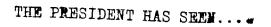
The original documents are located in Box 19, "11/3/75 - Presidential Greeting, Presidential Classroom for Young Americans" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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#5

(VIDEO TAPE TO BE MADE ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3)

PRESIDENTIAL GREETING

PRESIDENTIAL CLASSROOM FOR YOUNG AMERICANS

IT IS A PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO WASHINGTON

FOR WHAT I KNOW WILL BE A VERY INTERESTING AND REWARDING

EXPERIENCE FOR ALL OF YOU.

AS PARTICIPANTS IN THE PRESIDENTIAL CLASSROOM FOR YOUNG AMERICANS, YOU WILL SEE AT FIRST HAND THE WORK OF

YOUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

YOU WILL SEE AT CLOSE RANGE ITS STRENGTH, ITS WEAKNESSES, ITS INSTITUTIONS. MOST IMPORTANT, YOU WILL SEE AND HEAR THE PEOPLE OF GOVERNMENT -- PEOPLE FROM EVERY PART OF AMERICA, PEOPLE WHO MAKE POLICY OR CARRY IT OUT, PEOPLE DEVOTED TO PUBLIC SERVICE AND TO THE PROGRESS OF AMERICA.

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YOU WILL LEARN THAT THESE PEOPLE, WORKING WITHIN THE STRONG FRAMEWORK OF OUR CONSTITUTION AND THE FEDERAL INSTITUTIONS THAT GREW FROM IT, HAVE A PROFOUND EFFECT ON ALL OF YOUR DAILY LIVES. I KNOW YOU MAY NOT AGREE WITH EVERYTHING YOU SEE AND HEAR DURING THIS WEEK. THIS IS GOOD. IT DEMONSTRATES THAT WE ARE A GOVERNMENT OF ALL THE <u>PEOPLE</u> --PEOPLE WHOSE DREAMS, INTERESTS AND GOALS ARE THE VERY REASON AMERICA CAN BE PROUD AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 200TH BIRTHDAY. IT IS MY HOPE, AND THAT OF THE SPONSORS OF THIS PROGRAM, THAT IN A FEW YEARS SOME OF YOU MAY WISH TO JOIN THOSE SERVING OUR FELLOW AMERICANS. FOR ALL ITS FRUSTRATIONS AND HARD WORK, GOVERNMENT SERVICE CAN BE A MOST SATISFYING CAREER. TO DEVOTE YOUR LIFE TO PUBLIC SERVICE, AS MOST OF THE PEOPLE YOU WILL MEET ARE DOING -- TO DO YOUR BEST TO IMPROVE OUR WAY OF LIFE IN AMERICA -- TO MAKE OUR NATION MORE SECURE, MORE PROSPEROUS, MORE JUST, MORE NOBLE -- IS A TREMENDOUS CHALLENGE FOR ANY MAN OR WOMAN. DURING MORE THAN 26 YEARS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE, I HAVE STRONGLY URGED YOUNG CITIZENS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THEIR GOVERNMENT. I DO NOT AGREE WITH THOSE WHO WOULD ADVISE YOU TO "STAY AWAY." I AM CONVINCED THAT THROUGH YOUR CREATIVITY, IMAGINATION AND DEDICATION AMERICA WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AND PROSPER AS IT HAS FOR TWO CENTURIES. I AM CONFIDENT YOU WILL ENJOY THIS INTIMATE GLIMPSE OF OFFICIAL WASHINGTON. IT IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO BROADEN YOUR EDUCATION. I CONGRATULATE YOU ALL FOR WINNING THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PRESIDENTIAL CLASSROOM PROGRAM. I WISH YOU SUCCESS IN ALL YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

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