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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS AT LILLY

ENDOWMENT CONFERENCE MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1974

WELCOME -- ON MY BEHALF -- AND THAT OF THE WHITE HOUSE  
STAFF. I HOPE YOUR VISIT HERE PROVES A WORTHWHILE PART OF  
YOUR PROGRAM.

AS A FORMER MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ONE OF  
YOUR PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS, ALBION COLLEGE, I APPRECIATE THE  
IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LIBERAL EDUCATION AND THE  
PROFESSIONS -- AND THE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT RELATIONSHIP BETTER.

SINCE THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES, COLLEGES HAVE BEEN SHELTERED,  
ALMOST CLOISTERED COMMUNITIES SET APART FROM GENERAL SOCIETY.

UNFORTUNATELY, THIS CAUSED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SUSPICION --  
AND EVEN DISTRUST.

WE CANNOT AFFORD THIS TODAY.

BENJAMIN DISRAELI SAID THAT " A UNIVERSITY SHOULD BE A PLACE OF LIGHT, OF LIBERTY, AND OF LEARNING." IN A FREE SOCIETY LIKE OURS -- WHERE EDUCATION IS OPEN TO THE MANY, NOT JUST THE FEW -- THE UNIVERSITY'S LIGHT, LIBERTY AND LEARNING MUST NOT BE ABSTRACT -- BUT RATHER MUST RELATE TO REALITY.

A SOUND LIBERAL EDUCATION CAN, AND SHOULD, BE THE KEY TO PREPARING YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN FOR A FULL LIFE BEYOND THEIR STUDENT YEARS -- THAT IS, AS CREATIVE, PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF THE GREATER COMMUNITY.

THIS IS NOT JUST A DEMOCRATIC IDEAL. IT IS A PRACTICAL NECESSITY -- ONE ON WHICH WE ARE WORKING AT THIS TIME IN THE PREPARATION OF OUR DOMESTIC POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE.

I MET THIS WEEK WITH SECRETARY WEINBERGER, VIRGINIA TROTTER AND TED BELL. WE FOCUSED ON MAXIMIZING AVAILABLE FEDERAL RESOURCES TO IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AND THE QUALITY OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.

IN ADDITION, SECRETARIES DENT, WEINBERGER AND BRENNAN ARE WORKING TO BUILD A BETTER RELATIONSHIP AND BALANCE BETWEEN THE WORLDS OF WORK AND EDUCATION. THIS IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE'S SEARCH FOR MEANINGFUL, SATISFYING CAREERS.

IT IS EQUALLY VITAL TO OUR NATION'S CONTINUED REQUIREMENTS FOR WELL EDUCATED AND WELL QUALIFIED MANPOWER. I AM HOPEFUL THAT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ROLE IN MEETING THESE TWO GOALS.

CHANGING POPULATION TRENDS, AND THE EMOTIONAL AFTERMATH OF THE TURBULENT 1960S HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROBLEMS FACING LIBERAL EDUCATION TODAY. AND, THE PROBLEMS REMAIN SERIOUS. HOWEVER, I DEEPLY BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN BE OVERCOME.



PART OF THE REASON FOR MY BELIEF IS PROGRAMS LIKE YOURS --  
PROGRAMS THAT ARTICULATE AND STRENGTHEN THE BONDS BETWEEN LEARNING  
AND LIVING, BETWEEN THE WORLD OF BOOKS, PHILOSOPHY AND IDEAS AND  
THE WORLD OF HUMAN PROBLEMS AND HUMAN SOLUTIONS.

DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR THIS LINK,  
THIS VITAL INTER-RELATIONSHIP. HE URGED HIS READERS TO "PAUSE  
A WHILE FROM LEARNING TO BE WISE," TO TAKE THE TIME TO UNDERSTAND AND  
APPLY THE LESSONS OF THE CLASSROOM TO THE CONDITIONS OF THE WORLD.

THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE DOING -- DEVELOPING HUMAN AND  
HUMANE INSIGHTS THAT ONLY A LIBERAL EDUCATION PROVIDES AND APPLYING  
THEM TO THE MANY PROFESSIONAL JOBS THAT MUST BE DONE IN A MODERN  
SOCIETY.

IN LOOKING OVER THE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AND EVENTS FOR THIS CONFERENCE, I SEE THAT YOU HAVE PURSUED WELL YOUR GOAL OF FOCUSING ATTENTION ON THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF PROFESSIONALS AND THE ROLE OF THE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE IN PREPARING PEOPLE FOR THOSE PROFESSIONS. THE RANGE OF YOUR AGENDA IS IMPRESSIVE, INCLUDING LEADING FIGURES FROM BUSINESS, THE PROFESSIONS AND THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA AS WELL AS ACADEMIA.

I KNOW YOU WILL SUCCEED.

YOUR BASIC PRODUCT AND YOUR BASIC METHODS ARE SOUND.

I BELIEVE THE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE CAN COPE WITH CHANGE WITHOUT  
INJURING EITHER ITS ROOTS OR ITS PURPOSE.

YOUR INSTITUTIONS ARE A MUCH-NEEDED PART OF THE MODERN  
EDUCATION SYSTEM, AND OF OUR SOCIETY. THE TIES YOU ARE BUILDING  
WITH BUSINESS, WITH THE PROFESSIONS AND WITH THE MEDIA WILL HELP  
TO CREATE A BETTER FUTURE FOR YOUR COLLEGES, YOUR STUDENTS AND OUR  
COUNTRY.

IN THE MONTHS AHEAD I WILL BE FOLLOWING YOUR WORK WITH  
REAL INTEREST. YOU HAVE MY SUPPORT AND BEST WISHES FOR CON-  
TINUED SUCCESS.

END