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REMARKS BEFORE WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS
ASSOCIATION GATHERING
May 13, 1976

I am aware of the enthusiasm that attends the annual gathering of the White House Fellows Association. For all of you, I am sure, it brings back many fond memories and is in a way like coming home.

It has been my privilege over the years to know a number of you personally and to see firsthand your abilities and commitment to public service. You represent a select group with a wide variety of backgrounds who share **a common commitment to excellence. I congratulate you** for your accomplishments and for your dedication. I am proud to be associated with you.

There are only a few in any generation who have the privilege of making a direct personal contribution to the conduct of government. After having spent time in government service you recognize the challenges which government faces, the trade-offs which must be made, and the

importance of honesty, openness, and wise judgment in making good public policy.

Many of you have returned to the private sector after your service in government. You recognize the importance of a free flow of information and ideas between those inside and outside of government. We have in this nation, as in really no other country, a system which provides for much interchange of individuals and ideas between the public and private sectors. It is a great asset of the American system of government that many have the opportunity to spend a part of their career in government and a part of their career in the private sector. This system of "in-and-outers" has served us well in the past, and I trust will continue to do so in the future.

It is important that those who work in government understand the problems faced by those in the private sector. It is also important that

that those in the private sector understand how government works and the problems faced by those in government. You are aware of the frustrations of government that are associated with our system of shared powers. You are also aware of the good which government does and the ways in which it contributes to the quality of life in our land.

If the White House Fellows I know best are representative of all of you, then you not only have a good understanding of how government works but you also have great idealism. Importantly, your idealism is without illusions. You have a great contribution to make in sharing your knowledge and abilities and idealism all across the country. I am confident that you will continue to contribute to an informed understanding of the important and appropriate role of government in our land.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE
WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS

THE ROSE GARDEN

5:08 P.M. EDT

I am pleased and honored to participate in the ceremony.

Before making a comment or two about the newly selected, let me thank and congratulate those who have been in the program for this past year. They have not quite finished, but they will, in a month or two, finish or conclude their contribution to the Federal Government in the many responsibilities that they have had in the various departments, including, of course, the White House.

But to the individuals who have just been selected, may I add, we are very proud of you. You went through a very rigorous screening process. As I understand it, there have been some 2,307 applicants. To have winnowed down to this selected group of 14 indicates that we have an outstanding group of quality individuals coming from a wide variety of activities in nongovernmental life and, of course, some from the Government, the military. But as they start their labor sometime in September, I am looking forward to the contributions that they can make to the Government -- some in the White House, some in various departments.

We can learn from them, and I hope in the process we can reciprocate and help them. In the year that they are here, I trust that they will learn a little bit more about how the Government works -- more good than bad, I trust -- and I know when they go back to their respective occupations and responsibilities, they can interpret what Government does or seeks to do in a better way for the some 213 million Americans who are a part of our society.

MORE

(OVER)

It has been my privilege over the years to know a number of individuals who have been White House Fellows. We have two on my staff right now, Jim Connor and Warren Rustand, and we have also one of the 1974-75 White House Fellows in Roger Porter, who is a very great asset to our Economic Council.

I could only indicate my personal belief that the ones who have performed have done extremely well, and I am equally confident that the ones who have been selected will do as well, if not better, in the future.

So, I not only congratulate those who have been selected, but I express, Mr. Chairman, my appreciation to the individuals on your commission who have gone through 2307 applications, which is not an easy job, and to select the 14 finalists.

I thank you and your associates. Good luck to all.

END (AT 5:12 P.M. EDT)