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HORIZONS ON DISPLAY

JANUARY 30, 1976

GOOD MORNING.

IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FIND A MORE VIVID EXAMPLE OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY IN ACTION THAN THE BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM WE CELEBRATE HERE TODAY.

HORIZONS ON DISPLAY IS A DOWN-TO-EARTH VENTURE -- IN THE LITERAL SENSE -- INTO THE FUTURE OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE, FORGED IN STRENGTH TO THE ENDURING IDEAL OF THE LIVING AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

WE CELEBRATE THE INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF A PEOPLE, WELDED TOGETHER BY A SENSE OF COMMUNITY -- AND A COMMUNITY OF INTERESTS IN PRESERVING AND BUILDING OUR COUNTRY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS: THOSE, FOR WHOM WE HOLD THE TREASURES OF OUR BELOVED LAND IN SACRED TRUST.

SO, IT IS MY HONOR TO WELCOME YOU WHO REPRESENT THE 200 HORIZON SITES IN ALL PARTS OF THE NATION, THAT STAND AS LIVING EXAMPLES OF THE WAY THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY MEETS ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.



I THANK YOU FOR GIVING TO THIS NATION ITS MOST PRECIOUS BIRTHDAY GIFT -- TANGIBLE EVIDENCE THAT WE HAVE THE IMAGINATION, THE INITIATIVE, AND THE INSPIRATION TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS WHICH FACE US, IN ORDER TO ENRICH THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL AMERICANS.

I ALSO THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO BE HERE TODAY -- AS I SALUTE ALL OF THE MORE THAN 1,200 COMMUNITY SITE PROJECTS THAT WERE NOMINATED FOR INCLUSION IN THE HORIZONS ON DISPLAY PROGRAM.

YOU WHO ARE HERE REPRESENT NOT ONLY THE 200 HORIZON SITES, BUT ALSO THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DEDICATED CITIZENS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO AND CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO ALL 1,200 PROJECTS NOMINATED FOR INCLUSION IN THIS HISTORIC PROGRAM -- AND THERE WILL BE MORE.

INDEED, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND ANY COMMUNITY IN AMERICA, TODAY -- LARGE OR SMALL, RURAL, URBAN OR SUBURBAN -- THAT IS NOT ATTUNED TO THE VASTLY COMPLICATED PROBLEMS OF 21ST CENTURY LIVING, AND IS NOT ENGAGED IN FINDING REALISTIC SOLUTIONS TO THOSE PROBLEMS AS THEY DIRECTLY AFFECT THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE.

EACH AND EVERY PROJECT THAT THEY -- AND YOU -- UNDERTAKE TO BETTER THE QUALITY OF COMMUNITY LIFE, TODAY -- BECOMES A "LIVING LABORATORY" FOR A PROGRAM OR IDEA THAT MAY SHAPE THE COMMUNITY LIFE STYLE OF TOMORROW.

THE HERITAGE THEME OF THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATES OUR HISTORY, THE FESTIVAL THEME CALLS ATTENTION TO OUR 200TH BIRTHDAY, AND THE HORIZONS THEME OF THE BICENTENNIAL EMPHASIZES OUR CONTINUING CAPACITY AS A NATION TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE.

THUS, OUR BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM SEEKS, NOT ONLY TO HONOR COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AS AN HISTORIC FORCE IN THE UNIQUE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS FREE LAND, BUT TO INSPIRE EVEN GREATER FUTURE ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH ITS LIVING EXAMPLE -- IN COMMUNITY PLANNING, LAND USE, HOUSING TRANSPORTATION, HEALTH AND EDUCATION, ENERGY CONSERVATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, RECREATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND, ABOVE ALL, IN THE PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES.

THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF INVOLVED AMERICAN CITIZENS WHOM YOU, HERE, REPRESENT ARE THE MESSAGE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION -- A REVOLUTION THAT WILL END ONLY WHEN THE PEOPLE OF THIS NATION CEASE THEIR CAMPAIGN TOWARD EXCELLENCE AND THEIR EFFORTS TO MEET TODAY'S PROBLEMS WITH SOLUTIONS GEARED TO THE REALITIES AND THE NEEDS OF TOMORROW.

AND BECAUSE AMERICA, IN TURN, IS A LEADER IN THE COMMUNITY OF THE WORLD -- HOW WE MEET OUR OWN COMMUNITY CHALLENGES WILL CONTINUE TO REFLECT ON THE QUALITY OF LIFE ON THE PLANET EARTH ITSELF.

AS AMERICA MOVES INTO ITS THIRD CENTURY AS A NATIONAL ENTITY, THE COMPLEXITIES OF LIFE WILL PRODUCE EVER-INCREASING PROBLEMS AND PERPLEXITIES FOR ALL HUMAN-KIND.

THE POLICY-MAKERS OF THE WORLD MUST FACE SQUARELY THE ENORMOUS CHALLENGES OF RAPID WORLD URBANIZATION.

HORIZONS ON DISPLAY, AND YOUR PARTICIPATION, GOES FAR BEYOND PROVINCIALISM AND NATIONALISM. IT IS A WORLD ENDEAVOR. AND, AS SUCH, IT WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE WORLD WHEN THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD CONVENE IN VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA ON MAY 31 THROUGH JUNE 11 THIS YEAR.



FOR, AT THAT TIME, THIS BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM WILL BE THE UNITED STATES' HABITAT EXHIBITION AND REPRESENTATIVE NATIONAL PROGRAM AT THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS.

THE 200 HORIZON SITES WHICH YOU REPRESENT, WILL BECOME AMERICAN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS DEMONSTRATION SITES -- IN PLACE AND OPEN FOR STUDY TO THE WORLD-WIDE DELEGATES WHO WILL VISIT US AS THEY ATTEND THEIR VANCOUVER MEETINGS.

AMERICA COULD NOT HAVE A MORE APT REPRESENTATION -- NOR MORE TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF THIS NATION'S IMAGINATION, INITIATIVE AND INSPIRATION IN MEETING THE EXCITING CHALLENGES OF THE NEW CENTURY BEFORE US.

THANK YOU -- AND ALL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE YOU REPRESENT -- FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE.