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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 12, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH
FROM: JIM CONNOR
SUBJECT: Jefferson Speech

The President reviewed your memorandum of April 10 concerning the speech entitled, THE PEN OF JEFFERSON, and made the following notation:

"Good. Let's firm up Monday."

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 10, 1976

Mr. President:

For your review. Copies
of the attached draft of the
Jefferson speech have been
distributed to Hartmann and
Orben.

*Word from the President
Let's give the President
Jack*

~~THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.~~

THE PEN OF JEFFERSON

The countdown to Independence Day has begun. In less than 100 days the Nation shall mark its 200 years of Independence.

233 years ago today marked the birth of the author of one of the greatest documents of freedom in the history of this planet.

Tom Jefferson was a product of America's frontier. In 1743, Shadwell, his place of birth in Albemarle County, Virginia, was at the outer reaches of the American West.

It was one of the coincidences of American history that Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, both signers of the Declaration of Independence, would both die on July 4, 1826, 50 years to the day after its adoption. John Adams' last words were "Jefferson still survives." Our presence here today attests to the truth of that remark.

I set out for your consideration a few of the achievements of
the Man from Monticello:

- President of the United States
- Vice President of the United States
- First Secretary of State
- Ambassador to France
- Author of the Declaration of Independence
- Member of the Continental Congress
- Governor of Virginia
- Author of the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom
- Colonial Legislator
- Justice of the Peace
- Founder of the University of Virginia

In addition to these achievements, he was a scientist -- an

accomplished violinist -- remembered as an inventor -- renowned as an architect -- respected as an agronomist -- and an excellent linguist with a command of at least six languages.

Jefferson was a giant who has marched across the pages of world history. To this day he excites scholars, inspires political leaders and gives hope to the common man in the four corners of the globe.

His achievements were so great, his intellect so towering we are apt to be overwhelmed and not see the man, nor appreciate his humanity. He is a personage from whom we might learn.

He is a source of strength from whom we can draw.

Jefferson was not only a theorist but an advocate of human freedom. It has been observed that he pled the cause of the common man. Others have said that he charted the course of American democracy. He has influenced every American political leader of

each succeeding age.

There is a spiritual bond between Jefferson and Lincoln.

Jefferson was the political philosopher and apostle of individual freedom. Lincoln took the principles of Jefferson's Declaration and translated them for the rank and file of all the people. The great Emancipator, gave it meaning to the common man and embodied it in his cause to preserve the Union.

Jefferson as a champion of freedom vigorously resisted the European concept of nobility and aristocracy. However, he had his own definition of an aristocracy for America. The aristocracy of talent and virtue. This Nation more than any other nation of the world has opened the ranks of its citizens to that aristocracy. Jefferson's aristocracy of Democracy is evidenced by our national preeminence today.

Jefferson was a fervent believer in freedom of the press.

Although harshly attacked, and often vilified he maintained an unfettered press was essential to American freedom.

Jefferson is remembered as a foremost exponent of American individualism. However, this was an individualism based on enlightenment and responsibility. Learning and reason he argued are essential ingredients of political freedom.

Tom Jefferson's pen of the Eighteenth Century is still mightier than the sword of the Twentieth. Mankind in the Twentieth Century still draws its inspiration from the Declaration of Independence.

The Bicentennial is causing Americans to reexamine ^{their} ~~its~~ past.

Jefferson earned his place in the Eighteenth Century for his advocacy of individualism, the value of reason, the necessity of personal freedom and the essentiality of limited government.

As we begin our Third Century of Independence, we need to not only honor these precepts from our past, but apply them today.

The changes that have swept across this Nation and our world in the last two centuries which are largely products of science and invention have not diminished the importance of these values set forth when we were one of the underdeveloped nations of the world.

The Bicentennial is a time of reexamination and a reawakening. Jefferson's principle of limited government is again the subject of discussion and debate. Questions Jefferson raised are being raised today about encroaching Federalism and the centralization of governmental power at the expense of State and local responsibility and individual freedom.

Big government has produced bureaucracy but not efficiency.

The admonition of Jefferson that "the government which governs

best is that which governs least" takes on new meaning to modern Americans.

I believe as we move into our Third Century of independence there will be an even greater emphasis by our people to find ways and means to meet our needs whereby the role of government is more limited in the classical Jeffersonian sense.

The Third Century of American Independence shall be the Century of Individualism. It shall be a century of public achievement and personal fulfillment.

Let us honor this man this year, and in the next Century of our Independence as a people by translating into our national life the qualities, the talents and the ideas which were the warp and woof of his.

Let us practice responsible individualism and thereby pay

tribute to the man we commemorate here.

Let us dedicate ourselves to achievement so that we make
this country what it has the potential to be.

Let us carve out for America its rightful place of leadership
in the Council of Nations of this world.

Let us extend the boundaries of human freedom here at home
and beyond our shores.

Let us accept and discharge the responsibility as a people
upon whom Providence has bestowed so much.

Let us be an enlightened Nation with appreciation for learning,
for reason and for justice for all of our people.

In this way, my fellow Americans, we shall pay honor to the
man from Monticello.