

The original documents are located in Box D32, folder “Cecf go le'Eqpxqecvkap, Dgm qpv'Cddg{ College, Belmont, NC, January 21, 1972” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ACADEMIC CONVOCATION OF BELMONT ABBEY
COLLEGE, BELMONT, NORTH CAROLINA,
10:30 A.M. FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1972.

*At Rev. Abbotts
Father Bradley.*

THANK YOU MOST DEEPLY FOR THE
GREAT HONOR YOU HAVE BESTOWED UPON ME.
IT WILL MAKE ME EVEN MORE THOROUGHLY AWARE
OF ALL THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT ARE MINE.
IT WILL REMIND ME CONSTANTLY OF THE
TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION THAT SMALL
COLLEGES THROUGHOUT AMERICA ARE MAKING TO
THE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE OF OUR COUNTRY.

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE IS A MOST
INSPIRING INSTITUTION. IT IS INSPIRING
BECAUSE IT REFLECTS THE BEST QUALITIES
OF AMERICA -- THE EAGERNESS OF YOUNG
ADULTS TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR
POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP IN COMMUNITIES
ACROSS THE LAND AND THE WILLINGNESS OF A
DEDICATED FACULTY TO HELP THEM ATTAIN
THAT GOAL.



COLLEGE STUDENTS TODAY HAVE REACHED THEIR PRESENT AGE AT A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TIME, BOTH FOR THEM AND FOR AMERICA. AS YOU KNOW, 18, 19 AND 20-YEAR-OLDS NOW HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

THIS CAUSES CONCERN AMONG SOME. BUT I DO NOT IN THE LEAST SHARE THIS CONCERN. I HAVE CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED THE ENFRANCHISEMENT OF 18-YEAR-OLDS. I BELIEVE IT IS A CHANGE WHICH WAS LONG OVERDUE. I HAVE LONG SUPPORTED IT BECAUSE I BELIEVE THE GREAT BULK OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE READY TO TAKE ON ADULT BURDENS AT 18.

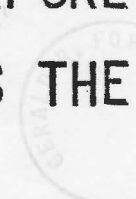
IT MAY SURPRISE YOU, BUT CONTRARY TO POPULAR OPINION THAT VIEW IS NOT AN INVENTION OF OUR TIMES. RATHER, IT IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN HISTORY.



WHY SHOULD 21 BE THE MAGIC AGE FOR A PERSON TO BECOME AN ADULT? WHY NOT 20 OR 19, OR INDEED 18.

I DID A LITTLE RESEARCH INTO THE MATTER AND DISCOVERED THAT THE IDEA OF 21 BEING THE AGE OF MAJORITY STARTED BACK IN THE MIDDLE AGES.

DURING MOST OF THE MIDDLE AGES, IN NORTHERN EUROPE, THE AGE OF MAJORITY GENERALLY WAS 15, NOT 21. ONLY THE SMALL KNIGHTLY CLASS HAD A HIGHER AGE, WHICH WAS EVENTUALLY FIXED AT 21. THE REASON FOR THIS WAS UNRELATED TO EXPERIENCE OR MATURITY. THE DETERMINING FACTOR WAS THE NEED TO BEAR HEAVY ARMS, TO LIFT A LANCE OR SWORD WHILE WEARING STEEL ARMOR. SINCE THE STRENGTH AND SKILL REQUIRED FOR KNIGHTLY PURSUITS WERE NOT ACQUIRED BEFORE THE AGE OF 21, THAT BECAME FOR KNIGHTS THE AGE OF MAJORITY.



THIS PRACTICE OF THE GENTRY
CAME GRADUALLY TO APPLY UNIVERSALLY. THE
AGE, THEN, THAT WAS FOR SO LONG REGARDED
AS A BOUNDARY BETWEEN MATURITY AND
IMMATUREITY DERIVED ITS ORIGIN FROM THE
PHYSICAL NEEDS OF MEDEIVAL KNIGHTS.

I NEED HARDLY NOTE THAT WE ARE
NO LONGER IN THE MIDDLE AGES -- AND THE
ACTION OF THE CONGRESS IN GIVING THE VOTE
TO 18, 19 AND 20-YEAR-OLDS IS TESTIMONY
TO THAT FACT.

YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY ARE BETTER
EDUCATED AND MATURE PHYSICALLY MUCH SOONER
THAN THEY DID EVEN 50 YEARS AGO. I MAKE
THAT OBSERVATION AS AN EXPERIENCED FATHER
OF TWO YOUNG MEN WHO ARE COLLEGE STUDENTS
AND A BOY AND A GIRL WHO ARE IN HIGH SCHOOL.

IN MY OPINION, YOUNG PEOPLE
ABOVE THE AGES OF 18 OR 20 ARE TOO OLD
TO BE CLASSIFIED AS YOUTH. THEY ARE



YOUNG ADULTS, AND THEY DESERVE TO BE TREATED AS SUCH.

IT HAS BEEN SO THROUGHOUT HISTORY. THERE ARE NUMEROUS EXAMPLES WHERE PUBLIC LEADERSHIP AT AN EARLY AGE WAS FULLY POSSIBLE FOR THOSE WHO WERE READY AND WILLING TO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITIES.

WHEN HE WAS ONLY 24, WILLIAM PITT WAS MADE PRIME MINISTER OF ENGLAND, AT THAT TIME THE MOST POWERFUL NATION ON EARTH. HE PROVED TO BE ONE OF THE MOST ABLE LEADERS IN MODERN HISTORY.

AT 19, CAESAR AUGUSTUS INHERITED THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND IMMEDIATELY DEMONSTRATED HIS ABILITY BY RAISING AN ARMY AND LEADING IT HIMSELF AGAINST RIVALS WHO WERE CHALLENGING HIS POSITION. HIS GREATNESS IS UNQUESTIONED.



AT 17, JOAN OF ARC WAS LEADING A VICTORIOUS ARMY.

AT 21, ALEXANDER HAMILTON WAS ALREADY AN IMPORTANT AND RECOGNIZED FIGURE IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

AT 23, ALEXANDER THE GREAT BECAME KING OF MACEDON, AND WITHIN SEVEN YEARS HE HAD CONQUERED A LARGE PORTION OF THE KNOWN WORLD.

SO WE CAN SEE THAT THROUGHOUT HISTORY YOUTHFUL YEARS HAVE SELDOM KEPT THE GIFTED FROM GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

THE DESIRE OF YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY FOR RECOGNITION BY SOCIETY AND FOR CONTROL OVER THEIR OWN LIVES IS NOT SOMETHING NEW BUT SOMETHING OLD. WHILE IT MAY APPEAR TO SOME THAT WE ARE IN THE VANGUARD OF A GREAT YOUTH REVOLT, THE TRUTH IS THAT WE ARE RETURNING TO



CULTURAL PATTERNS THAT HAVE BEEN FOUND
OVER THOUSANDS OF YEARS TO BE MOST
SUITED TO DEVELOPING THE NATURAL GIFTS
OF MEN.

YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY WANT TO BE
RELEASED FROM THE BONDAGE OF YOUTH, TO
BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY AS CITIZENS, TO
COMPETE AS FULL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.
AND I THINK THEY SHOULD.

IN FACT, I HOPE THAT OUR YOUNG
ADULTS ENTERING COMMUNITY LIFE -- WHETHER
IT BE AFTER COMPLETION OF HIGH SCHOOL OR
COLLEGE -- WILL TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND NOT BECOME SIMPLY
SLAVES TO THE BUSINESS OF MAKING A LIVING.
OLDER PERSONS WOULD WELCOME THEIR
PARTICIPATION AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS OF
TIME AND ENERGY.



TO YOU YOUNG ADULTS IN PARTICULAR I WOULD SAY: YOU ARE LEADERS, BY VIRTUE OF YOUR BACKGROUND AND SCHOOLING. THINK OF YOURSELVES AS LEADERS -- AND NOT JUST LEADERS OF YOUTH BUT LEADERS OF PEOPLE. YOU WILL SHORTLY BE IN A POSITION TO SERVE A MUCH LARGER COMMUNITY, A COMMUNITY WHERE YOUR CONSTITUENCY WILL INCLUDE MANY PEOPLE OLDER THAN YOURSELVES. IT WILL BE ON THE BASIS OF YOUR ABILITY TO APPRECIATE MORE THAN THE NEEDS OF YOUR OWN AGE GROUP THAT YOU WILL BE RECOGNIZED AS LEADERS.

AS YOUNG ADULTS, AS LEADERS, YOU WILL BE CONFRONTED DIRECTLY WITH A NUMBER OF COMMUNITY PROBLEMS NO MATTER IN WHAT AREA YOU LIVE.

YOU WILL BECOME EVEN MORE AWARE THAN YOU ARE NOW OF OUR MANY URBAN ILLS --

CRIME, POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT, INADEQUATE HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION.

THESE PROBLEMS MUST BE ATTACKED ON A REGIONAL BASIS, RATHER THAN IN PIECEMEAL FRAGMENTED FASHION.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS CAN WORK TOGETHER AS ONE IN ATTACKING CRIME, IMPROVING TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING, FINDING JOBS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED THROUGH METROPOLITAN AREA JOB CENTERS.

AT THE SAME TIME NEW ATTITUDES ARE NECESSARY AT OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS MUST COME TO REALIZE THAT THE PROBLEMS OF THE CITY GO FAR BEYOND SPECIFIC SLUM AREAS AND SOCIAL ILLS. CITY METROPOLITAN AREA GOVERNMENTS MUST BE GIVEN THE RESOURCES -- MONEY AND AUTHORITY -- TO SOLVE THE LARGER

PROBLEMS OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

THE KEY TO SUCH LOCAL
PROBLEM-SOLVING LIES IN A PROPOSAL WHICH
PRESIDENT NIXON LAID BEFORE THE CONGRESS
MORE THAN A YEAR AGO. IT IS CALLED
FEDERAL REVENUE SHARING -- THE ALLOCATING
OF A PERCENTAGE SLICE OF INCOME TAX
REVENUE TO STATES AND LOCAL UNITS OF
GOVERNMENT WITH ALMOST NO STRINGS
ATTACHED.

I HOPE YOU AGREE THERE MUST BE
A CUTTING OF CONTROLS FROM WASHINGTON AND
STATE CAPITOLS IF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE
TO HAVE THE FLEXIBILITY TO SOLVE URBAN
PROBLEMS.

I MENTIONED EARLIER THE BUSINESS
OF MAKING A LIVING. IT IS ALL VERY WELL
TO TALK ABOUT COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND A
ROLE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS BUT ALL OF US



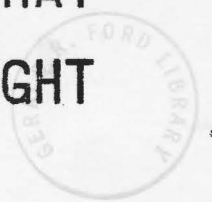
MUST, AFTER ALL, MAKE A LIVING.

THE GREATEST CHALLENGE FACING
US AS AMERICANS TODAY IS TO ACHIEVE
PROSPERITY IN PEACETIME.

SELDOM IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES HAVE WE HAD PEACE AND PROSPERITY AT THE SAME TIME. PROSPERITY USUALLY HAS COME WITH A WARTIME ECONOMY, A BOOMING DEFENSE INDUSTRY.

WE ARE NOW TRYING TO ACHIEVE PROSPERITY AT THE SAME TIME THAT WE END OUR INVOLVEMENT IN A COSTLY AND TRAGIC WAR.

WHAT ARE WE DEALING WITH? WE ARE SEEKING TO BRING UNDER CONTROL AN INFLATION THAT ROARED AHEAD ALMOST UNCHECKED BETWEEN 1965 AND 1969. WE ARE ALSO SEEKING TO STIMULATE AN ECONOMY THAT HAS BEEN THROTTLED BACK AS WE HAVE FOUGHT



INFLATION, HAVE PARTIALLY SHUT DOWN OUR
DEFENSE INDUSTRIES AND HAVE CUT OUR FIGHTING
FORCES BY A MILLION MEN.

THE CHALLENGE THAT FACES US IS
WHETHER WE CAN MAKE INFLATION-FIGHTING
WORK WHILE AT THE SAME TIME STIMULATING
THE ECONOMY TO BRING ABOUT PEACETIME
PROSPERITY.

WE ARE FIGHTING INFLATION WITH
LIMITED PRICE AND WAGE CONTROLS. THE
EFFORT KNOWN AS PHASE II IS WORKING. IT
HAS A LOT GOING FOR IT.

SIMULTANEOUSLY, WE NOW HAVE THE
STIMULUS OF TAX CUTS VOTED LATE LAST YEAR
BY THE CONGRESS. THIS SHOULD ULTIMATELY
MEAN THE CREATION OF THOUSANDS OF NEW
JOBS.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE OTHER
CHALLENGES THAT FACE YOUNG ADULTS TODAY?

CERTAINLY ONE OF THE KEY
PROBLEMS IS THE RESTORATION OF THE
ENVIRONMENT.

WE HAVE ALREADY TAKEN GIANT
STEPS TOWARD CLEANER AIR THROUGH PASSAGE
OF THE CLEAN AIR ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1970.
NOW WE MUST FOCUS ON THE NEED TO CLEAN UP
THE NATION'S WATERWAYS. WE MUST TAKE
EVERY FEASIBLE ACTION TO MAKE OUR LAKES
AND STREAMS CLEAN AGAIN.

ONE OF OUR GREATEST CHALLENGES
IS TO BUILD A FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE PEACE.
WE CAN DO THIS ONLY BY REPELLING EFFORTS
BOTH ON THE RIGHT AND ON THE LEFT TO SHUNT
AMERICA OFF INTO A NEW POSTURE OF
ISOLATIONISM. WE MUST MAINTAIN OUR
POSITION OF LEADERSHIP IN THE WORLD IF
THE WORLD IS TO HAVE ANY CHANCE TO LIVE
IN PEACE.



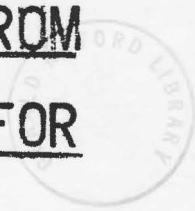
WE ARE TURNING FROM AN ERA OF CONFRONTATION TO AN ERA OF NEGOTIATION. BUT THERE IS NO QUESTION IN MY MIND THAT NEGOTIATION WILL PROVE FRUITFUL ONLY IF WE NEGOTIATE FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH.

WE ARE ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS BECAUSE WE ARE CONTINUING TO SHOW THE WORLD THAT WE ARE DETERMINED TO DISCHARGE AMERICA'S RESPONSIBILITIES.

THE PRESIDENT IS PREPARING FOR SUMMIT MEETINGS IN PEKING AND MOSCOW IN AN EFFORT TO EASE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THOSE NATIONS.

WE HAVE ENGAGED IN LONG TALKS WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON CURBING THE DEPLOYMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND WE ARE ON THE BRINK OF AN AGREEMENT.

WE DID NOT WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM EUROPE IN THE ABSENCE OF AN AGREEMENT FOR MUTUAL TROOP WITHDRAWAL.




WE STOOD UP TO RUSSIA IN THE
SYRIA-JORDAN CRISIS IN OCTOBER OF 1970.

DURING 18 MONTHS OF A CEASE-FIRE,
WE HAVE MAINTAINED THE BALANCE OF POWER IN
THE MIDEAST. THROUGH SECRETARY ROGERS'
LEADERSHIP WE ARE INCHING SLOWLY TOWARD A
NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN THIS TROUBLED
AREA.

WE ARE NOT GOING TO LET RUSSIAN
EXPANSIONISM IN THE INDIAN OCEAN GO
UNANSWERED.

WHAT WE ARE TELLING THE SOVIET
UNION AND THE WORLD IS THAT WE WILL NOT
ALLOW THE OTHER SUPER-POWER TO GAIN ANY
ADVANTAGES AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO LEAD
THE WORLD TOWARD PEACE.

I THEREFORE THINK YOUNG ADULTS
IN AMERICA TODAY CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A
GENERATION OF PEACE.



~~THEREFORE THINGS BEING DONE TO
IN AMERICA TODAY CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A
GENERATION OF PEACE.~~

PEACE WILL COME BECAUSE WE ARE
BUILDING IT -- SLOWLY, CAREFULLY, WISELY.
WE ARE NOT JUST WISHING FOR PEACE.
WE ARE WORKING FOR PEACE.

WE ARE PUTTING AMERICA ON A NEW
COURSE. WE ARE TAKING HER IN NEW
DIRECTIONS THAT POINT TOWARD A NEW AGE
OF GREATNESS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

WE ARE LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR
PROSPERITY WITHOUT WAR AND WE ARE BUILDING
A NEW STRATEGY FOR PEACE.

OUR GOALS ARE CLEAR. OUR PURPOSE
IS STRONG. WITH THE HELP OF THE YOUNG
ADULTS OF AMERICA, WE CANNOT FAIL.

-- END --



Distribution: 20 copies w/ Mr. Ford only

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REMARKS BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.
REPUBLICAN LEADER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AT AN ACADEMIC CONVOCATION OF
BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

BELMONT, NORTH CAROLINA
JANUARY 21, 1972

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY EXPECTED AT 10:30 A.M. JAN. 21, 1972

Thank you most deeply for the great honor you have bestowed upon me. It will make me even more thoroughly aware of all the responsibilities that are mine. It will remind me constantly of the tremendous contribution that small colleges throughout America are making to the academic excellence of our country.

Belmont Abbey College is a most inspiring institution. It is inspiring because it reflects the best qualities of America--the eagerness of young adults to prepare themselves for positions of leadership in communities across the land and the willingness of a dedicated faculty to help them attain that goal.

College students today have reached their present age at a particularly important time, both for them and for America. As you know, 18, 19 and 20-year-olds now have the right to vote in local, state and national elections.

This causes concern among some. But I do not in the least share this concern. I have consistently supported the enfranchisement of 18-year-olds. I believe it is a change which was long overdue. I have long supported it because I believe the great bulk of our young people are ready to take on adult burdens at 18.

It may surprise you, but contrary to popular opinion that view is not an invention of our times. Rather, it is deeply rooted in history.

Why should 21 be the magic age for a person to become an adult? Why not 20 or 19, or indeed 18?

I did a little research into the matter and discovered that the idea of 21 being the age of majority started back in the Middle Ages.

During most of the Middle Ages, in Northern Europe, the age of majority generally was 15, not 21. Only the small knightly class had a higher age, which was eventually fixed at 21. The reason for this was unrelated to experience or maturity. The determining factor was the need to bear heavy arms, to lift a lance or sword while wearing steel armor. Since the strength and skill required for knightly pursuits were not acquired before the age of 21, that became for knights the age of majority.

(more)

This practice of the gentry came gradually to apply universally. The age, then, that was for so long regarded as a boundary between maturity and immaturity derived its origin from the physical needs of medieval knights.

I need hardly note that we are no longer in the Middle Ages--and the action of the Congress in giving the vote to 18, 19 and 20-year-olds is testimony to that fact.

Young people today are better educated and mature physically much sooner than they did even 50 years ago. I make that observation as an experienced father of two young men who are college students and a boy and a girl who are in high school.

In my opinion, young people above the ages of 18 or 20 are too old to be classified as youth. They are young adults, and they deserve to be treated as such.

It has been so throughout history. There are numerous examples where public leadership at an early age was fully possible for those who were ready and willing to assume the responsibilities.

When he was only 24, William Pitt was made prime minister of England, at that time the most powerful nation on earth. He proved to be one of the most able leaders in modern history.

At 19, Caesar Augustus inherited the Roman Empire and immediately demonstrated his ability by raising an army and leading it himself against rivals who were challenging his position. His greatness is unquestioned.

At 17, Joan of Arc was leading a victorious army.

At 21, Alexander Hamilton was already an important and recognized figure in the American Revolution.

At 23, Alexander the Great became King of Macedon, and within seven years he had conquered a large portion of the known world.

So we can see that throughout history youthful years have seldom kept the gifted from great accomplishments.

The desire of young people today for recognition by society and for control over their own lives is not something new but something old. While it may appear to some that we are in the vanguard of a great youth revolt, the truth is that we are returning to cultural patterns that have been found over thousands of years to be most suited to developing the natural gifts of men.

(more)

Young people today want to be released from the bondage of youth, to be taken seriously as citizens, to compete as full members of the community. And I think they should.

In fact, I hope that our young adults entering community life--whether it be after completion of high school or college--will take an active part in community affairs and not become simply slaves to the business of making a living. Older persons would welcome their participation and their contributions of time and energy.

To you young adults in particular I would say: You are leaders, by virtue of your background and schooling. Think of yourselves as leaders--and not just leaders of youth but leaders of people. You will shortly be in a position to serve a much larger community, a community where your constituency will include many people older than yourselves. It will be on the basis of your ability to appreciate more than the needs of your own age group that you will be recognized as leaders.

As young adults, as leaders, you will be confronted directly with a number of community problems no matter in what area you live.

You will become even more aware than you are now of our many urban ills--crime, poverty, unemployment, inadequate housing and transportation.

These problems must be attacked on a regional basis, rather than in piecemeal fragmented fashion.

Local governments can work together as one in attacking crime, improving transportation and housing, finding jobs for the unemployed through metropolitan area job centers.

At the same time new attitudes are necessary at other levels of government.

State and federal officials must come to realize that the problems of the city go far beyond specific slum areas and social ills. City metropolitan area governments must be given the resources--money and authority--to solve the larger problems of the whole community.

The key to such local problem-solving lies in a proposal which President Nixon laid before the Congress more than a year ago. It is called Federal revenue sharing--the allocating of a percentage slice of income tax revenue to states and local units of government with almost no strings attached.

I hope you agree there must be a cutting of controls from Washington and State capitols if local governments are to have the flexibility to solve urban problems.

(more)

I mentioned earlier the business of making a living. It is all very well to talk about community leadership and a role in community affairs but all of us must, after all, make a living.

The greatest challenge facing us as Americans today is to achieve prosperity in peacetime.

Seldom in the history of the United States have we had peace and prosperity at the same time. Prosperity usually has come with a wartime economy, a booming defense industry.

We are now trying to achieve prosperity at the same time that we end our involvement in a costly and tragic war.

What are we dealing with? We are seeking to bring under control an inflation that roared ahead almost unchecked between 1965 and 1969. We are also seeking to stimulate an economy that has been throttled back as we have fought inflation, have partially shut down our defense industries and have cut our fighting forces by a million men.

The challenge that faces us is whether we can make inflation-fighting work while at the same time stimulating the economy to bring about peacetime prosperity.

We are fighting inflation with limited price and wage controls. The effort known as Phase II is working. It has a lot going for it.

Simultaneously, we now have the stimulus of tax cuts voted late last year by the Congress. This should ultimately mean the creation of thousands of new jobs.

What are some of the other challenges that face young adults today?

Certainly one of the key problems is the restoration of the environment.

We have already taken giant steps toward cleaner air through passage of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1970. Now we must focus on the need to clean up the nation's waterways. We must take every feasible action to make our lakes and streams clean again.

One of our greatest challenges is to build a foundation for future peace. We can do this only by repelling efforts both on the Right and on the Left to shunt America off into a new posture of isolationism. We must maintain our position of leadership in the world if the world is to have any chance to live in peace.

We are turning from an era of confrontation to an era of negotiation. But there is no question in my mind that negotiation will prove fruitful only if we negotiate from a position of strength.

(more)

We are achieving success in foreign affairs because we are continuing to show the world that we are determined to discharge America's responsibilities.

The President is preparing for summit meetings in Peking and Moscow in an effort to ease tensions between the United States and those nations.

We have engaged in long talks with the Soviet Union on curbing the deployment of nuclear weapons, and we are on the brink of an agreement.

We did not withdraw troops from Europe in the absence of an agreement for mutual troop withdrawal.

We stood up to Russia in the Syria-Jordan crisis in October of 1970.

During 18 months of a cease-fire, we have maintained the balance of power in the Mideast. Through Secretary Rogers' leadership we are inching slowly toward a negotiated settlement in this troubled area.

We are not going to let Russian expansionism in the Indian Ocean go unanswered.

What we are telling the Soviet Union and the world is that we will not allow the other super-power to gain any advantages and we will continue to lead the world toward peace.

I therefore think young adults in America today can look forward to a generation of peace.

Peace will come because we are building it--slowly, carefully, wisely.

We are not just wishing for peace. We are working for peace.

We are putting America on a new course. We are taking her in new directions that point toward a new age of greatness for the American people.

We are laying the foundation for prosperity without war and we are building a new strategy for peace.

Our goals are clear. Our purpose is strong. With the help of the young adults of America, we cannot fail.

#

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At the same time new attitudes are necessary at other levels of government.

State and federal officials must come to realize that the problems of the city go far beyond specific slum areas and social ills. City metropolitan area governments must be given the resources--money and authority--to solve the larger problems of the whole community.

The key to such local problem-solving lies in a proposal which President Nixon laid before the Congress more than a year ago. It is called Federal revenue sharing--the allocating of a percentage slice of income tax revenue to states and local units of government with almost no strings attached.

I hope you agree there must be a cutting of controls from Washington and State capitols if local governments are to have the flexibility to solve urban problems.

(more)

I mentioned earlier the business of making a living. It is all very well to talk about community leadership and a role in community affairs but all of us must, after all, make a living.

The greatest challenge facing us as Americans today is to achieve prosperity in peacetime.

Seldom in the history of the United States have we had peace and prosperity at the same time. Prosperity usually has come with a wartime economy, a booming defense industry.

We are now trying to achieve prosperity at the same time that we end our involvement in a costly and tragic war.

What are we dealing with? We are seeking to bring under control an inflation that roared ahead almost unchecked between 1965 and 1969. We are also seeking to stimulate an economy that has been throttled back as we have fought inflation, have partially shut down our defense industries and have cut our fighting forces by a million men.

The challenge that faces us is whether we can make inflation-fighting work while at the same time stimulating the economy to bring about peacetime prosperity.

We are fighting inflation with limited price and wage controls. The effort known as Phase II is working. It has a lot going for it.

Simultaneously, we now have the stimulus of tax cuts voted late last year by the Congress. This should ultimately mean the creation of thousands of new jobs.

What are some of the other challenges that face young adults today?

Certainly one of the key problems is the restoration of the environment.

We have already taken giant steps toward cleaner air through passage of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1970. Now we must focus on the need to clean up the nation's waterways. We must take every feasible action to make our lakes and streams clean again.

One of our greatest challenges is to build a foundation for future peace. We can do this only by repelling efforts both on the Right and on the Left to shunt America off into a new posture of isolationism. We must maintain our position of leadership in the world if the world is to have any chance to live in peace.

We are turning from an era of confrontation to an era of negotiation. But there is no question in my mind that negotiation will prove fruitful only if we negotiate from a position of strength.

(more)

We are achieving success in foreign affairs because we are continuing to show the world that we are determined to discharge America's responsibilities.

The President is preparing for summit meetings in Peking and Moscow in an effort to ease tensions between the United States and those nations.

We have engaged in long talks with the Soviet Union on curbing the deployment of nuclear weapons, and we are on the brink of an agreement.

We did not withdraw troops from Europe in the absence of an agreement for mutual troop withdrawal.

We stood up to Russia in the Syria-Jordan crisis in October of 1970.

During 18 months of a cease-fire, we have maintained the balance of power in the Mideast. Through Secretary Rogers' leadership we are inching slowly toward a negotiated settlement in this troubled area.

We are not going to let Russian expansionism in the Indian Ocean go unanswered.

What we are telling the Soviet Union and the world is that we will not allow the other super-power to gain any advantages and we will continue to lead the world toward peace.

I therefore think young adults in America today can look forward to a generation of peace.

Peace will come because we are building it--slowly, carefully, wisely.

We are not just wishing for peace. We are working for peace.

We are putting America on a new course. We are taking her in new directions that point toward a new age of greatness for the American people.

We are laying the foundation for prosperity without war and we are building a new strategy for peace.

Our goals are clear. Our purpose is strong. With the help of the young adults of America, we cannot fail.

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