"THIS COUNTRY IS MOVING . . . AND IT MUST NOT STOP"

The text of the speech President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was scheduled to deliver at the Texas Welcome Dinner at the Municipal Auditorium in Austin, Texas, on the evening of November 22, 1963.
In Amarillo I pleaded in 1960 that the businessmen of this city and of the nation as a whole, who are the backbone of our economy—will move ahead as our economy moved ahead. That pledge has been fully fulfilled. But the present Administration now faces and may face another challenge: to maintain and enhance its tax credit and other federal programs. The pledge was a very important and, I believe, valid assurance.

We have proposed a massive tax reduction, with particular benefits for small business. We have stopped the threat of the Small Business Administration and the Small Business Development Corporation, which was creating an atmosphere of fear among small businesses.

In Grand Prairie, I pleaded in 1960 that this country will find a way to raise the level of its productivity. I am pleased that this has been done. The record shows that the smaller the community, the more the need for government assistance in raising its productivity.

In Houston, I pleaded in 1960 that we must get back to the people. We are now getting back to the people. The pledge has been fulfilled.

In Dallas, I pleaded in 1960 to step up the development of both our national and our human resources. That pledge has been fulfilled. We have increased the number of national and human resources in every part of the country.

In Oklahoma City, I pleaded in 1960 to restore the world's confidence in the vitality and energy of American society. This pledge has been fulfilled. We have made major progress in the field of education, health, and safety.

In San Antonio, I pleaded in 1960 that the people would move ahead with the pledge. The pledge has been fulfilled.

And we have raised this income by reducing grain surpluses by 1 billion bushels. We have, at the same time, tackled the problem of the entire rural economy—extending more than twice as much credit to farmers as we did last year, and we have expanded the loan program by more than 100 million in REA loans. We have not stopped there, however, but we have taken advantage of the farm program to advance our American farmers and the farmers of the world. We have also presented a new aid program to the farmers of the world.