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America has become a society of mistrust.

-- We often mistrust each other.

-- We often mistrust those older and those younger than ourselves.

-- We often mistrust the businessman.

-- We often mistrust those of a different race or religion.

-- We often mistrust our own ability to work for fundamental change and reform.

And at the top of this list is the government and the American political system.

The American people -- both young and old -- often mistrust the one institution that affects their lives every day.

It goes into our homes. It affects the way we bring up our children. It may send our sons to die.

The mistrust that the American people feel for their own elected government permeates our society.

Why the mistrust of government?

Why the disbelief in the credibility of our national leadership on the part of millions of Americans?

Because American government has failed in its basic and fundamental obligation to serve the people.

There are hungry Americans.

Where is our government?

There are poor Americans.

Where is our government?

There are sick Americans.

Where is our government?

There are Americans who are afraid to venture out of their homes at night.

Where is our government?

There are Americans who are prevented from voting by intimidation at the polls.

Where is our government?

There are Americans who are being harmed by polluted air, unclean water and contaminated food.

Where is our government?

Government cannot solve all of our problems. Government can't substitute for individual initiative.

But many of the problems which beset America today cannot be solved without vast financial and human resources.

And government is the only institution capable of marshalling these resources and putting them to work.

Government is not a living organism.

It is people. It is led by men and women.

In recent years more and more Americans have lost faith in government because those who lead our nation have not told the American people the truth and have broken their promises to us.

Promises have been made and not kept. I want to tell you about six of them which have directly affected all of us for the last three years. Our President made them to you and to me.

Promise No. 1: Mr. Nixon told us in 1968 that he had a secret plan to end the Vietnam war and would do so quickly.

That was his promise and he broke it.

Almost three years later, the war has not ended. It has spread across the length and breadth of the Indochina Peninsula.

Promise No. 2: Mr. Nixon told us he would halt inflation without increasing unemployment.

That was his promise and he broke it.

Well over five million Americans are out of work today, and the figure rose again this month. Inflation continues. The economy remains sluggish with only 75 percent of our industrial capacity being utilized.

And businessmen, working people and consumers -- uncertain and bewildered about their economic future -- refuse to invest and spend to provide needed jobs and get the economy moving again.

Promise No. 3: Mr. Nixon promised us he would stop rising crime.

That was his promise and he broke it.

During each year of his Administration, the crime rate has increased by an average of 11 percent.

Promise No. 4: Mr. Nixon promised that he would protect the American dollar.

That was his promise and he broke it.

Today for the first time since 1893 -- this country is running a trade deficit. The American dollar is losing its purchasing power in the international money markets.

Promise No. 5: Mr. Nixon promised that his would be an open Administration -- open to youth, open to new and creative ideas.

That was his promise and he broke it.

Massive 'public relations' staff have been posted at the entrance, in fact denying access to youth and minorities in particular.

Promise No. 6: Mr. Nixon promised us he would 'bring us together.'

That was his promise and he broke it.

There is bitterness and division in the nation -- a growing gap between rich and poor, black and white, North and South, young and old, urban and rural America.

There is a tremendous reservoir of strength and good will in this nation waiting to be tapped.

We can have reconciliation. We must have reconstruction. And we desperately need reaffirmation -- reaffirmation of the promise of America, in place of the broken promises of this Administration.

Until Americans begin to respect one another we will be unable to rebuild our economy, make our cities liveable and provide equal opportunity for all Americans.

I am running for President of the United States because I want to put belief back in government.

We can no longer afford to have government by press agency and government which tries to hide its faults and mistakes from the people.

I pledge to you an open Presidency -- a Presidency where the people set priorities and shape policies -- where the White House will be open to the young -- to your ideas and talents.

I need your help and support to achieve this goal.

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