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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN



TALKING POINTS: CAPITOL PAGE SCHOOL GRADUATES

MONDAY, JUNE 9, 1975

-1-

1. FIRST, LET ME APOLOGIZE FOR OUR HAVING TO SCHEDULE THIS GET-TOGETHER FOR TWELVE-THIRTY TODAY. I WAS RELIABLY INFORMED THAT THROUGH THE YEARS, EACH OF YOU HAS SO LOOKED FORWARD TO YOUR FIRST CLASS EACH DAY, THAT FOR OLD-TIMES SAKE, YOU **WANTED** THIS CEREMONY TO BEGIN AT SIX-TEN IN THE MORNING . . .

2. LET ME CONGRATULATE YOU -- PERHAPS EVEN ENVY YOU --

ON YOUR GOOD FORTUNE IN ATTENDING AND GRADUATING FROM THE CAPITOL

PAGE SCHOOL -- ONE OF THE MOST EXCLUSIVE, UNUSUAL AND HIGHLY-

REGARDED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE WORLD. EVEN IF YOU

DON'T HAVE A FOOTBALL TEAM.

3. WHILE I WAS IN THE HOUSE AS MINORITY LEADER AND

IN THE SENATE AS VICE PRESIDENT, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING

PERSONALLY WITH MANY OF YOU IN THIS CLASS. SO I FEEL A

SPECIAL SENSE OF PERSONAL PRIDE IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS CEREMONY

TODAY.

4. THE TRADITION OF THE CAPITOL HILL PAGE SERVICE GOES BACK TO THE NINETEENTH CONGRESS IN 1827. FOR ALMOST ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS, OUTSTANDING YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE FIRST-HAND THE WORKINGS OF THE HOUSE, THE SENATE AND THE SUPREME COURT -- AND TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK OF THIS GOVERNMENT.

5. DURING YOUR TENURE ON THE HILL, YOU HAVE PUT IN LONG HOURS AND RUN MANY MILES. BUT I'M SURE YOU FOUND THE WORK REWARDING. YOU WORKED WITH MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS AND THE SUPREME COURT. YOU WITNESSED MANY HISTORIC MOMENTS. YOU HAVE GAINED A SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE AND, I HOPE, AN APPRECIATION OF OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.

6. AS YOU CONTINUE YOUR ACADEMIC CAREERS, I URGE YOU TO SHARE THESE EXPERIENCES WITH OTHERS. AND I HOPE YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE TO YOUR COUNTRY WILL INSPIRE YOU TO STAY INVOLVED IN SOME FORM OR ANOTHER OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS.

EVEN IF YOU ONLY RETURN TO WASHINGTON TO SHOW YOUR FAMILIES WHERE YOU ONCE WORKED, ALWAYS STAY AT LEAST INTERESTED AND HOPEFULLY ACTIVE IN THE AFFAIRS OF GOVERNMENT.

7. AS PRESIDENT, AND AS A FORMER MEMBER OF THE
CONGRESS, I WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THIS VERY SPECIAL
DAY WITH YOU. IT IS THE CULMINATION OF WHAT HAS TO BE A
UNIQUE AND MEMORABLE CHAPTER IN YOUR LIVES. FOR THE LAST FOUR
YEARS, BOTH LITERALLY AND FIGURATIVELY, YOU HAVE BEEN PAGES IN THE
HISTORY OF OUR TIMES.

END OF TEXT