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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

TALKING POINTS:

MEETING WITH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

SEPTEMBER 26, 1975

- 1 -

I WANT TO EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO EACH OF YOU.
YOU ARE VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF EDUCATION IN THIS COUNTRY --
AND I COMMEND YOUR LEADERSHIP AND YOUR EXAMPLE.

THE KIND OF LEADERSHIP YOU PROVIDE IN YOUR SCHOOLS HAS A VERY
SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION CHILDREN RECEIVE.

YOU ESTABLISH THE FEELING OF THE SCHOOL, THE CLIMATE OF LEARNING --
THAT IMPORTANT BUT ELUSIVE THING CALLED SCHOOL SPIRIT.

THROUGH YOUR EXAMPLE AND ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP, YOU CAN
RAISE THE MORALE AND DEDICATION OF YOUR TEACHERS. AND

YOU CAN IMPROVE THE ATTITUDE OF YOUR STUDENTS TOWARD THEIR
TEACHERS, TOWARD THEIR STUDIES AND TOWARD THEMSELVES.

WHEN SIMILAR STUDENTS ATTENDING SCHOOLS WITH THE SAME
KIND OF RESOURCES DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY IN ACHIEVEMENT, THE REASON
IS CLEAR, IN LARGE PART, THE DIFFERENCE IN LEADERSHIP PROVIDED BY
THE PRINCIPAL. A MOST IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTIC OF
SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS IS HIGH TEACHER MORALE BASED ON STRONG SUPPORT
OF THE PRINCIPALS.

OUR NATIONAL GOAL IN EDUCATION MUST BE TO PROVIDE
THE BEST EDUCATION POSSIBLE WITHIN OUR RESOURCES FOR EVERY
CHILD IN AMERICA -- AND I MEAN EVERY CHILD.

IN OUR NATION, THERE ARE MANY WHO DIFFER ON HOW WE SHOULD GO ABOUT ACHIEVING THAT GOAL -- BUT I HAVE YET TO MEET A SINGLE AMERICAN WHO DIFFERS ON THE GOAL ITSELF AND THE PRIORITY IT DESERVES.

THAT IS MANIFESTLY EVIDENT IN THE RESOURCES OUR NATION HAS DEVOTED TO EDUCATION -- WHICH NOW ACCOUNTS FOR NEARLY EIGHT PERCENT OF OUR GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT. THAT INVESTMENT HAS PAID HANDSOME DIVIDENDS. IT HAS INCREASED THE EARNING POWER OF INDIVIDUALS. IT HAS HELPED THE DISABLED AND DISADVANTAGED TO REALIZE THE AMERICAN DREAM.

AND IT HAS GIVEN THE NATION A POWERFUL OUTPOURING OF BLESSINGS THROUGH ADVANCES IN SCIENCE, THE ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY.

AS PRINCIPALS OF YOUR SCHOOLS AND LEADERS IN YOUR COMMUNITIES, YOU BEAR AN AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY.

THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN IS IN YOUR HANDS -- AND OUR CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE. SOMEONE ONCE WROTE: "IN EVERY CHILD WHO IS BORN. . . THE POTENTIALITY OF THE HUMAN RACE IS BORN AGAIN." TOGETHER WITH PARENTS, CHURCH AND COMMUNITY, YOU -- EACH OF YOU -- ARE CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SEEING THAT EACH CHILD ACHIEVES THAT POTENTIAL.

FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS IN ASSUMING A ROLE OF LEADERSHIP,
FOR YOUR DEDICATION IN FOLLOWING THROUGH ON THIS HIGH
CHALLENGE, YOU HAVE MY PERSONAL APPRECIATION AND
GRATITUDE -- AND THAT OF MILLIONS OF AMERICANS AS WELL.

TO EACH OF YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES, THANK YOU. I WISH
YOU EVERY SUCCESS IN THE IMPORTANT WORK OF YOUR NATIONAL
CONVENTION.

END OF TEXT