The original documents are located in Box 6, folder "2/12/75 - Abraham Lincoln Wreath Laying Remarks" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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MR. AMBASSADOR

MAYOR WASHINGTON SENATOR BEALL

MR. HUNT

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Digitized from Box 6 of President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library



LINCOLN WREATH LAYING REMARKS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1975

WHEN ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS PRESIDENT, THE HALF-

FINISHED WASHINGTON MONUMENT DOWN THE MALL STOOD AS

SILENT TESTIMONY THAT THE NATION ITSELF WAS STILL

UNFINISHED -- THAT IT WAS YOUNG AND STRUGGLING.

TODAY, I FIND NEW INSPIRATION IN LAYING THIS 165 WREATH TO THE MEMORY OF LINCOLN ON THE ONE HUNDRED AND

SIXTY - FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN ENVISIONED A PROGRAM TO ACHIEVE --

IN HIS WORDS -- "A JUST AND LASTING PEACE, AMONG OURSELVES,

AND WITH ALL NATIONS." HE SAW THE NEED FOR ACTION TO

FACE AN UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGE. ADDRESSING HIMSELF

TO A NATION THEN DIVIDED, HE PROCLAIMED THAT 'THE DOGMAS

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NONE OF OUR PROBLEMS TODAY ARE AS SEVERE AS

THOSE FACING LINCOLN -- HUMAN SLAVERY AND CIVIL WAR

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HE HAD THE COURAGE TO OPENLY ASSERT THAT HE WOULD

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AS HE PUT IT -- "IF AT THE END, WHEN I COME TO LAY

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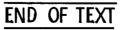
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END OF TEXT