The original documents are located in Box 13, "8/8/75 - Talking Points: White House Interns" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

TALKING POINTS

WHITE HOUSE INTERNS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 1975

- 1 -

I. IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH

YOU TODAY. I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO SEE SO MANY

FAMILIAR FACES. I HAVE LOOKED FORWARD TO THIS MEETING FOR

SOME TIME AND HOPE WE MAY BOTH BENEFIT FROM AN EXCHANGE OF

IDEAS.

IN THE PAST YEAR, I HAVE SPOKEN TO MORE YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUR

AGE BRACKET THAN ANY OTHER AGE CATEGORY -- AND HAVE

ENJOYED IT THOROUGHLY AND LEARNED FROM IT.

- 3 -

2. SOMETIMES AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGMENT, I OFFER ADVICE TO YOUR GENERATION. BUT I'VE FOUND THAT WITH MY OWN CHILDREN, IT ISN'T ALWAYS HEEDED. TAKE MY SON, JACK, WHO I UNDERSTAND HAS PLAYED SOFTBALL WITH SOME OF YOU AND ATTENDED SOME OF YOUR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SUMMER, I MENTIONED THAT IF I WERE IN HIS SHOES, I CERTAINLY WOULD TAKE OUT SOME OF THE PRETTY INTERNS I HAD SEEN AROUND THE WHITE HOUSE. GIRLS, I'M SORRY, BUT I UNDERSTAND HE DIDN'T DO IT. THAT'S <u>ONE</u> TRAIT JACK DIDN'T GET FROM HIS FATHER!

- 5 -

3. YOU HAVE THE GOOD FORTUNE TO BE MEMBERS OF A

UNIQUE GROUP. PERHAPS MORE THAN ANY OTHER INTERNSHIP

PROGRAM, YOU HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE ACTIVE

PARTICIPANTS IN A VITAL BRANCH OF OUR GOVERNMENT.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE QUALITIES OF LEADERSHIP AND INTELLECT WHICH GOT YOU HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE HAVE BEEN PUT TO GOOD USE IN YOUR WORK THIS SUMMER. WE HERE AT THE WHITE HOUSE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS AND WILL MISS YOU WHEN YOU RETURN TO SCHOOL THIS FALL.

- 7 -

4. IT'S QUITE A COINCIDENCE THAT WE ARE MEETING

ON AUGUST EIGHTH. ONE YEAR AGO TODAY, I MET AS VICE PRESIDENT WITH THE WHITE HOUSE INTERNS. IT WAS ONE OF MY LAST OFFICIAL ACTS BEFORE BECOMING PRESIDENT. I VIVIDLY RECALL WHAT I SAID THAT DAY -- THAT WE WERE IN A CRUCIAL PERIOD IN AMERICAN HISTORY AND THAT WE MUST BE STRONG IN THE DAYS AHEAD. MUCH HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST YEAR. WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO RESTORE A FALTERING ECONOMY, AND WE HAVE SEEN INDICATIONS OF STRONG IMPROVEMENT IN OUR OVERALL ECONOMIC SITUATION.

- 9 -

5. IN ADDITION, FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY IS BEING

REVIVED IN AN EFFORT TO CONTROL EXCESSIVE FEDERAL SPENDING; A

PROGRAM HAS BEEN INITIATED TO MEET OUR ENERGY NEEDS BY REDUCING

DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL; INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ARE SEEING

CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT.

6. THERE IS STILL MUCH MORE TO DO. BUT WE WILL MEET THE CHALLENGES AHEAD AND SOLVE THE PROBLEMS WHICH FACE US AS WE ALWAYS HAVE. NOW, LET'S GET TO SOME OF THOSE TOUGH QUESTIONS WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN SAVING UP FOR THIS OCCASION.

- 11 -7. (AFTER QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS) THANK YOU. IN CLOSING, I WANT TO REMIND YOU TO KEEP UP YOUR INTEREST IN YOUR GOVERNMENT AND YOUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION WHERE POSSIBLE. SOMETIMES IT'S HARD WORK -- AS YOU'VE DISCOVERED THIS SUMMER -- BUT IT'S ALWAYS WORTHWHILE.

YOU WILL BE AMERICA'S LEADERS IN THE FUTURE. I AM CONFIDENT

THAT UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP AMERICA WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AND

PROSPER AS IT HAS FOR NEARLY 200 YEARS.

END OF TEXT