

REMARKS BY GOVERNOR JAMES B. EDWARDS
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CHARLESTON, S.C.
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THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF TALK THIS YEAR ABOUT WHAT AMERICA HAS BECOME IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR. IN ADDITION TO THE CELEBRATIONS THAT ARE GOING ON AROUND THE NATION AND THE BACKWARD GLANCES AT OUR HISTORY...WE AMERICANS HAVE BEGUN TO TAKE STOCK OF WHERE WE ARE TODAY. SOME OF THE ANSWERS TO OUR QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN DISTURBING.

WE HAVE LEARNED ESPECIALLY IN THE PAST YEAR OR TWO THAT THIS LAND OF PLENTY IS STILL VULNERABLE TO SERIOUS BOUTS OF INFLATION AND RECESSION. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT MANY OF THE GREAT SOCIETY PROGRAMS OF THE 1960'S HAVE NOT MADE THE COUNTRY ALL THAT MUCH BETTER. WE HAVE ASSUMED THAT WE ARE A STRONG NATION MILITARILY...AND HAVE SEEN THE PULLOUT IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

THESE ARE SERIOUS MATTERS...ESPECIALLY AS WE ARE ABOUT TO ENTER OUR THIRD CENTURY.

THERE ARE SOME HARD LESSONS TO BE LEARNED THIS YEAR...AND SOME EVEN TOUGHER DECISIONS TO BE MADE IF OUR NATION IS TO REGAIN ITS STATUS AS THE WORLD LEADER. THE SUGGESTION THAT WE MIGHT BE NUMBER TWO IS FRIGHTENING. BUT WHEN WE LOOK AT THE REAL ISSUES OF TODAY...WE REALIZE HOW FAR WE HAVE TO GO. AS YOU WELL KNOW, WE ARE RECOVERING SLOWLY FROM THE WORST RECESSION SINCE THE THIRTIES.

I HOPE, AS YOU DO, THAT THE RECOVERY IS FOR REAL.

WE SEE TODAY THAT OUR GOVERNMENT...THE BUREAUCRACY HAS GOTTEN OUT OF CONTROL. MORE AND MORE OF OUR REAL EARNINGS AND PROFITS ARE GOING DOWN THE DRAIN TO FEED USELESS FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT THAT IS SUPPOSED TO SERVE THE PEOPLE, KEEPS TURNING AROUND AND PUTTING A STRANGLE HOLD ON AMERICAN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY.

OUR FOREIGN POLICY...AND OUR MILITARY STENGTH ARE TWO AREAS OF EQUAL CONCERN. WE CONTINUE TO FOLLOW A POLICY OF DETENTE WITH THE SOVIET UNION. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT SEES DETENTE AS BENEFICIAL TO OUR RELATIONSHIP...THE SOVIETS QUITE CLEARLY SEE IT AS AN EXCELLENT TOOL FOR EXPANDING THEIR CONTORL OVER EVEN MORE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD.

MEANWHILE, OUR INVESTMENT IN THE MILITARY IS LESS THAN HALF OF WHAT IT WAS IN 1968 AND THE SOVIETS OUT DISTANCE US MILITARILY IN ALL BUT ONE AREA...THEY DON'T PRODUCE AS MANY HELICOPTERS AS WE DO.

THERE IS A GREATER PROBLEM WITH THE THINGS I'VE JUST MENTIONED...ESPECIALLY IN AN ELECTION YEAR. THERE IS A TENDENCY FOR GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH THE SYMPTOMS AND NOT THE CAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS.

IF SOMEHOW, TOMORROW MORNING ALL THESE PROBLEMS AND SHORTCOMINGS WERE TO BE SOLVED...THEY WOULD MEAN NOTHING IF THEY WERE NOT DONE WITH A SENSE OF NATIONAL PURPOSE.

FORMER DEFENSE SECRETARY JAMES SCHLESINGER DEFINES THE SITUATION VERY WELL: "THE GRAVEST PROBLEM FOR THE WESTERN WORLD IS WITHOUT QUESTION THE LOSS OF VISION, OF MORAL STAMINA, OF NATIONAL PURPOSE."

THIS IS MY GREATEST CONCERN THIS YEAR. AND IT SHOULD BE YOURS. THAT SENSE OF NATIONAL PURPOSE MUST COME FROM THE PEOPLE OF THIS NATION. IT MUST BE FELT IN THE NATION'S CAPITOL AND FOLLOWED ACCORDINGLY.

I BELIEVE THAT 1976 MUST BE A YEAR OF NATIONAL DESTINY... A YEAR IN WHICH AMERICA WILL EMBARK ON AN EVEN MORE GLORIOUS ROAD. I BELIEVE THAT OUR THIRD HUNDRED YEARS CAN BE THE BEST YET...BUT WE MUST BEGIN TO MAKE IT SO NOW.

WE MUST REGAIN OUR NATIONAL PURPOSE...THE VISIONS OUR FOUNDING FATHERS HAD TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO. WE THE PEOPLE OF THIS NATION MUST REBUILD AMERICA...WE MUST REBUILD ITS SPIRIT.