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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

TOAST TO THE JUDICIAL DINNER

NOVEMBER 24, 1975

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT LAW IS THE ONLY PROFESSION IN WHICH THE PRACTITIONER CAN PRODUCE SOMETHING THAT IS 200 PAGES IN LENGTH -- AND STILL HAVE IT CALLED A BRIEF. WELL, TONIGHT, LET ME ASSURE YOU, THAT THE BRIEF I AM ABOUT TO PRESENT -- WILL BE VERY.

THIS DINNER REVIVES AN ANNUAL WHITE HOUSE CUSTOM
OF PAST YEARS TO RECOGNIZE THE VITAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE
FEDERAL JUDICIARY TO THE MAINTENANCE OF A FREE REPUBLIC.
MRS. FORD AND I ARE DELIGHTED AND HONORED BY THE PRESENCE OF
SO MANY DISTINGUISHED JURISTS AND THEIR SPOUSES.

IT IS APPROPRIATE TO RESTORE THIS CUSTOM AS WE
APPROACH OUR BICENTENNIAL. LET US RENEW OUR GRATITUDE TO
THE GREAT AMERICANS WHO CONCEIVED THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF
GOVERNMENT. THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT GOVERNMENT UNDER LAW,
WITH ITS PROVEN CHECKS AND BALANCES, IS THE FIRMEST PILLAR
OF THIS NATION'S FREEDOM.

WITH A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF HISTORY, THE
FRAMERS KNEW THAT AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY -- THE GUARDIAN
OF A WRITTEN CONSTITUTION -- IS ESSENTIAL TO THE PRESERVATION
OF INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES UNDER A GOVERNMENT OF LIMITED POWERS.

OUR STRONG JUDICIAL SYSTEM OFFERS THE WORLD AN
EXAMPLE OF HOW AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY CAN RESTRAIN THE
OTHER BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT WHEN THEY OVERREACH, AND,
ON OCCASION, FORCE THEM TO MEET THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES
UNDER THE CONSTITUTION.

THE AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM HAS PRODUCED MANY GIANTS
OF LAW: BOTH OF THE BAR AND THE BENCH. THEY SYMBOLIZE
THE GENIUS AND WISDOM THAT TWO CENTURIES OF JURISPRUDENCE
HAVE PRODUCED FROM MEN AND WOMEN OF WIDELY DIFFERING
POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES.

BUT OUR GREAT PRIDE IS NOT ONLY IN A FEW OUTSTANDING
INDIVIDUALS, IT IS IN THE MANY ABLE AND HONEST JURISTS
WHOSE DAILY PERFORMANCE GIVES OUR ENTIRE JUDICIARY A
WELL DESERVED REPUTATION FOR COMPETENCE AND INTEGRITY.

THE JUDICIARY TRULY DESERVES THE RESPECT OF THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE. AS ONE OF THE THREE SEPARATE BRANCHES
OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THE JUDICIARY ALSO DESERVES THE
HIGHEST RESPECT OF THE CONGRESS AND OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

IN THIS SPIRIT, I PROPOSE A TOAST TO YOU FOR YOUR
DEDICATED WORK AND, ON BEHALF OF ALL AMERICANS, I THANK YOU
AND YOUR COLLEAGUES NOT WITH US TONIGHT. YOU HAVE KEPT
THE CONSTITUTION ALIVE AND VIGOROUS FOR 186 YEARS AND IT
REMAINS OUR STRONGEST GUARANTEE OF FREEDOM IN THE FUTURE.

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