The original documents are located in Box 34, “5/29/76 - Remarks via Television to the Los Angeles Bicentennial Youth Rally” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

TALKING POINTS FOR TELEPHONE CALL TO

LOS ANGELES BICENTENNIAL YOUTH RALLY

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1976
I am happy to have this opportunity to talk to the Los Angeles Board of Education's Bicentennial Youth Rally.

I only wish I could be with you in the Coliseum to see for myself the tremendous spectacle you have arranged. I congratulate you.

It is certainly a fitting way to celebrate our nation's 200th birthday.

As we celebrate America's 200th year, let us remember that this bicentennial isn't just about patriots who made a successful revolution.

It is about all Americans who took the dream of a new land, a new land of freedom, and made it a reality.
IN ALL THE YEARS SINCE 1776, MILLIONS OF MEN AND WOMEN

WHOSE NAMES WE WILL NEVER KNOW, AND WHOSE HEROISM

WENT UNSUNG, MADE THAT DREAM LIVE FOR EACH

THIS YEAR WE HONOR THE WISE AND ARTICULATE MEN

WHO WROTE WHAT I CONSIDER ONE OF THE GREATEST DOCUMENTS

EVER WRITTEN -- THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

WHICH LED TO OUR UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.

BUT THOSE DOCUMENTS COULD HAVE REMAINED MERE

PIECES OF PAPER, AND THE REVOLUTION AND ITS AFTERMATH

COULD HAVE BEEN JUST A FOOTNOTE TO HISTORY, HAD NOT MILLIONS

OF AMERICANS OF ALL RACES AND CREEDS IMPRINTED THOSE

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE CHRONICLES OF CIVILIZATION.
Let me add that America's youth has always played a crucial role in that process. Two hundred years ago, half of our population was less than 20 years of age. The author of our Declaration of Independence was 33. Of its signers, 16 were in their thirties and three were in their twenties.

But young or old, our founding fathers cherished the concepts of individual freedom and equality, and were determined to control their own destiny.

Americans today cherish the same ideals, and share that same determination. Our past truly is close to us.
ALTHOUGH WE CAN NEVER KNOW THE NAMES OF ALL THOSE WHO MADE
THIS NATION POSSIBLE, WE CAN SEE THEIR LEGACY EVERYWHERE

A FIRMLY ESTABLISHED FREE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT,

AND THE MOST PRODUCTIVE NATION IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

WE MUST HONOR THE PAST BY WORKING FOR THE FUTURE.

EACH ONE OF US MUST COMMIT OURSELVES TO ADVANCING

INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY, TO KEEPING AMERICA STRONG,

AND TO MAKING AMERICA SECURE FOR OUR THIRD CENTURY

AND BEYOND.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND GOOD NIGHT.

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