

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

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

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

PRESIDENTIAL GREETING

THE CLOSE-UP PROGRAM

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 CLOSE-UP PROGRAM,  
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  
CLOSE-UP PROGRAM. I WISH YOU SUCCESS IN ALL YOUR  
FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

END OF TEXT