ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU GLEN (STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT)

DR. HUBBARD

MR. FLOUR

MR. FLOURNOY

STUDENTS, FACULTY AND GUESTS
IT'S GREAT TO BE HERE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA — HOME OF THE CONQUERING TROJANS.

I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING: I'D RATHER RUN AGAINST ANYTIME JIMMY CARTER THAN RICKY BELL ANY DAY OF THE WEEK.
I might add that I started out way behind, and I've been swimming upstream ever since. By November I hope to be known as the John Naber of politics.

The opinion polls have been very encouraging lately. But as I said in Kansas City a few weeks ago, the only polls that count are the ones the American people go to on November the second.
MY CAMPAIGN EXPERTS TELL ME THAT IF PAST PERFORMANCE IS ANY GUIDE, YOUR AGE GROUP WILL BE THE LEAST REPRESENTED AT THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY.

WHEN I WAS MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, I WORKED FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS TO LOWER THE VOTING AGE TO 18.
EVEN THOUGH SOME OF THE EXPERTS SAID YOUNG VOTERS

WOU LD VOTE AGAINST MY PARTY MORE THAN FOR IT, I WANTED

TO OPEN UP THE SYSTEM, MAKE SURE YOU HAD A VOICE IN WHAT

GOES ON IN YOUR OWN COUNTRY.

BUT FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, MOST PEOPLE YOUR AGE

HAVE NEVER TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THIS NEW RIGHT. THE EXPERTS

SAY THE MAJORITY PROBABLY WON'T USE IT THIS YEAR. I HOPE

THAT FORECAST IS WRONG.
YOU HAVE THE BIGGEST STAKE IN THIS COUNTRY’S FUTURE. 

YOU MUST

HOPE YOU WILL TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN THE WORK OF YOUR

OWN GOVERNMENT.

ONE REASON FOR THE LOW TURNOUT IN THE PAST MAY BE THAT

POLITICS HAS DISAPPOINTED YOU SO MANY TIMES.

THROUGHOUT MOST OF YOUR LIVES, AMERICA HAS BEEN IN

TURMOIL. SOME OF OUR MOST BELOVED LEADERS WERE

ASSASSINATED, INCLUDING PRESIDENT KENNEDY WHO SPOKE HERE

AS A CANDIDATE IN 1960 AND WHOSE MEMORY IS HONORED WITH

A PLAQUE ON THIS LIBRARY.
THERE WAS A WAR THAT SEEMED TO HAVE NO END. THERE WERE DESTRUCTIVE RIOTS ON OUR STREETS AND CAMPUSES. WE SUFFERED RUNAWAY INFLATION AND THE WORST RECESSION IN 40 YEARS. WE WERE BETRAYED BY WRONGDOING AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

BUT LET ME SUGGEST TO YOU THAT THINGS ARE BETTER IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY. AS I SAID ON TAKING THE OATH OF OFFICE AS PRESIDENT TWO YEARS AGO, "OUR LONG NATIONAL NIGHTMARE IS OVER." IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS MADE AN AMAZING COMEBACK, AND WE'RE NOT THROUGH YET.
IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, TRUST HAS BEEN RESTORED IN THE
WHITE HOUSE. WE HAVE TURNED THE ECONOMY AROUND. WE
ARE AT PEACE — AND I INTEND TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.
WE HAVE ENTERED AN ERA OF GOOD FEELING IN THE UNITED
STATES, AND WE HAVE GIVEN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE A FRESH START
ON THE FUTURE.

ON JULY THE FOURTH THIS YEAR, WE CELEBRATED THE BIGGEST
BIRTHDAY PARTY IN OUR HISTORY. AMERICA WAS 200 YEARS
OLD, AND GOING STRONG.
WE FOUND OURSELVES UNITED AS NEVER BEFORE. WE FOUND
THAT WE WERE LOOKING TO THE FUTURE AGAIN WITH FAITH, INSTEAD
OF FEAR.
FOR ALL OUR FAULTS, FOR ALL THE TROUBLES WE HAVE HAD IN RECENT YEARS, WE FELT PROUD TO BE AMERICANS, PROUD OF OUR COUNTRY.

WE STILL HAVE OUR SHARE OF SERIOUS PROBLEMS. WE STILL HAVE GOALS WE HAVE NOT REACHED.

BUT WE HAVE FOUND A BASIC STRENGTH IN OURSELVES AND IN OUR NATIONAL CHARACTER THAT IS MORE POWERFUL THAN ALL OUR ARMAMENTS, MORE PRECIOUS THAN ALL OUR WEALTH, AND AS ENDURING AS THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.
AS WE LOOKED BACK TO THE DAYS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, WE FELT THE SAME SPIRIT WHICH GUIDED THE COURAGEOUS MEN AND WOMEN WHO FOUNDED THIS COUNTRY.

WE REALIZED MORE VIVIDLY THAN EVER BEFORE THAT WE ARE THE HEIRS OF THE GREATEST, MOST CONSTRUCTIVE, MOST ENDURING REVOLUTION IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

AS WE MOVE FORWARD INTO THE THIRD CENTURY OF AMERICA'S INDEPENDENCE, WE KNOW THAT THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE WILL BE EVEN GREATER THAN THOSE WE FACED IN THE PAST.
HERE AT HOME OUR GREATEST CHALLENGE IS TO ENSURE THAT EVERY AMERICAN WHO WANTS A JOB CAN FIND A JOB — A GOOD JOB THAT GIVES A PERSON PRIDE AS WELL AS A PAYCHECK, SECURITY AND NOT JUST A SALARY — A JOB WITH AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ADVANCEMENT — A JOB GENERATED BY THE DEMANDS OF A HEALTHY ECONOMY, NOT MANUFACTURED BY A BIG BROTHER GOVERNMENT.

WE MUST MAKE IT EASIER FOR PEOPLE TO BUY A HOME OF THEIR OWN WHILE THEY'RE STILL YOUNG ENOUGH TO ENJOY IT.

WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT OLDER PEOPLE DON'T HAVE TO GO BROKE JUST TO GET WELL IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
WE MUST MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR EVERY YOUNG AMERICAN TO GET AN EDUCATION OF HIGH QUALITY — AN EDUCATION YOU CAN USE WHEN YOU GET OUT OF SCHOOL.

WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT OUR STREETS AND CAMPUSES ARE FREE FROM THE THREAT OF VIOLENT CRIME.

WE MUST TRY HARDER TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT, TO PURIFY THE WATER WE DRINK AND THE AIR THAT WE BREATHE.

WE MUST ENLARGE OUR CAPACITY FOR RECREATION, ENRICH AND PRESERVE OUR TREASURE OF NATURAL BEAUTY AND OUR HERITAGE OF HISTORY THROUGHOUT AMERICA.
WE MUST KEEP AMERICA STRONG AND SECURE - BUT WITH VOLUNTEERS AND NOT WITH A MILITARY DRAFT.

ABOVE ALL, WE MUST KEEP THE PEACE THAT AMERICA ENJOYS TODAY -- THE PEACE THAT FINDS NO AMERICANS IN COMBAT ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

I AM THE FIRST PRESIDENT IN 20 YEARS TO STAND FOR ELECTION IN A TIME OF PEACE. YOU ARE THE FIRST GENERATION OF COLLEGE STUDENTS IN 15 YEARS WHO DO NOT FACE THE PROSPECT OF GOING TO WAR. I INTEND TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

KEEPING THE PEACE WITH FREEDOM IS THE KEY TO ALL OUR OTHER HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS.
WITHOUT PEACE, WE CANNOT CONCENTRATE ON IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN AMERICA. WITHOUT FREEDOM LIFE HAS NO QUALITY AT ALL.

THEREFORE I WILL TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE STEP TO BUILD PEACE, NOT ONLY FOR OURSELVES BUT FOR ALL THE WORLD.

WE ARE TAKING THOSE STEPS TOWARD PEACE WHERE THE GOING IS HARDEST, BUT WHERE THE STAKES ARE HIGHEST — THE MIDDLE EAST, SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.
AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF WAR, WE ARE PROUD TO STAND FOR PEACE. WE ARE PROUD TO STAND FOR WHAT IS RIGHT IN THE WORLD — HUMAN DIGNITY, DECENCY, EQUALITY AND FREEDOM.

LAST NIGHT IN THE DEBATE I SPOKE OF AMERICA'S FIRM SUPPORT FOR THE ASPIRATIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE OF THE NATIONS OF EASTERN EUROPE. THE UNITED STATES HAS NEVER CONCEDED AND NEVER WILL CONCEDE THEIR DOMINATION BY THE SOVIET UNION.
I admire the courage of the Polish people and have always supported the hopes of Polish Americans for freedom for their ancestral homeland.

It is our policy to use every peaceful means to assist countries in Eastern Europe in their efforts to become less dependent on the Soviet Union and to establish closer ties with the West.
I am very much aware of the present plight of the Eastern European nations and, as I declared in this year’s Captive Nations Proclamation:

"The United States supports the aspirations for freedom, independence, and national self determination of all peoples. We do not accept foreign domination over any nation."

We really believe, as our founders did, that these are the inalienable rights of people everywhere.
WE BELIEVE THAT WE CAN SHAPE OUR OWN DESTINY WITH OUR OWN HANDS.

WE BELIEVE THAT AMERICA IS A SPECIAL COUNTRY, THAT IN TWO HUNDRED YEARS WE HAVE PASSED FROM OPEN REBELLION AGAINST FOREIGN MISRULE TO A PEACEFUL, CONTINUING REVOLUTION FOR THE RIGHTS OF FREE MEN AND WOMEN.

IF WE ARE TO BE TRUE TO OUR HERITAGE, AMERICANS MUST CONTINUE TO HAVE THE CONFIDENCE THAT WE CAN CONTROL OUR OWN LIVES, THAT WE CAN LEAVE OUR CHILDREN A BETTER WORLD THAN WE FOUND, THAT GOVERNMENT WILL BE UNDER OUR CONTROL AND NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND -- A CAPABLE SERVANT AND NOT A MEDDLING MASTER.
WE DID NOT THROW OFF THE BONDS OF AN OPPRESSIVE GOVERNMENT IN THE 18TH CENTURY ONLY TO CREATE ONE FOR OURSELVES IN THE 20TH CENTURY.

AMERICA’S FOUNDERS KNEW, AS WE MUST KNOW TODAY, THAT A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO GIVE US EVERYTHING WE WANT IS A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO TAKE FROM US EVERYTHING WE HAVE.

THE GREATEST DANGER I SEE IN AMERICA TODAY IS THE OVERWHELMING OF THE INDIVIDUAL BY THE MASSIVE INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, LABOR, COMMUNICATIONS, AND EVEN EDUCATION.
I see government growing too large, too powerful, too costly, too remote, and yet too deeply involved in our daily lives.

The mounting troubles in Great Britain, our old and honored ally, offer compelling evidence that we cannot keep relying on government alone to solve all our problems.

Faced with the gravest financial crisis in the illustrious history of British democracy, prime minister James Callaghan had the courage to say, and I quote him, that "Britain for too long has lived on borrowed time, borrowed money and borrowed ideas."
WE WILL FAIL IF WE THINK WE CAN BUY OUR WAY OUT OF OUR 
PRESENT DIFFICULTIES BY PRINTING CONFETTI MONEY AND PAYING 
OURSelves more than we earn."

I DON'T WANT TO BE PRESIDENT WHEN SOMEONE HAS TO STAND 
UP AND SAY ABOUT THIS COUNTRY WHAT JAMES CALLAGHAN HAS SAID 
ABOUT GREAT BRITAIN'S PRESENT-PLIGHT.

WE MUST NOT LET THAT HAPPEN TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. 
WE CAN AVOID IT. WE'D BETTER AVOID IT -- AND AS 
LONG AS I AM PRESIDENT WE WILL AVOID IT.
WE MUST HAVE A NEW GENERATION OF FREEDOM IN AMERICA

NOT THE FREEDOM TO SHIRK OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND LET THE
GOVERNMENT ASSUME THEM, BUT THE FREEDOM TO DO WHAT WE WANT
TO DO AND WHAT WE OUGHT TO DO -- WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S HELP
BUT NOT AT THE GOVERNMENT'S DIRECTION.

THAT IS THE KIND OF AMERICA I WANT. THAT IS WHY
I AM RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT IN 1976, AND WHY I ASK FOR
YOUR HELP ON NOVEMBER 2ND.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT