

The original documents are located in Box 14, “8/19/75 - Closing Remarks After Q&A Session at the White House Conference, Peoria, Illinois” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

))

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

Jawell Pritz

CLOSING REMARKS AFTER Q&A SESSION

AT THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1975

THANK YOU ALL FOR A STIMULATING AND INFORMATIVE
SESSION. AS I HAVE ALREADY SAID, THE PURPOSE OF
THESE CONFERENCES IS TWO-FOLD. THEY ARE AN EXERCISE
IN TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION. WE CAME TO PEORIA TO
LISTEN AND LEARN AS WELL AS TO SPEAK.

AND JUDGING BY THAT STANDARD, I BELIEVE
THIS CONFERENCE HAS BEEN A SUCCESS.

TO DO ITS JOB WELL, GOVERNMENT MUST BE TUNED
IN TO THE PEOPLE IT SERVES. IT MUST BE OPEN AND
IT MUST BE RESPONSIVE AS IT MAINTAINS A TWO-WAY
CONVERSATION WITH CITIZENS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.
TODAY, YOU HAVE HEARD ABOUT AGRICULTURE FROM SECRETARY
BUTZ, ABOUT THE ECONOMY FROM JOHN DUNLOP AND BILL SEIDMAN,
ABOUT THE ENERGY SITUATION FROM FRANK ZARB, ABOUT
EDUCATION FROM COMMISSIONER BELL, AND ABOUT THE
ENVIRONMENT FROM RUSSELL TRAIN.

WE HAVE TRIED TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF WHAT
THIS ADMINISTRATION'S GOALS ARE AND WHERE WE ARE HEADING
IN OUR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP NEW DIRECTIONS WHILE STRENGTHENING
THE BASIC FREE ENTERPRISE VALUES WHICH MAKE AMERICA GREAT.

BUT JUST AS IMPORTANTLY, WE HAVE ALSO HEARD

FROM YOU -- FROM MEN AND WOMEN REPRESENTING NEARLY

EVERY FACET OF LIFE IN THE PEORIA AREA --

LABOR, BUSINESS,

INDUSTRY, EDUCATION, FARMING, THE MINORITY COMMUNITY,

WOMENS' GROUPS, THE PRESS AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

THIS IS THE SEVENTH PRESIDENTIAL TOWN HALL

MEETING I HAVE ATTENDED. THE MORE OF THEM I ATTEND,
THE MORE I LEARN AND THE MORE OPTIMISTIC I BECOME ABOUT
AMERICA'S LONG-TERM FUTURE. IN THE PEOPLE GATHERED
HERE -- AND IN MILLIONS OF OTHERS LIKE YOU AROUND THE
COUNTRY -- WE HAVE THE ONE PRICELESS NATIONAL RESOURCE
THAT WILL NEVER BE DEPLETED.

AS LONG AS WE CAN MEET TOGETHER AND WORK
TOGETHER LIKE THIS -- IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF CANDOR, TRUST
AND MUTUAL RESPECT -- THERE IS NO PROBLEM WE CANNOT
ULTIMATELY SOLVE.

AFTER ALL, THAT IS REALLY WHAT AMERICA IS
ALL ABOUT -- PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT IDEAS AND EXPERIENCES,
FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE, PULLING TOGETHER TO MAKE THIS
A BETTER COUNTRY.

THEY DID IT IN 1776 AT INDEPENDENCE HALL.

WE, TOO, CAN DO IT 200 YEARS LATER.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT