

The original documents are located in Box 34, “6/6/76 - Remarks at the Great Falls of the Passaic National Historic Landmarks, Paterson, NJ” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

REMARKS AT GREAT FALLS/S.J.M. NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARK PATERSON, NEW JERSEY SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 1976

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS -- GREAT FALLS NATIONAL HISTORICAL SITE

THANK YOU, MAYOR KRAMER (Mayor "Pat" Kramer (R) introduces you)

GOVERNOR BYRNE

SENATOR WILLIAMS

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

--Congresswoman Fenwick

--Congressman Forsythe

--Congressman Rinaldo

--Congressman Roe

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE ~~THIS~~ AFTERNOON TO JOIN YOU

IN CELEBRATING THIS HISTORIC OCCASION. LET ME SAY THAT

LISTENING TO BOTH OF YOUR EXCELLENT HIGH SCHOOL BANDS MAKES ME

THINK OF A VERY IMPORTANT DAY COMING UP IN NOVEMBER --

A GREAT CONTEST THAT I KNOW MUST BE ON ALL YOUR MINDS --

I MEAN, OF COURSE, THE THANKSGIVING DAY GAME BETWEEN THE

KNIGHTS AND GHOSTS!

TODAY THE GREAT FALLS SOCIETY FOR ESTABLISHING USEFUL

MANUFACTURES HISTORIC DISTRICT TAKES ITS PLACE ALONGSIDE SUCH

SITES AS MOUNT VERNON AND MONTICELLO AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC

LANDMARK.

THAT MAKES THIS AN IMPORTANT DAY, NOT JUST FOR

PATERSON BUT FOR THE ENTIRE UNITED STATES.

BECAUSE THE GREAT FALLS INDUSTRIAL ~~SITE TAKES ON A NATIONAL~~

~~SIGNIFICANCE.~~

MANY OF YOU IN PATERSON HAVE WORKED HARD TO BRING

ABOUT THIS DESIGNATION.

YOU CAN FEEL PROUD OF YOUR

ACCOMPLISHMENT.

AND ALL AMERICA CAN FEEL PROUD TO LOOK AT THIS LANDMARK

AND TO CONSIDER WHAT IT REPRESENTS.

GREAT FALLS IS JOINING 21 OTHER LANDMARKS WHICH

WERE THE SETTINGS FOR IMPORTANT ACTS IN THE DRAMA OF OUR

NATION'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

BUT THIS SITE HAS A PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE WITHIN THAT VERY

SELECT GROUP:

-- THE SHEER NUMBER OF DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES THAT

WERE ESTABLISHED HERE MAKE THIS SITE UNIQUE.

-- THE GREAT FALLS REPRESENT THE FIRST ATTEMPT WITHIN
THE UNITED STATES TO HARNESS THE ENTIRE POWER OF A MAJOR RIVER.

-- THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GREAT FALLS INDUSTRIAL
SITE WAS ALSO A DISTINCTIVELY AMERICAN PROJECT IN ANOTHER
IMPORTANT RESPECT: IN ADDITION TO NATIVE-BORN AMERICANS,
THE ORIGINAL DEVELOPERS INCLUDED IMMIGRANTS FROM FRANCE,
BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

BUT MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, THE INDUSTRIAL HISTORY

OF GREAT FALLS GOES BACK TO THE FIRST YEARS OF OUR NATION.

AND THIS ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT EMBODIED OUR MOST BASIC

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC GOALS:

INDEPENDENCE AND PROSPERITY.

THE SOCIETY FOR ESTABLISHING USEFUL MANUFACTURES

WAS STIMULATED BY OUR FIRST SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

ALEXANDER HAMILTON, TO USE PATERSON AS THE PLACE TO ENCOURAGE

AMERICA'S ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE, AND DEMONSTRATE THE VALUE

OF AMERICAN INDUSTRY.

LET ME ADD THAT THIS CITY AND WHAT IT REPRESENTS
REMAIN VERY IMPORTANT TO OUR SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY TODAY --
A NATIVE OF PATERSON -- MY GOOD FRIEND BILL SIMON.

OTHERS IN HAMILTON'S DAY CAME HERE TO ADMIRE THE
GREAT FALLS. THEY SAW ITS BEAUTY AS ITS ONLY NATURAL
RESOURCE.

BUT HAMILTON FOUND MORE THAN JUST THE BEAUTY OF
THE GREAT FALLS WHICH DELIGHTED HIS EYES. WHEN HE FIRST
SAW THE FALLS AS AN AIDE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON, THEY FIRED
HIS IMAGINATION.

HE SAW THEM AS A POWER SUPPLY, WITH RAW MATERIALS,
ABUNDANT LABOR AND READY MARKETS NEARBY. BEFORE
PATERSON WAS MUCH MORE THAN A NAME ON A PIECE OF PAPER,
HAMILTON SAW IT AS THE CRADLE OF AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL MIGHT.

A LOT OF WATER HAS FLOWED OVER THE GREAT FALLS
SINCE THEN. PATERSON DID BECOME A CRADLE WHICH NURTURED
SUCH AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS AS THE ROGERS LOCOMOTIVE,
THE COLT REVOLVER, THE HOLLAND SUBMARINE AND THE
CURTISS-WRIGHT AIRPLANE.

TODAY WE ARE MAKING THIS HISTORIC DISTRICT A
MONUMENT TO THE GENIUS AND THE EFFORT OF THE WORKERS,
ENGINEERS AND BUSINESSMEN WHO TURNED HAMILTON'S VISION OF AN
INDUSTRIALLY POWERFUL NATION INTO REALITY.

WE CAN SEE IN THE GREAT FALLS A SYMBOL OF THE
INDUSTRIAL MIGHT WHICH HELPS TO MAKE AMERICA THE MOST
POWERFUL NATION ON EARTH. AND WE CAN SEE IN IT A SYMBOL
OF INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY, WHICH MAKES A VAST ARRAY OF
MATERIAL GOODS AVAILABLE TO ALL OUR PEOPLE.

YOU YOURSELVES ARE MAKING THIS DISTRICT MUCH MORE
THAN JUST A MONUMENT. YOU ARE USING THIS HISTORIC PART
OF PATERSON AS AN ASSET TO CREATE FUTURE GROWTH.
~~UNDERSTAND~~ YOU PLAN TO REACTIVATE THE GREAT FALLS
HYDROELECTRIC PLANT CLOSE BY THIS SITE.

IN ADDITION TO ITS HISTORIC VALUE, THE PLANT COULD PROVIDE
A USEFUL AMOUNT OF ELECTRICITY. ^{will} IT WOULD SERVE AS A SYMBOL
OF PATERSON'S REBIRTH.

IT SHOULD ALSO SERVE AS A REMINDER THAT AMERICA'S
DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED ENERGY JEOPARDIZES OUR COUNTRY'S
ECONOMIC FUTURE. I HAVE DONE MY PART BY PROPOSING AN
EFFECTIVE ENERGY PROGRAM -- AND IF THE CONGRESS WILL ENACT
THAT PROGRAM, IT WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARD SOLVING THIS
PROBLEM.

IN PATERSON YOU ARE USING YOUR VISION AND
IMAGINATION TO HELP YOURSELVES. AND I AM PROUD THAT THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS PLAYED ITS PART, BY GIVING PATERSON
SOME OF THE FINANCIAL AID THAT WILL HELP MAKE IT ONCE AGAIN A
BOOMING EXAMPLE OF WHAT AMERICA'S MIGHTY ECONOMY HAS TO OFFER.

THE ANCIENT ENERGY OF THE GREAT FALLS THEMSELVES,
AND THE NEW ENERGY OF THE CITIZENS OF PATERSON, CAN PROPEL
THIS AREA INTO A NEW AGE EVEN GREATER THAN THAT FORSEEN BY
HAMILTON.

AND THOSE SAME NATURAL RESOURCES -- THE AMERICAN
EARTH AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- WILL ENSURE THAT HIS VISION
OF A FREE AND PROSPEROUS NATION WILL REMAIN A REALITY FOR A
LONG, LONG TIME TO COME.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT