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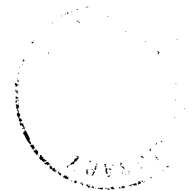
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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

SUNDAY - AUGUST 29, 1976



YELLOWSTONE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU, SECRETARY KLEPPE

SENATOR HANSEN

CONGRESSMAN HANSEN

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

REVEREND CLERGY

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

1.

LABOR DAY, NEXT WEEKEND, MARKS THE END
OF A GLORIOUS SUMMER.

IT MEANS ONE MORE CAREFREE HOLIDAY BEFORE
WE ALL GO BACK TO SCHOOL, BACK TO WORK, BACK TO
THE DUTIES WE MUST DO TO BUILD BETTER LIVES FOR
OURSELVES, OUR CHILDREN AND OUR COUNTRY.

FOR MANY FAMILIES, IT MEANS ONE LAST CHANCE
TO GET OUT OF TOWN, OUT INTO THE SUN AND UNDER THE
STARS, CLOSE TO NATURE'S BEAUTY AND NATURE'S CREATURES.

2.

FOR ME, THIS IS A MOMENT I'VE BEEN LOOKING
FORWARD TO FOR A LONG TIME -- TO RETURN TO
YELLOWSTONE WHERE I SPENT ONE OF THE GREATEST SUMMERS
OF MY LIFE.

BEING A SEASONAL PARK RANGER WAS ONE OF
MY MOST CHALLENGING JOBS AFTER GRADUATING FROM
MICHIGAN. NOW IT SEEMS MORE LIKE FUN THAN HARD
WORK, THOUGH WE HAD PLENTY OF BOTH.

3.

I'VE BEEN TELLING MY FAMILY ABOUT THAT SUMMER

EVER SINCE. MAYBE I OVERDID THE BEDTIME STORIES

ABOUT MY FIRE-FIGHTING EXPLOITS AND HEROIC BOUTS WITH

THE BEARS.

4.

SO THIS TIME I BROUGHT PART OF THE

FAMILY ALONG.

JACK, AS YOU KNOW, IS NO STRANGER TO

YELLOWSTONE. TWO YEARS AGO THIS MONTH, HE WAS

~~Yellowstone~~ *at Tower Station*
WORKING AS A RANGER ~~HERE~~ - - ACTUALLY HE WAS OUT

FISHING, - WHEN HE GOT A SUDDEN SUMMONS TO WASHINGTON

TO SEE HIS OLD MAN GET A NEW JOB. SO TODAY IS A

SENTIMENTAL RETURN TO THE SCENE OF WONDERFUL MEMORIES

FOR TWO OF THE FORDS. AND A NEW EXPERIENCE FOR

SUSAN, WHO HOPES TO GET SOME GOOD YELLOWSTONE

PHOTOGRAPHS LIKE SHE DID LAST SUMMER AT YOSEMITE.

5.

FAMILY VACATIONS IN THE OUTDOORS, ESPECIALLY
AMONG THE MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS OF THE WEST, ARE A
TRADITION IN OUR FAMILY. MY PARENTS ALWAYS
TOOK MY BROTHERS AND ME TO THE LAKES AND WOODS OF
MICHIGAN BEFORE I WAS BIG ENOUGH TO GO MYSELF AS
A BOY SCOUT.

6.

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE WIDE OPEN SPACES

THAT'S ALMOST A NECESSITY FOR AMERICANS. BEING ALONE

WITH NATURE STRENGTHENS OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER AND

FOR OUR COUNTRY.

7.

FOR THOSE WHO LIVE CLOSE TO THE LAND,

THIS IS NOTHING NEW. BUT AS MORE AND MORE

AMERICANS LIVE IN CITIES, THE LURE OF THE MOUNTAINS

AND THE BEACHES AND THE RIVERS AND THE LAKES BECOMES

MORE AND MORE COMPELLING.

SO HAVE A SERIOUS AS WELL AS SENTIMENTAL

REASON FOR THIS VISIT.

8.

OUR BICENTENNIAL FOURTH OF JULY TURNE

OUT TO BE A PROFOUND EXPERIENCE FOR MILLIONS OF

AMERICANS. AMID THE FIREWORKS AND PARADES,

THE TALL SHIPS AND THE TRIPS TO HISTORIC SHRINES,

IN OUR JOYOUS CELEBRATION OF 200 YEARS AS ONE NATION,

UNDER GOD, WE FOUND NEW MEANING FOR THE WORDS

FREEDOM, EQUALITY, AND UNITY.

SOMEHOW, DESPITE OUR DIFFICULTIES AND
OUR DIFFERENCES - PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THEM --

AMERICANS RECAPTURED THE ESSENTIAL SPIRIT AND
GREATNESS THAT MAKE US A SPECIAL KIND OF PEOPLE.

WE REALIZED AGAIN WHAT A WONDERFUL THING IT IS

JUST TO BE AN AMERICAN.

10.

AS I THOUGHT ABOUT THE CHANGES THAT HAVE
TAKEN PLACE IN THIS GREAT COUNTRY, NOT ONLY IN
THE LAST TWO YEARS BUT OVER THE LAST TWO CENTURIES,
I ALSO THOUGHT ABOUT THOSE THINGS THAT MUST NEVER
CHANGE•

11.

THOSE UNCHANGING THINGS REALLY MAKE

US AMERICANS• THEY ARE THE THINGS WE MUST

PASS ON TO FUTURE GENERATIONS•

SOME ARE INTANGIBLE, INVISIBLE \- OUR

DEEP RELIGIOUS AND MORAL CONVICTIONS, \ OUR BONDS OF

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY, \ OUR POLITICAL VALUES

EMBODIED IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE

CONSTITUTION•

BUT WE HAVE OTHER COMMON TREASURES THAT

ARE MATERIAL AND VISIBLE, THAT CAN BE DAMAGED AND

DESTROYED BY MAN. WE MUST BE EQUALLY COMMITTED

TO CONSERVE AND CHERISH OUR INCOMPARABLE NATURAL

HERITAGE - OUR WILDLIFE, OUR AIR, OUR WATERS

AND OUR LAND ITSELF.

13.

MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO WE BEGAN TO
SAVE OUR NATURAL HERITAGE FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF
FUTURE AMERICANS WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM
OF WHICH YELLOWSTONE IS THE OLDEST AND LARGEST.
THIS YEAR ALONE WE EXPECT SOME 260 MILLION VISITORS
TO ENJOY OUR 287 NATIONAL PARKS THAT SPREAD
FROM THE VIRGIN ISLANDS AND MAINE ~~TO~~ ALASKA
AND HAWAII.

14.

AND I'M SURE THERE ARE TIMES WHEN SOME OF
YOU THOUGHT ALL 260 MILLION WERE CAMPING ON
YOUR CAMPSITE.

WE HAVE HAD A WONDERFUL BICENTENNIAL.

WE CELEBRATED WHAT OUR PATRIOT FOUNDERS AND OUR
IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS HANDED DOWN TO US.

WE RENEWED OUR VOWS TO THEIR VISION OF FREEDOM
AND EQUALITY. BUT I FOUND MYSELF SAYING:

WE OUGHT TO DO MORE!

15.

CAN'T WE DO SOMETHING SPECIAL AS OUR

BICENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY PRESENT TO FUTURE GENERATIONS;

A GIFT THAT WILL BE GRATEFULLY REMEMBERED 100 YEARS

FROM NOW?

WE CAN.

16.

I THEREFORE DECIDED UPON A 10-YEAR

NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO DOUBLE AMERICA'S HERITAGE

OF NATIONAL PARKS, RECREATION AREAS, WILDLIFE

SANCTUARIES, URBAN PARKS AND HISTORIC SITES.

17.

I WILL SEND TO THE CONGRESS TUESDAY

A BICENTENNIAL LAND HERITAGE ACT WHICH CALLS FOR

A PLEDGE OF ONE AND A HALF BILLION DOLLARS DURING

THE NEXT DECADE:

-- TO MORE THAN DOUBLE OUR PRESENT

ACREAGE OF LAND FOR NATIONAL PARKS, RECREATION

AREAS AND WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES:

-- BEGINNING DEVELOPMENT OF THESE NEW LANDS

TO MAKE THEM ACCESSIBLE AND ENJOYABLE;

18.

-- IMPROVING FACILITIES AND INCREASING

DEDICATED PERSONNEL AT EXISTING NATIONAL PARKS;

-- MAKING AVAILABLE 200 MILLION DOLLARS

FOR URBAN PARKS, BRINGING THE BENEFITS OF NATURE

TO THOSE WHO LIVE IN OUR CITIES:

-- AND ACCELERATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF

PARKLANDS AND SANCTUARIES NOW DELAYED FOR LACK OF

MANPOWER AND MONEY.

THIS NATIONAL COMMITMENT MEANS WE
MAY HAVE TO TIGHTEN OUR BELTS ELSEWHERE,
BUT IT'S THE SOUNDEST INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE OF
AMERICA I CAN ENVISION. WE MUST ACT NOW
TO PREVENT THE LOSS OF TREASURES THAT CAN NEVER
BE REPLACED FOR OURSELVES, OUR CHILDREN AND FOR
FUTURE GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS.

20.

THIS IS A BIG JOB, ONE THAT REQUIRES

GOVERNMENT ACTION AT ALL LEVELS.

BUT LIKE MOST

OF THE BIG JOBS AMERICANS UNDERTAKE,

IT CANNOT

BE LEFT TO GOVERNMENT ALONE.

21.

IN THE PAST, THE CAUSE OF LAND CONSERVATION
HAS BEEN ADVANCED BY MANY CONCERNED CITIZENS,
COMPANIES AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS.

THE ROCKEFELLER FAMILY, REPRESENTED HERE TODAY
BY MARY AND LAURANCE ROCKEFELLER, IS AN OUTSTANDING
EXAMPLE OF THIS DEDICATION.

I THANK THEM AND ALL SUCH FARSIGHTED AMERICANS
FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR NATIONAL
PARK SYSTEM AND THE PRESERVATION OF OUR PRICELESS
NATURAL HERITAGE•

I CALL UPON ALL AMERICANS,

OUR BICENTENNIAL GENERATION WHICH HAS ENJOYED

THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS,

OURS FOR 200 YEARS, TO JOIN IN A GREAT NEW

UNDERTAKING TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR LIVES

AND OF OUR LAND.



24.

I RECALL THAT SNOWY DAY IN 1961 WHEN

PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS INAUGURATED. I CAN STILL

SEE THE GREAT AMERICAN POET, ROBERT FROST,

STANDING ON THE STEPS OF THE CAPITOL, RECITING

THESE MOVING LINES:

'THE LAND WAS OURS BEFORE WE WERE

THE LAND'S,

"SHE WAS OUR LAND MORE THAN A HUNDRED

YEARS

"BEFORE WE WERE HER PEOPLE"

26.

I REMEMBER AS A RANGER THE FIRST TIME

I STOOD ALONE ON INSPIRATION POINT LOOKING OUT OVER

land.

THIS BEAUTIFUL ~~PORTION~~ ~~OF~~ ~~OUR~~ ~~LAND.~~

I THOUGHT TO MYSELF HOW LUCKY I WAS THAT MY

GRANDPARENT'S GENERATION HAD THE VISION AND

THE DETERMINATION TO SAVE IT FOR US.

27.

NOW \ IT IS OUR TURN TO MAKE OUR OWN GIFT

OUTRIGHT TO THOSE WHO WILL COME AFTER US \ - 15 YEARS, \

40 YEARS, \ A HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW. •

28.

I WANT TO BE AS FAITHFUL TO MY GRANDCHILDREN'S

GENERATION AS OLD FAITHFUL HAS BEEN TO OURS.

WHAT BETTER WAY CAN WE ADD A NEW DIMENSION

TO OUR THIRD CENTURY OF FREEDOM?

THANK YOU.

END OF TEXT