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AUDIO TAPE FOR YOUNG PRESIDENTS' ORGANIZATION

~~THE~~ PRESIDENT HAS BEEN

THE YOUNG PRESIDENTS' ORGANIZATION IS TO BE
CONGRATULATED FOR FOCUSING THE ATTENTION OF YOUR UNIVERSITY
ON THE THEME "FREE MEN -- FREE ENTERPRISE."
THERE ARE MANY PESSIMISTS WHO ARE QUESTIONING THE ABILITY
OF DEMOCRACY AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE TO SURVIVE IN TODAY'S WORLD.
SUCH PESSIMISM IS NOT NEW IN AMERICAN HISTORY.
DURING THE DARK HOURS OF THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE 200 YEARS AGO,
MEN OF LITTLE FAITH SAID THAT OUR STRUGGLE FOR POLITICAL AND
ECONOMIC LIBERTY WOULD FAIL. TODAY, I AM OPTIMISTIC
ABOUT OUR OPPORTUNITY TO PRESERVE AND EXTEND THESE FREEDOMS.

DURING THE PAST 200 YEARS, OUR NATIONAL CHARACTER HAS BEEN CHALLENGED MANY TIMES AND IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN FOUND TO BE RESOURCEFUL AND VIGOROUS. THROUGHOUT THOSE YEARS, WE AS A NATION HAVE LEARNED SOME VALUABLE LESSONS. ONE LESSON IS THAT BIGGER BUDGETS AND BIGGER GOVERNMENT ARE NOT THE MAGIC ANSWERS TO EVERY PROBLEM THAT FACES US. WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO GIVE US EVERYTHING WE WANT, IS A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO TAKE FROM US EVERYTHING WE HAVE.

IT IS STRANGE TO HEAR TALK TODAY OF GREATER GOVERNMENT REGULATION AND CONTROL OF OUR COUNTRY'S PRIVATE SECTOR AT A TIME OF NATIONAL CONCERN OVER THE CONCENTRATION AND ABUSE OF POWER.

A FREELY FUNCTIONING PRIVATE SECTOR HAS BEEN THE ENGINE OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND WELL BEING IN THE WORLD'S HISTORY.

THE PRESENT NEED IS FOR GOVERNMENT TO USE ITS POWERS TO RE-ESTABLISH A STABLE AND FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO CONTINUE ITS PROVEN ABILITY TO CREATE NEW AND EXPANDED JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AMERICANS.

IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, YOU ARE GOING TO CONDUCT A UNIVERSITY FOR PRESIDENTS, AND EXAMINE IN DEPTH, THE CONCEPTS OF FREE ENTERPRISE. I HOPE YOU WILL COME AWAY FROM YOUR EXPERIENCE FEELING AS STRONGLY AS I DO ABOUT THE ABILITY OF OUR FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS AND MEET THE CHALLENGES FACING OUR NATION IN OUR THIRD CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE.

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