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. THANK YOU, MR. SMYRNIS/MR. CHIRGOTIS

- . MR. MINISTER
- . MR AMBASSADOR
- . MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
- . DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
- . LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

AHEPA BICENTENNIAL CONGRESSIONAL BANQUET

WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL

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MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1976

MR. CHIRGOTIS (SHER-GO-TUS),

MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

OF THE AHEPA "FAMILY."

IT IS A SPECIAL PLEASURE FOR ME TO GREET YOU ---AND THROUGH YOU MORE THAN 65,000 ACTIVE MEMBERS OF AHEPA ---INCLUDING THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE (PEN-NELL-OH-PEE), THE SONS OF PERICLES (PERI-CLEEZ), AND THE MAIDS OF ATHENA (UH-THEEN-A) -- ON YOUR <u>22nd BIENNIAL GATHERING</u> IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL DURING OUR NATIONAL BICENTENNIAL IF MEMORY SERVES ME CORRECTLY I HAVE ATTENDED

14 OUT OF THE 22 MEETINGS YOU HAVE HELD HERE IN WASHINGTON.

(SHER-GO-TUS)

LAST YEAR I MET WITH BILL CHIRGOTIS AND YOUR OTHER

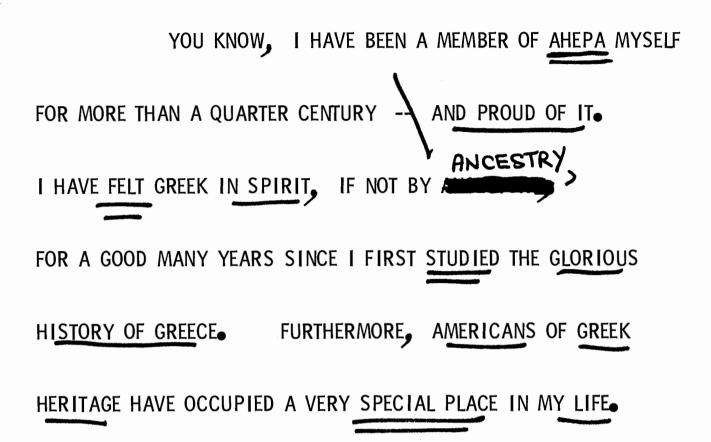
-4-

OFFICERS AT THE WHITE HOUSE AND JUST ABOUT TWO YEARS

AGO HAD THE HONOR OF ADDRESSING YOU AS VICE PRESIDENT.

I WANTE TO CONGRATULATE BILL ON HIS RE-ELECTION THIS YEAR

AS SUPREME PRESIDENT OF AHEPA.



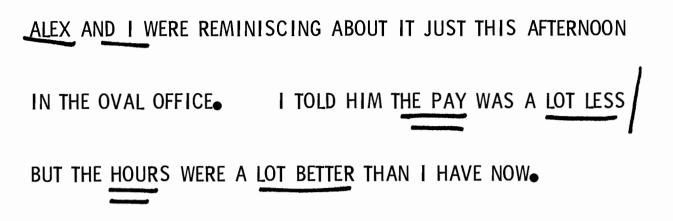
WHO CAN EVER FORGET THEIR FIRST REGULAR PAYING JOB

MY PRESENT JOB IS PRETTY IMPORTANT TO ME --

BUT SO WAS MY FIRST JOB. IT WAS GIVEN TO ME WHEN I WAS

IN SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL IN GRAND RAPIDS BY ALEX DEMAR --

A DISTINGUISHED AHEPA MEMBER OF LONG-STANDING.

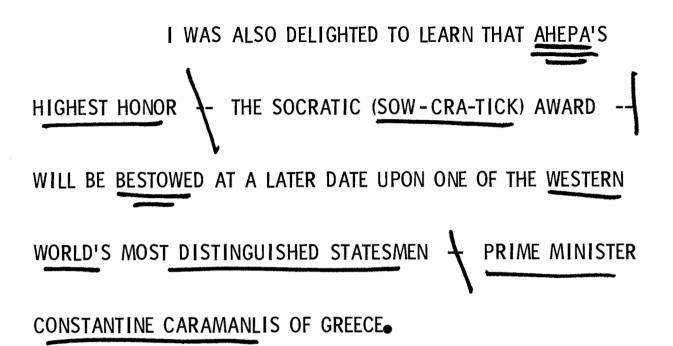


[AD-LIB ABOUT YOUR FIRST JOB.]

~ almost 5DM Cohe IT 8 Jul was mon

TONIGHT WE MEET TO CELEBRATE YOUR 54th YEAR

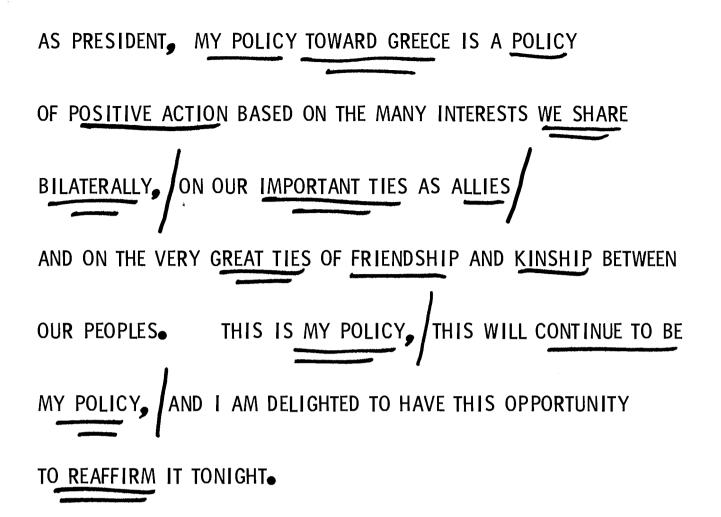
OF SERVICE TO AMERICA. I AM NATURALLY VERY PLEASED AND PROUD THAT MRS. FORD WILL BE HONORED BY THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE'S (PEN-NELL-OH-PEES) ANNUAL ''SALUTE TO WOMEN'' AWARD. YOU KNOW HOW PENELOPE WAS RENOWNED FOR FAITHFULLY WAITING AT HOME FOR HER WANDERING HUSBAND TO RETURN FROM THE WARS. NOW BETTY USED TO DO THAT. BUT LATELY WHEN I RETURN FROM CAMPAIGNING I FIND THAT SHE IS ON HER WAY OUT THE DOOR TO CAMPAIGN FOR ME SOMEWHERE ELSE AND I AM DELIGHTED THAT SHE GOT BACK TONIGHT IN TIME FOR AHEPA TO REUNITE US.



IT WAS MY GREAT PLEASURE TO MEET TWICE

WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS IN 1975 AND I AM VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR NEXT MEETING. DURING OUR EXTENSIVE AND WIDE-RANGING CONVERSATIONS LAST YEAR, I REAFFIRMED WITH HIM THE VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE THE UNITED STATES ATTACHES TO CLOSE AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONS WITH GREECE. I ALSO EXPRESSED MY ADMIRATION FOR THE ACTION HE HAS TAKEN TO STRENGTHEN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN GREECE AND TO FIND PEACEFUL AND JUST SOLUTIONS TO THE DIFFICULT

AND COMPLEX PROBLEMS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AREA.



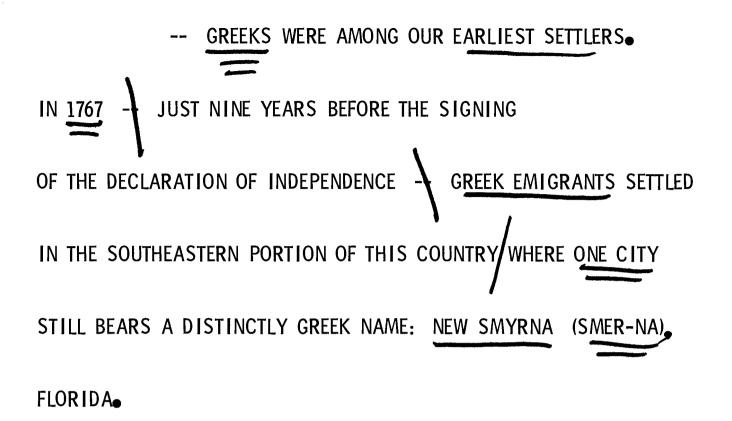
I AM <u>DELIGHTED ALSO</u> THAT YOU ARE H<u>ONORING</u> MY F<u>ORMER COLLEAGUES</u> IN THE SENATE AND THE <u>HOUSE</u> <u>OF REPRESENTATIVES</u> WITH BICENTENNIAL <u>SOCRATIC AWARDS</u> . THIS EVENING. IN SPITE OF WHAT YOU MAY HAVE HEARD, WE <u>STILL GET ALONG</u> VERY WELL TOGETHER $\int MOST OF$ THE <u>TIME</u>. I WILL ALWAYS HAVE <u>GREAT LOVE</u> AND <u>RESPECT</u> FOR THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. BACK IN THE DIFFICULT DAYS AFTER WORLD WAR TWO

WHEN I FIRST ENTERED POLITICAL LIFE, MY MENTOR AND HERO WAS THE LATE SENATOR VANDENBERG OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN. SOME OF YOU WILL REMEMBER HOW SENATOR VANDENBERG, A REPUBLICAN AND A FORMER ISOLATIONIST, STOOD SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH PRESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN IN THE GREAT CHALLENGES THAT FACED THE COUNTRY IN THAT POST-WAR PERIOD, PARTICULARLY IN THE THREAT TO THE FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE. WITH SUCH STRONG BIPARTISAN SUPPORT OUR FOREIGN POLICY OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS HAS PREVENTED A THIRD WORLD WAR AND ENABLED US TO CELEBRATE OUR 200th BIRTHDAY AS A NATION IN PEACE AND FREEDOM. YOUR BICENTENNIAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK

ALSO REMINDS US OF THE GREAT CONTRIBUTION GREECE

AND AMERICANS OF GREEK DESCENT HAVE MADE TO THE DEVELOPMENT

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

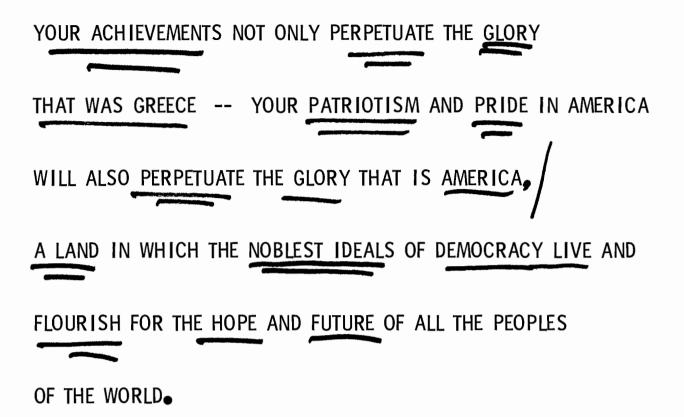


FOR THE PAST 54 YEARS, <u>AHEPA</u> HAS TAKEN ON THE <u>IMPORTANT ROLE</u> OF <u>INTERPRETING</u> GREECE TO AMERICA AND AMERICA TO MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF GREEK HERITAGE SEEKING A NEW START, (A NEW BEGINNING, IN THE UNITED STATES.

FROM THE TIME OF NEW SMYRNA (SMER-NA)

TO THE PRESENT, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF GREEKS HAVE COME TO THIS COUNTRY. THEY AND THEIR DESCENDENTS --THROUGH HARD WORK AND SACRIFICE -- HAVE BECOME WONDERFUL CITIZENS AND MADE A TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION TO AMERICAN LIFE. GREEK NAMES ARE HONORED IN VIRTUALLY ALL WALKS OF LIFE --IN GOVERNMENT, COMMERCE AND BUSINESS, IN THE ARTS AND SCIENCES, MEDICINE, THEATER, SPORTS AND MANY OTHERS. WE <u>NOW MARK</u> THE BEGINNING OF OUR THIRD CENTURY AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION AS WELL AS THE 200th ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. FOR TWO CENTURIES OUR NATION HAS GROWN, CHANGED AND FLOURISHED. A DIVERSE PEOPLE, DRAWN FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE EARTH, HAVE JOINED TOGETHER TO FULFILL THE PROMISE AND CHALLENGE OF DEMOCRACY. THE BICENTENNIAL OFFERS EACH OF US THE OPPORTUNITY

TO JOIN WITH OUR FELLOW CITIZENS IN HONORING THE PAST AND PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE. IN THIS PERIOD, AHEPA CAN REFLECT WITH PRIDE AND SATISFACTION ON WHAT GREECE AND GREEK-AMERICANS HAVE GIVEN THIS COUNTRY.



END OF TEXT