

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

ANNUAL COPE LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

TRANSPORT WORKERS OF AMERICA

Washington, D. C.

June 8, 1976

It is a pleasure to be here with my friends from the Transport Workers Union of America.

In just six months, the American people will elect a President and a new Congress. The Democratic Party will attempt to recapture the White House for the American people.

As we look back on seven sad years of the Nixon-Ford Administration, it is time to demand an accounting.

All we are getting so far this election year is empty rhetoric -- another "cover-up" for disastrous Republican performance.

Let's take a quick look at what it has meant to have Republicans in charge. From 1961 to 1969, when the Democratic Party was in the White House, we created 13 million new jobs and brought unemployment down to 3.6 percent.

In the past three years, the Nixon-Ford Administration has managed to increase employment by a mere one million jobs and has pushed the "official" unemployment rate up to an annual average of 8 1/2 percent in 1975 and to double digit levels in state after state, city after city.

Since 1972, this Administration has provided exactly one job for every four new job-seekers in this country.

One job for every four persons! What an indictment of "go slow" -- "trickle down" economics. It didn't work for Hoover, it failed Eisenhower, it never worked for Nixon, yet Ford still believes in this 19th century witchcraft. Even kids get the message about Santa, the Easter Bunny and the Great Pumpkin after a few years -- but not those Republicans, they don't give up easily.

The Administration's economic mismanagement has pushed the working families of America back 10 years -- back to the real income level they had in 1965, if they are working.

In the 60's when Democratic leaders were doing their best to promote social and economic progress in our nation, the rate of inflation was a mere 2.3 percent. In the last five years, the inflation rate has averaged 6.8 percent and we have experienced the highest levels of inflation since World War II.

The income, production and employment loss to America as a result of Republican economic mismanagement since 1969 is staggering:

-- Their two recessions have thrown a total of 57 million Americans out of work and into the streets.

-- Their two recessions have cut more than \$500 billion from the paychecks of American workers.

-- Their two recessions have wiped out the income gain made by working families during the decade of the 60's.

Even more alarming is the fact that the Administration's "go slow" policies are convincing many of our citizens that a welfare check is as good as a paycheck. We have an entire generation of young men and women who have never held a full time job, the odds were four to one against them. The Nixon-Ford team stacked the deck and their Wall Street friends were given all the cards.

Yet, despite the record of economic bungling and colossal waste, the President is traveling around the country claiming that he has found the miracle cure; economic recovery is underway and prosperity is just around the corner.

Now, this is a lot like telling someone who comes down with pneumonia, heart disease and paralysis all at the same time, that if he can wiggle his toe, he's in great shape.

And let me remind you that they whistled the same tune in 1972, and look what happened.

We have got to keep the Administration from selling their tired old bromides about the economy.

They will bring in their economic witch doctors to argue that if we try to stimulate the economy, we will be plagued with inflation. But we've all seen that as unemployment fell in recent months, the inflation rate has fallen too.

When the political prophets of "doom and gloom," the folks with the long sad hound-dog faces, tell us today that we ought not to promise anything, that we ought not to look forward to better days, that we ought not to give people too much hope because we might fail in our fulfillment -- then I have to say, "why not?" I have to say, "Let's start working at it -- we've got a job to do."

This great nation was built on a promise.

The Declaration of Independence, and its commitment to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," is a promise, an expression of hope in our future, a standard by which we measure success.

I believe in high hopes and I believe in ideals. I believe in promises so that we can stretch our abilities to achieve the best that is in us.

We must constantly reach for a little better life for all our people, and we won't come close if we don't challenge ourselves, if we aren't demanding of ourselves.

What is the real purpose of government if it cannot give people the feeling that somehow or another, life can be better? What is the point of all our work in government, if not to hold out the promise of improvement, of a better day for all Americans?

It's popular nowadays to criticize Washington. Certainly Washington is far from perfect and it can, must, and will be improved.

But, these tragic, unhappy, floundering years of the Nixon-Ford Administration provide no basis whatever on which to judge the impact of a national administration staffed by competent and caring people -- and supported by a President determined to use the government's power on behalf of all Americans. The party that has occupied the White House for the last seven years is a minority party -- and for good reason. It has clearly demonstrated that it is incapable of running the country in the interest of all our people.

Seven sad years of the Nixon-Ford team are more than enough.

It's time to tell it like it is.

The only creativity we have seen from the White House has been its ability to say no in 92 different ways. And it is up to us to see that this Administration is forced to run on its record and is not permitted to run away from it.

We Democrats have a heritage and we have a solid record to stand on. No candidate in this party, no nominee of this party, has to run away from the heritage of Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman, of Adlai Stevenson and John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. And we should not have to remind the American people that it was our Democratic Congress which forced a reluctant Administration into the actions that produced the modest economic recovery now underway for which these naysayers take all the credit.

I will make no excuses for the Congress, except to say it is awfully hard to provide national leadership from Congress when, everytime good legislation is passed, it's subsequently vetoed by the current occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Let's not forget what Congress has managed to accomplish under these adverse conditions.

It was the Democratic Congress that argued, prodded and cajoled the President into accepting the Regional Railroad Reorganization Act:

-- An Act which established Conrail, thereby saving the jobs of over 100,000 railroad workers;

-- An Act which created 100,000 new railroad jobs;

-- An Act which saved the economy of the Northeast from collapse.

It was the Democratic Congress which passed, despite the constant threat of a Republican veto, the Urban Mass Transit Assistance Act -- which provided desperately needed operating and capital funds to this nation's cities, thereby saving the jobs of thousands of mass transit workers.

Now the Democratic Congress has been given the task of seeing that the "Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act" becomes law. It will not be an easy task but it must be done.

During the 1970's, we have been merely treading water with respect to this nation's commitment to provide jobs for everybody able and willing to work. This bill provides the answer -- a reasonable, responsible answer -- to the problem of unemployment, which the Administration has simply been unwilling to attack.

They complain about people being on welfare instead of at work. Yet, when we come along and say there may be a way to provide paychecks, rather than food stamps and relief, they reject it without study and claim "it won't work." Well maybe it won't do all that we want, but where is their alternative?

I'm fed up with people capable of only criticizing good legislation -- who say, "We can't do this and we can't do that."

I challenge those who say the full employment bill is off the mark by asking, "What are you going to do to put the unemployed to work?" Should we just listen to the high priests of finance, who say the free market will eventually create jobs -- and it's just jim-dandy to let people rot until then?

I am not ready to concede that the United States which actually made it possible for most countries of Europe and Japan to rebuild their economies following World War II, cannot equal their economic performance.

We are always talking about how we don't want to be second best to the Russians in defense, how we must have better missiles and ships and weapons than they do. I know that we need these weapons, but I'm not proud of it.

What I want to be proud of is that this great country could be first in employment, first in the welfare of its people.

There isn't a member of Congress, or a presidential candidate who doesn't say, "We don't want those Russians to have more missiles than we have." Why doesn't someone get up and say, "We don't want Japan to have a better rate of unemployment than we do?"

Why don't we have some priorities in this country? We are always worrying about whether the Russians have a new bomber or a new weapons systems. But we never seem to worry about the fact that in the 1962 to 1973 period, when the U.S. had an average unemployment rate of 5 percent, the countries of Japan, France, the United Kingdom, Germany and Sweden had an average unemployment rate of 1.8 percent.

Why don't we strive to be first in our economic performance? First in getting people to work. First in meeting our people's needs. And not just first in seeing whether we can build a bigger missile.

For three years now we've all been faced with another problem the Nixon-Ford team has done little to solve -- the energy crisis. Day by day, month by month, year by year, we grow more dependent on unreliable foreign countries for our oil supply.

The Administration's energy plan -- its plan to drain America first -- might well be called Operation Dependence.

You and I know that a healthy transportation industry, able to meet the needs of our urban and rural residents, will be a key part of any energy program to assure America of energy independence. The automobile is a great invention. It is a great convenience. But our continued reliance on it as our primary transportation mode is only going to make us more dependent upon foreign sources of oil.

Greatly increased air, rail and mass transit traffic is the only viable means of reducing our dependence on these undesirable sources of oil. But I ask you again, how can we achieve energy independence when we don't have a healthy transportation industry? And how can we have a healthy transportation industry when the Labor Department says over 175,000 people in that industry are unemployed right now?

The real issue today is, what priorities should be established to serve the best interest of the American people -- all the people?

I and my Democratic colleagues think a major priority should be jobs -- a rapid, steady non-inflationary return to full employment. The man in the White House disagrees.

I think America must have energy independence without using up all our oil and gas, thereby leaving us at the mercy of OPEC in 5 or 10 years. The man in the White House disagrees.

And I think America needs a healthy, fully employed transportation system -- a system leading the way toward energy self-sufficiency. Again, the man in the White House disagrees.

In fact, there is so much on which the people disagree with the man in the White House that he will be looking for new lodging come November.

I assure you I will do all I can to see we get the kind of progressive leadership the nation needs. I urge you to do your part.

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Mat Heyman

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IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH MY FRIENDS FROM THE TRANSPORT
WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA.

IN JUST SIX MONTHS, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL ELECT A PRESIDENT
AND A NEW CONGRESS. THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY WILL ATTEMPT TO RECAPTURE
THE WHITE HOUSE FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

AS WE LOOK BACK ON SEVEN SAD YEARS OF THE NIXON-FORD
ADMINISTRATION, IT IS TIME TO DEMAND AN ACCOUNTING.

ALL WE ARE GETTING SO FAR THIS ELECTION YEAR IS EMPTY RHETORIC --
ANOTHER "COVER-UP" FOR DISASTEROUS REPUBLICAN PERFORMANCE.

LET'S TAKE A QUICK LOOK AT WHAT IT HAS MEANT TO HAVE REPUBLICANS
IN CHARGE. FROM 1961 TO 1969, WHEN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY WAS IN
THE WHITE HOUSE, WE CREATED 13 MILLION NEW JOBS AND BROUGHT
UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN TO 3.6 PERCENT.

IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE NIXON-FORD ADMINISTRATION HAS MANAGED TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT BY A MERE ONE MILLION JOBS AND HAS PUSHED THE "OFFICIAL" UNEMPLOYMENT RATE UP TO AN ANNUAL AVERAGE OF 8 1/2 PERCENT IN 1975 AND TO DOUBLE DIGIT LEVELS IN STATE AFTER STATE, CITY AFTER CITY.

SINCE 1972, THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS PROVIDED EXACTLY ONE JOB FOR EVERY FOUR NEW JOB-SEEKERS IN THIS COUNTRY.

ONE JOB FOR EVERY FOUR PERSONS! WHAT AN INDICTMENT OF "GO SLOW" -- "TRICKLE DOWN" ECONOMICS. IT DIDN'T WORK FOR HOOVER, IT FAILED EISENHOWER, IT NEVER WORKED FOR NIXON, YET FORD STILL BELIEVES IN THIS 19TH CENTURY WITCHCRAFT. EVEN KIDS GET THE MESSAGE ABOUT SANTA, THE EASTER BUNNY AND THE GREAT PUMPKIN AFTER A FEW YEARS -- BUT NOT THOSE REPUBLICANS, THEY DON'T GIVE UP EASILY.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC MISMANAGEMENT HAS PUSHED THE WORKING FAMILIES OF AMERICA BACK 10 YEARS -- BACK TO THE REAL INCOME LEVEL THEY HAD IN 1965, IF THEY ARE WORKING.

IN THE 60'S WHEN DEMOCRATIC LEADERS WERE DOING THEIR BEST TO PROMOTE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN OUR NATION, THE RATE OF INFLATION WAS A MERE 2.3 PERCENT. IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, THE INFLATION RATE HAS AVERAGED 6.8 PERCENT AND WE HAVE EXPERIENCED THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF INFLATION SINCE WORLD WAR II.

THE INCOME, PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT LOSS TO AMERICA AS A RESULT OF REPUBLICAN ECONOMIC MISMANAGEMENT SINCE 1969 IS STAGGERING:

-- THEIR TWO RECESSIONS HAVE THROWN A TOTAL OF 57 MILLION AMERICANS OUT OF WORK AND INTO THE STREETS.

-- THEIR TWO RECESSIONS HAVE CUT MORE THAN \$500 BILLION FROM THE PAYCHECKS OF AMERICAN WORKERS.

-- THEIR TWO RECESSIONS HAVE WIPED OUT THE INCOME GAIN MADE BY WORKING FAMILIES DURING THE DECADE OF THE 60's.

EVEN MORE ALARMING IS THE FACT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S "GO SLOW" POLICIES ARE CONVINCING MANY OF OUR CITIZENS THAT A WELFARE CHECK IS AS GOOD AS A PAYCHECK. WE HAVE AN ENTIRE GENERATION OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE NEVER HELD A FULL TIME JOB, THE ODDS WERE FOUR TO ONE AGAINST THEM. THE NIXON-FORD TEAM STACKED THE DECK AND THEIR WALL STREET FRIENDS WERE GIVEN ALL THE CARDS.

YET, DESPITE THE RECORD OF ECONOMIC BUNGLING AND COLOSSAL WASTE, THE PRESIDENT IS TRAVELING AROUND THE COUNTRY CLAIMING THAT HE HAS FOUND THE MIRACLE CURE; ECONOMIC RECOVERY IS UNDERWAY AND PROSPERITY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

NOW, THIS IS A LOT LIKE TELLING SOMEONE WHO COMES DOWN WITH PNEUMONIA, HEART DISEASE AND PARALYSIS ALL AT THE SAME TIME, THAT IF HE CAN WIGGLE HIS TOE, HE'S IN GREAT SHAPE.

AND LET ME REMIND YOU THAT THEY WHISTLED THE SAME TUNE IN 1972, AND LOOK WHAT HAPPENED.

WE HAVE GOT TO KEEP THE ADMINISTRATION FROM SELLING THEIR TIRED OLD BROMIDES ABOUT THE ECONOMY.

THEY WILL BRING IN THEIR ECONOMIC WITCH DOCTORS TO ARGUE THAT IF WE TRY TO STIMULATE THE ECONOMY, WE WILL BE PLAGUED WITH INFLATION.

BUT WE'VE ALL SEEN THAT AS UNEMPLOYMENT FELL IN RECENT MONTHS,
THE INFLATION RATE HAS FALLEN TOO.

WHEN THE POLITICAL PROPHETS OF "DOOM AND GLOOM," THE FOLKS
WITH THE LONG SAD HOUND-DOG FACES, TELL US TODAY THAT WE
OUGHT NOT TO PROMISE ANYTHING, THAT WE OUGHT NOT TO LOOK FORWARD
TO BETTER DAYS, THAT WE OUGHT NOT TO GIVE PEOPLE TOO MUCH HOPE
BECAUSE WE MIGHT FAIL IN OUR FULFILLMENT -- THEN I HAVE TO SAY,
"WHY NOT?" I HAVE TO SAY, "LET'S START WORKING AT IT -- WE'VE
GOT A JOB TO DO."

THIS GREAT NATION WAS BUILT ON A PROMISE.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, AND ITS COMMITMENT TO "LIFE,
LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS," IS A PROMISE, AN EXPRESSION
OF HOPE IN OUR FUTURE, A STANDARD BY WHICH WE MEASURE SUCCESS.

I BELIEVE IN HIGH HOPES AND I BELIEVE IN IDEALS. I BELIEVE
IN PROMISES SO THAT WE CAN STRETCH OUR ABILITIES TO ACHIEVE THE
BEST THAT IS IN US.

WE MUST CONSTANTLY REACH FOR A LITTLE BETTER LIFE FOR ALL OUR
PEOPLE, AND WE WON'T COME CLOSE IF WE DON'T CHALLENGE OURSELVES,
IF WE AREN'T DEMANDING OF OURSELVES.

WHAT IS THE REAL PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT IF IT CANNOT GIVE
PEOPLE THE FEELING THAT SOMEHOW OR ANOTHER, LIFE CAN BE BETTER?
WHAT IS THE POINT OF ALL OUR WORK IN GOVERNMENT, IF NOT TO HOLD
OUT THE PROMISE OF IMPROVEMENT, OF A BETTER DAY FOR ALL AMERICANS?

IT'S POPULAR NOWADAYS TO CRITICIZE WASHINGTON. CERTAINLY
WASHINGTON IS FAR FROM PERFECT AND IT CAN, MUST, AND WILL BE
IMPROVED.

BUT, THESE TRAGIC, UNHAPPY, FLOUNDERING YEARS OF THE NIXON-FORD ADMINISTRATION PROVIDE NO BASIS WHATEVER ON WHICH TO JUDGE THE IMPACT OF A NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION STAFFED BY COMPETENT AND CARING PEOPLE -- AND SUPPORTED BY A PRESIDENT DETERMINED TO USE THE GOVERNMENT'S POWER ON BEHALF OF ALL AMERICANS. THE PARTY THAT HAS OCCUPIED THE WHITE HOUSE FOR THE LAST SEVEN YEARS IS A MINORITY PARTY -- AND FOR GOOD REASON. IT HAS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT IT IS INCAPABLE OF RUNNING THE COUNTRY IN THE INTEREST OF ALL OUR PEOPLE.

SEVEN SAD YEARS OF THE NIXON-FORD TEAM ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH.

IT'S TIME TO TELL IT LIKE IT IS.

THE ONLY CREATIVITY WE HAVE SEEN FROM THE WHITE HOUSE HAS BEEN ITS ABILITY TO SAY NO IN 92 DIFFERENT WAYS.

AND IT IS UP TO US TO SEE THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION IS FORCED TO RUN ON ITS RECORD AND IS NOT PERMITTED TO RUN AWAY FROM IT.

WE DEMOCRATS HAVE A HERITAGE AND WE HAVE A SOLID RECORD TO STAND ON. NO CANDIDATE IN THIS PARTY, NO NOMINEE OF THIS PARTY, HAS TO RUN AWAY FROM THE HERITAGE OF FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT AND HARRY TRUMAN, OF ADLAI STEVENSON AND JOHN KENNEDY AND LYNDON JOHNSON. AND WE SHOULD NOT HAVE TO REMIND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT IT WAS OUR DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS WHICH FORCED A RELUCTANT ADMINISTRATION INTO THE ACTIONS THAT PRODUCED THE MODEST ECONOMIC RECOVERY NOW UNDERWAY FOR WHICH THESE NAYSAYERS TAKE ALL THE CREDIT.

I WILL MAKE NO EXCUSES FOR THE CONGRESS, EXCEPT TO SAY IT IS AWFULLY HARD TO PROVIDE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FROM CONGRESS WHEN, EVERYTIME GOOD LEGISLATION IS PASSED, IT'S SUBSEQUENTLY VETOED BY THE CURRENT OCCUPANT OF 1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.

LET'S NOT FORGET WHAT CONGRESS HAS MANAGED TO ACCOMPLISH
UNDER THESE ADVERSE CONDITIONS.

IT WAS THE DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS THAT ARGUED, PRODDED AND
CAJOLED THE PRESIDENT INTO ACCEPTING THE REGIONAL RAILROAD
REORGANIZATION ACT:

-- AN ACT WHICH ESTABLISHED CONRAIL, THEREBY SAVING THE
JOBS OF OVER 100,000 RAILROAD WORKERS;

-- AN ACT WHICH CREATED 100,000 NEW RAILROAD JOBS;

-- AN ACT WHICH SAVED THE ECONOMY OF THE NORTHEAST FROM COLLAPSE.

IT WAS THE DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS WHICH PASSED, DESPITE THE CONSTANT
THREAT OF A REPUBLICAN VETO, THE URBAN MASS TRANSIT ASSISTANCE
ACT -- WHICH PROVIDED DESPERATELY NEEDED OPERATING AND CAPITAL
FUNDS TO THIS NATION'S CITIES, THEREBY SAVING THE JOBS OF THOUSANDS
OF MASS TRANSIT WORKERS.

NOW THE DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS HAS BEEN GIVEN THE TASK OF SEEING THAT THE "FULL EMPLOYMENT AND BALANCED GROWTH ACT" BECOMES LAW. IT WILL NOT BE AN EASY TASK BUT IT MUST BE DONE.

DURING THE 1970's, WE HAVE BEEN MERELY TREADING WATER WITH RESPECT TO THIS NATION'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE JOBS FOR EVERYBODY ABLE AND WILLING TO WORK. THIS BILL PROVIDES THE ANSWER -- A REASONABLE, RESPONSIBLE ANSWER -- TO THE PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT, WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION HAS SIMPLY BEEN UNWILLING TO ATTACK.

[THEY COMPLAIN ABOUT PEOPLE BEING ON WELFARE INSTEAD OF AT WORK. YET, WHEN WE COME ALONG AND SAY THERE MAY BE A WAY TO PROVIDE PAYCHECKS, RATHER THAN FOOD STAMPS AND RELIEF, THEY REJECT IT WITHOUT STUDY AND CLAIM "IT WON'T WORK." [WELL MAYBE IT WON'T DO ALL THAT WE WANT, BUT WHERE IS THEIR ALTERNATIVE?

I'M FED UP WITH PEOPLE CAPABLE OF ONLY CRITICIZING GOOD
LEGISLATION -- WHO SAY, "WE CAN'T DO THIS AND WE CAN'T DO THAT."

I CHALLENGE THOSE WHO SAY THE FULL EMPLOYMENT BILL IS OFF
THE MARK BY ASKING, "WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO PUT THE
UNEMPLOYED TO WORK?" SHOULD WE JUST LISTEN TO THE HIGH PRIESTS
OF FINANCE, WHO SAY THE FREE MARKET WILL EVENTUALLY CREATE
JOBS -- AND IT'S JUST JIM-DANDY TO LET PEOPLE ROT UNTIL THEN?

I AM NOT READY TO CONCEDE THAT THE UNITED STATES WHICH
ACTUALLY MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR MOST COUNTRIES OF EUROPE AND JAPAN
TO REBUILD THEIR ECONOMIES FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II, CANNOT EQUAL
THEIR ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE.

WE ARE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT HOW WE DON'T WANT TO BE SECOND
BEST TO THE RUSSIANS IN DEFENSE, HOW WE MUST HAVE BETTER
MISSILES AND SHIPS AND WEAPONS THAN THEY DO.

I KNOW THAT WE NEED THESE WEAPONS, BUT I'M NOT PROUD OF IT.

WHAT I WANT TO BE PROUD OF IS THAT THIS GREAT COUNTRY COULD BE FIRST IN EMPLOYMENT, FIRST IN THE WELFARE OF ITS PEOPLE. THERE ' ISN'T A MEMBER OF CONGRESS, OR A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE WHO DOESN'T SAY, "WE DON'T WANT THOSE RUSSIANS TO HAVE MORE MISSILES THAN WE HAVE." WHY DOESN'T SOMEONE GET UP AND SAY, "WE DON'T WANT JAPAN TO HAVE A BETTER RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT THAN WE DO?"

WHY DON'T WE HAVE SOME PRIORITIES IN THIS COUNTRY? WE ARE ALWAYS WORRYING ABOUT WHETHER THE RUSSIANS HAVE A NEW BOMBER OR A NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS. BUT WE NEVER SEEM TO WORRY ABOUT THE FACT THAT IN THE 1962 TO 1973 PERIOD, WHEN THE U.S. HAD AN AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 5 PERCENT, THE COUNTRIES OF JAPAN, FRANCE, THE UNITED KINGDOM, GERMANY AND SWEDEN HAD AN AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 1.8 PERCENT.

WHY DON'T WE STRIVE TO BE FIRST IN OUR ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE?

FIRST IN GETTING PEOPLE TO WORK. FIRST IN MEETING OUR PEOPLE'S
NEEDS. AND NOT JUST FIRST IN SEEING WHETHER WE CAN BUILD A BIGGER
MISSILE.

FOR THREE YEARS NOW WE'VE ALL BEEN FACED WITH ANOTHER PROBLEM
THE NIXON-FORD TEAM HAS DONE LITTLE TO SOLVE -- THE ENERGY CRISIS.
DAY BY DAY, MONTH BY MONTH, YEAR BY YEAR, WE GROW MORE DEPENDENT
ON UNRELIABLE FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR OUR OIL SUPPLY.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S ENERGY PLAN -- ITS PLAN TO DRAIN AMERICA
FIRST -- MIGHT WELL BE CALLED OPERATION DEPENDENCE.

YOU AND I KNOW THAT A HEALTHY TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY, ABLE
TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR URBAN AND RURAL RESIDENTS, WILL BE A KEY
PART OF ANY ENERGY PROGRAM TO ASSURE AMERICA OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE.

THE AUTOMOBILE IS A GREAT INVENTION. IT IS A GREAT CONVENIENCE.
BUT OUR CONTINUED RELIANCE ON IT AS OUR PRIMARY TRANSPORTATION
MODE IS ONLY GOING TO MAKE US MORE DEPENDENT UPON FOREIGN SOURCES
OF OIL.

GREATLY INCREASED AIR, RAIL AND MASS TRANSIT TRAFFIC IS THE
ONLY VIABLE MEANS OF REDUCING OUR DEPENDENCE ON THESE UNDESIRABLE
SOURCES OF OIL. BUT I ASK YOU AGAIN, HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE ENERGY
INDEPENDENCE WHEN WE DON'T HAVE A HEALTHY TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY?
AND HOW CAN WE HAVE A HEALTHY TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY WHEN THE
LABOR DEPARTMENT SAYS OVER 175,000 PEOPLE IN THAT INDUSTRY ARE
UNEMPLOYED RIGHT NOW?

THE REAL ISSUE TODAY IS, WHAT PRIORITIES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED
TO SERVE THE BEST INTEREST OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- ALL THE PEOPLE?

I AND MY DEMOCRATIC COLLEAGUES THINK A MAJOR PRIORITY SHOULD BE JOBS -- A RAPID, STEADY NON-INFLATIONARY RETURN TO FULL EMPLOYMENT. THE MAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE DISAGREES.

I THINK AMERICA MUST HAVE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT USING UP ALL OUR OIL AND GAS, THEREBY LEAVING US AT THE MERCY OF OPEC IN 5 OR 10 YEARS. THE MAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE DISAGREES.

AND I THINK AMERICA NEEDS A HEALTHY, FULLY EMPLOYED TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM -- A SYSTEM LEADING THE WAY TOWARD ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENCY, AGAIN, THE MAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE DISAGREES.

IN FACT, THERE IS SO MUCH ON WHICH THE PEOPLE DISAGREE WITH THE MAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE THAT HE WILL BE LOOKING FOR NEW LODGING COME NOVEMBER.

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I ASSURE YOU I WILL DO ALL I CAN TO SEE WE GET THE KIND OF
PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP THE NATION NEEDS. I URGE YOU TO DO
YOUR PART.

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