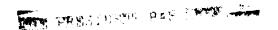
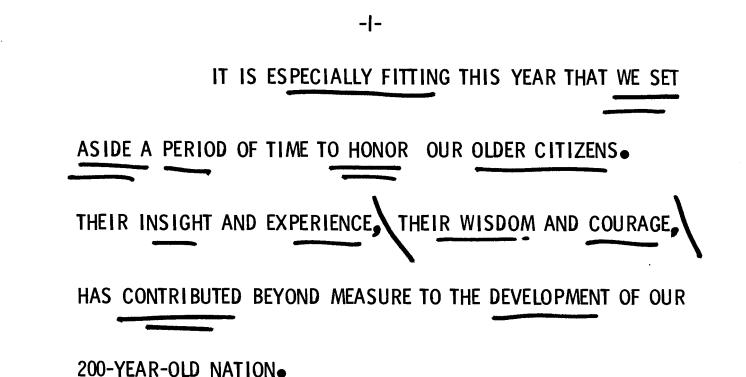
The original documents are located in Box 28, "4/5/76 - Signing of the Older Americans Proclamation" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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SIGNING OF THE OLDER AMERICANS PROCLAMATION APRIL 5, 1976



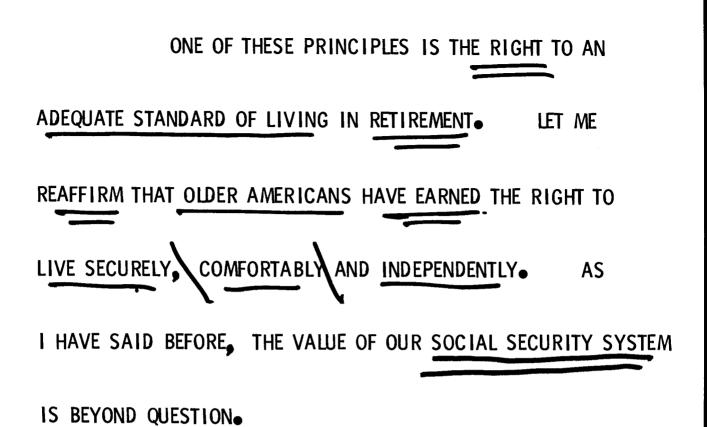
WE MUST MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR OLDER AMERICANS TO CONTINUE THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN OUR NATIONAL LIFE. ONE OF THE BEST WAYS WE CAN DRAW UPON THEIR STRENGTHS AND SKILLS IS IN THE JOB AND VOLUNTEER MARKET. TOO OFTEN AND EVEN MIDDLE-AGED, AMERICANS ARE THE VICTIMS OLDER, OF MYTHS AND PREJUDICES REGARDING THEIR CAPABILITIES. -3-AMERICANS MUST REPUDIATE THESE MYTHS AND PREJUDICES. AS WE HAVE REPUDIATED OTHERS. AND ASSURE OLDER AMERICANS THE CHANCE TO PROVE THAT TIME HAS ONLY ENHANCED THEIR DEMONSTRATED ABILITIES.

-2-

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OUR NATION MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO RECOGNIZE THE WORTH AND DIGNITY OF OUR OLDER CITIZENS. TO THIS END, THE FEDERAL COUNCIL ON AGING HAS PREPARED A BICENTENNIAL CHARTER FOR OLDER AMERICANS.

-5-

THIS CHARTER SETS FORTH PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE US IN EVALUATING OUR NATION'S RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEMS FACING OLDER PERSONS, AND IN APPRECIATING THEIR RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEMS NOW CONFRONTING OUR NATION.



-6-

-7-

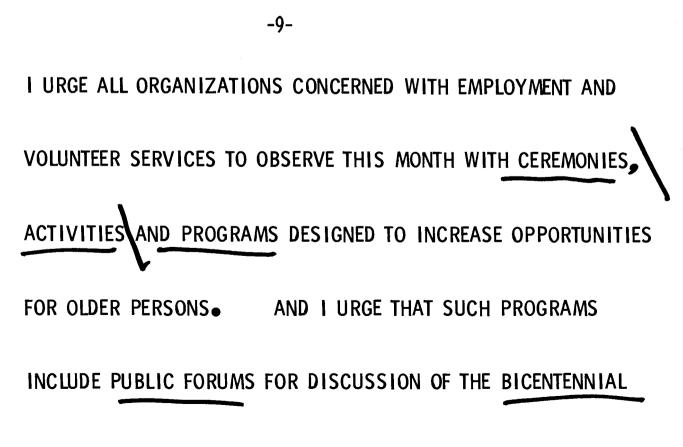
I WILL DO ALL I CAN TO ENSURE THE INTEGRITY OF THE

TRUST FUND SO THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS OF RETIREES MAY

CONTINUE TO RELY ON IT.

WITH THESE THOUGHTS AND COMMITMENTS IN

MIND, I AM HAPPY TODAY TO SIGN THIS ANNUAL PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING MAY AS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH.



CHARTER FOR OLDER AMERICANS.

I ASK ALL AMERICANS TO JOIN ME IN REFLECTING

~

UPON THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND THE NEEDS OF OUR OLDER



END OF TEXT