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January 5, 1976

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

TALKING POINTS: DROPBY, "TUESDAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE"
MEETING ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, JANUARY 6, 1975

I am pleased to welcome you to the White House today. I hope all of you enjoyed a very pleasant holiday season.

While we always look forward to holidays, we are constantly reminded that these are times of increased danger to the life and health of many thousands of Americans.

Those who travel the Nation's highways -- even those who never leave their own homes -- have a higher risk of injury during holiday periods than at any other time. Having just celebrated three major holidays in the past six weeks, the Nation is keenly aware of the valiant and effective service provided by the people involved in emergency medical care.

Every day of the year, the people you represent are in the forefront of the battle between life and death. Their skill, their

dedication, their expert care have saved countless lives in very critical and demanding circumstances.

We in Government have a special responsibility to encourage and assist these heroic efforts. The Emergency Medical Services System Act of 1973 was passed with these objectives in mind.

We have seen considerable progress since the enactment of that law, but much remains to be done to insure that every American in every part of the country has access to proper emergency health care.

As I pointed out in my proclamation of Emergency Medical Services Week last November, more than one thousand Americans die every week as a result of accidents, heart attacks and other medical emergencies simply because emergency assistance is not available.

Reducing this number of needless fatalities is a major goal of this Administration. Equally important are the efforts which each of you, and the organizations you represent, are undertaking to reach this goal.

As the representatives of state and local governments, universities, medical associations, law enforcement units, volunteer groups, and business and labor organizations, you have demonstrated a commitment to progress in this field which I find very impressive.

I hope this "Tuesday in the White House" will prove helpful to your efforts. I know you have a full day of discussions planned, so I won't take any more of your time. But again I extend a very warm welcome to the White House, and my very best wishes to all of you for the New Year.

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