The original documents are located in Box 7, folder "4/9/75 - Talking Points, Greetings to National Explorer President's Congress" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN IX.

TALKING POINTS

GREETINGS TO

NATIONAL EXPLORER PRESIDENT'S CONGRESS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

APRIL 9, 1975

Mr. Reneker
Members of the National Executive Board
President Wright
Explorers

I. WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE. IT IS GOOD

TO HAVE THE EXPLORERS HERE -- BECAUSE THE COUNTRY NEEDS

YOUR YOUTHFUL VISION, YOUR ENTHUSIASM, AND YOUR

IDEALISM.

AMERICA HAS ALWAYS BEEN A NATION WITH THE

PROMISE OF A BETTER TOMORROW. AND YOU REPRESENT

THE HOPE OF THAT TOMORROW.

A FEW YEARS AGO. WHEN I WAS THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, I HAD THE HONOR OF SERVING AS CHAIRMAN OF YOUR ANNUAL CONGRESS HERE IN WASHINGTON -- WHICH HAD MUCH OF THE SAME FLAVOR AS A NATIONAL POLITICAL CONVENTION. AS I RECALL.

3. I UNDERSTAND THAT, BY THE TIME YOU COMPLETE

THIS CONGRESS, YOU WILL HAVE HEARD FROM PEOPLE REPRESENTING
ALL SECTORS OF LIFE -- BUSINESSMEN, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS,

JOURNALISTS, ATHLETES, EDUCATORS, LAWYERS, LABOR

REPRESENTATIVES AND MANY OTHERS.

I CANNOT THINK OF A BETTER CROSS-SECTION OF EXPERIENCE FOR YOU

TO BE EXPOSED TO IN PREPARATION FOR YOUR OWN FUTURE CAREERS.

4. AS YOU MOVE INTO THAT CAREER -- ONE THAT NOT

ONLY MAKES SENSE TO YOU BUT MONEY FOR YOU -- YOU WILL

FIND NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND NEW CHALLENGES CONFRONTING YOU.

WITH THE WAR OVER AND THE DRAFT ENDED, YOUR DUTY NOW IS TO ENLIST IN THE CAMPAIGNS CURRENTLY BEING WAGED AGAINST OUR

DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS.

5. ONE THING WE NEED IN GOVERNMENT IS NEW IDEAS,

NEW CONCEPTS, NEW APPROACHES. YOU HAVE IDEAS OF YOUR

OWN. THAT IS WHY YOU ARE HERE. IDEAS ARE THE ENGINES

OF THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. LET US HEAR THESE IDEAS.

a got big wought to gove you wonthing you want. Is a not big wought to take from you everything you have.

6. AS EXPLORERS, YOU ARE ALSO LEADERS.

YOU ARE THE GREATEST RESOURCE THAT THE NATION HAS.

YOU REPRESENT THE SPIRIT AND THE WILL OF THE AMERICAN

FUTURE.

ALTHOUGH I AM SURE YOU HAVE HEARD IT SAID BEFORE,

I REPEAT IT NOW: YOU CAN MAKE THIS COUNTRY

INTO WHATEVER YOU WANT IT TO BE.

7. AT THIS TIME, I WANT TO PERSONALLY WELCOME

TO THE WHITE HOUSE TWO OTHER PRESIDENTS -- MARY WRIGHT --

WHO HAS DONE A MAGNIFICENT JOB AS EXPLORER PRESIDENT

FOR THE PAST YEAR, AND YOUR NEW PRESIDENT FOR THE COMING

YEAR -- LARRY CARPENTER

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING.