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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *RF*

REMARKS FOR
LEGISLATIVE LEADERS AWARDS CEREMONY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1975

CHAIRMAN GRADY, MEMBERS AND GUESTS:

I AM DEEPLY HONORED TO BE HERE THIS AFTERNOON FOR WHAT
I CONSIDER A MOST IMPORTANT EVENT.

IT IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE STATE GOVERNMENT IS IMPORTANT --
AS MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE. A GOOD HOUSE
IS BUILT FROM THE FOUNDATION UP. GOOD NATIONAL GOVERNMENT MUST
BE THE SAME WAY -- BASED ON STRONG, VITAL LOCAL AND STATE
FOUNDATIONS.

FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, OUR GREATEST LEADERS HAVE UNDERSTOOD THIS. IT WAS THOMAS JEFFERSON WHO SAID THAT THE 'TRUE BARRIERS OF OUR LIBERTY IN THIS COUNTRY ARE OUR STATE GOVERNMENTS. WHEN THEY WEAKEN, SO DOES THE WHOLE FABRIC OF OUR SOCIETY; WHEN THEY ARE STRENGTHENED, WE ALL GROW STRONGER.'

WE SOMETIMES FORGET IT, BUT EVEN THE BASIC FREEDOMS
GUARANTEED UNDER OUR CONSTITUTION WERE FIRST EXPRESSED IN STATE
DOCUMENTS LIKE THE VIRGINIA BILL OF RIGHTS OF 1776.

TODAY, MANY OF THE CHALLENGES TO OUR FREE WAY OF LIFE
ARE DIFFERENT, BUT ONE OF THE BEST SOLUTIONS IS STILL THE SAME --
STRONG, RESPONSIBLE STATE GOVERNMENTS.

THAT IS WHY I BELIEVE THESE AWARDS, GIVEN BY THE
CITIZENS CONFERENCE ON STATE LEGISLATURES, ARE SO IMPORTANT.
BY RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING STATE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES,
STATE LEGISLATURES AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE HELPING TO BUILD
BETTER GOVERNMENT AT THE STATE LEVEL, YOU ARE DOING TWO THINGS.

IN THE HISTORIC SENSE, YOU ARE RESTORING BALANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS
TO OUR CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM. EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, YOU ARE
HELPING TODAY'S AMERICANS TO SOLVE THEIR EVERYDAY PROBLEMS AND
BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN.

EVERY LEGISLATIVE BODY HAS ITS OWN PERSONALITY, ITS OWN STYLE. BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ALL SHARE IN COMMON. AS A VETERAN OF MORE THAN 25 YEARS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO DEVOTE ONE'S ENERGIES AND IDEALS TO MAKING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS WORK. I CAN PERSONALLY APPRECIATE THE CHALLENGES -- THE ENORMOUS CHALLENGES -- THAT THIS AFTERNOON'S WINNERS HAVE HAD TO FACE.

IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT -- AS A FELLOW LEGISLATOR, AND AS
A GRATEFUL CITIZEN -- THAT I OFFER EACH OF YOU MY CONGRATULATIONS
AND BEST WISHES.

EACH TIME YOU IMPROVE YOUR STATE LEGISLATURE, YOU ARE
ALSO HELPING TO MAKE AMERICA A BETTER COUNTRY TO LIVE IN. AND,
FOR THAT, YOU HAVE EARNED THE THANKS OF NOT JUST ONE, BUT ALL
FIFTY OF OUR STATES.

END OF TEXT

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN *RH*
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS *PT*
SUBJECT: President's remarks for the Legislative
Leaders Awards Ceremony

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: 12:30 p. m.
Friday, January 17, 1975, the White House

SPEECHWRITER: Aram Bakshian

EDITED BY: Casserly / Theis

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