

The original documents are located in Box 18, “10/16/75 - Talking Points: Seventh World Conference on Law” 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 Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

- MR. RHYNE
- OUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

TALKING POINTS:

SEVENTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON LAW

OCTOBER 16, 1975

1. IT IS A PLEASURE AND HONOR TO ADDRESS THIS
DISTINGUISHED GATHERING OF WORLD JURISTS. NEVER BEFORE
IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND HAS THE IMPORTANCE OF LAW IN OUR
SOCIETY RECEIVED SUCH OVERWHELMING SUPPORT.

I COMMEND YOUR DEDICATION. YOUR PRESENCE IN WASHINGTON
FOR THE SEVENTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON LAW NOT ONLY REPRESENTS
THE LARGEST MEETING EVER OF THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL PROFESSION
-- BUT DEMONSTRATES A SIGNIFICANT COOPERATION SO NECESSARY
TO WORLD SURVIVAL.

2. WHILE THE LANGUAGES WE SPEAK AND THE POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHIES WE HOLD MAY DIFFER, I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE SHARE A COMMON CONVICTION THAT ADHERENCE TO LAW IS FUNDAMENTAL TO A STABLE WORLD SOCIETY AND TO WORLD PEACE. THE WORLD CANNOT AFFORD TO BE WITHOUT JUST LAWS, NOR CAN NATIONS EXIST WITHOUT ADEQUATE ENFORCEMENT OF THEM.

3. I AM ENCOURAGED BY YOUR PRESENCE IN
WASHINGTON FOR THE WORLD LAW CONFERENCE. LAWS DO NOT
EXIST IN A VACUUM. THEY MUST BE PART OF THE DAILY
EXISTENCE OF COMMUNITIES. YOUR EFFORTS AS JUDGES,
SCHOLARS, AND LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ARE VITAL.

4. LAWS ARE PROPOSED, DISCUSSED, LEGISLATED
AND ADJUDICATED BY MEN AND WOMEN. . HUMANITY IS NOT
PERFECT. BUT OUR POTENTIAL FOR ACHIEVING A VIABLE AND
JUST SYSTEM OF LAWS DETERMINES THE QUALITY OF HUMAN LIFE.

5. THIS WORLD LAW CONFERENCE RECOGNIZES THE NEED
TO ELIMINATE THE DISCRIMINATORY LEGAL BARRIERS CONFRONTING
WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

YOUR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HUMAN EQUALITY UNDER LAW -- AND
OTHER ISSUES, RANGING FROM THE ROLE OF MULTINATIONAL
COMPANIES TO THE LAW OF THE SEA -- DEMONSTRATE THAT YOU
ARE ADDRESSING MAJOR ISSUES OF TODAY'S WORLD.

6. I COMMEND YOUR SERIOUS WORK. I HOPE

THAT YOUR ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL

LAWMAKING PROCESS WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY ADVANCED BY YOUR

ENDEAVORS IN WASHINGTON.

I CONGRATULATE THIS INTERNATIONAL BODY WHOSE VISION AND
IMAGINATION HAS NOT ONLY MADE THIS CONFERENCE POSSIBLE BUT
HAS DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY OF PEOPLES OF ALL NATIONS TO
WORK TOGETHER HARMONIOUSLY FOR THE COMMON GOOD. I WISH
YOU SUCCESS IN ACHIEVING WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW.

END OF TEXT