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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN ~~AG~~.

TAPING FOR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS

AND

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT ACTIVITY ADVISORS

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 1975

I'M HAPPY I COULD JOIN YOU -- AT LEAST ON FILM --  
FOR THIS CONFERENCE OF STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS AND STUDENT  
ACTIVITY ADVISORS.

I CONGRATULATE YOU, FIRST OF ALL, ON BEING CHOSEN  
TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS CONFERENCE. YOUR SELECTION REFLECTS  
YOUR TALENT FOR LEADERSHIP AND INDICATES THE TRUST AND HIGH  
ESTEEM IN WHICH YOU ARE HELD BY YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS AND YOUR  
TEACHERS.

AS SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW, I WAS ACTIVE IN STUDENT GOVERNMENT WHEN I ATTENDED SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL IN GRAND RAPIDS.

I EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT OF MY SENIOR CLASS, AND THAT EARLY CAMPAIGN WAS NOTABLE ONLY FOR ITS LACK OF SUCCESS AND FOR THE FACT THAT I RAN ON THE PROGRESSIVE TICKET AGAINST A REPUBLICAN.

THAT ELECTION TAUGHT ME TWO THINGS: FIRST, THAT I DIDN'T LIKE TO LOSE; AND SECOND, THAT IF I EXPECTED TO WIN ANYTHING IN GRAND RAPIDS, I'D BETTER RUN AS A REPUBLICAN.

SINCE LOSING THAT ELECTION MANY YEARS AGO, I'VE HAD A PRETTY GOOD WINNING STREAK. AND I GIVE A LOT OF CREDIT FOR WHATEVER SUCCESS I'VE HAD IN POLITICS TO THOSE EARLY DAYS IN HIGH SCHOOL.

PARTICIPATING IN STUDENT GOVERNMENT, LEARNING  
HOW TO SERVE AND HOW TO LEAD -- THIS WAS EXCELLENT PREPARATION  
FOR MY LATER CAREER.

YOU HAVE THOSE SAME KINDS OF OPPORTUNITIES  
AND RESPONSIBILITIES NOW, AND ONE OR MORE OF YOU MAY  
EVENTUALLY TAKE OVER THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THIS OFFICE IN  
THE FUTURE.

BUT WHETHER YOU CHOOSE A CAREER IN POLITICS OR  
SOME OTHER FIELD, THIS EXPERIENCE OF SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP  
WHICH YOU'RE GAINING NOW WILL BENEFIT YOU FOR THE REST  
OF YOUR LIFE.

IT WAS PLATO WHO SAID, MORE THAN TWENTY-THREE  
CENTURIES AGO, "THE DIRECTION IN WHICH EDUCATION STARTS  
A MAN WILL DETERMINE HIS FUTURE LIFE."

AS YOU PURSUE YOUR EDUCATION, YOU HAVE ADDED  
A NEW AND IMPORTANT DIMENSION TO YOUR LIVES. YOU HAVE,  
IN EFFECT, ENTERED PUBLIC SERVICE ALREADY. AND I HOPE  
PUBLIC SERVICE OF SOME KIND WILL BE A PART OF WHATEVER  
CAREER YOU SELECT OR ROLE YOU ACHIEVE IN LIFE.



YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU, YOUR ENTHUSIASM,  
YOUR ENERGY, YOUR TALENT.        THERE ARE AMERICA'S  
FREEDOMS TO PROTECT, STRENGTH TO SUSTAIN, AND POTENTIAL TO  
FULFILL.        GET INVOLVED !        OUR FOREFATHERS DID --  
AND IT DIDN'T HURT THEM A BIT.

END OF TEXT