5 to \$15 billion. That is too big a gamble for America's security, and I want to pledge to you that in the next four years we are going to keep America number one so we can preserve the peace, deter aggression and meet any challenge. That is the kind of defense program I stand for and you stand for and America stands for.

MORE

On August 9, I stood in the East Room of the White House and took an oath of office to be your President. I had not sought this high office. Betty held the Bible, and I placed my hand on it and I said afterwards -- because America was troubled, we were divided, there was anger, there was division -- after having taken the oath of office, I said, "I know that you have not elected me by your ballots. I ask you that you confirm me with your prayers."

With the help of your prayers in the last two years, we have gone from inflation of over 12 percent to under 6 percent. With your help and support, we have come out of the worst recession in 40 years. With your help, we have restored trust and confidence in the White House because I can look each and every one of you in the eye and say I have been candid, straightforward.

But, most of all, I can stand here with pride and say with your help and, yes, your prayers, America is at peace, not a single young American is fighting or dying on any foreign soil today and we will keep it that way for the next four years.

But now we have come to the crucial 24 hours. How many of you can remember in either Canton or Akron or Alliance or Massillon that on July 4 you had a wonderful celebration in honor of our 200th birthday? Our forefathers gave us the greatest document for the governing of people in the history of mankind. Our forefathers have given us the kind of Government that is good for freedom and liberty.

We celebrated what they gave to us, but now -- beginning tomorrow -- we have an opportunity not only to read history but to make history. So, we come down to the bottom line. I know America is on the move. America has a new fresh look. We are together. We are united.

So, tomorrow, when you make that fateful decision, I ask you not only to confirm me with your prayers, but I ask you to confirm me with your ballots. I won't let you down.

Thank you very much.

END

(AT 10:47 A.M. EST)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 1, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Columbus, Ohio)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
OHIO STATE CAPITOL

12:30 P.M. EST

Thank you very, very much, Governor Rhodes and Mayor Moody. Let me express my deep appreciation to Congressman Sam Devine, Congressman Chalmers Wylie, Congressman Clarence Brown, John Ashbrook and Bill Harsha. I want to make sure you elect them and re-elect them for the benefit of Ohio and the United States.



But, I want also for the benefit of the great Buckeye State and for the benefit of our great country -- you send Bob Taft back to Washington as your next United States Senator.

You know this all began right here, right in front of the Capitol, and local and State Government is vital, and so I urge you to elect Bill Brownfield to the State Senate.

It is great to be in Columbus, the home of two of my good friends who represent excellence: First, Jack Nicklaus, a great supporter of mine. I thank him for that help and assistance. And then also one of my best friends, the kind of a person who represents excellence not only in coaching but excellence in the character. He believes in winning, and that is what we are going to do. Thank you very much, Woody Hayes.

You know, I come from that State up north. (Laughter) But, since 1963 I have visited the Buckeye State 56 times, and I love you. I had the honor and great privilege of speaking at a commencement at Ohio State in the fall of 1974. It was a great experience. But, I have also come to Columbus and all of the other places. You know what? Columbus likes to be, along with the great State of Ohio, on the side of a winner, so let's make it a home run, a touchdown tomorrow for the winning team, Jerry Ford and Bob Dole.

But there are several other people that I would like to recognize and indicate to them and to all of you my appreciation. First, we have on this platform one of the three greatest Governors in the State of Ohio, John Bricker.

MORE

May I say, incidentally, from the appearance here of this great crowd and from the wonderful rally that we had in the Akron, Canton, Alliance and Massillon area this morning, I am going to issue all of you an invitation. Betty and I want all of you to come down to that inauguration on January 20 when Jerry Ford and Bob Dole are sworn in as President and Vice President.

Now let me introduce to you a person who is well known to you, who was a judge here in the State of Ohio and Cleveland, who was your Governor, and one of the three greatest Governors in the history of Ohio, who was a United States Senator. Now, it is my privilege to introduce a close personal friend whose support I really appreciate -- your former Senator, your Former Governor, Frank Lausche.

An endorsement from one of Ohio's great, great citizens means a great deal to Jerry Ford, and I promise you, Frank, I won't let you down.

As we enter this critical last 24 hours -- and this is one of the most critical elections in the history of the United States; it is the election that will set our course for the first four years of our third century -- I want you to know where I stand.

I stand for lower taxes, more jobs, a balanced budget, lower Federal spending, beating inflation, a clean environment, peace and liberty for the United States of America. From your ranks I come, and with you I stand.

In the last two years our great country, faced with adversity, has made an incredible comeback. When I spoke to you and to the American people in Kansas City, I said I would not concede a single vote, I would not concede a single State.

Ohio is going to be on the right side. We are counting on that Buckeye State to be with us tomorrow. With our momentum, let's do it, a home run.

I love that enthusiasm and applause, but take just a minute -- let's hear a pin drop -- because I want to talk about some of these, or at least two of the critical issues where I strongly differ with my opponent.

First, taxes. In the first debate, my opponent said that we could anticipate a \$60 billion surplus in the Federal Treasury. He said in that debate that he would spend that \$60 billion for more programs, piling one on top of another. In that debate I said if there is a \$60 billion surplus, I think it ought to go for a tax reduction to the middle income taxpayer.

I can stand here and say with good conscience that President Ford stands for the little taxpayer and President Ford is against the big tax spender.

MORE

Within the last several days Mr. Carter has been pressed. Does he want a tax reduction, or not? He says, if, perhaps. President Ford has been on the line talking straight from the shoulder saying, yes, the middle income taxpayer has been short-changed.

I recommended to the Congress in January that we ought to have a \$28 billion tax reduction along side of a \$28 billion restraint on Federal spending -- for every tax dollar in reduction, a dollar reduced in the rate of growth of Federal spending. The Congress gave you half a loaf. They didn't go along with my proposal to increase the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000.

Now, let me tell you what that means. It means that the middle income taxpayer -- 50 percent of those that pay our taxes -- would get -- and let me illustrate it with an incident that happened: I was in a factory the other day, down a production line, and one of the men said to me, "President Ford, where do you stand on taxes?" I told him how I wanted to increase the personal exemption. I said, "How many children do you have?" He said, "I have three." I said, "If you have a wife, three children and yourself, if Congress had acted responsibly, next April when you made out that income tax return, you would have had under President Ford's tax reduction program \$1,250 more in personal exemption for you to spend and not have in the Federal Treasury.

Now Congress didn't do it. But on January 3, when that next Congress convenes -- and I want all of this good Ohio delegation back there to help me -- I will have on their desk a tax reduction proposal that will include the increase in the personal exemption, it will increase jobs incentive legislation to help industry expand, to modernize, and if that Congress doesn't pass it in 1977, they will have it on their desk in January of 1978, and if they don't give that kind of decent, equitable tax reduction in 1978, I will join every one of you trying to beat them in that election in 1978.

But now let's talk about defense. Today the United States, with our Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, we are number one, and under President Ford we are going to keep them number one. I have recommended appropriations so they will have the best weapons, the best leadership, the best training. That is the way to keep the peace. And under President Ford, with the strength that we have, we will strengthen our alliances. We will be able to look our adversaries straight in the eye and they will respect us.

But let me say, you make a great contribution in the City of Columbus because in the recommendations that I made for a strong defense -- and that is the way you keep the peace -- that we have a B-1 bomber to replace those aging B-52s that are now 20 and 25 years old. If we don't get the B-1 bomber as an instrument of peace, the President in the next five, the next ten years, if we continue to rely on the B-52, will be sending our young combat pilots to protect us in the aircraft older than they are, and that is not going to happen under President Ford.

MORE

I am proud to stand before you and say that I am the first President since Dwight D. Eisenhower who can tell the American people that America is at peace. I am proud of the fact that not a single young American is fighting or dying on any foreign soil today. And we are at peace because the United States is strong. We are not at war because the United States is strong.

And let me say, wasn't it a great, great celebration on the Fourth of July when America celebrated its 200th birthday? I happened to have the privilege to fly over New York Harbor and see those Tall Ships coming in, representing many, many countries. And why did they come to the United States? Because they respect America and we are proud of America, and we will continue to be proud of America.

But now as this great campaign comes to a conclusion, I have the feeling that we have reunited as a people. When I became President, people were angry, divided, disillusioned. I will never forget that day in the East Room of the White House when I put my hand on the Bible, held by my wife Betty, and took the oath of office when America was troubled.

Yes, we were in trouble. Inflation was over 12 percent; we were still involved in Vietnam; there was a loss of confidence in the White House itself; we were on the brink of the worst recession in 40 years. And, after having taken the oath of office to be your President, I said, since you have not elected me by your ballots, I ask you to confirm me with your prayers.

With those prayers, we put the ship of State on a steady keel. I had a firm, common sense hand on the tiller, and we have made incredible progress in the last two years. We have cut inflation by better than 50 percent; we have added four million jobs; we have 88 million people working today, the most in the history of the United States; we are at peace, and we are going to keep the peace.

And I can say with pride to all of you and to my former colleagues in the Congress -- Bob Taft, Sam Devine, Chalmers Wylie, Clarence Miller, Bud Brown, Bill Harsha, Will Gradison -- that we have restored that confidence in the White House. I have been open, candid, frank.

And now, as we come to the final quarter -- in fact, the final minutes -- of this great campaign, you have a critical decision to make tomorrow. It couldn't have been put better than the way Frank Lausche put it.

But let me add, I have been proud to be your President during troubled times. I want the opportunity to build on that firm foundation, to keep America moving.

Therefore, I ask when you go to the polls tomorrow that you not only confirm me with your prayers but you also confirm me with your ballots, and I won't let you down.

END (AT 12:57 P.M. EST)

NOVEMBER 1, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Columbus, Ohio)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
FORT HAYES CAREER CENTER

2:10 P.M. EST

Let me say that coming to Fort Hayes Career Education Center is a real thrill and a great experience for me. I would like to stay and get to know all of you better and to see all of the wonderful opportunities that you are getting through the leadership of people like Jim Rhodes, your great Governor, your Mayor, Members of Congress and, of course, the faculty -- Pat Gibbs -- and all of those who have worked so hard to see to it that young people like you have a real opportunity to develop your talent in areas where there are great career opportunities.

I can't help but think what a wonderful vocational educational facility like this means to the future of America, to hear the rendition of "The Lord's Prayer," and "I Could Have Danced All Night." I was thinking that I hope Betty and I can dance all night tomorrow night.
(Laughter)

But, the main thing is that all of you are learning occupations which will give you great personal satisfaction, and it will give you a great inspiration to become the best in your respective fields. Excellence -- regardless of what part you play in our great society -- excellence is the achievement objective that I hope all of you have.

I have great respect for technicians, I have great respect for educators, I have great respect for all people in our society that make a contribution among 215 million Americans, the greatest country in the history of mankind. We should be proud of it, as we are.

I was also thinking, as I went from one of your places to another within this facility, how great it is that we can be putting young people like you into making plowshares, not weapons of war. This is what we want -- the peace that we have in America. Yes, we have to do certain things to be strong, to maintain the peace. But all of you are devoting your best talents, your fine leadership, to things that are constructive in America. I congratulate you, each and every one, and wish you the very, very best as you move ahead in your careers and your lives.

MORE



I have great faith in the younger people of this country. Betty and I have three boys and a little girl -- she is not so little anymore, but we still think she is -- and they are just like you. They want to get out and participate in our society to make America better, like all of you are trying to do.

So, I thank you for your hospitality here at the Fort Hayes Career Education Center. As I look at every one of you, I have faith in you, I know you will do a great job, and America is proud of you and I know you are proud of America.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 2:15 P.M. EST)

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Detroit, Michigan)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
UPON HIS ARRIVAL TO THE
DETROIT METROPOLITAN AIRPORT



4:00 P.M. EST

Gee, it is nice to be back. It is nice to be back in Michigan.

Within hours after I received the nomination in Kansas City, I told Betty that I would open this campaign at home. It is the best way that I could say to my friends and the citizens of my home State, thank you. Thank you for all that you have done for me the past 28 years.

I said in my acceptance speech, the speech to the American people, it is from your ranks that I come and on your side that I stand. There is no place on the earth where that statement is more true than among all of you here in Michigan today.

I am the first son of Michigan to serve as President of the United States. I am part of this great State, its people and its belief in America.

You first sent me to Congress 28 years ago, and in those 28 years my deep feelings for Michigan have matured to a total loyalty as well as a deep love.

I come to you now to seek your support for my election to the highest office in the land. I know you will support me as you always have. May I tell you how important that really is.

Someone once said you can tell a lot about a man by the way his family feels about him. Michigan is my family.

From the kids -- Mike, Jack, Steve, Susan -- from Betty and, of course, from myself, thanks, from the bottom of my heart, for your wonderful support, your continued prayers and your belief in Jerry Ford.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 4:03 P.M. EST)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 2, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Grand Rapids, Michigan)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
KENT COUNTY AIRPORT

11:42 A.M. EST

Guy, Bobbie Butler, Dave Menhey, of course Paul Collins, Reverend Clergy, ladies and gentlemen -- and I understand Bob Griffin is somewhere in the midst here -- and Bob, of course:

After the comments made by Bobbie Butler, the comments made by Paul Collins and those by Guy VanderJagt, I am just overwhelmed, and if I had any good sense I would sit down. (Laughter) But I do feel an obligation to thank many, many people here, and I will try and condense it.

First, I want to thank the Bethel Pentecostal Church Choir for the concert they put on, and for the singing they have done here this morning. I thank you very, very much.

Then I understand that the students at the Jefferson Elementary School went out and sold popscicles to try and raise money to make this mural a reality. I want to thank all of them and express to them my deep appreciation for their special effort.

As I was sitting here and looking at what Paul Collins has done, obviously it brought back many, many, many memories, and I could tell a little story about each and every one of them. Those details aren't important. It is what Paul has so beautifully indicated there, that is what means so much to me.

Paul, I just can't adequately express my gratitude and appreciation to you for bringing my life to this wonderful airport and for so many people to see. But the main thing is -- and I think I express it for Betty -- it expresses our lives, not only our lives and that of Mike, Jack, Steve and Susan, but our personal relationship with so many of you here and so many thousands who aren't here who we grew up with, who we consider our friends, regardless of respective circumstances in life or regardless of our political ideology.

MORE



I could take hours to relate some wonderful experiences that I have had in my lifetime here in Grand Rapids, Kent County, Ottawa County, Ionia County, the State of Michigan.

But there are two people I would like to mention -- I guess the name will be "The Gerald R. Ford Mural", and in the years to come I expect to come by and come in and out of this airport and I will see that mural. But it will mean much to me because of the name Gerald R. Ford and Dorothy Ford, my mother and father.

I owe everything to them and to the training, the love, the leadership, and whatever has been done by me in any way whatsoever, it is because of Jerry Ford, Senior, and Dorothy Ford, and that is what that mural will always mean to me in the years ahead.

So, I thank you all and express to you as deeply as I can, to Dave, to Paul, to Bobbie, and to Guy, of course, who had really the inspiration to start it all, but mainly to all of you who mean so much to Betty and myself.

Thank you.

END (AT 11:49 A.M. EST)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE NOVEMBER 3, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE
STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT
AND THE FIRST LADY

THE BRIEFING ROOM

12:14 P.M. EST



THE PRESIDENT: It is perfectly obvious that my voice isn't up to par, and I shouldn't be making very many comments, and I won't, but I did want Betty, Mike, Jack, Steve, Susan and Gayle to come down with me and listen while Betty read a statement that I have sent to Governor Carter. I guess Ron has told you that I called him.

But I do want to express on a personal basis my appreciation and that of my family for the friendship that all of us have had and, after Betty reads the statement that was sent to Governor Carter by me, I think all of us -- Betty, the children and myself -- would like to just come down and shake hands and express our appreciation personally.

Let me call on the real spokesman for the family, Betty.

MRS. FORD: The President asked me to tell you that he telephoned President-elect Carter a short time ago and congratulated him on his victory.

The President also wants to thank all those thousands of people who worked so hard on his behalf and the millions who supported him with their votes. It has been the greatest honor of my husband's life to have served his fellow Americans during two of the most difficult years in our history.

The President urges all Americans to join him in giving your united support to President-elect Carter as he prepares to assume his new responsibilities.

I would like to read you the telegram the President sent to President-elect Carter this morning:

"Dear Jimmy, it is apparent now that you have won our long and intense struggle for the Presidency. I congratulate you on your victory.

MORE

(OVER)

"As one who has been honored to serve the people of this great land, both in Congress and as President, I believe that we must now put divisions of the campaign behind us and unite the country once again in the common pursuit of peace and prosperity.

"Although there will continue to be disagreements over the best means to use in pursuing our goals, I want to assure you that you have my complete and wholehearted support as you take the oath of office this January.

"I also pledge to you that I, and all members of my Administration, will do all that we can to assure that you begin your term as smoothly and as effectively as possible.

"May God bless you and your family as you undertake your new responsibilities. Signed, "Jerry Ford."

But I do want to express on a personal basis my appreciation and that of my family for the friendship that all of us have had and, after Betty reads the statement that was read to Governor Carter by me, I think all of us -- Betty, the children and myself -- would like to just come down and shake hands and express our appreciation personally.

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The President urges all Americans to join him in giving your united support to President-elect Carter as he prepares to assume his new responsibilities. I would like to read you the telegram the President sent to President-elect Carter this morning:

"Dear Jimmy, it is apparent now that you have won our long and intense struggle for the Presidency. I congratulate you on your victory.

MORE

(OVER)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 5, 1976

File

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE
EXCHANGE OF REMARKS
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT
AND
NELSON ROCKEFELLER
THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
THE CABINET ROOM



11:05 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning.

It wouldn't be honest if I didn't say that I appreciate the warm applause, and because of the voice, I am not going to make a big speech but I do want to thank each and every one of you for the quality of the job you've done, the high quality of the people who sit at this table, and the results that I think we've achieved. I strongly think that in this 2-year period, we have made very significant progress, and a great deal of that is the result of what all of you have done and the people associated with you.

So, we lost a close one, but we have no apologies, and I am very grateful for the 48 or 49 percent that supported us, and until January 20, we're going to be working at the job.

I thank you all very, very much, and I am proud that you all were working with me and doing a fine job.

Thank you very much.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Mr. President, I would say that I think history is going to show that during the most difficult crisis this country faced, you rose to the highest office of the land. As President, you took us out of a period of crisis, of disillusionment, of discouragement. Where the economy was going downhill, you turned it around. You restored faith in America, faith in the White House, respect. The economy is on the upswing, our position in the world is clear, and it is thanks to you, and as a citizen, I'd like to say thank you.

END

(AT 11:08 A.M., EST)