

The original documents are located in Box 18, “10/23/75 - Taped Message, Gator Growl, University of Florida” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

TAPE MESSAGE, GATOR GROWL,

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

OCTOBER 23, 1975

I'M SORRY I COULDN'T COME PERSONALLY TO ENJOY

YOUR 50TH GATOR GROWL. MY DOCTOR SAID FLYING WOULD

BE BAD FOR MY SINUS COLD. IT MAY BE THE FIRST TIME IN

MEDICAL HISTORY A PATIENT WITH A COLD WAS TOLD NOT TO GO

TO FLORIDA.

I'VE HEARD A LOT OF WONDERFUL THINGS ABOUT
THE GATOR GROWL. I WISH I COULD BE THERE AND I ALSO WISH
THE FIGHTING GATORS WELL IN YOUR BIG GAME TOMORROW.

AS SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW, I PLAYED CENTER IN COLLEGE
AND CENTER IS KIND OF AN INTERESTING POSITION. YOU GET
TO START THE ACTION, AND WHEN YOU DO, YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'VE
TRIGGERED A HURRICANE. ACTUALLY, IT WAS PRETTY GOOD
TRAINING FOR WHAT I'M DOING NOW.

BUT RALLIES LIKE THIS ARE GREAT. THEY SHOW

YOU'RE BEHIND YOUR TEAM. THEY CHARGE UP YOUR SPIRIT.

And

AS WE START TO CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 200TH YEAR AS
A FREE AND INDEPENDENT NATION, WE MUST CHARGE UP OUR
SPIRIT AND DESIRE TO PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN THE FIRM
FOUNDATIONS ON WHICH THIS COUNTRY WAS BUILT.

THE GAME PLAN OUR FOUNDING FATHERS DESIGNED IS
STILL WORKING -- LIBERTY, JUSTICE, OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL.
NO ONE HAS EVER BEATEN THOSE FUNDAMENTALS THAT MADE THIS
NATION GREAT. IF WE RETAIN THE SPIRIT YOU ARE DEMONSTRATING
TONIGHT, NO ONE EVER WILL.

BEST WISHES FOR A GREAT GAME TOMORROW.

END OF TEXT