The original documents are located in Box 13, "8/10/75 - Talking Points: St. Edward Mercy Medical Center, Fort Smith, Arkansas" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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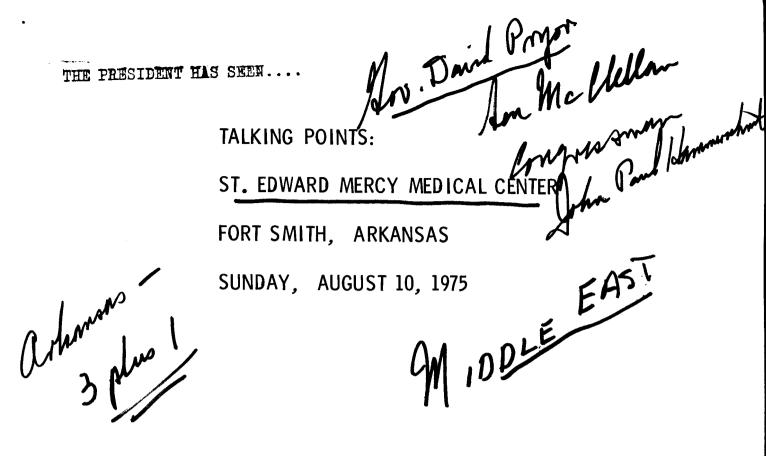
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU, PAUL (Cong. Hammerschmidt introduces you)

GOVERNOR PRYOR SENATOR MCCLELLAN CONG. RAY THORNTON CONG. THEODORE RISENHOOVER SISITER JUDITH KEITH DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

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- 1 -

1. I CONGRATULATE ALL INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING AND

CONSTRUCTION OF THIS VERY SPECIAL "HOSPITAL OF TOMORROW" TO SERVE 500,000 MORE THAN ONE-HALF MILLION PEOPLE IN WESTERN ARKANSAS AND EASTERN OKLAHOMA. THIS NEW FACILITY IS AN OUTSTANDING ADDITION TO THE THRIVING MEDICAL COMMUNITY IN FORT SMITH. SINCE ITS FOUNDING BY THE SISTERS OF MERCY IN 1905, ST. EDWARD

HAS PROVIDED VITAL HEALTH SERVICES TO THIS CITY AND SURROUNDING

AREAS.

- 2Á -

1a. THE TWO MILLION DOLLAR FUND DRIVE COMBINED

WITH A 14.2 MILLION DOLLAR FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

GUARANTEED LOAN FINANCED THIS FACILITY. I AM PROUD TO SAY

I SPONSORED THE LEGISLATION IN THE CONGRESS TO PROVIDE FOR THIS

TYPE OF F.H.A. LOAN TO PRIVATE HOSPITALS.

2. I COMMEND YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE HEALTH NEEDS OF THE <u>65,000 PEOPLE</u> OF THIS CITY AS WELL AS RURAL AREA RESIDENTS IN ARKANSAS AND NEIGHBORING OKLAHOMA. THIS FACILITY WILL HELP TO MEET THEIR MEDICAL NEEDS.

- 4 -

3. THE DECISION, MADE IN 1967, TO DESIGN A CENTER

TO PROVIDE TOP-QUALITY HEALTH CARE AT REDUCED COSTS SHOWED

AN UNDERSTANDING OF ONE OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS IN OUR HEALTH

THE INNOVATIVE DESIGN OF ST. EDWARD WITH AUTOMATION AND CENTRALIZATION OF SERVICES WILL HELP KEEP COSTS LOW AND QUALITY OF PATIENT CARE HIGH. AND YOUR PLAN TO COMBINE THE FORT SMITH CENTER WITH SMALLER RURAL HOSPITALS SHOWS YOUR FORWARD THINKING. I UNDERSTAND YOU ARE ALREADY WORKING WITH NINE SMALLER HOSPITALS IN THE AREA IN A GROUP PURCHASING PROGRAM TO HELP ACHIEVE LOWER COSTS.

- 6 -

4. ST. EDWARD SHOWED ITS WILLINGNESS TO BREAK NEW

GROUND IN MEDICAL CARE WITH ITS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

PROGRAM. ONE OF THE FIRST PILOT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

PROGRAMS IN THE COUNTRY, ST. EDWARD CONTINUES TO SERVE

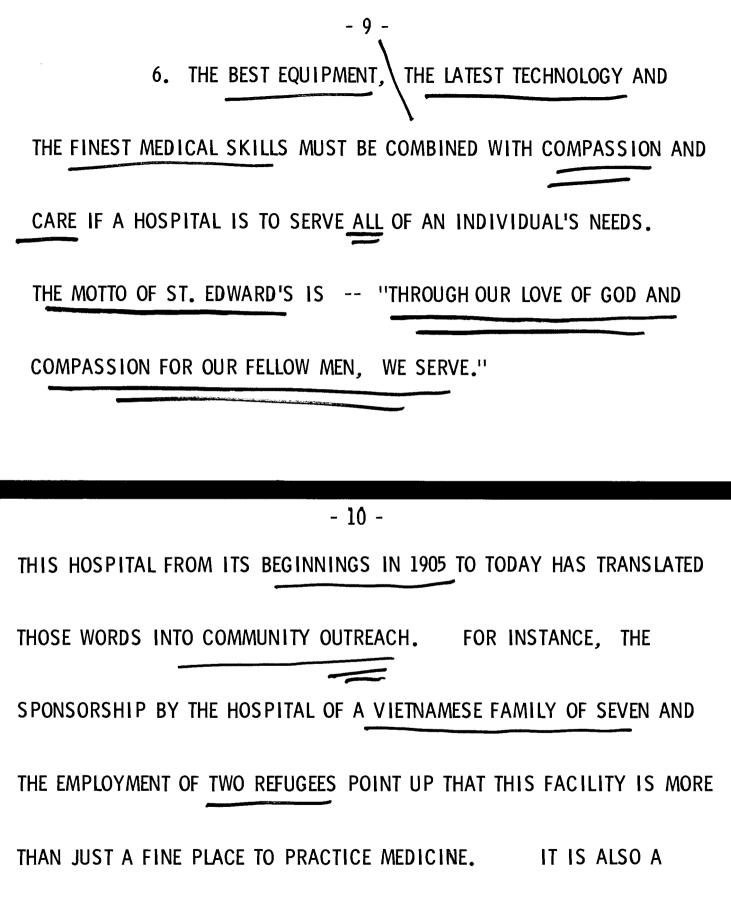
AS THE CONTROL CENTER FOR THIS REGION.

I UNDERSTAND JUST LAST WEEK THE HOSPITAL OFFERED ITS SKILLED

EMERGENCY TREATMENT TO <u>30 NATIONAL GUARDSMEN</u> INJURED WHEN HIGH WINDS STRUCK FORT CHAFFEE.

5. MEDICAL PROGRESS IS ACHIEVED WHEN NEW TECHNIQUES AND KNOWLEDGE ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL OUR CITIZENS. YOUR USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE WILL SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE TO OTHER MEDICAL FACILITIES. YOUR SUCCESS WILL INSPIRE OTHERS TO SEARCH FOR MORE CREATIVE AND EFFICIENT METHODS OF PROVIDING HEALTH CARE.

- 8 -



CENTER WHICH CARES.

7. I AM PROUD TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS DEDICATION,

BECAUSE OF ST. EDWARD'S PROUD PAST AND ITS BRIGHT FUTURE.

END OF TEXT