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**THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.**

TALKING POINTS:

NEA BICENTENNIAL PLAQUE PRESENTATION

JANUARY 9, 1976

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I AM PLEASED TO WELCOME SUCH OUTSTANDING  
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

I AM ESPECIALLY PLEASED TO PERSONALLY ACCEPT  
THIS BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE, WHICH YOU  
SO GRACIOUSLY AWARDED ME LAST JULY.

THE PAST TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF THE AMERICAN  
EXPERIENCE HAVE BEEN FILLED WITH INNOVATION, WITH  
PROGRESS AND WITH CONSTRUCTIVE REVOLUTION.

AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE REVOLUTIONS  
WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM OF UNIVERSAL EDUCATION  
IN AMERICA. "EDUCATION FOR ALL" WAS THE PRIVILEGE OF  
THE FEW OF NOBILITY AND WEALTH RATHER THAN THE RIGHT OF ALL.

IN THIS SENSE, AMERICAN EDUCATION HAS A SPECIAL  
INCENTIVE FOR CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE FREE  
SOCIETY IN WHICH THIS ONCE RADICAL CONCEPT TOOK ROOT  
AND FLOURISHED.

IF I WERE A TEACHER, I WOULD CONSIDER THIS AN  
EXCITING TIME TO BE TEACHING AMERICA'S YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT  
THE ORIGINS OF THEIR COUNTRY, ABOUT THE STRUGGLES THAT  
MADE US FREE, ABOUT THE RIGHTS WE CLAIMED FOR ALL OUR  
CITIZENS THAT MADE US SPECIAL IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD●

THE PEOPLE AT THE BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION TELL ME  
THAT YOUR PROGRAM FOR THE BICENTENNIAL IS ONE OF THE MOST  
FAR-REACHING AND MOST COMPREHENSIVE THEY HAVE RECEIVED●

YOUR THEME, "A DECLARATION OF INTERDEPENDENCE:  
EDUCATION FOR A GLOBAL COMMUNITY," DEMONSTRATES YOUR  
COMMITMENT TO EXPANDING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD THE EDUCATIONAL  
PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE IN AMERICA. I COMMEND YOU FOR  
THAT EFFORT AND I WISH YOU SUCCESS.

EACH OF US IS FORTUNATE TO BE LIVING AT THIS TIME  
IN HISTORY SO THAT WE MAY STUDY OUR PAST WITH FRESH  
ENTHUSIASM AND CHART OUR FUTURE WITH THE CONFIDENCE THAT  
BEFITS A GREAT AND UNIQUE NATION.

I AM ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THIS YEAR. I LOOK FORWARD

TO A MEANINGFUL AND JOYOUS CELEBRATION OF OUR INDEPENDENCE.

I THANK THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION VERY DEEPLY FOR THIS

BEAUTIFUL PLAQUE WHICH SO APPROPRIATELY COMMEMORATES THIS

VERY SPECIAL MOMENT IN HISTORY.

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