The original documents are located in Box 34, “6/16/76 - Remarks to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Group” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH GROUP

SECRETARY BUTZ

MR. DOLLINGER (President, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association)

MR. MITCHELL (Youth Coordinator)

STUDENTS AND GUESTS
I AM HAPPY TO WELCOME THE 900 WINNERS OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL "GOVERNMENT IN ACTION YOUTH TOUR TO WASHINGTON." YOUR SELECTION FROM AMONG 20,000 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND JUNIORS INDICATES THAT YOU HAVE WON OVER SOME PRETTY STIFF COMPETITION.
I AM DELIGHTED ALSO TO GREET THE ONE HUNDRED

ADULT REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL RURAL ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION

YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF THE WORK YOU HAVE

DONE, AND THE WORK DONE BY THOSE YOU HAVE SPONSORED.

FINALLY, LET ME WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE THE EXCHANGE

STUDENTS FROM EIGHT DIFFERENT COUNTRIES THAT ARE YOUR GUESTS.
I HAVE WATCHED WITH ENTHUSIASM THE RAPID GROWTH
OF THE PROGRAM YOU REPRESENT. IT EXISTED IN ONLY TWO
STATES IN 1957. BY 1964 IT GAINED THE SPONSORSHIP OF
THE NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.
AS VICE PRESIDENT, I REMEMBER GREETING YOUR
DELEGATION FROM KANSAS UP ON CAPITOL HILL.
LAST JUNE, I WELcomed LAST YEAR'S WINNERS AND THEIR
SPONSORS IN THE ROSE GARDEN.
THIS YEAR I CONGRATULATE THE PROGRAM FOR
INVOLVING STUDENTS FROM 23 STATES.
THE ESSAYS YOU WROTE ON POLITICAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT INDICATE YOUR SINCERE CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY. FOR FOUR DECADES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES HAVE BROUGHT POWER TO RURAL AREAS. PERHAPS NO GROUP BETTER UNDERSTANDS THE ESSENTIALS OF CONSERVATION AND CAREFUL PLANNING IN ENERGY USE THAN THIS ONE.
OUR ENERGY RESOURCES AND OUR ENERGY PRODUCTION ARE LIMITED. WE ARE IMPORTING MORE AND MORE OIL THAN WE TAKE FROM OUR OWN FIELDS.

IT IS A PROBLEM WE MUST FIND AN ANSWER TO AND WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. WE MUST INCREASE PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION OF COAL. WE MUST EXPAND AND INCREASE THE USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY.
Marketplace incentives need to be provided for the gas and oil industry. The government must work with private industry for the development of alternate forms of energy such as solar, geothermal, and wind power.
A COORDINATED EFFORT IN THESE AREAS CAN AND WILL MAKE AMERICA SELF-SUFFICIENT.

IN YOUR VISITS WITH MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS,

I HOPE YOU WILL EXPRESS YOUR CONCERN FOR AMERICA'S ELECTRICAL NEEDS.
AS YOU VISIT VARIOUS HISTORICAL SITES, REALIZE THAT THEY REPRESENT A HERITAGE OF SACRIFICE, DISCOVERY,

FREEDOM AND ACHIEVEMENT UNPARALLELED IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND. TO MAINTAIN THAT LEVEL OF ACCOMPLISHMENT,

WE MUST FOSTER THE KIND OF INVOLVEMENT IN CRUCIAL ISSUES YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED BY YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROGRAM.
As you visit departments of the executive branch, study how they operate to serve you and how you can work with them.

This afternoon as you toured the White House, I hope you felt a special sense of involvement in America's adventure. As leaders, you are dynamic participants in that adventure.
TONIGHT, THE RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

WILL CHOOSE A PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE NEW

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD. THE CANDIDATES COME FROM

TEXAS, ILLINOIS, IOWA, MISSOURI, TENNESSEE, FLORIDA

AND SOUTH CAROLINA. I WISH THE BEST OF LUCK TO THEM ALL.
SINCE THEY COME FROM THIS GROUP, THEY WILL BE AMONG THE BEST YOUR GENERATION HAS TO OFFER.

THANK YOU FOR COMING TO SEE US AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

AND I WISH YOU ALL A MOST ENJOYABLE AND PRODUCTIVE VISIT TO YOUR NATION'S CAPITAL.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT