

Remarks made in introducing the President, on Saturday,  
August 4.

Mr. President, Governor Hunt, Members of the Congress,  
and my fellow North Carolians.

Nearly two years ago, the people of America elected a  
new President - a man who touched their sense of honesty and  
decency. It was then and it is now refreshing to Americans  
and to our friends and allies around the world that the  
leader of the greatest nation on earth is a man of simple  
ways with a deep and abiding faith in God and a love and  
trust for his fellow man.

Let no one underestimate the difficulty of the demands  
made of this man. At the time of assuming office in January  
1977, just 18 months ago, there were 7-1/2 million Americans  
out of work. There was a growing dependence on foreign oil.  
Rising costs and low prices were putting many of the nations  
small farmers out of work. There was a loss of faith in  
government. We had gone through a period of great trying  
circumstances where men high in power had resigned their  
offices in face of accusations of wrong doings.

And so I am proud to present a President today who was  
willing and able to give to the American people what they  
had too long been missing: plain, honest, good government.

And now in this short period of time under his leadership, unemployment is down dramatically from a point where more than eight percent of Americans wanting jobs were unable to find them to where currently the unemployment rate is six percent (and almost to four percent here in North Carolina). 92 million people are now on a job in this country.

Average salaries of American workers and income are up. Housing starts are up 27 percent. Incorporate dividends are up 18 percent and last week we saw the most active active stock market in years. And a known fact, on Thursday more stock was traded then even before in history. Also, personal and savings accounts are up 14 percent.

I am proud to present a President who has the courage to make judgments and decisions so necessary to lead us through our energy crisis.

We have a unified department of energy instead of dozens of federal programs scattered through government.

Our President promised our foreign summit allies that we would cut oil imports. Well, he has already begun to do

so - oil imports are 13 percent lower this year than last.

President Carter understands the importance of farming to the American people. He is a farmer himself and knows the difficulties confronted by farmers. And it was because of his courage and foresight earlier this year that we in the Congress were not stampeded into adopting unwise farm legislation at the assistance of many frustrated and frightened farmers - farm legislation which could have and probably would have destroyed the entire farm program. He knew that in October, 1977, he had signed a new farm bill and that, given adequate time, the bill would work and the plight of the American farmer would improve. It was not an easy decision when the prices for farm products were hitting rock bottom after many farmers had overplanted at the insistence of the previous administration-who encouraged that we plant "from hedgerow from hedgerow". But it worked. Today, tobacco prices are up 43 percent over those of last year. Poultry and hog prices are up 10 percent; corn prices are up 30 percent and soy beans are selling for a dollar a bushel more now than then.

The President knows that the health of the American farmer also depends upon our ability to sell products from the farm non-to farm nations, and he is working to make better access to Japan and to Europe for our farm products.

Here in North Carolina we, of course, are interested in our tobacco program. The President has said to me and to others on numerous occasions, that as long as he is the President of the United States, we are going to have a tobacco program for the two million American people who make their living with this crop, a fourth which live in North Carolina. No other American President has given us this assurance. I can say to you that since President Carter entered office that activities on the floor of the Senate to abolish and destroy our tobacco programs have diminished. This is not to say that this administration is not aware of health hazards flowing from the use of tobacco but it is to say that whether we support tobacco programs has nothing to do with whether a person smokes. He favors warning the American public of all known health hazards, including tobacco, but not limiting such warnings to tobacco. Also included should be the dangers coming from over-eating, the use of alcohol, and other hazardous foods and drinks.

Finally, we can admire the President's willingness to fight the political battles necessary to make our government more responsive to the people. I know from my own work in the Congress how wasteful the General Services Administration have become over the years under previous administrations. I am grateful that the President intends to take control of that agency and let the chips fall where they

may. The GSA, which maintains government buildings and supplies much of the government supplies, is probably riddled with corruption. The President was right to take it under control even though it meant offending one of the powerful leaders of the Congress. It takes courage to do what's right as a President.

His Civil Service Reform bill now pending in the Congress will bring wasteful bureaucracy under control, but I am afraid some in the Congress are willing to gut it.

His Foreign Aid bill would improve our economy, bring us two dollars for every dollar of outlay - including sales of our tobacco and soy beans but Congress is also willing to gut it.

President Carter promised us an open honest administration which would be willing to listen to the people. He is here with us today because he knows of North Carolina's concern. It's a clear demonstration that Jimmy Carter is still the responsive, sympathetic man we sent to the White House. I am honored to present to you the President of the United States.