

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

*Dr. Johnson & Bic Centennial Participants
Bushi*

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

Happy Birthday America program that has been
THE TREMENDOUS SPECTACLE YOU HAVE ARRANGED. *2 congratulations everyone*

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 of us,*

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 ^{all} 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

^{50%} HALF OF OUR POPULATION WAS LESS THAN 20 YEARS OF AGE.

THE AUTHOR OF OF OUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS 33.

Thomas Jefferson

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

lack of
TO US.

ALTHOUGH WE CAN NEVER KNOW THE NAMES OF ALL THOSE WHO MADE

great
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,

+ prosperous.
AND TO MAKING AMERICA SECURE FOR OUR THIRD CENTURY

AND BEYOND.

Dr Johnson

THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND GOOD NIGHT.

END OF TEXT