

The original documents are located in Box 32, “5/11/76 - Remarks Upon Signing H.R. 10230: National Science and Technology Policy, Organization and Priorities Act of 1976” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON THE SIGNING
OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY,
ORGANIZATION AND PRIORITIES ACT

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1976

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MR. VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE,
DISTINGUISHED LEADERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND ENGINEERING COMMUNITY
AND FRIENDS, I AM PLEASED THAT YOU COULD JOIN WITH ME
ON THIS IMPORTANT OCCASION.

ALMOST 200 YEARS AGO, THOMAS JEFFERSON SAID:

"KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, KNOWLEDGE IS SAFETY, KNOWLEDGE IS
HAPPINESS."

WE AMERICANS HAVE SOUGHT KNOWLEDGE SINCE JEFFERSON'S
TIME -- SOMETIMES FOR ITS OWN SAKE, AND OFTEN TO USE IT
FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR OWN LIVES AND THE PROTECTION
OF THE IDEALS ON WHICH OUR COUNTRY WAS FOUNDED.

THOSE OF US HERE TODAY SHARE A STRONG VIEW
THAT SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY CAN AND MUST CONTINUE
TO MAKE GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR GOALS.

WE LOOK TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR SCIENTIFIC AND
ENGINEERING COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE NEW KNOWLEDGE AND TO PROVIDE
NEW PRODUCTS AND SERVICES THAT WE NEED FOR THE GROWTH
OF OUR ECONOMY, FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF OUR HEALTH,
FOR THE DEFENSE OF OUR NATION, AND FOR A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL.

DURING THE PAST 21 MONTHS, I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PUT
INTO PRACTICE SOME OF MY VIEWS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

IN JUNE OF 1975 I PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO CREATE
A NEW OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY.

THAT PROPOSAL HAS PASSED THE CONGRESS AND IS NOW BEFORE ME
FOR APPROVAL.

WE HAVE TAKEN OTHER STEPS TO DRAW UPON THE KNOWLEDGE
OF OUR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS.

I HAVE SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS AS PART OF MY 1977 BUDGET
REQUESTS FOR NEARLY 25 BILLION DOLLARS THAT IS NEEDED TO ASSURE
THAT WE ARE MOVING FORWARD IN ALL MAJOR AREAS OF RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY IN BASIC RESEARCH.
THIS IS AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 11 PERCENT.

TODAY I SIGN INTO LAW THE NATIONAL SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY POLICY, ORGANIZATION AND PRIORITIES ACT OF 1976.
IN ADDITION TO ESTABLISHING THE NEW OFFICE, THE BILL CALLS FOR AN
INTENSIVE STUDY OF THE WAY WE UTILIZE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
IN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE NATION.

IT HELPS ASSURE THAT WE WILL HAVE THE VIEWS OF STATE AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, BUSINESS, LABOR AND CITIZEN'S GROUPS
IN OUR EFFORTS.

I CONGRATULATE THE CONGRESS ON THE FINE WORK
REPRESENTED BY THIS BILL. IT IS A GOOD EXAMPLE
OF EFFECTIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND
THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

I AM VERY PLEASED NOW TO SIGN THIS BILL INTO LAW.

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