

The original documents are located in Box 14, “9/4/75 - Remarks at Portland Youth Bicentennial, Portland, Oregon” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

PORTLAND YOUTH BICENTENNIAL RALLY

SEPTEMBER 4, 1975

(ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS)

THANK YOU DIRK AND YOUR FELLOW M.C.'s

GOVERNOR BOB STRAUB

SENATOR MARK HATFIELD

AND ALL OF YOU GREAT YOUNG AMERICANS -- THE
FUTURE LEADERS OF AMERICA

(BEFORE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS)

WOW! - - - I KNOW WE HAVE AN ENERGY SHORTAGE --

BUT I SURE DON'T SEE ANY SIGN OF IT TONIGHT!

I JUST FINISHED TELLING A BANQUET AUDIENCE, THAT

I CAME TO OREGON JUST TO VISIT -- NOT TO STAY. WELL, AFTER

AN OVATION LIKE THAT, I THINK I'M CHANGING MY MIND.

NOW I KNOW WHY THE PORTLAND TIMBERS ARE DOING

SO WELL. YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO MAKE A FELLA FEEL LIKE A

CHAMPION!

(ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS NOW)

I AM DELIGHTED TO JOIN WITH SO MANY ENERGETIC AND ENTHUSIASTIC YOUNG AMERICANS IN THIS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS RALLY IS ONE OF NUMEROUS BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES IN THIS AREA. I COMMEND YOUR PLANS TO REMEMBER THE PAST AND LOOK TO THE FUTURE. THAT IS THE RIGHT NOTE FOR THIS CELEBRATION.

THE YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED HERE TONIGHT
HAVE CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO THIS NATION. AMERICA OWES
SPECIAL THANKS TO THE THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF MEN AND
WOMEN WHO DONATE THEIR TALENTS AND TIME TO WORK WITH
YOUNG PEOPLE.

THE TRADITION OF SERVICE OF THE BOY SCOUTS,
GIRL SCOUTS, CAMP FIRE GIRLS, 4-H CLUBS, SALVATION ARMY,
RED CROSS, Y-M-C-A, Y-W-C-A AND THE BOYS CLUB IS A SOLID
PART OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE. TONIGHT, I WANT TO THANK THOSE
ORGANIZATIONS AND THE MEN AND WOMEN BEHIND THEM FOR WHAT
THEY HAVE DONE -- AND ARE DOING -- FOR AMERICA.

I KNOW FIRST-HAND FROM MY YEARS IN THE BOY SCOUTS
HOW MEANINGFUL AND IMPORTANT ORGANIZATIONS OF THIS KIND ARE
TO YOUNGSTERS GROWING UP. I CHALLENGE ALL OF YOU IN THIS
AUDIENCE AND ALL YOUNG PEOPLE NATIONWIDE TO CONTINUE THIS
FINE TRADITION OF SERVICE.

AS WE CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 200TH BIRTHDAY, LET'S
REMEMBER THAT THIS BICENTENNIAL ISN'T SOLELY ABOUT THE PATRIOTS
WHO MADE A SUCCESSFUL REVOLUTION. IT'S ABOUT ALL
AMERICANS WHO TOOK THE DREAM OF A NEW LAND OF FREEDOM AND
MADE IT A REALITY. OVER THE YEARS SINCE 1776, MILLIONS OF
MEN AND WOMEN, WHOSE NAMES WE WILL NEVER KNOW AND WHOSE
HEROISM WENT UNSUNG, MADE THE DREAM LIVE.

TO BE SURE, WE HONOR THE WISE AND ARTICULATE MEN
WHO WROTE WHAT I CONSIDER TWO OF THE GREATEST DOCUMENTS EVER
DEvised BY MAN: THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE
UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION. BUT THE REVOLUTION AND ITS
AFTERMATH COULD HAVE BEEN A TEMPORARY FOOTNOTE IN THE
CHRONICLES OF ITS DAY -- WITHOUT THE UNSUNG, UNNAMED
AMERICANS WHO MADE IT PERMANENT AND IMPRINTED ITS
ACHIEVEMENTS INDELIBLY IN HISTORY.

BEFORE THE REVOLUTION, THE FIRST ENGLISH SETTLERS
DREAMED OF A BETTER LIFE AND MORE FREEDOM. THEY MATCHED
THE DREAM WITH A WILLINGNESS TO CROSS AN OCEAN AND CIVILIZE
A WILDERNESS.

THIS BEAUTIFUL PACIFIC NORTHWEST WAS SETTLED BY
THIS SAME BRAND OF COURAGEOUS PIONEERS -- WHO CARRIED THE
CONCEPT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT AND FAITH IN INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM
INTO EACH NEW SETTLEMENT AND STATE.

ALTHOUGH WE ARE THE WORLD'S OLDEST REPUBLIC,
WE ARE STILL A YOUNG COUNTRY. OUR PAST TRULY IS CLOSE
TO US AND, ALTHOUGH WE MAY NOT RECOGNIZE THE NAMES OF
ANCESTORS WHO MADE THIS NATION POSSIBLE, WE CAN SEE THEIR
DEEDS AND THEIR LEGACY EVERYWHERE: A FIRMLY-ESTABLISHED
FREE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND THE MOST PRODUCTIVE NATION
IN HISTORY.

IN 1876, AT THE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION IN
PHILADELPHIA, AMERICA CELEBRATED THE WONDERS OF AN AGE
JUST DAWNING: THE SHIFTOVER FROM A RURAL TO AN INDUSTRIAL
SOCIETY. THE FIRST BICYCLE WAS ON DISPLAY AT THE 1876
EXPOSITION.

WE CAN WONDER TODAY WHICH OF OUR MODERN INVENTIONS WILL
PROVE AS DURABLE. IN THE YEARS BEFORE THE END OF THE
19TH CENTURY THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION OF IDEAS AND INVENTIONS --
THE AUTOMOBILE, THE ELECTRIC LIGHT AND THE TELEPHONE.

JUST AS THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION REQUIRED FOLLOWERS
AND BELIEVERS, SO DID OUR INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. WITHOUT
THE PEOPLE WHO INVESTED IN THE INVENTIONS AND PUT THEM INTO
USE, WE WOULD ALL HAVE ARRIVED HERE TONIGHT IN HORSE-DRAWN
BUGGIES.

THE WRIGHT BROTHERS MADE HISTORY AT KITTY HAWK,
BUT THE FIRST PASSENGERS TO RIDE IN A PLANE MADE HISTORY TOO.
THE BELIEVERS WHO WERE NOT AFRAID OF THE NEW AND UNTRIED
MADE THE AGE OF FLIGHT JUST AS SURELY AS DID THE MEN WHO
BUILT THE FIRST FLYING MACHINES.

YOU ARE GROWING UP IN AN AGE OF SPACE TRAVEL
AND WORLD-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS. AND THE WORLD IN
WHICH YOUR CHILDREN WILL LIVE MAY BE AS WONDEROUSLY
STRANGE AS YOUR WORLD IS TO YOUR GRANDPARENTS.

AS I LOOK OUT OVER THIS AUDIENCE -- AT YOU WHO WILL
LEAD AMERICA INTO THE 21ST CENTURY -- I URGE YOU TO LOOK TO THE
PAST FOR INSPIRATION, BUT WITHIN YOURSELVES FOR COURAGE --
AND TO THE FUTURE FOR CHALLENGE.

MANY YEARS AGO, A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER TAUGHT
ME THAT THE BEAUTY OF JOSEPH'S COAT WAS ITS MANY COLORS.

AND THE BEAUTY OF AMERICA IS ITS MANY INDIVIDUALS, EACH A
LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER. FOR AMERICA'S THIRD
CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE, I COMMEND TO EACH OF YOU THIS
GREAT OBJECTIVE: FREEDOM FOR EVERYONE WHO RESPECTS THE
FREEDOM OF OTHERS.

YOU -- ALL OF US IN THIS COUNTRY -- ARE INHERITORS
OF A GREAT TRUST. WE MUST HONOR THE PAST BY WORKING FOR
THE FUTURE. A NATION -- BORN OF A DREAM AND CARRIED
FORWARD BY ACTION -- REQUIRES FROM ALL OF US A COMMITMENT
OF FAITH TO ADVANCE INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY AND TO MAKE AMERICA
STRONG AND SECURE FOR HER THIRD CENTURY.

END OF TEXT