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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 1975

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IT'S A PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE THIS

AFTERNOON. I JUST WISH MY DAUGHTER SUSAN COULD HAVE

BEEN HERE TODAY. I KNOW SHE WOULD HAVE LOVED MEETING AND

TALKING WITH YOU ALL, BUT SHE'S OUT IN YOSEMITE STUDYING PHOTOGRAPHY.

SUSAN GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL LAST WEEK AND,
SINCE MOST OF YOU ARE NOW ENTERING YOUR SENIOR YEAR, I THINK
YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED TO KNOW WHERE HER SENIOR CLASS DECIDED TO
HOLD ITS PROM -- RIGHT HERE IN THE WHITE HOUSE -- WHILE BETTY AND
I WERE IN EUROPE . . . I'M SURE THAT WAS ENTIRELY COINCIDENTAL.

NOW HOLDING A PROM IN THE WHITE HOUSE MAY SOUND LIKE A
PRETTY SUPER IDEA, BUT IT DID CREATE ONE SMALL PROBLEM. THE
HEADMASTER OF THE SCHOOL TOLD ME HE RECEIVED A VERY CONCERNED
PHONE CALL FROM THE PARENTS OF ONE OF THE GIRLS.

THEY SAID, IN A QUITE SERIOUS MANNER, THAT THEY MAKE IT A PRACTICE NEVER TO ALLOW THEIR DAUGHTER TO ATTEND A PARTY IN ANYONE'S HOME -- WHEN THE PARENTS ARE AWAY . . . BUT IN THIS CASE, THEY WERE GOING TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION . . .

WELL, TODAY, LET ME THANK ALL OF YOUR PARENTS AND SPONSORS FOR ALLOWING US TO HAVE THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY.

I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE BEEN SELECTED OVER SOME PRETTY STIFF COMPETITION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS WEEK OF SPECIAL EVENTS IN WASHINGTON. SO LET ME CONGRATULATE YOU ON BEING HERE.

YOU ARE HERE TODAY BECAUSE YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED
OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP QUALITIES AND BECAUSE YOU'VE DISPLAYED A
VERY SPECIAL AWARENESS OF THE ISSUES THAT CONCERN AMERICA TODAY.
NO ISSUE IS MORE IMPORTANT, OR MORE URGENT, THAN THE ISSUE OF
ENERGY INDEPENDENCE FOR AMERICA.

AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATION'S RURAL ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES, YOU REPRESENT SOME REAL PIONEERS IN THE ENERGY
FIELD. FOR THE PAST FORTY YEARS, RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
HAVE BEEN BRINGING ELECTRICITY TO OUT-OF-THE-WAY, SPARSELY
POPULATED AREAS THROUGHOUT THE NATION, CHANGING THE LIFESTYLE AND
RAISING THE STANDARD OF LIVING FOR THOUSANDS OF RURAL AMERICANS.

TODAY, MORE AND MORE AMERICANS IN EVERY SECTION OF THE COUNTRY ARE GROWING INCREASINGLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ENERGY IN THEIR LIVES. OIL EMBARGOES, BLACKOUTS AND BROWNOUTS IN THE MAJOR CITIES, PERIODIC SHORTAGES OF ENERGY SUPPLIES, AND THE RAPIDLY ESCALATING COST OF THOSE SUPPLIES HAVE JARRED US INTO A RECOGNITION OF THE VERY REAL PROBLEMS WE FACE IN THE ENERGY FIELD.

OUR MOST IMMEDIATE CONCERN IS FOR THE COST AND SUPPLY OF ENERGY RESOURCES WHICH WE MUST IMPORT FROM ABROAD. WE CANNOT BE SURE FROM DAY TO DAY OF EITHER THE COST OR THE SUPPLY OF THESE IMPORTED RESOURCES. YET OUR DEPENDENCE ON THEM IS GROWING EVERY DAY.

TO REVERSE THIS TREND, STRONG CONSERVATION MEASURES

MUST BE IMPLEMENTED HERE IN AMERICA SO THAT WE CAN MAKE THE MOST
EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE USE POSSIBLE OF OUR PRESENT CAPACITY.

BY MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR CAPACITIES FOR LEADERSHIP,
YOU CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS CONSERVATION EFFORT RIGHT
NOW, AND YOU CAN ENLIST OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE TO HELP IN THE EFFORT
AS WELL.

BUT THE PROBLEM THAT WILL CONCERN YOUR GENERATION
MORE THAN MINE IS ONE OF FINDING NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY TO REPLACE
THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN RELIED ON FOR GENERATIONS. LIKE THE
RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES YOU REPRESENT, YOU WILL HAVE TO BE
ENERGY PIONEERS.

THE WORLD STILL HAS SEEMINGLY VAST RESERVES OF CRUDE OIL,
COAL AND NATURAL GAS FOR OUR USE. BUT A GROWING WORLD
POPULATION IS USING UP THESE RESERVES AT AN EVER-INCREASING RATE,
AND WHAT MAY SEEM TODAY AN INEXHAUSTIBLE SOURCE OF ENERGY MAY BE
IN SHORT SUPPLY WITHIN A FEW YEARS.

WE HAVE ALREADY BEGUN THE EFFORT TO DEVELOP NEW SOURCES
OF ENERGY -- NUCLEAR, SOLAR AND OTHER FORMS -- AND WE'RE GOING
TO CONTINUE AND ACCELERATE THOSE EFFORTS. BUT IT WILL BE YOUR
GENERATION THAT WILL FIND ITSELF URGENTLY IN NEED OF THESE NEW
RESOURCES.

AND SO IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT YOU START BEING
"ENERGY CONSCIOUS" NOW -- NOT WHEN THE ENERGY PROBLEM IS
BEYOND SOLUTION.

"CONSERVATION FOR THE PRESENT, PRODUCTION FOR THE FUTURE"

SHOULD BE THE MOTTO OF YOUR GENERATION. ENERGY WILL PROBABLY
NEVER AGAIN BE AS CHEAP OR AS READILY AVAILABLE AS IT HAS BEEN UP TO
NOW, AND THAT'S A FACT OF LIFE WE'RE ALL GOING TO HAVE TO LIVE WITH
FROM NOW ON.

I HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF CONFIDENCE AND FAITH IN YOU, AND
I'M OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OUR CHANCES FOR SUCCESS IN MEETING THIS GREAT
CHALLENGE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE.

I'VE REALLY ENJOYED YOUR VISIT THIS AFTERNOON. I

UNDERSTAND THAT LATER ON TONIGHT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A HAPPENING.

ONE THOUSAND HELIUM-FILLED BALLOONS, PIZZA, HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS,

POPCORN, POTATO CHIPS, CANDIED APPLES, A ROCK BAND, DANCING --

AND ONE OF YOUR MEMBERS JUST INVITED BETTY AND ME TO COME.

UNFORTUNATELY, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO. SUSAN MAKES

IT A PRACTICE NEVER TO LET US ATTEND A PARTY IN ANYONE'S HOME --

WHEN THE PARENTS AREN'T THERE

IT WAS GOOD SEEING YOU TODAY. ENJOY THE HAPPENING,

ENJOY WASHINGTON, ENJOY YOUR VISIT. AND I WISH YOU ALL A

FUTURE BRIMMING OVER WITH CHALLENGE, PROMISE AND FULFILLMENT.

END OF TEXT