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THANK YOU, SECRETARY WEINBERGER

SENATOR DOLE

DR. TROTTER

DR. BELL

CHAIRMAN WALLIS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

TALKING POINTS

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 1975

- 1 -

I. FIRST, LET ME WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE. I CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE OUTSTANDING RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP ABILITY WHICH HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO BE HERE TODAY. AS PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS, YOU REPRESENT ONE OF THE MOST SELECT -- TRULY ONE OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED -- GROUPS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY TODAY.

- 1A -

YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED YOUR TALENTS IN A DIVERSITY OF
FIELDS -- IN THE HUMANITIES, IN THE ARTS AND IN SCIENCE.

OUTSIDE THE ACADEMIC REALM, YOU HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN A GREAT
VARIETY OF STUDENT AND COMMUNITY-SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, WHERE
YOU HAVE SHOWN REMARKABLE LEADERSHIP ABILITIES.

- 1B -

THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION MUST BE COMMENDED FOR GIVING RECOGNITION
TO THIS MOST GIFTED GROUP OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN.

SECRETARY WEINBERGER THROUGH HIS PRESENTATION OF THE MEDALS
COMMEMORATING THIS HONOR, HAS SHOWN HIS INTEREST AS WELL
AS THE INTEREST OF THE ENTIRE DEPARTMENT, IN REWARDING
INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR OWN INITIATIVE AND DESIRES TO ACHIEVE.

THANKS MUST ALSO BE GIVEN TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS AND THE EDUCATIONAL TESTING
SERVICE FOR THEIR DONATION OF TIME AND EFFORTS IN COMPLETING THE
SELECTION PROCESS.

2. I JOIN WITH THE MANY PARENTS HERE WHEN I SAY THAT WE HAVE GOOD REASON TO BE PROUD OF A NATION THAT IS ABLE TO PRODUCE YOUNG PEOPLE OF SUCH HIGH CALIBER. MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE CAN FEEL SECURE THAT THE FUTURE OF AMERICA IS IN GOOD HANDS.

3. FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS, YOU HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE MORE CLOSELY THE WORKINGS OF OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HERE IN WASHINGTON.

I HOPE THAT THIS EXPERIENCE HAS GIVEN YOU A LITTLE BETTER IDEA OF HOW OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT OPERATES. I ALSO HOPE THAT WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED HERE MAY ENCOURAGE SOME OF YOU TO GET INVOLVED IN THE AFFAIRS OF OUR GOVERNMENT. YOUR LEADERSHIP AND YOUR INTELLIGENCE COULD PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN WRITING THE AGENDA FOR AMERICA'S THIRD CENTURY.

4. AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE, THE LEARNING PROCESS -- LIKE THE POLITICAL -- MUST BE A TWO-WAY STREET. FOR IN A SENSE, THE GREATEST WISDOM CONSISTS IN KNOWING THAT NO ONE EVER HAS ALL THE ANSWERS.

IT IS THROUGH THE FREE EXCHANGE OF VARIED IDEAS THAT REAL WISDOM -- THE KIND OF WISDOM ENSHRINED IN OUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, OUR CONSTITUTION AND OUR BILL OF RIGHTS -- IS ATTAINED.

AS WE APPROACH AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL, I BELIEVE WE CAN BE PROUD THAT, IN SPITE OF THE FOLLIES OF INDIVIDUALS, THE COLLECTIVE WISDOM OF OUR DEMOCRACY HAS MANAGED TO PREVAIL.

5. I HOPE YOU WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT THE LEARNING PROCESS IN AMERICA REFLECTS THE TRUE SUBSTANCE OF OUR DEMOCRATIC LIFE HERE, CHIEFLY BECAUSE OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IS A GREAT LEARNING PROCESS.

OUR UNIQUE EXPERIMENT IN SELF-GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS, BECAUSE WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN RETAINING THE OPEN SPIRIT OF EXPERIMENT -- OF CONFRONTING EACH NEW CHALLENGE WITH WISDOM GAINED FROM THE PAST.

6. I HOPE THAT EACH OF YOU WILL GO BACK TO
YOUR COMMUNITIES, YOUR COLLEGES AND YOUR UNIVERSITIES
WITH A RENEWED SENSE OF PURPOSE AND DIRECTION: TO LEARN
WELL THE LESSONS OF THE PAST, THAT YOU MAY DEAL MORE
WISELY WITH THE FUTURE;

AND TO CONTRIBUTE THROUGH YOUR SCHOLARSHIP AND YOUR
PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE NEW THOUGHT AND NEW INSIGHTS TO OUR
NATIONAL WISDOM. IN THIS WAY, YOU WILL STRENGTHEN
THE AMERICAN DEMOCRACY WHICH ALL OF US CHERISH.

WHERE YOU GO FROM HERE IS UP TO YOU -- SO YOU'VE
GOT TO BE BIG, THINK BIG, ACT BIG, DREAM BIG, AND ABOVE ALL,
ACCOMPLISH BIG -- FOR WHEREVER YOU GO, I AM SURE THAT THE MEMBERS
OF THIS COMMISSION, YOUR TEACHERS, PARENTS AND FRIENDS JOIN ME IN
SAYING THAT SUCCESS WILL ENTAIL TRAVELLING A LONG, ENDLESS ROAD
SINCE SUCCESS IS NOT A DESTINATION, BUT A LONG INFINITE JOURNEY.

YOU ARE JUST NOW GETTING INTO ORBIT! IT MIGHT BE THE
END OF TWELVE YEARS OF PREPARATION, BUT THERE WILL BE MANY MORE TO
COME. MAKE THEM MEANINGFUL AND USEFUL NOT ONLY TO YOURSELVES,
BUT TO ALL.

7. I AM VERY PROUD OF YOU ALL, AND I'VE ENJOYED

SPENDING THIS TIME WITH YOU.

END OF TEXT