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STANFORD LAW SCHOOL DEDICATION

SEPTEMBER 21, 1975

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

PRESIDENT LYMAN, DEAN EHRLICH, WALLER TAYLOR,

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND FACULTY,

STUDENTS, ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF STANFORD UNIVERSITY, I AM

INDEED HONORED TO BE HERE AND THANK MY GOOD FRIEND

WALLER TAYLOR FOR HIS EXCELLENT ARRANGEMENTS AS CHAIRMAN

OF THE LAW SCHOOL'S BOARD OF VISITORS.

NOW I KNOW I AM NOT THE FIRST VISITOR TO THIS BEAUTIFUL

CAMPUS WHO HAPPENED TO BE PRESIDENT OR A PAST PRESIDENT

OR A FUTURE PRESIDENT.

FORMER PRESIDENT BENJAMIN HARRISON WAS ONE

OF YOUR FIRST PROFESSORS OF LAW. FUTURE PRESIDENT HERBERT

HOOVER, TO WHOM THIS UNIVERSITY OWES SO MUCH, WAS ONE

OF YOUR FIRST STUDENTS.

ONE OF MY FIRST ACTS AS PRESIDENT THIS YEAR
WAS TO SIGN THE BILL AUTHORIZING FEDERAL MATCHING FUNDS
FOR EXPANSION OF THE HOOVER INSTITUTION IN HONOR OF THE
100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF THIS GREAT AMERICAN
AND GREAT HUMANITARIAN.

I UNDERSTAND FORMER PRESIDENT WILLIAM HOWARD

TAFT AND FUTURE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY ALSO ENJOYED

BRIEF ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE FARM.

I HOPE I HAVEN'T OVERLOOKED ANYBODY, BUT IF SO I
WILL BLAME THE DEDICATED STANFORD MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE
IN MY CABINET AND AMONG MY COUNSELLORS IN THE WHITE HOUSE.
THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STANFORD ALUMNI IN ALL THE BRANCHES OF
OUR GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON ARE TREMENDOUS AND I HOPE WE
WILL HAVE MORE IN THE FUTURE -- AND I SAY THAT AS A YALEY
AND A MICHIGANDER.

IT IS A VERY GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE AT THE
LAW SCHOOL TODAY, TO BE A PART OF THIS VERY SPECIAL
DEDICATION. THE STUDENTS AND FACULTY OF STANFORD HAVE
ALWAYS DEMONSTRATED AN OUTSTANDING DEVOTION TO THE CONCEPTS
OF TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND EQUALITY UNDER THE LAW -- AND
YESTERDAY YOU DID IT ONCE AGAIN.

WHEN IT COMES TO EQUALITY, YOU JUST CAN'T BE ANY MORE
EQUAL THAN THAT GAME WITH MICHIGAN.

19 TO 19!

WELL, WHAT BETTER PLACE THAN A

LAW SCHOOL TO CELEBRATE A HUNG JURY!

TODAY'S DEDICATION OF THIS IMPRESSIVE NEW
HOME FOR THE LAW SCHOOL IS CERTAINLY NO TIE -- IT'S
ONE MORE VICTORY IN STANFORD'S UNBROKEN RECORD OF
EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE.

THE DREAM OF SENATOR AND MRS. STANFORD THAT THE CHILDREN
OF CALIFORNIA SHOULD BE THEIR CHILDREN, WITH THE HELP OF
MANY WHO HAVE FOLLOWED THEIR GENEROUS EXAMPLE, HAS
BEEN BROADENED TO BENEFIT THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN OF
ALL AMERICA AND THE WORLD.

BACK IN 1968, WHEN PLANS FOR THIS LAW SCHOOL
COMPLEX WERE COMPLETED, THERE WAS SERIOUS QUESTION IN
MANY SOBER MINDS WHETHER THE RULE OF LAW IN THIS COUNTRY
WAS BREAKING DOWN.

ASSASSINS GUNNED DOWN A CANDIDATE FOR THE

PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION AND ONE OF OUR MOST ELOQUENT

CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS.

IN ONE WEEK, RIOTS AND ARSON

AND LOOTING SWEPT 125 CITIES, INCLUDING THE CAPITAL OF OUR

NATION. VIOLENT DISORDERS, DEMONSTRATIONS AND DEFIANCE

ENGULFED MANY OF OUR CAMPUSES.

IN THE MIDST OF THIS, I WAS TO MAKE THE 275TH
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS AT THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY,
WHICH PRODUCED SUCH GIANTS OF OUR CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY
AS THOMAS JEFFERSON AND JOHN MARSHALL.

AS A RESULT / I GOT AN EARLY START ON MY BICENTENNIAL

RE-READING OF OUR NATION'S BEGINNINGS. AND I ASKED

MYSELF / WHAT WERE THE MOST PRECIOUS POSSESSIONS THE

FIRST SETTLERS OF THE AMERICAN WILDERNESS BROUGHT ACROSS

THE ATLANTIC?

WHAT WAS NURTURED HERE IN THE NEW WORLD TO BE CARRIED

ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS, ACROSS THE PLAINS, ACROSS THE

DESERTS AND OVER THE HIGH SIERRA TO THE GOLDEN GATE OF

CALIFORNIA?

WHAT MADE US THE UNIQUE NATION AND PEOPLE

WE ARE TODAY?

FOR THE MOST PART THE FIRST AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS

WERE POOR, THEY WERE OUTCASTS, THEY WERE PERSECUTED,

THEY WERE DISADVANTAGED, THEY WERE DISSENTERS, AND THEY

WERE REBELS AGAINST THE OLD WORLD ESTABLISHMENT.

THEY BROUGHT LITTLE BEYOND WHAT WAS ON THEIR BACKS

AND IN THEIR HEADS / EXCEPT A FEW SEEDS AND A FEW TOOLS

AND A FEW BOOKS.

BUT WHAT THEY BROUGHT WAS PRECIOUS.

THEY BROUGHT, EVEN AS THEY PROTESTED ITS
CAPRICIOUS ABUSE, AN ABIDING RESPECT FOR THE RULE OF
LAW -- THEY BUILT ORDERLY SYSTEMS OF SELF GOVERNMENT
EVEN BEFORE THEY ERECTED DRY HOUSES.

GENERATIONS LATER, WHEN OUR FOUNDING FATHERS MET IN
PHILADELPHIA TO DECLARE THEIR INDEPENDENCE, THEY FORMALLY
STATED THEIR REASONS IN TERMS OF BOTH MORAL AND LEGAL
RIGHTS WHICH THE DISTANT KING AND PARLIAMENT HAD DENIED
THE COLONISTS.

OUR AMERICAN REVOLUTION WAS UNIQUE IN THAT WE REJECTED

OUR RULERS / BUT REVERED THEIR RULES.

THE EARLY SETTLERS ALSO BROUGHT TO AMERICA

A PROFOUND APPRECIATION OF THE DISCIPLINES OF FORMAL

EDUCATION. THEY CUT LOGS FOR SCHOOL HOUSES AS WELL AS

STOCKADES.

THERE WERE MORE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE 13 COLONIES
BEFORE THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION THAN IN ALL OF ENGLAND,
SCOTLAND AND IRELAND. AS AMERICANS MOVED WESTWARD,
THEY SET ASIDE LANDS FOR THE HIGHER TRAINING OF TEACHERS,
ENGINEERS, AGRICULTURALISTS, SCIENTISTS, DOCTORS, LAWYERS
AND OTHER PROFESSIONS.

THEY ENCOURAGED THE SUPPORT OF BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC
INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING IN STATE AND FEDERAL TAX POLICIES.
NO NATION, AT ANY TIME, HAS PUT A HIGHER PRIORITY
ON EDUCATION FOR ALL ITS CITIZENS.

FINALLY, THE LONG MARCH OF THE AMERICANS

HALF WAY AROUND THE WORLD, FROM JAMESTOWN AND PLYMOUTH

ROCK TO THE WESTERNMOST TIP OF ALASKA AND THE FAR PACIFIC

ISLANDS, CARRIED WITH IT A COMMON COMMITMENT TO THE

FUTURE.

THE MATERIAL PROGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HAS BEEN PREMISED ON THE HALF-HUMANIST, HALF-THEOLOGICAL
IDEA OF THE PERFECTIBILITY OF SOCIETY, THE ENLARGEMENT
OF HUMAN FREEDOM AND THE INNATE WORTH OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, WHERE THE WINDS OF FREEDOM
STILL CIRCULATE THROUGH PLEASANT QUADRANGLES OLD AND NEW,
WAS BUILT AND STILL STANDS UPON THAT SOLID TRIAD OF LAW,
LEARNING AND LIBERTY.

THE FEARS OF SEVEN SUMMERS AGO WERE UNFOUNDED.

THE RULE OF LAW SURVIVED. OUR CONSTITUTIONAL INSTINCTS
PROVED SOUND.

THE COMMITMENT OF AMERICANS TO LAW, LEARNING
AND LIBERTY CONTINUES IN THIS VERY COURT THIS AFTERNOON.

BUT CONTRADICTIONS AND DILEMMAS REMAIN IN OUR
SOCIETY IN ABUNDANCE. THEY WILL ALWAYS EXIST IN A
DEMOCRATIC NATION WHERE THE DELICATE BALANCES BETWEEN
FREEDOM AND ORDER, BETWEEN PRIVATE RIGHT AND PUBLIC INTEREST,
BETWEEN THE SAFETY OF THE STATE AND THE SECURITY OF THE
INDIVIDUAL, ALL REQUIRE CONSTANT REVIEW AND RESOLUTION.

THIS IS THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS AND
THE MISSION/BOTH OF THOSE WHO MAKE THE LAW/AND OF THOSE
WHO PRACTICE AND PERFECT IT. THERE IS AN OLD SAYING
THAT THOSE WHO LOVE THE LAW AND THOSE WHO ARE FOND OF
SAUSAGE SHOULD NEVER EXAMINE TOO CLOSELY HOW EITHER IS
ACTUALLY MADE.

I CERTAINLY DO NOT INTEND TO PICK ANY QUARREL
WITH THE SAUSAGE-MAKERS. BUT AS A FORMER LAWMAKER,
AND AS A LAWYER, I BELIEVE WE NEED TO EXAMINE MUCH MORE
CLOSELY HOW OUR NATION'S LAWS ARE MADE -- IN ORDER TO
PREVENT PERFECTLY LAUDABLE LEGISLATIVE INTENTIONS FROM HAVING
PERFECTLY HORRIBLE CONSEQUENCES.

LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF EXAMPLES COULD BE CITED.

LET ME TAKE ONE AREA THAT AFFECTS ALMOST EVERYBODY, WITH

WHICH YOU AS LAWYERS WILL SURELY HAVE TO DEAL. THAT IS

THE AREA OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHT OF PRIVACY -- THE RIGHT

TO KEEP ONE'S INDIVIDUAL IDENTITY INVIOLOATE -- OR IN PLAIN

TALK, THE RIGHT TO DO YOUR OWN THING.

I CAN SPEAK WITH SOME AUTHORITY ON THIS BECAUSE,

AS VICE PRESIDENT, ONE OF MY CHORES WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE

DOMESTIC COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHT OF PRIVACY.

I TOOK THAT DUTY VERY SERIOUSLY. AMONG THE FIRST THINGS

WE LEARNED WAS THAT ONE OF THE WORST OFFENDERS IS THE

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ITSELF.

I DON'T MEAN IMPROPER OR ILLEGAL INVASIONS OF PEOPLE'S
PRIVACY OR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS BY FEDERAL AGENCIES OR
INDIVIDUAL OFFICIALS, WHICH NOBODY CONDONES AND WHICH
I ABSOLUTELY WILL NOT TOLERATE AS LONG AS I AM PRESIDENT.

RATHER, I MEAN THREATS TO PRIVACY WHICH HAVE
RESULTED FROM LAWS DULY ENACTED BY PAST CONGRESSES FOR
LAUDABLE PURPOSES HAVING WIDE PUBLIC APPROVAL. MANY
OF THESE LAWS, WITH TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY, CUMULATIVELY THREATEN
TO STRIP THE INDIVIDUAL OF PRIVACY AND REDUCE HIM TO A FACELESS
SET OF DIGITS IN A MONSTROUS NETWORK OF COMPUTERS.

HE NOT ONLY HAS NO CONTROL OVER THIS PROCESS BUT
OFTEN HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF ITS EXISTENCE.

FOR EXAMPLE, IN A SIMPLER AND EARLIER ERA, THE GOVERNMENT'S PRINCIPAL INTERESTS IN WATCHING ITS CITIZENS WAS TO SEE THAT THEY OBEYED THE LAW, PAID THEIR RELATIVELY UNCOMPLICATED TAXES AND, FROM TIME TO TIME, CAME TO THEIR COUNTRY'S AID IN AN EMERGENCY.

BUT WHEN GOVERNMENT EXPANDED ENORMOUSLY AND UNDERTOOK VAST SOCIAL PROGRAMS THAT ESTABLISHED A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN THE CITIZEN AND THE BUREAUCRACY, GOVERNMENT LOGICALLY BECAME INTERESTED NOT ONLY IN MONITORING CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR BUT ALSO A LOT OF OTHER THINGS ABOUT ITS CITIZENS' LIVES AND HABITS.

TO DETERMINE THE ELIGIBILITY OF MILLIONS OF INDIVIDUALS
FOR RECEIVING GOVERNMENT BENEFITS, FOR WELFARE OR
UNEMPLOYMENT OR SOCIAL SECURITY OR SERVICE PENSIONS OR
OTHER SPECIAL ASSISTANCE, GOVERNMENT HAS TO GATHER,
RECORD AND CONSTANTLY UPDATE INFORMATION.

GOVERNMENT ACQUIRED A LEGITIMATE REASON TO INQUIRE ALSO
INTO THE PRIVATE LIVES OF STUDENTS SEEKING SCHOLARSHIPS,
PROFESSORS SEEKING RESEARCH GRANTS, BUSINESSMEN WANTING
GOVERNMENT LOANS OR REQUIRING GOVERNMENT LICENSES,
PROFESSIONAL PERSONS DOING BUSINESS WITH THE GOVERNMENT
OR PARTICIPATING IN SUBSIDY PROGRAMS. THE LIST IS ENDLESS.

OVER THE YEARS, THEREFORE, AGENCIES OF THE
GOVERNMENT -- STATE AND LOCAL AS WELL AS FEDERAL --
GRADUALLY HAVE AMASSED GREAT AMOUNTS OF INFORMATION
ABOUT ALMOST EVERY ONE OF US.

AS TECHNOLOGY ADVANCED, IT MADE ADMINISTRATIVE SENSE TO
COMBINE AND CODIFY SUCH INFORMATION, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT
WAS VOLUNTARILY GIVEN IN EXPECTATION OF BENEFITS AND BEYOND
THE SPECIAL LEGAL SAFEGUARDS PROVIDED FOR FEDERAL CENSUS
AND INTERNAL REVENUE DATA.

HERE WE FACE ANOTHER DILEMMA OF A DEMOCRATIC
SOCIETY IN THIS NEW TECHNOLOGICAL ERA WHERE INFORMATION
IS NOT ONLY POWER -- AS IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN -- BUT ALSO
INSTANTLY RETRIEVABLE BY ANYONE TRAINED TO PUSH THE RIGHT
BUTTONS.

CERTAINLY WE CANNOT SCUTTLE WORTHWHILE PROGRAMS WHICH
PROVIDE ESSENTIAL HELP FOR THE HELPLESS AND ASSIST THE
DESERVING CITIZEN. YET WE MUST PROTECT EVERY INDIVIDUAL
FROM EXCESSIVE AND UNNECESSARY INTRUSIONS BY A BIG BROTHER
BUREAUCRACY.

MANY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON
PRIVACY WHICH I CHAIRED AS VICE PRESIDENT WERE INCORPORATED
IN THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 WHICH A COOPERATIVE CONGRESS
PASSED AND I WAS PLEASED TO SIGN AS PRESIDENT. THAT LAW
GOES INTO EFFECT NEXT SATURDAY.

BRIEFLY, THE PRIVACY ACT GENERALLY PROHIBITS COLLECTION
OF INFORMATION CONCERNING EXERCISE OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S
FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS.

IT REQUIRES THAT FILES ON INDIVIDUALS BE ACCURATE,
RELEVANT, TIMELY AND COMPLETE.

IT REQUIRES THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO REVEAL THE
EXISTENCE AND WHEREABOUTS OF ALL DATA SYSTEMS CONTAINING
IDENTIFIABLE PERSONAL INFORMATION.

IT GIVES EVERYONE THE RIGHT TO READ HIS OWN FILE
AND MAKE CORRECTIONS OR AMENDMENTS.

IT COMMANDS THE GOVERNMENT TO USE THE INFORMATION
ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH IT WAS COLLECTED.

AND IT SETS UP AN INDEPENDENT PRIVACY COMMISSION
WITH A TWO-YEAR MANDATE TO MONITOR THE OPERATION OF THE
LAW AND INVESTIGATE ADDITIONAL PRIVACY ISSUES.

IT IS, TO BE SURE, ADMITTEDLY EXPERIMENTAL.

BUT IT MAKES A LONG-OVERDUE START IN TRYING TO RESTORE TO
EVERY INDIVIDUAL SOME OF HIS RIGHTS WHICH HAVE BEEN ERODED
IN THE PROCESS OF GAINING OTHER ADVANTAGES.

I HAVE SAID IN BICENTENNIAL SPEECHES AROUND THE COUNTRY --
AND WILL CONTINUE TO SAY -- THAT THE GREAT ACHIEVEMENT OF
THE FIRST CENTURY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE WAS TO PERFECT
POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS STRONG ENOUGH TO ENDURE STRESS AND
RESPONSIBLE TO THE TIMES AND NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE.

THE SECOND CENTURY OF OUR INDEPENDENCE, NOW
ENDING, SAW THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORLD'S STRONGEST
ECONOMIC SYSTEM IN THE FREE CLIMATE OUR POLITICAL FREEDOM
FOSTERED. TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE
HAVE GAINED FOR US AN UNPRECEDENTED MEASURE OF POLITICAL
AND ECONOMIC STABILITY AND SUCCESS.

BUT WHAT SHOULD BE THE GOAL OF OUR THIRD

CENTURY AS A NATION? I PREFER TO LOOK AT OUR BICENTENNIAL

CELEBRATION THROUGH A TELESCOPE, NOT A REAR-VIEW MIRROR.

I SEE THE GREAT CHALLENGE OF OUR NEXT HUNDRED YEARS AS THE
ADVANCEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL INDEPENDENCE -- OF SPECIFIC
STEPS TO SAFEGUARD THE IDENTITY OF EACH AND EVERY AMERICAN
FROM THE PRESSURES OF CONFORMITY.

THESE PRESSURES CLOSE IN UPON US FROM MANY QUARTERS --

MASSIVE GOVERNMENT, MASSIVE MANAGEMENT, MASSIVE LABOR,

MASSIVE EDUCATION, MASSIVE COMMUNICATION AND MASSIVE

ACQUISITION OF INFORMATION.

TO MEET THIS CHALLENGE, WE STILL NEED A POSITIVE
AND PASSIONATE COMMITMENT TO LAW, TO LEARNING AND TO
LIBERTY.

WITHOUT LAW, THERE IS NO LIBERTY.

WITHOUT LIBERTY, THERE IS NO LEARNING.

WITHOUT LEARNING, THERE IS NO LAW.

HERE AT STANFORD, YOU HAVE ALL THREE. LAW,
LEARNING AND LIBERTY. MAKE THE MOST OF THEM. MAKE
THEM PART OF YOUR LIVES. MAKE THEM YOUR RICHEST LEGACY /
AS WELL AS YOUR MOST PRECIOUS INHERITANCE.

THANK YOU.

END OF TEXT