

The original documents are located in Box 14, “8/24/75 - Remarks to the Chicago Yacht Club Dinner” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Cross Town - Highway THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

REMARKS TO THE CHICAGO YACHT CLUB DINNER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 1975

*Mayor Daley - HUD.
single family. - monotonous*

- 1 -

(ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS)

BEFORE I BEGIN, I HAVE ONE VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION
TO ASK. I MOST RESPECTFULLY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW/IF THERE IS
ANY CORRELATION BETWEEN THE FACT THAT SAILING IS THE ONE SPORT
THAT NEEDS A GREAT DEAL OF WIND -- AND YOUR INVITATION FOR ME
TO SPEAK HERE TONIGHT.

- 2 -

AS AN OLD NAVY MAN, IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE
RUBBING SHOULDERS WITH SO MANY FINE SKIPPERS AND THEIR CREWS --
AND I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO MAYOR RICHARD DALEY AND THE CITY OF
CHICAGO FOR MAKING THIS EVENING POSSIBLE.

- 3 -

WHILE MAYOR DALEY AND I DON'T ALWAYS SEE EYE TO EYE
ON POLITICS -- HE TENDS TO FAVOR THE PORT TACK / AND I TEND TO
FAVOR THE STARBOARD -- I'M DELIGHTED THAT WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN
ABLE TO JOIN TOGETHER FOR WONDERFUL EVENINGS LIKE THIS.

- 4 -

LET ME EXTEND MY GOOD WISHES TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS
AND OFFICIALS IN THE 1975 WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE
INTERNATIONAL STAR CLASS YACHT RACING ASSOCIATION.

- 5 -

IN PARTICULAR, I WANT TO WELCOME THE SKIPPERS AND CREWS WHO
HAVE COME FROM SWITZERLAND, SWEDEN, GERMANY, THE BAHAMAS,
CANADA AND BRAZIL -- TO COMPETE IN THIS CHAMPIONSHIP.

- 6 -

I HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY YOUR VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AND TAKE
MANY HAPPY MEMORIES WITH YOU / WHEN YOU RETURN HOME.

AND LET ME ALSO CONGRATULATE THE MEMBERS OF THE CHICAGO
YACHT CLUB ON YOUR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. I HOPE YOUR NEXT
HUNDRED YEARS WILL BE AS REWARDING AND AS MEMORABLE AS THE FIRST.

- 7 -

THERE ARE SO MANY GREAT CHAMPIONS AND CELEBRITIES IN THE
YACHTING WORLD HERE TONIGHT -- BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT ONE SKIPPER
AND CREW, IN PARTICULAR, HAS CAUGHT MY EYE. I'D LIKE TO ASK
THEM TO STAND UP AND TAKE A BOW.

THE SKIPPER OF STAR NUMBER 5607 -- "DING" SCHOONMAKER (SKOON-MAKER)

-- AND HIS VERY TALENTED AND CAPABLE CREW -- JERRY FORD

JERRY, ALL I CAN SAY IS, I'VE BEEN CREW/AND NOW I'M SKIPPER.

BELIEVE ME, CREW IS EASIER.

EVERYONE I TALKED TO BEFORE AND DURING DINNER/IS ALREADY

AWARE OF THE FACT THAT I AM NOT AN EXPERT ON SAILING -- BUT I'VE

DONE SOME ON MICHIGAN'S WONDERFUL INLAND LAKES/AND A BIT ON LAKE

MICHIGAN. I WAS A CREW MEMBER, NEVER A SKIPPER.

- 10 -

THEN, WHEN I GOT INTO THE NAVY, I SERVED ALL MY SEA DUTY ON AN ATTACK AIRCRAFT CARRIER -- THE U.S.S. MONTEREY.

BUT IF YOU'LL PARDON A LITTLE PRIDE AND NOSTALGIA, IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC -- THE MONTEREY, ACCORDING TO OUR CREW, WAS ALSO A STAR.

- 11 -

SINCE THEN, THE ONLY SAILING I'VE DONE HAS BEEN AN OCCASIONAL CRUISE UP AND DOWN THE POTOMAC. AND SO, WHILE IT'S A NEW WORLD TO ME, WHAT YOU HAVE TOLD ME TONIGHT ABOUT STAR RACING -- I LIKE.

FOR INSTANCE, I UNDERSTAND THERE WILL BE SIX RACES IN THIS
CHAMPIONSHIP -- AND THE RULES PERMIT EACH SKIPPER TO THROW OUT
HIS WORST RACE. I KNOW A LOT OF POLITICIANS WHO WOULD LOVE
THOSE RULES.

BUT THE ASPECT OF STAR RACING I ADMIRE MOST/IS THE
EMPHASIS ON PERSONAL SKILL AND INSTINCT. WHAT REALLY COUNTS
IS THE SKIPPER AND CREW/AND HOW THEY MEASURE UP AGAINST EVERY
OTHER SKIPPER AND CREW. EQUIPMENT AND DESIGN ARE NOT THE
DETERMINING FACTORS -- EXPERIENCE, KNOW-HOW AND GUTS ARE.

- 14 -

TONIGHT, I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU ALL FOR ALLOWING ME
TO SHARE SOME OF THE FLAVOR, THE STORIES AND THE EXCITEMENT OF STAR
SAILING. IN TOMORROW'S RACES, AND IN THOSE THAT FOLLOW,
I WISH YOU ALL COULD WIN -- BUT IN JUST BEING PART OF THIS VERY
SPECIAL SPORT, I KNOW YOU ALREADY HAVE.

THANK YOU AND GOOD NIGHT.

END OF TEXT