

The original documents are located in Box 21, “1/8/76 - Film Clip: Acceptance of Franklin Award” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

FILM CLIP:

ACCEPTANCE OF FRANKLIN AWARD

JANUARY 8, 1976

IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR -- AS WE OBSERVE THE
270TH ANNIVERSARY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S BIRTH -- I AM
PRIVILEGED AND DEEPLY HONORED TO ACCEPT THE 25TH FRANKLIN
AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE.

TO ALL OF YOU -- IN PRINTING, PUBLISHING,
ADVERTISING AND THE OTHER COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRIES --
MY THANKS AND SINCERE APPRECIATION.

THE HISTORY OF OUR NATION -- THESE 200 YEARS --

HAS BEEN ONE OF ENORMOUS INDIVIDUAL EFFORT AND ENTERPRISE●

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, JOHN ADAMS, THOMAS JEFFERSON,

GEORGE WASHINGTON AND OTHERS ENUNCIATED NOT ONLY THE

PRINCIPLES OF THIS REPUBLIC BUT THE GENERAL COMMITMENT OF

OUR CITIZENS TO THE PUBLIC GOOD●

THEY TAUGHT US THAT AMERICA'S SOCIAL ORDER IS
RENEWED THROUGH INDIVIDUAL SERVICE TO OUR SOCIETY.
MEN AND WOMEN FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE COME AND GO IN EACH
GENERATION, REVITALIZING OUR COUNTRY WITH THEIR INNOVATION
AND ENTERPRISE. THEY DEDICATE THEIR TALENTS TO ALL
MANNER OF ENTERPRISE -- PRIVATE AS WELL AS PUBLIC.

THE PURPOSE OF MY REMARKS ON INDIVIDUAL

ENTERPRISE IS THIS: TO REMIND ALL OF US THAT PUBLIC SERVICE

IS NOT THE PRIVATE DOMAIN OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS●

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WAS A GREAT STATESMAN BECAUSE HE WAS NOT ONLY A GREAT PATRIOT BUT AN OUTSTANDING HUMAN BEING.

AMERICA WAS NOT BUILT BY THE GENIUS OF A CHOSEN NUMBER OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS. THE TOIL AND SWEAT AND SACRIFICES FOR LIBERTY OF GENERATION AFTER GENERATION OF AMERICANS PRODUCED THE NATION WE KNOW AND LOVE.

ALTHOUGH THIS MAY SOUND LIKE I AM REVERSING ROLES
TONIGHT, IT IS YOUR SERVICE TO THE COUNTRY●●● EACH OF YOU,
AS INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS ●●● WHICH TRULY RENEWS OUR SOCIETY●
AS PRESIDENT, MY SOLEMN OBLIGATION IS TO HELP GUIDE THAT
DESTINY● BUT I NEED YOUR HELP●

THEREFORE, IT IS YOU, THE INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS WHOM
I SALUTE THIS EVENING -- THE DEDICATED, HARDWORKING, TAXPAYING
AMERICANS WHO HAVE GIVEN SO MUCH OF YOUR TIME AND TALENTS
AND ABILITIES AND OF YOURSELVES IN BEHALF OF A BETTER AMERICA.

I ACCEPT YOUR AWARD HUMBLY● ● ● FOR I ACCEPT
IT IN YOUR NAME AND IN THE NAME OF ALL OF OUR FELLOW AMERICANS
WHO MADE THIS NATION GREAT OVER THE PAST TWO CENTURIES OF
ITS LIFE -- AND WHO WILL MAKE OUR THIRD CENTURY THE BEST YET●

END OF TEXT