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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS FOR NATIONAL
BICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE

JOHN WARNER

STATE BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION CHAIRMEN

MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL AND
THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN... *dg*

NATIONAL BICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1975

I AM VERY PLEASED TO JOIN YOU THIS MORNING TO LAUNCH THIS IMPORTANT CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THE STATE BICENTENNIAL COMMISSIONS AND THE STAFF OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATION.

ALL OF YOU HAVE ALREADY CONTRIBUTED THOUSANDS OF HOURS OF WORK PREPARING FOR EVENTS DURING THE NEXT TWENTY-ONE MONTHS. YOUR DEDICATION WILL MAKE THIS BICENTENNIAL SEASON INTO A PROFOUND RENEWAL FOR AMERICA. YOUR SENSE OF HAVING PARTICIPATED WILL BE YOUR BEST REWARD.

THIS GROUP COMES FROM MANY OCCUPATIONS AND MANY
DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE NATION. YOU REFLECT WHAT I FIND
MOST EXCITING ABOUT THE BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES -- THEY FLOW
FROM THE SPIRIT OF ALL OUR PEOPLE -- THEY ARE TRULY NATIONAL
IN SCOPE -- AND TRULY NON-PARTISAN. THE BICENTENNIAL
INVOLVES ALL SECTIONS OF THE COUNTRY AND YET REPRESENTS A
UNITY OF PURPOSE.

OVER SIX THOUSAND PROJECTS ARE NOW PLANNED, WITH
MORE BEING ADDED EVERY MONTH. THEY DEMONSTRATE THE DIVERSITY
OF OUR NATIONAL HERITAGE . . . AND THE IMAGINATION OF OUR
CITIZENS.

THERE ARE BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAMS . . . RESTORATION
PROJECTS . . . EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS . . . AND MEDICAL
RESEARCH -- ALL UNDER THE BICENTENNIAL BANNER.

IN NEW YORK CITY, THE SOUTH STREET SEAPORT WITH A
MUSEUM AND REJUVENATED SAILING SHIPS WILL COMMEMORATE THE
BICENTENNIAL.

THIRD GRADERS IN RICEVILLE, IOWA, SOLD COOKIES AND
CHRISTMAS TAGS TO FINANCE A BICENTENNIAL MINI-PARK.

AND IN THE TEXAS TOWNS OF HOWARDSWICK, CLARENDON
AND HEDLEY, A COMMUNITY BICENTENNIAL AMPHITHEATER IS BEING
BUILT OF BRICKS HAND-MADE BY THE SCHOOL CHILDREN OF THOSE TOWNS.

THESE PROJECTS SHOW THERE IS NOT JUST ONE WAY --
BUT MANY, MANY WAYS TO OBSERVE THE NATION'S TWO HUNDREDTH
BIRTHDAY. I REMEMBER AS A BOY BEING TAUGHT THAT THE BEAUTY
OF JOSEPH'S COAT WAS ITS MANY COLORS.

JUST AS THE STRENGTH OF THE NATION COMES FROM THE
RICHNESS OF MANY DIFFERENT IDEAS . . . SO DOES THE STRENGTH
OF THE BICENTENNIAL.

THIS CELEBRATION PERIOD IS AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY
FOR THIS NATION TO REFLECT ON THE PAST . . . AND EVEN MORE
TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE.

JOHN ADAMS ENVISIONED THE CELEBRATION OF THE

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN A LETTER TO HIS WIFE, ABIGAIL,

IN JULY, 1776: HE WROTE:

"I AM APT TO BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE CELEBRATED BY

SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS AS THE GREAT ANNIVERSARY

FESTIVAL. IT OUGHT TO BE COMMEMORATED AS

THE DAY OF DELIVERANCE, BY SOLEMN ACTIONS OF

DEVOTION TO GOD ALMIGHTY. IT OUGHT TO BE

SOLEMNIZED WITH POMP AND PARADE, WITH SHOWS,

GAMES, SPORTS, GUNS, BELLS, BONFIRES, AND

ILLUMINATIONS, FROM ONE END OF THIS CONTINENT

TO THE OTHER, FROM THIS TIME FORWARD FOREVERMORE."

JOHN ADAMS, WHO WOULD LATER BE THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

AND THE SECOND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, DID NOT KNOW

THEN WHAT THE OUTCOME OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE

. . . NOR DID HE REALIZE THAT THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN THE

UNITED STATES WOULD STRETCH ACROSS THE CONTINENT AND ACROSS

DISTANT SEAS.

BUT LIKE OTHER REVOLUTIONARY LEADERS, HE HAD FAITH

IN THE FUTURE OF THE UNFORMED NATION.

THOSE WERE EXCITING . . . FRUSTRATING . . .

AND CONFUSING TIMES.

LETTERS AND NEWSPAPERS WERE CARRIED BY HORSEBACK . . .

OR BY SHIP. BUT THE FERMENT OF THE IDEAS WAS STRONG

ENOUGH TO OVERCOME THE LIMITED MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES
FROM DIFFERENT STATES OFTENTIMES WITH CONFLICTING INTERESTS,
FACED THE JOB OF AGREEING LONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT A WAR . . .
WITH LIMITED FUNDS AND MANPOWER.

IT WAS A TOUGH JOB . . . BECAUSE IT IS ALWAYS
DIFFICULT TO UNITE CLASHING DEMANDS. BUT THE JOB WAS DONE . . .
THE REVOLUTION WAS SUCCESSFUL . . . AND A UNIQUE CONSTITUTION
WAS WRITTEN. THOSE AMERICANS DID NOT FAIL US.

AS THOMAS JEFFERSON WROTE LAFAYETTE: "WE ARE NOT
TO EXPECT TO BE TRANSLATED FROM DESPOTISM TO LIBERTY IN A
FEATHERBED."

AND THE AMERICANS WHO INHERITED THE NEW FORM OF
GOVERNMENT KNEW WHAT JEFFERSON MEANT. THEY DID NOT FAIL US.

WE ARE HERE TODAY BECAUSE NO ENSUING GENERATION OF
AMERICANS FOUND SELF-GOVERNMENT TO BE A "FEATHERBED."

NOW AS WE COMMEMORATE THE DEEDS OF THE FIRST CITIZENS
OF THE NATION, WE MUST LOOK AS THEY DID TO THE FUTURE.

WE MUST ASK OURSELVES WHAT WE WILL LEAVE TO THE NEXT GENERATION.

WHAT WILL AMERICA BE IN ANOTHER TWO HUNDRED YEARS?

IT IS ALMOST BEYOND OUR ABILITY TO FORESEE.

JEFFERSON . . . FRANKLIN . . . WASHINGTON AND

OTHERS COULD NOT KNOW WHAT THEIR EFFORTS WOULD PRODUCE.

NEITHER CAN WE.

BUT WE CAN ACT TO HONOR OUR HIGHEST OBLIGATION TO
LEAVE THE NATION FREE AND SECURE -- AS ~~IT~~ HAS BEEN PASSED
DOWN TO US.

EACH GENERATION HAS BEEN CALLED ON TO ACCEPT THE
CHALLENGE OF A DIFFERENT CRISIS. AND EACH GENERATION
HAS LIVED UP TO ITS RESPONSIBILITY.

IN 1812, OUR YOUNG NATION FACED ITS FIRST WAR: ANOTHER
STRUGGLE WITH BRITAIN. THE CAPITOL AND THE WHITE HOUSE
WERE BURNED . . . AND PRESIDENT JAMES MADISON AND HIS WIFE,
DOLLEY, FLED THE CITY. BUT THE FLEDGLING NATION PULLED ITSELF
TOGETHER AND SURVIVED. THE CAPITOL AND THE WHITE HOUSE
WERE REBUILT . . . THE COUNTRY CONTINUED TO GROW.
THOSE AMERICANS DID NOT FAIL US.

WHEN THE DEBATE OVER SLAVERY AND UNION ERUPTED INTO

WAR . . . AMERICANS FOUGHT AMERICANS. BUT THE END

OF THE WAR BROUGHT RENEWAL . . . AND THE TASK OF SETTLING

THE CONTINENT WENT ON. THOSE AMERICANS DID NOT FAIL US.

WHEN A GREAT CRISIS OF SPIRIT . . . CAUSED BY
THE DEPRESSION STRUCK THE NATION . . . MILLIONS OF AMERICANS
LIVING TODAY DID NOT FAIL US. THEY PULLED THEMSELVES
TOGETHER AND KEPT THE NATION GOING.

IN TWO WORLD WARS, AMERICANS GAVE THEIR TIME . . .
TALENT . . . RESOURCES . . . AND MANY, THEIR LIVES, TO KEEP
THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM ALIVE. THEY DID NOT FAIL US.

IN UNHAPPY TIMES AND UNPOPULAR WARS, AMERICANS

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE. NO GENERATION OF AMERICANS HAS

FAILED TO ACCEPT THE NECESSARY SACRIFICES OF THE DAY. I AM

CONVINCED WE WILL NOT FAIL OURSELVES OR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

TODAY, WE AGAIN FACE CHALLENGES -- OUR ECONOMIC

AND ENERGY PROBLEMS. NEW PERCEPTIONS AND NEW PRIORITIES

ARE REQUIRED TO MEET NEW DIFFICULTIES.

WE ARE ENGAGED IN A GREAT NATIONAL DEBATE OVER HOW TO SOLVE ECONOMIC AND ENERGY PROBLEMS OF VERY SERIOUS PROPORTIONS. SOLUTIONS WILL REQUIRE THE SAME HARD WORK AND TENACITY REQUIRED TO WAGE A SUCCESSFUL REVOLUTION, ESTABLISH A WORKING GOVERNMENT, CARVE A CIVILIZATION OUT OF WILDERNESS, PRODUCE THE GREATEST INDUSTRIAL MACHINE EVER AND DEVELOP THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF LIVING OF ANY NATION IN THE WORLD.

IN ANOTHER TWO HUNDRED YEARS -- IN 2175 -- AMERICANS
WILL PREPARE TO CELEBRATE THE NATION'S FOUR HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY.
WE MUST ACT NOW SO THAT THEY CAN SAY OF US: "AMERICANS IN THE
1970'S DID NOT FAIL US."

WE CAN REMEMBER THE PAST WITH FLAGS AND PARADES
AND FIREWORKS AS ADAMS ENVISIONED IN THE FIRST SUMMER OF
INDEPENDENCE. BUT TO HONOR THE PAST, WE MUST HAND THIS
MAGNIFICENT EXPERIMENT IN SELF-GOVERNMENT ON TO FUTURE
GENERATIONS, FREE AND STRONG.

AS WE PREPARE FOR OUR BICENTENNIAL, WE MUST JOIN
TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE THAT AMERICA'S PAST IS TRULY THE
PROLOGUE TO A GREATER FUTURE. WE MUST NOT FAIL.
WE WILL SUCCEED.

END OF TEXT

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS
SUBJECT: President's remarks at the National Bicentennial Conference

*Pages 4, 5 and 6
can be greater
condensed, we
only get to the
main theme
at top of
page 9*

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 25, 1975, Washington Hilton

1 done CAT

SPEECHWRITER: Kaye Pullen

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Scheduling, Dick Lukstat, Bicentennial Commission, Research

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