

The original documents are located in Box 10, folder “6/5/75 - Holton Arms Commencement” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SLEEK *af.*

HOLTON-ARMS COMMENCEMENT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU MR. HAMILTON

HEADMASTER LEWIS

MEMBERS OF THE GRADUATING CLASS

TRUSTEES AND FACULTY

FELLOW PARENTS, STUDENTS AND GUESTS

- 1 -

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE AT HOLTON-ARMS

THIS MORNING -- SOMETIMES KNOWN AS THE TOPSIDER CAPITAL OF

THE WORLD.

THIS IS MY SECOND COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE THIS WEEK.

YESTERDAY I SPOKE TO THE GRADUATING CLASS AT WEST POINT IN MY DUAL
CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
OF THE ARMED FORCES. THIS MORNING, ALONG WITH BETTY AND MANY
OTHERS IN THIS AUDIENCE, I'M HERE AT HOLTON-ARMS IN AN EQUALLY
IMPORTANT ROLE ~~---~~ THAT OF A VERY PROUD PARENT.

(Optional Additional Line)

I MAY HAVE SLIPPED COMING DOWN THOSE STEPS
IN SALZBURG -- BUT TODAY, I CAN ASSURE YOU, I'M WALKING
ON CLOUDS!

~~FIRST~~, LET ME APOLOGIZE TO THE MEMBERS

OF THE GRADUATING CLASS FOR HAVING TO TURN MY BACK ON BOTH YOU
AND YOUR VERY ATTRACTIVE COMMENCEMENT DRESSES.

BUT, I DO HAVE TO ADMIT, I'M A LITTLE SURPRISED
TO SEE THEM. I WAS TOLD BY SUSAN THAT THE COMMENCEMENT
DRESSES YOU WORE AS JUNIORS LAST YEAR -- WERE SUCH A BIG HIT --
YOU WERE GOING TO WEAR THEM AGAIN THIS YEAR . . .

I UNDERSTAND THAT DRESS WAS SO POPULAR, HEADMASTER

LEWIS WAS EVEN GIVEN A TIE THAT WAS MADE UP FROM ONE --

WORE IT HOME AND THE DOG BIT HIM!

Jessie
YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT MY DAUGHTER SUSAN

GAVE ME SOME ADVICE ON THIS SPEECH. SHE ASKED ME NOT TO TALK

TOO LONG; NOT TO TELL ANY JOKES; NOT TO TALK ABOUT HER; AND NOT

TO TALK ABOUT THE WAY THINGS WERE WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE . . . //

SO IN CONCLUSION . . .

ACTUALLY, AT A GRADUATION, IT'S HARD NOT TO REMINISCE
JUST A LITTLE, BECAUSE CEREMONIES SUCH AS THIS ONE MARK THE END
OF AN IMPORTANT SEGMENT OF OUR LIVES -- AND THE BEGINNING OF
ANOTHER.

AS YOU LEAVE A SECURE WAY OF LIFE HERE AT HOLTON-ARMS,
WITH ESTABLISHED GOALS AND PATTERNS AND FRIENDS OF MANY YEARS,
MOST OF WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED WILL HOPEFULLY GO WITH YOU. BUT
YOU LEAVE THE FAMILIAR FOR THE UNKNOWN AND LITTLE OF WHAT YOU WILL
FACE IN THE FUTURE WILL BE AS PREDICTABLE AS THE PAST.

AS YOUNG WOMEN, YOU ARE COMING OF AGE IN AN EXCITING
TIME. YOU HAVE OPTIONS NOW OPEN TO YOU THAT UNTIL RECENTLY
WERE CLOSED. SEVERAL OF YOU WILL ATTEND FORMERLY ALL MALE
UNIVERSITIES.

SOME WILL CHOOSE CAREERS ONCE RESERVED FOR MEN ONLY. OTHERS
WILL PIONEER IN FIELDS OPENED UP BY OUR ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY.
BUT ALL OF YOU WILL HAVE MORE FREEDOM THAN EVER TO PURSUE NEW
OPPORTUNITIES AND NEW CHALLENGES.

FROM MY EXPERIENCE WITH THIS CLASS -- AT LEAST WITH
SOME MEMBERS OF IT -- THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT. YOU HAVE
BEEN ACTIVE IN EXPLORING THE EFFECT OF THESE CHANGES ON YOUR LIVES.
YOU HAVE BEEN DILIGENT IN PROBING YOUR POTENTIAL -- NOT AS WOMEN --
BUT AS CAPABLE, AMBITIOUS INDIVIDUALS.

BEFORE AMERICA COMPLETES ITS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION,
I HOPE THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT WILL BE PART OF THE U. S.
CONSTITUTION. FOR E.R.A. ALSO STANDS FOR A NEW ERA FOR WOMEN
IN AMERICA -- AN ERA OF EQUAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND
REWARDS.

THE ROUGH BUT REWARDING TASK OF YOUR GENERATION --

OF EACH OF YOU -- WILL BE TO SEE THAT RECENT PROGRESS IN

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY BECOMES REGULAR PRACTICE.

TODAY, AS YOU LEAVE THIS LOVELY CAMPUS, YOUR DREAMS

SEEM VERY PERSONAL AND PRIVATE AND FAR REMOVED FROM ANY PROBLEMS

OR GOALS THAT WE AS A NATION FACE.

BUT THE AMERICAN DREAM IS TRULY A GIANT PATCHWORK

OF ALL OUR INDIVIDUAL ASPIRATIONS AND DESIRES. THIS DREAM

IS HELD TOGETHER BY THE SIMPLE HOPES OF A BETTER LIFE FOR EACH OF US --

AND FOR OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS.

BUT IT IS NEVER ENOUGH TO HOPE. WE MUST ALL

PARTICIPATE IF WE ARE TO MAKE THE UNITED STATES THE KIND OF COUNTRY

WE WANT IT TO BE AND OURSELVES THE KIND OF INDIVIDUALS WE WOULD

LIKE TO BE.

THERE IS MUCH THAT WE HAVE DONE AS A PEOPLE. BUT

MUCH REMAINS TO DO. THERE IS MUCH WE HAVE DONE AND CAN DO

AS INDIVIDUALS. AND THAT'S WHERE EACH OF YOU IS SO IMPORTANT.

WE HAVE BEEN TO THE MOON AND REACHED FOR THE STARS.

NOW WE MUST USE THIS TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE LIFE ON EARTH. WE

NEED SCIENTISTS AND SOCIOLOGISTS AND TECHNICIANS FROM THIS YEAR'S

GRADUATING CLASS TO HELP IN THE EFFORT.

WE HAVE HARNESSED NUCLEAR POWER FOR DESTRUCTION.

NOW WE MUST EXPAND ITS USES FOR PEACE. WE NEED PHYSICISTS

AND DOCTORS AND EXECUTIVES TO HELP IN THIS EFFORT.

WE HAVE LINKED THE WORLD TOGETHER BY ELECTRONICS.

NOW WE MUST COMMUNICATE OUR COMMON NEEDS AND GOALS. WE

NEED TEACHERS AND JOURNALISTS AND INFORMATION SPECIALISTS TO

HELP.

WE HAVE PRESERVED A UNIQUE FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR

NEARLY TWO HUNDRED YEARS. NOW WE MUST KEEP IT WORKABLE FOR

FUTURE GENERATIONS. WE NEED LAWYERS AND LEGISLATORS AND

POLITICAL SCIENTISTS TO HELP.

WE HAVE CREATED A LARGELY URBAN, INDUSTRIALIZED SOCIETY.

NOW WE MUST FIND ENERGY TO KEEP IT RUNNING. WE NEED

ADMINISTRATORS AND ENGINEERS AND CHEMISTS TO HELP.

BEST OF ALL, WE LIVE IN A NATION WHERE OUR DREAMS

ARE LIMITED ONLY BY OUR IMAGINATION AND OUR WILLINGNESS TO WORK.

NOW LET US PUT THAT WILLINGNESS AND IMAGINATION TO WORK IN SOLVING

THE PROBLEMS FACING AMERICA AND IN CREATING A NATION IN WHICH

SELF-FULFILLMENT IS A WAY OF LIFE.

THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETED ^{your} ~~four~~ YEARS HERE AT

HOLTON-ARMS AND ARE GRADUATING TODAY SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR

PERSONAL WILLINGNESS AND YOUR DEDICATION AND YOUR MOTIVATION.

WHATEVER FORM YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE FUTURE TAKES, I LEAVE

THESE THOUGHTS WITH YOU:

ALWAYS BE OPEN TO NEW IDEAS AND CHALLENGED BY DISTANT
HORIZONS. ALWAYS CONSIDER ACHIEVEMENT AND EXCELLENCE AS AMPLE
REWARD FOR WHATEVER CAREER YOU CHOOSE OR ROLE IN LIFE YOU SELECT.
ALWAYS BE RECEPTIVE TO LOVE AND CAPABLE OF RESPONDING IN KIND.
AND ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT YOU CARRY WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO THE
DEVOTION OF YOUR FAMILY AND AFFECTION OF YOUR FRIENDS.

OUR HEARTS AND OUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE GO WITH YOU
TODAY. MAY GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU.
THANK YOU.

END OF TEXT