

The original documents are located in Box 2, folder “10/18/74 - Dedication of New Departmental Headquarters Building” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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DEDICATION OF NEW DEPARTMENTAL
HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1974

THIS NEW BUILDING WILL HOUSE THE ADMINISTRATION OF
PROGRAMS THAT DEMONSTRATE AMERICA'S SENSE OF CONCERN AND
COMPASSION AND EQUITY. ENORMOUS PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE SINCE
1913 WHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR STARTED ITS WORK. ITS MOST
URGENT CONCERN THEN WAS CHILD LABOR. UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND
WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION DID NOT EXIST. NEITHER DID THE DOZENS OF
OTHER PROGRAMS OF ASSISTANCE TO AMERICA'S WORKING MEN AND WOMEN.

SINCE 1913, WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, WAS THE YEAR I WAS BORN,
THE UNITED STATES HAS PROTECTED WORKERS WITH A BROAD NETWORK OF
LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SAFEGUARDS.

IN RECENT YEARS, WE HAVE ATTACKED THE PROBLEMS OF HARD-
CORE UNEMPLOYMENT. WE HAVE SOUGHT TO ASSIST THE CHRONICALLY
UNEMPLOYED WHO LACK THE SKILLS REQUIRED FOR TODAY'S JOB MARKET.

OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS, THE MANPOWER TRAINING PROGRAMS OF
THE DEPARTMENT HELPED PROVIDE OVER NINE-AND-A-HALF MILLION
WORKERS WITH THE SKILLS NEEDED TO MOVE UP THE JOB LADDER.
WORKING STANDARDS HAVE UPGRADED AND JOB DISCRIMINATION
CURBED.

I AM PROUD OF THE 13,000 PEOPLE WHO WILL WORK IN THIS
NEW BUILDING AND IN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OFFICES ELSEWHERE.
IN DEMONSTRATING COMPETENCE AND CREATIVITY IN THEIR WORK, THEY HELP
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS CUT THROUGH FEDERAL RED TAPE AND AFFORD
THESE UNITS MAXIMUM LATITUDE IN ADAPTING PROGRAMS TO LOCAL NEEDS.
THEY HELP BUILD A CONSTRUCTIVE FEDERAL-STATE PARTNERSHIP. IN SHORT,
THEY HELP THE WORKING PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY WHO ARE THE
INDISPENSIBLE INGREDIENT OF AMERICA'S GREATNESS.

DURING THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING LAST MONTH, I GOT
SOME GOOD ADVICE FROM SECRETARY BRENNAN AND FROM OUR NATIONAL
LABOR LEADERS ON HOW TO COPE WITH OUR NUMBER ONE DOMESTIC
PROBLEM -- A PROBLEM WHICH AFFECTS EVERY CITIZEN, EVERY WORKER,
EVERYONE OF US.

WHAT IS NEEDED TO WHIP INFLATION, IT WAS SUGGESTED, ARE COMPASSIONATE, SENSIBLE, AND EQUITABLE POLICIES, PRESENTED TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WITH HONESTY AND CANDOR.

IN OUTLINING MY PROGRAMS TO CONGRESS TO OVERCOME THIS THREAT, I TRIED MY BEST TO MEET THIS STANDARD -- TO OFFER POLICIES THAT ARE COMPASSIONATE, SENSIBLE, AND EQUITABLE. IN CALLING ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO JOIN IN THIS EFFORT, I USED THE SAME YARDSTICK.

AND LET ME EMPHASIZE THIS POINT: WHATEVER THEY DEAL
WITH -- WHETHER THE ECONOMY AT HOME OR OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS
ABROAD -- THE PROGRAMS AND POLICIES OF THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL
CONTINUE TO BE BASED ON THESE SAME PRINCIPLES.

THE BUILDING WE DEDICATE TODAY DEMONSTRATES THAT
LABOR DAY IS NOT CONFINED TO A SINGLE DAY IN SEPTEMBER.
EVERY DAY IS LABOR DAY IN THE VIEW OF THIS ADMINISTRATION
TOWARD AMERICA'S WORKING MEN AND WOMEN.

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