## The original documents are located in Box 23, "2/12/76 - Address Commemorating Lincoln's Birthday" 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 Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SHEN ......

LINCOLN DAY ADDRESS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1976

Hunt / Kleppe Mr. and Smaler / May Wash

MAY I EXPRESS MY THANKS TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE

PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED HERE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY

TO JOIN YOU IN THIS BICENTENNIAL TRIBUTE TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN

ON THE 167TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH.

IN TIME, LINCOLN WAS CLOSER TO THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION THAN WE ARE TO THE CIVIL WAR. HIS GRANDFATHER IN VIRGINIA HEARD THE GREAT NEWS FROM PHILADELPHIA IN 1776; ONLY FOUR SCORE AND SEVEN YEARS HAD PASSED WHEN PRESIDENT LINCOLN STOOD AMONG THE NEW GRAVES AT GETTYS BURG.

TO THE YOUNG LINCOLN GROWING TO MANHOOD IN KENTUCKY,

-3-

THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL --

THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS -- LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

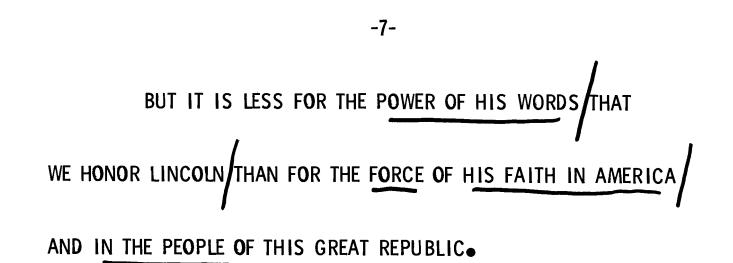
-5-

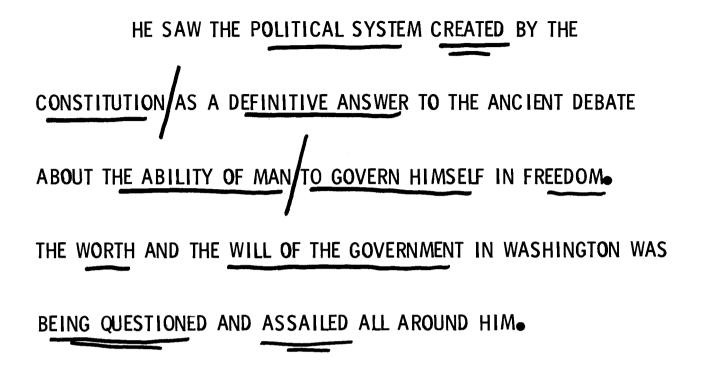
AMONG HIS MANY GIFTS OF GREATNESS

ABRAHAM LINCOLN HAD AN ALMOST MYSTIC ABILITY TO FIND DEEP

MEANING IN THE TUMULTOUS EVENTS THAT SWIRLED ABOUT HIM.

HIS EXPRESSION OF THESE INSIGHTS, IN WORDS THAT SOME CALLED DULL AND DISHWATERY WHEN THEY WERE SPOKEN, ARE INSCRIBED ON THESE WALLS AND IN THE HEARTS OF HIS COUNTRYMEN.

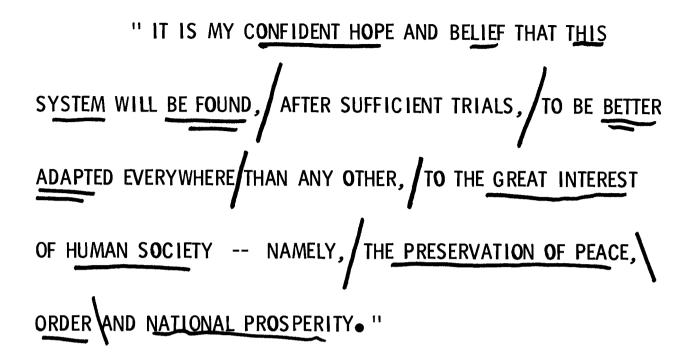


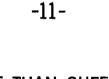


-9-

BUT EVEN AS AMERICANS STRUGGLED IN BLOODY BATTLE WITH OTHER AMERICANS OVER ISSUES THE FOUNDING FATHERS HAD FAILED TO RESOLVE, PRESIDENT LINCOLN WAS ABLE TO

DECLARE:

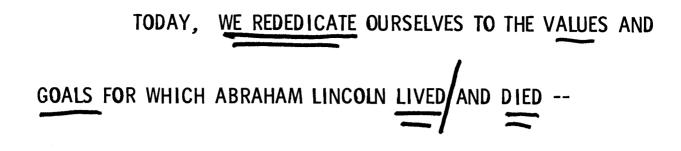




AND, AFTER MORE THAN <u>SUFFICIENT TRIAL</u>, THE UNION WAS SAVED AND THE <u>REPUBLIC ENDURES</u>. IT IS TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN THAT WE OWE THE OPPORTUNITY TO

OBSERVE OUR NATIONAL BICENTENNIAL IN PEACE AMONG OURSELVES

AND WITH ALL NATIONS.



-13-

"THAT THIS NATION, UNDER GOD, SHALL HAVE A NEW BIRTH

OF FREEDOM -- AND THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE, SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE EARTH. "

## END OF TEXT