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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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.