

The original documents are located in Box 35, “7/4/76 - Television Conversation to Volunteers of America Convalescent Hospital, Torrance, CA” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

(SMITH)

SECOND DRAFT
JULY 3, 1976

TALKING POINTS -- VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL
JULY 4, 1976

Hello, Mr. Dooley, I am delighted to be talking with you this evening. I understand that in your eighty-one years you served in World War I and helped on the home front in World War II.

Jack told me how sorry he was that he couldn't get by there in May. So I am calling today not only to make amends but to celebrate a little bit of the Bicentennial with you.

You know, in the space of your lifetime, America has gone from the horse and buggy to exploring the universe. Diseases which once crippled and killed millions have been conquered. America's population has more than doubled. No other generation of Americans has ever seen so much growth.

That is why you, more than most citizens, have a very special appreciation of our national birthday celebration. You and your generation have been the greatest pioneers of progress and change in the history of the human race.

But some things, thankfully, have not changed at all. We are still a people in love with freedom, and after 200 years, that love is undiminished. We are still a nation of compassion.

The United States is a great country, the greatest in the world. You helped make it that way. And this nation will never forget your contribution past, present, or future.

My hope is that you there in Torrance can feel the same joy I do here in Washington as America enters another century of independence.

I am happy we were able to share these few moments together during our national celebration.

Thank you and good night.

#