

The original documents are located in Box 6, folder “3/17/75 - Talking Points, Before the Notre Dame Academic Council” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

(Goldwin/Theis)PT

March 15, 1975

FINAL DRAFT

TALKING POINTS FOR USE BEFORE THE NOTRE DAME ACADEMIC
COUNCIL, MONDAY, MARCH 17, 1975

1. I am very pleased to be here today and to have a chance to meet you.

Since the Academic Council is the central force at Notre Dame for academic policy, I assume it was your decision to award the degree of Honorary Doctor of Laws to me. I am honored and grateful.

2. I understand that the Academic Council has a number of students

participating in its meetings as voting members. This is a healthy trend and you are to be commended for encouraging students to participate in decisions that affect their educational careers.

This process is particularly important if students enter into this activity with awareness of the heavy responsibilities involved.

Your situation is similar to mine: You are in your positions on this Council for a fixed number of years. But the consequences of your decisions will be felt long after you have left office.

(more)

3. I understand that this Council played a major role in making Notre Dame coeducational three years ago -- an action that has been well received both on and off the campus. Here, too, we have similarities in our jobs. Whenever I do something that can't be criticized on other grounds, the question is raised, "But what took you so long?"

4. I am sure this productive collaboration between faculty and students will continue in the future and extend to other universities. The rapidly changing perspectives in education in America undoubtedly mean difficult decisions ahead for Notre Dame as well as for our other institutions of higher learning. In making the soundest possible recommendations to the Trustees and to Father Hesburgh, it is well that you tap the wisdom of all sectors of university life -- so that Notre Dame can continue to serve the highest needs of the community and the nation with the same excellence that it has in the past.

(more)

5. One of the major problems which will confront Notre Dame and similar institutions is money. I know from Father Hesburgh that you here at Notre Dame are dipping into your reserves. We have the same problem in the Federal government. As you know, the Federal government provides about 18% eighteen percent of the total cost of higher education. In my Budget proposals, Federal outlays for higher education student assistance rise from \$1.7 billion in 1975 to \$2 billion in 1976. The 1976 budget provides Basic Education Opportunity grants of up to \$1,400 to an estimated 1.3 million students. In addition, \$250 million will be provided to schools to support work-study awards. Schools will also make some \$164 million in direct loans out of revolving funds now totaling over \$2 billion. Expanded state student grant programs will be supported by \$44 million in Federal funds. Finally, the guaranteed student loan program will continue to support post-secondary students. Every year, this

program, by using the commercial money market, makes \$1.2 billion of private loan money available to students, stimulated and backed up by \$580 million for interest subsidies and insurance payments. The 1976 budget, then, proposes to streamline student aid, and to get more dollars out to the students with greatest need by concentrating funds on basic grants, guaranteed loans, and direct loans from revolving funds.

6. In addition, I have asked the White House Domestic Council to explore ways which we may be helpful from Washington -- without the establishment of new bureaucracies or the expenditure of massive funds which we cannot afford. I welcome your suggestions and ideas. I have found one of the greatest deficiencies of government to be the lack of new ideas and initiatives. I am trying to change that. Let me have the benefit of your thinking on the problems that

face us. I have pledged an open administration. To me, this means open to new ideas as well as open to public inspection.

7. Again, it is a pleasure to be here on this beautiful campus. Once again, let me restate my appreciation to you and to Notre Dame for the honor which you have bestowed on me. Sometimes, the best way to express feelings is in simple terms: Thanks.

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS
SUBJECT: Notre Dame Academic Council

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: _____
11:50 a.m., March 17, 1975, South Bend, Indiana

SPEECHWRITER: Robert Goldwin

EDITED BY: Theis / Friedman

BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:
Research and University of Notre Dame

CLEARED BY (Please initial):

- (X) OPERATIONS (Rumsfeld) RBC by phone
- (X) CONGRESSIONAL/PUBLIC LIAISON (Marsh) Jm
- (X) PRESS (Nessen) Speakes (for Nessen)
- () LEGAL (Buchen) _____
- (X) ECONOMIC POLICY BOARD (Seidman) lms
- (X) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (Lynn) Fisher
- (X) DOMESTIC COUNCIL (Cannon) Cavanaugh
- () NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (Scowcroft) BS
- (X) RESEARCH (Waldron) tw
- (X) JERRY WARREN (FYI) _____
- (X) Robert Goldwin rag
- () _____