

**The original documents are located in Box 26, “3/24/76 - Remarks at a Meeting of the American Society of Medical Technology and the Coalition of Independent Health Professionals” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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~~THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN~~ . . . .

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 24, 1976

2:45 P.M.

Roosevelt Room

TALKING PAPER FOR THE PRESIDENT

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY AND THE COALITION  
OF INDEPENDENT HEALTH PROFESSIONS.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TYPE OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL WHICH  
IS MEETING HERE TODAY - MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS, THERAPISTS  
AND OTHERS - HAS INCREASED DURING RECENT YEARS.

AS SKILLED PROFESSIONALS YOU HAVE A UNIQUE RESPONSIBILITY  
TO THE PATIENTS AND THE PHYSICIANS WITH WHOM YOU WORK.

AS PRESIDENT I HAVE A DEEP INTEREST IN AND RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR THOSE PATIENTS ALSO.

I HAVE BEEN PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
A PRACTICABLE BUDGET IN THE HEALTH AREA.

TODAY YOU ARE BEING BRIEFED ON THIS HEALTH BUDGET BY THE  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET AND ON THE SUBJECT OF NATIONAL  
HEALTH INSURANCE BY HEW.

THESE BRIEFINGS WERE ARRANGED IN COOPERATION WITH THE  
DOMESTIC COUNCIL BY MY OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON - THE WHITE  
HOUSE FUNCTION WHICH PROVIDES THE PUBLIC A SPECIAL POINT OF  
CONTACT LIKE THAT WHICH HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN AVAILABLE TO  
THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESS.

I WELCOME YOU AND HOPE THERE WILL BE MUTUAL BENEFIT FROM THE EXCHANGES YOU ARE HAVING TODAY. YOU MAY BE SURE YOUR VIEWS WILL BE THOUGHTFULLY CONSIDERED BY THE APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENTS AND MY STAFF.

ONE FINAL NOTE. AT 3:30 P.M. THIS AFTERNOON, I WILL BE MEETING WITH A DISTINGUISHED GROUP OF MEDICAL SCIENTISTS INCLUDING DR. JONAS SALK AND DR. ALBERT SABIN TO RECEIVE THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHAT OUGHT TO BE DONE TO PROTECT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC FROM A NEW AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS STRAIN OF INFLUENZA. I KNOW THAT MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS HAVE CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF MEDICAL SCIENCE IN THIS COUNTRY AND THAT THEY HAVE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM DREAD DISEASES LIKE INFLUENZA.

FOR THESE EFFORTS, YOU HAVE YOUR NATION'S ADMIRATION AND APPRECIATION.