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THANK YOU, JUDGE NORTHROP

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CONGRESSWOMAN SPELLMAN

CONGRESSMAN SARBANES

MAYOR SCHAEFER

OUR COUNTRY'S NEWEST CITIZENS

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

REMARKS AT FORT McHENRY

FRIDAY, JULY 4, 1975

WE MEET HERE AT TWILIGHT'S LAST GLEAMING.

THE CASEMATE WALLS AND SILENT CANNON OF

FORT McHENRY BEAR QUIET TESTIMONY TO A NATION'S TRAVAIL

ON ANOTHER NIGHT IN ANOTHER AGE.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY ENSHRINED FOREVER THOSE EVENTS IN

1814.

THE PATRIOTISM AND NATIONAL PRIDE SURROUNDING OUR

FLAG, OUR COUNTRY AND THEIR DEFENSE THAT NIGHT ARE OUR HERITAGE

IN SONG AND VERSE.

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER IS AN

EXPRESSION OF LOVE OF COUNTRY.

WE MUST NOT BECOME SO SOPHISTICATED, SO BLASE,

THAT WE IGNORE THESE SIMPLE BUT ELOQUENT MOMENTS OF OUR HISTORY.

WE NEED TO REMIND OURSELVES THAT AMERICA REALLY IS "THE LAND

OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE."

WE ARE HONORED BY THOSE WHO EARLIER THIS EVENING

BECAME UNITED STATES' CITIZENS, ~~AT CEREMONIES HERE.~~ THEY

HAVE CHOSEN WHAT WE OFTEN TAKE FOR GRANTED.

THE HALLMARK OF OUR FIRST CENTURY WAS  
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FREE GOVERNMENT. IN THE  
FACE OF GREAT ODDS, 13 DISPARATE COLONIES BECAME  
A FLEDGLING NATION. ITS FUTURE WAS INSECURE.

IN THE FIRST 100 YEARS, THE WESTERN MOVEMENT ACCELERATED —  
VAST TERRITORIES WERE ACQUIRED, STATES JOINED THE UNION,  
CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES WERE RAISED. WARS WERE FOUGHT,  
NONE MORE DEVASTATING THAN THE ONE THAT TURNED AMERICAN  
AGAINST AMERICAN.

YET, THROUGH THAT TERRIBLE ORDEAL, IT WAS RESOLVED THAT  
THIS NATION WOULD NOT ENDURE HALF SLAVE AND HALF FREE.  
THE UNION WAS PRESERVED.

BY OUR CENTENNIAL IN 1876, THE AMERICAN  
REPUBLIC HAD BEEN SECURELY ESTABLISHED. OF THIS,  
THERE WAS NO DOUBT, EITHER AT HOME OR ABROAD.

OUR SECOND CENTURY HAS BEEN MARKED BY

THE GROWTH OF A FREE AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM,

THE PIONEER SPIRIT WHICH CARRIED US WEST TURNED

TO NEW FRONTIERS.

RAILROADS SPANNED THE CONTINENT AND

BECAME A WEB OF STEEL, LINKING CITY TO CITY,

REGION TO REGION, TOWN TO TOWN.

THE AUTOMOBILE AND ITS ASSEMBLY

LINE CHANGED FOREVER TRANSPORTATION AND THE

MANUFACTURING PROCESS.

THE WRIGHTS MASTERED POWERED FLIGHT

AT KITTY HAWK.      THE AGE OF FLIGHT WAS BORN.



FROM THE FIRST ATLANTIC CROSSING BY THE "LONE EAGLE,"

CHARLES LINDBERGH, TO THE AMERICAN ASTRONAUTS

WHO ANNOUNCED THAT "THE EAGLE HAS LANDED" WHEN

THEY TOUCHED DOWN ON THE MOON, AMERICA'S

LEADERSHIP WAS ESTABLISHED.

THE TELEGRAM, THE TELEPHONE,

TELEVISION }-- ALL ARE PART OF THE COMMUNICATIONS

REVOLUTION OF OUR SECOND CENTURY.

SCIENCE, MEDICINE, AGRICULTURAL  
PRODUCTION, MARKETING -- THESE HAVE BEEN  
JUST A FEW OF THE MODERN FRONTIERS SINCE 1876.

OUR THIRD CENTURY, I BELIEVE,  
SHOULD BE AN ERA OF INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM,  
THE MASS APPROACH OF THE MODERN WORLD PLACES  
A PREMIUM ON CREATIVITY AND INDIVIDUALITY.

MASS PRODUCTION, MASS EDUCATION, MASS

POPULATION, MUST NOT SMOTHER INDIVIDUAL

EXPRESSION, OR LIMIT INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITY.

INDIVIDUALISM IS A SAFEGUARD AGAINST THE

SAMENESS OF SOCIETY.

A GOVERNMENT TOO LARGE AND BUREAUCRATIC

CAN STIFLE INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE BY A FRUSTRATING STATISM.

IN AMERICA, OUR SOVEREIGN IS THE CITIZEN.

GOVERNMENTS EXIST TO SERVE PEOPLE.      THE STATE IS THE

CREATURE OF THE POPULACE.      THESE PROPOSITIONS ARE THE

FOUNDATION-STONES OF OUR BICENTENNIAL.

TODAY, IN THE 199TH YEAR OF OUR INDEPENDENCE, WE STAND  
AT THE THRESHOLD OF A NEW AMERICAN EXPERIENCE.

LET US MAKE THE COMING YEAR A GREAT YEAR ON AMERICA'S  
AGENDA OF ACHIEVEMENT.

AS WE MOVE TO THE BICENTENNIAL OF AMERICAN  
INDEPENDENCE, LET US THINK OF WHERE WE WILL BE AND WHAT  
WE CAN ACHIEVE BY THE NEXT JULY 4TH -- BY THE NEXT DECADE --  
BY THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CONSTITUTION -- AND  
BY THE YEAR 2000.

LET US RESOLVE THAT THIS SHALL BE AN ERA OF HOPE  
RATHER THAN DESPAIR. LET US RESOLVE THAT IT SHALL BE AN ERA  
OF ACHIEVEMENT RATHER THAN APATHY. LET US RESOLVE THAT  
IT SHALL BE A TIME OF PROMISE RATHER THAN OF REGRET.

THE BICENTENNIAL SHOULD BE A TIME -- FOR EACH  
OF US -- OF SELF-EXAMINATION AND INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT.  
QUALITY AND PERMANENCE SHOULD BE THE MEASUREMENTS OF OUR LIVES.

LET US PURSUE TRUTHS AND VALUES THAT WILL ENHANCE THE  
QUALITY OF LIFE.

TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION, WE NEED TO LEARN  
MORE OF OUR COUNTRY AND OUR PEOPLE.

AMERICANS MUST APPRECIATE THE DIVERSITY OF OUR LAND AND

OUR CITIZENS.      BOUNDARIES OF REGIONALISM AND

URBANIZATION MUST DISSOLVE BEFORE OUR WILL TO BE ONE NATION

AND ONE PEOPLE.

IN THE COMING YEAR, THE BICENTENNIAL MUST

BECOME A TRUE, NATIONAL EXPERIENCE.      THE AMERICAN

REVOLUTION AND ITS LEGACY BELONG TO EACH OF THE STATES

AND OUR FAR FLUNG TERRITORIES:

TO EVERY COUNTY . . . TO EVERY CITY . . . TO EVERY CHURCH . . .

TO EVERY CLUB . . . AND TO EACH AND EVERY AMERICAN CITIZEN.

AT EVERY SCHOOL WHERE THE AMERICAN FLAG FLIES,

IT IS MY HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE IN THE COMING YEAR A

CONCENTRATED EFFORT IN THE CLASSROOM TO STUDY, DISCUSS

AND PORTRAY THESE PAST 200 YEARS OF OUR HISTORY.



I WOULD URGE THAT EVERY COMMUNITY SEEK  
TO MAKE ITS PROGRAM AS MEANINGFUL AS POSSIBLE TO  
AS MANY AS POSSIBLE. IT SHOULD STRESS THE HISTORY,  
CULTURE, ACHIEVEMENTS AND VALUES WE ASSOCIATE WITH OUR  
WAY OF LIFE.

THE IDEAS THAT WERE FORGED AND FOUGHT FOR  
IN THE 13 COLONIES CROSSED THE APPALACHIANS. THEY  
FOLLOWED THE CONESTOGA WAGONS AND RODE WITH THE  
PONY EXPRESS. THEY CROSSED THE MISSISSIPPI AND  
THE MISSOURI, SPANNED THE PLAINS AND THE DESERTS.

THEY BELONG AS MUCH TO THE WEST AS THEY DO  
TO THE EAST.      WHEREVER THE AMERICAN FLAG  
HAS GONE, SO WENT THE CONCEPTS OF THIS GREAT  
REPUBLIC.      AMERICAN CLIPPER SHIPS TOOK  
THE STORY TO THE FAR CORNERS OF THE EARTH.

AMERICAN JET-LINERS CARRY IT EVERYDAY ACROSS

THE SKIES TO DISTANT LANDS.      INDEED, THIS

EVENT DOES NOT BELONG JUST TO AMERICANS.

THIS IS A CELEBRATION OF LIBERTY, FREEDOM AND

DEMOCRACY -- WHEREVER THEY EXIST.

WHILE WE CHERISH THE MANY HERITAGES

THAT ENRICH OUR LAND, WE OF ALL PEOPLES HAVE NO

HISTORY EXCEPT WHAT WE HAVE WRITTEN FOR OURSELVES.

WE ARE NOT AMERICANS ALONE BY BIRTH OR BLOOD,

BY OATH OR CREED OR COMPACT AMONG PRINCES.

WE ARE AMERICANS BECAUSE WE DELIBERATELY CHOSE

TO BE ONE NATION, INDIVISIBLE, AND FOR 199 YEARS

WITH GOD'S HELP WE HAVE GONE FORWARD TOGETHER.

TWO CENTURIES OF SACRIFICE AND  
STRUGGLE, OF CONFLICT AND COMPROMISE, HAVE  
GAINED FOR US AN UNPRECEDENTED MEASURE OF  
POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE.

WE HAVE ON THIS INDEPENDENCE DAY OF 1975 A  
FREE GOVERNMENT THAT CHECKS AND BALANCES ITS OWN  
EXCESSES, AND A FREE ECONOMIC SYSTEM THAT CORRECTS ITS  
OWN ERRORS, GIVEN THE COURAGE AND CONSTRUCTIVE  
COOPERATION OF A FREE AND ENLIGHTENED CITIZENRY.

THIS IS THE AMAZING HISTORY AMERICANS HAVE WRITTEN  
FOR THEMSELVES AS WE BEGIN OUR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

THE YOUNG REPUBLIC OF YESTERYEAR IS TODAY  
A STRONG AND GREAT NATION. IT STILL LIVES THE  
VALUES OF ITS DECLARATION, ITS CONSTITUTION, *MORE*

ITS BILL OF RIGHTS. IT INFLUENCES THE DESTINY  
OF MILLIONS BEYOND OUR SHORES. IT STILL  
REMAINS -- IN LINCOLN'S WORDS -- THE LAST,  
BEST HOPE OF EARTH.

LET US THIS FOURTH OF JULY CONTINUE

TO BE A NATION OF HOPE.      THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

BELIEVE IN TOMORROW -- THAT BY DAWN'S EARLY

LIGHT OUR FLAG WILL STILL BE THERE.

LET US BE ONE NATION AND ONE PEOPLE -- INDIVISIBLE

-- FOR OUR FLAG IS ONE AND OUR DESTINY IS ONE.

LET US BE A PEOPLE OF VALUES + OF LIBERTY,

EQUALITY AND JUSTICE -- NO MATTER WHAT THE COST.

THAT HAS BEEN OUR HISTORY. WE HAVE

NEVER COUNTED THE COST OF FREEDOM.

LET US, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS,

BE TRUE TO OURSELVES FOR THEN WE CAN BE

FALSE TO NO NATION OR NO PEOPLE.

AND LET US LIVE NOT ONLY FOR OUR OWN PROGRESS

BUT ALSO IN HARMONY AND HOPE FOR ALL OTHER

MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN -- EVERYWHERE.

IN SO DOING, THE UNITED STATES AND ITS

PEOPLE SERVE AND HONOR THE PROMISE OF FRANCIS SCOTT

KEY'S WORDS:

" . . . LAND OF THE FREE, AND HOME OF THE

BRAVE."

END OF TEXT



CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT  
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN *PTH*  
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS *PTH*  
SUBJECT: President's remarks at Ft. McHenry's  
Our Country Program

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: \_\_\_\_\_

Friday, July 4, 1975, Baltimore, Maryland, 9 p. m.

SPEECHWRITER: Jack Marsh

EDITED BY: Paul Theis

BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:

Research, Park Service

CLEARED BY (Please initial):

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