

The original documents are located in Box 134, folder “June 14, 1974 - Chicago Area Boy Scout Council Lunch-O-Ree, Chicago, IL” of the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CHICAGO AREA BOY SCOUT COUNCIL LUNCH-O-REE
CONRAD HILTON HOTEL, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, JUNE 14, 1974

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH THE CHICAGO
AREA COUNCIL SCOUTERS AND SUPPORTERS OF SCOUTING. I SAY THIS
ALTHOUGH SOME WELL-MEANING FRIENDS WHO HAD HEARD THE REPORTS
FROM CHICAGO THIS PAST WEEK TOLD ME TO STAY AWAY. ^{after my previous} THEY TOLD ME
HOW EASY IT WOULD BE TO CANCEL MY APPEARANCE--AND SAVE MYSELF
POSSIBLE EMBARRASSMENT.



*Such counsel suggests
stay huddled
or barricaded on the
banks of the Potomac*
This advice
suggests that
I don't
have
problems +
stop listening
to people
around the
country.

I'M GETTING MORE ADVICE LIKE THAT THESE DAYS---AND

Obviously I don't abide by such advice

~~LIKING IT LESS.~~ I CERTAINLY DIDN'T LIKE THE IDEA OF CANCELING

Frankly

MY COMMITMENT TO SPEAK HERE. I DIDN'T EVEN GIVE IT CONSIDERATION.

IF ANYTHING, IT MADE ME MORE EAGER TO COME---BECAUSE THIS IS THE

TIME FOR THOSE OF US WHO BELIEVE IN SCOUTING AND THE VALUES IT

PROVIDES TO SPEAK UP FOR SCOUTING. WE SHOULD SPEAK OUT MORE STRONGLY

THAN EVER BEFORE BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT THE VALUES THAT SCOUTING

TEACHES PROVIDE THE FOUNDATION FOR A MEANINGFUL LIFE.



teaches

WE KNOW THAT THE VALUES THAT SCOUTING HELP AN INDIVIDUAL

1

BECOME A BETTER MEMBER OF HIS COMMUNITY.

WE KNOW THE VALUES OF SCOUTING HELP A PERSON BECOME A

BETTER CITIZEN AND A BETTER MEMBER OF THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE. AND

in turn

THAT HELPS EACH OF THE REST OF US.

1

BUT WE ALSO KNOW THAT THESE VALUES WHICH SCOUTING OFFERS

A PERSON ARE NOT DICTATED TO HIM.



THEY ARE NOT RIGID LAWS LAID DOWN WITH HARSH PENALTIES
FOR VIOLATIONS. THEY ARE GUIDELINES OFFERED TO EACH PERSON WHO
JOINS SCOUTING. THEY ARE THERE IF YOU WANT TO USE THEM.

YOU LEARN ABOUT IT WHEN YOU JOIN SCOUTING, AND TAKE THE
SCOUT OATH.



YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I THAT THE SCOUT OATH BEGINS WITH
8 WORDS--ON MY HONOR I WILL DO MY BEST.....

THOSE EIGHT WORDS ~~I THINK~~, TELL MORE ABOUT THE REAL DEPTH
OF VALUES IN THE SCOUTING MOVEMENT THAN ANY OTHERS. THEY PLACE
THE RESPONSIBILITY ON THE PERSON TAKING THE OATH FOR ALL THAT FOLLOWS.



ON MY HONOR I WILL DO MY BEST.

THOSE WORDS DON'T ASK ANYONE TO BE PERFECT. THEY SIMPLY
ASK HIM TO DO HIS BEST TO TRY TO ACHIEVE THE SCOUTING GOALS. AND
THEY ASK HIM TO DO IT----ON HIS HONOR.

THOSE WORDS LEAVE IT TO HIM TO DECIDE WHETHER HE IS OR
IS NOT DOING HIS BEST. NO ONE ELSE CAN JUDGE THAT.



I THINK THAT IS A PROFOUNDLY IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE. I
THINK IT IS A MAJOR REASON FOR THE GREAT SUCCESS OF SCOUTING.
THE MISTAKES OR ERRORS OF A FEW INDIVIDUALS AREN'T
GOING TO AFFECT THAT SUCCESS. THEY AREN'T GOING TO DESTROY THE
GREAT VALUES WHICH SCOUTING TEACHES. THEY MAY GIVE THE CYNICS A
CHANCE TO FASHION A FEW SCORNFUL COMMENTS.



BUT YOU AND I, AND THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, KNOW THAT THE SCOUTING MOVEMENT IS STRONG.

THE MISDEEDS OF A FEW CAN'T HURT SCOUTING. IF ANYTHING THIS UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT SHOULD STRENGTHEN SCOUTING BY MAKING EVERYONE MORE AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS FROM WHICH IT GREW.

SO I AM GLAD TO SPEAK HERE---AND TO PROFESS MY PROFOUND RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR THE SCOUTING MOVEMENT.

In my youth I was proudly an active scoutmaster years ago & a scout leader as a young adult. Those experiences ^{have} meant a great deal to me.



SOME OF MY HAPPIEST MEMORIES ARE OF THE DAYS WHEN I
WAS A SCOUT IN TROOP 15 OF THE TRINITY M.&E. CHURCH IN GRAND RAPIDS.

THOSE MEMORIES RECALL THE HIKES, THE SWIMMING, THE
the enduring friendships
CAMPING, THE OUTDOOR LIFE, ...AND HARD WORK ON THE MERIT BADGES.

ONE OF THE PROUDEST MOMENTS OF MY LIFE CAME IN THE COURT
OF HONOR WHEN I WAS AWARDED THE EAGLE SCOUT BADGE. I STILL HAVE
THAT BADGE. IT IS A TREASURED POSSESSION.



I HAVE FOUND THE SCOUT OATH AND THE SCOUT LAWS PROVIDE
GUIDELINES WHICH HAVE NEVER CEASED BEING OF VALUE TO ME, THOUGH
IT IS 26 YEARS SINCE I HAVE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN SCOUTING,

as a counselor

~~I THINK~~ THOSE GUIDELINES ARE OF REAL VALUE TO OUR
NATION RIGHT NOW.



WE HAVE PEOPLE WHO WAIL ABOUT THE COUNTRY FALLING
APART.

WE HAVE PEOPLE WHO SAY ALL THOSE IN GOVERNMENT ARE BAD,
CORRUPT, OR DISHONEST.

YOU AND I KNOW THAT IT IS RIDICULOUS TO TAR THE ENTIRE
GOVERNMENT AND EVERYONE IN IT BECAUSE OF THE MISTAKES OR MISDEEDS
OF A FEW INDIVIDUALS.



THE MORE PEOPLE WE HAVE WHO RESPECT OUR NATION, ITS LAWS
AND ITS FLAG, THE LESS WE WILL HEAR ABOUT OUR NATION FALLING APART.

IT'S PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE, IN THAT REGARD, THAT THE
LUNCH-O-REE TODAY IS HELD ON FLAG DAY.

IT WOULD BE AS DIFFICULT TO SEPARATE THE FLAG FROM THE
SCOUTING MOVEMENT AS IT WOULD BE TO SEPARATE THE FLAG FROM THE
HISTORY OF OUR NATION ITSELF.



IT WAS PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON WHO ON A FLAG DAY NEARLY
60 YEARS AGO POINTED OUT THAT OUR FLAG STANDS FOR THE THINGS THAT
HAVE BEEN CREATED BY THE EXPERIENCES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. SAID
WILSON: "EVERYTHING THE FLAG STANDS FOR WAS WRITTEN BY THEIR LIVES.
THE FLAG IS THE EMBODIMENT OF HISTORY".



WE ARE STILL BUILDING THAT HISTORY. AND, GOD WILLING,
WE SHALL CONTINUE TO BUILD IT FOR MANY DECADES AND CENTURIES TO COME.
GOD WILLING, WE SHALL CONTINUE TO BUILD IT WITH THE HELP OF THOSE
FINE AND BASIC VALUES WHICH SCOUTING GIVES US.

YOUR PRESENCE HERE SHOWS THAT YOU WANT TO CONTINUE TO
BUILD THOSE VALUES AND TO BUILD OUR HISTORY.

& thousands across the land, in our cities & elsewhere
I THANK YOU FOR THAT SUPPORT.
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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

June 14, 1974

ADVANCEMAN: Bob Cohen

MILITARY AIDE: Cmdr. Kerr

9:30 am WHEELS UP Dallas enroute Chicago O'Hare International Airport

[Flying time: 2 hours]
[No time change]

11:30 am ARRIVE Chicago O'Hare. Proceed to motorcade

11:35 am DEPART via motorcade enroute Conrad Hilton Hotel

[Driving time: 30 minutes]

12:05 pm ARRIVE Conrad Hilton

Proceed to (suite) holding room

12:08 pm ARRIVE (suite) holding room

PERSONAL TIME: 10 minutes

12:18 pm DEPART (suite) holding room enroute International Ballroom

EVENT NO, 1 BOY SCOUT LUNCH-O-REE ATTIRE: BUSINESS SUIT

12:20 pm ARRIVE International Ballroom

Announcement by Walter Phillips, M.C.

Proceed to head table. Be seated

Head table list attached

Attendance: 2,500

12:28 pm Invocation by Rev. Elmer C. Fowler

12:31 pm Luncheon is served

1:03 pm Program begins

1:05 pm Report Lunch-O-Ree by Robert Anderson,
Vice President, Chicago Area Boy Scouts of America

1:11 pm Chicago Area BSA report of Joseph Klein

1:15 pm Good Scout Award to Carle Wunderlich

1:20 pm Introduction of Vice President by Robert Anderson

1:24 pm Vice Presidential remarks begin

FULL PRESS COVERAGE

1:44 pm Vice Presidential remarks conclude

1:47 pm Rededication (Scout oath) led by local Scouts

1:48 pm George Gomez presents award to the Vice President

1:50 pm Vice President presents U.S. flag to Boy Scouts of Chicago

1:51 pm Presentation to Vice President by Robert Anderson

1:55 pm "God Bless America" - All sing

1:58 pm Adjourn

2:00 pm DEPART International Ballroom enroute motorcade

2:05 pm DEPART via motorcade enroute Chicago O'Hare Airport

2:35 pm ARRIVE Chicago O'Hare Airport. Board Air Force II

2:40 pm WHEELS UP enroute Andrews AFB

[Flying time: 1 hour, 35 minutes]
[Time change: -1 hour]

5:15 pm ARRIVE Andrews AFB. Proceed to motorcade



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

North Brunswick • New Jersey 08902 • USA • Telephone 201 249-6000 • Telex 13-8815 • Cable: BOYSCAMER

RECEIVED
Wm. S. WALTER

JUN 12 1974

June 11, 1974

VIC. WASHINGTON

TO: Members of the Executive Board
and Advisory Council
Area Presidents
Council Presidents

On June 9 and 10, the Chicago Tribune, after a 4-month investigation, carried front-page stories regarding alleged unethical membership practices on the part of professional Scouters in the Chicago Area Council with the implication that the practices are nationwide.

National BSA leadership became aware of potential membership problems in local councils last August. Since that time statements of policy and procedure have been issued and investigations were launched where appropriate. In three cases, investigation has resulted in disciplinary action; in several others, the investigative work is incomplete and is continuing in cooperation with local council officials.

These steps have been established and communicated to all councils:

- . All additional enrollment registration cards, when received in local councils from the national office, are to be mailed directly to the unit leader of record with a covering letter from the Scout executive. The unit leader is requested to inform the Scout executive immediately of any discrepancies or errors. No one but those involved in the transmission of the cards will have access to them.
- . Within 2 weeks after the arrival of the charter of a new unit, a key management staff member will make a personal telephone call to the new unit leader. This call will serve to welcome the new leader and verify the council's interest in the welfare of the new unit.
- . A systematic checking process has been established for identifying units which do not participate in district or council quality program activities over the periods of the first 6 to 18 months. The activity list includes summer camp, camporees, council shows, roundtables, district and council Good Turn projects, among others.
- . Units not involved in these activities should be assumed to be in poor condition. In each such case, a verifying check will be made by a professional or volunteer from inside or outside the district. Remedial action will be prescribed and taken.
- . A similar checking procedure has been established to reveal units which have recorded no advancements or additional enrollments for a period in excess of 6 months. This is to assure the health of each unit.

. A system has been established to notify the Scout executive immediately of any unusual change in unit membership. This would include losses of 25 percent or more of youth members and any abnormal influx of new members. Such charters will be screened to reveal any significant numbers of short-term registrations or no-fee transfers.

We believe sound practices are followed in most councils. But by establishing and following these procedures, we feel sure we can improve our membership management. We will work through regional volunteers and professionals to put these steps into action.

In addition, new procedures have been established for goal setting and goal accomplishment. The new plan is described in a booklet under the title: Leadership of Goal Attainment. It covers all facets of the accountability system including the role of volunteers in goal setting, the means of setting and monitoring quality program goals, and proper management styles and procedures. This booklet is now on the press and will be in your hands very soon.

We are conducting a meticulous investigation of the practices alleged in the Chicago Tribune story. For instance the Chicago Area Council's contract with the model cities program is federally audited annually and current investigation includes this area. When the investigation is completed, any needed action will be taken.

The integrity of the BSA is its greatest asset. We consider--and have always considered--ourselves accountable to the American people to safeguard it. We will not and have not recommended, condoned, or knowingly permitted any practice which would place our integrity in jeopardy. We believe, confidently, that careful study of membership practices throughout the movement will show that integrity prevails in an overwhelming majority of councils. Any exceptions will be dealt with immediately.

Though we are deeply concerned about the potentially damaging effect of these stories resulting from the actions of some misguided individuals, we will use the experience to strengthen our procedures to the end that every Scouter may continue to take pride in the total operation of the BSA. We will keep you informed as the situation develops.



Robert W. Reneker
President



Alden G. Barber
Chief Scout Executive

cc: Regional Directors
Area Directors
Scout Executives

REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
CHICAGO AREA BOY SCOUT COUNCIL LUNCH-O-REE
CONRAD HILTON HOTEL, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
JUNE 14, 1974

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

It is a great pleasure to be here with the Chicago Area Council Scouters and supporters of Scouting. I say this although some well-meaning friends who had heard the reports from Chicago this past week told me to stay away. They told me how easy it would be to cancel my appearance -- and save myself possible embarrassment.

I'm getting more advice like that these days -- and liking it less.

I certainly didn't like the idea of canceling my commitment to speak here. I didn't even give it consideration. If anything, it made me more eager to come -- because this is the time for those of us who believe in Scouting and the values it provides to speak up for Scouting. We should speak out more strongly than ever before because we know that the values that Scouting teaches provide the foundation for a meaningful life.

We know that the values that Scouting teaches help an individual become a better member of his community.

We know that the values of Scouting help a person become a better citizen and a better member of the whole human race.

But we also know that these values which Scouting offers a person are not dictated to him.

They are not rigid laws laid down with harsh penalties for violations. They are guidelines offered to each person who joins Scouting. They are there if you want to use them.

You learn about it when you join Scouting, and take the Scout Oath.

You know as well as I that the Scout Oath begins with 8 words -- On my honor I will do my best....

Those eight words I think, tell more about the real depth of values in the Scouting movement than any others. They place the responsibility on the person taking the oath for all that follows.

On my honor I will do my best.

Those words don't ask anyone to be perfect. They simply ask him to do his best to try to achieve the Scouting goals. And they ask him to do it -- ON HIS HONOR.

(more)

Those words leave it to him to decide whether he is or is not doing his best. No one else can judge that.

I think that is a profoundly important principle. I think it is a major reason for the great success of Scouting.

The mistakes or errors of a few individuals aren't going to affect that success. They aren't going to destroy the great values which Scouting teaches. They may give the cynics a chance to fashion a few scornful comments.

But you and I, and the great majority of the American people, know that the Scouting movement is strong.

The misdeeds of a few can't hurt Scouting. If anything this unfortunate incident should strengthen Scouting by making everyone more aware of the problems from which it grew.

So I am glad to speak here — and to profess my profound respect and admiration for the Scouting movement.

Some of my happiest memories are of the days when I was a Scout in Troop 15 of the Trinity M. & E. Church in Grand Rapids.

Those memories recall the hikes, the swimming, the camping, the outdoor life...and hard work on the merit badges.

One of the proudest mementos of my life came in the Court of Honor when I was awarded the Eagle Scout Badge. I still have that badge. It is a treasured possession.

I have found the Scout Oath and the Scout Laws provide guidelines which have never ceased being of value to me, though it is 25 years since I have actively participated in Scouting.

I think those guidelines are of real value to our nation right now.

We have people who wail about the country falling apart.

We have people who say all in government are bad, corrupt, or dishonest.

You and I know that it is ridiculous to tar the entire government and everyone in it because of the mistakes or misdeeds of a few individuals.

What the doom-sayers and woe-cryers need is more awareness of the values of Scouting.

The more people we have who do a good turn for another each day, the less suspicion and distrust we will see.

The more people we have who believe in and practice truth and honesty in their dealings with others, the fewer problems we will have in government.

The more people we have who respect our nation, its laws and its flag, the less we will hear about our nation falling apart.

(more)

It's particularly appropriate, in that regard, that the Lunch-O-Ree today is held on Flag Day.

It would be as difficult to separate the Flag from the Scouting movement as it would be to separate the Flag from the history of our nation itself.

It was President Woodrow Wilson who on a Flag Day nearly 60 years ago pointed out that our Flag stands for the things that have been created by the experiences of the American people. Said Wilson: "Everything the Flag stands for was written by their lives. The Flag is the embodiment of history."

We are still building that history. And, God willing, we shall continue to build it for many decades and centuries to come. God willing, we shall continue to build it with the help of those fine and basic values which Scouting gives us.

Your presence here shows that you want to continue to build those values and to build our history.

I thank you for that support.

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~~REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD~~
 CHICAGO AREA BOY SCOUT COUNCIL LUNCH-O-REE
 CONFRADE HILTON HOTEL, CHICAGO, ILL. JUNE 14, 1974

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~~who had heard the reports from Chicago this past week~~ told me to stay away. They told me how easy it would be to cancel my appearance--and save myself ~~some~~ possible embarrassment.

(I'm getting more ~~advice~~ ^{LIKE THAT} advice these days---and liking it less. ~~some~~

~~And I certainly didn't like the idea of canceling my commitment to speak here.~~

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TO SPEAK UP FOR SCOUTING. WE SHOULD SPEAK OUT MORE STRONGLY THAN EVER BEFORE. ~~Because we know that the values that Scouting teaches provide~~

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(We know that the values that Scouting teaches help ~~an~~ an individual

~~to become a better member of his community.~~ BECOME A BETTER MEMBER

(We know that the values of Scouting help a person become a better citizen ~~and a better member~~ and of the whole human race.

~~And this better citizen and that helps each of the rest of us.~~

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I think that is a profoundly important principle. I think it is a major reason for the great success of Scouting.

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They ~~may~~ may give the cynics a chance to ~~make~~ a few scornful comments.

But you and I, and ~~the~~ the great majority of the American people, know that ~~the~~ Scouting movement ~~is~~ is strong.

The misdeeds of a few can't hurt Scouting. ~~And it will~~ And it will ~~strengthen~~ strengthen Scouting if anything.

If anything this unfortunate incident should strengthen Scouting by



~~making everyone more aware of the problems~~ making everyone more aware of the problems ~~from which it grew.~~ from which it grew.

~~So I am glad to speak here.~~ So I am glad to ~~speak~~ speak here. ~~And to profess my profound respect~~ And to profess my profound respect and admiration for the Scouting movement.

Some of my happiest memories are of the days when I was a Scout in Troop 15 of the Trinity M. & E. Church in Grand Rapids.

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I think those guidelines ~~are~~ are of real value to ~~think~~ our nation right now.

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And, God willing, we shall continue to build it for many decades and centuries to come.)

~~God~~ God Willing, we shall continue to build it with the help of those fine and basic values which Scouting ~~continues~~ gives us.

~~My presence here shows that you want to~~

Your presence here shows that you want to ~~continue~~ ^{continue to} build those values and to build our history.

~~Thank you for your support and~~
~~continued support.~~

I thank you for ~~that~~ that support.

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