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TO: LIONS CLUB  
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

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FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS I HAVE TRAVELED THROUGHOUT OUR STATE. SINCE I ANNOUNCED MY CANDIDACY ON JANUARY 21ST, I HAVE CRISS-CROSSED IT MANY TIMES. I HAVE TALKED WITH PEOPLE IN EVERY WALK OF LIFE. I HAVE LISTENED TO NORTH CAROLINIANS AND I HAVE LEARNED FROM THEM.

MORE THAN EVER, I AM CONVINCED THAT WE MUST GET AMERICA BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK AND MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

WE HAVE GOT TO GET MOVING IF WE ARE TO HALT -- AS WE MUST -- THE RISING PRICE OF GROCERIES.

WE HAVE GOT TO GET MOVING IF WE ARE TO END SHORTAGES IN GOODS AND RAW MATERIALS, AND IN GASOLINE AND FUEL SUPPLIES.

WE HAVE GOT TO GET MOVING IF WE ARE TO HALT THE WINDFALL PROFITS OF OIL COMPANIES AND MAKE FULL USE OF THIS NATION'S UNTAPPED RESOURCES.

WE HAVE GOT TO GET MOVING IF WE ARE TO PRESERVE THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM AND A SPIRIT OF COMPETITION FREE FROM THE THREAT OF MONOPOLISTIC CONTROL.

AND -- YES -- MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL WE HAVE GOT TO GET MOVING IF WE ARE TO RESTORE THE CONFIDENCE OF PEOPLE IN GOVERNMENT.

NEVER BEFORE IN OUR HISTORY HAVE SO MANY PEOPLE FAILED TO TRUST THEIR ELECTED LEADERS. YOU MAY HAVE READ -- JUST THIS WEEK-END -- THE POLL SHOWING THAT THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS ARE HELD IN VERY LOW ESTEEM. UNLESS THAT TRUST IS SOON RESTORED THE VERY STABILITY OF OUR FORM OF GOVERNMENT MAY BE AT STAKE.

WE RESTORE THAT TRUST BY BEING HONEST WITH THE PEOPLE. GOVERNMENT MUST SERVE THE PEOPLE INSTEAD OF PEOPLE SERVING THE GOVERNMENT. AND, YES, POLITICIANS MUST TALK STRAIGHT AND PLAIN WITH THE PEOPLE.

THIS IS WHAT I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO DO IN THIS CAMPAIGN -- TALK ABOUT THE ISSUES -- NOT ABOUT MY OPPONENTS.

WHAT IS AT STAKE IN AMERICA IN 1974 IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE AMERICAN DREAM -- A MATTER TOO SERIOUS FOR MERE POLITICAL RHETORIC.

THE INNER STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION THAT SETTLED THIS VAST LAND MUST NOW BE TURNED TOWARD GETTING AMERICA BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

WE FIND SOLUTIONS NOT BY PERSONAL ATTACKS BUT BY THE DISCUSSION AND UNDERSTANDING OF ISSUES BY THE VOTERS.

WE CAN PUT AMERICA BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK BY DETERMINING THAT GOVERNMENT CAN BE HONEST AND CAN BE TRUTHFUL WITH THE PEOPLE.

LET ME REVIEW WITH YOU TODAY SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT NORTH CAROLINIANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT.

THE CITIZENS OF NORTH CAROLINA ARE CONCERNED ABOUT GOVERNMENT'S INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THEIR LIVES. THEY WANT PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO WILL ADVOCATE THE PEOPLE'S INTEREST AND TREAT EVERY CITIZEN FAIR REGARDLESS OF HIS RACE, CREED OR SOCIAL STATUS. THEY WANT COMPLIANCE WITH THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS, SO THAT THEY KNOW WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM AND WHERE IT IS GOING. THEY DO NOT WANT CAMPAIGNS FINANCED BY THE SPECIAL INTERESTS.

(I MIGHT ADD THAT EARLY IN THIS CAMPAIGN I SIGNED THE CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES PLEDGING MY COMMITMENT TO CONDUCT A FAIR CAMPAIGN. THE ONLY GOOD POLITICS IS CLEAN POLITICS.)

THE PEOPLE WANT CONGRESS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT CAN ACT EFFECTIVELY IN SOLVING THEIR PROBLEMS. EVERY CITIZEN SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE BUDGET REFORM ACT, WHICH WILL ENCOURAGE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH. CONGRESS ALSO NEEDS TO RECLAIM MANY OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS WHICH IT HAS CONCEDED TO THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

THERE IS CONCERN AMONG THE CITIZENRY ABOUT THE EXCESSIVE POWER CENTERED IN THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT NORTH CAROLINIANS ARE AWARE THAT THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, A PART OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, REMAINS UNACCOUNTABLE TO THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE. CONGRESS MUST BE A CO-EQUAL BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT IN FACT -- AS WELL AS IN NAME -- AS THE FRAMERS OF THE CONSTITUTION INTENDED.

THERE IS CONCERN IN VARIOUS SECTORS ABOUT PRESIDENTIAL IMPOUNDMENT OF FUNDS. IT SHOULD BE CLEAR TO ALL OF US THAT "IF THE PRESIDENT DISAPPROVES OF CONGRESSIONAL SPENDING, THEN HE SHOULD VETO THE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, CHALLENGE THE CONGRESS TO OVERRIDE THAT VETO, RATHER THAN SIGNING A BILL INTO LAW AND THEN IGNORING IT." WE CANNOT IGNORE THE CLEAR MANDATE OF THE CONSTITUTION.

THE PEOPLE WANT THE SEPARATION OF POWERS RESPECTED. AND --

ABOVE ALL -- THEY WANT THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE TO BE FREE FROM POLITICAL INFLUENCE.

THE AVERAGE CITIZEN IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE RISING COST OF GASOLINE. THERE IS A PROPOSAL IN CONGRESS TO ROLL BACK THE PRICE ON DOMESTIC CRUDE OIL. THIS ACTION COULD LOWER THE PRICE ON GASOLINE ACROSS THE NATION. AT THE SAME TIME, THE WINDFALL PROFITS OF THE MAJOR OIL COMPANIES COULD BE USED TO SEARCH FOR NEW OIL RESERVES IN THIS COUNTRY.

OUR TOBACCO FARMERS ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE USING HIS DISCRETIONARY POWER TO ABOLISH THE TOBACCO ALLOTMENT PROGRAM. NO BUREAUCRAT SHOULD HAVE THE POWER TO ABOLISH A PROGRAM PASSED BY THE CONGRESS AND APPROVED BY 98 PERCENT OF THE TOBACCO GROWERS.

THE PEOPLE WANT GOVERNMENT TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO HELP THEMSELVES. A GOOD EXAMPLE IS VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED. THE MEN AND WOMEN IN THIS PROGRAM SEEK THROUGH VOCATIONAL TRAINING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. ANOTHER EXAMPLE IS MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS.

THERE IS CONCERN -- ESPECIALLY AMONG YOUNGER PEOPLE -- OVER THE SHODDY TREATMENT BEING GIVEN TO VIETNAM WAR VETERANS WHO SERVED HONORABLY.

OUR OLDER ADULTS WANT THE LAW TO BE CHANGED SO AS TO ALLOW THESE OLDER AMERICANS TO EARN AT LEAST \$3,000 A YEAR WITHOUT LOSING THEIR SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS. MANY WANT IMPROVED MEDICAL

INSURANCE FOR OLDER CITIZENS AND ALL AGE GROUPS.

NUMEROUS SECTORS OF OUR ECONOMY ARE DISTURBED OVER THE "TOTAL DISARRAY" THAT SURROUNDS THE FEDERAL HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. EVERY AMERICAN DESIRES THE OPPORTUNITY TO OWN HIS OWN HOME AND TO RAISE HIS CHILDREN IN A WHOLESOME COMMUNITY. INTEREST RATES ARE TOO HIGH. HOUSING IS A PROBLEM THAT MUST BE SOLVED. AN ATTENTIVE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN HELP TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THOSE AMERICANS WHO NEED AND DESIRE ADEQUATE HOUSING.

THE SUBURBAN HOUSEWIFE HAS BEGUN TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE EXPORT POLICIES OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE EARL BUTZ. THEY FEEL THAT THESE POLICIES ARE "PRICING THE HOMEMAKERS OUT OF THE GROCERY STORE." TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF THE RUSSIAN WHEAT DEAL, LEGISLATION IS BEFORE CONGRESS TO "REQUIRE THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT TO FORECAST AMERICAN PRODUCTION EACH YEAR, SET ASIDE THE AMOUNT NEEDED FOR DOMESTIC USE, AND ALLOCATE THE REMAINDER FOR FOREIGN SALE AND STOCK PILING." SUCH A PLAN WOULD NOT ONLY DEAL WITH ONE OF THE BASIC CAUSES OF INFLATION BUT WOULD ALSO MEAN THAT AMERICAN PRODUCED GOODS WOULD BE USED TO FEED AMERICANS.

THE PEOPLE, OF COURSE, ARE ALARMED OVER INFLATION. AND THEY SEE GOVERNMENT EXTRAVAGANCE AS A MAJOR CAUSE OF INFLATION. ONLY BY CURBING DEFICIT SPENDING CAN WE BRING ABOUT ANY MEANINGFUL REDUCTION IN THE INDIVIDUAL TAX LOAD AND ULTIMATELY IN THE FEDERAL DEBT.

THERE IS A GROWING PUBLIC DEMAND FOR TAX REFORM -- ESPECIALLY TO CLOSE UP THE LOOPHOLES WHICH "DISPROPORTIONATELY BENEFIT THE WEALTHY" AT THE EXPENSE OF MOST AMERICANS. WE NEED A SYSTEMATIC ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE FEDERAL TAX STRUCTURE.

MANY WANT TAX REFORM TO ALLOW SINGLE, WIDOWED AND DIVORCED PERSONS TO BE TREATED AS THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD FOR TAX PURPOSES.

FINALLY, IN DEFENSE POLICY THE PEOPLE WANT STRENGTH, BUT THEY ALSO WANT AUSTERITY. IN FOREIGN POLICY, THEY ARE WILLING TO TRY DETENTE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME JUDGING FOREIGN POWERS NOT BY WHAT THEY SAY BUT BY WHAT THEY DO AND ARE CAPABLE OF DOING.

LET ME SHARE WITH YOU ONE MORE MESSAGE I BELIEVE THE PEOPLE ARE SENDING THEIR ELECTED LEADERS,

THEY ABHOR THE DIRTY TRICKS AND ALLEGED CRIMINAL ACTS WHICH SURROUNDED THE 1972 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. AND THEY ARE NOT AFRAID ANY LONGER TO TEST THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES OF IMPEACHMENT WHICH THE FOUNDING FATHERS INSERTED IN THE CONSTITUTION ALMOST TWO CENTURIES AGO. THEY WANT THE PRESIDENT TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE IN THE IMPEACHMENT INVESTIGATION.

BUT THEY ARE ALSO PERSUADED THAT EVERY PERSON IS ENTITLED TO A FAIR TRIAL AND A VERDICT BASED ON THE EVIDENCE WHICH IS PRESENTED. THEY BELIEVE THAT ANY JUROR WHO MAKES UP HIS MIND

BEFORE HE HEARS THE EVIDENCE IS FLAUNTING THE BILL OF RIGHTS. REMEMBER, NORTH CAROLINIANS REFUSED TO RATIFY THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION UNTIL THE BILL OF RIGHTS WAS ADDED.

THE SIXTH AMENDMENT GUARANTEE OF A TRIAL BY AN IMPARTIAL JURY APPLIES BOTH TO THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE COURTS OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

SO, IN CONCLUSION, THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES -- FROM THE PROBLEMS OF THE ECONOMY TO THE ENERGY CRISIS TO THE LOSS OF INTEGRITY IN GOVERNMENT. I HAVE TRIED TO GIVE YOU MY HONEST READING OF WHAT THEY ARE SAYING.

A PROBLEM FOR SOMEONE WHO IS RESPONSIBLE TO A STATEWIDE ELECTORATE IS HOW BEST TO REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF OVER FIVE MILLION NORTH CAROLINIANS WHO LIVE IN SUCH A BIG AND DIVERSE STATE. IT WOULD BE SIMPLE IF EVERYBODY THOUGHT ALIKE, OR IF EACH INDIVIDUAL VOTER HAD ONE PREFERENCE ON ONE ISSUE. BUT, OF COURSE, PEOPLE HAVE MANY DIFFERENT VIEWS ON MANY DIFFERENT MATTERS. (AND -- FRANKLY -- IT AMAZES ME HOW MANY PEOPLE EXPECT YOU TO AGREE WITH THEM ABOUT EVERYTHING.)

IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, PERHAPS THE PEOPLE DON'T WANT A RUBBER STAMP, OR EVEN EXPERTISE, IN PUBLIC OFFICE, AS MUCH AS THEY WANT INTEGRITY AND "PLAIN SPEAKING" -- AS HARRY TRUMAN GAVE US.