

The original documents are located in Box 25, “3/12/76 - Remarks at a Morning Rally at Wheaton College, Chicago, Illinois” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . . *

REMARKS AT WHEATON COLLEGE,

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1976

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT WHEATON COLLEGE

WHEATON COLLEGE

THANK YOU, TODD (Todd Gray Introduces you)
Dr. Armeding (Arm-a-ding) (President, Wheaton College).

CONGRESSMAN ERLNBORN

SENATOR PERCY

CONGRESSMAN ANDERSON

MAYOR BARGER (Wheaton -Nonpar)

Students, Faculty and Guests

I AM VERY HAPPY TO BE HERE WITH YOU THIS

MORNING AT WHEATON COLLEGE.

I WISH I COULD BE

HERE THIS EVENING AS WELL, BECAUSE I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE

GOING TO HAVE A BIG TALENT SHOW ACROSS THE STREET --

AND IF THERE'S ONE THING I APPRECIATE IT'S THEATRICAL

TALENT // UP TO A POINT.

I LOOK FORWARD TO ANSWERING SOME OF YOUR
QUESTIONS. FIRST, LET ME MAKE A FEW BRIEF REMARKS.
WHEATON COLLEGE IS, I THINK, A FINE EXAMPLE
OF THOSE PRIVATELY SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS WHICH HAVE
CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO AMERICA'S GREATNESS AND PROGRESS.

THE HERITAGE OF THESE PRIVATE COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES DATES BACK TO THE MIDDLE AGES AND TO
SUCH GREAT INSTITUTIONS AS THE UNIVERSITIES AT PARIS
AND OXFORD. IN AMERICA, MORE THAN A DOZEN COLLEGES
WERE FOUNDED EVEN BEFORE WE BECAME AN INDEPENDENT NATION.

WHEATON COLLEGE SHARES IN THIS DISTINGUISHED
TRADITION OF PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION. THANKS TO THE
VISION AND THE DEDICATION OF PRIVATE CITIZENS AND
ORGANIZATIONS, THERE ARE NOW MORE THAN 1,500 PRIVATELY
SUPPORTED COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN AMERICA,
WITH A COMBINED ENROLLMENT OF MORE THAN TWO MILLION
STUDENTS.

THESE INSTITUTIONS PROVIDE A RESERVOIR
AND A TRAINING GROUND FOR NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND TALENT.
BY BOTH COMPLEMENTING AND COMPETING WITH PUBLIC
INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, THEY HELP AMERICA
TO ACHIEVE THE SAME DIVERSITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION
THAT WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE THROUGHOUT OUR NATIONAL LIFE.

LET ME REPEAT WHAT I HAVE SAID MANY TIMES BEFORE:

THAT I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE PRINCIPLE OF PRIVATE,

VOLUNTEER GIVING TO HELP FINANCE HIGHER EDUCATION.

IF THESE INSTITUTIONS SHOULD CLOSE THEIR DOORS,
SHIFTING THE BURDEN FROM PRIVATE DONORS TO PUBLIC TAXPAYERS,
THE TAX LOAD WOULD BE HEAVY INDEED. IT WOULD ADD
BILLIONS OF DOLLARS A YEAR TO THE NATIONAL TAX BURDEN --
HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS EACH YEAR IN ILLINOIS ALONE.

THEREFORE, I OPPOSE ANY LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS
WHICH WOULD DISCOURAGE PRIVATE FINANCIAL SUPPORT
FOR OUR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. WE MUST NEVER
THREATEN THIS VITAL EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE.

AND ONCE STUDENTS HAVE GRADUATED FROM COLLEGES,
PRIVATE OR PUBLIC, WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THERE ARE
REWARDING JOBS AVAILABLE FOR ALL OF YOU.

THE GOVERNMENT CAN HELP, NOT BY PROVIDING TEMPORARY
MAKE-WORK JOBS, BUT BY ENCOURAGING A HEALTHY ECONOMIC
CLIMATE IN THIS COUNTRY.

WHEN I CAME TO THE WHITE HOUSE NINETEEN MONTHS
AGO, OUR ECONOMY WAS IN BAD SHAPE AND GETTING WORSE.

THERE WERE THOSE WHO SAID GAS WOULD BE A DOLLAR
A GALLON BY NOW, AND UNEMPLOYMENT WOULD BE
SKYROCKETING. WELL, THEY WERE WRONG.

IT WAS NOT A TIME FOR PANIC -- IT WAS A TIME
FOR STRONG, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION. THE STATISTICS SHOW
MY ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC POLICIES HAVE BEEN THE
RIGHT ONES. INFLATION HAS BEEN CUT IN HALF.

ALL THE JOBS LOST DURING THE RECESSION HAVE BEEN
RECOVERED. AND THEY'VE BEEN RECOVERED THROUGH THE
DEMANDS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WHERE FIVE OUT OF SIX JOBS
ARE FOUND IN THE UNITED STATES. THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
HAS FALLEN SIGNIFICANTLY, AND IT'S STILL FALLING.
925 THOUSAND REAL JOBS HAVE BEEN CREATED IN THE FIRST
TWO MONTHS OF THIS YEAR ALONE.

AND THAT'S NOT THE ONLY GOOD NEWS! CONSUMER

CONFIDENCE AND A HOST OF OTHER ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ARE UP, AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP THEM UP.

WE'RE GOING TO MAKE SURE THERE ARE ENOUGH
REAL JOBS CREATED BY OUR ECONOMY SO THAT ALL OF YOU
CAN USE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED FOR A RICH, REWARDING
LIFE.

AN IMPORTANT PART OF THAT LIFE WILL BE YOUR
PARTICIPATION IN OUR COUNTRY'S GREAT DEMOCRACY●

LET ME TELL YOU THAT I WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY THE
PETITION THAT ACCOMPANIED YOUR INVITATION TO SPEAK
HERE TODAY●

THAT PETITION HAD ALMOST TWO THOUSAND NAMES ON IT●

I THINK THAT SHOWS CLEARLY HOW THE STUDENTS OF

WHEATON COLLEGE INTEND TO GET INVOLVED IN THEIR NATION'S

AFFAIRS●

HERE AT WHEATON YOU KNOW A GREAT DEAL ABOUT
COMMITMENT. YOU HAVE ALL COMMITTED YOURSELVES
TO LIVING A PURPOSEFUL CHRISTIAN LIFE. THAT IS A
FUNDAMENTAL, LIFE-LONG COMMITMENT AND I SALUTE YOU
FOR IT.

I AM WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE RELIGIOUS VALUES
YOU HOLD SO DEAR AT WHEATON COLLEGE. FOR A NUMBER
OF YEARS I HAVE ENJOYED WARM AND FRIENDLY DISCUSSIONS
WITH ^{Two} ~~ONE~~ OF YOUR GRADUATES, ^{The Reverend Billy Graham +} THE REVEREND BILLY ZEOLI.
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AMERICA AND THE WORLD NEED THE MORAL AND
SPIRITUAL VALUES WHICH YOU OFFER. YOUNG MEN AND
WOMEN, MOTIVATED BY FAITH IN THEMSELVES AND IN GOD,
MUST KEEP THE FLAME OF FAITH BURNING. IN THE WORDS
OF THE HOLY BIBLE, MAN BECOMES WHAT HE THINKS UPON /
AND A NATION ASCENDS TO ITS HIGHEST POTENTIAL THROUGH
THE IDEALS AND ASPIRATIONS OF ITS PEOPLE.

YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN YOUR NATION'S POLITICAL

LIFE IS ALSO IMPORTANT. IT IS IMPORTANT NOT ONLY

TO YOU AS INDIVIDUALS, BUT TO OUR NATION'S FUTURE.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO MAKE OUR WORLD A
BETTER PLACE. BUT ONE VERY GOOD WAY IS TO MAKE CERTAIN
THAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS AN ENLIGHTENED
CITIZENRY AND A RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

YOUR PARTICIPATION AND YOUR COMMITMENT TO THAT IDEAL --
NOT JUST THIS YEAR BUT EVERY YEAR -- WILL KEEP AMERICA
STRONG AND KEEP IT FREE.

AND NOW I WILL BE GLAD TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

END OF TEXT