

The original documents are located in Box 26, “3/20/76 - Remarks Addressed to the Future Homemakers of America, North Carolina Chapter” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FUTURE HOMEMAKERS OF
AMERICA

THANK YOU, GOVERNOR JIM HOLSHOUSER.

CONGRESSMAN MARTIN

DR. TRIPP (State FHA Advisor)

ANN COOPER (President-elect, FHA - N. C. Chapter)

FUTURE HOMEMAKERS OF AMERICA

I AM PLEASED TO ADDRESS THIS GREAT CONVENTION
OF THE NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE HOMEMAKERS
OF AMERICA.

I THANK YOU FOR THE BEAUTIFUL RED ROSE

YOU HAVE JUST GIVEN ME AS YOUR SYMBOL.

THE ROSE REPRESENTS THE SEARCH OF FUTURE HOMEMAKERS

FOR BEAUTY IN EVERYDAY LIVING - AND YOU HAVE CERTAINLY

MADE MY DAY MORE BEAUTIFUL.

I INTEND TO TAKE THIS ROSE, WITH ALL THAT IT

REPRESENTS, BACK TO THE WHITE HOUSE. BUT I AM A LITTLE

CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN I GET THERE.

I AM AFRAID THAT ^{my daughter} SUSAN WILL WANT TO TAKE A PICTURE OF THE

ROSE ^{my sons} WHILE JACK AND STEVE ARE TRYING TO GIVE IT TO ONE OF

THEIR GIRL FRIENDS.

without any difficulties

TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM, I WILL GIVE IT

TO THE MOST APPROPRIATE PERSON, THE FINEST HOMEMAKER

I KNOW, MY WIFE, BETTY.

BETTY MAKES THE WHITE HOUSE INTO A REAL

HOME. HER HOMEMAKING FOR 27 AND A HALF YEARS

IS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH YOUR IDEAS OF PRESERVING THE

GREAT TRADITION OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY.

BETTY STARTED HER CAREER AS A PROFESSIONAL DANCER.

WHEN WE WERE MARRIED SHE ADDED ANOTHER DIMENSION TO

HER CAREER -- THAT OF HOMEMAKER.

BETTY HAS SINCE TOLD ME THAT SHE FOUND

THE HOMEMAKING CAREER EQUALLY AS REWARDING AS

APPEARING ON THE STAGE. SHE MADE HOMEMAKING FOR

THE FORD FAMILY INTO A PROFESSION. SHE SERVED

SIMULTANEOUSLY AS A MOTHER, COOK, INTERIOR DECORATOR,

CHAUFFEUR, TELEPHONE OPERATOR, NURSE, PSYCHOLOGIST,

POLITICAL ADVISER -- AND ALWAYS A HELPFUL CRITIC.

*with always some ideas of
her own.*

NOW THAT OUR CHILDREN ARE GROWN,

BETTY HAS EXPANDED HER HORIZONS AS FIRST LADY.●

THIS MORNING I HAPPENED TO SEE SOME OF
YOUR CONFERENCE MATERIAL. I NOTICED THAT YOU ARE
BEING ENCOURAGED TO DISCUSS SUCH TOPICS AS
"GETTING ALONG WITH SISTERS AND BROTHERS" AND
"GETTING ALONG WITH PARENTS."

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU STAND WITH YOUR SISTERS,

BROTHERS, AND PARENTS. BUT THERE IS ONE THING

I HAVE LEARNED THIS MORNING: YOU SURE KNOW HOW

TO GET ALONG WITH PRESIDENTS.

I COMMEND THE WORK YOU AND YOUR

TEACHERS ARE DOING TO STRENGTHEN OUR HOMES AND

OUR FAMILIES• THEY ARE ESSENTIAL TO A STRONG AND

HEALTHY AMERICA•

YOU, AS FUTURE HOMEMAKERS, ARE JUST

AS IMPORTANT TO OUR NATION AS THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO

WILL SERVE IN OUR MILITARY FORCES. TO MAKE AMERICA

A LAND OF HAPPY HOMES AND HAPPY FAMILIES IS PATRIOTIC

IN THE BEST SENSE OF THE WORD.

THIS NATION COULD NOT THRIVE AND

SURVIVE WITHOUT YOU. I REGRET THAT SOME PEOPLE

HAVE DISPARAGED AND DEMEANED THE ROLE OF THE

HOMEMAKER. THEY SAY THAT HOMEMAKING IS OUT

OF DATE. I REJECT SUCH ACCUSATIONS.

EVERY AMERICAN WHO CHOOSES TO BE A

HOMEMAKER CAN TAKE PRIDE IN A FINE VOCATION.

YOU SHOULD NEVER BE EMBARRASSED TO SAY, ANYWHERE

ON THE FACE OF THIS EARTH: "I AM AN AMERICAN

HOMEMAKER / AND I AM PROUD OF IT."

AND, IF YOU ADD THAT YOU ARE A

TAR HEEL HOMEMAKER, YOU CAN BE DOUBLY PROUD•

WHEN WE THINK OF THE BICENTENNIAL AND THE HEROES

OF 200 YEARS AGO, WE THINK OF THE MINUTEMEN AND

AND GEORGE WASHINGTON, AND OTHER MEN WHO STRUGGLED

TO WIN LIBERTY FOR AMERICA.

BUT WE SELDOM HEAR OF "MINUTEWOMEN" AND

MARTHA WASHINGTON AND OTHER WOMEN WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS

TO THE CAUSE OF INDEPENDENCE WERE JUST AS ESSENTIAL•

THESE WERE THE WOMEN WHO MAINTAINED THE HOME,
WHO NURSED THE SICK, TILLED THE FIELDS, FOUGHT THE FIRES,
PREPARED THE FOOD, REPAIRED THE CLOTHES,
AND EVEN DEFENDED THE HOME ITSELF.

MODERN HOMEMAKING GREW FROM A MODEL

THAT MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR.

I LOOK TO THE FUTURE AND SEE A VERY

FAMILY-ORIENTED SOCIETY IN AMERICA. I SEE PEOPLE

BECOMING MORE MATURE -- ESPECIALLY IN HOW MEN

AND WOMEN UNDERSTAND THEMSELVES AND ACHIEVE THEIR

FULLEST HUMAN POTENTIAL.

I SEE FREEDOM WITHOUT ANARCHY AND WITH NO EXPLOITATION

OF ONE PERSON BY ANOTHER•

I SEE LOVE AND RESPECT

NURTURED BY THE FAMILY AND GENERATED BY INDIVIDUAL

SELF-CONFIDENCE•

THERE WILL BE DIFFERENT STYLES OF LIVING

IN THE NEW AGE. BUT THE MAINSTREAM WILL BE

EXEMPLIFIED BY THE KIND OF HOMES YOU WILL MAKE

AND FAMILIES YOU WILL RAISE. BY BUILDING THE

AMERICAN HOME, YOU ARE BUILDING AMERICA.

ALL THE POWER OF OUR ARMY, AIR FORCE,
NAVY AND MARINES WILL NOT DETER OUR ENEMIES IF THEY
SUSPECT THAT THE AMERICAN HOME AND THE AMERICAN
FAMILY HAVE DISINTEGRATED, THAT OUR COMMUNITIES
NO LONGER FUNCTION, AND THAT EVERY INDIVIDUAL CARES
ONLY ABOUT HIMSELF OR HERSELF.

BY JOINING IN SUCH GROUPS AS

F.H.A. - HERO, YOU SERVE AMERICA.

YOU BUILD TODAY FOR TOMORROW'S

DREAM.

THERE ARE NEW PERCEPTIONS OF LIFE AND

NEW DISCOVERIES THAT HAVE TRANSFORMED HOMEMAKING.

BUT ONE THING HAS NOT CHANGED. IT STILL TAKES A

LOT OF LIVING TO MAKE A HOME. THE OLD VALUES OF

CARING AND SHARING HAVE NOT GONE OUT OF DATE.

I SHARE YOUR BELIEF THAT EVERY INDIVIDUAL

COUNTS•

WE ARE ALL INVOLVED IN EACH OTHER'S

LIVES•

WHEN YOU DISCOURAGE THE USE OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL,

YOU HELP YOURSELVES AND INFLUENCE OTHERS BY YOUR EXAMPLE.

YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR BABIES TO BE BORN HEALTHY INTO A

WHOLESOME CLIMATE.

THROUGH YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF NUTRITION AND CONSUMER

EDUCATION, YOU CAN SEPARATE REAL FOOD FROM JUNK FOOD•

YOU CAN ALSO SEPARATE REAL AND ENDURING VALUES FROM

PHONY AND TEMPORARY FADS•

YOUR GENERATION IS THE MOST HONEST, OPEN, AND

AWARE IN THE 200 YEARS OF OUR NATION'S HISTORY.

YOU THINK IN TERMS OF POSSIBILITIES RATHER THAN LIMITATIONS.

YOU ARE THE GENERATION WHO WILL LIVE THE LONGEST

WITH AMERICA'S REWARDS / OR EXIST LONGEST WITH AMERICA'S

BURDENS. YOUR FATE IS IN YOUR OWN HANDS. AND I AM

CONVINCED THAT YOUR FATE IS IN GOOD HANDS.

LAST WEEK I ATTENDED THE ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE

OF THE FAMOUS BATTLE AT GUILFORD COURTHOUSE. IT WAS THERE

THAT NORTH CAROLINIANS FOUGHT SO COURAGEOUSLY IN OUR

REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

TODAY, THE COMMON SENSE AND MODERATION OF

NORTH CAROLINA SYMBOLIZES THE NEW REALISM OF THE ENTIRE

UNITED STATES.

I CONGRATULATE YOU, NOT ONLY FOR YOUR STATE'S

HISTORIC COURAGE, BUT FOR YOUR MODERN NORTH CAROLINA

LIFESTYLE. YOU COMBINE THE BEST OF THE PRESENT WITH

THE FINEST VALUES OF THE PAST.

AND YOU DO THIS WITH GENUINE HUMILITY.

greatly

I ADMIRE THE NORTH CAROLINA APPROACH.

~~AND~~ I AM CONVINCED THAT DECISIONS AFFECTING YOUR

HOME AND FAMILY LIFE, SHOULD BE MADE RIGHT HERE IN

NORTH CAROLINA AND NOT BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OR ANYONE

ELSE.

WE MUST RESTORE THE PRINCIPLE OF LOCAL CONTROL

BY LOCAL PEOPLE. THAT'S WHAT THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

WAS ALL ABOUT -- GOVERNMENT BY THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED.

THAT'S WHY AMERICANS 200 YEARS AGO SAID "NO TAXATION

WITHOUT REPRESENTATION" / AND THREW THE TEA INTO THE BOSTON

HARBOR.

IF THE BICENTENNIAL IS TO HAVE REAL MEANING,

WE MUST GIVE YOU, AMERICA'S FUTURE HOMEMAKERS, A REAL

VOICE IN YOUR OWN DESTINY.

YOU LIVE IN A STATE WHICH IS A SHOWCASE OF

PROGRESS.

STUDENTS FROM MANY PLACES ARE ATTRACTED

TO NORTH CAROLINA BY YOUR EXCELLENT INSTITUTIONS OF

HIGHER LEARNING.

TWO GENERATIONS OF THE FORD FAMILY HAVE COME

The Navy Pre-Flight
HERE TO STUDY. I ATTENDED ~~NAVAL FLIGHT~~ SCHOOL AT THE

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR NINE MONTHS DURING

WORLD WAR II. I ALSO ATTENDED LAW SCHOOL AT CHAPEL HILL.

MY OLDEST SON, MIKE, AND MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, GAYLE,

graduated from
~~ATTENDED~~ WAKE FOREST.

THE FORD FAMILY SHARES WITH YOU AN AFFINITY FOR

THE ENLIGHTENED SPIRIT OF YOUR STATE.

THE PATRIOTISM, THE DEDICATION, AND THE WILLPOWER

OF THE THIRTEEN ORIGINAL STATES STILL BURN BRIGHTLY THROUGHOUT

THE OLD NORTH STATE.

THE TAR HEELS MUST BE DOING SOMETHING

RIGHT.

OUR CHALLENGE - YOURS AND MINE - IS TO FOSTER

NEW APPRECIATION OF THE AMERICAN HOME, NEW COHESION IN

THE AMERICAN FAMILY, NEW MODERATION IN THE RELATIONSHIP

OF GOVERNMENT TO THE GOVERNED, AND NEW AMERICAN STRENGTH

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

TOGETHER, WE WELCOME OUR NATION'S THIRD CENTURY.

TOGETHER, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL RISE UP TO THE

CALLING OF YOUR INSPIRING MOTTO, "A PAST TO HONOR --

A FUTURE TO MOLD."

TOGETHER WE WILL BUILD A BETTER AMERICA.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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