

The original documents are located in Box 67, folder "Fort McHenry - "Our Country" Bicentennial Festivities, Baltimore, MD, 7/4/75 (4)" of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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DRAFT/FORT McHENRY/JOMarsh/6-26-75

We meet here at twilight's last gleaming.

The casement walls and silent cannon of Fort McHenry bear
quiet testimony to a nation's travail on another night in another
age.

Francis Scott Key enshrined forever those events in 1814.

The patriotism and national pride surrounding our flag, our
country and their defense that night are our heritage in song
and verse. The Star Spangled Banner is an expression of love
of country.

We must not become so sophisticated, or so blasé, that we
ignore these simple but eloquent lessons from our past. We need
to remind ourselves that America really is "the land of the free and
the home of the brave."



The hallmark of our first century was the establishment of our government. In the face of great odds, 13 disparate colonies were to become a fledgling nation. Its future was insecure. In the first 100 years, the Western Movement accelerated -- vast territories were acquired, states joined the Union, Constitutional issues were raised. Wars were fought, none more devastating than the one that turned American against American. Yet from that terrible holocaust, it was resolved this Nation would not exist half slave - half free. The Lincoln Union was preserved.

By our Centennial in 1876, the American Republic had been established. Of this, there was no doubt, either at home or abroad.

Our Second Century has been marked by the growth of American

industrial and economic power. The pioneer spirit which carried us west, turned to new frontiers.

Railroads spanned the continent and became a web of steel, linking city to city, region to region, town to town.

The automobile and Henry Ford's assembly line changed forever transportation and the manufacturing process.

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The telegram, the telephone, radio, television - all are part of the communications revolution of our Second Century.

Science, medicine, agricultural production, marketing, these have been just a few of the modern frontiers since 1876.



The Third Century, I believe, will be one that challenges individualism. Man today finds himself in a modern world, confronted by mass. Dwarfed by bigness, loney in a sea of people the anthill existence must not be the price of a modern age.

Government's grown too large and bureaucratic, pit the individual against a frustrating statism. In America our sovereign is the citizen. Governments exist to serve people. The state is the creature of the populace. These are fundamental propositions to remember as we observe the Bicentennial.

Today in the 199th year of our Independence, we stand at the threshold of a great American Experience.

Let us make the coming year a great year on America's agenda of achievement.

As we move to the Bicentennial of American Independence,

let us think of where we will be and what we can achieve by the next July 4th -- by the next decade -- by the 200th Anniversary of our Constitution -- and by the Year 2000.

By these yardsticks, let us measure our progress on the course we set for ourselves and out Nation.

Let us resolve that this shall be an era of hope rather than despair. Let us resolve that it shall be an era of achievement rather than of apathy. Let us resolve that it shall be a time of promise rather than of regret.

The countdown to Independence 200 has begun. For each of us, each day from today should be a step forward to Achievement-USA.

The Bicentennial Year for each of us should be a year of self-examination and individual accomplishment. Quality and

permanence should be the hallmarks of everything we do. Let us

pursue programs that shall enhance the quality of our lives.

To form a more perfect union, we need to learn more of our country and its people. Americans need to understand other Americans and appreciate the diversity of our land. Boundaries of regionalism and urbanization must give way to an understanding of one nation and one people.

In the coming year, we must be certain the Bicentennial is a nationwide event. The American Revolution and its legacy belong to each of the states and our far flung territories.

The ideas that were forged and fought for in the 13 colonies crossed the Appalachias, they followed the Conestoga wagons and rode with the Pony Express. They crossed the Mississippi and Missouri, spanned the plains and the deserts. They belong as



much to the West Coast as they do to the East. Wherever the American flag went, also went the concepts of this great Republic. American Clipper ships took the story to the far corners of the earth. American jet liners carry it everyday across the skies of distant lands. Indeed, this event does not belong just to Americans.

The appreciation of our past is essential to understanding the present and charting a course for the future. Every American can enrich the quality of the Bicentennial by looking at the past. The saga of our Country is an inspiring one. It has been told not only by historians, but in poetry, prose and song. Let us read again the writings of our great poets and authors who recount the life and times of these last 200 years. The Buckskin Tales, the world of Washington Irving, Bret Harte's story of the American

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The best criteria is a program which when viewed in a year, a decade, a century hence continues to have meaning to the community and is identified with the event that inspired it.

The Year 200 - a quarter of a century hence - is not simply the end of a century, it is the close of an age. The end of one millennium, the beginning of a new.

It marks a 1000 years of human history that began in the depths of the Dark Ages. The American Revolution is the greatest progression in Western Man's march to freedom and the opportunity for individual achievement. The Declaration of Independence is a benchmark along man's road as he has sought to pursue happiness.

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shores. It still remains the greatest hope for mankind.

I am convinced when historians view the sweep of a thousand

years of history, they will view this nation's experience and

conclude that from Revolution there came a Renaissance in human

freedom and individual opportunity. This Renaissance shall be

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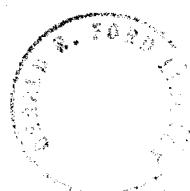
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The Third Century, I believe, will be an era for Individualism.

The mass approach of the modern world places a premium on creativity and individuality. Mass production, mass education, mass population, must not smother individual expression, or limit individual opportunity.

Individualism is a safeguard against the sameness of society.

Government's grown too large and bureaucratic, can pit the individual against a frustrating statism. In America our sovereign is the citizen. Governments exist to serve people. The state is the creature of the populace. These are fundamental propositions to remember as we observe the Bicentennial.

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due 6/30
3:00

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH
FROM: PAUL THEIS *PT*
SUBJECT: President's Fourth of July
Television Message

Attached are proposed remarks for the President's nationwide television message on the Fourth of July.

Could we please have your comments and initials on the attached clearance form by 3 p.m. today, Monday, June 30? Thanks.

Approved



CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS
SUBJECT: President's Fourth of July Television
Message

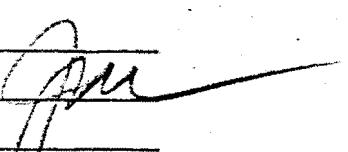
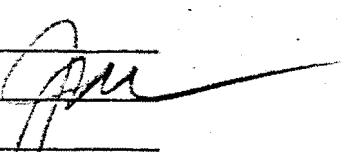
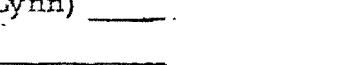
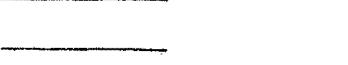
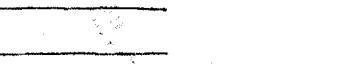
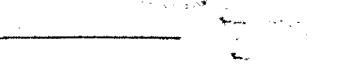
TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: _____

9 a.m., Friday, July 4, 1975, Oval Office

SPEECHWRITER: Hartmann
EDITED BY: Theis

BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:

CLEARED BY (Please initial):

- (X) OPERATIONS (Rumsfeld) 
(X) CONGRESSIONAL/PUBLIC LIAISON (Marsh) 
(X) PRESS (Nessen) 
() LEGAL (Buchen) 
() ECONOMIC POLICY BOARD (Seidman) 
() OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (Lynn) 
() DOMESTIC COUNCIL (Cannon) 
() NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (Scowcroft) 
(X) RESEARCH (Waldron) 
(X) JERRY WARREN (FYI) 
() ENERGY RESOURCES COUNCIL (Zarb) 
(X) Ted Marrs 
(X) Bob Mead 

(Hartmann)

June 30, 1975

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE FOR JULY 4, 1975

My fellow Americans:

As we begin the 200th year of our independence as a Nation, we
the people of the United States still enjoy the blessings of liberty as we
continue to build a more perfect union for ourselves and our posterity.

The great goals of America are never fully gained; the future of
America is always brighter than its glorious past; the destiny of America
demands the best of each succeeding generation, as it does of us today.

While we cherish the many heritages that enrich our land, we of
all peoples have no history except what we have written for ourselves.

We are not Americans alone by birth or blood, by oath or creed or compact
among princes. We are Americans because we deliberately chose to be
one nation, indivisible, and for 199 years with God's help we have gone
forward together.

Our Nation's first century saw the firm establishment of a free system of government on this continent, from Atlantic to Pacific.

Our first century produced political institutions responsible to the people, and confirmed at tragic cost the proposition that all Americans are created equal.

Our Nation's second century, now ending, saw the development of a strong economic society in the free climate which our political institutions sustained. Our second century transformed an underdeveloped country into the mightiest and most productive nation in human history, with ever more widespread sharing of economic gains and of responsibility for the less fortunate of our neighbors.

Two centuries of sacrifice and struggle, of conflict and compromise, have gained for us an unprecedented measure of political and economic independence.

We have on this Independence Day of 1975 a free government that checks and balances its own excesses, and a free economic system that

corrects its own errors, given the courage and constructive cooperation of a free and enlightened citizenry. This is the amazing history of Americans have written for themselves as we begin our Bicentennial celebration.

But what will be the goal of our Nation's third century?

I see the great challenge of our third century as the preservation and protection of individual independence in this "sweet land of liberty."

We must devise safeguards for the sacred identity of each and every American, to protect personal freedom and individuality from the daily pressures of conformity whether they come from massive government, massive management and labor, massive education or massive communications.

While we want the benefits of advancing technology, individual Americans must never become coded ciphers in any central computer, unthinking parrots of any ideological slogans, uncaring slaves of any automated assembly line. Every citizen in our third century of freedom as a Nation must have the personal freedom to fulfill his or her potential in life, liberty and in the pursuit of happiness.

The beauty of Joseph's coat was its many colors. And the beauty of America is its many individuals, each of us a little different from the other. Freedom for everyone who respects the freedom of others is the great goal which I see and commend to my countrymen for the third century of American Independence. Freedom is what the Fourth of July is all about.

I wish you all a grand and glorious day.

#

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS AT FORT McHENRY, FRIDAY, JULY 4, 1975

We meet here at twilight's last gleaming.

The casement walls and silent cannon of Fort McHenry bear
quiet testimony to a nation's travail on another night in another age.

Francis Scott Key enshrined forever those events in 1814.

The patriotism and national pride surrounding our flag, our country
and their defense that night are our heritage in song and verse. The
Star Spangled Banner is an expression of love of country.

We must not become so sophisticated, or so blasé, that we
ignore these simple but eloquent moments of our history. We need
to remind ourselves that America really is "the land of the free and
the home of the brave."

We are honored by those who earlier this evening became United
States' citizens at ceremonies here. They have chosen what we often take
for granted.



The hallmark of our first century was the establishment of our government. In the face of great odds, 13 disparate colonies became a fledgling nation. Its future was insecure. In the first 100 years, the Western Movement accelerated -- vast territories were acquired, states joined the Union, Constitutional issues were raised. Wars were fought, none more devastating than the one that turned American against American. Yet from that terrible holocaust, it was resolved this Nation would not exist half slave - half free. The Union was preserved.

By our Centennial in 1876, the American Republic had been securely established. Of this, there was no doubt, either at home or abroad.

a free
Our Second Century has been marked by the growth of American



~~industrial~~ economic power. The pioneer spirit which carried us West turned to new frontiers.

Railroads spanned the continent and became a web of steel, linking city to city, region to region, town to town.

The automobile and its assembly line changed forever transportation and the manufacturing process.

The Wrights mastered powered flight at Kitty Hawk. The age of flight was born. "The Eagle Has Landed" is a symbolic cry that describes the leadership of this Nation -- from the first Atlantic crossing by the "Lone Eagle," Charles Lindberg, to the American astronauts who announced that to mankind when they landed on the moon.

The telegram, the telephone, radio, television — all are part of the communications revolution of our Second Century.

Science, medicine, agricultural production, marketing, these have been just a few of the modern frontiers since 1876.



The Third Century, I believe, will be an era of Individualism.

The mass approach of the modern world places a premium on creativity and individuality. Mass production, mass education, mass population, must not smother individual expression, or limit individual opportunity.

Individualism is a safeguard against the sameness of society.

A government too large and bureaucratic can stifle individual initiative by a frustrating statism. In America, our sovereign is the citizen. Governments exist to serve people. The state is the creature of the populace. These propositions are the foundation-stones of our Bicentennial.

Today, in the 199th year of our Independence, we stand at the threshold of a new American Experience.

Let us make the coming year a great year on American's agenda of achievement.



As we move to the Bicentennial of American Independence, let us think of where we will be and what we can achieve by the next July 4th-- by the next decade -- by the 200th Anniversary of our Constitution -- and by the Year 2000.

Let us resolve that this shall be an era of hope rather than despair. Let us resolve that it shall be an era of achievement rather than apathy. Let us resolve that it shall be a time of promise rather than of regret.

The Bicentennial should be a time -- for each of us -- of self-examination and individual accomplishment. Quality and permanence should be the measurements of our lives. Let us pursue truths and values that shall enhance the quality of our lives.

To form a more perfect union, we need to learn more of our country and our people. Americans must appreciate the diversity

of our land and our citizens. Boundaries of regionalism and

urbanization must dissolve before our will to be one nation and

one people.

In the coming year, the Bicentennial must become a true, National experience. The American Revolution and its legacy belong

to each of the states and our far flung territories: to every county. . .

to every city . . . to every church . . . to every club . . . and to each and every American citizen.

The ideas that were forged and fought for in the 13 colonies crossed the Appalachians. They followed the Conestoga wagons and rode with the Pony Express. They crossed the Mississippi and the Missouri, spanned the plains and the deserts. They belong as

(MORE)

much to the West as they do to the East. Wherever the American flag has gone, so went the concepts of this great Republic. American Clipper ships took the story to the far corners of the earth. American jet-liners carry it everyday across the skies to distant lands. Indeed, this event does not belong just to Americans. This is a celebration of liberty, freedom and democracy -- wherever they exist.

While we cherish the many heritages that enrich our land, we of all peoples have no history except what we have written for ourselves. We are not Americans alone by birth or blood, by oath or creed or compact among princes. We are Americans because we deliberately chose to be one nation, indivisible, and for 199 years with God's help we have gone forward together.

Two centuries of sacrifice and struggle, of conflict and

compromise, have gained for us an unprecedented measure of political and economic independence.

We have on this Independence Day of 1975 a free government that checks and balances its own excesses, and a free economic system that corrects its own errors, given the courage and constructive cooperation of a free and enlightened citizenry. This is the amazing history Americans have written for themselves as we begin our Bicentennial celebration.

The Young Republic of yesteryear is today a strong and great nation. It still lives the values of its Declaration, its Constitution, its Bill of Rights. It influences the destiny of millions beyond our shores. It still remains -- in Lincoln's words -- the last, best hope of earth.

Let us this Fourth of July continue to be a Nation of Hope.

The American people believe in Tomorrow -- that by dawn's early light our flag will still be there.

Let us be one Nation and one people -- indivisible -- for our flag is one and our destiny is one.

Let us be a people of values -- of liberty, equality and justice -- no matter what the cost. That has been our history.

We have never counted the cost of freedom.

Let us, in the final analysis, be true to ourselves for then we can be false to no nation or no people. And let us live not only for our own progress but also in harmony and hope for all other men, women and children -- everywhere.

In so doing, the United States and its people serve and honor the promise of Francis Scott Key's words:

"... land of the free, and home of the brave."

July 1

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Mr. Marsh --

Regarding an audio-visual presentation at Fort McHenry. There is a 15 minute film which they show to visitors upon arriving at the Fort. It is the story of the battle and the writing of the Star Spangled Banner.

They have extra copies of the film which they are sending a copy of with the advance people who are there today.

There are no other presentations, no slides, etc.

According to the Park Service, it is a very moving presentation.

donna



Nancy Blauselt 343-5731

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

YOU WERE CALLED BY—

YOU WERE VISITED BY—

OF (Organization)

Nancy Blauselt

Net. Park

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO.
CODE/EXT. 343-5731

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

"no automatic"

RECEIVED BY

DATE

TIME

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

REMARKS

"OUR COUNTRY" BICENTENNIAL FESTIVITIES
FRIDAY, JULY 4, 1975
FORT McHENRY NATIONAL MONUMENT
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

FROM: DR. THEODORE C. MARRS *JM*

I. PURPOSE

To participate in "Our Country" Bicentennial festivities.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

Background: The program of events at Fort McHenry consists of two parts, with the President participating in the second:

Part I: "By the Dawn's Early Light" sponsored by the Baltimore Bicentennial Committee. It consists of band concerts and other demonstrations beginning at 4:00 PM on July 3. At 4:00 AM on the morning of the Fourth, several small boats in the harbor will begin a bombardment of the Fort to simulate the attack by the British fleet on September 13-14, 1814. The fire will be answered by howitzers from the Fort under the Maryland National Guard. It was the sight of the Fort's flag waving proudly by dawn's early light on September 14, 1814 that inspired a young Baltimore lawyer named Francis Scott Key to put his emotions on paper in the form of the poem that became the nation's anthem. A prayer service will be led by Cardinal Sheehan followed by the singing of the National Anthem. This part of the program will conclude by 10:00 AM.

Part II: "Our Country" This part of the program, in its fifth year, was conceived by Paul Lawrence, Regional Commissioner of Customs, to instill patriotism in our citizens and teach them a respect for government and the ways in which it serves the people. (See attached letter for explanation)

The official program will begin at 8:00 PM. In addition to various brief remarks from the program's sponsors, there will be a presentation of college scholarships to two inner-city children, a boy and a girl, based on merit, need and desire to go to college. There will be a flag presentation by Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The program will be keyed by the Mayor of Baltimore, William D. Schaefer, who will introduce the Governor of Maryland, Marvin Mandel, for further remarks. Before the keynote, the small 15 star flag will be lowered

and a 30'x42' replica of the original which flew over the Fort during the bombardment will be hoisted. Fort McHenry is one of the few places where the flag has been authorized to fly 24 hours a day. At approximately 9:00 p.m. Judge Edward S. Northrop will convene U.S. District Court for the Naturalization ceremony for approximately 50 new citizens. The National Anthem will be played, the Pledge of Allegiance recited, and the fireworks will begin. Court is then adjourned. After more fireworks and rockets are fired the program will conclude.

A more detailed program will be provided by the Advance Office.

Prior to the evening ceremony, demonstrations of square dancing, model rocketry and displays by Federal Agencies will take place on the lawn between the Fort and the statue of Orpheus.

History of Fort McHenry: The Fort is most famous for the battle on land and sea which took place September 13-14, 1814 and inspired Francis Scott Key to write the Star Spangled Banner.

The present site of Fort McHenry was recognized early in the Revolutionary War as a strategic location for military defenses to protect the water approaches to Baltimore. Fort Whetstones, a temporary fortification with exterior batteries, was constructed here in 1776 and its presence deterred British cruisers operating in Chesapeake Bay from molesting the city.

In the 1790's when war with either England or France seemed likely, it was decided that Baltimore was sufficiently important to merit a more permanent defense. The Federal government and the citizens of Baltimore both contributed funds for this purpose. The outer batteries were rebuilt and strengthened, and a new fort was constructed, called Fort McHenry in honor of James McHenry of Baltimore, sometimes secretary to George Washington during the Revolution and U.S. Secretary of War from 1796-1800. The new star-shaped fort was replete with bastions, batteries, magazines and barracks. Until the War of 1812, life at Fort McHenry was routine and uneventful. In 1814 British troops fresh from the capture and burning of Washington, appeared at the mouth of the Patapsco River. A joint land and naval attack on Baltimore was planned and on September 12 a landing was made at North Point. Encountering only moderate resistance the British forces advanced to within 2 miles of the city, where they awaited the arrival of the fleet before attempting to storm Baltimore defenses.

At dawn on September 13, a British fleet of 16 war ships anchored about 2 miles below Fort McHenry and commenced a heavy bombardment of this very defense work. During the next 25 hours, between 1500 and 1800 bombs, rockets, and shells

were fired by the British but they inflicted only moderate damage to the Fort. Casualties also were low---4 men killed, 24 wounded. Convinced that Fort McHenry could not be taken, the British canceled their attack on Baltimore and withdrew their forces. The seige was over and the city was saved.

Fort McHenry never again came under enemy fire, although it continued to function as an active military post for the next 100 years. During the Civil War the fort was used by the Federal Government as a prison camp for the captured Confederate soldiers. From 1917 until 1923, a U.S. Army General Hospital was located here to serve returning veterans of World War I. In 1925 Congress made Fort McHenry a national park; later it was redesignated a national monument and historic shrine.

The Star Spangled Banner: Fort McHenry and our national anthem will be forever associated in the minds of Americans. "The Star Spangled Banner" is actually an account of the emotions felt by Francis Scott Key as he witnessed the September 13-14, 1814 attack on Fort McHenry. Key, who had come to Baltimore to secure the release of a friend seized by the British, remained on the deck of an American truce ship throughout the bombardment, anxiously watching the fort and reassured by the sight of its large flag. At night, when the flag was no longer visible, he knew that his countrymen still held the fort so long as the British continued to fire rockets and bombs. There were several lulls in the bombardment, and for Key these were moments of suspense and anxiety. At dawn, he again saw the flag---still waving defiantly over the ramparts. Even as the British fleet prepared to leave, Key began writing "The Star Spangled Banner" to express what he felt.

On the day following Key's return to Baltimore, printed copies of his poem were widely circulated through the city. Soon the poem was being sung to the music of an English song, "To Anacreon in Heaven." The song increased so much in popularity that in 1931 Congress declared it our national anthem.

B. Participants: See attached list

C. Press Plan: Full press coverage

III. TALKING POINTS

Speech is being provided by Editorial Division

OPERATION OUR COUNTRY

How and Why

In 1970, as one of 25 regional Federal Executive Board Chairmen, I attended two White House meetings with President Nixon.

Perhaps it was the challenge of the task, combined with a sense of duty, that gave me an unusual feeling of pride in my country. Perhaps it was the location, since the White House conveys an unusual sense of continuity with the past. You are close to such men as Lincoln and Wilson in the halls where they lived and worked and helped to mold the nation.

With this sense of continuity, pride, and duty, I left the White House one day to encounter a group of demonstrators parading before the presidential mansion.

The protestors were orderly. There was no visible show of violence on their part. Nevertheless, violence was being done. Some of the protestors had their children in the group. The children, many of them barely able to walk alone, were carrying signs bearing anti-government hate slogans. Nearly all these children were too small to understand the concept of government, and had no idea as to the meaning of the signs they bore.

Then I saw the violence inflicted on these children. Their immature minds were being taught to hate. This hate was generated by

the parents and directed against the presidency and government of the United States. It was inconceivable to me that any parent should deliberately teach his child to hate those principles which had been established by such great men as Lincoln and other Presidents.

Later, it occurred to me that, as the White House is a symbol of continuity with the nation's past, the incident of the protestors' children is a symbol of the future. Surely our country deserves better than such blind hatred. Surely our children deserve more than the heritage of hate and violence from which our forefathers fled to establish this nation.

It then occurred to me that perhaps our Federal Executive Boards might be able to counter some of the nihilistic philosophy and action displayed so violently all over the country.

I shared my thoughts with many, but it was my old friend, Kent Redgrave, who felt strongly enough to donate his time and talents to help create a program which we were to call OUR COUNTRY. He was instrumental in developing a logo, creed, and a purpose. Together we have maintained the momentum of the OUR COUNTRY program to its present position.

It is our opinion that the program must now flourish or perish. It is also our opinion that the need for the program is so urgent, that to allow it to wither would be a disservice to our country.



Paul Lawrence

Regional Commissioner of Customs
Baltimore, Maryland

PARTICIPANTS

Kent Redgrave, Master of Ceremonies and Director of the "Our Country" Program

Dennis McGinnis, Park Service Superintendent of Fort McHenry

Paul Lawrence, Chairman, "Our Country" Committee

Colonel Jack Kaufman, Chairman, Baltimore Federal Executive Board

Honorable Louise Gore, Chairman, Maryland Bicentennial Committee

Colonel Robert S. McGarry, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Mayor William Donald Schaefer

Governor Marvin Mandel

Judge Edward S. Northrop, U.S. District Court

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 4, 1975

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Baltimore, Maryland)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
FIFTH ANNUAL OUR COUNTRY CELEBRATION

FORT McHENRY

9:05 P.M. EDT

Governor Mandel and Mrs. Mandel, Senator Bell and Mrs. Bell, distinguished Members of the House of Representatives, Congressman Long, Congressman Gude, Congressman Holt, Congressman Bowman, Congressman Spellman, Congressman Sarbanes, Mayor Schaefer, our country's newest citizens, and all of you wonderful people from Baltimore and the great State of Maryland:

We meet here tonight at the twilight's last gleaming. The casement walls and the silent cannons of the Fort McHenry bear a very quiet testimony to the Nation's travail on another night in another age.

We all know that Francis Scott Key enshrined forever those events in 1814. The patriotism and the national pride surrounding our flag, our country, and their defense, that night our heritage, in a song and a verse.

The Star Spangled Banner is an expression of our love of country. We must not be so sophisticated, so blasé that we ignore those simple but eloquent moments of our history.

We need to remind ourselves that America is really the land of the free and the home of the brave, and we should be proud of it.

We are honored, every one of us, by those who earlier this evening became our newest citizens, and we should give them a special round of applause right now.

They have chosen what often is taken for granted among many of us. The hallmark of our first century was the establishment of a free Government. In the face of the greatest odds, 13 poor struggling colonies became a fledgling nation.

MORE

Its future, in those dark days and weeks and months, was insecure and in the first 100 years the western movement accelerated, vast territories were acquired, States joined the Union and Constitutional issues were raised. Wars were fought, none more devastating than the one that turned American against American.

Yet, through that horrible ordeal, it was resolved that this Nation would not endure half slave and half free. The Union was preserved.

By our Centennial in 1876, the American Republic had been securely established. Of this, there was no doubt, either at home or abroad.

Our second century has been marked by the growth of the great American free enterprise system. The pioneer spirit which carried us West turned us to new frontiers. Railroads spanned the Continent and became a web of steel linking city to city, region to region, town to town.

The automobile and its assembly line changed forever transportation and our manufacturing process in America. The Wright brothers mastered powered flight at Kitty Hawk. The age of flight was born.

From the first Atlantic crossing by the lone eagle, Charles, Lindbergh, to the American astronauts who announced that the Eagle had landed, when touchdown on the moon, America's latest ship was again established.

The telegram. The telephone. The television. All are a great part of the communications revolution of our second century. Science, medicine, agriculture, production, marketing, these have been just a few of the modern frontiers since 1876.

But now our third century; I believe, should be an era of individual freedom. The mass approach of the modern world places a premium on creativity and individuality.

We see mass production, mass education, mass population. They must not smother individual expression or limit individual opportunity. Individualism is a safeguard against the sameness of society. A Government too large and bureaucratic can stifle individual initiative by a frustrating statism.

MORE

In America, and never forget it, our sovereign is the citizen. Our sovereign is the citizen, and we must never forget it.

Governments exist to serve people. The State is the creature of the populus. These propositions are the foundationstones of our Bicentennial. Today, in the 199 years of our independence, we stand on the threshhold of a new American experience.

Let us make the coming year a great year on America's agenda of achievement. As we move to the Bicentennial of American independence, let us think where we will be and what we can achieve by next July 4 by the next decade, by the 200th anniversary of our Constitution and by the year 2000.

Let us resolve that this shall be an era of hope rather than despair. Let us resolve that it shall be an era of achievement rather than apathy. Let us resolve that it shall be a time of promises rather than regret.

The Bicentennial should be a time for each of us for self-examination and individual accomplishment. Quality and permanence should be the measurement of your life and my life and the life of 214 other million Americans in 50 States and our territories.

Let us pursue truths and values that will enhance the quality of life, of you and your fellow Americans. To form a more perfect Union -- and that is what we want -- we need to learn more of our country and more of our good people.

Americans must appreciate the diversity of our lands and the diversity of our citizens. There is a quotation that I learned in my early days in Sunday school that the beauty of Joseph's coat is its many colors, and that is the strength of America.

Boundries of regionalism and urbanization must dissolve before our will to be one Nation and one people. In the coming year, the Bicentennial must become a true national experience. The American Revolution and its legacy belong to each of the States and our far-flung territories. It belongs to every county, to every city, to every church, to every club and to each and every American citizen.

MORE

At every school where the American flag flies, it is my hope that there will be, in the coming year, a concentrated effort in the classroom to study, discuss and portray these past 200 years of our history.

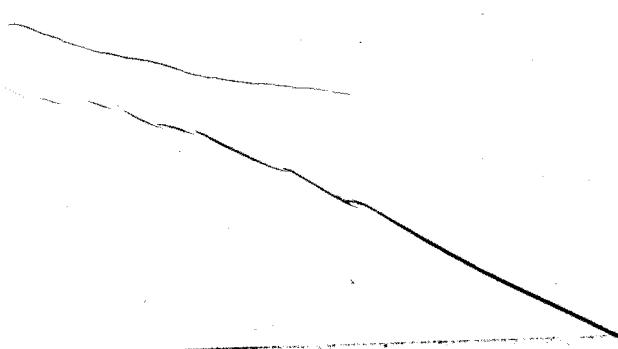
I would urge that every community seek to make its program as meaningful as possible to as many as possible -- old, young, in every walk of life.

This should stress the history, culture and the achievements and the basic values that are so important that we associate with our way of life.

Yes, the ideas that were forged and fought for in the 13 colonies crossed the Appalachians. They followed the wagons and rode with the Pony Express. They crossed the Mississippi and the Missouri, spanned the plains and the American desert.

They belong as much to the West as they belonged to the East, wherever the American flag has gone.

MORE



So went the concepts of this great Republic. American Clipper ships that probably sailed in part from this great Baltimore harbor, took the story of America to the far corners of the earth with pride and with success. American jet liners carry it every day across the skies to distant lands. Indeed, this event does not belong just to Americans. This is a celebration of liberty, freedom, democracy, wherever they exist, and we want them to exist on a global basis at some time in the world's history.

While we cherish the many heritages that enrich our land, we of all people, have no history except what we have written for ourselves. We are not Americans alone, by birth or blood, by oath or creed or compact among princes. We are Americans because we deliberately chose to be one nation, indivisible, and for 199 years, with God's help, we have gone forward together, and we will in the future.

Two centuries of sacrifice and struggle, of conflict and compromise, have gained for us an unprecedented measure of political and economic independence.

We have, on this Independence Day of 1975, a free government that checks and balances its own excesses, and a free economic system that corrects its own errors, given the courage and the constructive cooperation of a free and enlightened citizenry. This is the amazing history Americans have written for themselves, you and your forefathers, as we begin our bicentennial celebration.

The Young Republic of yesteryear is today a strong and a very great Nation. It is. It still lives the values of the Declaration, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. It influences the destiny of millions beyond our shores. It still remains, in Lincoln's words, "The last, best hope of earth."

Let us, this fourth of July, continue to be a nation of hope. The American people believe in Tommorrow -- that by dawn's early light our flag will still be there. Let us be one nation and one people indivisible, for our flag is one and our destiny is one. Let us be people of values, of liberty, equality and justice, no matter what the cost. That has been our history and we are proud of it. We have never counted the cost of freedom and I don't think America ever will.

Let us in the final analysis be true to ourselves for then we can be false to no nation or to no people, and let us live, not only for our own progress, but also in harmony and hope for all other men, women and children everywhere in this great globe. In so doing the United States and its people serve and honor the promise of Francis Scott Key's words: "land of the free, and home of the brave."

Thank you and good night.

July 7, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: TED MARRS
FROM: JACK MARSH

I would appreciate your thoughts and comments on the following in reference to the President's Fourth of July speech.

-- What distribution can be given to the speech in a manner that is normal and customary, and within the bounds of propriety?

-- I would assume that the Bicentennial newspaper, published by ARBA, will carry a story about the speech.

-- What about the paragraph that relates to encouraging attention to this in the public schools? Is there some contact point that we can pass this on to for further distribution or consideration within the educational community, through the educational organizations that the White House deals with?

-- What about HEW? Do they publish a newsletter that sets out significant things that have been said by Federal officials in reference to education? I am referring only to news publications through regular newsletters, etc., and any such suggestions would have to be in the nature of voluntary rather than directive.

-- Does ARBA, in addition to the newspaper, publish a newsletter that goes around to the various State Directors and State Committees to whom this Bicentennial speech could be distributed as well as other Presidential comments on the Bicentennial?

I think it is important that we follow a criteria that errs on the side of caution in this regard in order not to be subject to the fact that we are unduly publicizing the President's statements.

JOM/dl



July 7, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF
FROM: JACK MARSH

In reference to the President's statement at Fort McHenry, can you have your people arrange to have this inserted in the Congressional Record?

Many thanks.

JOM/dl

