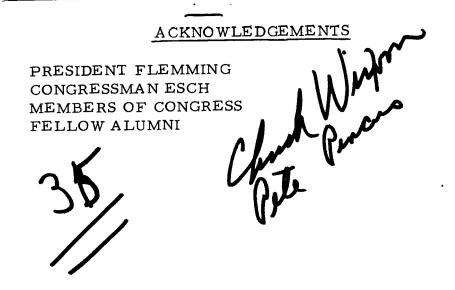
The original documents are located in Box 6, folder "3/5/75 - University of Michigan Club's 23rd Annual Congressional Dinner" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN CLUB'S

23RD ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL DINNER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1975

IT IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO COME TO THESE CONGRESSIONAL DINNERS FOR THE FRIENDSHIP, THE FELLOWSHIP, AND THE FUN.

I CAN STILL REMEMBER SPENDING A GOOD PART OF

MY SOPHOMORE AND JUNIOR YEARS WASHING DISHES IN THE DEKE HOUSE. AND I MEAN WASHING DISHES. I WASHED SO MANY DISHES, I WAS THE ONLY ATHLETE IN MICHIGAN HISTORY WHO EVER HAD FOOTBALL KNEE AND DISHPAN HANDS AT THE SAME TIME! AS YOU KNOW, I DID PLAY SOME FOOTBALL FOR THE WOLVERINES. I WAS THE STARTING CENTER ON THE 1934 TEAM AND THAT WAS QUITE A YEAR. THE WOLVERINES PLAYED OHIO STATE AND WE LOST THIRTY-FOUR TO NOTHING. AND TO MAKE IT EVEN WORSE, THAT YEAR WE LOST SEVEN OUT OF OUR EIGHT GAMES. BUT WHAT REALLY HURT WAS WHEN FLEY VOTED ME -- THEIR MOST VALUABLE PLAYER I DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER

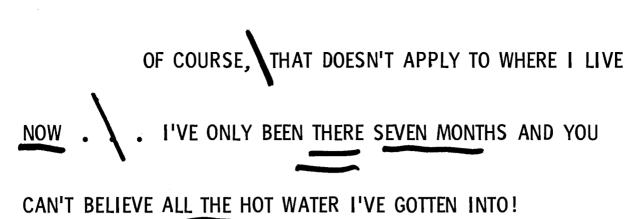
TO SMILE OR SUE!

White is a so many fine memories come to mind. IN MY FRESHMAN YEAR, I HAD A JOB AT THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL MARKED I WAS A WAITER IN THE INTERNS' DINING ROOM AND THE NURSES' CAFETERIA AND IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN BETTER. I WORKED IN THE INTERNS' DINING ROOM FOR THEIR BENEFIT -- AND IN THE

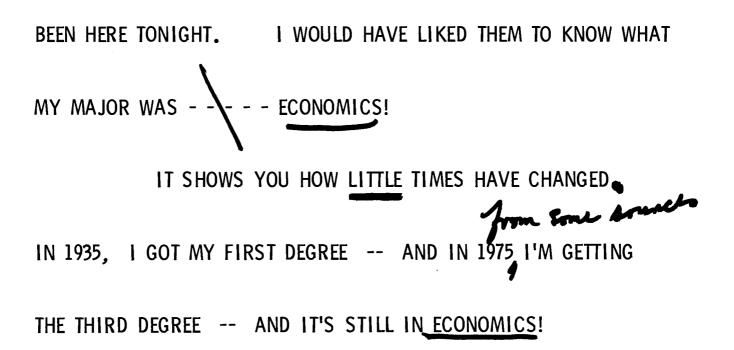
NURSES' CAFETERIA FOR MINE.

PERSONALLY, I'M INTRIGUED BY THE DIFFERENCES

BETWEEN THEN AND NOW -- AS WELL AS THE SIMILARITIES. FOR INSTANCE, BACK IN ANN ARBOR, I LIVED ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF A ROOMING HOUSE AND MY RENT WAS FOUR DOLLARS TODAY, IN WASHINGTON, THAT BUILDING WOULD BE DESCRIBED AS A TOWNHOUSE - THE ROOM WOULD BE CALLED A PAD +THE <u>RENT</u> WOULD BE FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS AND YOU STILL WOULDN'T GET ENOUGH HOT WATER!



FRANKLY, I JUST WISH SOME OF MY CRITICS COULD HAVE



BUT NOW, AS THEN, I LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE. THOSE OF US WHO WENT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN DURING THE THIRTIES DON'T HAVE TO BE REMINDED OF JUST HOW HARD THOSE TIMES WERE. BUT WHAT YEARS HAVEN'T BEEN HARD -- AND WHAT TIMES HAVEN'T BEEN A CHALLENGE TO THOSE WHO LIVED THEM? And, whit's wory with Challenge ? I HAVE ALWAYS <u>BEEN GRATEFUL</u> FOR MY YEARS AT MICHIGAN. THEY WERE GOOD YEARS. YEARS THAT PROVIDED ME WITH THE <u>BUILDING BLOCKS</u> AND <u>BLUEPRINTS</u> TO FASHION A LIFE FROM. YEARS THAT GAVE ME SO <u>MANY TRUE FRIENDS</u> TO EXPERIENCE A LIFE WITH.

A RARE NIGHT LIKE THIS ALLOWS US TO LOOK BACK --WITH AFFECTION, AND AT TIMES, WITH AMUSEMENT, BUT OUR SIGHTS SHOULD ALWAYS BE SET ON TOMORROW

AND THE MANY TOMORROWS THAT FOLLOW.

I KNOW MINE ARE. I TEND TO FOLLOW THE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED IN ONE OF OUR DEARLY LOVED COLLEGE SONGS. THE ONE THAT SAYS: <u>"I WANT TO GO BACK TO MICHIGAN</u>." AND I DO. BUT WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I WOULD LIKE TO DO IT IN <u>1981</u>.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT