

The original documents are located in Box 17, “9/30/75 - J. Edgar Hoover FBI Building Dedication” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

J. EDGAR HOOVER FBI BUILDING DEDICATION

SEPTEMBER 30, 1975

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - HOOVER DEDICATION

THANK YOU, MR. ATTORNEY GENERAL

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE
REPRESENTATIVES

AL CEDERBERG
JOHN SLACK

BILL WALSH

SENATORS

JIM EASTLAND
JOHN PASTORE
ROMAN HRUSKA

DIRECTOR KELLEY
ADMINISTRATOR SAMPSON
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I AM PLEASED TO JOIN YOU IN THE DEDICATION OF THIS
MAGNIFICENT BUILDING. IT SYMBOLIZES THE ROLE OF THE FBI AS
THE BASTION OF FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE. IT HONORS THE MEMORY OF A PIONEERING PUBLIC SERVANT
WHO SERVED AS BUREAU DIRECTOR FOR NEARLY 48 YEARS.

J. EDGAR HOOVER SERVED UNDER EIGHT PRESIDENTS:

CALVIN COOLIDGE, \ HERBERT HOOVER, \ FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, \
HARRY TRUMAN, \ DWIGHT EISENHOWER, \ JOHN KENNEDY, \ LYNDON
JOHNSON \ AND RICHARD NIXON.

ALL HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR THIS MAN AND HIS PROFESSIONAL

ACHIEVEMENTS -- PRAISE WHICH I AM PLEASED TO JOIN IN HERE

on this

great occasion -
TODAY.
1

IN PRESENTING THE MEDAL OF MERIT TO THE FBI DIRECTOR

FOR HIS WARTIME SERVICES, PRESIDENT TRUMAN COMMENDED HIM

FOR HIS "ABLE LEADERSHIP" WHICH MADE THE BUREAU -- IN MR.

TRUMAN'S WORDS -- "A POWERFUL INSTRUMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT"

IN BOTH WAR AND PEACE.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AWARDED MR. HOOVER THE NATIONAL SECURITY
MEDAL WHICH CARRIED A CITATION PRAISING THE DIRECTOR IN THESE
TERMS: "HE HAS ESTABLISHED THE HIGHEST IDEALS OF FEDERAL LAW
ENFORCEMENT AND DIRECTED THEM TO REALIZATION."

J. EDGAR HOOVER EARNED SUCH PRAISE AND ADMIRATION
FROM EIGHT PRESIDENTS BECAUSE, UNDER HIS DIRECTION, THE FBI
BECAME THE SUPERIOR PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION IT IS TODAY --
AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE UNDER THE ABLE LEADERSHIP OF CLARENCE
KELLEY -- WITH THE BEST SCIENTIFIC CRIME DETECTION FACILITIES TO
SERVE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

BUT IT IS MORE THAN LEADERSHIP AND TECHNOLOGY THAT
MAKES THE FBI SO SUCCESSFUL. IT IS THE SPIRIT OF THE MEN AND
WOMEN WHO WORK FOR THIS UNIQUE AMERICAN INSTITUTION: THE
SPECIAL AGENTS, LEGENDARY SYMBOLS OF AMERICAN JUSTICE FOR
DECADES, THE THOUSANDS OF PROFESSIONALS WHO BACK THEM UP --
AND THEIR UNDERSTANDING FAMILIES.

ALTHOUGH HISTORY RECORDS THE NAMES OF THE FEW,
IT IS THE EXCELLENCE OF THE MANY WHO MAKE UP THE SUCCESS
STORY OF THE FBI.

IN MY 25 YEARS IN THE CONGRESS AND AS VICE PRESIDENT
AND AS PRESIDENT, I'VE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK PERSONALLY
WITH MANY OF YOU HERE TODAY -- AND I HAVE DEVELOPED A GREAT
ADMIRATION FOR YOUR PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND YOUR TIRELESS
DEDICATION. THESE ARE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ENTIRE FBI
TEAM.

THE BUREAU IS A SUCCESS STORY BECAUSE OF THE STRENGTH
AND SPIRIT WHICH YOU BRING TO IT. YOUR DEDICATION, YOUR
DISCIPLINE AND YOUR COURAGE ARE INGREDIENTS ALL AMERICANS
ADMIRE AND RESPECT. YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS ARE PROUD OF THE
FBI AND WE WHO SERVE WITH YOU IN GOVERNMENT APPRECIATE
YOUR EFFORTS.

IN DEDICATING THIS NEW FBI HEADQUARTERS, I CALL FOR A
RENEWED COMMITMENT TO THE RULE OF LAW IN AMERICA AND TO THE
LEGAL SYSTEM THAT PERPETUATES FREEDOM AND JUSTICE. FOR
WITHOUT LAW, WE HAVE NEITHER FREEDOM NOR JUSTICE.

JUST BEFORE HE DIED, J. EDGAR HOOVER HAD THESE
PROPHETIC WORDS TO SAY ABOUT THE RULE OF LAW IN AMERICA --
AND I QUOTE: 'THE TESTS OF TIME AND CHALLENGE IN OUR NATION'S
HISTORY HAVE MORE THAN PROVEN THE MAJESTY OF THE LAW.'
END OF QUOTE.

MR. HOOVER WAS SO RIGHT. THE CONTINUED DEDICATION
OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE FBI TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE
RULE OF LAW AND THE PROTECTION OF CITIZENS' RIGHTS WILL BE A
MONUMENT EVEN MORE ENDURING THAN THIS IMPOSING BUILDING.

IN A REAL SENSE, WE ARE GATHERED HERE TO DEDICATE NOT MERELY
A STRUCTURE OF CONCRETE AND STEEL -- BUT TO REDEDICATE
OURSELVES TO THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUAL JUSTICE AND LIBERTY UNDER
LAW WHICH MUST MOTIVATE ALL THE ACTIONS OF THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT.

THANK YOU.

END OF TEXT

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: ~~THE PRESIDENT~~ HAS SEEN....

VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN

FROM: PAUL A. THEIS

SUBJECT: Dedication of FBI Building

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: _____

11:00 a. m., September 30,

BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:

Research, FBI

CLEARED BY (Please initial):

(X) OPERATIONS (Rumsfeld) Rec'd but not read / DC

(X) CONGRESSIONAL (Marsh) JM

(X) PRESS (Nessen) okay by phone

(X) LEGAL (Buchen) KL for PWB

() ECONOMIC POLICY BOARD (Seidman) _____

() COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS (Greenspan) _____

() OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (Lynn) _____

() DOMESTIC COUNCIL (Cannon) _____

(X) NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (Scowcroft) Roger ES

() ENERGY RESOURCES COUNCIL (Zarb) _____

() OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON (Baroody) _____

(X) RESEARCH (Waldron) Am

(X) MARGITA WHITE (FYI) _____

(X) ATTORNEY GENERAL LEVI Dir. Sec (by phone)

() _____

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