The original documents are located in Box 16, “9/17/75 - Talking Points: Meeting with Presidential Interchange Executives” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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TALKING POINTS:

MEETING WITH PRESIDENTIAL INTERCHANGE EXECUTIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 1975
WELCOME AND GOOD AFTERNOON.

THIS IS MY FIRST MEETING AS PRESIDENT WITH PRESIDENTIAL INTERCHANGE EXECUTIVES AND I'M VERY PLEASED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH YOU.
YOU ARE TACKLING ONE OF THE MOST FORMIDABLE

CHALLENGES ANYONE CAN FACE -- UNDERSTANDING GOVERNMENT.

BRAVE MEN HAVE DEVOTED THEIR LIVES TO THAT QUEST AND HAVE BEEN

LED AWAY MUMBLING. BUT I AM CONFIDENT YOU WILL ESCAPE

THAT FATE.
YOU COME FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS, A VARIETY OF

PROFESSIONS AND ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. BUT YOU HAVE ONE

THING IN COMMON: UNCOMMON ABILITY AND INITIATIVE.
I BELIEVE STRONGLY IN THE PRESIDENTIAL INTERCHANGE PROGRAM BECAUSE I KNOW THAT NEITHER BUSINESS NOR GOVERNMENT CAN SOLVE THIS NATION’S PROBLEMS BY ITSELF. WE MUST WORK AS PARTNERS. YOU ARE AGENTS OF THAT PARTNERSHIP.

WHAT YOU LEARN ABOUT HOW GOVERNMENT WORKS -- AND WHY IT SOMETIMES FAILS TO WORK -- CAN HELP US FORGE THAT PARTNERSHIP.
WE HAVE MANY PROBLEMS WE CAN SOLVE ONLY BY

BROADENING OUR PERSPECTIVES. ONE PROBLEM OF PARTICULAR

CONCERN TO ME IS THE HEAVY BURDEN ON BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT

RED TAPE AND REGULATIONS. IT THREATENS TO BURY BUSINESS

IN AN AVALANCHE OF FEDERAL FORMS.
LAST YEAR ALONE 5,146 DIFFERENT FEDERAL FORMS WERE BEING SENT OUT FROM WASHINGTON. I HAVE CREATED A FEDERAL COMMISSION TO CUT THIS MOUNTAIN DOWN TO SIZE. PERHAPS YOU WILL BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH SOME IDEAS OF YOUR OWN TO REDUCE THIS PAPERWORK PROBLEM. SOMETIMES THE ONLY WAY TO SOLVE A PROBLEM IS TO LOOK AT IT FROM ANOTHER VANTAGE POINT.
I sometimes wish my friends in the Congress could get a perspective on the nation's problems from the vantage point of the Oval Office for a few weeks. Many of them do, too -- but I think what they have in mind is an arrangement lasting at least four years.
I don't think there was ever a period when your contributions to a broader perspective on our country's problems were needed more. In the months ahead, we face a critical choice: shall business and government work together to make our free enterprise economy work better?
OR SHALL WE DRIFT INTO AN ECONOMY IN WHICH VITAL DECISIONS ARE MADE MORE AND MORE BY GOVERNMENT?

I AM COMMITTED TO THE PARTNERSHIP APPROACH.

I BELIEVE THAT OUR FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM HAS BROUGHT MORE BLESSINGS TO MORE PEOPLE THAN ANY OTHER SYSTEM DEVISED BY MAN.
I know you join with me in that commitment.

I am glad you are here in that purpose. I want to wish you every success in the challenges that await you.