

**The original documents are located in Box C42, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 6/11/1976” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 11, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CANNON  
JIM LYNN

FROM:

JIM CONNOR *JCC*

SUBJECT:

Rhodes Scholarships

The attached Presidential Proposal concerning Rhodes Scholarships was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation:

"Can we do something on this?"

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Jimi Cannon Jimi Seymour

Can we do something  
on this?

## A PRESIDENTIAL PROPOSAL

One of the most notable scholarship funds in the world is the Rhodes Scholarship. It has educated many distinguished Americans who have achieved renown in nearly every field of human endeavor.

The Rhodes Scholarship stands as an enduring monument to its founder in the last century, Cecil John Rhodes.

It has been observed that in the proposed Bicentennial observances there is no observance in which the President participates that is uniquely his own initiative and which will have enduring value.

There is still time for a Congressional initiative sponsored by the President which could be presented to the Congress in a message on the First of July before the Congress recesses.

The Congressional proposal could take several different forms depending on the nature of the program. The President might propose a series of scholarships along the following lines:

1. The American Scholars Program -- This could be either an under-graduate program or a two-year graduate program. The scholarship thrust might be toward areas of national needs from the standpoint of a trained body of resource people. For example,

engineering, science, medicine, educators. The national need would be determined by the scholarship governing board and they would review the program from time to time to see where the scholarship effort should be made.

2. American Crafts Scholarship -- This would be a scholarship within the field of technical training: draftsmen, mechanics, electricians, and would seek to give an opportunity to individuals who wish to excel in areas that relate to service industries. It would be a training program for journeymen and apprentices in the different crafts. This program would function somewhat like the GI Bill for vocational and technical training. It would be available to hospital technicians and a host of other skills necessary to our modern society.

Considering further proposals the President might wish to sponsor the following are suggested:

1. The establishment of a scholarship or a grant program for Science and Invention. The primary purpose of this program would be to assist inventors, particularly young inventors, by enabling them to pursue educational or

skill programs that will enable them to develop their talents and through the development of their talents, hopefully to produce meaningful contributions in the field of invention and science.

2. A variation of the above would be an Annual Academy of Science and Invention, sponsored during the week of July 4th beginning in 1977 which would be the Presidential Academy. It would bring together individuals who are developing breakthroughs in science and invention in order to give them recognition through achievement as well as to bring their work to the attention of the field of technology and science.
3. Somewhat similar to the above would be the creation of the President's Bicentennial Awards for American Creativity. This would be broader than simply science and invention and would go to the field of innovation and creativity in other areas of American life to include art and literature.
4. America has never used the British concept of a Poet Laureate. There have been a number of efforts

to try and achieve this including the sponsorship of legislation on Capitol Hill to create the Office of Poet Laureate. This raises a question as to whether in the Nation's Bicentennial Year the President should designate an American Poet Laureate. The designation need not be for life but be a designation for one year, two years, or such other term as the President would decide, but the designation would occur on or about the Fourth of July in each year.

The above are merely suggestions. However, the key question is whether there is some bold and imaginative program applicable to the Federal system to make it more effective, which presently is latent or lying dormant. A project that would contribute significantly to American life yet presently is in the conceptual stage but could be brought forward if there were both the initiative and the effort.

Can our 200th Anniversary be a launching pad for some new idea or concept that would capture the imagination of the American people and win the quick support of the Congress if the President were to put his stamp of approval on it and the force of his Administration behind it?