

**The original documents are located in Box 7, folder “4/16/75 - American Society of Newspaper Editors” 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 Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *af*

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 1975

PRESIDENT HAYS, PRESIDENT-ELECT PHILLIPS,

AND DISTINGUISHED EDITORS AND GUESTS:

I AM PLEASED TO BE WITH YOU TODAY AND TO HAVE  
THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE WHICH IT HAS BEEN  
MY PLEASURE TO HAVE WITH MANY OF YOU IN REGIONAL MEETINGS  
DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS.

THOSE EXCHANGES -- AND THE ONE WE WILL BEGIN  
SHORTLY -- ARE EXCEEDINGLY VALUABLE TO ME -- IN PROVIDING  
AN INSIGHT INTO THE ATTITUDES AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE  
WHO ARE YOUR READERS AND MY CONSTITUENTS.

Before answering Questions from distinguished Panel  
Add comments relating to Speech.

I believe / U.S. must play MAJOR ROLE.  
Global basis

This has been my conviction  
in Congress - 25 yrs.

I believe / to be successful  
Congress + President must work together  
American People must be united.

I believe / our foreign <sup>policy</sup> has been successful.  
some circumstances beyond control  
" self-inflicted problems.

AFTER I BECAME PRESIDENT, I PLEDGED TO NOT ONLY  
CARRY MY PROGRAMS AND POLICIES AND VIEWS TO THE AMERICAN  
PEOPLE, BUT TO LISTEN AS WELL TO THEIR IDEAS AND THEIR VIEWS  
AND THEIR SUGGESTIONS. TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY,  
I INTEND TO CONTINUE LISTENING.

I believe / to maintain Peace we  
must have a strong national  
defense program.

I believe / we must work with friend  
& foe.

If we have unity at home  
cooperation between the President  
& Congress.

We can build on the solid foundation  
of our foreign Policy - MAKE a better  
& more Peaceful World

I ALSO PLEDGED AN OPEN ADMINISTRATION. AND  
IN EVERY WAY THAT IS FEASIBLE, I INTEND TO CONTINUE THAT  
POLICY -- OPENING MY OFFICE AND THE OFFICES OF MY ASSOCIATES  
IN THIS ADMINISTRATION TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE JOB  
IS TO GATHER THE FACTS ABOUT OUR GOVERNMENT ON WHICH VALID  
PUBLIC JUDGMENTS CAN BE MADE.

ALTHOUGH WE MAY BE IN AN ADVERSARY RELATIONSHIP --  
AND PERHAPS IT'S BEST THAT WE ARE -- AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED,  
WE WILL NEVER BE ENEMIES. AND TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY,  
MY ASSOCIATES AND I WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH YOU AND  
YOUR DESIGNATED REPORTERS IN A CONTINUING ATMOSPHERE OF  
CIVILITY AND RESPECT AND GOODWILL.

DURING THE PAST MONTHS, AS YOU KNOW, RON NESSEN HAS INTRODUCED A NUMBER OF INNOVATIONS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MEDIA PEOPLE WHO COVER THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE ADMINISTRATION -- MANY DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE THE KIND OF GIVE AND TAKE AND FULL DISCUSSION WHICH I FEEL ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE MISSIONS OF BOTH THIS ADMINISTRATION AND YOUR NEWSPAPERS.



WE HAVE TRIED -- WITH AS MUCH EQUITY AS WE  
COULD DEVISE -- TO MAKE EXTENDED INTERVIEWS POSSIBLE FOR  
A GOOD NUMBER OF PUBLICATIONS AND NETWORKS. WE HAVE  
SCHEDULED NEWS CONFERENCES FREQUENTLY -- SO FREQUENTLY,  
IN FACT, THAT I UNDERSTAND SOME OF YOUR REPRESENTATIVES  
HERE FEEL WE MAY BE OVER-DOING IT.

BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, ALL OF US HAVE TRIED,  
TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITIES, TO BE AS CANDID AND AS FORTHRIGHT  
AS POSSIBLE.

THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES, AS YOU KNOW, WHEN I FAILED TO ANSWER CERTAIN QUESTIONS -- USUALLY WITH THE REMARK FROM ME THAT A RESPONSE WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE. THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES WHEN THE INTEREST OF NATIONAL SECURITY PLACED ME IN THE POSITION WHERE COMPLETE CANDOR WOULD BE DAMAGING TO DEVELOPING POLICIES OR HARMFUL TO OUR RELATIONS WITH AN ALLY.

BUT IN ALL THAT I HAVE DONE, I HAVE TRIED TO  
KEEP IN MIND THE LESSONS I LEARNED FROM THE NEWSPEOPLE  
WHOM I HAVE KNOWN AND RESPECTED AND WORKED WITH FOR MORE  
THAN A QUARTER-CENTURY.

TO MAKE A BAD JOKE, I TRULY LIKE AND ENJOY THE  
MEN AND WOMEN WHO COVER THE WHITE HOUSE -- SOME OF THEM  
ARE MY BEST FRIENDS.

THIS MEETING TODAY OCCURS AT AN EXTRAORDINARILY  
DIFFICULT TIME BOTH FOR US AND FOR SOME OF OUR LONG-TERM ALLIES.

IT IS A TIME OF TESTING OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND  
THE CONGRESS -- AND THE COUNTRY -- AS WE SEEK UNDER GREAT  
PRESSURE THE ACCOMMODATIONS AND ACTIONS SWIFTLY-MOVING EVENTS  
REQUIRE OF US.

IT IS A TIME OF URGENCY, WITH THE LIVES OF LITERALLY  
HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE SURE TO BE AFFECTED FOR GOOD  
OR ILL BY WHAT WE DO -- OR FAIL TO DO.

LIKE IT OR NOT, WE MUST BEGIN TO CLOSE OUT ONE ERA  
OF OUR HISTORY AND BEGIN ANOTHER IN THE HOPE THAT AMERICAN VISION  
AND AMERICAN DETERMINATION WILL BRING US AND THE WORLD  
A SURER HOPE FOR PEACE AND MUTUAL PROSPERITY.

AND NOW, I'M READY FOR THE QUESTIONS FROM THIS  
DISTINGUISHED PANEL.

END OF TEXT