

The original documents are located in Box 34, “6/11/76 - Taped Audio-visual Message for National Leadership Conference and U.S. Skill Olympics of the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...-7

FILMING FOR VOCATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CLUBS OF
AMERICA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND
U. S. SKILL OLYMPICS, FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 1976

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I'M HAPPY TO JOIN YOU -- AT LEAST ON FILM --
FOR V.I.C.A's TWELTH ANNUAL NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
AND U.S. SKILL OLYMPICS●

I CONGRATULATE THE STUDENTS ON BEING CHOSEN FROM
OVER 215,000 PARTICIPANTS IN THIS PROGRAM -- AND YOUR
EDUCATORS FOR THEIR INTEREST IN DEVELOPING SKILLED WORKERS●
YOUR SELECTION REFLECTS YOUR EXPERTISE AND THE ADMIRATION OF
YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS, TEACHERS -- AND LABOR AND MANAGEMENT
SPONSORS●

YOUR STATE GOVERNMENTS, BUSINESSES AND LABOR
UNIONS HAVE DEVOTED COUNTLESS HOURS TO THIS PROGRAM●

AS SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW, MY ADMINISTRATION HAS ENCOURAGED THIS CONFERENCE THROUGH THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION. THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF SECRETARY USERY, HAS INSTITUTED THE PAUL REVERE AWARD TO BE PRESENTED TO ONE OF YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR. THIS SUPPORT SHOULD TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT OUR CONCERN FOR YOUR FUTURE.

ONE OF MY FIRST ACTS AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES WAS TO MEET WITH YOUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT. IN OCTOBER OF 1974, I MET WITH YOUR NATIONAL LEADERSHIP. ON BOTH OCCASIONS, I WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE ENTHUSIASM, THE ABILITY AND THE DEDICATION OF THOSE WHO REPRESENT THE VOCATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CLUBS OF AMERICA.

YOU FOLLOW IN A PROUD TRADITION. FROM THE
PATRIOTISM OF SILVERSMITH PAUL REVERE TO THE TOUGH
DETERMINATION OF LABOR LEADER SAMUEL GOMPERS, THE SKILLED
ARTISAN HAS PLAYED A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE GROWTH OF
THIS COUNTRY.

AS AMERICA ENTERS HER THIRD CENTURY, WE REALIZE
MORE THAN EVER THAT VOCATIONAL SKILL IS THE BACKBONE OF OUR
ECONOMY. AS YOU ASSUME POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP IN LABOR,
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, I KNOW YOU WILL CONTINUE TO
DEMONSTRATE THE FINE QUALITIES OF YOUR PREDECESSORS.

THE TRAINING YOU HAVE RECEIVED PROVIDES MANY
OPPORTUNITIES FOR A SECURE AND SATISFYING FUTURE.

WHATEVER YOUR VOCATION, REMEMBER THAT YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS
YOU, YOUR ENTHUSIASM, AND YOUR SKILL●

MY CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND HERE'S WISHING
YOU ALL THE MOST REWARDING CONFERENCE YET●

THANK YOU VERY MUCH●

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