

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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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

TALKING POINTS:

MEETING WITH PRESIDENTIAL INTERCHANGE EXECUTIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 1975

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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.

-10-

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.

END OF TEXT