

The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “8/30/74 – Commencement of Ohio State University” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies 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 Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
AND IN KEEPING WITH MY FIGHT
AGAINST INFLATION -- I'M GOING
TO ASK THE MICHIGAN TEAM
TO TRY TO KEEP THEIR SCORE DOWN.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THESE
TWO TICKETS. I WON'T ASK
DR. ENARSON TO SIT WITH ME --
BECAUSE I KNOW HE'LL ROOT
FOR OHIO STATE TO WIN --
AND I HATE TO SEE A
GROWN MAN CRY.

COMMENCEMENT OF OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 1974
COLUMBUS, OHIO



Handwritten notes:
Nelson / Dinner / Wright
Pace. Erasmus / Parent / 7th
Graduates / Parents / Families
Friends

SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED IN THESE FEW MONTHS SINCE YOU WERE KIND
ENOUGH TO ASK ME TO SPEAK HERE TODAY. I WAS THEN AMERICA'S FIRST
INSTANT VICE PRESIDENT -- AND NOW, AMERICA'S FIRST INSTANT PRESIDENT.
THE UNITED STATES MARINE ~~CORPS~~ BAND IS SO CONFUSED, THEY DON'T
KNOW WHETHER TO PLAY "HAIL TO THE CHIEF" OR "YOU'VE COME A LONG
WAY, BABY!"

IT'S A GREAT HONOR TO BE HERE AT OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY TODAY --

SOMETIMES KNOWN AS THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF WOODY HAYES!

For good reason

WOODY HAYES IS SO POPULAR HERE IN OHIO, IT'S UNBELIEVABLE. WE JUST

HAD OUR PICTURE TAKEN TOGETHER AND WHEN THAT PICTURE APPEARS IN

TODAY'S DISPATCH, I'M PRETTY SURE WHAT THE CAPTION WILL SAY:

"WOODY HAYES -- AND FRIEND".



AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS HAD A GREAT INTEREST IN
FOOTBALL. I PLAYED CENTER FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AND I STILL
REMEMBER MY SENIOR YEAR BACK IN 1934. THE WOLVERINES PLAYED OHIO STATE ^{in Columbus}
AND WE LOST 34 TO ZERO. AND TO MAKE IT EVEN WORSE, THAT YEAR WE LOST
SEVEN OUT OF OUR EIGHT GAMES. BUT WHAT REALLY HURT WAS WHEN ^{my teammates} ~~THEY~~
VOTED ME THEIR MOST VALUABLE PLAYER!.....I DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER

TO SMILE OR SUE!



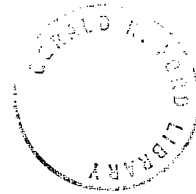
BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I HAVE A GREAT FEELING OF KINSHIP
WITH THIS GRADUATING CLASS. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ALL HAVE TAKEN
YOUR FINAL EXAMINATIONS THIS WEEK. AS YOUR NEW PRESIDENT, I FEEL
LIKE
~~AS IF I'M JUST BEGINNING MINE.~~

They are tough, both at home & abroad, BUT, will make it.

INSTEAD OF DWELLING ON HOW MY TEAM LOST HERE IN 1934, I WOULD
PREFER TO ADVANCE THE CLOCK TO 1974 AND TALK ABOUT WINNING AGAINST
THE ODDS THAT CONFRONT TODAY'S GRADUATES AND ALL AMERICA.



THE FIRST OF THESE PROBLEMS IS SUMMED UP BY THE EDITOR OF
YOUR CAMPUS PAPER. SHE REPORTS THAT ONE DOMINANT QUESTION ON THE
MINDS OF THIS YEAR'S GRADUATES IS: HOW CAN I GET A JOB THAT MAKES
SENSE AS WELL AS MONEY?



YOUR PROFESSORS TELL YOU THAT EDUCATION UNLOCKS CREATIVE
GENIOUS AND IMAGINATION AND THAT YOU MUST DEVELOP YOUR HUMAN
POTENTIAL. / AND STUDENTS HAVE ACCEPTED THIS. BUT THEN CATCH 22
ENTERS THE PICTURE. YOU SPEND FOUR YEARS IN SCHOOL, GRADUATE,
GO INTO THE JOB MARKET AND ARE TOLD THE RULES HAVE CHANGED,
THERE IS NO LONGER A DEMAND FOR YOUR SPECIALITY -- ANOTHER
EDUCATIONAL DISCIPLINE IS NOW REQUIRED, AND SO ONE OR TWO MORE
YEARS OF STUDY FOLLOWS AND YOU RETURN AGAIN TO THE JOB MARKET.



YES, WHAT YOU NOW OFFER IS SALEABLE EXCEPT THAT COMPETITION IS

very tough.

SEVERE. TO SUCCEED, YOU MUST ACQUIRE FURTHER CREDENTIALS. SO

YOU GO BACK TO THE UNIVERSITY AND ULTIMATELY EMERGE WITH A

MASTERS OR EVEN A PH. D.. AND YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? YOU

GO OUT TO LOOK FOR A JOB -- AND NOW THEY SAY YOU'RE OVER-QUALIFIED!

over there

IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER, THIS IS A THREE SHELL GAME SOCIETY

tricks

HAS BEEN PLAYING WITH OUR GREATEST NATURAL ENERGY SOURCE -- YOU!

THIS HAS GOT TO STOP.

ALTHOUGH THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT MAKE PROMISES IT CANNOT

KEEP, I DO WANT TO PLEDGE ONE THING TO YOU HERE AND NOW: I WILL

DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO BRING EDUCATION AND EMPLOYERS TOGETHER

IN A NEW CLIMATE OF CREDIBILITY -- AN ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH

UNIVERSITIES TURN SCHOLARS OUT AND EMPLOYERS TURN THEM ON.



EVER SINCE PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN INITIATED THE CONCEPT OF LAND GRANT COLLEGES, SET UP TO BRING EDUCATORS CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE AND STUDENTS CLOSER TO THE LAND, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN INTERESTED IN THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF EDUCATION.

TAKE THE EXAMPLE OF PROJECT INDEPENDENCE. FRANKLY, I AM NOT SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRESS WE ARE MAKING TOWARD ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

However,
BY 1980. THIS IS A PROBLEM THAT I CAN APPROPRIATELY DISCUSS AT A
LABOR DAY WEEKEND COMMENCEMENT. IT CONCERNS BOTH THE ACADEMIC
COMMUNITY AND THE GREAT LABOR ORGANIZATIONS.



I AM NOT SPEAKING OF GASOLINE FOR A LABOR DAY TRIP TO THE
LAKE OR SEASHORE. I AM SPEAKING OF FUEL AND RAW MATERIALS FOR OUR
FACTORIES WHICH ARE THREATENED BY SHORTAGES AND HIGH COSTS. SKILLS
AND INTELLECT MUST HARMONIZE SO THAT THE WHEELS OF INDUSTRY NOT
ONLY HUM BUT SING.



I PROPOSE A GREAT NEW PARTNERSHIP OF LABOR AND ACADEMIA.

educators.

WHY CAN'T THE UNIVERSITIES OF AMERICA OPEN THEIR DOORS TO WORKING

wide

1

MEN AND WOMEN, NOT ONLY AS STUDENTS BUT ALSO AS TEACHERS. PRACTICAL

PROBLEM-SOLVERS CAN CONTRIBUTE MUCH TO EDUCATIONS, WHETHER OR NOT

THEY HOLD DEGREES. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT EDUCATION IS

BEING STRANGLERD -- BY DEGREES.

I WANT TO SEE LABOR OPEN ITS RANKS TO THE RESEARCHERS
the campuses
AND PROBLEM-SOLVERS OF ~~ACADEMIA~~ WHOSE RESEARCH CAN GIVE BETTER TOOLS
AND METHODS TO THE WORKMAN. I WANT TO SEE A TWO-WAY STREET SPEEDING
THE TRAFFIC OF SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT, SPEEDING THE CREATION OF NEW
JOBS, *independence* SPEEDING THE DAY OF ~~SELF SUFFICIENCY~~ IN ENERGY, AND SPEEDING AN
ERA OF INCREASED PRODUCTION FOR AMERICA AND THE WORLD.

WHAT GOOD IS TRAINING IF IT IS NOT APPLIED TO JOBS? WHAT
GOOD ARE FACTORIES IF THEY ARE SHUT DOWN? WHAT GOOD IS BUSINESS AND
INDUSTRY WITHOUT THOSE WHO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS, PERFORM THEIR
JOBS, AND SPEND THEIR PAYCHECKS?

NEXT YEAR, I WILL ASK CONGRESS TO EXTEND TWO LAWS WHICH
ARE EXPIRING. ONE PROVIDES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, THE OTHER FOR
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION. BOTH ARE ESSENTIAL BECAUSE WE NEED NEW JOBS
AND NEW SKILLS. - *academically + vocationally.*

YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL HELP YOU BY CREATING A VOCATIONAL
ENVIRONMENT RESPONSIVE TO YOUR NEEDS. BUT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT
ACHIEVE PERSONAL FULFILLMENT FOR YOU. ~~YOU~~ ARE THE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT.
YOUR DETERMINATION WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.

FOR YOU, THE TIME HAS COME TO TEST THE THEORIES OF THE
ACADEMIC WORLD IN THE LABORATORY OF LIFE. AS PRESIDENT, I INVITE
STUDENTS AND GRADUATES AND FACULTIES TO CONTRIBUTE THEIR ENERGIES
AND GENIUS IN THE SOLUTION OF THE MASSIVE PROBLEMS FACING AMERICA.
I INVITE YOUR IDEAS AND YOUR INITIATIVES IN ^{fighting} ~~COMBATTING~~ INFLATION,
IN PROVIDING REALISTIC EDUCATION, IN MAKING SURE OUR FREE ENTERPRISE
SYSTEM CONTINUES TO OFFER FREEDOM AS WELL AS ENTERPRISE.

SHOW US HOW TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY. SHOW US HOW TO
COMBINE NEW LIFESTYLES WITH THE OLD RESPONSIBILITIES. SHOW US HOW
UNIVERSITIES CAN WORK WITH INDUSTRY AND LABOR UNIONS TO DEVISE A
WHOLE NEW COMMUNITY OF LEARNING ACROSS AMERICA. SHOW US HOW WORK-STUDY
PROGRAMS CAN BE A PART OF THE ONGOING EDUCATIONAL PROCESS. SHOW US
HOW NEW SKILLS CAN IMPROVE TECHNOLOGY WHILE HUMANIZING ITS USE.

A FRENCH STATESMAN ONCE OBSERVED THAT WAR IS MUCH TOO
IMPORTANT TO BE LEFT TO GENERALS. OUR NATION'S FUTURE IS TOO ^{far}
IMPORTANT TO BE LEFT ONLY TO PRESIDENTS OR OTHER OFFICIALS OF
GOVERNMENT. I LIKE THE PHRASE OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT: "THE
GOVERNMENT IS US; WE ARE THE GOVERNMENT, YOU AND I." YOUR VOTE
AND YOUR VOICE ARE AS ESSENTIAL AS MINE IF EACH AMERICAN IS TO TAKE
INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR COLLECTIVE FUTURE.

AS YOU MOVE INTO THAT JOB THAT MAKES SENSE AND MONEY TO
YOU -- AND YOU WILL FIND IT -- YOU MOVE FROM A POSITION OF
STRENGTH. WITH THE WAR OVER AND THE DRAFT ENDED, YOUR DUTY NOW
TO YOUR COUNTRY IS TO ENLIST IN THE CAMPAIGNS BEING WAGED AGAINST
OUR URGENT DOMESTIC THREATS -- ESPECIALLY INFLATION WHICH IS
PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1.

ABROAD, WE ARE SEEKING NEW PEACEFUL RELATIONSHIPS, NOT ONLY WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA BUT WITH ALL PEOPLES. THERE WILL BE CONTINUITY IN OUR FOREIGN POLICY AND CONTINUED REALISM IN OUR SELF-DEFENSE.

AT HOME, THE GOVERNMENT MUST HELP PEOPLE IN DOING THINGS THEY
CANNOT ACHIEVE AS INDIVIDUALS. ACCORDINGLY, I HAVE ASKED THE
SECRETARIES OF Commerce, LABOR AND OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE TO REPORT
TO ME NEW WAYS TO BRING THE WORLD OF WORK AND THE INSTITUTIONS OF
EDUCATION CLOSER TOGETHER. FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS FOR YOU,
THE TIME HAS COME FOR A FUSION OF THE REALITIES OF WORK-A-DAY LIFE
WITH THE TEACHINGS OF ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS.

AS A STARTER, THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WILL SHORTLY ANNOUNCE
pilot
A ~~NEW~~ PROGRAM TO IMPROVE OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION FOR GRADUATES
AND OTHERS IN MAKING CAREER CHOICES. THERE WILL BE GRANTS FOR
STATE AND LOCAL INITIATIVES -- TO PROVIDE DATA ON OCCUPATIONS
AVAILABLE AND TO HELP CHANNEL POTENTIAL EMPLOYEES INTO POSITIONS
WHICH ARE NOT ONLY PERSONALLY SATISFYING BUT FINANCIALLY REWARDING.

THE STATES HAVE ALWAYS ASSUMED THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY

Ohio State & that "school up North" are good examples
FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION. THAT TRADITION IS SOUND, BUT THERE IS NOW

TOO MUCH CONFUSION ABOUT WHICH LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT IS TO PLAY WHICH

ROLE IN SUPPORT OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION. I AM DIRECTING THE

RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES OF GOVERNMENT TO MAKE A NEW EVALUATION OF WHERE

WE ARE, WHERE WE WANT TO GO, AND WHERE WE CAN REASONABLY EXPECT TO

BE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW. DISCUSSIONS WILL BE HELD WITH GOVERNORS,

STATE LEGISLATORS, ACADEMIC LEADERS, FEDERAL OFFICIALS, AND THE

CONSUMERS OF EDUCATION.

OUR GOAL OF QUALITY EDUCATION IS ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH
THE ESCALATING DEMANDS FOR THE PUBLIC DOLLAR. EVERYONE MUST HAVE
A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT ON WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR
SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE DIRECTION AND FINANCING OF COLLEGE EDUCATION.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SOMETIMES TRIES TO DO TOO MUCH AND
ACHIEVES TOO LITTLE. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 380 SEPARATE FEDERAL
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS BEYOND THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL, SOME DUPLICATING
OTHERS, ADMINISTERED BY SOME 50 SEPARATE EXECUTIVE AGENCIES AND
OFFICES. THE RESULT IS A BUREAUCRACY THAT OFTEN PROVIDES GARBLED
GUIDELINES INSTEAD OF TAUT LIFELINES TO GOOD AND AVAILABLE JOBS.

LET US LOOK FOR A MOMENT BEYOND THIS CAMPUS AND BEYOND
WASHINGTON.

IN 1972, I VISITED THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. WITH FOUR
TIMES THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES, GROWING AT THE RATE OF
TWO NEW YORK CITIES A YEAR, THAT VAST NATION IS MAKING SIGNIFICANT
TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS. CHINESE PRODUCTIVITY IS GAINING MOMENTUM.
AND THE MAJORITY OF CHINESE ARE YOUNG PEOPLE, HIGHLY MOTIVATED
AND DISCIPLINED.

AS FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS, WE CELEBRATE THE RISING CAPACITIES
OF THE CHINESE NATION, A PEOPLE WITH A FIRM BELIEF IN THEIR OWN
DESTINY.

AS AMERICANS MOTIVATED BY FREE COMPETITION, WE SEE A *distant*
welcome
CHALLENGE. AND WE ~~ACCEPT~~ IT.

WE MUST COMPETE INTERNATIONALLY NOT ONLY TO MAINTAIN THE
BALANCE OF TRADE AND OUR OWN STANDARD OF LIVING BUT TO OFFER TO THE
WORLD'S IMPOVERISHED EXAMPLES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR BETTER LIFE.

LET THIS PEACEFUL COMPETITION ANIMATE THE LAST QUARTER OF
THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, ^{*2 an confident*} AMERICA'S YOUTH WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE,
^{*Americas*} YOU ARE ~~OUR~~ GREATEST UNTAPPED SOURCE OF ENERGY. BUT ENERGY UNUSED
IS ENERGY WASTED.

WE MUST MAKE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS TO APPLY OUR KNOW-HOW,
OUR CAPITAL, OUR TECHNOLOGY, AND OUR HUMAN RESOURCES TO INCREASE
PRODUCTIVITY AT A FASTER PACE. INFLATION IS CREATING A NATIONAL STATE
OF ANXIETY. ^{you + mind} PRODUCTIVITY MUST IMPROVE IF WE ARE TO HAVE A LESS
INFLATIONARY ECONOMY. IN THE LONG RUN, IT IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN RAISE
WAGES WITHOUT INFLATIONARY PRICE INCREASES. IT IS ESSENTIAL IN
CREATING NEW JOBS AND INCREASING REAL WAGES. IN A GROWING ECONOMY,
EVERYONE -- LABOR, MANAGEMENT AND THE CONSUMER -- WINS WHEN PRODUCTIVITY
EXPANDS.

AT THIS VERY MOMENT OF OUR HISTORY, WE HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE
AND THE MATERIAL RESOURCES TO DO ALMOST ANYTHING WE CAN IMAGINE. WE
CAN EXPLORE THE DEPTHS OF THE OCEANS. WE CAN PUT A MAN ON THE MOON.
WE CAN REACH FOR THE STARS.

here on earth.

BUT GREAT PROBLEMS CONFRONT US, TO FACE THESE PROBLEMS WE
NEED EVEN MORE THAN NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND PROGRAMS. WE NEED A BELIEF
IN OURSELVES. WE NEED THE WILL TO TAKE ACTION.

*Dedication
Discipline*

LET US TAKE A NEW LOOK AT OURSELVES AS AMERICANS, LET US
DRAW FROM EVERY RESOURCE AVAILABLE. LET US SEEK A REAL PARTNERSHIP
BETWEEN THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY. LET US ASPIRE TO
EXCELLENCE IN EVERY ASPECT OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE.

MAY I CLOSE WITH A WORD BETWEEN FRIENDS? ^{deep} SOMETIMES FEELINGS
CAN GET LOST IN WORDS. I DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN HERE TODAY. AND
SO I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU SOMETHING I DEEPLY FEEL: THE WORLD IS
NOT A LONELY PLACE. THERE IS LIGHT AND LIFE AND LOVE ENOUGH FOR
US ALL. I ASK YOU AND ALL AMERICANS TO REACH OUT AND JOIN HANDS
WITH ME -- AND TOGETHER WE WILL SEEK IT OUT.

#