

The original documents are located in Box 19, “11/3/75 - Presidential Greeting, Presidential Classroom for Young Americans” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

(VIDEO TAPE TO BE MADE ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3)

PRESIDENTIAL GREETING

PRESIDENTIAL CLASSROOM FOR YOUNG AMERICANS

- 1 -

IT IS A PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO WASHINGTON

FOR WHAT I KNOW WILL BE A VERY INTERESTING AND REWARDING

EXPERIENCE FOR ALL OF YOU.

AS PARTICIPANTS IN THE PRESIDENTIAL CLASSROOM FOR
YOUNG AMERICANS, YOU WILL SEE AT FIRST HAND THE WORK OF
YOUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

YOU WILL SEE AT CLOSE RANGE ITS STRENGTH, ITS
WEAKNESSES, ITS INSTITUTIONS. MOST IMPORTANT, YOU
WILL SEE AND HEAR THE PEOPLE OF GOVERNMENT -- PEOPLE FROM
EVERY PART OF AMERICA, PEOPLE WHO MAKE POLICY OR CARRY IT
OUT, PEOPLE DEVOTED TO PUBLIC SERVICE AND TO THE PROGRESS
OF AMERICA.

YOU WILL LEARN THAT THESE PEOPLE, WORKING WITHIN
THE STRONG FRAMEWORK OF OUR CONSTITUTION AND THE FEDERAL
INSTITUTIONS THAT GREW FROM IT, HAVE A PROFOUND EFFECT ON
ALL OF YOUR DAILY LIVES.

I KNOW YOU MAY NOT AGREE WITH EVERYTHING YOU
SEE AND HEAR DURING THIS WEEK. THIS IS GOOD. IT
DEMONSTRATES THAT WE ARE A GOVERNMENT OF ALL THE PEOPLE --
PEOPLE WHOSE DREAMS, INTERESTS AND GOALS ARE THE VERY
REASON AMERICA CAN BE PROUD AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 200TH
BIRTHDAY.

IT IS MY HOPE, AND THAT OF THE SPONSORS OF THIS PROGRAM, THAT IN A FEW YEARS SOME OF YOU MAY WISH TO JOIN THOSE SERVING OUR FELLOW AMERICANS. FOR ALL ITS FRUSTRATIONS AND HARD WORK, GOVERNMENT SERVICE CAN BE A MOST SATISFYING CAREER.

TO DEVOTE YOUR LIFE TO PUBLIC SERVICE, AS MOST
OF THE PEOPLE YOU WILL MEET ARE DOING -- TO DO YOUR BEST
TO IMPROVE OUR WAY OF LIFE IN AMERICA -- TO MAKE OUR
NATION MORE SECURE, MORE PROSPEROUS, MORE JUST,
MORE NOBLE -- IS A TREMENDOUS CHALLENGE FOR ANY MAN OR
WOMAN.

DURING MORE THAN 26 YEARS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE,
I HAVE STRONGLY URGED YOUNG CITIZENS TO BECOME INVOLVED
IN THEIR GOVERNMENT. I DO NOT AGREE WITH THOSE WHO
WOULD ADVISE YOU TO "STAY AWAY."

I AM CONVINCED THAT THROUGH YOUR CREATIVITY, IMAGINATION
AND DEDICATION AMERICA WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AND PROSPER
AS IT HAS FOR TWO CENTURIES.

I AM CONFIDENT YOU WILL ENJOY THIS INTIMATE
GLIMPSE OF OFFICIAL WASHINGTON. IT IS A UNIQUE
OPPORTUNITY TO BROADEN YOUR EDUCATION. I CONGRATULATE
YOU ALL FOR WINNING THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS
PRESIDENTIAL CLASSROOM PROGRAM. I WISH YOU SUCCESS
IN ALL YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

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