

**The original documents are located in Box 134, folder “June 13, 1974 - Speech, T.C. Williams High School Commencement, Alexandria, VA” of the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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A

T. C. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, JUNE 13, 1974

*Ruth Sanders*  
*Dr. Albohm*  
*Mr. [unclear]*  
*Honored Graduates*  
*School Board Faculty* →

I AM VERY HONORED TO BE ON THE SPEAKERS' PLATFORM THIS EVENING INSTEAD OF IN THE AUDIENCE WITH THE REST OF THE PARENTS OF THIS FINE SENIOR CLASS. I AM <sup>very</sup> PROUD THAT <sup>my</sup> SON STEVE IS A MEMBER OF THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 1974. I SUSPECT, THOUGH, THAT STEVE WOULD RATHER HAVE ME IN THE AUDIENCE THAN ON THE PLATFORM. IN FACT, WHEN STEVE LEARNED THAT I WAS TO BE HIS COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER, HIS ONLY COMMENT WAS---"HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO TALK, DAD?"



HIS MOTHER HAD THE ANSWER: "YOUR FATHER'S COMMENCEMENT  
SPEECHES TAKE FIVE THOUSAND WORDS TO SAY: 'SCHOOL'S OUT!'".

BEFORE THIS SCHOOL IS OUT, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT I  
CONSIDER T.C. WILLIAMS A FINE HIGH SCHOOL. EACH OF OUR THREE SONS--FIRST  
MIKE, THEN JACK, AND NOW STEVE -- HAS GRADUATED FROM T.C. WILLIAMS.  
BETTY AND I KNOW HOW MUCH T.C. WILLIAMS HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THEIR  
EDUCATION, AND TO THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DEVELOPMENT. AND WE  
ALSO KNOW WHAT T. C. WILLIAMS HAS DONE TO BUILD A REAL SENSE OF  
COMMUNITY IN THIS AREA WHERE OUR FAMILY HAS LIVED FOR TWO DECADES.

*The academic achievements & athletic successes  
of T. C. Williams are well known. I compliment  
the Bd of Education, the Faculty & Students*



BETTY AND I ARE PROUD TO BE A PART OF THE T.C. WILLIAMS  
COMMUNITY, AND HAPPY THAT WE HAVE FOUND SO MANY WONDERFUL FRIENDS  
IN THAT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.

SO IT MAKES IT SOMEWHAT EASIER FOR ME TO STAND HERE THIS  
EVENING, DESPITE STEVE'S MISGIVINGS. YOU KNOW, STEVE IS KIND OF  
EMBARRASSED BY THE FACT THAT HIS OLD MAN IS THE VICE PRESIDENT.



OF COURSE, AT TIMES, THE OLD MAN HIMSELF IS EMBARRASSED  
BY THE SILLY POMP AND PUFFERY WHICH SOME PEOPLE THINK SHOULD GO  
WITH THE OFFICE. BUT I'M HAPPY THAT MY FRIENDS STILL CALL ME JERRY,  
AND I HOPE THEY ALWAYS WILL. AND I THANK THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE CLOSE  
NEIGHBORS FOR YOUR PATIENCE IN PUTTING UP WITH ALL THE INCONVENIENCE  
THAT HAVING A VICE PRESIDENT IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD CAUSES.



IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS, I HAVE SPOKEN TO HALF A DOZEN  
CLASSES OF GRADUATING SENIORS.

BUT THIS T.C. WILLIAMS CLASS OF '74 IS A SPECIAL GROUP  
FOR ME. AND I WANT TO TALK WITH YOU SENIORS AS A FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR,  
ABOUT YOUR FUTURE AND MINE.



IN THE YEARS SINCE I WALKED IN MY OWN SENIOR CLASS  
*along with 15 million other Americans*  
PROCESSION I HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE COSTLIEST WAR EVER FOUGHT. AND  
*1*  
LATER IN CONGRESS I HAVE TAKEN PART IN MONTH UPON MONTH OF DETAILED,  
SOMETIMES CRITICAL, STUDY OF OUR NATIONAL POLICIES WHICH TOOK US  
INTO AND THROUGH TWO MORE WARS -- ONE, THE LONGEST-EVER INVOLVING  
OUR NATION.



IN THE SIX MONTHS SINCE I BECAME THE FIRST "INSTANT VICE PRESIDENT" IN HISTORY, I HAVE SPENT MANY HOURS OF EACH WEEK STUDYING POLICY BRIEFING PAPERS AND DISCUSSING CURRENT FOREIGN POLICY PROGRAMS WITH THE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER AND KEY OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THOSE PROGRAMS.

SO WHEN I SAY THAT THE YEARS THAT LIE BEFORE YOU WILL CERTAINLY BE THE MOST FATEFUL YEARS FOR ALL OF US ON THIS PLANET, I AM NOT INDULGING IN COMMENCEMENT RHETORIC.



I SAY THAT AS A RESULT OF DECADES OF EXPERIENCE, AND  
LENGTHY, THOROUGH STUDY OF THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL  
FORCES WHICH HAVE BROUGHT US TO THIS POINT OF OUR LIVES, I SAY  
THAT IN ORDER TO HELP YOU SEE THAT YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
SHAPE THE WORLD INTO PATTERNS OF PEACE NEVER BEFORE POSSIBLE.

IT IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY, FAR MORE THAN MINE. MY FUTURE  
HOLDS FAR FEWER YEARS THAN YOURS. *your careers stretched* ~~YOURS~~ STRETCHES FOR DECADES AHEAD.  
AND IT IS IN THOSE DECADES THAT THE PATTERN OF PEACE CAN EMERGE.



YOU, THEREFORE, WILL BE THE SHAPERS OF THE WORLD. YOU  
WILL CHOOSE THE PATTERN.

WE IN MY GENERATION CAN OFFER YOU OUR EXPERIENCE AND  
WHATEVER WISDOM WE POSSESS.

YOU WILL HAVE THE CHOICE OF WHAT TO ACCEPT AND WHAT TO  
REJECT. WE CAN SHOW YOU OUR MISTAKES. YOU WILL HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY  
OF DECIDING HOW TO PREVENT SIMILAR MISTAKES AGAIN.

IT WILL NOT BE AN EASY TASK. IT WILL NOT BE A SHORT ONE.



IN YOUR YEARS IN HIGH SCHOOL, YOU SENIORS HAVE SEEN THE  
FIRST SIGNIFICANT STEPS TAKEN ON THE ROAD TO A DURABLE PEACE. WE  
HAVE OPENED THE DOOR TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. WE AND THE  
CHINESE HAVE STARTED TALKING WITH EACH OTHER. WE HAVE ACHIEVED  
ONE IMPORTANT ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT WITH RUSSIA AND ARE WORKING  
TOWARD ANOTHER. THESE ARE SOLID ACCOMPLISHMENTS---GOOD BEGINNINGS.  
BUT THEY ARE ONLY BEGINNINGS.



RIGHT NOW, PRESIDENT NIXON IS WORKING TO ACHIEVE ANOTHER  
SOLID ACCOMPLISHMENT -- TO FURTHER THE GREAT DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS  
WON BY HIS SECRETARY OF STATE IN BRINGING ABOUT A CEASE-FIRE IN  
THE MIDDLE EAST.

LET US ALL PRAY FOR THE PRESIDENT'S SAFETY AND SUCCESS  
DURING HIS MIDDLE EASTERN JOURNEY.



LET US HOPE THAT THE PRESIDENT'S SECRETARY OF STATE  
WILL CONTINUE HIS BRILLIANT WORK -- AND THAT ATTEMPTS TO RUIN  
DR. KISSINGER'S REPUTATION THROUGH INNUENDO AND SELECTED NEWS  
LEAKS WILL END BEFORE THEY POISON THE CLIMATE OF PEACE HE HAS  
DONE SO MUCH TO CREATE.

MY GENERATION HAS TAKEN SIGNIFICANT STEPS TOWARD PEACE.  
WE HOPE TO TAKE MORE. BUT THEY ARE REALLY LITTLE MORE THAN SIGNPOSTS  
TO INDICATE THE ROAD AHEAD.



THESE ARE GREAT TASKS. AND THE PROBLEMS THEY INVOLVE  
MAY SEEM INSOLUBLE AT TIMES.

BUT WHEN I FACE SUCH PROBLEMS, I LIKE TO RECALL THE WORDS  
OF ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS WORLD LEADERS IN MODERN HISTORY ---  
WINSTON CHURCHILL.

SHORTLY AFTER BECOMING PRIME MINISTER, IN THE DARKEST  
DAYS OF WORLD WAR II, MR. CHURCHILL AGREED TO SPEAK TO A GRADUATING  
CLASS. IT WAS A TERRIBLE TIME FOR BRITAIN. MANY WERE SAYING BRITAIN  
WAS FINISHED, THAT HER LONE FIGHT AGAINST HITLER WAS HOPELESS.



MR. CHURCHILL ROSE TO SPEAK--BUT STOOD SILENTLY AT THE  
PODIUM FOR WHAT SEEMED TO BE A LONG TIME. HE LOOKED DIRECTLY AT  
THE GRADUATING CLASS, WITH A PENETRATING STARE.

THEN IN A LOW VOICE, MR. CHURCHILL SAID: "NEVER GIVE IN."

HE PAUSED FOR THIRTY SECONDS--HIS EYES STILL RIVETED  
ON THE STUDENTS. NOT A SOUND COULD BE HEARD.



REMEMBER THAT THREE WORD PHRASE---"NEVER GIVE IN."

IT IS THE KEY TO ANY PROBLEM. I KNOW YOU MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF

1974. WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE, ABILITY AND UNDERSTANDING, ANYTHING

IS POSSIBLE --- IF YOU NEVER GIVE IN.

MAY YOU NEVER GIVE IN, IN YOUR SEARCH FOR A LIFE OF

PEACE. THANK YOU.

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REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD  
T. C. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA  
JUNE 13, 1974

FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY

I am very honored to be on the speakers' platform this evening instead of in the audience with the rest of the parents of this fine senior class. I am very proud that my son Steve is a member of the graduating class of 1974. I suspect, though, that Steve would rather have me in the audience than on the platform. In fact, when Steve learned that I was to be his commencement speaker, his only comment was -- "How long are you going to talk, Dad?"

His mother had the answer: "Your father's commencement speeches take five thousand words to say: 'School's out!'"

Before this school is out, I would like to say that I consider T. C. Williams a fine high school. Betty and I know how much T. C. Williams has contributed to their education, and to their physical and mental development. And we also know what T. C. Williams has done to build a real sense of community in this area where our family has lived for two decades.

Betty and I are proud to be a part of the T. C. Williams community, and happy that we have found so many wonderful friends in that community association.

So it makes it somewhat easier for me to stand here this evening, despite Steve's misgivings. You know, Steve is kind of embarrassed by the fact that his Old Man is the Vice President.

Of course, at times, the Old Man himself is embarrassed by the silly pomp and puffery which some people think should go with the office. But I'm happy that my friends still call me Jerry, and I hope they always will. And I thank those of you who are close neighbors for your patience in putting up with all the inconvenience that having a Vice President in the neighborhood causes.

In the past few weeks, I have spoken to half a dozen classes of graduating seniors.

But this T. C. Williams class of '74 is a special group for me. And I want to talk with you seniors as a friend and neighbor, about your future and mine.

In the years since I walked in my own senior class procession I have taken part in the costliest war ever fought. And later in Congress I have taken

(more)

part in month upon month of detailed, sometimes critical, study of our national policies which took us into and through two more wars -- one the longest-ever involving our nation.

In the six months since I became the first "Instant Vice President" in history, I have spent many hours of each week studying policy briefing papers and discussing current foreign policy programs with the President, Secretary of State Kissinger and key officials involved in those programs.

So when I say that the years that lie before you will certainly be the most fateful years for all of us on this planet, I am not indulging in commencement rhetoric.

I say that as a result of decades of experience, and lengthy, thorough study of the economic, political and philosophical forces which have brought us to this point of our lives. I say that in order to help you see that you have the opportunity to shape the world into patterns of peace never before possible.

It is your opportunity, far more than mine. My future holds far fewer years than yours. Yours stretches for decades ahead. And it is in those decades that the pattern of peace can emerge.

You, therefore, will be the shapers of the world. You will choose the pattern.

We in my generation can offer you our experience and whatever wisdom we possess.

You will have the choice of what to accept and what to reject. We can show you our mistakes. You will have the responsibility of deciding how to prevent similar mistakes again.

It will not be an easy task. It will not be a short one.

In your years in high school, you seniors have seen the first significant steps taken on the road to a durable peace. We have opened the door to the People's Republic of China. We and the Chinese have started talking with each other. We have achieved one important arms limitation agreement with Russia and are working toward another. These are solid accomplishments -- good beginnings. But they are only beginnings.

Right now, President Nixon is working to achieve another solid accomplishment -- to further the great diplomatic success won by his Secretary of State in bringing about a cease-fire in the Middle East.

Let us all pray for the President's safety and success during his Middle Eastern journey.

(more)

Let us hope that the President's Secretary of State will continue his brilliant work -- and that attempts to ruin Dr. Kissinger's reputation through innuendo and selected news leaks will end before they poison the climate of peace he has done so much to create.

My generation has taken significant steps toward peace. We hope to take more. But they are really little more than signposts to indicate the road ahead.

Building a solid structure of peace in this nuclear-armed world -- and building it on realistic terms -- is going to be a difficult and a long task. Your generation, seniors, will have to see it through. You will have to find the ways to work with your brothers and sisters throughout the world. Until you can solve the looming critical problems of too many people and not enough food, too many machines and not enough energy, too many factories and not enough raw materials, you cannot count on a peaceful world.

These are great tasks. And the problems they involve may seem insolvable at times.

But when I face such problems, I like to recall the words of one of the most famous world leaders in modern history -- Winston Churchill.

Shortly after becoming Prime Minister, in the darkest days of World War II, Mr. Churchill agreed to speak to a graduating class. It was a terrible time for Britain.

Many were saying Britain was finished, that her lone fight against Hitler was hopeless.

Mr. Churchill rose to speak -- but stood silently at the podium for what seemed to be a long time. He looked directly at the graduating class, with a penetrating stare.

Then in a low voice, Mr. Churchill said: "Never give in."

He paused for thirty seconds -- his eyes still riveted on the students. Not a sound could be heard.

Then -- more loudly -- Mr. Churchill repeated: "Never give in."

And he continued: "Never, never, never, never. In nothing great or small, large or petty. Never give in, except to convictions of honor, and good sense." With that Mr. Churchill turned and left the podium.

Remember that three word phrase -- "Never give in." It is the key to any problem. I know you members of the Class of 1974. With your knowledge, ability and understanding, anything is possible -- if you never give in.

May you never give in, in your search for a life of peace.

Thank you.

REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
HIGH SCHOOL  
T.C. WILLIAMS COMMENCEMENT ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
ALEXANDRIA, VA.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ JUNE 13, 1974 ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

FOR RELEASE AT 8 P.M. THURSDAY

I am very honored to be on the speakers' platform ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ this evening *g*  
instead of in the audience with the rest of the parents of this fine senior class.

I am very proud that my son Steve is a member of the graduating class of 1974.

I suspect, though, that Steve would rather have me in the audience ~~instead of~~ *than* on  
the platform. In fact, when Steve learned that I was to be his Commencement

Speaker, his only comment was---"How long are you going to ~~talk~~ *talk*, Dad?"

His mother had the answer: *"Your father's"* take ~~five~~ five thousand words

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
to say: "School's out!"

Before this school is out, I would like to say that I consider T.C. Williams  
a fine ~~High School~~. Each of our three sons---first Mike, then Jack, and now Steve---  
has graduated from T.C. Williams. Betty and I know how much T.C. Williams has contrib-  
uted to their education, and to their physical and mental development. And we  
also know what T.C. Williams has done to build a real sense of community in this area  
~~where~~ *where* our family has lived for two decades.





Betty and I are proud to be a part of the T.C. Williams community, and happy that we have found so many wonderful friends in that community association.

So it makes it somewhat easier for me to stand here this evening, despite Steve's misgivings. You know, Steve is kind of embarrassed by the fact that his Old Man is the Vice President.

Of course, at times, the Old Man himself is embarrassed by the silly pomp and puffery which some people think should go with the office. But I'm happy that my friends still call me Jerry, and I hope they always will. And I thank those of you who are close neighbors for your patience in putting up with all the inconvenience that having a Vice President in the neighborhood causes.

In the past few ~~spring~~ weeks, I have spoken to half a dozen classes of graduating seniors.

<sup>T.C. WILLIAMS</sup> But this class of '74 is a special group for me. And I want to talk with you seniors as a friend and neighbor, ~~about~~ about your future and mine.

In the years since I walked in <sup>my own</sup> the Senior class procession I have taken part in the costliest war ever fought. And later in Congress <sup>I</sup> have taken part in months upon month of detailed, <sup>and</sup> sometimes critical, <sup>and</sup> study of ~~the~~ <sup>notional</sup> ~~policies of our country~~ policies which took us into and through two more wars -- one the longest ever involving our nation.

In the <sup>SIX</sup> months since <sup>I became</sup> the first 'Instant Vice President' in history, I have spent many hours of each week studying policy briefing papers and discussing current foreign policy programs with the President, Secretary of State Kissinger and key officials involved in those programs.

So When I say ~~that~~ that the years that lie before you will certainly be the most fateful years for all of us on this planet, I am not indulging in



-3-

Commencement rhetoric.

I say that as a result of decades of experience, and lengthy, thorough study of the economic, political and philosophical forces which have brought us to this point of our lives. I say that in order to help you see that you have the opportunity to shape the world into pattern of peace never before possible.

*And It is your opportunity, far more than mine*

~~My father's because my father's was the next few years may bring to my father's~~  
*My father holds far fewer years than yours*

Yours stretches for decades ahead. And it is in those decades that the pattern of peace can emerge.

You, therefore, will be the shapers of the world. You will choose the pattern.

We in my generation can offer you our experience and whatever wisdom we possess.

You will have the choice of what to accept and what to reject. We can show you our mistakes. You will have the responsibility of deciding how to prevent similar mistakes again.

~~I am not promising you a rose garden.~~

~~The pattern of peace is not shaped by brilliant diplomatic achievements alone, helpful as they may be.~~

~~Diplomatic achievements can bring about cease fires, and arms agreements, and can open closed doors of international communication.~~

~~But diplomatic achievements can't end a drought, or hunger and starvation, or develop new sources of energy. Diplomatic achievements cannot end the hate of one man for another — or of one nation for another — or of one system of government for another. Diplomatic achievements have not stopped the spread~~

*distrust*

*t*



It will not be an easy task. It will not be a short one.

In your ~~high school~~ years in High School, you seniors have seen the first significant steps taken on the road to ~~the~~ a durable peace. ~~President Nixon~~ ~~Secretary of State~~

~~of State~~ ~~Dr. Henry Kissinger~~ have opened the door to the People's Republic of China. We ~~have~~ ~~started~~ and the Chinese have started talking with each other. ~~President Nixon~~

~~the~~ ~~President Nixon~~ and ~~Secretary of State~~ ~~Henry Kissinger~~ have achieved one <sup>important</sup> arms limitation agreement with Russia and are working ~~on~~ toward another. ~~These~~

These are solid accomplishments---good beginnings. But they are only beginnings. ~~President Nixon~~

Right now, President Nixon is working to achieve another solid accomplishment. To further the great ~~diplomatic~~ diplomatic success won by his Secretary of State in bringing about a cease-fire in the Middle East.

Let us all pray for the President's safety and success ~~during~~ during his Middle Eastern journey.

And let us hope that the President's Secretary of State will continue his brilliant work ~~and~~

~~And that~~ attempts to ruin Dr. Kissinger's reputation through innuendo and selected news leaks will end before they ~~can~~ ~~poison~~ the climate of peace. he has done so much to create.

My generation has ~~been~~ taken significant steps toward ~~peace.~~ peace.

We hope to take more. But they are ~~really~~ <sup>really</sup> little more than signposts to indicate the road ahead.

(Building a solid structure of peace in this nuclear-armed world and building it on realistic terms is going to be difficult and a long task. Your generation, seniors, ~~will~~ will have to see it through. You will have to <sup>find the ways to</sup> work with your brothers and sisters throughout the world. Until you can solve the <sup>looming</sup> critical problems of too many people and not enough food, too many machines and not



enough energy, too many factories, and not enough raw materials, you cannot count on a peaceful world.

These are great tasks. And the problems they involve may seem insoluble at times.

But when I face such problems, I like to recall the words of one of the most famous world leaders in modern history---Winston Churchill.

Shortly after becoming Prime Minister, in the darkest days of World War II, Mr. Churchill agreed to speak to a graduating class. It was a terrible time for Britain. Many were saying Britain was finished, that her lone fight against Hitler was hopeless.

Mr. Churchill rose to speak---but stood silently at the podium for what seemed to be a long time. He looked directly at the graduating class, with a penetrating stare.

Then in a low voice, Mr. Churchill said: "NEVER GIVE IN."

He paused for thirty seconds--his eyes still riveted on the students. Not a sound could be heard.

Then--more Loudly--Mr. Churchill repeated: "NEVER GIVE IN."

And he continued: "NEVER, NEVER, NEVER, NEVER. In nothing great or small, large or petty. NEVER GIVE IN, except to convictions of honor, and good sense."

With that Mr. Churchill turned and left the podium.

Remember that three word phrase---"NEVER GIVE IN." It is the key to any problem I know you members of the Class of 1974. With your knowledge, ability and understanding, anything is possible---if you NEVER GIVE IN.

May you never give in, in your search for a life of peace.

THANK YOU.

###



ADDRESS  
DRAFT : ~~REMARKS~~ BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD  
AT T.C. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT  
~~THUR~~ 8 P. M. THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1974

~~to speak tonight~~ *on the speakers platform tonight*  
I am very honored to be ~~with you~~ *with you* here, instead of in the audience with  
the rest of the parents of the ~~graduating~~ senior class. ~~Thank you very~~

~~much for your invitation~~ ~~to speak~~  
I am very proud ~~that~~ *that* my son Steve ~~is~~ a member of the graduating class of 1974  
of T.C. Williams. ~~This is~~ ~~But I want to~~ ~~say a few words~~ ~~about~~ ~~the~~ ~~school~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~community~~ ~~around~~ ~~it~~  
This is a fine high school. ~~Each of our three sons---~~ *Each of our three sons---* first Mike, then

Jack, and now Steve has graduated from T. C. Williams. Betty and I ~~know~~  
~~how much T. C. Williams has contributed to their education and to~~  
their physical and mental development. *And we also know what T.C.*

*Williams has done to build a*  
~~high school~~ ~~community~~ ~~can do a great deal to build~~ ~~such~~ ~~a~~  
~~real~~ ~~sense~~ ~~of~~ ~~community~~ ~~in~~ ~~a~~ ~~sprawling~~ ~~metropolitan~~ ~~area~~, ~~like~~ ~~Washington~~.  
*This area where our family has lived for two*  
*decades.*  
~~T.C. Williams has done that.~~

Betty and I are proud to be a part of the T.C. Williams community, and  
happy that we have ~~so many wonderful friends~~ *found* ~~in~~ that ~~community~~  
association.

~~Even though, that is~~  
So it makes it somewhat easier for me to stand here this evening,  
despite Steve's misgivings. You know, Steve is kind of embarrassed by the fact  
that his Old Man is the Vice <sup>President</sup> resident.

~~When he learned that I was going to speak~~  
~~tonight, the first thing he asked me was, "How long is it going to be, Dad?"~~

I told him it would be one of my shorter speeches -- ~~15 minutes~~ *15 minutes* or so.

~~The subject hasn't come up again in our conversations.~~  
But I'm glad to see that Steve is ~~hanging~~ *hanging* down there with the ~~class~~ *class* Seniors.

I



~~The whole thing is a~~ Old man himself is embarassed by ~~the~~ silly ~~idea of~~ pomp and ~~circumstances~~ <sup>putter</sup> which some people think <sup>should go</sup> with the office. But I'm happy

that my friends still call me Jerry, and I hope they always will. And I thank those of you who are close neighbors for your patience in putting up with all the inconvenience that having a Vice President in the neighborhood causes. ~~Anyway, when Steve learned that I was to be his Commencement Speaker, the very first thing he said was---~~ <sup>I</sup> "How long are you going to talk, Dad?"

~~I~~ I promised him that it would be one of my shorter speeches---no more than 45 minutes. ~~From the look on his face you would have thought I had~~ <sup>From the look on his face you would have thought I had</sup> ~~suspended~~ <sup>suspended</sup> ~~his driving privileges.~~ <sup>his driving privileges.</sup>

~~And Steve never~~ did bring up the subject again. ~~So~~ <sup>reassuring</sup> ~~It was~~ <sup>to see him</sup> in the procession <sup>tonight.</sup> ~~That indicates he really didn't~~ <sup>he'd be there--</sup> ~~that he might have~~ <sup>my feeble joke</sup> ~~seriously.~~ <sup>Now that he is</sup> ~~present~~ <sup>I hope I don't put Steve on the spot with his friends</sup>

~~by what I say---or don't say here.~~ <sup>In the past</sup> ~~few~~ <sup>spring</sup> ~~weeks,~~ <sup>spoken to half a dozen</sup> ~~I have~~ <sup>classes of graduating seniors.</sup>

But this class of '74 is a special group for me. <sup>want</sup> ~~And I would like~~ <sup>to talk with you</sup> ~~as a friend and neighbor,~~ <sup>about your future and mine?</sup>

*I have taken part*

~~In the years since I~~ <sup>walked in the Senior class procession</sup> ~~in the costliest war ever fought.~~ <sup>And</sup> ~~in Congress~~ <sup>have taken</sup> ~~sometimes critically~~ <sup>part in</sup> ~~study of the~~ <sup>MONTHS</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>MONTHS</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~country,~~ <sup>which took us through two more wars---</sup> ~~one the longest ever~~ <sup>involving</sup> ~~our~~ <sup>our</sup> ~~nation.~~ <sup>nation.</sup>







When he rose to speak he walked ~~very~~ slowly---painfully ~~slowly~~ to the podium. Slowly, he hung his cane on the speaker's stand. Slowly, he removed his hat, placed it carefully beside him. <sup>Churchill</sup> ~~He~~ motioned for the people to be ~~to~~ seated. Then he motioned for the Senior class to ~~stand~~ <sup>stand</sup> ~~stand up~~.

Churchill looked at them with a penetrating glance for a few seconds, ~~then~~ ~~and~~ ~~then~~ ~~in~~ a harsh rumbling voice Churchill said: NEVER GIVE UP. (PAUSE) ~~He~~ ~~waited~~ thirty seconds, still directing those fierce old eyes at the seniors, <sup>then</sup> ~~he~~ said: NEVER GIVE UP. (PAUSE) ~~Now~~ <sup>Now</sup> Churchill gazed at them for almost a full minute ~~then~~ ~~said~~ <sup>for 3 minutes</sup> NEVER GIVE UP.

And he picked up his hat and cane and walked ~~very~~ slowly ~~to~~ his seat.

That three word phrase--- ~~NEVER GIVE UP~~ NEVER GIVE UP ~~is~~ no matter what the problem ~~is~~ is the key.

~~Mr. Churchill's contemporary, our own President Franklin Roosevelt said~~ ~~May you search for knowledge and wisdom~~ ~~But you must search for that path of peace for mankind~~ ~~And you have the chance to realize that promise~~

With it you can ~~in~~ the words of President Franklin Roosevelt, ~~know that~~ ~~the only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today!~~

~~The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today!~~

God Bless You as you begin your search for tomorrow!