

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDENT

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Wilson Memorial Library
Wilson
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Less than two years ago the American people sent to the White House a man who had touched their sense of decency and honor. They chose a President able to deal with crises which were undermining our economy and our government.

Let no one underestimate the difficulty of what we demanded of this good man.

He inherited a government suffering indirection and hesitation in the face of urgent problems.

--There were 7.5 million Americans out of work, and an economy operating \$132 billion below its potential.

--Our dependence on foreign sources of oil was growing and undermining our national security.

--American farmers were suffering rising costs and declining prices which put thousands of family farms out of business.

--And finally, the people were losing faith in the honesty, responsiveness, and effectiveness of their government.

I am proud to introduce a President who is willing and able to give the American people what they have too long been missing: plain good government.

--Unemployment is down dramatically, after being nearly nine percent. 92 million people are now on the job, the most ever.

--Average salaries and income are up. Housing starts are up 27 percent, corporate dividends up 18 percent, and personal savings accounts up 14 percent.

I am proud to introduce a President willing and able to lead us through our energy crisis.

--We have a unified Department of Energy instead of dozens of conflicting federal programs. In the past year, our imports of foreign oil have gone down 13 percent, reversing a trend which could destroy our economy.

I am proud to say we have a President who understands what farming means to our people. He has said that as long as he is President, we are going to have a tobacco program to be of service to the 600,000 people who make their livings with this crop.

--Farm prices are improving across the board. This year's tobacco prices are up 43 percent. Poultry and hogs are up about 10 percent, corn is up 30 percent and soybeans are up a dollar.

President Carter has resisted foreign embargoes on our soybeans, and is fighting to give our farmers better access to markets in Europe and Japan.

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 had become under previous administrations. I am grateful that the President intends to take control of that agency and let the chips fall where they may.

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 concerns. It is