

The original documents are located in Box 38, “9/17/76 - Remarks to Members of the Jaycees Participating in the 16th Annual Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference, United States Jaycees” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESENT HAS SEEN.

REMARKS TO JAYCEE STATE CHAIRMEN, THE ROSE GARDEN, September 17, 1976

Good afternoon and let me welcome you all to Washington and to the White House. LET ME SHARE WITH YOU SOME good NEWS.

I was pleased to learn that the Commerce Department has just announced a strong increase in housing starts for the month of August.

Most encouraging was the sharp rebound in multi-family construction. The continued strong growth in building permits suggests further improvement in the months ahead.

This step forward can be attributed directly to our reduced inflation, lower interest rates, and restored public confidence in the economy.

Over the years, I have been very impressed with the work of the JAYCEES. You are to be congratulated for all that you have done to build strong and effective leadership for our Nation.

Today our country is strong, our economy is healthy, and we have recaptured the confident spirit that launched our country 200 years ago.

But as you well know, we still face serious challenges, both at home and abroad. As we look toward the future, we must increasingly rely on the best leadership to find imaginative solutions for the problems that still lie ahead.

I am confident that America's leaders -- in business and in government -- will respond to that challenge. Their efforts will be spurred on by the same formula that has always made this nation great -- free men and women enjoying the fruits of limited government and unlimited opportunity.

The JAYCEES play a vital role in this process. You provide leaders who can insure that we continue to move forward in the best traditions of the free enterprise system.

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