

The original documents are located in Box 34, “6/11/76 - Filmed Message for the 40th Annual Conference of the National Association of Student Councils and National Association of Student Activity Advisors” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

TAPING: 40th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS
AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES
ADVISORS, FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 1976

I AM DELIGHTED THAT I COULD JOIN YOU --
AT LEAST ON FILM -- FOR THIS CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS AND
STUDENT COUNCIL ADVISORS.

I CONGRATULATE YOU FOR BEING SELECTED TO ATTEND
THIS CONFERENCE. IT IS A GOOD FEELING TO KNOW YOUR
FELLOW STUDENTS AND YOUR TEACHERS HAVE RECOGNIZED
YOUR LEADERSHIP ABILITIES AND YOUR DEDICATION.

AS YOU WELL KNOW, APATHY RETARDS THE DEMOCRATIC
PROCESS. BY YOUR SPIRITED INVOLVEMENT IN STUDENT
GOVERNMENT, YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT AMERICA'S FUTURE
WILL BE IN DETERMINED AND CAPABLE HANDS.

THAT IS WHY IT GAVE ME A GREAT DEAL OF PLEASURE
TO MEET WITH LEADERS FROM YOUR ORGANIZATION DURING
MY FIRST MONTH IN OFFICE. I WAS IMPRESSED WITH
THEIR SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND THEIR CONCERN FOR AMERICA.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS
IS ONE OF THE KEYS TO MAINTAINING AN EDUCATED AND RESPONSIBLE
ELECTORATE. AS LONG AS OUR CITIZENS UNDERSTAND THE
VITAL ISSUES AND RESPONSIBLY EVALUATE THEIR POLITICAL LEADERS,
AMERICA WILL REMAIN STRONG AND AMERICA WILL REMAIN FREE.

MANY WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT YOU.

I HOPE THAT PUBLIC SERVICE MAY BE AT LEAST A PART OF THE CAREER
YOU SELECT.

THE SERVICE YOU HAVE RENDERED STRENGTHENS
YOUR LEADERSHIP ABILITY, AND THEREBY ALLOWS YOU TO SERVE
YOUR COUNTRY WITH CONFIDENCE AND EXPERIENCE.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON ONCE SAID, 'THIS TIME,
LIKE ALL TIMES, IS A VERY GOOD ONE, IF WE BUT KNOW WHAT TO DO
WITH IT.' AS AMERICA ENTERS HER THIRD CENTURY,
IT IS A GOOD TIME AGAIN.

THE YOUTH OF THIS COUNTRY HAVE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY
TO DEVELOP, MATURE AND LEAD MEANINGFUL LIVES.
YOUR 40th ANNUAL CONFERENCE CELEBRATES THAT FACT.
YOU HAVE MY BEST WISHES FOR WHAT I AM SURE WILL PROVE TO BE
A MOST SUCCESSFUL EVENT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.