The original documents are located in Box 3, folder "11/1/74 - Shriners Convention Drop-By, Wichita, Kansas" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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## SHRINERS CONVENTION DROP-BY WICHITA, KANSAS, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER I, 1974

I JUST HAPPENED TO BE PASSING THROUGH WICHITA

WITH MY GOOD FRIEND, SENATOR BOB DOLE, WHEN HE TOLD ME THAT THERE
WAS A SHRINER'S CONVENTION IN TOWN.

NATURALLY, I IMMEDIATELY DROPPED EVERYTHING TO

COME TO WHERE THE ACTION IS. IN 26 YEARS OF PUBLIC LIFE

I HAVE ALWAYS FOUND THAT SHRINERS CONVENTIONS ARE MUCH MORE

FUN THAN POLITICAL CONVENTIONS AND FUNDRAISERS.

GOOD SHRINERS ARE GOOD CITIZENS, AND THE VOLUNTEER

AND CHARITY WORK OF YOUR GROUP IS WELL-KNOWN. IT IS IN THE

FINEST AMERICAN TRADITION AND I WISH IT, AND YOU, ALL THE BEST.

ONES. BUT AS LONG AS WE AS A PEOPLE, KEEP OUR ABILITY TO
LAUGH, AND OUR ABILITY TO GET TOGETHER TO LEND A HAND, WE ARE
GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT. AND BECAUSE SHRINERS STAND FOR BOTH
THE LAUGHTER AND THE HELPING HAND, I AM GLAD I HAD THIS CHANCE
TO STOP BY AND PAY MY RESPECTS TO YOU.

HAVE A GOOD TIME, AND A GREAT CONVENTION.

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