

The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “Stand Up for American Rally, Jacksonville, Florida, February 24, 1976” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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STAND UP FOR AMERICA RALLY

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

FEBRUARY 24, 1976

OVER A CENTURY AGO,

WALT WHITMAN WROTE A POEM CALLED

"I HEAR AMERICA SINGING."

HIS WORDS CELEBRATED AMERICANS AT WORK

AND AT PLAY.

WHITMAN HEARD THOSE SONGS
DURING A DIFFICULT PERIOD IN OUR HISTORY,
BUT HE UNDERSTOOD THE SONGS →
WERE STRONGER THAN THE TROUBLES.
IN 1976 ON THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE,
WE TOO MUST LISTEN
FOR THE GOOD SOUNDS OF AMERICA--
WORKING, DREAMING AND ACHIEVING.

EVERYWHERE YOU GO IN AMERICA,
YOU CAN SEE THE GREATNESS
OF THIS LAND AND THE PEOPLE.
WE SEE AMERICANS
WHO CARE ABOUT EACH OTHER
AND WHO REACH OUT
TO THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY,
SICK OR IN NEED.

OVER AND OVER

WE'VE SEEN THE COMPASSION OF AMERICANS

FOR THEIR NEIGHBORS

the
AND PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD.

AMERICANS ARE GENEROUS

WITH THEIR TIME, TALENTS AND MONEY

TO HELP FIGHT POVERTY,

IMPROVE SCHOOLS,

SUPPORT CHURCHES

AND ELIMINATE DISEASE.

THIS IS THE YEAR TO CELEBRATE

THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA AND HER PEOPLE.

WE SEE AMERICANS STRONG IN THEIR BELIEFS

Their

AND DEDICATED TO IDEALS.

1. WE SEE AMERICANS
WHO LOVE THE LAND
AND WORK TO PRESERVE IT.✓

2. WE SEE AMERICANS
WHO LIVE FAR FROM OTHER PEOPLE
WHO FIND THEIR FREEDOM IN SOLITUDE.✓

3. WE SEE AMERICANS

LIVING AND WORKING TOGETHER IN CITIES AND TOWNS,
WHO FIND THEIR FREEDOM IN COOPERATION.

4. WE SEE YOUNG AMERICANS

EAGER TO TRY NEW WAYS OF SOLVING PROBLEMS
AND NEW WAYS OF HONORING OUR IDEALS.

5. WE SEE AMERICANS

VARIED IN THEIR CUSTOMS, FAITHS AND HOPE
--UNITED IN A LOVE OF FREEDOM.

WE SEE A LAND FULL OF CONTRASTS--

CITIES AND WIDE OPEN SPACES--

MOUNTAINS AND DESERTS--

FORESTS AND PLAINS--

JOINED TOGETHER

BY A WORKING POLITICAL SYSTEM,

AND ALL OF THESE VISIBLE SIGNS OF AMERICA

AND THE SONGS WE CAN HEAR FROM THE PEOPLE

ARE WHAT THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IS ABOUT.

REJOICE IS AN OLD-FASHIONED WORD,

BUT IT CAPTURES WHAT I HOPE

~~ALL~~

WE FEEL THIS YEAR.

WE SHOULD REJOICE IN OUR INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS,

IN OUR FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM

AND IN OUR REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

WE ARE STILL STRIVING TO TRANSLATE OUR IDEALS
INTO REALITY,
BUT WE SHOULD PAUSE TO REJOICE
IN THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE.
THE PAST TWO HUNDRED YEARS
PROVE A GOVERNMENT OF FREE PEOPLE
CAN PREVAIL OVER CONFLICTS.

LET US CELEBRATE THIS ANNIVERSARY

BY REJOICING IN OUR SUCCESSES

AND BY BEING CHALLENGED BY OUR FAILURES.

IN 1976, LET US LISTEN

TO THE GOOD, STRONG SOUNDS OF OUR COUNTRY--

SO THAT WE MAY BE INSPIRED

TO SEARCH AND WORK FOR AN EVEN BETTER AMERICA.