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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS FOR  
BOB HOPE DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN AWARD

TUESDAY

DECEMBER 10, 1974

*Chris Schenk  
Your Eminence  
Distinguished  
Guests*

*Pres. Dick  
Kasynow*

*Congrats* INDUCTEES  
*Scholar Athletes*

LET ME THANK CHRIS SCHENKEL FOR THAT FINE INTRODUCTION.

YOU KNOW, SINCE I BECAME PRESIDENT, I'M USUALLY INTRODUCED IN A  
VERY STATELY AND DIGNIFIED MANNER -- SUCH AS TONIGHT. BUT THERE  
WAS ONE DINNER WHEN I WAS INTRODUCED BY A FORMER TEAMMATE OF MINE  
FROM MY OLD MICHIGAN FOOTBALL TEAM -- AND I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT  
INTRODUCTION. HE SAID, "LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT MIGHT INTEREST  
YOU TO KNOW THAT I PLAYED FOOTBALL WITH JERRY FORD FOR TWO YEARS --  
AND IT MADE A LASTING IMPRESSION ON ME. I WAS QUARTERBACK.  
JERRY FORD WAS THE CENTER. AND YOU MIGHT SAY, IT GAVE ME A  
COMPLETELY DIFFERENT VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT!"

Summary

IF YOU STOP TO THINK ABOUT IT, THERE ARE MANY SIMILARITIES  
BETWEEN FOOTBALL AND GOVERNMENT. FOR INSTANCE, IN BOTH AREAS  
NOTHING IS EVER DONE WITHOUT DISCUSSING IT FIRST. IN FOOTBALL,  
IT'S CALLED A HUDDLE. IN WASHINGTON, IT'S CALLED A DEBATE. AND  
SOMETIMES THE TALK GOES ON FOR MANY, MANY HOURS WITHOUT REALLY  
SAYING ANYTHING. IN WASHINGTON, IT'S CALLED A FILIBUSTER.  
IN FOOTBALL, IT'S CALLED HOWARD COSELL.

HOWARD COSELL TAKES A LOT OF KIDDING, BUT IN ALL  
FAIRNESS, SOMEONE ONCE SAID: "TO ME, HOWARD COSELL WILL ALWAYS  
LOOK TEN FEET TALL!" I DON'T KNOW WHO SAID IT . . . . .

I THINK IT WAS ABE BEAME.

IT IS A REAL HONOR TO BE HERE TONIGHT BECAUSE FOOTBALL HAS MEANT SO MUCH TO ME THROUGH THE YEARS. YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT I HAVE EVEN PUT TOGETHER A SMALL COLLECTION OF MEMORABLE FOOTBALL QUOTATIONS AND I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE TWO OF THEM WITH YOU TONIGHT. THE FIRST QUOTATION IS FROM GRANTLAND RICE: "WHEN THE ONE GREAT SCORER COMES TO WRITE AGAINST YOUR NAME -- HE MARKS -- NOT THAT YOU WON OR LOST -- BUT HOW YOU PLAYED THE GAME." AND THE OTHER IS FROM WOODY HAYES "BAH! HUMBUG!"

INCIDENTALLY, I WISH WOODY HAYES AND THE OHIO STATE  
BUCKEYES GOOD LUCK IN THE ROSE BOWL. BUT AS A FORMER  
MICHIGAN FOOTBALL PLAYER AND AS A TWELVE-TERM CONGRESSMAN FROM  
MICHIGAN, I THINK THAT'S ABOUT AS FAR AS I SHOULD GO. I MAY  
COOK MY OWN BREAKFAST BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO COOK MY OWN GOOSE!

WELL, OBVIOUSLY THE MICHIGAN WOLVERINES AREN'T THE ONLY  
TEAM I ROOT FOR. IN FACT, BACK IN THE CAPITOL, WE HAVE A  
PROFESSIONAL TEAM WE'RE RATHER PROUD OF -- THE WASHINGTON REDSKINS.  
MORE AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS "THE OVER THE HILL GANG". IT'S ALWAYS  
EXCITING TO WATCH THE REDSKINS PLAY BECAUSE YOU'RE NEVER QUITE SURE  
WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO REACH FIRST -- THE PLAY-OFFS / SOCIAL SECURITY.



AND THE REDSKINS HAVE ONE OF THE MOST COLORFUL

QUARTERBACKS IN THE HISTORY OF THE GAME -- SONNY JURGENSEN.

*2nd George Allen Lucky  
to have two  
great QB's  
like Billy  
Kilmer & Sonny*

EARLIER WE WERE TALKING ABOUT WOODY HAYES. WELL, SONNY HAS A

MUCH MORE RELAXED ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE GAME. I CAN REMEMBER

BACK IN 1968 WHEN SONNY, THROWING WITH A VERY SORE ARM, SCORED

FIVE TOUCHDOWN PASSES AGAINST THE CHICAGO BEARS. AND AS HE

CAME OFF THE FIELD AT THE END OF THE GAME, OTTO GRAHAM, WHO WAS

THEN COACH OF THE REDSKINS, ASKED HIM, "HOW'S YOUR ARM?"

SONNY SAID, "IT HURTS SOMETHING AWFUL." GRAHAM LOOKED WORRIED.

HE SAID, "IT'S GONNA BE A PROBLEM." SONNY SAID, "IT SURE IS."

DID YOU EVER TRY TO DRINK LEFT-HANDED?"

WELL, SOMEWHERE BETWEEN SONNY JURGENSEN AND WOODY HAYES

I THINK THERE IS ROOM FOR COMPROMISE. IN MY LIFETIME, I HAVE

ATTENDED A LOT OF SPORTS DINNERS AND IT HAS BECOME SOMETHING OF A

RITUAL TO HONOR THE EXERCISE, THE SPORTSMANSHIP, THE TEAMWORK AND

THE GOOD FELLOWSHIP THAT WE ALL RECEIVE OR HAVE RECEIVED FROM

FOOTBALL. AND THAT IS AS IT SHOULD BE.

==

BUT WHAT ABOUT WINNING?

HOW ABOUT A GOOD WORD FOR

THE ULTIMATE REASON ANY OF US HAVE FOR GOING INTO A COMPETITIVE

SPORT? AS MUCH AS I ENJOYED THE PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL

DIVIDENDS THAT COLLEGE ATHLETICS BROUGHT ME, I SINCERELY DOUBT IF I

EVER SUITED UP, | PUT ON MY HELMET -- AND YES INDEED, I DID WEAR A

HELMET -- WITHOUT THE TOTAL COMMITMENT OF GOING OUT THERE TO WIN!

NOT TO GET EXERCISE, GOLD OR GLORY -- BUT SIMPLY TO WIN!

TO ME, WINNING IS NOT A SHAMEFUL CONCEPT. I'D LIKE TO

THINK THAT WINNING IS AN AMERICAN TRADITION. TWO HUNDRED YEARS

AGO, WE FOUGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM -- AND WON! FOR THE NEXT

HUNDRED YEARS, WE CHALLENGED A CONTINENT -- AND WON!

BUT SOMEBODY ONCE SAID, "THE PROBLEM WITH WINNING IS --  
YOU HAVE TO KEEP DOING IT." AND SO TODAY, WE AMERICANS FACE  
STILL ANOTHER HISTORIC STRUGGLE -- TO MAINTAIN OUR STRENGTH AS A  
NATION AND OUR ECONOMIC WELL-BEING AS A PEOPLE. AND BELIEVE ME,  
IN THIS BATTLE AGAINST INFLATION, THERE ARE NO PLAY-OFFS AND THERE IS  
NO "WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR." IT IS WINNER TAKE ALL -- OR LOSER HAVE  
NOTHING.

WIN. IT'S A SMALL WORD. LET'S BE CAREFUL NOT TO  
LOSE IT.

TONIGHT, I HAVE COME TO NEW YORK FOR A VERY PERSONAL  
REASON -- AND IT ALSO HAS TO DO WITH WINNING. I HAVE COME TO  
DO HONOR AND PAY TRIBUTE TO A MAN WHO HAS WON THE ADMIRATION,  
THE AFFECTION AND THE EVERLASTING GRATITUDE OF ALL AMERICANS.

A SUPER-STAR LONG BEFORE THE TERM WAS EVER THOUGHT OF --

BOB HOPE HAS CONSISTENTLY BROUGHT TO OUR LIVES THE WARM GLOW AND

SUSTAINING LIFT OF THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF LAUGHTER. AND TO THOSE

OF US WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES, BOB'S EAGERLY-AWAITED VISITS

BROUGHT HOME A LITTLE CLOSER.

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BUT BOB HOPE IS MORE THAN A SUPERLATIVE ENTERTAINER.

MUCH MORE. HIS DEDICATION TO THE NEEDS AND WELFARE OF ALL

AMERICANS HAS MADE HIM A LEADER IN HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES.

IT WOULD BE A MONUMENTAL TASK TO LIST ALL OF THE CHARITIES AND

CAUSES THAT HAVE SAID "THANKS FOR THE MEMORY" OF BOB HOPE'S

HELPING HAND.



THROUGH THE YEARS I HAVE ALWAYS LOOKED FORWARD TO  
SHARING A HEAD TABLE, A FOURSOME, AND MANY A MEMORABLE HOUR  
WITH BOB. I AM PROUD TO CALL HIM MY FRIEND. AND SO IT  
GIVES ME GREAT PERSONAL PLEASURE TO PRESENT TONIGHT THE DISTINGUISHED  
AMERICAN AWARD OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION AND HALL OF  
FAME TO BOB HOPE -- PATRIOT . . . ARDENT SPORTSMAN . . . INDOMITABLE,  
COURAGEOUS AND UNSELFISH AMERICAN WHOSE LIFETIME CREDO IS THE  
LIFTING OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT.

GENTLEMEN -- BOB HOPE!

END OF TEXT

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TO: THE PRESIDENT  
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN  
FROM: PAUL THEIS  
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- ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

BOB HOPE DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN AWARD REMARKS --  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1974

*Let me*

~~I want to~~ thank Chriss Schenkel for that fine introduction. You know, since I became President, I'm usually introduced in a very stately and dignified manner -- such as tonight. But there was one dinner when I was introduced by a former teammate from my old Michigan football team -- and I'll never forget that introduction. He said, "Ladies and gentlemen, it might interest you to know that I played football with Jerry Ford for two years -- and it made a lasting impression on me. I was quarterback. Jerry Ford was the center. And you might say, it gave me a completely different view of the President!"

If you stop to think about it, there are many similarities between football and government. For instance, in both areas, nothing is ever done without discussing it first. In football, it's called a huddle. In Washington, it's called a debate. And sometimes the talk goes on for many, many hours without really saying anything. In Washington, it's called a filibuster. In football, it's called Howard Cosell.

Howard Cosell takes a lot of kidding, but in all fairness, someone once said: "To me, Howard Cosell will always look ten feet tall!" I don't know who said it. . . . I think it was

Abe Beame, *The distinguished Mayor of N.Y.C.*

It is a real honor to be here tonight because football has meant so much to me through the years. You might be interested to know that I have even put together a small collection of memorable football quotations and I would like to share two of them with you tonight. The first quotation is from Grantland Rice: "When the One Great Scorer comes to write against your name -- He marks -- not that you won or lost -- but how you played the game." And the other is from Woody Hayes: "Bah! Humbug!"

Incidentally, I ~~want to~~ wish Woody Hayes and the Ohio State

Buckeyes good luck in the Rose Bowl. As a former Michigan football

player and as a 12-term Congressman from <sup>Michigan</sup>~~Grand Rapids~~, I think that's

about as far as I should go. I may cook my own breakfast but I'm not

about to cook my own goose!

~~Before we go any further, I want to go on record as saying that I have absolutely no hard feelings or recriminations about Michigan not going to the Rose Bowl this year. On the contrary, I want to wish Woody Hayes and his team ~~from the former State of Ohio~~ -- all the luck in the world on January 1st. . . .~~

But I'm only human. I'll be darned if I'm going to give him a WIN button!

intent

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..

Well, obviously the Michigan Wolverines aren't the only team I root for. In fact, back in the Capital, we have a professional team we're rather proud of -- The Washington Redskins. More affectionately known as 'The Over The Hill Gang.' It's always exciting to watch the Redskins play because you're never quite sure what they're going to reach first -- the play-offs or Social Security.

~~And I think~~ <sup>T</sup>he Redskins have one of the most colorful

quarterbacks in the history of the game -- Sonny Jurgensen.

*Earlier*

~~Now~~ we were talking about Woody Hayes. Well, Sonny has a

much more relaxed attitude towards the game. I can remember

back in 1968 when Sonny, throwing with a very sore arm, scored

five touchdown passes against the Chicago Bears. And as

he came off the field at the end of the game, Otto Graham, who

was then coach of the Redskins, asked him, "How's your arm?"

Sonny said, "It hurts something awful." Graham looked worried.

He said, "It's gonna be a problem." Sonny said, "It sure is.

*Dil*

You ever try to drink left-handed?"



Well, somewhere between Sonny Jurgensen and Woody Hayes

I think there is room for compromise. In my lifetime, I have attended a lot of sports dinners and it has become something of a ritual to honor the exercise, the sportmanship, the teamwork and the good fellowship that we all receive or have received from football.

And that is as it should be.

But what about winning? How about a good word for the ultimate reason any of us have for going into a competitive sport? As much as I enjoyed the physical and emotional dividends that college athletics brought me, I sincerely doubt if I ever suited up, put on my helmet -- and yes indeed, I did wear a helmet -- without the total commitment of going out there to win! Not to get exercise, gold or glory -- but simply to win!

To me, winning is not a shameful concept. I'd like to think that winning is an American tradition. Two hundred years ago, we fought for our freedom -- and won! *In the next* ~~A~~ hundred years ago we challenged a continent -- and won!

But somebody once said, "The problem with winning is -- you have to keep doing it." And so today, we Americans face still another historic struggle -- to maintain our strength as a Nation and our economic well-being as a people. And believe me, in this battle against inflation, there are no play-offs and there is no "wait till next year." It is winner take all -- or loser have nothing.

Win. It's a small word. Let's be careful not to lose it.

Tonight, I have come to New York for a very personal reason -- and it also has to do with winning. I have come to do honor and pay tribute to a man who has won the admiration, the affection and the everlasting gratitude of all Americans.

A super-star long before the term was ever thought of -- Bob Hope has consistently brought to our lives the warm glow and sustaining lift of the precious gift of laughter. And to those of us who served in the armed forces, Bob's eagerly-awaited visits brought ~~home~~ <sup>our hearts</sup> a little closer ~~to us~~.

But Bob Hope is more than a superlative entertainer. Much more. His dedication to the needs and welfare of all Americans has made him a leader in humanitarian activities. It would be a monumental task to list all of the charities and causes that have said "Thanks for the Memory" of Bob Hope's helping hand.

Through the years, I have always looked forward to sharing a head table, a foursome, and many a memorable hour with Bob. I am proud to call him my friend. And so it gives me great personal pleasure to present tonight THE DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN AWARD of The National Football and Hall of Fame Foundation/to Bob Hope -- Patriot. . . Ardent Sportsman. . . Indomitable,

Courageous and Unselfish American who <sup>see</sup> lifetime credo is the lifting  
of the human spirit.

Gentlemen -- Bob Hope!

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