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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 1976

It is a noteworthy coincidence that our Bicentennial year of independence also marks the one hundredth anniversary of the invention of the telephone. Few events in the course of our history have had a more far-reaching and fundamental impact on the lives of our people. Even Alexander Graham Bell, with all his foresight, could scarcely have imagined the pervasive effect that his achievement would have on social change and on shaping a modern world of instant communications.

In the century that has passed since the first telephone message was transmitted inside a Boston laboratory, we have witnessed a technological revolution in the development of electronic communications. We can look back with pride on the creative genius of generations of Americans as we trace the transition from wire to cable, to microwave and satellites and now even to optical fibers which promise transmission capacities undreamed of a few years ago.

If we are to realize a second century of communications advances, it is important that we have the kind of national communications policy that will foster and promote the American ingenuity and resolve which have served our nation so admirably in the past. It is also vital that we express our ready willingness to exchange information, engage in productive dialogue and communicate freely and often with all the peoples of the world.

On this milestone, I welcome the opportunity to applaud our communications industry and to look forward with all Americans to future generations of progress and harmony through better communications for all mankind.

Gerald R. Ford

