

The original documents are located in Box 21, “12/22/75 - Recorded Remarks in Annual New Year's Message” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

TAPING:

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 22, 1975

THE YEARS THAT ARE SPECIAL IN THE LIVES OF NATIONS

AND INDIVIDUALS ARE THOSE IN WHICH IMAGINATION PRODUCES

ACTION. ACTION THAT OFFERS HOPE, OPPORTUNITY,

A FRESH START, AND A VEHICLE FOR OUR OPTIMISM.

ONE OF OUR GREAT NATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS IS

OPTIMISM. I CAN'T EVER REMEMBER FACING A NEW YEAR WITH

ANYTHING LESS THAN ANTICIPATION AND A FEW OF THOSE

NEW YEARS WERE DIFFICULT ONES. 

SOME OF US CAN REMEMBER NEW YEARS IN THE GREAT
DEPRESSION WHEN THE ROAD TO PROSPERITY SEEMED CLOSED.
WE CAN REMEMBER OTHER NEW YEARS SPENT IN THE MIDST OF A
WORLD WAR THAT THREATENED OUR VERY SURVIVAL.

BUT I CAN ALSO REMEMBER NEW YEARS IN THE LATE 1940s
AND THROUGHOUT THE 1950s WHEN THE FUTURE SIZZLED WITH PROMISE
AND WE LED THE WORLD BACK TO STABILITY AND GREATER
ACHIEVEMENT THAN IT HAD EVER KNOWN BEFORE. THE ROAD TO
PROSPERITY WAS NOT CLOSED -- WE HAD JUST BEEN ON A DETOUR.
OUR RESOLVE, OUR DETERMINATION AND OUR ABILITY HAD BEEN
TESTED -- AND WE WERE NOT FOUND WANTING.

THE NEW YEAR WE ARE NOW ENTERING EMBODIES THE

200th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THIS GREAT REPUBLIC.

WE LOOK BACK WITH PRIDE, BUT ALL OF OUR NATIONAL EXPERIENCE

SHOULD PROVE TO US THAT WE MUST ALSO LOOK FORWARD WITH

EAGERNESS TO THE UNFOLDING YEARS AHEAD.

WE ARE AMERICANS! WE MOVE INTO THE FUTURE WITH
THE STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE OF 200 YEARS OF A PROUD HERITAGE.
LIBERTY IS THE MOST PRECIOUS POSSESSION OF OUR PAST AND IT
IS STILL OUR GREATEST PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE. THE FREEDOMS
WE HAVE TODAY MUST BE PRESERVED AND EXTENDED.

I ASK YOU TO JOIN ME IN A 1976 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION
TO CHERISH AND PROTECT WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED IN AMERICA --
AND, WITH GOD'S HELP, TO BUILD UPON IT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EACH OF YOU.

END OF TEXT