

The original documents are located in Box 129, folder “Feb. 14, 1974 - Speech, Frank Leahy Awards Dinner, Chicago, IL” of the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Morgan Woodward
Murphy

THE FRANK LEAHY AWARDS DINNER, AT THE
SHERATON-OAK BROOK HOTEL, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS,
8:00 P.M., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1974

I AM HONORED TO BE ONE OF THE
RECIPIENTS OF THE FRANK LEAHY AWARD.



IT IS FITTING THAT WE MEMORIALIZE
FRANK LEAHY TODAY --- SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY --
THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAY HE STARTED
HIS GREAT COACHING CAREER AT NOTRE DAME.

Geo Halas - *Curly Lambeau*
Patsy Clark

I AM REMINDED THAT I PLAYED ON THE COLLEGE
ALL-STARS IN 1935 AGAINST THE CHICAGO BEARS
PRO TEAM COACHED BY GEORGE HALAS. WE LOST
BY ONLY 5 TO 0. I AM PROUD THAT WE DID SO
bearing in mind the Bears had Bombo Nagurski, Bill Hewitt & others.
WELL. IT COULD HAVE BEEN ANOTHER SAINT
VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE.

with that galaxy of stars



HAD YOU GIVEN ME THIS AWARD BACK IN
1935, ^{39 yrs ago} I MIGHT HAVE SOUGHT A CAREER IN PRO
FOOTBALL. ¹ INSTEAD / I TRIED TO FIND ~~SOMETHING~~ ^{a profession}
THAT OFFERED MORE SECURITY. I FOUND MYSELF
IN POLITICS. ^{However} ¹ IN POLITICS I DISCOVERED THAT
MY EXPERIENCE IN SPORTS WAS EXCELLENT
TRAINING FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE. *There are many
similarities between the gridiron & the political arena.*

YOU NEED THE SAME QUALITIES TO
SURVIVE --- AND TO SUCCEED. YOU NEED
STAMINA, DISCIPLINE, LOYALTY, A SPIRIT OF
TEAMWORK, AND A TRUE SENSE OF PARTICIPATION.



I SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT THE FOOTBALL FIELD IS A FINE TRAINING GROUND FOR A PUBLIC CAREER. THE GRIDIRON TEACHES SPORTSMANSHIP AND HONESTY. IT TEACHES ONE HOW TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES AND HOW TO PULL A TEAM TOGETHER. IT TEACHES HOW TO OVERCOME DESPAIR AND DEFEATISM. IT TEACHES HOW TO WIN AGAINST THE ODDS.

BELIEF IN ONE'S TEAM AND IN THE RULES
OF THE GAME PROMOTES BELIEF IN ONE'S NATION
AND IN THE LAWS OF THE LAND.



FRANK LEAHY EXEMPLIFIED AMERICA'S
FINEST QUALITIES. HIS "FIGHTING IRISH"
INSPIRED A NATION THAT REJECTED DRUGS AND
DESPONDENCY. HIS VISION INSPIRED AMERICANS
TO STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE. HIS ENERGY
GENERATED THE TRUTH THAT IN THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA ONE MAN CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE ---
ON THE PLAYING FIELD OR IN PUBLIC LIFE.



JUST AS I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE
AMERICANS PERSONALLY INVOLVED WITH SPORTS,
I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE AMERICANS
PERSONALLY INVOLVED WITH AMERICA *& its political parties.*

An athletic
TEAM IS DOOMED IF IT ATTRIBUTES
INSURMOUNTABLE POWER TO ITS OPPONENTS. A
NATION IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE AT HOME OR
ABROAD IF IT GIVES IN TO PESSIMISM OR TO
A PSYCHOLOGICAL COMPLEX OF DEFEAT *or incapacity*
to act.



Today in America. - 7 -

WE HAVE THE CHOICE OF EITHER DWELLING
ON DIFFICULTIES AND EXAGGERATING OUR
PROBLEMS OR RALLYING TO DO SOMETHING TO
IMPROVE OUR FUTURE. THE TIME HAS COME FOR
THE NATION, THE CONGRESS, AND THE ADMINISTRATION
TO UNITE TO MOVE AMERICA FORWARD. LET
US RESTORE HARMONY ^{& action} TO OUR NATIONAL TEAM.

^{For example} AMERICA IS ^{now} GOING THROUGH A PERIOD OF
TRANSITION AND TEMPORARY DISLOCATIONS IN THE
ENERGY CRISIS.



THERE HAVE BEEN SHORTAGES HERE IN
CHICAGO. ^{against federal government is} WE ARE RESPONDING TO IMMEDIATE
EMERGENCIES. ~~SIX~~ ^{SIX} MILLION ADDITIONAL
GALLONS OF GASOLINE HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED TO
THIS AREA FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY.

^{Regrettably} PETROLEUM NEEDS HAVE SURPASSED SUPPLIES TO
THE EXTENT THAT WE CANNOT REALISTICALLY
EXPECT TO RETURN TO ^{THE} DAYS OF THE UNLIMITED
GASOLINE PUMP. BUT THIS IS STILL AMERICA
AND WE WILL MOVE FORWARD TO A HOPEFUL FUTURE.



THE UNITED STATES HAS RUN SHORT OF
GASOLINE. BUT WE HAVE NOT RUN SHORT OF
ENERGY --- THE KIND OF ENERGY THAT COUNTS
IN THE LONG RUN. THE ENERGY THAT MAKES THE
DIFFERENCE ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD OR IN THE
HUMAN ^{motivation &} WILL TO SURMOUNT DIFFICULTIES. WE HAVE
NOT RUN SHORT OF AMERICAN INITIATIVE. OR
AMERICAN KNOW-HOW. OR AMERICAN COURAGE. OR
AMERICAN PATRIOTISM.



I BELIEVE THAT AMERICAN FREE ENTERPRISE AND INDIVIDUAL INCENTIVE HAVE MADE THE UNITED STATES THE GREATEST NATION ON EARTH. OUR GOALS IN THE YEAR 1974 INVOLVE THE POSITIVE REASSERTION OF THAT STRENGTH. WE SEEK TO:

1) SURMOUNT THE SHORT-TERM IMPACT OF THE ENERGY CRISIS AND ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND INDEPENDENCE FOR OUR LONG-TERM NEEDS.



- 2) PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL PEACE BY
NURTURING THE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND
COOPERATING WITH OTHERS TO ~~RESOLVE~~ ~~THE~~ THE
INTERNATIONAL OIL PROBLEM.
- 3) MAINTAIN ECONOMIC GROWTH WHILE WINDING
DOWN INFLATION.



4) ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE FOR ALL AT A REASONABLE COST AND TO CONTINUE INTENSIVE RESEARCH ON SUCH DISEASES AS LEUKEMIA WHICH TAKE TOO MANY --- LIKE FRANK LEAHY --- OUT OF THE GAME OF LIFE TOO EARLY.

5) REDUCE FEDERAL CONTROL AND OPEN A NEW ERA OF ACHIEVEMENT AND RESPONSIVENESS IN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.



6) REFORM FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION.

7) ACHIEVE BETTER ^{public} TRANSPORTATION
NATIONALLY AND IN EACH COMMUNITY.

8) INITIATE REFORM OF THE PRESENT
WELFARE SYSTEM.



9) AND TO ACCOMPLISH MANY OTHER
OBJECTIVES IN THE FIRM BELIEF THAT AMERICA
IS JUST GOING THROUGH GROWING PAINS IN A
NEW PHASE OF ITS DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS.

I ONLY WISH THAT I COULD TAKE THE ENTIRE UNITED STATES INTO THE LOCKER ROOM AT HALF-TIME. IT WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAY THAT WE HAVE LOST YARDS AGAINST THE LINE DRIVES OF INFLATION AND THE END RUNS OF ENERGY SHORTAGES, AND THAT WE ARE NOT USING ALL OUR PLAYERS AS WELL AS WE MIGHT BECAUSE THERE IS TOO MUCH UNEMPLOYMENT.



BUT in that locker room
15 -



^ THERE WOULD BE NO EXCUSES ABOUT
PREVIOUS COACHES AND PREVIOUS SEASONS. I
WOULD SIMPLY SAY THAT WE MUST LOOK NOT AT
THE POINTS WE HAVE LOST BUT AT THE POINTS
WE CAN GAIN. WE HAVE A WINNER. AMERICANS
ARE WINNERS.

WE DO HAVE AN ENERGY SHORTAGE. BUT
WE HAVE PLENTY OF THE KIND OF ENERGY THAT
REALLY COUNTS --- THE ENERGY OF FRANK LEAHY---
THE ENERGY OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD BE SAID IN THAT
IMAGINARY LOCKER ROOM AT HALF-TIME? THAT
A FEW YEARS AGO SOME PEOPLE AROUND THIS
COUNTRY STARTED SPREADING A RUMOR THAT
GOD WAS DEAD, AND NOW THEY ARE SPREADING
ANOTHER RUMOR --- THIS TIME, THAT AMERICA
IS DYING.

Of course the answer is NO.



^{so} IT IS EASY TO REFUTE THOSE UGLY
RUMORS. GOD IS ALIVE. ^{Americans have faith.} HE IS LIVING WITHIN
EACH OF US. HE OFFERS THE GREATEST HOPE AND
GREATEST HELP --- IF WE PLAY ON HIS TEAM.

AMERICA IS AS ALIVE AS THE SPIRIT OF
FRANK LEAHY IS ALIVE TONIGHT. AMERICA IS
AS ALIVE AS WE ARE ALIVE. AMERICA IS AS
ALIVE AS OUR DETERMINATION TO KEEP HER ALIVE.



WHEN I PLAYED FOOTBALL I NEVER DREAMED
THAT I WOULD SOMEDAY SERVE IN THE CONGRESS ---
NOR IMAGINE THAT I MIGHT BECOME
VICE PRESIDENT.



YET, HERE I AM TONIGHT BACK IN
playing a different role
CHICAGO, WHERE I PLAYED FOOTBALL IN 1935.
I AM HONORED TO SERVE OUR GOVERNMENT IN MY
PRESENT POSITION. SO, *I hope* YOU ~~MAY~~ UNDERSTAND
MY FERVENT BELIEF IN AMERICA AS THE LAND OF
OPPORTUNITY WHICH HAS NOT CHANGED.

JUST AS I HAVE ENJOYED A VERY
SATISFYING LIFE BY TAKING PART IN SPORTS
AND PARTICIPATING IN GOVERNMENT, I PRAY
THAT ALL MY FELLOW CITIZENS MAY SHARE IN
THE GREAT THRILL AND PRIDE THAT ONE CAN
STILL EXPERIENCE IN BEING AN AMERICAN *where*
on the quadron or in boat
opportunity *does exist, + with Gods help always will exist.*

###

THANK YOU



SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO.

SEARS TOWER

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60684

National
Headquarters

Chicago

December 20, 1973

*accept
honored & flattered*

*USA
Build a Chicago trip
Saulie Park &
fund raiser!*

The Vice President
Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20500

My dear Mr. Vice President:

The American Cancer Society's first annual Frank Leahy Awards Dinner honoring six of America's top sports figures such as George Blanda, Ron Santo and Tony DiFazio, will be held here February 14, 1974 at the Sheraton-Oak Brock hotel.

In recognition of your distinguished career in public service and the many contributions you have made to the world of sports, the selection committee is hopeful your schedule will permit you to attend the event in order to accept the All-American Frank Leahy Award.

Approximately 1,100 people are expected to attend the \$50-a-plate benefit dinner. It will be preceded by a reception beginning at 6:00pm with the program scheduled from 9:00 to 11:00.

Should you find it possible to attend, it is our hope that you would deliver a 10 to 15 minute response to the All-American Award presentation on any subject of your choice.

As you know, one of Coach Leahy's primary interests, apart from his love of athletics, was in developing strength of character in young people. These interests, together with his own battle with Leukemia, unite the elements and purposes of our program.

Yours very truly,

James R. Durham
James R. Durham
Chairman,
Frank Leahy Awards Dinner



REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD

AT THE FRANK LEAHY AWARDS DINNER

SHERATON-OAK BROOK HOTEL

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

8 p.m. THURSDAY, FEB. 14, 1974



ADVANCE FOR RELEASE AT 8 p.m. THURSDAY

I am honored to be one of the recipients of the Frank Leahy Award .

It is fitting that we memorialize Frank Leahy today --- Saint Valentine's Day --- the anniversary of the day he started ^{just} his coaching career at Notre Dame. I am reminded that I played on the College All-Stars in 1935 against the Chicago Bears pro team coached by George Halas. We lost by only 5 to 0 . ^{I am proud that we did so well.} ~~Had we played today's Bears~~ ^{It} ~~could~~ have been another Saint Valentine's Day Massacre .

Had you given me this award back in 1935, I might have sought a career in pro football. Instead I tried to find something that offered more security. I found myself in politics . In politics I discovered that my experience in sports was excellent training for Government service . ^{sense} [You need the same qualities to survive --- and to succeed. You need stamina, discipline, loyalty, ~~and~~ ~~a~~ spirit of teamwork, and a true of participation.] I could have added that you also need energy but with the energy crisis I was afraid that some might be short of gasoline tonight .

I sincerely believe that the football field is a fine training ground for a public career. The gridiron teaches sportsmanship and honesty. It teaches one how to reconcile differences and how to pull a team together. It teaches how to overcome despair and defeatism . It teaches how to win against the odds .

Belief in one's team and in the rules of the game promotes belief in one's Nation and in the laws of the land .

Frank Leahy ^{exemplified} ~~perpetuated~~ America's finest qualities . His "Fighting Irish " inspired a Nation that rejected drugs and despondency. His vision inspired Americans to strive for excellence . His energy generated the truth that in the United States of America one man can make ^a difference --- on the playing field or in public life .



Just as I would like to see more Americans personally involved with sports, I would like to see more Americans ~~personally~~ involved with ~~the~~ America .

A team is doomed if it attributes insurmountable power to its opponents . A Nation is in serious trouble ^{at home or abroad} if it gives in to pessimism or to a psychological complex of defeat.

We have the choice of either dwelling on difficulties ^{and} exaggerating our problems ^{our future} or rallying to do something to improve ~~matters~~ . The time has come for the Nation, the Congress, and the Administration to unite to move America forward . Let us restore harmony to our national team .

America is going through a period of transition and temporary dislocations in the energy crisis.

There have been shortages here in Chicago. We are responding to immediate emergencies . Five million additional gallons ^{of gasoline} have been allocated to this area for the month of February . Petroleum needs have surpassed supplies to the extent that we cannot realistically expect to



return to days of the unlimited gasoline pump . But this is still America and we ^{WILL} move forward to a hopeful future .

We are taking a wide range of contingency measures to meet the temporary ~~our~~ emergency. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
In our relations with other Nations, we are seeking to cooperate, coordinate, and reconcile differences . In our domestic policies, ^{a major} thrust of our efforts is to preserve jobs in Chicago and nationwide .

^{Every} ~~A~~ major effort is being made to prevent shortages from hitting too heavily at key industries. This is to prevent a chain reaction of unemployment .

Workers whose jobs are outmoded will be retrained . New jobs ~~of~~ and entirely new industries are being created ^{through a} ~~expanding~~
^{EXPANDING} technology ~~in~~ to transcend the energy shortage. The Administration is moving forward with a comprehensive national energy policy to deal with current shortages and to implement Project Independence . This is an accelerated private and governmental drive to provide self-sufficiency in energy by 1980 . We intend never again to be subjected to the blackmail of any foreign Nation .

The United States has run short of gasoline. But ~~we~~ we have not run short of energy --- the kind of energy that counts in the long run . The energy that makes the difference on the football field ~~or~~ or in the human will to surmount difficulties. We have not run short of American initiative. Or American know-how. Or American courage. Or American patriotism .

I believe that American free enterprise and ~~government~~

individual incentive have ~~made~~ made the United States

the ^{greatest} ~~most viable~~ Nation on earth . Our goals in the year 1974 ~~are~~

~~are~~ involve the positive reassertion of that ^{through} ~~viability~~ . We seek to :

Surmount the short-term impact of the energy crisis ^{and achieve self-}

^{supplying + independence for our long-term needs}

Promote international peace by nurturing the Middle East

settlement and cooperating with others to ^{surmount} ~~confront~~ the international oil problem .

Maintain economic growth while winding down inflation.

Establish a comprehensive system of National Health Insurance to provide medical care for all at a reasonable cost and to continue intensive research on such diseases ~~as~~ as leukemia which take too many --- like Frank Leahy --- out of the game ^{life} too early .

Reduce Federal control and open a new era of achievement and responsiveness in State and local governments .

Reform Federal aid to education .

Achieve better transportation nationally and in each community .

Initiate reform of the ^{present} ~~existing~~ welfare system.

And to accomplish many other objectives in the ^{FIRM} ~~belief~~ that America is just going through growing pains in a new phase of its development ~~at~~

^{propos.}



I only wish that I could take the entire United States into the locker room at half-time. ~~I would try to find a way of saying~~ *It would be an opportunity to say*

that we have ~~some of the best~~ lost yards against the line drives of inflation and the end runs of energy shortages, ~~And~~ *that* we are not using all our players as well as we might because there is too much unemployment.

~~There would be no need for excuses~~
~~I would not make excuses about previous coaches and previous seasons.~~ *I will simply*
~~I would simply try to say that we must look not at~~

the points we have lost but at the points we can gain. ~~I would~~
~~The game is far from over.~~
~~say that we have a winner.~~ *I sincerely believe that* Americans are winners. ~~I don't think we do have an energy shortage.~~

But we have plenty of the kind of energy that really counts ---

the energy of Frank Leahy • the energy of the human spirit.

~~What else would I say in that imaginary locker room at~~ *should be said*
half-time? ~~I would say~~ that a few years ago some people around this country started spreading a rumor that God was dead, ~~and~~ Now they are spreading another rumor --- this time, that America is dying.

~~I don't think I would say that it is~~
easy to refute those ugly rumors. God is alive. He is living within each of us. He ~~is offering~~ *offers* the greatest hope and greatest help ---
WE
if [^] play on His team.

~~I would also say that~~ America is as alive as the spirit of Frank Leahy is alive tonight. America ^{as} ~~is~~ alive as we are alive. America is as alive as our determination to keep her alive.



~~No, America is far from dead. We excel when we
contest against heavy odds.~~

When I played football I never dreamed that I would
someday serve in the Congress --- nor imagine that I
might become Vice President.

Yes, here I am tonight back in Chicago, where I
played football in 1935 . I am ~~amazingly~~ honored to
serve our Government in my present position . So,
you may understand my fervent belief in America as
the land of opportunity which has not changed. ~~ONE~~



~~XX~~

Just as I have enjoyed a very satisfying life
by taking part in ~~SPORTS AND GOVERNMENT~~
~~PARTICIPATING IN GOVERNMENT~~
~~participating in America~~, I pray that all my fellow
citizens may share in the great thrill and pride that
one can ~~feel~~ ^{STILL EXPERIENCE} in being an American .

K

--- ### ---



Mort

By Mort Edelman

Pete Rozelle, the National Football League commissioner, is in for a hard time next week from the NFL Players Assn. which wants him to play only one role in the disposition of player-discipline cases.

Ed Garvey, executive director of the player group, says: "We don't want him to levy fines against players, then sit in judgment of those fines." The association will press a number of demands when its contract expires next Friday. Garvey and others are mum about the possibility of a players' strike.

VICE PRESIDENT Gerald R. Ford will be the man of the hour Feb. 14 at the **Frank Leahy Memorial Dinner** at the Sheraton-Oak-



Miss Ball



Bikel

brook Hotel. Other honorees are **Ran Santo**, **George Blanda** and **Nat (Sweetwater) Clifton**.

Clifton, who played for DuSable, was the greatest Chicago high school basketball player I ever saw. He went on to star with the Harlem Globetrotters and the New York Knicks. The 6-foot-8-inch star now drives a cab here and says he is happy. "I was the first black ever to play in the National Basketball Assn.," says Clifton, "and that is something I will always treasure."

BEEFED-UP SECURITY and a 24-hour escort service for motorists who wish to use it seem to have halted violent incidents in the Grant Park underground parking garage. The measures were put into effect after Mrs. Irene Koutros was found strangled there July 4.

ALTHOUGH HER DOCTOR frowns on her skiing, Lucille Ball is off to Snowmass, Colo., to do some cross-country skiing. "I won't go downhill," says the famed comedienne, "but I'll ski every day." She'll take along her mother, Mrs. Desiree Ball, 80, who's known there as "the Belle of the Slopes." . . . Daughter Lucie Arnaz is in New York for rehearsals for the national company of "Seesaw," with John Gavin. It will include the original New York cast with one exception: Michele Lee is with her hubby, James Farentino, in Los Angeles.

ALBERT E. VON ENTRESS, vice president of circulation for The Daily News and Sun-Times, and his wife Virginia, celebrated their 24th wedding anniversary Monday at Andres Restaurant on E. Superior St. . . . **Donald L. Barlett**, ex-Daily News investigative reporter, and **James B. Steele**, his colleague at the Philadelphia Inquirer, are sharing the prestigious Heywood Brown Award for their series of articles on discrimination in the judicial system.

FORREST TUCKER helps present awards Tuesday at the women's division of the Crusade of Mercy recognition gathering in the Wally Findlay Galleries on Michigan Av. . . . **Timothy Sheehan** is the new chairman of the executive committee of the Cook County Republican Central Committee.

STREET SCENE: A policeman walked up to U.S. Atty. **James Thompson** on S. Dearborn St., and quietly told the tall prosecutor: "You sure made it a hell of a lot easier for guys like me to be an honest copper." Thompson's reaction: "The tide has turned, I suppose, because many policemen had been angry with me for our indictments against bad cops. But now, I'm sure, they see it was for the best."

MARIA ("LAST TANGO IN PARIS") Schnel der's next movie will be "Profession: Reporter," with Jack Nicholson. Sophia Loren's hubby, Carlo Ponti, is the producer, and Michelangelo Antonioni is the director. . . . Actor **Don Murray** spent his night off from Pheasant Run watching the Muhammad Ali-Joe Frazier fight Monday night at the Hillside Theater.

TUESDAY OPENINGS: "Clarence Darrow," a one-man show starring **Henry Fonda**, at the Civic Theater. . . . **Theodore Bikel**, actor-folksinger, and singer **Joey English** at Mister Kelly's. . . . Blues singer **B. B. King** at the London House. . . . The Lavender Pond show group at Lander's Chalet in Elk Grove Village. . . . Madura, a singing group, returns to Ratso's.

AL BERNSTEIN says: "The income tax returns this year are not difficult, if deciphering the Dead Sea Scrolls is your hobby."

MORT

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

401 NORTH WABASH AVENUE

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611

Enclosure

Vice President
Gerald R. Ford
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Matich





1974
FRANK LEAHY AWARDS
Sheraton-Oakbrook
Thursday, February 14, 1974

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FRANK LEAHY AWARDS
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INVOCATION
Monsignor William Plunkett
Pastor Emeritus
Immaculate Conception, Elmhurst

AWARDS CHAIRMAN
James Durham

1973 CHAIRMAN
Thomas Bowler

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
Dave Condon

AWARD WINNERS
NAT (SWEETWATER) CLIFTON
Basketball Award
Presented by Zigismund Czarowski

VICTOR (ROCKY) DIFAZIO
Boxing Award
Presented by Steve Craig

MRS. ANN BURKE
Youth Service Award
Presented by Stan Mikita

COACH JAMES REXILIUS
High School Sports Award
Presented by Johnny Lattner

EDWARD MORAN
Humanitarian Award
Presented by Jerome Miller

JOSEPH KELLMAN
Horse Racing Award
Presented by Billy Sullivan

RON SANTO
Baseball Award
Presented by William Randall

GEORGE BLANDA
Pro Football Award
Presented by George Connor

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
GERALD FORD
All-American Award
Presented by George Halas

1973 Leahy Award Winners were:
Arthur Rooney, Charles O. Finley, Stan Mikita,
Charles (Chuck) Tanner, Robert Love and Dick Butkus.

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Had you given me this award back in 1935, I might have sought a career in pro football. Instead I tried to find something that offered more security. I found myself in politics. In politics I discovered that my experience in sports was excellent training for Government service.

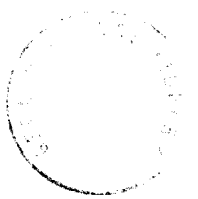
You need the same qualities to survive -- and to succeed. You need stamina, discipline, loyalty, a spirit of teamwork, and a true sense of participation.

I sincerely believe that the football field is a fine training ground for a public career. The gridiron teaches sportsmanship and honesty. It teaches one how to reconcile differences and how to pull a team together. It teaches how to overcome despair and defeatism. It teaches how to win against the odds.

Belief in one's team and in the rules of the game promotes belief in one's Nation and in the laws of the land.

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(more)



Just as I would like to see more Americans personally involved with sports, I would like to see more Americans personally involved with America.

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Promote international peace by nurturing the Middle East settlement and cooperating with others to resolve the international oil problem.

Maintain economic growth while winding down inflation.

(more)

Establish a comprehensive system of National Health Insurance to provide medical care for all at a reasonable cost and to continue intensive research on such diseases as leukemia which take too many -- like Frank Leahy -- out of the game of life too early.

Reduce Federal control and open a new era of achievement and responsiveness in State and local governments.

Reform Federal aid to education.

Achieve better transportation nationally and in each community.

Initiate reform of the present welfare system.

And to accomplish many other objectives in the firm belief that America is just going through growing pains in a new phase of its development and progress.

I only wish that I could take the entire United States into the locker room at half-time. It would be an opportunity to say that we have lost yards against the line drives of inflation and the end runs of energy shortages, and that we are not using all our players as well as we might because there is too much unemployment.

There would be no excuses about previous coaches and previous seasons. I would simply say that we must look not at the points we have lost but at the points we can gain. We have a winner.

Americans are winners.

We do have an energy shortage. But we have plenty of the kind of energy that really counts -- the energy of Frank Leahy . . . the energy of the human spirit.

What else should be said in that imaginary locker room at half-time? That a few years ago some people around this country started spreading a rumor that God was dead, and now they are spreading another rumor -- this time, that America is dying.

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(more)

When I played football I never dreamed that I would someday serve in the Congress -- nor imagine that I might become Vice President.

Yet, here I am tonight back in Chicago, where I played football in 1935. I am honored to serve our Government in my present position. So, you may understand my fervent belief in America as the land of opportunity which has not changed.

Just as I have enjoyed a very satisfying life by taking part in sports and participating in government, I pray that all my fellow citizens may share in the great thrill and pride that one can still experience in being an American.

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