

The original documents are located in Box 4, folder “12/19/74 - American Freedom Train Certification (Includes assignment sheet and letter)” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *RF*

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS FOR

AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN CERTIFICATION

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1974

- 1 -

*Don Kendall
John Warner.*

I AM VERY PLEASSED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS CEREMONY

OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN AS A

MAJOR NATIONAL BICENTENNIAL PROJECT.

*Jefferson High
T.C. Williams.*

17,000

WHEN IT BEGINS ITS SEVENTEEN THOUSAND MILE JOURNEY
THROUGH FORTY-EIGHT OF OUR STATES THIS SPRING, THE FREEDOM TRAIN
WILL SERVE AS ONE OF THE FOCAL POINTS FOR OUR BICENTENNIAL
COMMEMORATION.

76

IT WILL VISIT SEVENTY-SIX CITIES AND GIVE AMERICANS
A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME CHANCE TO VIEW SOME OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT
NATIONAL DOCUMENTS, ~~AND ARTIFACTS.~~

strongly

I ESPECIALLY URGE PARENTS AND TEACHERS TO MAKE

SURE THAT YOUR CHILDREN AND STUDENTS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS

OPPORTUNITY. THE CARGO ON THIS TRAIN REPRESENTS MUCH

OF OUR NATION'S PAST HISTORY AND OUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE.

THE EXHIBITS TOUCH VIRTUALLY EVERY PHASE OF THE

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE. THE TRAIN WILL CARRY GEORGE WASHINGTON'S

PERSONAL COPY OF THE CONSTITUTION. IT WILL CONTAIN THE

HANDWRITTEN DRAFT OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S FIRST INAUGURAL SPEECH.

THERE WILL BE MOON ROCK SAMPLES, THE FIRST BIBLE PRINTED
IN AMERICA, PAUL REVERE'S SADDLEBAGS AS WELL AS
EXHIBITS REPRESENTING THE NATION'S CULTURE, TECHNOLOGICAL
PROGRESS, PROFESSIONS AND TRADES, SPORTS AND THE ARTS.

DURING THE NEXT YEAR AND A HALF, 40 to 50 MILLION
AMERICANS ARE EXPECTED TO VIEW THESE EXHIBITS AS WE NEAR
OUR TWO HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY AS A NATION.

I HOPE EVERY AMERICAN, AS HE OR SHE CONTEMPLATES
THESE HISTORICAL REMINDERS, WILL REFLECT ON HOW FAR WE HAVE
COME IN THESE TWO HUNDRED SHORT YEARS. AND AS WE TAKE
A LONG LOOK BACK, LET US ALSO TAKE A LONG LOOK FORWARD.

~~I THINK THAT~~ **I**F WE DO, WE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THE PROBLEMS
FACING US TODAY IN MUCH CLEARER PERSPECTIVE.

OUR PROBLEMS ARE SERIOUS ONES -- ESPECIALLY
OUR ENERGY PROBLEMS AND THOSE OF OUR ECONOMY.

BUT THINK OF THE PROBLEMS OUR FOREFATHERS FACED.

THINK OF THOSE THIRTEEN TINY COLONIES TAKING ON THE MIGHTIEST

EMPIRE IN THE WORLD. AND THINK OF THEM WINNING THEIR LIBERTY.

VERY FEW PEOPLE BACK IN 1776 WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT IN

JUST TWO HUNDRED YEARS THOSE THIRTEEN COLONIES WOULD PROVIDE THE

JUMPING OFF SPOT FROM WHICH, EVENTUALLY, FIFTY UNITED STATES WOULD

SPAN A VAST CONTINENT AND BEYOND -- TAME A MIGHTY WILDERNESS --

CONSTRUCT A TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ENORMOUS SCIENTIFIC
COMPLEXITY -- AND THEN SET OUT TO EXPLORE SPACE ITSELF.
BUT THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED.

AS WE REFLECT ON THESE HISTORIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS,
LET US ALSO LOOK AHEAD TO THE FUTURE THAT WE ARE BUILDING.
LET US REAFFIRM OUR FAITH IN THE AMERICAN SPIRIT.

AS ONE OF THE GREAT NATIONS OF THE WORLD --

SPIRITUALLY, MILITARILY, DIPLOMATICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY --

WE IN AMERICA HAVE THE BEST OF MANY WORLDS. WE HAVE

NEARLY ALL THE NATURAL RESOURCES WE NEED. WE HAVE THE

TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES. WE HAVE THE HUMAN RESOURCES.

NOW WE NEED THE WILL TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS, THE WILL

TO WIN. AND WIN WE WILL.

BY THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND, I SEE A PEOPLE

LIVING IN A COMMUNITY OF PEACE WITH OTHER NATIONS,

WITH A STANDARD OF LIVING STILL THE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD,

WITH DISEASE GREATLY CONQUERED, WITH INDIVIDUAL
LIBERTIES SECURE FOR EVERYONE, WITH WIDE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR GOOD EDUCATION AND GOOD HOUSING AND WITH OUR
NATIONAL WILL AND SPIRIT STILL CLIMBING AS WE MOVE
TOWARD CELEBRATION OF OUR TRICENTENNIAL.

I SEE THE BICENTENNIAL OF 1976 AS A REBIRTH AS WELL AS
A BIRTHDAY -- A REDISCOVERY OF OUR STRENGTH AND OUR POTENTIAL.
IT WILL STRENGTHEN OUR RESOLVE TO FULFILL THE PROMISES OF OUR
FOREFATHERS. IT WILL FORTIFY OUR DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE
TO BUILD A FREER, MORE JUST, MORE HUMANE SOCIETY.

THIS AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN WILL BE A FITTING SYMBOL
FOR WHAT THE BICENTENNIAL REPRESENTS. SINCE THE DAY THE
GOLDEN SPIKE WAS DRIVEN, THE RAILROAD HAS SYMBOLIZED OUR
UNITY AS A NATION.

ON BEHALF OF ALL AMERICANS, I THANK THE AMERICAN
FREEDOM TRAIN FOUNDATION, AND THE CORPORATIONS THAT PROVIDED
GRANTS FOR THIS FREEDOM TRAIN.

I KNOW THAT YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS WILL INSPIRE OTHERS TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE BICENTENNIAL. I WOULD LIKE TO SAY A
SPECIAL THANK-YOU TO THE PEOPLE OF PORTLAND, OREGON,
WHO PROVIDED THE IRON HORSE THAT WILL PULL THE TRAIN.

I LOOK FOR THE FREEDOM TRAIN TO PROVIDE A UNIFYING
SYMBOL OF THE HERITAGE THAT MADE AMERICA'S PAST GREAT AND
WILL MAKE ITS FUTURE EVEN GREATER. END OF TEXT

PICK UP CONSTITUTION FROM YOUR CHAIR AND ASK KENDALL
TO STEP FORWARD. PRESENT CONSTITUTION TO KENDALL.

.....

" I TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN PRESENTING GEORGE WASHINGTON'S
COPY OF OUR CONSTITUTION TO DON KENDALL FOR DISPLAY
TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ON THE FREEDOM TRAIN. "

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN ~~RAH~~ Good
FROM: PAUL THEIS
SUBJECT: Draft Presidential Remarks at the
American Freedom Train Certification

Date and Place of Presidential Use: 11:00 a.m., Thursday,

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Speechwriter: Coyne

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Cleared by (please initial):

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- () Economic Policy Board (Seidman) _____
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AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATION

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December 19, 1974

Dear Don:

Enclosed are cards used by the President at his speech this morning at the Freedom Train. As an old advance man, I know the importance of having these returned for the White House archives.

I appreciate very much the support you're giving to the Bicentennial, particularly with today's ceremony. Progress is being made, slowly but surely, and I am confident the overall Bicentennial commemoration will befit the greatness and dignity of our Nation.

In the Spirit of '76,

John W. Warner
Administrator

The Honorable
Donald Rumsfeld
The White House

Enclosures