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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 7, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: DONALD RUMSFELD  
VIA: JAMES E. CONNOR  
FROM: WARREN RUSTAND  
SUBJECT: University Commencement Addresses

*Connor - see  
me before  
implementing*  
*Rich*

A decision should be made shortly on the President's participation in commencements. He has been invited to many commencements and has indicated interest in accepting some invitations. To be fair to the institution issuing the invitation, we should give them an early indication if the President cannot attend to allow them time to obtain another prominent speaker. The President will only be able to accept a limited number of invitations. The following criteria have been used in evaluating the invitations.

- spacing between speeches - the addresses should not cluster within too short a period.
- suitability of the forum - the institutional setting should permit the President to appropriately address a subject of major importance.
- impact on the President's schedule - travel time should be minimized to no more than one day and preferably less.
- diversity of institutions - addresses should be given to different types of schools.

Commencement addresses are recommended for the following schools.

Sunday, May 18

Open

University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.  
The President will be given an honorary degree at this commencement, which will be the first Bicentennial event in Philadelphia. It will commemorate the 200th anniversary of the 1775 graduation ceremony which was attended by members of the Continental Congress. The forum would thus be appropriate for a major Bicentennial address. Counsellors Hartmann and Marsh recommend.

Accept APR 9 Decline \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday, May 25

Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia. The Hampton Institute is one of the oldest and most famous Negro colleges. Booker T. Washington was a student there soon after the Civil War. It would provide an excellent platform for constructive talk about race relations and the importance of education in attaining equality and justice for all citizens.

Accept APR 9 Decline \_\_\_\_\_

Wednesday, June 4

Open

The United States Military Academy in West Point.  
West Point is the only Service Academy the President has not visited. At this time the issue of SALT should be in the foreground. West Point could provide an excellent forum to treat SALT in a major address.

Accept APR 9 Decline \_\_\_\_\_

Monday, June 23

Open

Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York.  
Merchant Marine Academy Superintendent Rear Admiral A. B. Engel is an old grade school classmate of the President's from Grand Rapids. Admiral Engel has invited the President to make this address. It would be the first time that a President of the United States has visited the Academy. The setting provides an appropriate occasion for a major speech on trade.

Accept APR 9 Decline \_\_\_\_\_

Several other invitations have been seriously considered, and the President may wish to examine them.

Sunday, May 18

Open

Clarion State College. Clarion is located in the northwest part of the State, 70 miles from Pittsburgh. Dr. Allen Elliott, Dean of Men, asked the President about this at the 30-30 Club Brunch. At that time the President told Dr. Elliott that he would try. This is the same date as the University of Pennsylvania commencement and we recommend that the President participate in the ceremony at the University of Pennsylvania.

Accept \_\_\_\_\_

Decline WR 7.

Wednesday, May 21

Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa. This is a small, private, liberal arts college of high quality and good reputation in the Midwest. It would give the President the opportunity to talk about the importance of liberal education and the role of private institutions in American education. This would balance the fact that until now the only institution of higher education the President has addressed is a major public university, Ohio State.

Accept \_\_\_\_\_

Decline WR 7.

Saturday, June 7

Open

Grand Valley State Colleges, Allendale, Michigan. Grand Valley is an unusual, innovative, and excellent State institution. Phil Buchen and Bill Seidman played a major role in the founding of this institution. This would be an appropriate occasion for the President to speak about the significant role of State institutions in American higher education.

Accept \_\_\_\_\_

Decline WR 7.

The President has, of course, already accepted an invitation to speak on the occasion of Susan's graduation from Holton Arms on Thursday, June 5 at 10:30 a.m.

Attached is a list of all commencement invitations received to date.

COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT INVITATIONS

George Washington University Winter Commencement Washington, D. C.	Feb. 16 or 17
University of Denver Founders Day Convocation Denver, Colorado	March 7
Brigham Young University Provo, Utah	April 18
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Daytona Beach, Fla	April 25
Yale Law School Sesquicentennial Convocation New Haven Connecticut	April 25-26 (submitted in previous memo to the President and approved by him for April 25)
Valley Forge Military Academy and Junior College Law Day and Loyalty Day Convocation Wayne, Pennsylvania	May 1
Our Lady of the Lake College San Antonio, Texas	May 4
Regis College Denver, Colorado	May 10
Marietta College Marietta, Ohio	May 11
Siena Heights College Adrian, Michigan	May 11
University of Richmond Richmond, Virginia	May 11
Lincoln University Jefferson City, Missouri	May 11
Mississippi State University State College, Mississippi	May 11

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New Mexico Military Institute Rosewell, New Mexico	May 17
Marist College Poughkeepsie, New York	May 17
Averett College Danville, Virginia	May 17
Tulane University School of Law New Orleans, Louisiana	May 17
Central Michigan University Mount Pleasant, Michigan	May 17
Bentley College Waltham, Massachusetts	May 17
Hood College Frederick, Maryland	May 17
Viterbo College LaCrosse, Wisconsin	May 18
Valparaiso University Indianapolis, Indiana	May 18
Ripon College Ripon, Wisconsin	May 18
American University Washington, D. C.	May 18
Lebanon Valley College Annville, Pennsylvania	May 18
Grinnell College Grinnell, Iowa	May 21
Franklin College Franklin, Indiana	May 24
Rollins College Winter Park, Florida	May 24

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West Shore Community College Scottville, Michigan	May 25
University of San Diego San Diego, California	May 25
Hampton Institute Hampton, Virginia	May 25
Mid-America Nazarene College Olathe, Kansas	May 26
Culver Military Academy Culver, Indiana	May 30, 31 or June 1
Whittier College Whittier, California	May 31
Sesquehanna University Sesquehanna, Pennsylvania	May 31
Washington and Jefferson College Washington, Pennsylvania	May 31
Lord Fairfax Community College Berryville, Virginia	June 1
Westminster College New Wilmington, Pennsylvania	June 1
Colgate University Hamilton, New York	June 1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge, Massachusetts	June 2
United States Military Academy West Point, New York	June 4
United States Air Force Academy Colorado Springs, Colorado	June 4
Hahnemann Medical University Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	June 5

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Triton College  
River Grove, Illinois

June 5

Fordham University  
Bronx, New York

June 6

Chicago State University  
Chicago, Illinois

July 12



ADDENDUM

University of North Carolina Asheville, North Carolina	May 9
Oral Roberts University Tulsa, Oklahoma	May 11
Maritime College of the State University of New York Bronx, New York	May 17
University of Arizona Tuscon, Arizona	May 17
Virginia Seminary, the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Virginia Alexandria, Virginia	May 22
** Clarion State College Clarion, Pennsylvania	May 18
Farleigh Dickinson University Madison, New Jersey	May 31
Coast Guard Academy New London, Connecticut	June 4
** Holton Arms School (Susan's high school) Bethesda, Maryland	June 5
Grand Valley State Colleges Allendale, Michigan	June 7
Detroit College of Law Detroit, Michigan	June 9

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ADDENDUM

Bloomsburg State College Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania	May 11
Northern Michigan University Marquette, Michigan	May 11
Indiana University Medical School Indianapolis, Indiana	May 16 or 17
San Joaquin College of Law Fresno, California	Open date in the end of May
Pierce Junior College Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	June 3
Claremont Men's College Claremont, California	June 8
Judson College Elgin, Illinois	June 15
Drexel University Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	May 31
University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	April 27

Feb. 3, 1975